



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1

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All Stars Match

A Danger Sign to Borough FC

Unless there were hundreds upon hundreds of people who bought tickets and did not use them, Borough FC is not likely to benefit to any great extent financially as a result of the Borough v All Stars' match at Manor Park.

For although conditions were ideal – it was fine and warm – the attendance was only in the region of 3,000. This despite the fact that the All Stars' team included some of the finest ex-footballers in the country.

This fact should be noted by those people who imagine that Southern League football will attract "gates" of 4-5,000.

Increased Prices

Although prices had been increased from 1s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. to 2s. and 3s., and boys from 6d to 1s. 3d., the total proceeds for the match could not have greatly exceeded £300.

If all the expenses of the game were to be borne by the sponsors then the profit, which is to be devoted to the Borough FC will certainly not amount to anything approaching the £200 expected.

The game was one-sided for the All Stars won 8-2. The winners put on a delightful show. Borough just weren't in the game in the first half and were trailing 5-1 at half-time. They improved slightly in the second half and scored once to the All Stars' three.

Except that on three occasions they managed to strike the woodwork, Borough were outplayed in all departments. The All Stars gave Borough an object lesson in positional play and on how to make goalscoring look easy.

'Match of Century' Produced £2 0s. 5d.

It is understood that the 'Match of the Century' – the All Stars XI v Nuneaton Borough – in aid of Nuneaton Borough FC funds, resulted in a profit of £2 0s. 5d. A cheque for that amount has been received by the Borough club.

Central Alliance For Borough Reserves?

Having resigned from the Birmingham League after being refused permission to play their reserve side in that competition, it is likely Nuneaton Borough FC directors will be

obliged to seek a stronger league for their second team than the Warwickshire Combination.

They may apply for membership of the Central Alliance, which is operated from Nottingham.

If they leave the Warwickshire Combination they are liable to another fine – this time up to £25.

AGM: Supporters Saved Boro'

It was disclosed at the annual meeting of Nuneaton Borough AFC this week, that as a result of donations from the Supporters' Club and the Supporters' Auxiliary Association, totalling £3,300, the club had been able to break even financially last season.

The chairman of the directors, Mr Reg Carris, said it had been a shocking season from the playing point of view, and expressed thanks to his fellow directors for having stuck to the club through such difficult times. He also expressed thanks to the members of the club staff for all the hard work they had put in.

Encouraged

Mr Carris especially praised the work put in by the Supporters' Club and by the Auxiliary Association and said their wonderful support had encouraged the directors to seek admission to the Southern League and they faced the future with quiet confidence.

Mr J. G. Till, a retiring director, was re-elected to the Board. Mr A. A'Ness, who was recently co-opted to the Board, was also elected a director of the club.

Resignation

Owing to continued ill-health, Mr W. Barrs tendered his resignation as a director and wished the club every success in the future. Mr Barrs' resignation was accepted with regret, and in recognition of his past services he was elected a life member, along with Messrs. H. Watkins and A. Barnett.

Mr R. Carris was re-elected chairman of the Board, and other officers re-elected were: Vice-chairman, Mr F. J. Perry; hon. treasurer, Mr Roy Tromans; hon. secretary, Mr P. Osborne.

It was reported a letter had been received from the secretary of the Central Alliance stating that the club had been accepted as members of the Northern Section of that league for the coming season.

It was agreed to send a letter of resignation to the Warwickshire Combination.

Borough Signings Report For Training



Dillion, former Peterborough United goalkeeper (left), Staples, former Swansea Town and Weymouth wing-half or full-back and Roy Manning, who were with the Borough players who turned out for training on Tuesday night. Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Southern League Switch

Kent FA and Wales FA bans on Dover, Folkestone, Tunbridge Wells, Bexley Heath and Llanelly, means the Southern League's two divisions are reduced to 18 and 17 clubs. Also, Exeter are switched from Borough's section to the other zone.

'Town Big Enough For Better Football'

Says Supporters' Club vice-chairman

At the Nuneaton Borough Supporters' Club AGM, it was decided to make a donation of £130 to the parent club to cover the cost of the fines for leaving the Birmingham League and Warwickshire Combination.

The balance sheet showed that the club had cash in hand of £350. During the year, £300 in cash and kind had been donated to the parent club.

Mr T. Aucott (chairman), who presided claimed they were giving more than a useful service to the parent club. He appealed to members to recruit one more member each. That would not only double their strength, but in all probability their fund-raising schemes would gain more strength as a result.

Mr E. J. Roberts (vice-chairman), in praising the efforts of the player-manager Angus Morrison, said the town was big enough for better class football.

Referring to the successful time they had under a previous player-manager, Mr Colin Lyman, he hoped Mr Morrison would emulate what Mr Lyman did.

In appealing to the Supporters Club for support, Mr Morrison said the goal nets were in a shocking state. They also needed new kit and balls. The total cost would be about £100.

Officers re-elected were: Mr Alf Barnett (president); Mr T. Aucott (chairman) and Mr W. Dove (secretary-treasurer).

Gateman For 39 Years



One of Nuneaton Borough's most loyal and enthusiastic supporters, Mr Charles Cecil James Morris, of 25, Clifton Road, Stockingford, has been a gateman at Manor Park since the ground was opened in 1919.

Although he enjoys watching boxing, football has always been Mr Morris' main sporting interest. A native of Coalville, he played left full-back for Coalville Town Reserves in

the Leicestershire Senior League for several seasons.

A miner for many years, Mr Morris started work at the age of 12 at Snibston Colliery. His first job was to couple tubs. Later he worked at Whitwick Colliery as a pony driver.

He came to Nuneaton 48 years ago to work at Arley Colliery, and afterwards went to Stanley's pit where he met with a serious accident in 1917, sustaining a broken thigh, a compound fracture of the leg and a smashed ankle, when he was buried by a fall of coal and rock. As a result of his injuries he was unable to work for four-and-a-half years.

He returned to Stanley's Colliery as a "screens" foreman in 1921, and remained there until the pit closed down in 1924. He was employed as a watchman during the dismantling of the pit.

With the closing of Stanley's pit, Mr Morris left the mines and worked at Stanley's brickyard for over 20 years. His last job before retiring in 1948 was at the saw mills of Morgan and Clark, Nuneaton.

Mr and Mrs Morris have been married for 53 years. They have two daughters living, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Final Trial Match

Centre-forward Problem

That it took the probable attack over an hour to score against moderate opposition in last Saturday's trial match at Manor Park pinpointed what may be Nuneaton Borough's weakness in the season ahead.

Delighted as they were with the brand of soccer served up by the experienced new boys, 1,800 spectators – surely a record for a Manor Park trial match crowd – waited and wondered when, if ever, the ball would find the net. It was all so "pretty-pretty" grand stuff to watch, without the goalscoring punch.



Talented Attack

And that may well be player-manager Angus Morrison's chief problem in the coming months, particularly in finding a goal-hungry leader for his obviously talented attack.

Tried as leader, Willie Muir, while adequately fitting in with the polished approach work of the smooth-running line, seldom produced the match-winning shot essential in a centre-forward's armoury.

On the other side, Roy Manning, who distinguished himself last season with his cannon-ball shooting, had few opportunities to shine, being almost completely subdued by the strong dominant Willie Dallas, who looked good enough to hold up a complete attack on his own.

Apart from the centre-forward problem, Angus Morrison could rightly feel well satisfied with the rest of his team. In defence few, if any, deficiencies were revealed.

Supporting the excellent work of Dallas were two capable full-backs in the persons of Len Staples and Eric Marsden. The latter, powerfully built, looked an ideal defender, while his partner, though much smaller in stature, was equally commanding.

Wing-halves Alex Simpson and Eric Phoenix, who displayed quite a natural flair for attacking play, also proved competent in defence.

Borough's probable attack functioned with such understanding that it seemed they had known each other for years. What a pity their finishing fell short of the high standard of their approach play.

Earned Full Marks

Angus Morrison gave a perfect exhibition. Indeed, everyone in the line performed admirably in this respect, and each earned full marks for the manner in which they moved into the open space to receive the ball.

Harry Yates, alone on the probable side, found the net – he scored twice within a minute of each other in the 65th and 66th minutes – and always looked likely to get another one. With one terrific drive, which skimmed the bar, he deserved to complete the hat-trick.

Jack Stewart proved what a flying wingman he can be when he made Yates' first goal. Accelerating down the right, leaving the opposition standing, he finally pulled the ball back from the by-line to give the inside-right the simplest of tasks in turning it into the net.

The little right-winger also had a hand in the second goal, for it was from his awkwardly-placed corner-kick that Fearn mishandled, allowing Yates to head in.

Outside-left Paul Lucas interchanged well with Morrison, and demonstrated the power of his left foot shooting, though perhaps not as accurately as he might have done on one or two occasions.

Keepers In Form

All three goalkeepers, Turner, Fearn and Simpson, who took part in the trial, showed great promise. This all-important post, with which Borough had difficulty last season, appears to be more than adequately filled, remembering that two more experienced keepers, Ken Grieves, still on cricketing duties with Lancashire and Bernard Dillon, did not take part.

Of the game itself, the possibles (mostly last season's players) gave a spirited display for the first 20 minutes or so, and held their own against more distinguished opposition.

Afterwards, however, they found themselves in something of a tangle trying to cope with the pattern-weaving artistry of Morrison and company.

Of the "old brigade," Corbett and Jakeman revealed themselves worthy contenders for Southern League status. The latter notched a consolation goal for the possibles a minute from time, making the final score Probables 2, Possibles 1.

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Gloucester City v Nuneaton Borough 23-08-1958

Gloucester: Teague; Kimberley and Cook; Gallagher, Smith and Carruthers; Callaghan, Morris, Goldray, Collins and Milne.

Borough: Dillon; Staples and Marsden; Simpson, Dallas and Phoenix; Stewart, Yates, Muir, Morrison and Lucas.

Borough made the journey to face Gloucester City in a Southern League North West Section fixture.

It would be unfair to unduly criticise Borough on losing their initial game in the Southern League, for here were eleven men who had never before played together in competitive football. But the fact remains that they very largely contributed to their own defeat by playing football for only thirty of the 90 minutes.

During the first half-hour Borough played brilliantly and if ever a team looked good enough to win they did. They moved beautifully and passes both upfield and across field found their billet with almost uncanny accuracy.

Such football looked like bringing goals and it came as no surprise when, after 14 minutes, Stewart broke away on the right and crossed the ball to Morrison who, in turn, slipped the ball out to left winger Lucas, who cut in quickly and put in a fast ground shot from 25 yards, which beat Teague all ends up.

Twice before this, Lucas had very nearly scored following clever Borough forward play. On the first occasion a first-time shot scraped the bar with the goalkeeper well beaten. Then another hard drive struck Teague on the chest as he dived forward and the ball ran loose. It was fortunate indeed for Gloucester that there was no Borough forward on hand to tap the ball into the net.

Until 15 minutes before half-time, Borough continued to play a brand of football not produced by a Nuneaton side



for many, many seasons. Then, without warning, something went wrong with the works. Sensing this, Gloucester began to hit back and got the hitherto strong Borough defence into some rare tangles. Two or three times the visitors' goal escaped more by luck than judgment. Thus, less than half a minute from half-time the inevitable equaliser came.

There had been a couple of throw-ins on the Gloucester right wing, and from the second of these, the ball was shipped into the goalmouth. Following a goalmouth scramble Morris, the City's close season signing from Swansea, pushed the ball towards goal, and it went in off a Borough defender. It was a lucky goal, but thoroughly deserved.

From that point onwards there was never any real doubt as to the City's supremacy. Borough had lost most of their first-half poise; gone was their assurance and ability to split the City defence. It was Gloucester's chance now to turn on the heat, and this they did, scoring two more goals without reply through Goldray and Morris, who each headed through crosses after sparkling wing runs by Callaghan and Milne.

In spite of their second half fade-away, Borough played so well early on, produced so many high-class moves, that it could be that when the team settles down, they may be capable of giving a good account of themselves even against the strongest opposition.

Boston United v Nuneaton Borough 28-08-1958

Boston: Williams; Withers and Snade; Hazeldine, Miller and Cleary; Hukin, Garvie, Graver, Lowder and Lister.

Borough: Dillon; Staples and Marsden; Simpson, Dallas and Pheonix; Stewart, Yates, Muir, Morrison and Lucas.

Borough travelled to York Street to meet Boston United in a Southern League North West Section fixture.

Nuneaton Borough were beaten 6-1 at Boston last night, in their second Southern League engagement. The visitors improved after a bad first half, but failed to utilise their chances.

Borough broke through early in the game, but Williams saved brilliantly from Morrison and Yates in quick succession. A move by Lister and Lowder ended with the latter shooting wide. Seconds later, Marsden headed out a terrific shot by Graver.

In the ninth minute, Muir beat Withers and came across from the corner flag. Williams failed to cut out his cross pass which Morrison met first time and slammed into the empty net. Three minutes later, Garvie gave Graver a perfect pass and the centre-forward netted the equaliser with a terrific drive. Lowder netted again with a minute, but the referee disallowed the goal.

An indirect free kick was given against the visitors six yards from goal. The ball went to Lister, whose shot was fisted out by a defender. The referee failed to see the offence and refused to give a penalty despite prolonged appeals from Boston players and the crowd.

From a Lister centre, Graver put Boston ahead in the 27th

minute. When Nuneaton swept in line down the field, Morrison ran too far forward and was again offside. With Williams off balance from a save, Stewart headed in again, the ball striking Williams' knees and being cleared.

Lowden put Boston further ahead in the 33rd minute and then added a fourth to give Boston a 4-1 half-time lead.

Nuneaton were more in the picture in the second half, but they failed to take advantage of clever moves by reluctance to shoot. Only Muir and Stewart gave Williams any trouble. Dillon made two magnificent saves, taking a Graver header from just under the bar. A stumbling block for the Boston forwards was left-back Marsden, who was the best defender on the field. Boston completed the rout with goals by Hukin in the 87th minute and Lister, who got number six in the 89th minute.

Nuneaton Borough v Lovells Athletic 30-08-1958

Borough: Dillon; Dunn and Marsden; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Phoenix, Yates, Morrison and Lucas.

Lovells: Cross; Birch and Davies; Royall, Mulholland and Robbling; Paul, Williams, Kemp, Reynolds and Ridsdale.

Borough welcomed Lovells Athletic to Manor Park for a Southern League North Western Section fixture.

Borough produced some delightful moves in the first-half and kept up almost continuous pressure, but they lacked finishing power. They did not play so well after the break, but had enough chances to have put the result beyond doubt. Time and again they looked as though they must score, but failed.

Morrison missed a good chance, so did Yates and Lucas. The biggest offender of all, however, was Stewart. Three times he was left with only the keeper to beat and he failed on each occasion. Just before half-time, Stewart found himself just a few yards out with only Cross to beat. The crowd let out a collective groan as he missed the target again.

Despite his misses, Stewart was Borough's best forward and he kept pegging away throughout the game and his persistency was almost rewarded when he swept the ball against the bar five minutes from the end. Earlier, Morrison had also struck the bar, but by and large the forwards were sadly remiss near goal. They must shoulder most of the blame for their side's third successive defeat.

Yates led the attack in Muir's absence and though he worked hard, he was too slow. Coming in for the injured Staples, Jack Dunn was the best defender on the pitch. Corbett, brought in at left-half to enable Phoenix to play at inside right, proved himself capable of playing Southern League football.

Whereas Borough had probably half-a-dozen gilt-edged chances, Lovells had precious few, and yet from one of their rare raids in the first-half they got the goal that proved to be the winner. Ridsdale, broke away on the left-wing and crossed the ball in front of goal for Kemp to score easily.

There has got to be a big improvement in the goalscoring department before Borough are likely to end their run of

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defeats. Better finishing could have given them at least a point at Gloucester; better finishing against Lovells would have given them a comfortable win. Some of their football was pretty, but pretty football without goals gets a team nowhere.

Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Boro' 02-09-1958

Kidderminster: Webb; Clark and Logan; Handy, Haycox and Millington; Owen, Chilvers, Humphries, Cotton and Mitchell.

Borough: Dillon; Dunn and Marsden; Simpson, Dallas and Barber; Stewart, Phoenix, Yates, Morrison and Jakeman.

Borough travelled to face Kidderminster Harriers in a Southern League Cup first qualifying round first leg tie.

Borough's football was not of the same quality as against Lovells, but they pulled off their first victory of the season. Kidderminster were a moderate side, however, and Borough will have to perform better to bring anything back from Worcester. When Borough did produce their best football they went through the Harrier's defence like a knife through butter.

Yates opened the scoring for Boro' in the second minute, when he snapped up a Phoenix through pass and drove the ball low into the net just as Webb was beginning to leave his goal. Kidderminster drew level in the 18th minute through Chilvers.

Kidderminster had their moments and were unlucky on more than one occasion, especially when Mitchell crashed a real beauty against the bar, and when Dunn twice kicked off the goal-line. Borough regained the lead in the 31st minute with another delightful goal by Yates. Alex Simpson paved the way with a long ball down the right wing to Stewart, and when the latter made a perfect cross, the centre-forward was at the far post to turn the ball through.

Borough were still much the better side in the first-half, but afterwards they seemed content to just hold on to their lead. The game left the impression that the Borough attack needs more punch. Too many scoring chances are being missed, but it was still good to see Borough come out on top for the first time this season.

Apart from the goals from Yates and one other shot from Jakeman which Webb saved brilliantly, none of the other forwards impressed as goal-getters. Although the quality of the opposition was not the highest, it was a well-deserved win.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 06-09-1958

Worcester: Kirkwood; Wilcox and Potts; Bryceland, Melville and Paul; Grieve, Follan, Brown, Gosling and Skuse.

Borough: Simpson; Staples and Dunn; A. Simpson, Dallas and Phoenix; Stewart, Yates, Marsden, Morrison and Lucas.

Borough made the journey to St George's Lane to take on Worcester City in a Southern League North West Section game.

Borough opened brightly, as is usual, but as soon as Worcester settled down there was only one winner. It was another instance of Borough flattering to deceive. The difference between the sides was in attack where Welsh international Roy Paul looked

menacing every time Worcester attacked. Whereas Borough fiddled about playing across the field football, City played long through passes which split open the visitors' defence.

Throughout the match Borough put four shots over the bar and the Worcester keeper Kirkwood pushed out a shot from Alex Simpson. On the other hand City forwards made goal-getting look easy and with a little more luck they would have increased their tally.

As Dillon was unfit and Grieves was playing for Lancashire at cricket, local amateur keeper Simpson was in goal for Borough, but was not to blame for any of the goals. The only thing that can be said in favour of Borough is that a harsh decision by the referee almost on half-time gave the City a penalty kick, which was very harsh and enabled the home side to go in with a 2-0 lead. Up to that time Borough, although mainly on the defensive, were only trailing by one goal.

Ten minutes after the break Borough found themselves 5-0 down, with four of the five goals having been scored in the space of eleven minutes. Another goal six minutes from the end rounded off the scoring. Worcester's goals were scored by Follan (2), Gosling (2) and Brown (2).

Nuneaton Borough v Brierley Hill Alliance 08-09-1958

Borough: Dillon; Dunn and Marsden; Corbett, Dallas and Phoenix; Stewart, Muir, Yates, Morrison and Jakeman.

Brierley Hill: Marson; Poyner and Tibbetts; Dunn, Lewis and Wolverson; Bowen, Boot, Harris, Knight, Beech.

Borough welcomed Brierley Hill Alliance to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

It was a familiar story for Borough fans as the team played excellent football for half-an-hour, at times bewildering the opposition with their cleverness, but when they got within shooting distance there was no-one to have a go.

Chance after chance was missed, either through bad shooting or an unwillingness to shoot, and the end of the road for Borough as an attacking force was reached when Muir lifted the ball over the top from almost underneath the bar. Quite unable to get a goal, Borough gradually deteriorated.

Sensing Borough's ineffectiveness near goal, an apprehensive Alliance gradually gained confidence and in the second half had every bit as much of the play as their hosts and looked far more likely to score.

However, in the 22nd minute of the first half, after Dunn had a goal disallowed for the visitors, Borough did in fact score when Yates fastened on to a Muir through-pass and shot. The ball twisted out of goalkeeper Marson's hands and went over the line.

Eight minutes later Brierley drew level when Dillon allowed a silly lob from Beech to sail over his head and into the net. And two minutes later Boot made an opening for Harris to give the Alliance victory. Borough simply must do something about this shot-shy attack.

Nuneaton Boro' v Kidderminster Harriers 11-09-1958

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Marsden; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Muir and Morrison.

Kidderminster: Webb; Cotton and Chilvers; Handy, Haycox and Logan; Owen, Quigley, Humphries, Millington and Mitchell.

Borough welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup first qualifying round second leg tie.

Grieves, making his home debut, was called into action early on, but the keeper dealt competently with Quigley's long range shot. At the other end, Corbett, after a neat piece of passing with Morrison, fired in a shot, but Webb handled it well.

Borough took the lead after seven minutes through Yates, the centre-forward heading past the advancing Webb, who had come out to intercept a Morrison lob from the left. It was a well-taken goal – and just reward for Yates' anticipation. For a spell the home side held the upper hand and after 16 minutes went further ahead through Lovell. Webb fumbled a long dropping shot from Marsden; Yates, who was on it like a flash, switched the ball across the face of the goal to the inside-right, who had the easiest of chances in placing the ball into an empty net.

After 20 minutes, Borough increased their lead when Yates was again on target. Three minutes later the centre-forward completed his hat-trick, coolly dribbling around Haycox before shooting left-footed. Webb managed to get a hand to the ball, but could not prevent it entering the net. Kidderminster retaliated and after 25 minutes reduced the deficit through Quigley. Grieves appeared to be too slow in getting down to his fast ground shot.

Playing polished football, Borough were showing improved form. On one occasion, Corbett crashed the ball from 25 yards against the bar with Webb beaten. Grieves misjudged a high cross from the right, but managed to get back to save Mitchell's first-timer. Yates headed in from Stewart's centre three minutes from the interval. An encouraging feature of the first-half was the understanding between the new partners on the right wing, Lovell and Stewart.

Nuneaton monopolised the second half and added five more goals through Lovell, Stewart, Muir, Dunn and Yates. Kidderminster replied twice through Millington and Owen. Borough won the tie 12-4 on aggregate.

Borough Sign Former Spurs Forward

On Monday night Borough secured the signature of a young inside forward, Johnny Lovell, who has been with Tottenham Hotspur for the past three seasons.

This season Lovell was offered full-time terms by another London club, but at the moment prefers to play as a part-time professional. He made his debut for Borough at inside-right against Kidderminster last night in the second leg of the League Cup.



Borough FC Supporter

A keen follower of the old Nuneaton Town FC and the present Borough FC since 1931, Mr Richard Alan Wardle, of 57, Caldwell Road, Nuneaton, has been a hard-working committee member of the Supporters' Club for the past three years.

As a member of Attleborough Labour Club, he also does good work on the sub-committees dealing with the welfare of old people and children. He served on the general committee during the time the new club was built three years ago.

Born in Gadsby Street, Nuneaton, 39 years ago, Mr Wardle attended Park Avenue School, Attleborough. On leaving at the age of 14, he worked at a Hinckley boot factory for about 10 months.

He was a hatter at Hall and Phillips, Nuneaton, from 1934-43, and subsequently was employed at Lindley Aerodrome for 10 months. He returned to Hall and Phillips until October 1948, when he went to Alfred Herberts, Coventry for two years. From 1950 until recently, he was a printer's assistant in Nuneaton.

Nuneaton Borough v Boston United 15-09-1958

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Muir and Morrison.

Boston: Williams; Withers and Snade; Hazelden, Miller and Sims; Hukin, Garvie, Graver, Lowder and Lister.

Borough welcomed Boston United to Manor Park for a Southern League North West Section fixture.

A goal ten minutes from the end gave Borough their first win and first points in the Southern League. It was undoubtedly the hardest game Borough have played so far this season. Borough's winner came just at the right moment – just when it seemed Boston were getting on top, when the points seemed to be slipping out of Borough's grasp.

As he had so often done before, Yates went after a long ball up the left wing. About six or seven yards from the corner flag and almost on the dead ball line, Yates was engaged in a tussle with Withers, the Boston right back. Withers, instead of playing safe and passing the ball out of play, tried to work it round the Borough leader. In the scuffle he lost the ball and Yates pushed it back to Angus Morrison, who had followed up.

The Borough player-manager wasted no time in hitting the ball hard towards goal. Goalkeeper Williams could only partially parry the ball away and it ran on to Stewart, who was racing in, and the little winger promptly put the ball

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into the net. That goal did the trick and although it spurred Borough on to even greater efforts, there can be no doubt that the Borough players and their 5,000 supporters heaved a big sigh of relief when the whistle went for time.

Indeed, so engrossed were some of the players and not a few of the crowd that they did not hear the referee sound the end of hostilities. When it was realised the game was over hundreds of excited supporters invaded the pitch to congratulate the Borough players on their great fight.

Borough are a very good side and must be among the strongest in the Southern League. They were no easy meat and Borough had to fight every inch of the way. It was the home side's fighting spirit that, in the end, gave them victory. It was a tooth and nail affair with neither side asking nor giving any quarter. It was a fight to the finish, and that Borough came out on top was a tribute to their tenacity – a tribute to their bulldog spirit.

Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 22-09-1958

Borough: Simpson; Dunn and Easterlow; A. Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Muir and Lucas.

Wellington: Richards; Manders and Kerr; Davies, Ashton and Crook; Hancocks, Rogers, Barber, Roberts and Morrissey.

Borough welcomed Wellington Town to Manor Park on Monday for a Southern League Inter-Zone game.

Down 5-3 at half-time and 6-3 five minutes later, Borough appeared to be a well-beaten side. There had been some costly mistakes by goalkeeper Simpson, deputising for Ken Grieves, while the defence seemed incapable of checking Johnny Hancocks, the former Wolves' star, and the diminutive Morrissey on the left flank.

It looked as though Borough were in for a real hiding until the 66th minute when Alex Simpson scored a great goal, with a glorious shot to make the score 6-4. From that point on Wellington were run into the ground and two more goals put Borough level at 6-6, and the visitors were happy with a draw.

It was a remarkable comeback by Borough after a fantastic game in which seven goals were scored in the first 20 minutes. On the slippery turf, the defences were always in trouble; once passed, a defender was left stranded. But it was in goal where Borough were in real trouble. In those hectic first 20 minutes Wellington scored almost every time they went down the field, or so it seemed. Simpson was at fault on at least three occasions. Not that he was the only one, as Jack Dunn had a game he will wish to forget.

Roberts opened Wellington's account in the 11th minute when he headed through from Morris. Muir headed an equaliser a minute later from a Yates' centre before Wellington got two more through Hancocks and Roberts to make the score 3-1 in the 16th minute. Three minutes later Manders turned the ball into his own net in trying to clear from Yates before Barber made it 4-2. A minute later

Morrissey made it 5-2 before Stewart replied for Nuneaton from a Lucas centre in the 32nd minute.

Five minutes after half-time Barber scored a simple sixth goal for the visitors. The score remained at 6-3 until the 66th minute when from Corbett's cross Simpson scored that great goal. That was the signal for a Borough revival which crushed the opposition and brought further goals by Lucas, whose shot was deflected by a defender, and Lovell, whose shot went in off the far post.

It is unimaginable that Grieves would have conceded some of the goals let in by Simpson, and Lucas was a poor substitute for Angus Morrison.

Wisbech Town v Nuneaton Borough 27-09-1958

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; A. Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Muir and Lucas.

Borough made the journey to Wisbech Town for a Southern League North West Section fixture.

Wisbech's first goal was a remarkable affair. It came ten minutes before half-time. A scramble developed in front of the Borough goal. As skipper Simpson went up to head the ball clear he received a blow across the face and the ball went to Sewell, who prodded the ball into the net. The dazed Simpson appealed against the referee's decision, but was told by the referee that the blow he received was accidental.

There was no argument about Wisbech's second goal. Just before half-time, a flashing shot from Bobby Langton, who had moved from outside-left to the inside-right position, beating Ken Grieves all ends up. Wisbech's third goal followed a long ball down the middle in the 63rd minute. Marshall looked to be well offside, but was allowed to go on and although he hesitated, expecting the whistle to go, he took the ball on and easily beat the advancing Grieves.

Between the scoring of Wisbech's second and third goals, Muir had put the ball against a post while a Simpson drive headed for the back of the net, just skimmed a defender's head and gave the ball a slight lift, and it hit the crossbar.

The home side had a couple of lucky escapes before they had taken the lead when Yates fired in a shot which looked a winner all the way, but the ball hit Stebbings, who was in the line of fire. Then, from a perfect Stewart cross, Lucas, with the goal at his mercy, headed outside. He could have run the ball over the line if he had wished.

Borough were the equals of the Wisbech glamour boys. Yates ran his heart out chasing balls all over the field, but it is time he was relieved of some of that burden. There was also a marked reluctance by some of the visiting forwards to shoot. To sum up, Wisbech won, but almost all the honours went to the visitors, except in the matter of marksmanship. True, it was bad luck with those two efforts which hit the woodwork, but generally speaking the forwards were not impressive in front of goal.



Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough 29-09-1958

Wellington: Richards; Manders and Kerr; Crook, Ashton and Davies; Hancocks, Rogers, Pearce, Roberts and Morrissey.

Borough: Dillon; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Muir and Lucas.

Borough made the journey to Wellington on Monday for a Southern League Inter-Zone match.

Wellington were the better of two poor sides and deserved to win because they played the more progressive football and showed more idea where the goal lay than the shot-shy Borough forwards.

Although a goal behind until the last minute of the game when Johnny Hancocks scored a second goal, Borough seldom looked like winning so wretched was their work near goal. The visitors were much too prone to over-elaboration – to play across the field, and their attempts at cleverness seldom got them anywhere, except into trouble.

Only three times during the whole game did Borough get anywhere near scoring. Yates was the player involved on each occasion. He broke through once in the first-half, dribbled round a defender, and then had a rather poor shot, which was saved at the foot of the post by goalkeeper Richards. Twice in the second half he hit the bar, once from only a yard or so out and then with a hard drive from 29 yards' range.

Dillon gave Wellington their first goal in the 37th minute. He saved a header from Rogers and then lost the ball, which ran over the line into the net. Although Dillon saved a poorly-taken penalty kick from Roberts, 16 minutes after the break, and later made one or two other good saves, generally speaking he did not inspire confidence.

After Dunn had twice saved his side by kicking off the goal-line, Wellington scored again in the last minute when, with eight Borough players upfield vainly trying to get an equaliser, Hancocks was sent clean away and the former Wolves star scored with a shot, which entered the net in-off the far post.

It was a poor game between two mediocre sides, for although they won, even Wellington's efforts came in for severe criticism from the crowd.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 11-10-1958

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Muir and Morrison.

Bath City: Redmond; Book and Steeds; McLaren, Davies and Skuce; Skirton, Mortenson, Fleming, Davis and Pickard.

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park for a Southern League North West Section fixture.

Few expected anything but a Borough defeat against a star-studded Bath City side which included Stan Mortensen and Charlie Fleming. But football is anything but predictable and Borough thrilled the 6,000+ crowd with not only a fine display

of football, but capped with the real bread and butter of the game – goals as well, all three being scored by the much-criticised Harry Yates.

So well did Borough play, that instead of being on the receiving end, as most people expected, it was Bath who had to take a beating. Indeed, they were lucky to escape so lightly, as in one period of the second half they were so badly overplayed that they conceded two goals in four minutes, and were very fortunate not to have fallen two further goals behind in the next ten minutes, for Muir missed an easy chance of making it 4-1, and then Yates shot against a post.

Borough opened their account after 20 minutes' play when Lovell carved out an opening for Yates to take the ball in his stride and beat the goalkeeper with a well-directed shot. Bath equalised when Dallas gave away a free-kick, which was taken by Charlie 'Cannonball' Fleming, whose shot struck Parkinson and ran to Mortenson, who put it into the Boro' net.

Eleven minutes after half-time Muir collected the ball just inside the Bath half, raced on, and then pushed the ball through to Yates, who again beat Redmond with a ground shot. Yates completed his hat-trick four minutes later when Lovell came in along the dead-ball line and pulled the ball back in front of goal for the centre-forward to run on to it and beat Redmond for the third time.

It was a good all round display with outstanding performances from Harry Yates, Willie Dallas, Arthur Corbett and the wingers Stewart and Morrison, who put in some very fine wing play. This was a Borough display which not only thrilled their supporters but will keep them coming back to Manor Park.

None of the Bath stars shone. All were dimmed by the men marking them. Their chief danger man was right winger Skirton. So often did he receive the ball in the wide open spaces that some spectators appeared to blame Parkinson. But the young left-back probably did the right thing in making the winger bring the ball to him.

Swearing At Manor Park

To The Editor

Sir. – Re. bad language at Manor Park football ground. Are there no by-laws in force on this ground, the same as on our streets? The police can, and do, arrest a person on the street for using disgusting language, but what about them doing the same at football grounds?

Last Saturday it was disgusting to hear swearing, especially by a man near the stand. When the ball went over the line, opposite the stand, play went on, and he swore something awful. And that penalty, he swore continually and shouted "Let Corbett take it you ****." Men may not mind, but ladies do not like it. I know one who will not go again. She was so upset.

AN OLD CENTRE-HALF

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 25-10-1958

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Muir and Morrison.

Cheltenham: Gourlay; Farrell and Baird; Dunlop, Hyde and Dunn; Carnie, Fowler, Gibbs, Scott and Burder.

Borough welcomed league leaders Cheltenham Town to Manor Park for a Southern League North West Section game.

This game was a tragedy for Borough. At one stage they were three goals down, but the home side spent the rest of the proceedings struggling heroically to save the game. By mid-way through the second half they had made the score 3-2. Then five minutes from time they were awarded a penalty.

There was a tremendous scrum in the the Cheltenham goalmouth before the spot kick was awarded for what was assumed to be a handball offence against a visiting defender. Jackie Stewart was entrusted with the kick, but put the ball too near goalkeeper Gourlay, who saved easily.

Gibbs opened Cheltenham's account after the ball had struck Grieves following a right wing burst by Carnie while the Borough defenders stood still expecting the whistle for offside. Two minutes later Carnie shot through following a left wing corner; and two minutes after that Carnie shot through following a left-wing corner; and two minutes after that Carnie again scored with the Borough defence split right open.

It was left to Arthur Corbett to show the forwards the way with a great goal after 27 minutes play. From a free-kick 25 yards out, the left-half left goalkeeper Gourlay helpless with a terrific shot. That goal put Borough back in the game and there were at least three occasions in the second half when Angus Morrison swung the ball invitingly in front of the Cheltenham goal. Two of those centres were not improved upon, while the third was headed through by the hard working Yates.

Then, five minutes from time Borough were awarded that penalty. To have failed to benefit from the penalty was bad enough, but when the ball was banged upfield, it found the unmarked Carnie, who raced through unhampered and crossed the ball to Burder, who slammed it home, adding insult to injury.

Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 08-11-1958

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Phoenix, Yates, Crooks and Morrison.

Wellington: Richards; Hoof and N. Davies; Hurdley, Ashton and G. Davies; Hancocks, Rodgers, Barber, Roberts and Morrissey.

Borough welcomed Wellington Town to Manor Park for a Southern League North West Section game.

Although having much the better of the first half territorially, Borough were not only less clever than usual, but looked even less likely to get goals. Chance after chance went by the board and a mediocre Wellington side were still in the game.

It was Wellington who opened the scoring after 16 minutes when left-winger Morrissey received the ball in what looked to be an offside position. Expecting to hear the referee's whistle, the Borough defence stood still and Morrissey shot the ball into the net.

Borough's equaliser came about following a harsh decision by the referee in awarding a penalty kick after Yates had been tackled by Ashton in the 60th minute. Corbett's penalty lacked accuracy and Richards was able to get a hand to the ball, but could not prevent it from entering the net. The goal put life into a previously lame Borough attack and they began to show signs of knowing where they were going.

But it was not until they got their second goal that Borough looked likely to win, and their followers began to breathe a little more freely. Stewart shot the home side in front from close range following a short inside pass by Crooks. Yates headed a third goal for Borough, heading home Morrison's cross. Although they had established a two goal lead, the home side still looked vulnerable and Wellington missed two chances in the last five minutes.

The fact that the game brought Borough two valuable points was a cause for satisfaction. Those two points gave them a good lift up the league table. Even so, Borough's display was such as not to send supporters into hysterics or to convince them that the team's forward problems have been solved.

Borough have played infinitely better than this and lost, but the fact is that Wellington are one of the poorest sides they have met this season.

Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 15-11-1958

Rugby Town: McCormack; Jones and Green; Gee, Mooney and Jamieson; James, Whetton, Freeman, Tate and Makatelele.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Phoenix, Yates, Lovell and Morrison.

Borough made the short journey to Rugby for a Southern League Inter-Zone match.

It was a forgettable game, with very little to commend it. The poor quality of the game was not helped by the state of the pitch, which was in a very heavy state, and play was largely confined to midfield.

Borough took the lead three minutes after half-time when Lovell nodded home a perfectly placed Morrison centre. Former Shrewsbury player Makatelele levelled the scores after 65 minutes' play, when he beat Grieves, who was yards off his line, with a shot-cum-centre. Yates got Borough's winner after a Dunn free-kick was turned across goal by Stewart.

Despite not being at their best, Borough deserved to win. They were more astute in their moves than were the home side, who, like Borough, seem badly in need of a marksman. The number of good shots handled by both goalkeepers could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and the two best were put in by Borough players. The first was a very



good shot by Lovell, which brought the best out of deputy goalkeeper Freeman and another effort from Yates, whose shot broke McCormack's finger.

As this was Borough's first win in the Inter-Zone competition, it must be regarded with a certain amount of satisfaction, especially as it was obtained away from home. Be that as it may, it was not a performance for which the flags should be brought out. Still, in view of the mud and the fact that the proceedings were somewhat spoilt by injuries to McCormack and Dallas, perhaps we shouldn't be overly critical.



Fred Perry

Association Football in the Nuneaton area has lost a real friend by the death of Fred Perry.

Known to practically every football club official in this part of the Midlands, Fred Perry had spent a lifetime in the service of the game.

He was a founder-member of the Nuneaton Football Combination, a member of the County FA, a former secretary of the old Nuneaton Town FC, which he helped to pull round at a very critical period in its history, and a founder-member of Nuneaton Borough FC and vice-chairman for a number of years.

What Fred Perry did not know about the rules of the game and of the various competitions with which he had been associated just wasn't worth knowing. His knowledge on the subject was almost encyclopaedic, he could quote rules as though reading from a book.

When anybody wanted to know anything about the inner workings of football, Fred Perry was the man they sought, for he was the one who knew the answers.

The game can ill afford to lose men of the calibre of Fred Perry. Football in Nuneaton is certainly much the poorer for his passing.

points in their effort to gain a place in the Southern League Premier Division for next season. For that reason the result must have satisfied most of the 4,200 odd spectators who saw the game.

Hereford were the better side in the first-half, their approach work was much more progressive than that of the home side, the long ball up the wings and through the middle being constantly employed. Because their moves were much more direct, Hereford looked the side more likely to score.

However, when they reached the penalty area, Hereford were no better than the home side and threw away all of their scoring opportunities, including two in the first ten minutes of the game. On the whole, Borough were disappointing and neither player-manager Angus Morrison or Jackie Stewart showed anything like their best form, while Lovell lacked bite.

Lovell got the goal that won the game for Nuneaton after 71 minutes' play. Morrison was heavily brought down on the left wing. A free-kick to Borough seemed indicated, but after the outside left had received attention, the referee gave a bounce-up. Williams gained possession and shoved the ball across to Lovell, who ran in a few yards and then shot. It was not a pile drive and it looked as though goalkeeper Groves, who played competently throughout, would save easily. But the ball struck centre-half Morgan in its flight.

Groves, who had positioned himself for the shot, found himself on the wrong foot and could merely stand and watch the ball go into the net. It was a lucky goal, but there it was. After that it was nearly all Borough, who kept up a persistent attack, and with better finishing they would no doubt have added to their lead.

Merthyr Tydfil v Nuneaton Borough 26-11-1958

Merthyr: James; Steel and Callan; Byrd, Carpenter and Pembrey; Watkins, Skyme, Beech, Eisentrager and Godwin.

Borough: Dillon; Dunn and Phoenix; Simpson, Aston and Corbett; Crooks, Yates, Manning, Stewart and Morrison.

Borough made the long journey to Merthyr Tydfil for a Southern League Cup game.

Borough were two goals down mid-way through the second half and defeat looked almost certain, but a great revival earned a well-deserved reward with inside-left Jack Stewart snatching the equaliser just two minutes before the final whistle. It was a thrill-packed climax to a full-speed encounter with first Borough and then Merthyr taking the lead.

There were sweeping changes to the Nuneaton side, but Harry Yates, at inside right, was always in the limelight. Whenever Borough attacked Yates was in the forefront with quick-witted moves which carved gaping holes in the Merthyr rearguard.

Almost every one of the Nuneaton men fought like demons and Bernard Dillon earned special mention despite an unfortunate few minutes following the interval when Merthyr

Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 22-11-1958

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Aston and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Williams and Morrison.

Hereford: Groves; Layton and Tomkins; Griffiths, Morgan and Horton; Conlan, Williams, Morris, Elias and Beech.

Borough welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park for a Southern League North West Section encounter.

If it was football you were after, well Manor Park was no place for you last Saturday. If you wished to see Borough win, no matter how, then you left the ground perfectly satisfied. Whatever was expected, the side gained two very valuable

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hammered in two quick goals. Alec Eisentrager gave the home side the lead within two minutes and some great saves by Dillon followed before Borough forced their way back. Yates equalised in great style, while five minutes before the interval centre-forward Roy Manning was put through to give Borough the lead.

It was a different story in the second half when Merthyr mounted a devastating offensive and within six minutes centre-forward Beech levelled the scores and within another minute a slip by Dillon allowed winger Godwin to put the Welsh men in front. When Eisentrager increased the Merthyr lead midway through the half, Nuneaton seemed doomed.

It was then that the Borough's fighting spirit took over and they hurled everything into repeated assaults. Reward came when Manning slashed in his second goal 33 minutes after the interval and Borough continued to tear away at top speed. With Merthyr staging a desperate rearguard action, their slender lead still seemed secure, until with just two minutes left, Stewart slid on to a loose ball and let fly first time for a well-deserved equaliser.

Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 29-11-1958

Corby Town: Egglestone; W. Morris and Peppitt; Connors, Neilson and J. Morris; Wilson, Rennie, McKay, Adam and Thorne.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Staples; Simpson, Corbett and Phoenix; Stewart, Yates, Manning, Williams and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Corby for a Southern League North West Section league game.

Borough conceded a goal in the first minute of the game when Grieves allowed a bouncing ball to go past him into the net. Johnny Morris, the former England and Leicester City forward had sent in a really soft shot, and Borough supporters simply gasped when the goalkeeper went down much too late to stop the ball, which bounced into the net.

For a time it was all Corby. In one terrific onslaught on the Borough goal, five shots crashed against the wall of Borough defenders and it seemed Corby simply must score, but when the fifth shot struck Alex Simpson, he hit the ball straight down the middle of the field, catching Corby square. Manning, who was near the half-way line, went after the ball like a hare. Although centre-half Neilson was nearer to the ball, Manning streaked past him and as Egglestone came out, he shot hard and low into the Corby net.

This goal, after 11 minutes, knocked all the early confidence out of the home side and gave the visitors a boost. From that point on the result was never in doubt and Borough increased their lead after 31 minutes when Egglestone misjudged a Morrison cross and only managed to tip the ball over his own head and Stewart nipped in to put the ball into the net.

Twelve minutes after the break Borough went further ahead when Stewart and Yates worked their way past Peppitt and Stewart slipped the ball through to Yates, who cut inside and

then put the ball square to Manning, whose shot rebounded off a defender and went out to Williams, who slammed it home. A similar move and cross by Yates, who appeared to be revelling in the comparative freedom of playing inside to the hustling, bustling Manning, saw the centre-forward in the right place to side-foot the ball into the net to complete the scoring.

Borough went close on several other occasions and Egglestone saved brilliantly from a Williams' free-kick. The Borough forward line looked more dangerous than previously this season. They were much too strong and much too clever for a defence which never looked like holding them after the first ten minutes.

McKay, the former Burnley centre-forward, who has proved a prolific scorer this season looked dangerous on occasion, but overall was well managed by Arthur Corbett at centre-half. Phoenix, who took Corbett's place at left-half, had one of his best games. Altogether, this was a most encouraging Borough performance.

Nuneaton Boro' v Kidderminster Harriers 06-12-1958

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Staples; Simpson, Corbett and Phoenix; Stewart, Yates, Manning, Williams and Morrison.

Kidderminster: Amos; Crook and Clarke; Handy, Haycox and Millington; Peters, Humphries, Cotton, Watton and Mitchell.

Borough welcomed Kidderminsters Harriers to Manor Park for a Southern League Inter-Zone match.

Fans at Manor Park must be the hardest to please in the Southern League. On Saturday the Borough, although two goals down, fought back to get on level terms, lost their inside-forward Williams after five minutes of the second-half, but still looked better than Kidderminster.

Borough deserved two points in this Inter-Zone game, but had to be content with one. Did the fans give them credit? Not on your life. They grumbled from beginning to end. The man who stopped Borough setting up another 10 goal defeat for Kidderminster was their goalkeeper Amos.

He put in a brilliant performance, and aided by large slices of luck stopped everything in the way of first-time shots. The Borough goals, both scored by Williams were the result of goalmouth scrambles. This was not Manning's day from a shooting standpoint. He made some glaring misses, yet he played well enough, and was not the only culprit in front of goal.

Once again Borough missed Dallas in defence. For bad defensive errors cost two goals. Borough outplayed Kidderminster in every department, and even when they were trailing by two goals, there was still a feeling that they would pull round and win. And win they would have, if it had not been for that injury to Williams, who pulled a leg muscle, and although he tried to carry on, he finally had to leave the field.

Player-manager Angus Morrison almost pulled off a win in the last minute with a great 35 yard drive that crashed against the crossbar. It was a shot that deserved a better fate.

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Simpson set up a series of attacks, tackled with his old fire, and was the best half-back on the pitch. Phoenix was less in the picture. Dunn and Staples played the Kidderminster wingers out of the game, but Corbett was anything but happy at centre-half.

The Kidderminster goals came through centre-forward Cotton, both being laid on by wing-half Millington.

Nuneaton Borough v Merthyr Tydfil 11-12-1958

Borough: Dillon; Dunn and Phoenix; Simpson, Aston and Corbett; Crooks, Yates, Manning, Lovell and Morrison.

Merthyr: James; Steel and Callan; Jones, Carpenter and Pembrey; Watkins, Skyme, Beech, Eisentrager and Godwin.

Borough welcomed Merthyr Tydfil to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup first round replay.

Borough staged a storming second-half recovery to progress to the next round of the Southern League Cup on Thursday afternoon. There were only about 200 supporters on the ground when the visitors kicked off, and in the early seconds Dillon was called upon to save a long dropping volley from Eisentrager. In reply, Manning fired wide after being put through by Crooks.

Simpson was to blame for Merthyr's first goal, which came after 16 minutes. After he had lost possession through over-elaboration, Godwin put in a shot, which Dillon failed to gather and the ball went to Skyme, who cracked it home. Lovell had the chance of an equaliser, but his shot struck the prostrate goalkeeper and the ball was scrambled away.

Borough drew level after 26 minutes when Manning coolly headed home a Yates' centre from the left. In the heavy conditions, the centre-forward kept plugging away and on two occasions, by sheer persistence, he rammed in shots, which were cleared only with difficulty. Two minutes before the interval, Skyme again put the Welsh side into the lead, banging home a Watkins' cross.

The visitors' forwards ruined two promising moves by getting themselves offside and then Godwin tested Dillon with a high-powered shot from 25 yards before Crooks was pulled down as he was making a fine run through the centre, and from the free-kick Simpson fired straight at James.

In the 67th minute Borough netted a well-deserved equaliser with the best goal of the match. Morrison, cutting in from the left, unleashed a tremendous left-footed drive which entered the net in the angle of the woodwork, leaving James standing.

Then, in an inspired spell of three minutes Borough took a two goal lead. Firstly, after 74 minutes Corbett cracked in a penalty and Manning headed a fine goal from Yates' centre.

More thrills were to come. Manning was heavily brought down in the area, but Corbett spoiled his penalty-taking record by shooting straight at James, who parried the ball before eventually clearing.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 13-12-1958

Bath City: Gooch; Book and Steeds; McLaren, Oakley and Meadows; Skirton, Fleming, Mortensen, Pickard and Flint.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Staples; Simpson, Aston and Corbett; Stewart, Yates, Manning, Lovell and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park to take on Bath City in a Southern League North West Section fixture.

Bath were worthy winners of this game and are a very good side at home, as their hundred per cent record proves. The shock of a second minute goal by Johnny Lovell, who converted a Stewart centre, far from discouraging them, merely spurred them on to greater efforts, and for the next 15 minutes the Borough goal underwent a terrific bombardment.

Many a team would have folded up under such pressure, but not Borough. If Bath were determined to wipe out that early lead, Borough, aided by a little luck, were equally determined to make them work hard for any success. Not only did Borough hold off those early Bath onslaughts, but once or twice the visitors almost added to their lead as Stewart and Manning both had reasonable chances, and a great shot from Yates missed by inches.

Bath drew level five minutes before half-time when Alan Skirton, who had enjoyed plenty of freedom and often strolled through the wide open spaces, moved inside and crossed to the far post, where a great struggle developed before eventually, left-winger Flint got the ball into the net.

Then, in the last minute of the first half, the genius of Charlie Fleming brought Bath a second success. A long ball through the middle found the Scottish international unmarked. On he went towards goal and Ken Grieves advanced towards him. Fleming stopped, gauged the distance and then flighted the ball over the goalkeeper's head and into the empty net.

The score remained 2-1 until the 81st minute, when Flint again scored from another Skirton cross. It was a blind shot, of the kind that only come off every now and again. Trailing by two goals, Borough still kept fighting and within four minutes reduced the lead. Yates worked the ball nicely before passing to Stewart, who scooped the ball into the net. It was still anybody's game which kept the crowd on its toes – until the 76th minute when Fleming, after appearing to overrun the ball, swung round and hit it with his left foot into the Borough net.

Nuneaton Borough v Gloucester City 20-12-1958

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Staples; Simpson, Aston and Corbett; Crooks, Yates, Manning, Stewart and Morrison.

Gloucester: Coltman; Kimberley and Weston; Gallagher, Smith and Carruthers; Callaghan, Morris, Etheridge, Coldray and Box.

Borough welcomed Gloucester City to Manor Park for a Southern League North West Section game.

In the worst conditions underfoot experienced this season, Borough had to fight desperately hard to maintain a narrow

half-time lead. Indeed, in the last ten minutes of the match, Gloucester put in a great effort to salvage a point and Borough could hardly have complained had the visitors snatched a late equaliser.

Manning opened Borough's account after 15 minutes' play when he headed home a Corbett cross from the left-wing. Arthur Corbett got the second goal – and what a goal! A Borough attack had seen Crooks double back and cross a high ball with his left foot. A skirmish followed during which the ball ran loose somewhere near the penalty area almost directly behind the penalty spot. As Corbett came rushing in, the other Borough forwards opened out to let him have a slam at goal. A what a shot! The ball went past goalkeeper Coltman into the back of the net like a rocket.

Everything seemed to be going well for Borough until almost the last kick of the first-half. A pass split the Borough defence wide open and left-winger Coldray ran in unchallenged to beat Grieves with a shot which went in off a post. This totally unexpected goal put the City in a position their earlier play hardly warranted. Instead of being well behind as they could have been, they were now in the game with a chance.

On one occasion when every Gloucester player apart from the goalkeeper was in the Borough half. Two or three times the Borough goal escaped luckily and once the crossbar was struck. So you can imagine how glad Borough supporters were when the final whistle came with their favourites still a goal up. Yet, while Borough were just a little fortunate not to have conceded a goal in those hectic last few minutes of the game, the fact should not be lost sight of that earlier in the half the home side ought certainly to have increased their 2-1 lead.

Arthur Harris used to say that the best points were those a team did not deserve. While Borough were not so lucky as all that, those two points were certainly earned the tough way. The game did both teams great credit.

Ken Plant For Borough



Last night, Nuneaton Borough FC officials were hoping to sign Ken Plant, the Colchester and former Bury forward.

On the instructions of the Borough directors, player-manager Angus Morrison has visited Colchester twice since Sunday. He reported to the directors on Monday night after his interviews with Mr Ben Fenton, the Colchester manager and after hearing the directors'

views, the Borough player-manager went back to Colchester yesterday.

As a result of further talks between the two managers, Ken

Plant came to his home town last night to meet the Borough directors. As Borough officials are anxious that the club should get into the Premier Division of the Southern League next season, it was felt his signature would help greatly in this respect. Ken was transferred by Borough to Bury after their successful FA Cup run in the 1949-50 season. Later he was transferred to Colchester.

Just before going to press it was announced that terms had been agreed and Plant would be playing against Burton on Boxing Day, providing that Colchester cancel his registration in time.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion

27-12-1958

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Staples; Simpson, Aston and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Yates and Morrison.

Burton: Mason; Tye and King; Regan, Davis and Bowering; Boulton, O'Donnell, Wheeler, Slater and Stevenson.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League North West Section fixture.

From the kick-off this match was largely a battle between Borough and Burton's keeper Mason. For probably 70 of the 90 minutes Mason's goal was under siege and but for his great first-half display, goodness only knows what the score would have been.

The remarkable thing is that, although outplayed in the first-half, Burton led 1-0 at the break. Their goal came in the tenth minute. Boulton, one of the best forwards on the field, made the running, eluding Staples, and then moving inside before crossing the ball for Slater to score quite a good goal after a neat dribble.

From that point until half-time the Burton goal was seldom free from danger, but the Borough forwards just could not beat Mason, who stopped everything and was plastered from head to foot in mud following his efforts in keeping the Borough forwards at bay. When he returned to the field after half-time Mason was given an ovation by the large crowd behind the Cock and Bear goal. But, within a minute of the restart, Manning, taking a pass from Yates after a Ken Plant dash, beat him to level the scores. That was the beginning of the end for Burton.

Subsequently the Albion goal took a real hammering and Borough got four more goals without reply. Even the hitherto impeccable Mason was forced into making errors in the second half onslaught. Borough's second goal was scored by Simpson, who headed through in the 71st minute following a goalmouth tussle after a Stewart cross. Number three came three minutes later when Manning moved out on to the right wing and centred for Yates to score.

Five minutes from full-time, Mason was forced into an error for the fourth goal, allowing a Morrison shot to shoot through his legs and into the net. In the last minute Plant made it 5-1 from Morrison's centre. The main attention was focussed on



Ken Plant, who was playing his first game for Borough since 1949-50. There is no doubt that Ken still has plenty of football left in him. He has lost none of his speed off the mark and once or twice flew through the Burton defence.

While Stan Aston continued to show improvement at centre-half, Davis, the Burton pivot, had a most unhappy match, as indeed did the whole Albion defence against the continuous Borough onslaught. It seemed inevitable that once Borough had drawn level, the visitors would crack. And crack they did. So much so that it became a one-horse race.

Lovells Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 03-01-1959

Lovells: Cross; Burch and Davies; Royal, Lloyd and Mulholland; Bailey, Williams, Kemp, Roblin and Ridsdale.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Staples; Simpson, Aston and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Yates and Morrison.

Borough made the long journey to Newport to take on Lovells Athletic in a Southern League North West Section game.

Borough owed almost everything to Ken Plant, who scored three fine goals. With a little luck he might easily have increased his personal tally to five or six, since only two great saves by Cross, the home goalkeeper, kept out other shots from the inside-right.

Almost all of Nuneaton's attacks came to an end because of bad passing and had Lovells taken advantage of the many easy scoring chances that went their way, Borough might well have found themselves facing certain defeat. Time after time the home forwards outwitted a very uncertain Borough defence and as a result of continual break-throughs, not only on the wings, but through the middle, Lovells had chance after chance in the first 15 minutes and could have built up a comfortable lead, but threw all the opportunities away with some shocking finishing.

Yes, it was all Lovells for the first 15 minutes, but then Borough, or rather Ken Plant, struck. A high cross from Morrison came sailing across and up went the inside-right to beat Cross with a beautifully placed header. Three minutes later Plant took a pass to cut through the middle, drew Cross out of goal, and then shot past him into the vacated net.

Thus in the space of three minutes Plant had snatched the initiative right out of the grasp of the home side and put Borough into what looked very much like a certain winning position. In the last minute of the half Borough got a third goal, and victory looked certain for the visitors.

Stewart broke through down the middle, wormed his way round two or three defenders and then slipped the ball to Yates, who had merely to shove out a foot to send the ball into the net.

It looked as though Borough would pile on a big score. Then, very early in the second half, came an incident which could easily have had a bigger influence on the game. In a Lovells' attack, centre-forward Kemp found himself almost on the

goal-line alongside Grieves. He was yards behind the Borough backs. The ball reached him and he slid it into the net. It was so palpably an offside goal that nobody took much notice – not until the referee pointed to the middle.

A quarter of an hour after half-time came Plant's third goal and that earlier Lovells goal was forgotten. Borough had broken away on the left and when Morrison flighted the ball across goal, Plant was on the spot once again to head it into the net. Lovells had several more chances to score, but it was not until 15 minutes from the end that Williams got the ball past Grieves from what seemed an almost impossible angle.

Return Of Ken Plant May Prove Deciding Factor

From whatever angle one looks at the first half of Borough's "make or break" season in the Southern League, it must surely be regarded as eminently satisfactory. Indeed, in many ways the club's "shot in the dark" entry into this higher grade of football has been a big success.

From the moment it was decided to leave the Birmingham League in favour of the Southern League, the Borough directors decided to make it a do or die effort, and at once appointed a player-manager with instructions to get the best men available irrespective of the cost.

In taking these important initial steps the directors banked on getting much better support than they did in the Birmingham League, for in addition to a greatly increased income from the tote, an average gate of 3,000 was considered necessary to support the kind of team needed to hold its own in the higher sphere of football.

In both instances they were not disappointed. The tote has reached a figure which provides the club with a weekly income of something over £100, while attendances have exceeded all expectations. Supporters have really turned up trumps.

Bite Needed

What of the football? There can be no doubt at all that the football seen at Manor Park this season has been infinitely better than for many, many seasons past and enthusiasm as keen as in the days when Borough made it a habit to do well in the FA Cup...

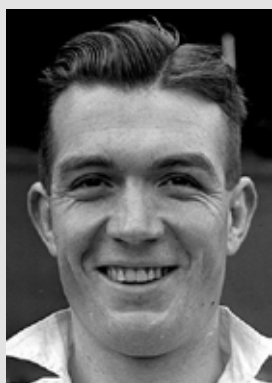
...Things began to look up when Corby were beaten on their own ground. Manning getting two more goals. Then came the most important signing of the season – the transfer to Borough from Colchester of Ken Plant. Ken followed up his first goal against Burton, with a hat-trick at Lovells. Now it is not a question of who shall be brought into the Borough attack to improve its goalscoring powers, but who to leave out. That was the problem which confronted player-manager prior to the Burton match last Saturday. The match was not played, so the problem remains unsolved...



Giant Killers At Manor Park Next Week

Borough's postponed Southern League fixture against Worcester City, who are making a big name for themselves by their FA Cup exploits – tomorrow they are at home to Sheffield United, having beaten Liverpool in the last round – will take place at Manor Park tomorrow week, January 31, kick-off 3pm.

Borough Sign Malcolm Barrass



Malcolm Barrass, Nuneaton Borough's surprise signing, played centre-half for Bolton in that dramatic 1953 Wembley Cup Final in which Blackpool, after being 3-1 down late in the game, hit back to win 4-3 on penalties.

The son of an ex-League player and a native of Blackpool, Barrass was with Bolton for 13 seasons, during which time

he played for England on four occasions. He then joined Sheffield United and it still on their list.

Until recently he was player-manager of Wigan Athletic. He was given a three year contract, but after serving only seven months was offered an attractive representative job and as a result asked to be released from his contract. He was given his freedom, travelled on Saturday from Lancashire to Burton along with Grieves, Williams and Phoenix, and was signed immediately before the match.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 24-01-1959

Burton: Mason; Tye and King; Regan, Billington and Boyd; Hopkins, Boulton, Wheeler, Slater and Taylor.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Staples; Simpson, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Yates, Williams and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to face Burton Albion in a Southern League North West Section match.

When Borough built up an early two goal lead, it looked as though it would be a slaughter of the innocents. But it proved anything but, as the visitors made the fatal mistake of easing up and then failing to get back into their stride again.

Indeed, after that initial burst of fine football, Borough slowly but most surely fell away and in the end were a trifle lucky to draw, even though only a great save by Mason from Ken Plant in the dying minutes saved the home side from defeat.

Borough took the lead after 12 minutes when Corbett sent Morrison away for the left winger to beat his man, run to the dead-ball line and then pull the ball back to Yates, who

scored with a brilliant shot. Two minutes later Corbett and Simpson paved the way for Ken Plant to race through and drive the ball low into the far corner of the net.

Wheeler reduced the lead from Boulton's pass after half-an-hour, which was followed five minutes later by a penalty miss by Hopkins, who shot feebly at Grieves. Slater levelled the scores in the 65th minute with a shot which went in off the underside of the bar. On the whole, Burton could feel well satisfied with their display, in fact might have considered themselves unlucky not to have won. On the other hand Borough badly disappointed after their early cleverness.

Borough started the second half as though they really intended not to repeat their first-half mistakes. But try as they may they just could not reproduce their early form. Yates missed the best chance of the match when Ken Plant broke through on the right and squared the ball bang in front of the net. The centre-forward merely had to prod the ball home. Instead he completely missed the ball and sat in the goalmouth mud.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 31-01-1959

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Dallas; Simpson, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Yates and Morrison.

Worcester: Kirkwood; Wilcox and Potts; Bryceland, Melville and Paul; Brown, Follan, Knowles, Gosling and Skuse.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park for a Southern League North West Section fixture.

Twice in the first ten minutes of the game Borough's right-winger, Stewart, hit the woodwork, in a storming Borough start. Then came a real shock for the home side, when, in their first attack Worcester scored the simplest of goals. From somewhere near the corner of the penalty area, Gosling, the City inside-left, sent in a harmless shot. For some inexplicable reason, Grieves allowed the ball to sail into the net between himself and the post.

This early rebuff, after only eleven minutes, rather than having a disturbing effect on Borough, merely served to spur them on to even greater efforts, and from that point until half-time the City took a real hammering. How their goal survived until the last few minutes of the half was truly remarkable.

Playing glorious football, the Borough ran rings around the giant-killers, who for long periods were penned in, scarcely knowing what to do to keep their opponents at bay. Inspired in attack by Ken Plant, whose devastating bursts of speed often carried him through the City defence, and steadied in defence by Malcolm Barrass, who this time showed us what he is really made of, the Borough put on a first-class show.

Two minutes before half-time came the inevitable equaliser. Ken Plant put Jackie Stewart away. The winger closed in. Expecting a centre, Kirkwood moved out of goal. Sizing up the situation in a flash, Stewart moved further inside and then shot low into the net behind the goalkeeper.

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In the next minute the City goal had two more narrow escapes. First Ken Plant ran right through only to fail to take the ball round the goalkeeper. In the last minute of the half, Manning got round two defenders and then tried to push the ball into the net. Fortunately for Worcester the ball stopped dead in the mud, a yard or so short of goal and was scrambled away.

In the first minute of the second half Ken Plant took the ball through, switched it to Stewart, who crossed it for Manning to head through to give his side the lead they so well deserved. At 60 minutes Borough virtually settled the issue when a move started by Simpson ended in Manning scoring his side's third goal. Yet if Borough thought the game was all over bar the shouting, they were mistaken.

Borough gradually lost the initiative and passes began to go astray. The main offender was Harry Yates, who time after time took the ball forward before passing straight to a Worcester defender. It was at this point that Willie Dallas began to show signs of distress, suffering from the after effects of his injury. Worcester's right-winger Brown came more into the picture and led a series of raids on the Borough goal.

It was hereabouts that the sterling work of Malcolm Barrass and Jack Dunn stood their side in good stead. Time after time they came out with the ball when things looked black. Once, Ken Grieves made up for that early mistake by making a grand save from Knowles. Then, with only a minute to go, Borough struck again. Another Plant-Stewart move paving the way for Manning to complete his hat-trick.

Barrass greatly impressed the 5,850 crowd with his coolness under pressure and the way he used the ball after coming out of a tackle. This was the sort of game what will keep the turnstiles ticking merrily at Manor Park, and deservedly so.

Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Boro' 07-02-1959

Kidderminster: Amos; Crook and Clark; Handy, Haycox and Millington; Rutherford, Watton, Cotton, Taylor and Wooding.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Dallas; Simpson, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Yates and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Kidderminster Harriers for a Southern League Inter-Zone match.

Had Borough shown anything approaching their recent form they ought to have won with plenty to spare. For even at their liveliest, Kidderminster are anything but one of the best sides in the Southern League. The whole Borough team failed to click, and no-one played up to their usual form. It would be difficult to pick out even one Borough player as outstanding, for all, with the possible exception of Grieves, who had little to do, played well below themselves.

There were few crosses from the wings, and long balls through the middle were almost non-existent, with the result that Roy Manning had his quietest game since getting into the Southern League side. Indeed, the attack generally was out of

gear and carried out few moves worthy of the name. Early on Ken Plant made himself a nuisance to the Harriers' defence by employing those quick bursts to take himself through, but even he made the mistake of trying to beat too many men.

At wing-half both Alex Simpson and Arthur Corbett were right off colour. Simpson took a knock fairly early on and was off the field for a short time. That may have affected his play. Be that as it may, both he and Corbett made more bad passes in this game than half-a-dozen others.

Plant opened the scoring after 25 minutes, following a through ball from Yates, who pushed the ball through to the inside-right, who finished off with a well-placed shot which goalkeeper Amos just managed to touch, but could not prevent from going into the net. Kidderminster's equaliser, after 55 minutes, was a gift, as Dallas dived low to try to head the ball outside for a corner, but only succeeded in putting it past his own keeper.

Kidderminster went ahead on 65 minutes when Barrass was adjudged to have brought down Millington in the penalty area and from the spot kick Wooding drove the ball home. Stewart levelled the scores 17 minutes from time, shooting low into the net.

This game was like the weather – depressing – but Borough like all teams, are entitled to have an off-day. And better by half they should have an off-day in an Inter-Zone match than in a Southern League match.

Nuneaton Borough v Wisbech Town

14-02-1959

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Dallas; Simpson, Barrass and Phoenix; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Yates and Muir.

Borough welcomed Wisbech Town to Manor Park for a Southern League North West Section game.

The first goal of the game was scored by Pye after eight minutes play. It was the result of a speculative shot which Grieves either saw too late or badly misjudged, since he was much too late in going down to the ball. Wisbech's next goal, six minutes later, resulted from Borough players standing still thinking the visitors were offside. As it was Crosland's shot hardly succeeded in crossing the line. This second shock was the signal for great Borough efforts to hit back, although they were frustrated initially after Plant missed from the penalty spot after Manning had been fouled by Deans, shooting straight at Lowery.

Lowery pushed Plant's shot away and it was swished behind for a corner. Stewart's flag kick was switched by Yates to Manning, whose header had the goalkeeper well beaten. That goal set Borough alight, and they ought quickly to have equalised, for intercepting a pass from full-back to goalkeeper, Manning put the ball in front of an empty net... but there was no Borough forward up to take advantage.

But, the equaliser was not long delayed. In the 36th minute the ball went via Manning and Plant to Stewart, who found the



net with a hard cross shot. Just before half-time Yates ought to have put his side ahead, for with the goal at his mercy he headed over the top, leaving the half-time score at 2-2.

The second half was only five minutes old when Borough went into the lead. Angus Morrison split the Wisbech defence and found Yates, who from a none-too-easy angle beat Lowery with a shot which found the far corner of the net. Not long afterwards, in an effort to check Manning, who had taken a Phoenix pass and was bursting through, left-back Howe put the ball past his own keeper to make the score 4-2.

It was then that Borough struck a bad patch, but although Wisbech did a lot of attacking, they seemed to have shed their shooting boots and when they did manage to reduce the lead it was due to another mistake by Grieves who, after going out to try to punch away, appeared to take his eye off the ball, which sailed into the net.

Put back in the fight by the goal, Wisbech began to regain some of their early poise, but what hopes they had of forcing a draw were shattered five minutes from time when Plant took a long ball to cut through the Wisbech defence and placed the ball well out of Lowery's reach.

Even though they gave their supporters a few nasty turns by surrendering the initiative after establishing that 4-2 lead, Borough must be credited with another first-class performance. A team which can give Wisbech two goals start and still beat them is deserving of every possible praise.

Burton Money Problems

It is sad to hear that good neighbours Burton Albion, through poor support, have been compelled to ask their professionals to take wage cuts.

It seems that Albion have spent all their ready money on their new ground at Eton Park. Inability to hit the winning trail has told its tale on the attendances, which have fallen so alarmingly that the club is unable to pay its way.

Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 17-02-1959

Hereford: Sewell; Tomkins and Wade; Elias, Niblett and Horton; Bowen, Williams, Fidler, Morris and Hardiman.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Dallas; Phoenix, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Yates and Crooks.

Borough made the journey to Edgar Street to take on Hereford United in a Southern League Cup second round tie.

Borough were a little fortunate to get away so lightly on Tuesday evening, and if it had not been for a grand display by the defence, the score would have been far higher. Barrass at centre-half was a tower of strength and ruled supreme in the centre, completely blocking out Hereford centre-forward Fidler, while left-back Dallas had the better of the exchanges with right-winger Bowen, who saw a great deal of the ball.

Nuneaton's wing-halves Phoenix and Corbett, especially the latter, kept their forwards well supplied with passes, but the inside trio were unable to shake off the attention of Hereford's half-back line. Plant, however, eluded Horton early in the game, and it was only a timely clearance by Wade which prevented the Nuneaton inside-right from giving his side the lead. The same player featured with Stewart and Crooks in a smart move, which ended in Sewell making a fine save at the foot of the post.

Nuneaton moved the ball quickly and accurately, but their finishing was not of the same high standard. They combined effectively until they reached the Hereford penalty area where their moves were baulked by a wall of Hereford defenders.

In the second half Nuneaton made a number of positional changes in their attack, but without success. Apart from two fine attempts by Yates, little was seen of the visiting forwards, but their defence was engaged in a grim struggle with the Hereford forwards.

Hereford opened the scoring in the 73rd minute when Hardiman, after his first shot had hit the post, followed up to net the rebound. A minute later Morris raced away down the left and cracked home a cross shot.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 21-02-1959

Kettering: Roberts; Marson and Lockwood; Froggatt, Baxter and Smith; Morrow, Dadswell, Draper, Toseland and Burrows.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Dallas; Phoenix, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Yates and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to take on Kettering Town in a Southern League North West fixture.

This game never looked like producing many goals. Both sets of forwards carried out some sparkling moves, but when the penalty area was reached the majority of the attacks just fizzled out. There was a tendency by both forward lines to hold the ball too long, thus giving the defences ample time to cover.

The turning point in the game came when Willie Dallas, who had plenty of time to clear, tried to take the ball round a defender and lost it. A second later, the ball was in the Borough net and the goal changed the whole complexion of the game. When Dallas lost the ball it ran to Burrows and the left winger's centre was headed into the net by Draper. The left-back's mistake put the whole defence in a quandary, and Draper was unmarked at the far post when Burrows' centre came across.

Immediately before Kettering got that goal – a goal which gave them a totally undeserved lead – Borough all but scored on two occasions. Manning had the Borough supporters yelling "goal!" with a header which, unfortunately, sailed just wide of the goal. A minute or so before that Roberts had to go full-length to stop a Yates shot.

Kettering were looking rather bedraggled, but that lucky goal acted as a tonic to them and, at the same time, shook



Borough's confidence. The final blow to their hopes came seven minutes from time when Hughie Morrow wriggled his way through the Borough defence to put the issue beyond doubt with a great solo goal – a typical Morrow effort.

Kettering, led by Jack Froggat, the former Leicester City player, are undoubtedly a good side. It was rather surprising, however, to see them struggling so much in front of goal with players of the calibre of Draper, Morrow and George Burrows in their attack. It was a tribute to the work of the Borough defence that they were kept quiet for so long a period.

On the whole Borough were worthy of a point, and they may well have got it, had it not been for the blunder which enabled Kettering to score their first goal against the run of play, and just when Borough were looking by far the better side.



Angus Morrison Signs New Contract

Angus Morrison, Nuneaton Borough FC manager, has accepted a new three years' contract offered him by the club directors.

The new contract will date from the end of his present year's contract.

Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-02-1959

Cheltenham: Gourlay; Farrel and Baird; Dunlop, Hyde and Dunn; Carnie, Fowler, Gibbs, Scott and Burder.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Dallas; Naylor, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Yates, Williams and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Whaddon Road to take on Cheltenham Town in a Southern League North West fixture.

Borough took the lead only eight minutes after the start, when they were awarded a free-kick about 35 yards out for a foul on Ken Plant. Barrass took the kick and placed it to the far post. Yates anticipated the kick superbly and running in, headed it into the net well out of Gourlay's reach. Borough held that lead until midway through the second half.

As in the game at Kettering, the central figure in Borough conceding was Willie Dallas. Forty yards from goal, he attempted a long pass back to his goalkeeper and put the ball straight to the feet of centre-forward Gibbs, who was left with a clear course for goal. He moved straight in. Grieves was left with no alternative but to dash out of goal and dive at the feet of the centre-forward, and both crashed in the penalty area. The referee rightly awarded a penalty kick, which was converted by wing-half Dunlop, who has not failed with a spot kick in four seasons.

A few minutes later Ken Plant scored a great goal to put Borough ahead again. When Morrison crossed the ball, Plant hit it first time. It was a terrific shot and had goal written all over it. Gourlay made a desperate attempt to save by flinging himself across goal. He managed to get his finger tips to the ball, but never had a ghost of a chance of saving.

With only 11 minutes to go, Cheltenham launched a desperate attack and to save a goal Barrass headed over his own goal for a corner. Burder took the corner kick and as the ball came across, centre-forward Gibbs nipped in and flicked the ball into the net just inside the near post to level the score at 2-2.

With seven minutes to go, Cheltenham forced another corner. Borough defenders all crowded into the goalmouth. The ball came across and was partially cleared. It ran out to Hyde, the home centre-half, who had come upfield. The latter promptly lifted it goalwards. With a whole crowd of players obstructing his view it is likely that Grieves never saw the ball, or at least not until it was too late.

Though weakened by the absence of Simpson and Manning, Borough were still a match for the league leaders and proved once again that they are no easy prey for any team in this league. Indeed, for the second week in succession they were said to be the best side to have visited the ground this season.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 04-03-1959

Burton: Sharman; Tye and King; Mason, Billington and McAdam; Hopkins, Dean, Evans, Clarke and Stevenson.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Naylor, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Williams, Plant and Morrison.

Borough travelled to Eton Park to face Burton Albion in a Southern League Inter-Zone fixture.

Burton could easily have grabbed an early two-goal lead in this match, but after their early chances they were outplayed to such an extent that Borough could have reached double figures. After only two minutes play Evans had the Borough goal at his mercy, but his weak shot was stopped by Grieves' outstretched foot. Two minutes later Clarke hit a post with the goal at his mercy.

Borough's experiment of playing Williams in the middle was reasonably successful in that he played much better than at Cheltenham and set the scoreboard in motion with a thumping good shot after 20 minutes. On 31 minutes Plant opened his own account by heading home a Morrison corner and then added a third with a brilliant effort. Grieves started the move by throwing the ball to Williams, who without fuss sent a long ball through the middle. Plant outstripped the opposition and as goalkeeper Sharman came out, slid the ball past him into the empty net.

For a long time in the second half Borough toyed with the opposition and in doing so missed quite a few easy chances. The score remained 3-0 until about ten minutes from the end, when the fun really started. Plant netted a fourth goal

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after a long run by Jack Dunn; he got another two minutes later. Then Clarke replied for Burton in the 84th minute. Plant banged in a sixth two minutes after that; while a minute from the end, Lovell got a seventh, the two last goals coming from Stewart crosses.

The game was of course, a personal triumph for Plant, who netted five of his side's goals. The Albion were a poor side and after that early burst seldom looked like getting a goal. Although he was actually playing inside-left, Plant, roaming in the middle, was always on the spot to take advantage of a whole stream of down the middle passes. His bursts of speed often left Billington standing. Barrass and Dunn were powerful Borough defenders, while Parkinson, restored to the left-back position had a very good game.

Nuneaton Borough v Merthyr Tydfil 07-03-1959

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simson, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Plant and Morrison.

Merthyr: James; Steel and Callan; Byrd, Carpenter and Pembrey; Godwin, Skyme, Beech, Vater and Davies.

Borough welcomed Merthyr Tydfil to Manor Park for a Southern League North West Section fixture.

Twice in the first five minutes of the game Yates was left with only goalkeeper James to beat. Each time he pulled the ball outside when the least care must have brought a goal. Throughout the first half Borough called the tune and for long periods Merthyr were kept on the defensive. But they must have left their shooting boots at Burton.

Merthyr had a bit of luck, but by and large Borough had only their own poor finishing to thank for not having the game all sewn up by half-time. Borough's only goal of the first-half came after 30 minutes, when Ken Plant was brought down in the penalty area and Arthur Corbett scored from the spot.

After the change of ends Merthyr showed marked improvement, no doubt encouraged by Borough's first-half inability to cash in on the many scoring chances they had. The visitors, however, had one escape when a terrific Morrison shot was punched against the woodwork by goalkeeper James. The ball might just have easily gone into the net as gone into safety.

Although this was very definitely a let-off for the Welsh boys, the goal they got in the 60th minute was well deserved. Winger Godwin paving the way for Skyme to get the equaliser. This goal had a most discouraging effect on the home side, who surrendered the initiative.

Merthyr had a tough break when they hit the bar after Grieves had moved out of goal. And so it went on with the visitors looking more likely winners than Borough – until with only eight minutes left to play, Callan used his hands to save a certain goal when a Yates shot had the goalkeeper going the wrong way. But to the consternation of the crowd Corbett's penalty shot was saved by James. This seemed Borough's last

chance of getting both points and everybody had resigned themselves to a draw when, right out of the blue, came the winning goal.

Yates, who after missing two sitters in the early minutes of the game had seemed incapable of doing anything right, took a pass on the left wing, beat his man, came inside almost along the dead ball line, and then pulled the ball back to Stewart, who steadied himself before flashing the ball into the net. There was only time to position the ball on the centre spot and restart the game before the whistle went for full-time.

The forwards had an off-day and the outstanding players were in the defence. Simpson playing a particularly fine game following his absence through illness.

Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town 09-03-1959

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Naylor, Barrass and Corbett; Crooks, Yates, Williams, Plant and Morrison.

Rugby Town: McCormack; Jones and McLachlan; Gee, Mooney and Jamieson; T. Roberts, Knox, Crawley, Tate and Whetton.

Borough welcomed Rugby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Inter-Zone fixture.

Even after making full allowance for the fact that Borough had to struggle along with ten men for 75 minutes on Monday, this was one of the poorest exhibitions of football seen on the ground this season. After only 15 minutes' play, Crooks, who was operating on the Borough right wing was injured and had to leave the field. He came back some time later, but was hobbling and after a few minutes went back to the dressing room and took no further part in the match.

Even with ten men Borough held their own and seldom looked like conceding a goal. But Borough relied far too much on Ken Plant and spent most of the game vainly trying to get a long ball through the middle to inside-left. These were so badly judged that Plant had little or no chance of profiting. He was constantly pushed and shoved by Rugby defenders, who had obviously decided to stop him at any price.

As on Saturday, Borough's outstanding players were defenders including Dunn and the ever-reliable Barrass. Rugby introduced as leader of their attack Tom Crawley, who has scored 33 goals for Bedworth this season, but he seldom looked like adding to his tally.

The only goal of the game came from a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area after 25 minutes – and even that was a most unsatisfactory affair. The referee was at fault in not insisting that the players stood at a proper distance from the ball, while Rugby were to blame for being caught napping.

Yates pushed the ball past the unprepared Rugby defence and Williams ran on with the ball and shot it past McCormack with his left foot. It was as easy as that. So poor was the football that the final whistle came as sweet music to everybody's ears. There just seems no enthusiasm at all for these Inter-Zone encounters.



Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 12-03-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and Phoenix; Aston, Dallas and Naylor; Stewart, Lovell, Manning, Williams and Jakeman.

Burton: Sharman; Tye and H. Wright; Bowering, Billington and McAdam; Mosby, Dean, Evans, M. Wright and Stevenson.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Inter-Zone match.

Although fielding several reserves, Borough were more than a match for Burton. In the absence of Morrison, Dallas skippered Borough. The visitors were the first to make any headway, and from a right wing centre, Evans headed over. In reply, Borough forced a corner on the left, and from Jakeman's cross, a defender, in attempting a clearance, headed on to Lovell, the ball passing just outside the post from off the inside-right's body.

The home side took the lead after five minutes through Manning, who crashed the ball home after being put through by Stewart. The crowd confidently expected a penalty when Manning, after a fine solo run, was upended from behind, but the referee waved aside appeals. Williams then missed badly from close range.

Borough increased their lead after 23 minutes when a fierce shot from Stewart passed between the angle of the bar and post. Gibson had to smother a header from Stevenson, and then earned a round of applause for neatly cutting out a cross from the right.

In the best movement of the game, Williams put Stewart away down the right, and from the winger's accurate centre, Manning headed just over. After deceiving the Albion defence with a piece of ball juggling, Lovell got in a snap shot which caught Sharman unawares, but the keeper, diving full length, was able to grab the ball before it crossed the line.

Burton had another narrow escape when Jakeman hit a post and from the rebound Stewart fired a shot in which H. Wright kicked off the goal-line with Sharman well beaten. The visitors reduced the deficit after 63 minutes. In attempting a long back pass to his own keeper Lovell merely succeeded in finding Evans, who ran on to make the most of a gift chance.

Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough 14-03-1959

Wellington Town: Richards; Kerr and Hoof; Manders, Davies and Hurdley; Hancocks, Rogers, Pearce, Trimby and Morrissey

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Plant and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to take on Wellington Town in a Southern League North West Section game.

Borough fell hook, line and sinker for the long through-the-middle pass at Wellington, with three of the home side's four goals coming when their forwards raced through unchallenged on to the ball and found nobody ahead of them but goalkeeper Grieves.

Grieves came in for some criticism in that one of Wellington's scoring shots actually passed through his legs as he came out, but let us be fair and say that a goalkeeper does not have much of a chance when so often finding himself the only stumbling block between an unhampered oncoming forward and a goal.

If Wellington's last three goals were the outcome of bad defensive work, their first success after only four minutes' play was due to a mistake by Alex Simpson. He lost the ball and let in Pearce. The latter's shot struck Grieves' knee and went out to Rogers. The latter pulled the ball back in front of goal and Pearce merely had to tap it into the net.

The other three goals scored by Rogers (55 minutes), Pearce (65 minutes) and Rogers (75 minutes) were all the result of these players going through the wide open spaces in the Borough defence and scoring almost at will, although Grieves ought not have allowed himself to be so easily beaten.

Borough's only goal in the 73rd minute was scored by Plant. Morrison started the move by passing to Stewart, who had moved out to the left, and his cross was headed into the net by the inside-left. This was unquestionably one of Borough's worst displays of the season.

It was a display which badly shook supporters' confidence and made them wonder if, after all, the team is good enough to win a place in the Premier Division next season. The team's chances should improve appreciably when a fit Manning returns and re-introduces that speed and devil in the middle that is so vital to any side.

Nuneaton Borough v Headington United 21-03-1959

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Naylor, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Yates and Morrison.

Headington: Otter; Beavon and Adams; Cross, Kyle and Daniel; Boulton, Dixon, Rees, Thompson and Love.

Borough welcomed Headington United to Manor Park for a Southern League North West Section game.

This latest display was every bit as bad as that at Wellington, which was rock bottom. But this time Borough largely contributed to their own troubles by giving Headington both their goals. Left-back Brian Parkinson gave them the lead in the 16th minute when, following a mix-up between Dunn and Barrass, Rees put the ball into the middle. The ball would have gone harmlessly across goal, but Parkinson, seemingly, could not get out of the way and put the ball into his own net.

Yates and Stewart both missed reasonably easy scoring chances before and after Manning had neutralised Parkinson's goal for Headington. Barrass started the move with a pass to Plant, and the latter pushed the ball ahead of the centre-forward who went on to easily beat Otter, who earlier had made two magnificent saves – one from a Corbett free-kick and the other from a Naylor shot.

The visitors' other goal, which came in the 37th minute

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resulted from a long free kick. Cross drifted the ball towards goal. Barrass seemed to have it well covered and everybody expected he would head away without any trouble. But somehow or other he failed to connect and Thompson ran in to score a simple second goal for United.

Borough managed to salvage a point with the help of a penalty decision 17 minutes from time. It wasn't a very convincing affair, for it seemed that Manning and two Headington defenders had all lost the ball when the Borough leader went down. The referee, however, was well up and had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Barrass took the kick and scored.

This was a game Borough should have won in the first half when they played fairly well, without being anything like their best, and had they taken full toll of the chances that went their way they would have been in a comfortable position at half-time.

Both sides were glad to hear the final whistle and both were satisfied with a point. A draw was a fair result and did justice to both sides. Borough, however, played so badly that supporters are beginning to seriously doubt whether they will gain a place in the Premier Division. To do so they will have to play much more like they were several weeks ago and much less like in the last three weeks.

Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 28-03-1959

Hereford: Groves; Wade and Tomkins; Horton, Niblett and Elias; Hardiman, Morris, Fidler, Williams and Bowen.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Dallas; Simpson, Barrass and Corbett; Steel, Plant, Manning, Yates and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Edgar Street to take on Hereford United in a Southern League North West fixture.

Borough can have no grumbles, as they were outplayed by a team yards faster on the ball and with more thrust at inside forward. At inside-left, Williams was the most intelligent forward on the field. His distribution was excellent and he had the defence at full-stretch. In attack, Borough missed the speed and shooting power of Jackie Stewart. Deputy Steel just could not beat his man and slowed the line up.

In the opening half, Groves did not have to save a single shot from the Nuneaton attack. The only two worthwhile shots came from Arthur Corbett and Malcolm Barrass.

Barrass met his match in centre-forward Fidler, but the rest of the defence covered well, particularly Dallas, who played a fine game against clever and tricky winger Bowen. Simpson and Corbett played their hearts out at half-back. They had all the answers in defence and attack, but saw their passes frittered away.

Hereford took the lead after 15 minutes, following a debatable free-kick decision against Dallas, who appeared to have won the ball fairly. Elias placed the ball beautifully and Fidler volleyed it in first-time. Then, on 35 minutes, following a glorious move by Hereford, Bowen slipped inside Dallas,

pushed the ball inside Barrass, and Morris drove it home. So, Hereford were two up before half-time, and deservedly so.

Borough trailed by those two goals for most of the game, but almost snatched a point. Just 10 minutes from time, Yates hit a pile driver that looked a goal all the way, but it hit Tomkins and laid the full-back out. Four minutes later, Manning tapped in the Borough goal.

Borough battled hard in the closing minutes, but time was against them and the Hereford defence held strong.

Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town 30-03-1959

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Dallas; Corbett, Barrass and Simpson; Steel, Plant, Yates, Lovell and Morrison.

Borough welcomed Rugby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League North West fixture.

After a first-half display which bored their supporters, Borough suddenly produced their very best form and in a fifteen minute blitz immediately after the change of ends, converting a 1-1 interval score into a 6-1 victory.

Rugby actually went into the lead in the 15th minute in what was practically their first serious attack. Dallas erred and let in G. Roberts, who crossed the ball to Crawley, who ran in to beat Grieves with a shot just inside the post.

It seemed hardly credible that a side which had played so badly as had Borough in the first-half could have so suddenly sprung into life in such devastating style. Rugby must have wondered what had hit them.

The man responsible for sparking off the blitz was player-manager Angus Morrison, who scored two brilliant goals in the 50th and 51st minutes. His first was a great effort. He started the move with a long cross-field pass to Steel, and moved in to receive the winger's perfect centre to head a beautiful goal. In the next minute he received a Simpson pass almost on the dead ball line. He had little or nothing of the net to shoot at, but his shot went high into the roof of the net.

Four minutes later Corbett started a move which was carried on by Steel and Morrison, and ended in Lovell scoring a third second-half goal. A minute after that Yates shot through from a Steel corner kick, while six minutes later Steel rounded off the scoring by netting after a Yates' shot had struck the bar.

During this fifteen-minute period Rugby just hadn't an earthy chance; they were just played right out of the game. Up to half-time Borough had played nothing like a side capable of producing a blitzkrieg; indeed their finishing had been so woeful that goals seemed very unlikely.

The equaliser came five minutes from half-time when Lovell forced the ball into the net after McCormack had failed to cover a free-kick.

This was more like the old Borough – the team which rose from bottom of the league table to the half-way mark – and a display worthy of the two valuable points they picked up.



Headington United v Nuneaton Borough 31-03-1959

Headington: Peters; Beavon and Adams; Cross, Kyle and Denial; Gibson, Dickson, Shields, Thompson and Love.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Dallas; Corbett, Barrass and Simpson; Steel, Plant, Yates, Lovell and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Headington United for a Southern League North West fixture.

This was without question Borough's best away display for some weeks, and though not quite so good as at Kettering and Cheltenham, was much more workmanlike than their performances at Wellington and Hereford. But whether they played well or badly, the fact remains that they won . . . and collected the two points which they so badly needed, not only to help themselves on the way to the Premier Division, but also to queer Headington's pitch.

Once again, the visitors found themselves a goal behind when, in the 13th minute, Gibson got the better of a duel with Dallas, and crossed the ball for Shields to net. Six minutes later Borough drew level when Steel played the ball inside to Angus Morrison, who had crossed over to the inside-right position. The player-manager hit the ball through the middle to Yates, who beat Peters from close range.

The score remained 1-1 until nine minutes from the end, when Corbett found Steel in the open, and the winger ran in to score with a shot which swung viciously and left the goalkeeper standing. Then, a few minutes from time, Corbett again set Steel in motion, and this time the winger centred bang in front of goal for Ken Plant to head the ball home.

This was a victory for good team work, for there were no outstanding performances in the Borough side, although winger Steel, playing on a ground he knows so well – he and Yates are former Headington players – must be given credit for having a hand in all three goals.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 04-04-1959

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Dallas; Corbett, Barrass and Simpson; Steel, Plant, Yates, Lovell and Morrison.

Corby Town: Egglestone; W. Morris and Poppitt; Connors, Parsons and Neilson; J. Morris, Rennie, McKay, Adam and Thorpe.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League North West fixture.

There was not one Borough player who produced anything like his normal form, with the possible exception of Grieves. Obviously many of the players were feeling the strain of having played four games in eight days and just couldn't pep themselves up.

Borough's trouble up front was obvious. They had no leader. Yates was much too slow and gave centre-half Parsons no trouble at all. In the first minute he ought to have scored – a beautiful through pass sent him clean away, but he didn't even catch up with the pass, and the ball was kicked away. Surely

there can be no doubt at all now that Manning is the man who should lead the Borough attack if Ken Plant is not to go there.

Corby winger Thorpe was the biggest threat to Borough all the way through, even when his side had been depleted through the loss of inside-right Rennie. He was always more than a match for the Borough defence and twice in the last ten minutes, paved the way for what could easily have been winning goals for his side.

Borough were lucky not to be more than one goal behind at the half-way stage. Lovell once put his goal in grave danger by trying a back pass, and passing straight to an opposing forward, who missed an easy chance. Then, with the Borough defence all at sea, McKay headed the ball against the bar, and it was only got away after a terrific goalmouth scramble. In the 36th minute, a free-kick was conceded by Simpson and from J. Morris's kick, Rennie shot low into the net.

Borough drew level five minutes after half-time. Plant put Lovell through for the inside-left to double back after apparently losing his chance. His shot was travelling much more slowly than Egglestone imagined, for the goalkeeper was on the floor before the ball landed in the net near the far post.

It was a great pity that before a crowd of 4,500, the biggest gate for some time, Borough should have put on such a terribly disappointing display. Corby are a poor side and should easily have been beaten, even with a full side, leave alone with only ten men. It was a very poor Borough show.

Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Borough 11-04-1959

Kidderminster: Amos; Crook and Oldham; Chapman, Clark and Logan; Staples, Taylor, Cotton, Millington and Metcalf.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Dallas; Corbett, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Lovell and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Kidderminster Harriers for a Southern League North West fixture.

Throughout the first half, Borough hardly troubled Amos in the Kidderminster goal, although he had two anxious moments when first Plant and then Manning sent the ball just wide of goal. The visitors had a strong wind at their backs, but it seemed that combined with the rain-soaked pitch, it only served to take the ball away from the attacking side.

On the other hand Kidderminster, although doing far less attacking than their opponents, found less difficulty in controlling the ball and put in one or two attacks which had the Borough defence worried. When half-time arrived with a blank scoresheet, it looked as though Borough may have missed the boat.

Borough's first real shot came just after the break from right back Dunn. Amos saved quite competently, but at least it was a shot. Kidderminster retaliated and Grieves was forced to push a Staples cross against the bar.

Then, 15 minutes after half-time, Stewart, after a close dribble upfield and then along the dead ball line, found his way to goal

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barred. Seeing Corbett moving up, the winger put a short pass back to the right-half, who, without hesitation, lifted the ball into the goalmouth for Manning to head into the net.

That goal had a depressing effect on the home side who went to pieces and were afterwards outplayed. Two terrific shots from Angus Morrison were kicked off the goal-line. Roy Manning was proving a rare nuisance to the Harriers' defence, and he put in a shot which was deflected past the far post. In the 67th minute left-back Oldham intercepted a ball which goalkeeper Amos had covered and, nipping in, Plant slammed the ball home.

Almost on time, Manning beat a defender somewhere near the corner flag, moved inside, and then shot. It was not one of his best efforts, but for some reason Amos failed to stop the ball going into the net.

Borough's outstanding player was Malcolm Barrass. All through he was the really big man of the match and the rock on which most of the Harriers attacks came to grief. In fact the whole defence, after a shaky first-half, played well, Willie Dallas giving his best performance yet at left back.

The return of Manning and Jackie Stewart to the Borough attack brought about a marked improvement, as one expected it would, Stewart's cleverness with the ball gave the home defence many anxious moments, while Manning added punch, speed and determination. Altogether, this was a most heartening performance after what happened the week before, but Borough still need all the points they can to achieve Premier Division status next season.

Merthyr Tydfil v Nuneaton Borough 15-04-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and Dallas; Corbett, Aston and Phoenix; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Lovell and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Merthyr Tydfil on Wednesday for a Southern League North West encounter.

The ground was ankle deep in mud following non-stop rain, which made any real attempt at soccer craft impossible after the first 20 minutes. Both sides deserved praise for their attempts at constructive moves on the skating rink surface.

When the conditions were slightly better at the start of the match, Nuneaton always looked the more dangerous side. Stewart and Morrison did well on the wings, while Plant, Manning and Lovell all went within inches of a quick success. But, when the ground was transformed into a quagmire, Nuneaton's attempts at quick, sweeping moves invariably failed in midfield and Merthyr's more direct methods paid off.

Eisentrager put the Welsh side in front with a header after 15 minutes, but Nuneaton equalised within 19 seconds. They scored as the Merthyr defence, including goalkeeper James awaited an offside award, and Ken Plant made the most of his chance, calmly rolling the ball into the net. Borough fell behind again after 22 minutes when Gibson was beaten during a duel with Beech, the Merthyr centre-forward. Eisentrager put the Welsh men further in front before the interval.

After the restart Nuneaton were reduced to 10 men when left-back Willie Dallas left the field, following a leg injury. There was further bad luck for the Borough when Gibson appeared to safely save a harmless looking shot from Skyme, only for the ball to slip from his hands and into the net.

Merthyr continued to hammer away throughout the second half, but Nuneaton hit back gallantly in the closing minute for Roy Manning to score from close range.

Nuneaton Borough v Barry Town 18-04-1959

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Phoenix; Corbett, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Lovell and Morrison.

Barry Town: Jacquiss; Bright and Morgan; Prosser, Loader and Dolman; Dyke, Spencer, Sheffield, James and Whitloch.

Borough welcomed Barry Town to Manor Park for a Southern League North West encounter.

Borough started the last lap of the Premier Division stakes in fairly promising style by collecting two points at the expense of Barry Town, who themselves are equally involved in the battle for the first eleven places.

Lovell, Borough's cleverest ball player, got both his side's goals – in the 16th minute when Morrison hammered in a shot which was deflected to the inside-left who merely had to tap the ball home; and then ten minutes after half-time when he was put through by Manning and shot low into the net.

As was to be expected of a side which had been beaten but once in the previous eleven games, Barry put up a great fight and not only proved themselves stylists – some of their football was a delight to watch – but as tough as nails into the bargain. Even so, Borough seemed to be cruising to a comfortable win until 17 minutes from the end, when Barry scored and put themselves right back into the fight again.

Barry were awarded a corner and big centre-half Loader came upfield for Dyke's corner. The ball came sailing over right onto the head of the tall Barry pivot and into the Borough net flashed his header. Still, Barry were unable to draw level and Borough quite deservedly won the vital points at stake. But how they had to fight! It was cut and thrust from the first kick to the last. Surprise packet of the game was Phoenix, who gave a scholarly display at left back.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 20-04-1959

Borough: Grieves; Phoenix and Parkinson; Corbett, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Lovell and Morrison.

Kettering: Roberts; Marston and Lockwood; Froggatt, Plummer and Smith; Morrow, Dadswell, Draper, Kightley and Burrows.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park for a Southern League North West fixture.

An extraordinary game on Monday night ended in a late Borough goal, which enabled them to salvage a precious point, and the crowd invading the pitch, after which the



referee had to be given police protection. For some time after the end of the game a few hundred people hung around waiting for the referee, but they were persuaded by the police to go home and later the official was able to leave in his car.

The trouble was sparked off ten minutes after half-time when Ken Plant was well and truly brought down in the penalty area by Kettering pivot Plummer. If ever there was a penalty this was, but to everybody's amazement, the referee waved play on. Some more weird decisions by the referee resulted in the game degenerating rapidly and losing all its first-half sparkle.

Just before Borough's late equaliser, following a clash of heads, Alex Simpson and Plummer were assisted off the field with blood streaming down their faces. Simpson was able to resume; Plummer finished up in Manor Hospital with a broken nose.

This remarkable encounter ended dramatically. Borough forced a corner, Stewart placed the ball beautifully in front of the Kettering goal and, worried by Morrison and Roy Manning, goalkeeper Roberts punched the ball into his own net.

Had Borough lost both points it would have been a tragedy. After conceding a goal in the ninth minute when Barrass lost the ball and Morrow sent Draper right through to beat Grieves easily. Borough hit back with a whole series of attacks.

The Kettering defence took a real hammering and their goal had some remarkable escapes. Manning hooked the ball against a post and then Stewart had a shot stopped on the line by a defender. After 36 minutes Plant took a pass, raced up the left wing, cut inside, moved along the dead ball line and then sent the ball across goal for Stewart to ram it home.

After that penalty kick had been refused and Angus Morrison had missed a great chance of putting his side ahead, Kightley broke through to put Kettering ahead again – they held that lead until the last minute. This could have been a first-class game; instead, through poor handling by the referee, it developed into a shambles.

Trouble Makers

Once again we have to mention Association Football in this column, but after what happened at Manor Park last Monday, certainly something should be said.

As is now well-known, at the end of the game hundreds of excited Borough supporters went on to the pitch, and the referee had to be afforded police protection.

As there is almost certain to be a sequel to what happened, it is not for us to judge the referee, except merely to say just this – that some of his decisions were unusual.

What we should like to say is that behaviour such as this by football followers does nobody any good, but causes great harm not only to the club, but to the town generally. After reading of what happened, outsiders might be forgiven for asking: "What kind of a place is Nuneaton?"

Whether or not there was provocation does not matter. The point is that those people who invaded the pitch acted very

foolishly indeed, while those who hung around waiting for the referee to leave the ground . . . well their conduct was reprehensible since they had had time to cool down.

They were trouble makers pure and simple . . . quite irresponsible individuals.

Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 22-04-1959

Rugby Town: McCormack; Green and McLachlan; Gee, Mooney and Jamieson; G. Roberts, Knox, Awde, Tate and T. Roberts.

Borough: Grieves; Phoenix and Parkinson; Corbett, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Lovell and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Oakfield to take on Rugby Town in a Southern League North West fixture on Wednesday.

While their legs lasted – this was their fifth game in 12 days – Borough showed Rugby the way home and within 22 minutes had established a 2-0 lead.

After only six minutes' play Angus Morrison was sent away on the left and crossed a high ball. Plant rose high into the air but failed to reach the ball which went to Jackie Stewart, who promptly drove it into the net. In the 22nd minute Stewart fed Angus Morrison with a defence-splitting pass and the winger ran in to drive the ball hard and low past the helpless McCormack. Up to half-time Borough were not unduly troubled, for even though Rugby often got to close quarters, their finishing was poor.

After half-time Borough appeared played out and could hardly raise a gallop, which was not really surprising. Rugby got right on top and applied heavy pressure. As in the first-half, however, when they reached the Borough goal the home side were completely lacking in marksmanship. Though kept on the defensive, Borough managed to hang on to their two goal lead until ten minutes from the end when Tate converted a high lob from Jamieson, aided and abetted by indecision on the part of Grieves, who, it seemed, ought to have cleared without much trouble.

It looked as if Borough were now in trouble, but two minutes later the visitors were awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty area. Morrison drove the ball hard and straight at McLachlan who stopped the shot with his hands. The referee awarded a penalty without hesitation and the cool-headed Barrass made an easy job of the spot kick.

Barry Town v Nuneaton Borough 25-04-1959

Barry Town: Davies; Clarke and Morgan; Prosser, Loader and Dolman; Finlay, Sheffield, Spencer, James and Dyde.

Borough: Grieves; Phoenix and Parkinson; Corbett, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Lovell and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to take on Barry Town in the Southern League North West Section.

In the most dreadful conditions experienced this season, Borough forced a draw, and in the process virtually made certain of a place for themselves in the Premier Division next



season. After a long and tiring journey, Borough were set to kick uphill in teeming rain and against a terrific wind, on a pitch ankle deep in mud.

Given the conditions and the journey it wasn't surprising that in the first-half, Borough seldom crossed the halfway line, let alone looked like scoring. Barry's first really dangerous attack saw inside-left James close in on goal, but he shot weakly, so that Grieves only had to push out a foot and divert the ball. Later the ball flashed just over the bar with Grieves well beaten.

In the first-half, grand work was put in by the Borough defence, especially by Barrass and Grieves, the latter giving a well-nigh faultless display of safe-handling of the wet and greasy ball.

Having successfully negotiated the first-half without conceding, Borough came out second half looking drained and Barry engaged in a number of swift raids on the Borough goal. These were beaten off only with difficulty. Then, after Manning had hit a post, in the 56th minute Simpson made a badly directed back pass to Grieves and Dyke nipped in to give Barry the lead.

Despite their leg weariness Borough kept plugging away and in the 73rd minute, during one very heavy attack on the Barry goal, full-back Morgan beat out a shot with his hands. The referee immediately awarded a penalty. Barrass took the kick, but shot almost straight at Davies. Luckily for Borough the goalkeeper failed to hold the greasy ball, which ran over the line and into the net.

Nuneaton Boro' v Kidderminster Harriers 27-04-1959

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Phoenix; Corbett, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Lovell and Morrison.

Kidderminster: Amos; Crook and Clarke; Chapman, Haycox and Millington; Wooding, Burns, Cotton, Taylor and Metcalf.

Borough welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park for a Southern League North West fixture.

Borough made very heavy going of this match in the first-half. They played so badly that even this poor Harriers' side looked their equals and it was not until a minute before half-time that Borough went into the lead. After that it was a matter of how many goals they would score.

Borough's opening goal came when Amos, the Kidderminster keeper, was penalised. The free-kick just outside the penalty area was taken by Simpson. The latter switched the ball to Morrison, who cracked in a terrific shot which the goalkeeper was unable to hold and Plant was on the spot to prod it home.

Six minutes after half-time Corbett forced a corner which he took himself and Stewart muddled the ball for Morrison to make it number two. Eleven minutes later Plant broke through on the right and centred for Manning to score the third goal. Eight minutes from time another goal came from a free-kick. Corbett blasted in a shot which was stopped on the line, but Plant nipped in and scored.

The fifth and final goal came two minutes later. Plant was

fouled in the penalty area and from the spot kick, Barrass put the ball into the net via the post.

It was a happy ending to what has been a happy, though very strenuous, first Southern League season for Borough.

Players To Be Re-Signed?

Player-manager Angus Morrison has still not issued his list of retained players for next season, though he was very busy after last Monday's game offering terms to those players he wishes to keep. It is believed that all the players who took part in that game, will be offered terms, but that Phoenix may go elsewhere.

Seeing as they made so few appearances in the Southern League side during the past season, it is likely that Dillon, Marsden, Staples and Williams will be allowed to go.

Memorable Season for Borough FC

Despite Wretched Start They Lost Only 16 of 54 Games

Well, it's all over . . . at least for the season 1958-59 – a season which must surely rank as one of the most memorable in the history of Nuneaton Borough FC, in that it marked not only the club's debut in the Southern League, but the gaining of a place in the Premier Division of the League for next season.

If there were any doubts that the sporting public of Nuneaton would support only a winning side, no matter what the league, those were quickly dispelled, for no club could have made much worse a start to the new venture than Borough. Five of the first six games were lost, but the football produced by both the victors and vanquished in those early days, was such as to whet the appetites of the club's supporters and make them want more, win or lose.

Thus it was that despite the wretched start the attendance, backed by a greatly increased tote, enabled the directors to tell their player-manager, Angus Morrison, to go out into the highways and byways and bring back the players he needed.

Punch Missing

In those early days the Borough team undoubtedly had the craft. What it sadly lacked was the punch near goal to match the craft. They played as well as their successful opponents, sometimes better, but when it came to getting goals they lost their way.

Not everything in the garden was rosy, however. Early trouble developed at outside-left, left-half, centre-forward and full-back. Morrison solved the left-wing trouble by going out there himself; Arthur Corbett came in at left-half and stiffened the middle line; the irrepressible Jack Dunn came, saw and conquered at right-back; while Yates took over as leader of the attack.

Dillon failed to impress in goal and until the arrival of Ken Grieves there was a definite weakness here. Even Grieves did

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not impress early on, but settled down, and towards the end of the season was playing as well as any keeper in the league.

Turning Point

September 11 marked a change in the club's fortunes. That day Borough hammered Kidderminster Harriers 10-3 in a League Cup match, with Harry Yates getting five of the goals.

It was in this match that Johnnie Lovell played his first Southern League game for the club. Lovell soon earned for himself a reputation as a ball player, but later revealed himself as no nearly so happy on the heavy grounds. He lost his place during the winter months, but came back again when drier underfoot conditions returned.

After trouncing Kidderminster, Borough gained their first league victory – that notable success over Boston at Manor Park on September 15. From then onwards, except for a short FA Cup run, Borough began to show appreciable improvement and slowly but surely rose in the league table.

Fine Finish

The last few weeks of the season saw an engaging struggle between several clubs for one of the first eleven positions in the league table in order to secure a position in the Premier Division next season. Borough was one of those successful clubs . . . quite deservedly so too.

Their chances of going up into the Premier Division were clinched by the return to Manor Park of Ken Plant, after having served with no little success, league clubs Bury and Colchester, and the signing of Malcolm Barrass, the former Bolton pivot.

The latter took over at centre-half after Willie Dallas's unfortunate injury – a broken leg – at Rugby. Prior to his injury Dallas had given many fine displays at centre-half and proved himself a strong man in defence. Returning after injury Dallas came in at left-back – a position in which he never really settled down.

Dunn's Enthusiasm

What of the other players? After a none-too-happy start Ken Grieves settled down to prove his real worth. Jack Dunn played few bad games and was probably the most consistent and enthusiastic member of the side.

Several players occupied the left-back position without much success, the most successful being Parkinson and in the last few vital games, Phoenix.

In the early testing days Corbett and Simpson rendered valuable service at wing-half, while after taking over from Dallas, Barrass proved the strong man in defence.

The burden of getting goals was largely shouldered by Harry Yates during the first half of the season and when he tired, Roy Manning took over. Manning is not everybody's idea of a centre-forward but he had the very important virtue of grabbing goals . . . and it's goals that count in football.

Jackie Stewart and player-manager Angus Morrison have proved reliable if not spectacular wingers.

All told, then, this has been a most satisfying season, and considering its woeful start, the club has done well to finish so high in the league. One would say that apart from Wellington, whose improvement in the second half of the season was little short of spectacular, Borough were the most improved side in the league. Much of the credit for this should go to the player-manager who, without flourish has made a good job of his first attempt at managing a football club.

Southern League Goalscorers

Yates	25
Plant	19
Manning.....	18
Stewart	15
Lovell	13
Morrison	8
Corbett	6
Williams.....	5
Muir.....	4
Barrass.....	4
Simpson	3
Opponents	3
Steel.....	2
Lucas.....	2
Dunn	1
Phoenix.....	1
Total.....	129

Southern League North West Division 1958-59

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hereford United	34	22	5	7	80	37	49
Kettering Town	34	20	7	7	83	63	47
Boston United	34	18	8	8	73	47	44
Cheltenham Town	34	20	4	10	65	47	44
Worcester City	34	19	4	11	74	47	42
Bath City	34	17	5	12	89	62	39
Wellington Town	34	15	9	10	74	58	39
Nuneaton Borough	34	17	5	12	76	66	39
Wisbech Town	34	16	5	13	77	54	37
Headington United	34	16	3	15	76	61	35
Barry Town	34	15	5	14	64	67	35
Merthyr Tydfil	34	16	3	15	54	59	35
Gloucester City	34	12	6	16	50	65	30
Corby Town	34	10	8	16	59	79	28
Lovells Athletic	34	10	3	21	51	70	23
Rugby Town	34	7	6	21	45	93	20
Kidderminster Harriers	34	7	3	24	42	94	17
Burton Albion	34	3	3	28	41	104	9



Lofthouse Story Is Nonsense

Ignore that silly story about Nat Lofthouse, the Bolton and England centre-forward, becoming a Nuneaton Borough player next season.

Rumours that he will be leading Borough's attack next campaign are nonsense – and ought to have been treated as such right from the start. Nat Lofthouse has been re-signed by Bolton Wanderers, so there will be no danger of his being at Nuneaton next season.

No Surprises On Borough's Retained And Transfer List

All of the players who were expected to be retained by Borough player-manager Angus Morrison, have been retained.

Not even the release of Willie Dallas is a surprise, for few people expected he would be preferred to Malcolm Barrass as pivot, or that he would be retained as a full-back. Those retained are: Grieves, Dunn, Corbett, Barrass, Simpson, Stewart, Plant, Manning, Yates and Lovell. Phoenix, who at first declined the terms offered him, has now indicated his willingness to re-sign.

As was expected Marsden, Staples, Dillon and Easterlow have been allowed to go, together with Bazeley, Jones and Steel.

The full list is: Grieves and Gibson; Dunn, Parkinson and Phoenix; Simpson, Corbett, Barrass, Aston, Whitcroft and Naylor; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Yates, Lovell, Crooks and Jakeman.

Free transfers: Dillon, Marsden, Staples, Williams, Dallas, Steel, Easterlow, Bazeley and Jones.

It is reported that Angus Morrison hopes to sign four or five potential first team players in place of those given free transfers, but signings cannot be expected for some weeks yet.

Supporters Handed Over £5,000 To Borough FC

It was stated at a joint meeting of Nuneaton Borough FC directors and their Supporters' organisations on Monday that during its first season in the Southern League a sum of £5,000 had been handed over to the club by its supporters.

Thanking the supporters' organisations "for their splendid achievement," the chairman of the club, Mr Reg Carris, said that the League was a most expensive undertaking, and but for the financial help they had received, the club could not have carried on, despite the wonderful gates.

He appealed to the supporters' organisations not only to continue with their financial help but to improve upon their efforts of last season if at all possible, now that the club had achieved Premier Division status. The opposition would be very strong and travelling costs would be increased.

In reply to a question, the chairman said that at its annual general meeting in London tomorrow, it was being recommended that the gate charges in the Premier Division should be 2s., and in the other Division 1s. 9d. the club would have to abide by what the League decided.

Heed This Warning

The FA's decision that Nuneaton Borough FC must post warning notices at Manor Park and print the warning in the club's official programme for 28 days as from August 17, following incidents at the end of the Borough v Kettering match, should not be regarded lightly.

On the contrary, supporters should regard it as a serious warning as to their future conduct.

Demonstrations such as that which occurred on the occasion in question, no matter what justification there may seem to be, cannot be tolerated, and if repeated can lead to one thing only – the closing of the ground. And that would be a very serious matter indeed for the club.

So supporters would do well to treat the matter with due respect, for if they repeat their 'invasion exercise' again, it will be just too bad for everybody concerned.

Borough Signing

Angus Morrison, Borough FC manager, has secured the signature of David Buckley, a wing-half from Derby County. An amateur with Derby, Buckley has signed professional forms for Borough.

Last season he made 36 appearances in the Central League and Central Alliance.

New Swimming Baths

Cost Estimated at £150,000

Nuneaton Town Council will be asked at next Wednesday's meeting to vary a decision made at last month's council meeting to erect new swimming baths on land forming part of Nuneaton recreation ground near Meadow Street, and to approve a site in Pingle Fields for the baths, which are estimated at £150,000.

The Estates Committee report that letters had been received objecting to the suggested site forming part of Nuneaton recreation ground. Having regard to all the circumstances, it was considered that a site in Pingle Fields was more suitable for the scheme.

The Town Clerk also read a letter from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government stating that the layout as shown on drawings submitted was considered generally satisfactory, though in the Minister's view the scheme was likely to exceed the estimate of £150,000; further that the Minister would raise no objection to the preparation of detailed plans and estimates, but he would not be able to give loan consent during the current financial year, but would consider whether sanction could be given in 1960-61 when the detailed plans and estimates were available for his examination...



Burton Albion — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Burton for a 1st Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Easterlow; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Muir and Morrison.

Borough must be given credit for a fine job of work. From the word “go” they let it be known that their sole object was victory, and within eleven minutes of the start they had to all intents and purposes accomplished their objective by having scored a couple of goals.

Indeed, had Borough taken all the chances that came their way in the first 20 minutes, interest would not have been kept alive even for 45 minutes, since by then they could have been leading by at least half-a-dozen goals.

But after netting those two early goals, Borough’s forwards, who went through the Albion defence as though it did not exist, lost their shooting boots and some ridiculously easy chances were missed.

Stewart (twice), Yates and Muir (twice) all missed with the goal at their mercy, while Morrison, who was the brains behind most of Borough’s moves, slammed the ball against a post.

Encouraged by Borough’s misses, the Albion began to show fight and in the last 20 minutes of the first-half put up a much better show and might have scored with a bit of luck. Once they did get the ball into Borough’s net, but were obviously offside, and it was no surprise when the referee disallowed the goal.

There was also an occasion when a spectacular flying save by Ken Grieves saved what might have been a goal.

At half-time Borough still held their 2-0 lead and when they increased their advantage in the first minute of the second half and then O’Donnell left the field – well, all trace of serious football departed from the game.

This was a great pity, since what happened after that third Borough goal took a great deal of the gloss off Borough’s great start.

Borough opened their account after nine minutes when Morrison passed to Simpson, who left goalkeeper Sharman standing with a great shot from 25 yards. Soon afterwards came shock number two for Burton when a free-kick found Corbett, who put the ball back into the area for Muir to score a second goal.

The game was finished as a spectacle when Yates scored a third just after half-time.

Tamworth — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Tamworth for a 1st Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Tamworth: Lewis; Allsop and Coggins; Moore, Smith and Gallier; Garbett, Wallbank, Dodd, Duggins and Whitehouse.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Muir and Morrison.

Borough fell a goal behind after just two minutes against Birmingham League Tamworth and looked anything but impressive up to half-time, when Tamworth held a 1-0 lead.

On wet, slippery, long grass, it was well nigh impossible to play any brand of good football let alone the close stuff, yet Borough persisted in employing those tip-tapping tactics which have landed them in so much trouble recently.

Borough were caught in the Tamworth offside trap on a number of occasions. While they were carving their pretty patterns the home defenders walked forwards and when the final pass was made there was Yates or somebody else yards offside.

In the second half Angus Morrison vainly tried to get the forwards out of the rut with clever wing runs and centres, tactics which opened up the game and began seriously to trouble the fast-tiring Tamworth defence.

Less than two minutes after the start Tamworth took the lead. Muir lost the ball in midfield and it ran to Dodd who pushed the ball ahead to Wallbank. Grieves did the only thing he could; he rushed out of goal and threw himself forward, but the Tamworth inside-right was there first and ran the ball into the empty net.

Borough’s equaliser came in the early minutes of the second half. Morrison broke away on the left and crossed the ball bang in front of goal. After appearing to have lost the ball at the first attempt Willie Muir managed to back-heel it into the net.

Tamworth — 2nd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park for a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round replay.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Muir and Morrison.

Tamworth: Lewis; Allsop and Coggins; Moore, Smith and Gallier; Garbett, Wallbank, Dodd, Duggins and Whitehouse.

While clearly superior in the finer arts of the game Borough had to fight every inch of the way, due chiefly to lack of finishing power. Golden opportunities were frittered away with sickening regularity.

Tamworth had their moments in this dourly fought struggle, and on two occasions Parkinson and Dallas, Borough’s two outstanding defenders, came to their side’s rescue with goal-line clearances.

Stewart was prominent in an early Borough raid and from the winger’s cross Yates got in a header, which caused Lewis little concern.

Dallas broke right through before passing to Muir, and Lewis had to dive at the inside-left’s feet to relieve a sticky situation for Tamworth. From a free-kick just outside the penalty area, Corbett fired in a shot, which the visitors’ keeper covered competently.



Borough had a narrow escape when Grieves just managed to stick out a foot to stop a Wallbank shot entering the net.

The visitors also had their good fortune when Lovell delayed his shot after being presented with a gift opportunity. Yates also missed a chance of putting his side ahead. From a Morrison centre, Muir beat Lewis in the air and headed the ball to Stewart, who shot tamely wide.

Parkinson averted a nasty situation for Borough, kicking the ball off the goal-line with Grieves out of position. In two Tamworth attacks Gallier shot just over the top and then brought Grieves into action with a fierce drive.

Morrison put the ball over the top in Borough's first attack of the second half. After Yates had been impeded on the right, Stewart put over a high free-kick, which Lewis cut out. Borough's play at this stage greatly deteriorated and all too frequently moves came to nought through carelessness.

The home side had a let-off when Dallas cleared off the goal-line with Grieves well out of position and then Tamworth were also in luck's way when Muir hit a post and the ball rebounded into Lewis' arms.

After 73 minutes Borough took the lead when Morrison headed home a Stewart corner. A full-back tried desperately to clear, but the ball evaded his outstretched foot.

Brush Sports — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Brush Sports to Manor Park for a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Lovell, Yates, Muir and Morrison.

Brush: Burden; D. Smith and Dunn; Johnson, Hodges and Harvey; M. Smith, Wright, Ward, North and Middleton.

Following their display against Bath City, Borough supporters may have

expected Borough to carve Brush into little pieces, but they just couldn't get down to the job in hand and never looked like butchering the opposition.

Indeed, if there are any bouquets to be awarded they should go to the Loughborough side for putting up such a hard fight. If they went away feeling they deserved to draw, no-one could blame them.

Borough just couldn't settle down. The forwards for the most part seemed quite incapable of mounting a defence-splitting attack.

Borough's first goal after 12 minutes' play was a lucky affair. When Morrison swung the ball across goal Muir missed a chance but the ball ran to Yates. Probably taken by surprise by Muir's miss, Yates did not really get hold of the ball but goalkeeper Burden allowed it to escape his grasp and cross the line into the net.

One of the few decent moves they made in this drab encounter produced Borough's second goal. It started in Borough's own half when left-back Parkinson headed the ball upfield to Angus Morrison. Noting that Stewart was unmarked on the other side of the field the player-manager swung the ball right across ahead of Stewart. The winger went after the ball like a hare, moved inside, and then beat keeper Burden with a fast cross-shot.

Brush clawed their way back into the tie with a disputed goal, and as against Bath, Willie Dallas was the unlucky player. He went in for a tackle and the ball crashed against him and went for a corner. Instead of awarding a flag-kick, the referee awarded a free-kick for handball against Dallas.

The free kick was placed in front of goal and centre-half Hodges headed the ball into the Borough net.

Borough made very hard work of what should have been a straight-forward job, largely because of the inability of the forwards to produce a worthwhile shot. Stewart was a notable exception.

Hereford United — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park for a 4th Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Phoenix, Yates, Lovell and Morrison.

Hereford: Groves; Tomkins and Wade; Masters, Niblett and Griffiths; Shergold, Williams, Morris, Hardiman and Beech.

It was the same old sad story for Borough, who ruined a lot of first-class football by missing so many easy scoring chances.

The game should have been all over bar the shouting by half-time, for up to then it had been a one-horse race with Borough the only team in sight.

The home side established a two-goal lead in the first twenty minutes and went on to make the opposition look a very poor side. Between the second goal and half-time the home side had a sufficient number of chances to have put them in a totally unassailable position, but it was then the old familiar story.

Borough opened their account after ten minutes' play when a defender handled a shot by Yates in the penalty area and Arthur Corbett made no bones about driving the spot kick into the back of the net.

Ten minutes after that Borough were awarded a free-kick and Corbett placed the ball to the far post for Yates to head the ball into the net.

After 35 minutes Dunn brought down Hardiman in the penalty area and Griffiths converted the penalty kick.

Fifteen minutes from time, from a right-wing cross, Phoenix had a great chance of settling the issue, but with a clear opening he hit the ball against the bar.

Five minutes later with the only shot he had throughout the game, left winger Beech, with the same sort of chance as Phoenix had missed, beat

goalkeeper Grieves all ends up with a fast drive.

In blaming the forward line for once again creating many excellent openings and then frittering them away with almost gay abandon, one hastens to exempt Harry Yates from any criticism.

As he has been doing for weeks now, the centre-forward did nearly all the grafting, the chasing, the donkey work. His is a heartbreaking job trying to be here, there, everywhere in an effort to do the job of three inside men.

The experiment of trying to make half-back Phoenix into a scoring forward failed. He was no worse than Muir in the general build-up of attacks but showed little notion where the net lay.

Whereas Hereford had no more than three or four clear-cut chances in this game, including the penalty kick, and yet managed two goals, Borough had seven or eight easy chances, but only managed to find the net twice, one being from the penalty spot.

Hereford were a very moderate side. They played so poorly, so much without method, that Borough ought to have coasted home. True the visitors had some good luck, but it was not their good fortune, so much as the home side's failure to cash in on their vastly superior midfield and approach work that brought about a replay.

Hereford United — 4th Qualifying Round Replay

Borough made the journey to Hereford for a 4th Qualifying Round FA Cup replay.

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Parkinson; Simpson, Dallas and Corbett; Stewart, Phoenix, Yates, Lovell and Morrison.

Borough were distinctly unlucky to be knocked out of the FA Cup at Hereford. This fourth qualifying round replay should have been won comfortably but bad finishing cost them the game.

Hereford's 3-1 victory came as the

result of the thrust of centre-forward Rowley Morris and the safe handling of goalkeeper Gwyn Groves.

In midfield Nuneaton were vastly superior, their wing-halves dominating the Hereford inside men, and using the ball to set their forwards in motion.

Time after time the Hereford defence was drawn out of position and chances were teed up, but most times the Nuneaton forwards made that one pass too many and gave the Hereford defenders a chance to recover.

The red heads of inside-right Phoenix and left-half Arthur Corbett were here, there and everywhere, harassing the Hereford defence and creating many openings for centre forward Harry Yates. Twice he was only inches off the target and three great shots were brilliantly saved by Groves.

Ken Grieves had a poor game in the Nuneaton goal. He was responsible for the first two Hereford goals although he could do little about the last minute effort which really clinched the

issue. Until that time Nuneaton always had a chance.

They were faster and more cohesive. Had they had Morris in their forward line they would have run up a cricket score.

The first goal came after 20 minutes when Hardiman, the Hereford inside-left, raced the length of the field and Grieves fumbled his shot. Morris raced up to smash the ball into the net.

Six minutes later Phoenix scored a great equaliser. Yates had forced Groves full-length to push out a grand shot. The ball came to Phoenix who shot it into the net from an almost impossible angle.

Hereford's player-manager, John Wade got their second goal. He sent a long ball down the middle, which Grieves seemed to have covered. Then up went Morris and the ball was missed by both players and sailed into the net. In the last minute Beech took a corner and Morris rose high into the air to head it into the top of the net.



Nuneaton Borough 1958-59

F.A. Cup Replay. Nuneaton Borough 1, Tamworth 0

Back Row: Jack Dunn, Brian Parkinson, Ken Grieves, Alex Simpson, Willie Dallas, Arthur Corbett.
Front Row: Jackie Stewart, Johnny Lovell, Harry Yates, Willie Muir, Angus Morrison (player-manager).



Nuneaton Borough 1958-59

Back Row: Stuart Crookes, Harry Yates, Terry Easterlow, Arthur 'Ginger' Corbett, Jack Dunn, Ken Grieves, Harry Williams, Alex Simpson, Stan Aston, Malcolm Barrass, Eric Phoenix, Willie Dallas.
 Front Row: Ben Wannacott (trainer), Jackie Stewart, Ken Plant, Angus Morrison (player-manager), Johnnie Lovell, Roy Manning. Photo April 27th v Kidderminster.

Southern League North West Section: Fixtures, Results & Scorers – 1958-59

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
08.23	Gloucester City	A	L	1-3	Lucas	2,900
08.28	Boston United	A	L	1-6	Morrison	6,000
08.30	Lovells Athletic	H	L	0-1		5,319
09.02	Kidderminster Harriers	A	SLC Q1 1st Leg	2-1	Yates (2)	2,200
09.06	Worcester City	A	L	0-6		4,152
09.08	Brierley Hill Alliance	H	BSC1	1-2	Yates	2,200
09.11	Kidderminster Harriers	H	SLC Q1 2nd Leg	10-3	Yates (5), Lovell (2), Stewart, Dunn, Muir	3,000
09.15	Boston United	H	L	1-0	Stewart	4,900
09.20	Burton Albion	A	FAC 1Q	3-0	Simpson, Muir, Yates	5,527
09.22	Wellington Town	H	IZC	6-6	Muir, Munden (o.g.), Stewart, A. Simpson, Lucas, Lovell	4,027
09.27	Wisbech Town	A	L	0-3		3,050
09.29	Wellington Town	A	IZC	0-2		
10.04	Tamworth	A	FAC 2Q	1-1	Muir	2,600
10.09	Tamworth	H	FAC 2Q Replay	1-0	Morrison	2,453
10.11	Bath City	H	L	3-1	Yates (3)	6,030

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Southern League North West Section: Fixtures, Results & Scorers – 1958-59

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
04.25	Barry Town	A	L	1-1	Barrass (pen)	1,000
04.27	Kidderminster Harriers	H	L	5-0	Plant (2), Morrison, Mannins, Barrass (pen)	4,300
10.18	Brush Sports	H	FAC 3Q	2-1	Yates, Stewart	5,411
10.25	Cheltenham Town	H	L	2-4	Corbett, Yates	6,111
11.01	Hereford United	H	FAC 4Q	2-2	Corbett, Yates	6,055
11.06	Hereford United	A	FAC 4Q Replay	1-3	Phoenix	4,000
11.08	Wellington Town	H	L	3-1	Corbett, Stewart, Yates	4,776
11.15	Rugby Town	H	IZC	2-1	Lovell, Yates	
11.22	Hereford United	H	L	1-0	Lovell	4,219
11.26	Merthyr Tydfil	A	SLC 1	4-4	Manning (2), Yates, Stewart	1,000
11.29	Corby Town	A	L	4-1	Manning (2), Stewart, Williams	1,100
12.06	Kidderminster Harriers	H	IZC	2-2	Williams (2)	
12.11	Merthyr Tydfil	H	SLC 1 Replay	4-2	Manning (2), Morrison, Corbett	800
12.13	Bath City	A	L	2-4	Lovell, Stewart	3,200
12.20	Gloucester City	H	L	2-1	Manning, Corbett	3,200
12.27	Burton Albion	H	L	5-1	Manning, Simpson, Yates, Morrison, Plant	5,700
01.03	Lovells Athletic	A	L	4-2	Plant (3), Yates	300
01.24	Burton Albion	A	L	2-2	Yates, Plant	2,000
01.31	Worcester City	H	L	4-1	Manning (3), Stewart	5,850
02.07	Kidderminster Harriers	H	IZC	2-2	Plant, Stewart	
02.14	Wisbech Town	H	L	5-3	Manning, Stewart, Yates, Rowe (o.g.), Plant	5,119
02.17	Hereford United	A	SLC 2	0-2		
02.21	Kettering Town	A	L	0-2		3,208
02.28	Cheltenham Town	A	L	2-3	Yates, Plant	2,400
03.04	Burton Albion	A	IZC	7-1	Williams, Plant (5), Lovell	
03.07	Merthyr Tydfil	H	L	2-1	Corbett (pen), Stewart	3,200
03.09	Rugby Town	H	IZC	1-0	Williams	1,450
03.12	Burton Albion	H	IZC	2-1	Manning, Stewart	1,298
03-14	Wellington Town	A	L	1-4	Plant	2,480
03.21	Headington United	H	L	2-2	Manning, Barrass (pen)	4,100
03.28	Hereford United	A	L	1-2	Manning	2,500
03.30	Rugby Town	H	L	6-1	Lovell (2), Morrison (2), Yates, Steel	3,600
03.31	Headington United	A	L	3-1	Yates, Steel, Plant	3,000
04.04	Corby Town	H	L	1-1	Lovell	4,600
04.11	Kidderminster Harriers	A	L	3-0	Manning (2), Plant	1,000
04.15	Merthyr Tydfil	A	L	2-4	Plant, Morrison	2,000
04.18	Barry Town	H	L	2-1	Lovell (2)	3,700
04.20	Kettering Town	H	L	2-2	Stewart, Morrison	4,750
04.22	Rugby Town	A	L	3-1	Stewart, Morrison, Barrass (pen)	2,500

KEY: L = Southern League North Western Section, FAC = F.A.Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, SLC = Southern League Cup, IZC = Inter-Zone Cup.

Borough Tops

Southern League attendance records for the 1958-59 season show that Nuneaton Borough were the best supported side in both divisions of the League.

Their aggregate gates for the season totalled over 91,000. Bedford Town were second with an aggregate attendance of 89,000.

Borough Prices Up

Borough players commenced training at Manor Park on July 20, and training continues each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evening.

Owing to the heavier financial commitments next season, the price of admission to the ground has been increased from 1s. 9d. to 2s. for Southern League games, with admission to the stand 1s. 3d. extra. Boys and old age pensioners will continue to pay 1s.

For Central Alliance games the charges for admission will be: Ground, adults 1s. 3d., boys and pensioners 9d. Admission to stand 9d. extra.

Season tickets to ground and stand inclusive, to all league fixtures, will cost £4 10s. Seats in stand can be reserved if required. Tommy Whitcroft has been appointed reserve team player-manager.

Borough Signings And Re-Signings

Borough player-manager Angus Morrison has announced the following signings for next season.

Keith Savin (29), left full-back from Mansfield.

Gordon Duggins (26), centre-forward, from Barnsley. Formerly played for Gresley Rovers.

Cyril Parry (21), inside forward or outside right, from Notts County. Has two footballing brothers; one plays for Bolton, and the other for Derby County.

Barry Hill (19), inside forward, from Notts County.

Graham Carter (21), wing-half, from Coventry. Played for Plymouth Argyle Reserves last season.

Reg King (20), right full-back, from Burton Albion.

David Buckler, wing-half, from Derby County.

Players who have re-signed are: Goalkeepers: Ken Grieves and Michael Gibson; backs: Dunn, Brian Parkinson and Eric Phoenix; half-backs: Alex Simpson, Malcolm Barrass, Arthur Corbett, Stan Aston, Harry Naylor and Tommy Whitcroft; forwards: Jackie Stewart, Ken Plant, Harry Yates, Roy Manning, Stewart Crooks, George Jakeman, Johnny Lovell, John Lawrence and Angus Morrison. The player-manager is reported to be interested in Pembrey, a wing-half from Merthyr Tydfil.



Player-manager Angus Morrison chats with newcomers Duggins (centre, with hands on hips) and King (extreme left). Others in the picture include Jackie Stewart, Jack Dunn, Crooks, Gibson and (extreme right) trainer Ben Wannacott
Photo: Nuneaton Observer

First Trial Match: New Centre-Forward Injured

On a concrete-like Manor Park pitch, Borough players old and new did their best to entertain a 1,450 crowd at the first public trial on Monday night. Some quite good football was produced without any of the newcomers setting the world alight.

Only one or two players – Jack Dunn was a notable example – let themselves go. Most of the other players were content merely to loosen up. Jack Dunn was always in the thick of the fray and it is perfectly obvious that he is taking no chances of losing his Southern League side place. Certainly King, the ex-Burton player, will have to work very hard to displace him.

Perhaps the outstanding player on the field was Jackie Stewart, for the simple reason that he was judiciously fed both by his inside partner, Ken Plant, and by right-half Arthur Corbett. The winger could hardly have failed to shine.

New centre-forward Duggins showed plenty of hustle and bustle early on, and some quite clever ball distribution as well. Unfortunately midway through the first-half he sustained an ankle injury in collision with goalkeeper Gibson and retired from the game.

Savin was often in trouble against Plant and Stewart, while left-winger Hill, reputed to be very fast, had few chances to show his paces because of the close attention of Dunn. Harry Yates is not going to lose his first-team place easily. He got two goals for the Blue and Whites and was obviously refreshed by the close season break.

Tommy Whitcroft gave a surprisingly good display and two of his old-time “specials” very nearly brought goals. Gibson kept goal well for the Blue and Whites and brought off one spectacular flying save...

Final Trial Match

Rather than having solved his problems by his close season signings, player-manager Angus Morrison seem to have complicated them even further, judging by what happened in the final trial game.

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



He has more than enough good wing halves without having anyone better than those who operated there last season. The same remark applies to the attack.

Pembrey, the former Charlton, Torquay and Merthyr player, Morrison's latest signing, played at left-half for the Blue and Whites, but whether he is an improvement on Arthur Corbett is a matter of opinion.

Then there are Phoenix, Buckley and Carter, all useful wing halves. If Pembrey is preferred at left-half or right-half to either Corbett or Alex Simpson then one or the other will be unlucky. Another big problem is at inside left, where Johnny Lovell looks favourite after Saturday's display, especially while the grounds remain firm. Newcomer Parry did quite well both at inside right and on the right wing. Be that as it may, it is difficult to imagine that the right wing firm of Plant and Stewart will be disturbed.

Harry Yates and Manning may lose their places in the Southern League side. That is if new centre-forward Duggins is fit enough to play on Saturday...

1959-60

Bedford Town v Nuneaton Borough 22-08-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and Savin; Simpson, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Lovell and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Bedford Town for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough could hardly have been given a sterner opening game in the Premier Division than this visit to the Southern League South Eastern Division champions.

Borough took the lead with a brilliant Plant goal. A long ball upfield found Morrison, who had moved into the middle. When about to be tackled he switched the ball to Ken Plant, who rounded centre-half Craig and went straight for goal. Plant hesitated for a moment and as Craig was fast closing in on him again, it seemed the Borough inside-right might have waited a fraction too long. But before Craig could tackle him again and as Hawksworth started to leave goal, Plant placed the ball into the net, just inside the post.

Borough held onto their lead until a minute before half-time when a shot from left-winger Robinson, which was going well wide of the target, struck Barrass and was deflected into the Borough net. It was a lucky equaliser, but on the balance of play the home side deserved to be on level terms.

Early on in the game Bedford had almost swamped a hesitant, very shaky Borough defence and but for some fantastic misses and two fines saves by 19-year-old Gibson, they might have had a substantial lead. Bedford continued to play splendid football, but were by no means so dominant as in the early stages of the game.

In the early minutes of the second half Johnny Lovell ought to have put his side ahead again. Put clean through the middle,

he had only the goalkeeper to beat. Instead of trying to place the ball either side of the keeper, he banged the ball straight at the advancing Hawksworth.

After that Borough failed to move the ball as quickly as before half-time and thereafter Bedford got on top. Easton gave them the lead following a goalmouth scramble, and five minutes from time Duquemin headed through a Bull cross. Before Bedford got that decisive goal five minutes from time, Borough were still in the game, but they failed to show the necessary fight.

Borough had two big weaknesses. Newcomer Savin at left-back was run off his feet by the fast, clever Bedford right-winger Bull, who was always too clever for Savin and the full-back only made matters worse by waiting for the winger to come to him. The other weakness was Duggins, who did little or nothing and failed as a leader and marksman. Lovell was also poor. Borough's outstanding player was their young goalkeeper Gibson, who earned applause time and again for his brilliant handling of shots.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 24-08-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and Savin; Simpson, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Plant, Yates, Parry and Morrison.

Cambridge City: Greatrex; Suddards and Gilchrist; Shaw, Bone and Fergey; Gaynor, Tarrant, White, Graham and Smith.

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

After this display, player-manager Angus Morrison must be thinking in terms of bringing back some of last season's well-tried players in place of the new men that he has signed.

Not one of the new players shone against Cambridge; indeed they provided most of the weaknesses which became painfully obvious long before the end of the game. As at Bedford, left-back Savin had a poor game, again failing badly when it came to holding the opposing winger. He is no improvement on either Phoenix or Parkinson, and nor is Pembrey any better than Arthur Corbett. In fact, what was most missing from the Borough set-up was some of Corbett's fighting spirit.

Another newcomer, Parry, came in at inside-left in place of Johnny Lovell. Parry, like all the other newcomers, failed. What with Parry and Morrison doing little on the left wing, Harry Yates being too slow in the middle, and Ken Plant and Stewart falling a long way short of their best form on the right wing, it is easy to understand why the attack generally caused the tall Cambridge defence so little trouble.

Although their own goal had two very lucky escapes in the first-half, Borough had so much of the game they should have been in a comfortable position at half-time. Poor finishing ruined everything.

Even a scrambled goal by Harry Yates from a Plant pass in the 56th minute failed to inspire the Borough. Instead they slowly but surely lost all idea of combined play and Cambridge went

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on to prove themselves much the better side. They equalised after 65 minutes when Graham took a down-the-middle pass to beat the advancing Gibson.

After that, City missed chance after chance of putting the issue beyond doubt. They failed to take both the points because of their own poor finishing and Gibson's fine goalkeeping. As at Bedford, Gibson was Borough's outstanding player. On this form he has come to stay.

Borough sadly disappointed a 5,200 crowd – a crowd which will quickly thin out unless the team does much better.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 29-08-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and Savin; Pembery, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Yates, Morrison.

Bath City: Black; Book and Macfarlane; Skuce, Hale and Meadows; Grant, Fleming, Wiltshire, O'Neil and Thomas.

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

Bath were a very lucky side and were on the defensive for long periods, especially during the second half. Borough launched attack after attack, but when it came to getting goals, Ken Plant was about the only forward who looked like scoring. Chances galore were frittered away.

Bath snatched their winning goal after 40 minutes, when a Thomas corner found Grant, who, unmarked, closed in to net from close range. Both before and after, Borough missed chances while the City, with occasional breakaways also failed to accept two good chances of increasing their lead.

By and large, however, Borough enjoyed so much of the game that they should have won at a canter. Though the defence was by no means blameless, the forwards must shoulder most of the blame for dropping two more home points.

The left wing of Morrison and Yates carried little or no punch and slowed up the forward line. Duggins did slightly better in the middle than at Bedford without showing a great deal of shooting power. Plant worked hard enough while Stewart did not help matters by holding the ball when a cross would have been more helpful.

Gibson again could not be faulted in goal. Dunn was the better full-back, although Savin showed improvement. Corbett did quite well at left half; Pembery, who deputised for the injured Simpson at right-half, still did not impress.

Bath were a much less impressive force than last season. Charlie Fleming had a lean time at inside-right and the whole team seemed to suffer in consequence. The visitors, who handled the ball on a number of occasions to break up Borough attacks, were very fortunate to take away the points. It was daylight robbery on Bath's part, yet who can blame them for carrying off the swag, when it was presented to them by a Borough side which showed little fight? Borough will have to show a vast improvement in attack if they are to start winning games.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Athletic 31-08-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Corbett, Barrass and Pembery; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Lovell and Hill.

Hinckley: Sanders; Ballinger and Spencer; Cooper, Perkins and Cheshire; Round, Bate, Lane, Robinson and Corbett.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Athletic to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup preliminary round first leg tie.

Borough were much too good for Hinckley and won with ease. Like Angus Morrison last season, Athletic manager, Dudley Kernick, has had to start from scratch. If this game is anything to go by, the Hinckley boss has not made so much headway as the Borough player-manager 12 months ago.

Athletic started off well and only a superb one-handed save by Gibson prevented them taking an early lead. As Borough settled down and began to play football, it soon became evident that Hinckley were in for a rough time. The visitors tried hard, but could not match Borough's skill, and once the home side opened their account, the result was never in doubt.

The inclusion of King at left back and Lovell and Hill on the left wing brought a big improvement. Whether this was attributable to the poor quality of the opposition or whether it was a real improvement may best be judged by how the team shapes in their next Southern League match.

King did quite well at left-back and recovered quickly when beaten. Johnny Lovell brought more order into the attack, while Hill was by no means a failure on the wing. Barrass blotted out Lane and then Round, when the latter moved into the middle. Gibson made goalkeeping look easy.

Borough went ahead in the 11th minute when, taking a pass from Pembery, Plant drew the defence across goal and then placed the ball in front of an empty net for Duggins to score easily. After 30 minutes Pembery sent Duggins through the middle for the centre-forward to bang the ball home. Just on half-time Hill, when cutting through the Hinckley defence was brought down inside the penalty area and Barrass made the half-time score 3-0 from the penalty spot.

Duggins got his third goal when he scored from Stewart's cross. Robinson replied for Hinckley with a brilliant header, but three minutes from time a Hill-Stewart move ended in Ken Plant heading home Borough's fifth and final goal.

Boston United v Nuneaton Borough 05-09-1959

Boston: Williams; Dykes and Snade; Galley, Sims and Lowder; Mooney, Birkbeck, Hukin, McHugh and Lister.

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Simpson, Barrass and Pembery; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Lovell and Hill.

Borough made the journey to Boston United for a Southern League Premier Division match.

The players failed to conquer a rock hard pitch and play was generally very poor, and spectators started to stream out

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of the ground ten minutes before the end. As the whistle sounded for full-time Boston supporters mildly demonstrated and called upon their manager, Ray King “to go and get a football team.”

There was precious little in this game to interest the crowd – except a series of missed chances by both sets of forwards. A draw was a fair result – although had chances been accepted the final score could have been 4-4.

In fact, either side could have won the game had late opportunities been accepted. Lister ballooned the ball high over the top with a splendid chance for Boston and Ken Plant should have scored for Borough. He came through the middle but with a couple of defenders hot on his heels and Williams making a despairing dash out of goal, the inside-right was compelled to hurry his shot, and in his haste, he shot straight at the goalkeeper.

Duggins also missed a couple of chances, one in each half. On the first occasion he actually dispossessed Williams, but placed the ball wide of an empty net. In the second half, the centre-forward dashed away on the left, cut inside and then saw his shot-cum-centre cut off by Williams.

Despite missing chances, Duggins was still the best forward, because he never gave up trying. Jackie Stewart usually seemed to be hanging too far back, while Hill lacked thrust as did Lovell. Pembroly put quite a few passes to opponents, but by and large the defence was the stronger part of the team.

Boston opened the scoring in the eighth minute when Barrass was enticed out of the middle by a triangular right wing movement which saw Lister lift the ball into the middle. While Jack Dunn was standing off, waiting for the bounce of the ball, Hukin nipped in and volleyed the ball into the net.

Borough drew level just before half-time. They forced a corner and Hill took the kick. Duggins and centre-half Sims went up together and the ball was deflected very slightly by the centre-half's head across to Stewart, who shot into the net.

Although they picked up a valuable point, for which they must be given credit, the fact remains that the team does not inspire confidence.

Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green 07-09-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Buckley, Aston and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Parry and Morrison.

Moor Green: Evans; Upton and Mulliner; Hanford, Collins and Walker; Hepburn, Springer, Herbert, Beard and Jones.

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

Borough had no difficulty in sending amateur side Moor Green reeling out of the Birmingham Senior Cup. After a quiet start, Borough stepped up the pace and there was never any doubt that the game would develop into a one-horse race.

Indeed, had Borough made full use of their scoring

opportunities they would have scored almost as many goals as Ken Grieves scored runs against the Indians. Without having to worry themselves very much, Borough outplayed and out-manoeuvred the Moors, who had to defend desperately for most of the game.

As on Saturday, Duggins was Borough's best forward. His three goals included two beautiful headers. He was here, there and everywhere, and Collins, the Moor Green pivot never seemed able to find him. Angus Morrison is still the club's best left-winger, but Parry again had a very disappointing game. Now and again he split the defence with passes inside the full-back, otherwise he was very slow and unimpressive.

Stan Aston and Buckley did reasonably well at half-back without being severely tested. Whereas Gibson had very few chances to show his worth, Evans in the Moor Green goal, had scarcely a moment's respite once Borough had opened their account. Although beaten so often, he was in no way to blame for his side's heavy defeat.

Morrison opened Borough's account after six minutes from Parry's through pass. Plant made it 2-0 after a combined move which ended in a Parry centre from the left. Two minutes before half-time Duggins headed a glorious goal from Stewart's corner kick

Duggins, with a header, and Plant, added to Borough's lead in the early minutes of the second half. Duggins and Plant each scored again to make their personal bag of goals, three each.

Hinckley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 10-09-1959

Hinckley: Sanders; Swingler and Ballinger; Cooper, Perkins and Crickton; Round, Bate, Lane, Robinson and Loasby.

Borough: Gibson; King and Savin; Corbett, Barrass and Phoenix; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Lovell and Hill.

Borough travelled to Middlefield Lane to take on Hinckley Athletic in a Southern League Cup preliminary round second leg tie.

Although Borough lost 3-2, they went through to the next round, winning 7-4 on aggregate. After the Borough had gained two quick corners, Hinckley went into the attack and Lane hit an upright with a pile-driver after shaking off the attention of Barrass.

Seconds later, Robinson put in a 20 yard drive that went inches over the Borough bar. The first-half saw Hinckley doing most of the attacking with Gibson in fine form in the Borough goal.

The only attempt by Borough of any note, during this half, came from Duggins who, shooting on the turn, was only inches away from the target. Loasby opened the scoring for Hinckley, giving the home side a 1-0 lead. In the 56th minute, after Hill had fouled Round, the free-kick was taken by Swingler from just inside the Borough half and Loasby headed home Hinckley's second.

Duggins reduced the arrears when he scored from a cross

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pass from Hill. Lane scored from an acute angle in the 61st minute to make it 3-1 to Hinckley before Plant made the score 3-2, heading home a free-kick taken by Hill.

Nuneaton Borough v Gravesend 12-09-1959

Borough: Gibson; Phoenix and King; Simpson, Barratt and Pembrey; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Yates and Morrison.

Gravesend: Coe; Carson and MacDonald; Fletcher, Chambers and Bridge; Lockhart, Scarth, Hawkins, Baron and Robertson.

Borough welcomed Gravesend and Northfleet to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

After having matters much their own way in the first-half and establishing a 3-0 lead, Borough fell away alarmingly after the break. Gravesend then took over the initiative and had they forced a draw nobody would have been surprised.

In the first-half Borough outplayed a Gravesend side which showed little craft going forward and had a defence as wide open as a field. Without playing brilliant football, Borough at least showed more idea than in some recent league games and, more importantly, revealed more punch near goal.

Harry Yates did well on his return to the side, scoring two of his side's three first-half goals, with his second being a particularly clever, cool-headed effort.

Borough scored the first goal of the match after just five minutes when Plant shot into the net after Morrison had shot against the bar. Borough scored again in the 20th minute when Yates scored from a Stewart cross. Borough's third goal after 28 minutes was their best. Duggins made all the running with a dash down the right wing and made a deft pass to Yates, who, as the goalkeeper advanced to meet him, coolly lifted the ball over his head and into the empty net.

Gravesend reduced the lead after 48 minutes when Baron headed an excellent goal from Scarth's cross. Duggins restored Borough's three-goal advantage in the 73rd minute when he chested down a Stewart centre and rammed the ball into the net.

Eight minutes from time, Gibson went out to a Robertson corner kick, but failed to reach the ball which, after a goalmouth scramble was prodded home by Hawkins. Even though only a few minutes remained for play, Gravesend kept up the pressure and were still hammering away at the Borough goal when the whistle went for time.

Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 16-09-1959

Cambridge City: Wilson; Suddards and Gilchrist; Tarrant, Bone and Fergey; Race, Nicholson, McNeal, Graham and Gaynor.

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Simpson, Barratt and Pembrey; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Yates and Hill.

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

A great last-minute save by Gibson and a sound defence,

superbly generalised by pivot Malcolm Barrass, earned Borough a worthy point on Wednesday night.

Both defences were on top in what was nevertheless an entertaining game. While very few clear-cut chances were created by either forward line, both goalkeepers had to be on their toes on occasion, when snap chances were taken.

Cambridge fielded a strange looking side because of a long injury list. Their goalkeeper, inside-right and left winger were all injured in the previous match and Jack White, the former Bristol City captain and their usual centre-forward were already on the injured list.

Harry Yates was a constant menace to the City defence and centre-forward Duggins was an alert leader, but was up against former Sunderland player John Bone.

Stewart was on target early on and then a flying header by Duggins was only just off target. Duggins should have scored half-way through the first-half when he received the ball from the right only to drive straight at keeper Wilson from point blank range.

When a long Gaynor cross eluded both Barrass and King, City inside-right Nicholson, did a repeat performance at the other end. Just before the interval Gibson earned applause for a great save from Race and in the very last minute of the game Gibson was again cheered as he turned a crackerjack drive from Fergey over the bar as Cambridge strove desperately for a winning goal.

Highlights of the second half were a fine save by Wilson from Yates, following a neat interpassing bout with Duggins, and another Yates-Duggins movement that ended with Yates shooting just wide. At the other end in a hectic goalmouth scramble left-back King was knocked out by his own goalkeeper, but quickly recovered.

Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 23-09-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Phoenix, Barratt and Pembrey; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Yates and Morrison.

Borough made the long journey to Weymouth for a Wednesday night Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough failed to match the speed and precision of the home side and were convincingly beaten. Although the Borough forwards improved considerably after the break they always lacked the determination to pierce a strong Weymouth defence. Admittedly the home forwards played some sparkling football in the opening period, moving the ball quickly and with at times deadly precision.

Under the home side's onslaught the visitors' wing halves, Pembrey and Phoenix were given little opportunity of supporting their own forwards. However, both of them, particularly Pembrey, did some excellent defensive work, capably assisted by Gibson in goal.

With the Weymouth attack in such excellent form, few

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defences could have kept them at bay and Nuneaton were trailing by three goals at the interval.

McIntosh gave the home side the lead after eleven minutes, and twenty minutes later the same player scored again. Shortly afterwards Dailey headed a third. By comparison the Borough forwards were slow and were far too frequently robbed while in possession and required much more time to work the ball than a hard tackling defence was prepared to give them.

However, after the break, Nuneaton improved considerably, whilst the home forwards lost much of their speed and dash. Playing much more open football the visiting forwards came into the picture much more frequently and made themselves several scoring chances which they failed to turn to advantage.

Morrison missed a great chance when he ballooned the ball high over the bar from close range. In the 56th minute Roper made the issue certain when he scored from the penalty spot, after Dailey had been brought down by Dunn. Nuneaton seemed to lack cohesion in attack and their wingers' centres were not accurate enough to give their inside men many scoring opportunities.

But for some clever anticipation and safe handling by Gibson, Weymouth's margin of victory would have been much greater.

Nuneaton Borough v Poole Town 26-09-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Pembley, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Yates and Morrison.

Poole Town: Kirk; Rickaby and Hillier; Clayton, Parker and Elliott; Dixon, Asher, Smith, Naysmith and Hunter.

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

In a poor first-half in which both sides played football almost completely devoid of ideas and inspiration, about the only incident of note was a header by centre-forward Duggins, which had the Poole keeper beaten, but struck a post and was cleared.

After the change of ends Borough improved appreciably in their midfield approach work. They created quite a few openings, which a more alert and penetrating attack would have turned into goals. Put through by Duggins, Yates failed with an easy chance. Plant, Pembley and Stewart also missed easy chances.

By and large Borough were much the better footballing side and when they went into the lead 15 minutes from the end, it seemed they had settled the issue. The goal came after Duggins had headed a cross from Stewart against a post. The ball ran to Angus Morrison who had an easy scoring chance which he duly accepted.

After going behind the visitors launched an all-out effort to wipe out Borough's lead. Moving the ball quicker and using the long pass had the Borough defence in a quandary, and

four minutes after Borough's goal, Poole levelled the scores when Rickaby moved between two Borough defenders and crossed the ball to the left-winger Hunter, who unmarked, made no mistake.

A draw looked a certainty, but two minutes from time Hunter, Poole's danger man, got through on the left and lifted the ball into the centre for Rickaby to take a shot at goal. The shot appeared to be going wide, but struck King and was deflected past Gibson and into the net.

It was not a happy day for forwards or defenders, and once again Gibson was about the only Borough player who could not be faulted. He had no chance with either of the goals and made quite a number of excellent saves. This was a game Borough should not have lost. But through poor finishing and that last-minute slice of bad luck they dropped two points.

Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-09-1959

Wellington: Brown; Hoof and Kerr; Hurdley, Franklin and Davies; Loughnane, Windsor, Wilson, Roberts and Hancocks.

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and Savin; Simpson, Barrass and Pembley; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Parry and Knox.

Borough travelled to the Bucks' Head to face Wellington Town in a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

It is no good anyone pretending that the Borough side, whatever its present composition, is good enough to retain its place in the Premier Division. It just isn't, and the sooner that fact is realised and the team strengthened, the better.

At Wellington on Monday evening Borough gave another very drab display and were beaten by a not-so-hot home side, who deserved the points if only because they showed far greater zest and enthusiasm for the job in hand.

After last Saturday's defeat Angus Morrison made three changes, dropping himself and Harry Yates, he brought in Knox and Parry on the left wing, while Savin returned at left-back in place of King. These changes brought no improvement at all. Parry did no better than in his previous outings and in the second half was moved to the right-wing, with Jackie Stewart crossing to inside-left. Knox did as well as could be expected, but is not a natural left winger.

Borough could have been two goals down in the first five minutes. First Savin miskicked and gave away a corner from which Gibson had to make a desperate dive at the feet of an attacker to prevent a goal. Three minutes later, Barrass also mis-kicked and gave away a corner. Loughnane's flag-kick was met by Roberts, who jumped higher than any Borough defender. The ball flew off his head towards the Borough net, well out of Gibson's reach. Savin tried to clear, but only succeeded in helping the ball into the net.

Wellington's second goal, nine minutes after half time, was the result of a defensive error. Right-half Hurdley came rushing up to slam the ball into the net.

Apart from a few right-wing raids and an odd dash by Plant,

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the Borough forwards were seldom really dangerous, especially near goal. Only three times during the game did Borough look like scoring – all late in the game when they did show signs of fight after being two goals down. Oddly enough this was when Parry was on the right wing and Stewart at inside-left.

All told it was another very unhappy day for the Borough and Gibson was again their best player.

Nuneaton Borough v Lockheed 10-10-1959

Borough: Gibson; Jack Dunn and Jim Dunn; Corbett, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Yates, Duggins, Plant and Knox.

Lockheed: Woodward; Lane and Coleman; B. Bradley, R. Bradley and Naylor; James, Awde, Long, Hawkins and Robertson.

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

For the second week in succession Borough failed to impress against a Birmingham League side. Borough didn't even look like a good Birmingham League side; indeed, Les Latham, the Lockheed manager, said after the game that the only difference between the two sides was that Borough paid higher wages.

The continual changes to the forward line are getting the side nowhere. Surely it had already been established that Harry Yates is now much too slow to be considered for a place in this badly struggling Borough attack. Switching him from inside-left to inside-right does not alter that fact.

Malcolm Barrass was very often in trouble and made a few very bad mistakes and it has to be asked whether it is time for the ex-Bolton player to be replaced by Stan Aston. Jim Dunn is definitely not good enough and Pembrey only moderate.

Having had an early escape when Stan James broke through, Borough found themselves a goal down after only five minutes. The ex-Borough winger again got away and pulled the ball back to Long, who dashed up to shoot hard and low into the net. Borough drew level a minute or so later, when they forced a corner kick. Duggins went over to take the kick and his inswinger evaded everyone and landed in the far corner of the net.

The home side went ahead after 15 minutes. Plant took the ball through and tried to pass to Stewart. The ball, however, struck a defender and went back to Plant, who ran in to beat Woodward from close range. The score remained 2-1 until the 78th minute, when Jack Dunn went well upfield before giving the ball to Stewart, who crossed the ball for Plant to place the ball out of the goalkeeper's reach and into the net.

This was another very poor Borough display – one which scarcely helped their supporters to forget what had happened the week before against Brush Sports. There's a strange lack of determination in the side. Since the Weymouth game things have gone from bad to worse and confidence is sadly lacking. Until it is restored things are not likely to improve. A pick-me-up is badly needed.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 17-10-1959

Kettering: Crossley; Marston and Groome; Rees, Froggatt and Armour; Morrow, Kightley, Draper, Neale and Burrows.

Borough: Gibson; Jack Dunn and King; Simpson, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Brown and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to take on Kettering in a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough were unlucky to come away from this game without any points, falling to a goal six minutes from time. A brilliant shot by Draper sunk Borough. It came like a bolt from the blue. Pembrey, in possession, had a chance to put the ball into touch. He hesitated and his attempted late clearance struck the onrushing Hughie Morrow and rebounded right to the feet of the Kettering centre-forward. As the ball ran to him Draper took a swipe at it and it went into the net like a rocket.

For ten minutes or so before they got the winning goal, Kettering had been fortunate enough to see the ball kicked off their goal-line on three occasions. First Angus Morrison and then newcomer Tommy Brown had headers which had goalkeeper Crossley beaten, cleared off the line by defenders. Then the goalkeeper had to make a desperate full length save to stop a Ken Plant header crossing the line.

Despite this, Borough really missed the boat in the first-half. Brown put one on a plate for Duggins. The inside-left squared the ball bang in front but the centre-forward's effort to flick the ball home failed and a great chance was missed.

Generally speaking, however, Borough did well enough to earn at least a point. In fact, in difficult conditions they played their best football for weeks. So even though they saw their favourites beaten again, Borough supporters found some consolation in the team's improved form.

Former Worcester City and Walsall man Tommy Brown had a good debut and impressed with some intelligent ball play. He was always trying to play football and very largely succeeded. It's not often that a games outstanding players are on the losing side, but on this occasion they were, with Gibson, Dunn and King all having good games. The goalkeeper made some fabulous saves and always seemed to be in the right place at the right time.

Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 24-10-1959

Borough: Gibson; Jack Dunn and King; Simpson, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Plant, Brown, Parry and Morrison.

Hereford: Ferris; Tomkins and Lee; Masters, Niblett and Elias; Hardiman, Williams, James, Morris and Beech.

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

Both sides appeared incapable of mounting really worthwhile attacks before half-time. It was usually a case of both team's attacking moves being all right until they reached the penalty area, which was when they fizzled out.

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Both defences held the upper hand for almost the whole of the first-half. Brown, leading the Borough attack, tried hard to get his line moving smoothly, but lacked support. Parry again failed to impress as inside partner to Morrison.

At half-time the heavens opened and the rain came down in sheets, leaving the pitch in a shocking state. Ball control became an extremely difficult proposition and to keep an even keel was almost a work of art.

Despite the conditions after the break, Borough appeared the better side and kept pegging away. Their efforts were rewarded 20 minutes after half-time. Parry, Stewart and Morrison took part in the move and when the ball came across from Morrison, a defender failed to get the ball away properly and Brown was there to send the ball into the net.

This goal really stung Hereford and it soon became apparent that the game was going to develop into a tussle between the never-say-die visiting players and the Borough defence. Hereford threw everything into attack and whenever they forced a corner they crowded in on the Borough goal. This was when cool heads were called for and Borough must be congratulated on contesting every inch of ground.

Two men shone in the Borough defence – Mike Gibson in goal and Jack Dunn at right-back. Gibson again handled beautifully. Time after time he plucked the ball off the heads of visiting players or went down at their feet to save.

The Borough goal had one or two lucky escapes in the last ten minutes – once when James raced through the middle and shot wide of an empty net as Gibson ran out; and then when centre-half Niblett saw his shot pass inches wide of a post.

Tonbridge v Nuneaton Borough 31-10-1959

Tonbridge: Bickerstaff; Thompson and Lovell; Boswell, Ruark and Dunne; Phillips, Leonard, Heffer, Kenney and Ball.

Borough: Gibson; Jack Dunn and King; Simpson, Barrass and Pembrey; Parry, Plant, Brown, Stewart and Morrison.

Borough travelled to Tonbridge for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

This game was an extraordinary affair. There was an exciting opening phase followed by 30 minutes of blunderings by both sides and then a tensely dramatic finish in which Borough got the winning goal and both sides missed a penalty. In all there were three spot kicks, only one of which was converted.

Tonbridge scored after five minutes when an ill-directed Borough pass went straight to an opponent, who hit a long ball through the middle. Barrass was caught napping and had strayed out of position, allowing Leonard to run through unhampered to beat the helpless Gibson. Three minutes later Borough were level, Barrass converting the first penalty kick of the match, awarded for a handball offence.

After 15 minutes, Morrison, who had moved over to the inside-right position, sent Parry away with a cleverly flighted pass over the head of a defender. The winger made ground

quickly and then dropped the ball in the middle for Plant to hook it hard into the net. After 17 minutes, with the Borough defence in a tangle, Ball levelled the scores again.

Borough's defence was shaky enough, but the home defenders were even worse. There was not much wrong with the Borough attack with Parry on the wing and Jackie Stewart at inside-left, and with proper support from behind would have given Tonbridge a hammering.

The visitors earned their just rewards with only eight minutes to go. A quickly taken free-kick caught the Tonbridge defence at sixes and sevens and before they realised the danger, Parry was in possession and making tracks down the right wing. He moved inside and then pulled his cross back beautifully for Plant to rise into the air and head a first-class winner.

The real drama was crowded into the last three minutes play. Brown was trying to get through the middle when he was brought down almost on the penalty spot. The referee had no hesitation in awarding Borough a penalty. Barrass, who earlier in the game had netted from the spot, hit the penalty straight at the goalkeeper, who had no trouble in saving.

That was not the last thrill. A minute later, with only a minute to go before time – the ball was on the penalty spot at the other end. Plant, who had gone back to help out in defence was adjudged to have handled and Tonbridge had the chance of an equaliser. Leonard took the spot kick and aimed towards the right-hand post. Anticipating the direction of the shot, Gibson made a cat-like dive to his left and secured the ball almost at the foot of the post.

Borough Prepared To Consider Offers

Borough FC player-manager Angus Morrison is reported as having described as “absolute bunkum” the statement in a Birmingham sports paper that he intended selling a number of players in order to cover the cost of signing Tommy Brown from Worcester City.

It is perfectly true that the player-manager is not intending to sell any of his players in order to cover the cost of signing Brown, whose transfer from Worcester City cost nothing like £500 as stated in the Birmingham sports paper.

At the same time, however, it is a fact that a few weeks ago Southern League sides were circularised to the effect the Borough were prepared to consider inquiries for Harry Yates, Johnny Lovell, Keith Savin and Eric Phoenix, who are all weekly paid players. The circular has not been withdrawn.

Indeed, it is appreciated both by the player-manager and the club directors that if more new players are to be signed, there is a need to cut down the present staff of weekly players, who number about 16.

It should be explained that weekly-paid players are paid whether they play or not.



Nuneaton Borough v Stratford Town 07-11-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Simpson, Barrass and Pembery; Parry, Plant, Brown, Stewart and Hill.

Stratford Town: Stowe; Innocent and Ward; Merrett, Rowley and Pugh; Cooper, Hillman, Brookes, Williams and Stephenson.

Borough welcomed Stratford Town of the Birmingham League Division 2 to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

By no stretch of the imagination could it be argued that Borough didn't click because the visitors would not allow them to play good football. There was no question at all of Stratford bringing Borough down to their own level, since, if anything, Stratford served up the better football. While there was little or no trace of football skill in Borough's play, Stratford often played as a team.

Indeed it was because they stuck to playing football that Stratford succeeded in scoring twice in the last ten minutes to force a replay. Even when they were leading 2-0, neither the Borough nor their supporters were happy. There was nothing to be happy about; indeed plenty to be worried about.

Twice in the opening ten minutes Stratford missed easy chances of taking the lead. Three or four times only the brilliance of Gibson, whose many fine saves included a desperate dive at the feet of an opponent, which eased the situation, but caused temporary injury to the keeper.

Parry started none too happily, but later improved and provided the centre from which Jackie Stewart headed Borough's first goal after 30 minutes. Borough second goal was scored by Ken Plant in the 72nd minute, when he headed into the net after the ball had bobbed about in front of the Stratford net.

Hillman was the man to whom the visitors were most indebted, seeing that he got both their goals. The first from a corner kick and the second after Jack Dunn had made his one serious mistake of the match. Each time Hillman scored it was with well directed shots.

Nearly all the honours in the unexciting game went to the visitors. Not only did they fully deserve their draw, but they could have won outright, and nobody could have complained, least of all the Borough players.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 12-11-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Morrison, Barrass and Pembery; Parry, Plant, Brown, Stewart and Hill.

Burton: Townsend; Holland and McAdam; Kennedy, Davis and Meadows; Tye, Burton, Carburry, Codd and Grainger.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup second round tie.

After holding a 1-0 lead at half-time, Borough dillyed and dallied and were lucky to finish on level terms. The first

attack of any note came from Borough when Parry beat full-back McAdam to the ball and put across a fast centre that went wide of the upright. Then in a Burton attack there were some worrying seconds for Borough when a centre from Tye was only partially cleared by a Dunn header, and the full-back was lucky to be able to recover in time to block a shot from Burton's danger man Grainger.

Playing in place of Simpson, Morrison put Plant through with a midfield pass, but the inside-right was hustled off the ball. Townsend only half-stopped a shot from Plant and had to make two attempts to clear his lines. Borough kept up the pressure and Plant headed the ball into Townsend's hands from a corner.

Borough took the lead in the 30th minute when Stewart rose high to head home a cross from Brown. Stewart and Parry were the two most promising players in the Borough attack.

After the interval Borough kept on the attack with Hill shooting wide following a corner kick. Racing through Plant shot straight at the advancing Townsend. Gibson saved at full stretch on the line after Grainger had beaten Dunn and put in a 25 yard shot. Seconds later Carburry frittered away his second great chance when he shot wide from ten yards out.

At this stage Burton began to come more into the picture and Carburry shook the upright with a pile-driver, while Tye landed the ball just behind the Borough crossbar. Burton were awarded an indirect free kick only ten yards from the Borough goal, after Morrison had pushed Carburry away. Fortunately for Borough, King blocked Kennedy's shot on the goal-line.

Burton grabbed a well-deserved equaliser in the 79th minute when Davis moved upfield to head home Tye's corner kick. Then in the 84th minute Pembery brought Grainger down in the penalty area and Meadows gave Burton the lead from the spot. Gibson dived the wrong way.

Following a midfield free-kick the ball bobbed around in the Burton goalmouth before Plant managed to scramble the ball home to put the Borough back on level terms in the 87th minute. Almost on time Dunn headed a pile-driver from Grainger off the Borough goal-line.

Stratford Town v Nuneaton Borough 14-11-1959

Stratford: Stowe; Innocent and Ward; Merritt, Rowley and Pugh; Cooper, Hillman, Brookes, Williams and Stephenson.

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Corbett, Barrass and Birch; Parry, Plant, Brown, Stewart and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Stratford for a Birmingham Senior Cup third round replay.

Borough never looked like winning this game until they swapped Stewart and Perry over. Stewart's speed and clever dribbling soon had the whole Stratford defence in trouble. For the first time in the game Borough looked like winning. Indeed only a few minutes before this change was made the

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visitors' goal had had a very narrow escape when inside-left Williams shot against a post.

Borough fiddled around for most of the game, yet even though their short-passing moves were obviously cutting no ice against a quick-tackling Stratford defence, in which centre-half Rowley and right-half Merritt figured prominently, they still persisted in keeping the ball close, and invariably their moves merely fizzled out.

Following a Parry corner, goalkeeper Stowe dropped the ball, which eventually ran to Morrison, no more than five yards out. A goal seemed almost certain, but to the chagrin of the bored Borough supporters, the player-manager lifted the ball over the top.

And so it went on with both sides missing chances, until Jackie Stewart moved to outside-right. Then things really began to happen. Two minutes after the change, in the 71st minute, Morrison and Brown sent Parry through to crash home a hard drive which flashed into the net off the inside of a post.

Corbett started feeding Stewart with a whole series of sweeping passes. The winger responded with some fast and clever wing runs which had the Stratford defence in a panic and it seemed inevitable that more goals would come.

The inevitable second goal came eight minutes from the end and followed a great run and dribble by Ken Plant, who, after beating two defenders and drawing Stowe out of goal, squared the ball in front of the goal to Brown, who merely had to tap the ball into an empty net.

What happened after Parry and Stewart were swapped over should convince the player-manager that Stewart is the club's best right-winger. Making his debut for the first-team Birch did reasonably well and was an example to some of his colleagues in the way he went into the tackle. He moved in as though he meant it – and he really did!

Nuneaton Borough v Dartford 21-11-1959

Borough: Gibson; Jack Dunn and King; Corbett, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Plant, Brown, Parry and Morrison.

Dartford: Underwood; Clarke and Hunt; Hill, Macey and Veiton; Dougan, Harris, Huckstepp, Newman and Quinlan.

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

Even though neither side managed a goal, some of the best football seen at Manor Park this season was played. Both sides' goal had some narrow escapes and it is doubtful that even the hawk-eyed Gibson saw the shot from Newman's free kick that struck a post. The ball cannoned back into play and ended up about 30 yards from goal.

Borough made some beautiful moves which carried the ball from player to player and into the Dartford danger zone. Plant turned the ball against a post with Underwood out of his goal. It looked like Plant would win the game for Borough

towards the end when Jackie Stewart broke through and crossed the ball into the middle. A goal looked imminent as Plant moved on to the ball, but he failed to connect properly and Underwood was able to clear.

It was surprising that despite the excellent midfield and approach work, that neither goalkeeper should have been seriously tested. Both handled the ball quite often but had few direct shots. Gibson scarcely put a foot wrong all the way through, while Underwood's handling was not as good.

Generally speaking both sets of forwards played well, and it was surprising that no goals were scored. This was due to fine defensive play by both sides. Jack Dunn was an intrepid tackler, a big kicker and his incursions into enemy territory always gave the crowd a thrill.

After having played so indifferently for several weeks past, Malcolm Barrass showed us something approaching his form of last season. He had Huckstepp, a prolific scorer last season, well and truly under control.

By no means could King have been called a weak link in Borough's defence, yet there were times he was led such a dance by the bobbing and weaving Dougan that one felt sorry for him. In those hectic final minutes Dougan looked dangerous every time he had the ball.

It is debatable as to whether Brown is the answer to Borough's centre-forward problems, but he worked extremely hard and almost won the game in the last minute or so when, to stop Brown's header from finding the net, a Dartford defender headed the ball out for a corner.

Barry Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-11-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Corbett, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Plant, Brown, Parry and Morrison

Borough journeyed to Wales to take on Barry Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough put up a hard fight to save the game in the last ten minutes and in the final minute of the game, they won a corner. Barrass went up for the flag kick and headed the ball goalwards, but Barry's goalkeeper Webber was well placed and got the ball clear.

After a very bad opening spell of about ten minutes during which the Borough defence took a hammering and Gibson brought off many fine saves, the visitors settled down to play some very good football.

Borough deservedly took the lead after 23 minutes, when Ken Plant turned the ball through when the ball flashed across the goalmouth. Seven minutes later, Gibson failed to hold a hard drive from O'Malloran and rushing in, the Finnish inside-forward Kankkoner drove the ball into the net.

Not to be denied Borough took the lead again three minutes later when Brown, who had moved out to the left, flashed the ball across goal to the far post for Stewart to head into

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the net. In the 60th minute Barry drew level when O'Malloran converted a centre by the Swede Eklund. Sheffield headed the winning goal for Barry from a corner kick. One of Barry's goals did not please Borough for it was claimed that Gibson, who had caught a Dyke cross, was fouled by O'Malloran.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 02-12-1959

Burton: Hewitt; Holland and McAdam; Kennedy, Davis and Finney; Grainger, Clarke, Upton, Codd and Tye.

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Corbett, Barrass and Birch; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Brown and Morrison.

Borough travelled to Eton Park to face Burton Albion in a Southern League Cup second round replay.

Borough tip-tapped their way to defeat in this game on Wednesday afternoon. The ground was in a very heavy, treacherous state and to have persisted in keeping the ball close, was simply asking for trouble.

Burton were good value for their win. Indeed, but for some great saves by Gibson in the second half, when Burton got well on top, the home side's victory would have been even greater. Albion stayed the pace much better than Borough and played a much more open game. Their superior speed took them through time and again, and often Gibson had to adopt desperate measures to deal with Burton's attacks.

Burton opened the scoring after 25 minutes of the second half when centre-half Davis, following heavy Burton pressure, put in a shot that went into the net off a post.

Late in the game Borough showed some signs of fight and 13 minutes from the end, following a free-kick placed to the far post, Brown headed in. To save a certain goal, centre-half Davis used his hands. Barrass's ill-placed, slowly hit spot kick was easily saved by Hewitt.

About the only thing which can be said in mitigation of Borough's well-deserved defeat, was that Jack Dunn sustained a thigh injury and spent some time on the right wing during the second half. Duggins had a poor game at centre-forward and if there are any honours to be bestowed they should go to the half-back line in which young Birch had a particularly good first-half. Gibson, once again, was the star player of the side.

Admission To Football League Only The Strongest Will Survive

The news that two new clubs may be admitted to the Fourth Division of the English League and that there may not be automatic re-election of the four teams occupying the bottom places in the Division, means that at long last there is a ray of hope for those teams who, year after year, have been knocking on the door of League football without ever standing much chance of being allowed inside.

One of the first clubs likely to gain a place will be Peterborough, who for a long time now have been ignored

when they had far more right to be in the English League than quite a few of the clubs now in membership, both by reason of their performances on the field of play and because of the consistently excellent support they have received.

What would be Nuneaton Borough's chances of securing a place? On last season's record of being the best supported side in the two divisions of the Southern League, the club might have stood an outside chance. On the support received by the club this season, their chances would be nil, since it would be of little use telling the League: "We are well supported when we are winning, but not when we are losing." The League obviously would give preference to a club consistently well supported in good days and bad, because such clubs would not be subject to continual financial crises.

There is bound to be the keenest possible competition for the six places available and only the strongest – the best supported and the best equipped financially – will survive.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 05-12-1959

Borough: Gibson; King and Savin; Simpson, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Brown, Yates and Knox.

Worcester: Hollis; Waterman and Potts; Bryceland, Reed and Melville; Bizard, Nicholls, Grieve, Follan and Skuce.

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

For a long time during this game, it looked as though Worcester, who hadn't won for seven games, were going to take away the points. First of all they had a penalty, awarded against Simpson for climbing. Fortunately for the home side Nicholls blasted the ball high over the bar. The Borough goal had another escape when Nicholls broke through the middle and with only the advancing Gibson to beat, half-hit the ball wide of the untenanted net.

Gibson then pulled off a brilliant diving save, as Worcester continued to play the more calculated football. It came as no surprise at all when they took the lead after 35 minutes, through Nicholls, who hit the ball home following a partial clearance by the Borough defence.

Borough lacked enterprise and although they made several likely-looking raids, they all fizzled out near goal. Little or no attempt was made to force the Worcester defenders into making mistakes. However, just before half-time Borough managed to get on level terms. Corbett and Knox made all the running and the winger came in along the dead-ball line and pushed the ball low across the face of the City goal. Several players missed the ball which eventually reached Brown, who ran it into the net.

After half-time Worcester lost their earlier zip and became very shaky in defence. Once, however, with Gibson out of goal, Simpson scrambled the ball away off the goal line when all seemed lost for Borough. The turning point for the home side came when Yates, going through the middle, was pushed



off the ball inside the penalty area by full-back Waterman. Following Barrass's missed penalties in recent matches, the spot-kick was entrusted to Plant, who hit the ball into the back of the net. It was Plant who fashioned his side's third goal, breaking through on the right and crossing the ball so perfectly that Brown merely had to touch it into the net.

After Worcester had two or three times caused Borough supporters anxiety by going so near without actually scoring, Plant very nearly added to Borough's score. He broke through only to shoot wide as goalkeeper Hollis came racing out.

Although Borough picked up two welcome points, player-manager Angus Morrison's troubles are by no means over. What is needed more than anything else is the youthful exuberance of players like Gibson, Jack Dunn and Birch; and in attack, some of the never-say-die spirit of a Roy Manning. Also, is Stan Aston ever going to get a chance?

Dwindling Gates

Worcester City, who this time last season were making a name for themselves as FA Cup giant killers and enjoying probably their best ever support, are among the clubs who are asking their players to accept a wage cut – in their own case a cut of 25 per cent.

That's football all over. One season a club is on top of the world, the next down the dumps. Borough's experience is something like that of Worcester's. Last season they attracted the highest aggregate gates in the two sections of the Southern League. This season attendances have dropped to well below safety level . . . and something simply must be done about it.

Last Saturday's gate was probably Borough's lowest in the Southern League – just over 2,100. And, to be quite frank, the football being served up by Borough scarcely deserves better support.

Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-12-1959

Cheltenham: Harper; Farrel and Baird; Dunlop, Hyde and Dunn; Carnie, Fowler, Coldray, Scott and Burder.

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Corbett, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Yates, Brown and Morrison.

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

Unless Angus Morrison realises very quickly that the team he turns out week after week, with slight variations or switches, just isn't good enough, Borough are doomed to relegation. Drastic alterations are needed judging by this latest display.

Cheltenham went 1-0 up in the first minute of the game, due to a mistake by Gibson. He rushed out of goal in an attempt to cut off a Carnie cross and failed to reach the ball, which sailed across goal to Burder who headed it back into the middle for Coldray to prod the ball into the net. The home

side went further ahead when, following four consecutive Borough corners, Plant relieved the pressure by conceding a free-kick. The ball was hit hard down the Cheltenham right wing and sailed over King's head to Carnie, who raced away and accurately centred for Fowler to head the ball home.

Cheltenham got a third goal from the penalty spot after Corbett was penalised for handling. Dunlop repeated his performance from last season, side footing the ball past the helpless Gibson, who, expecting a hard drive, fell backwards in surprise as the ball rolled slowly into the net.

Three goals down after 55 minutes, Borough were virtually made gifts of a couple of goals by the home side. In the 58th minute the visitors were awarded a free-kick. Corbett lifted the ball to the far post. In an effort to throw Brown offside the Cheltenham defence moved forward and left the centre-forward completely unmarked. As the ball landed at his feet Brown hesitated, expecting an offside whistle, but then shot the ball into the net and the referee awarded a goal.

Fourteen minutes from time Borough were presented with another goal. They were awarded a corner. The ill-placed kick reached Corbett, who dropped the ball in front of goal. Goalkeeper Harper caught the ball, then dropped it. Barrass, who had come up for the corner kick, just moved forward and prodded the ball into the net.

Thus, with less than 15 minutes to go, Borough found themselves in the flattering position of being only 3-2 down. Here was a great chance to cash in on their two strokes of luck. But there was no rally and five minutes from time the home side clinched the issue with a fourth goal. Another cross from the right was headed into the net by Fowler.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedford Town

19-12-1959

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and King; Simpson, Barrass and Birch; Stewart, Lovell, Plant, Brown and Morrison.

Bedford: Hawksworth; Brittan and Thompson; Ward, Howe and Murray; Gibson, Hukin, Duquemin, Clugston and Robinson.

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

Two mistakes by Ken Grieves, deputising for flu victim Mike Gibson and a penalty miss by Ken Plant, turned this game inside-out. Borough's tale of woe began after 15 minutes when, after Brown had been brought down, Plant's penalty was saved by Hawksworth.

A few minutes later Grieves completely missed a low cross from the left and the ball travelled across an empty net to right-winger Gibson, who merely had to tap it over the line. Not long after that came shock number three, for when Duquemin took the ball up to Barrass, Grieves watched the centre forward round the Borough pivot and shoot into the net. Before Borough knew what had hit them came a third Bedford goal – a brilliant Hukin header just inside the post from a Robinson corner kick giving Grieves no chance.



Despite all this, Borough were playing some of their best football for weeks. Hawksworth had made two fine saves from Brown and a Stewart free-kick, in addition to having successfully stopped Plant's penalty. Later he did well to beat out a Morrison shot following one of the best forward moves of the game. Almost on half-time, Borough got a goal, Stewart netting at the second attempt from a perfect Brown centre.

Hawksworth saved again for the visitors straight after the break, saving a brilliant Plant header. The keeper was falling backwards, but put up his hand to divert the ball against the bar, and from there to safety. Straight down the field went Bedford, who forced a corner. Over came Robinson's flag-kick and a moment later the ball was again in the net via Duquemin's head.

After that Bedford were virtually penned in their own half, even though in occasional breakaways they looked as though they might add to their lead. Borough had a goal disallowed when Hawksworth smashed a clearance against Plant, from where it rebounded into the net, but the referee penalised the centre-forward.

Seven minutes from time Borough's efforts were rewarded, when Plant flicked a Birch corner kick to Brown, who banged it home.

Clubs In Financial Difficulties

Because of falling attendances, Kidderminster Harriers and Exeter City Reserves will not be competing in the Southern League next season.

They are by no means the only Southern League clubs worried financially. Burton Albion, Rugby and Gloucester City have also hoisted distress signals. There may be other clubs similarly embarrassed.

Certainly Nuneaton Borough FC can't be any too happy about attendances, as since losing a good deal of money on their Senior Cup games, gates have dropped considerably for League matches, due unquestionably to the team's poor playing record.

Indeed, it was stated in the club's official programme last Saturday that the gate for Bedford Town's visit would not cover even the expenses of the home fixture let alone the corresponding away match.

"It is very rare that we mention finance in these notes, but the facts are there and must be faced," said the programme.

Yes, facts must be faced – and the facts are that unless the team starts playing much better football and picking up more points, attendances will continue to slump.

Better playing results are the only antidote to declining attendances. So practically everything depends upon what the player-manager does from now onwards. Much will depend upon the success or failure of his efforts.

Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town

26-12-1959

Borough: Grieves; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Barrass and Birch; Stewart, Lovell, Plant, Brown and Duggins.

Yeovil: Evans; Robshaw and Lyske; Baldwin, Blackburn and McLaughlin; Paton, Phillips, Harris, Emmonds and Dennis

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

As against Bedford, Borough played better than in some recent games. The forwards carried out some very neat moves and often had the Yeovil defence in trouble without, however, being able to get goals. Scoring chances were missed, but the forwards should not be unduly blamed as the trouble lay in defence. Simpson was often out of position while the usually dominating Jack Dunn, probably suffering from the weakness in front of him, was never able to keep the elusive Dennis in check.

Borough opened the scoring after 23 minutes. He burst through on the right, rounded Lyske and ran to the dead-ball line before squaring to Brown, who had little difficulty in scoring. Three minutes later, a misunderstanding between Grieves and Simpson led to the goalkeeper banging the ball against another player and it eventually reached left winger Dennis, who ran in unmarked and centred for Phillips to head the equaliser.

When Yeovil netted again, the move started in a wide open space and again Dennis was completely unmarked. Cutting in he made no mistake with a low shot. During most of the second half Borough hammered away at the Yeovil defence which had quite a few escapes. Once Plant failed with the goal at his mercy and later Stewart shot wide after breaking through. Brown also missed badly.

Unfortunately, either through bad luck or bad finishing, Borough could not get the ball into the Yeovil net. Then, as so often when one side has been doing most of the attacking without being able to score, Yeovil went away and Harris lobbed the ball over Grieves' head and into the net.

It now looked all over bar the shouting until Yeovil keeper Evans conceded a penalty for shoving a Borough player off the ball. Barrass converted the spot kick to make the score 3-2. Borough went close to salvaging a point when a shot from Brown hit the post, and there's no doubt that Yeovil were happy to hear the final whistle.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough

28-12-1959

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and Corbett; Pembury, Barrass and Birch; Stewart, Lovell, Plant, Brown and Duggins.

Borough made the journey to Yeovil for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Nuneaton had just about three reasonable chances and each time they scored, to avenge their odd goal in five defeat at Manor Park two days earlier.

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Rarely has a side been so outplayed and yet registered a clear-cut victory. Often 21 players were packed into the Nuneaton half and the ball was constantly in their penalty area, yet the defence held out. Gibson, displacing the suspended Grieves, made some splendid saves and deserved his large share of luck. Three times the Yeovil forwards crashed the ball past him only to hit the bar, and many times defenders blocked shots on the line.

The defence, with Barrass blotting out centre-forward Harris, packed the goal to perfection, but even so Nuneaton must have lost had Yeovil possessed even one forward who could shoot accurately. The man who gave most trouble was right-winger Paton, but every time he shot, Gibson was on the spot to save. Dunn had a fine game at right back and this time left-winger Dennis met his match.

Nuneaton's forwards were swift to take advantage of any opportunity to break away and this quality brought them their three goals. The first came midway through the opening half at a time when it had appeared that Yeovil must take the lead. A quick clearance saw Stewart break away on the right and from his centre Lovell hurled himself forward to head past goalkeeper Evans. For the first half-hour of the second session Yeovil pressed continuously and the ball seemed always to be bobbing about near Nuneaton's goal without any of the forwards quite in a position to provide the finishing touch.

Paton and Dennis both missed open goals and Paton and Emmonds hit the woodwork and saw other shots fail by inches. Then Borough struck their second blow to hush what had been a constant roar of encouragement to the home players. Duggins made ground on the left wing and when the ball was crossed to the opposite side Stewart provided a perfect centre for Plant to head in.

A minute later Borough clinched the victory with a third goal, again due to Evans' lack of judgment. Brown, from way out on the right wing, hit the ball across, obviously intending to centre, but it travelled high over the goalkeeper's head and dropped into the far side of the net.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 02-01-1960

Bath City: Black; Book and MacFalane; Hale, Scott and Meadows; Thomas, O'Neil, Wiltshire, Purdon and Wring.

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Lovell, Plant, Brown and Duggins.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park to take on Bath City in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough took the lead in the 32nd minute through a Ken Plant goal. Lovell started the move with a pass to Duggins, who had moved into the inside-left position. The latter immediately pushed the ball through the middle and off went the Borough leader through a gap in the Bath defence to close in on goal and then slam the ball past keeper Black.

Borough clung on to that goal grimly, defiantly, until 11

minutes from the end when O'Neil, the former Leicester City forward, netted with a shot that went into the net off a post.

Between the scoring of Plant's goal and the equaliser, the Borough defence, with Mike Gibson taking the starring role, had defended heroically. True their goal had some narrow squeaks and escaped more by luck than judgment, but nevertheless, Borough relied to a large degree upon their own defensive systems, where Malcolm Barrass thwarted Wiltshire time and time again.

But the real star of the Borough show was Gibson, who saved everything that was stoppable – and quite a few efforts which seemed to have “goal” written all over them. One save from a Wiltshire header was a remarkable effort.

With time running out Borough gave away three free-kicks. First Pembrey brought down a Bath forward on the edge of the penalty area. Next Alex Simpson quite unnecessarily pulled down a ball with his hands. The resultant free kick was scrambled away. Then, with less than two minutes to go, Simpson upended Hale when there was no immediate danger.

This was Bath's great chance to snatch a winner, for with the game virtually over they had nothing to lose by crowding their forces into the Borough goalmouth. Borough also crowded the goalmouth. Scott, who took the free-kick, landed the ball right in front of the goal. Neither defenders nor forwards really got hold of the ball, which merely rolled over the line off Wiltshire with players of both sides here, there and everywhere.

It was a tragedy that Borough should have been beaten in this manner, even though for most of the second half they were desperately defending their goal in a brave attempt to hold on to a 1-0 lead.

Nuneaton Borough v Hastings United 09-01-1960

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Lovell, Plant, Brown and Morrison.

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

Hastings, one of the weakest sides to visit Nuneaton this season, ought to have been beaten without difficulty, and would have been had Borough played anything like they did at Bath or Yeovil or Cheltenham. But, playing typical Manor Park football, the home side experienced great difficulty in achieving what ought to have been a simple victory.

It seemed like they would never score, especially when Johnny Lovell beat his man cleverly only a few yards from goal and with Hughes at his mercy failed to put the ball into the net. That seemed the last straw, until they actually did get a goal 15 minutes from time. It seemed just another Borough attack up to the moment that a bad clearance put the ball at the feet of the unmarked Brown, who ran in a few yards and then steered the ball into the net.

Even after that Borough did not seem safe, mainly because



the defence was much too prone to back pedal. But relief came for Borough's apprehensive supporters five minutes from the end when, from a perfectly-placed Stewart corner kick Lovell got another unspectacular goal. Though Borough deserved to win, they were far from convincing.

Plant, as usual, never gave up trying and Lovell showed some clever footwork, though at times he lost the ball through over elaboration. Little was seen of the slow-moving left wing. The return of the player-manager has not solved the outside-left problem, though, unlike Duggins, he did get across a few inviting centres.

Barrass was again the best of the half-backs. Dunn was as good as anyone on the Borough side and tried, mostly in vain, to inculcate some of his own enthusiasm into his colleagues.

Nuneaton Borough v Bilston United 16-01-1960

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Lovell, Plant, Brown and Morrison.

Bilston: Cooper; Bowkley and Guest; Woolley, Hyde and Jones; Austin, Brownhill, McDermott, Hickman and Whittall.

Borough welcomed Bilston United to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup semi-final tie.

After giving Bilston a first-half lesson on how to make and get goals on a treacherous Manor Park pitch, Borough lost goalkeeper Mike Gibson with a hand injury and all the life and sparkle departed from the game.

Borough took the lead after just seven minutes when Brown crossed the ball low to Stewart, who slammed it home without hesitation. Seven minutes later a move started by Jack Dunn ended in Plant dashing through to shoot hard past Cooper. Five minutes later Brown and Morrison paved the way for Plant to head his side's third goal, and two minutes after that the Borough leader thumped a Morrison corner kick into the back of the net to complete his hat-trick.

After 36 minutes Plant was dashing through the middle when he was barged off the ball just outside the penalty area. Morrison slipped the ball through a hole in the sleepy Bilston defence to Plant, who made it 5-0, and before half-time the centre-forward beat his man cleverly and shot his fifth goal, to make the interval score 6-0.

Seven minutes after half-time Pembrey and Morrison paved the way for Plant to bag his sixth goal. Borough's scoring lark ended there. A little while later Hickman got Bilston's solitary goal. Gibson was injured at this point and from then on play was largely in the Borough half of the field and those spectators who went behind the Bilston goal expecting a second half avalanche, viewed the rest of the proceedings from afar.

What a pity it was that the injury to Gibson should have upset Borough's apple cart. Their first-half display was their best for a long time, even though Bilston are no Southern League side. But long before the end, supporters were again shaking their heads.

Gravesend & Northfleet v Nuneaton Boro' 23-01-1960

Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Lovell, Plant, Brown and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Kent to take on Gravesend and Northfleet in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough played some most attractive, close style football, and in doing so earned the praise of the crowd, but it got them nowhere. The cold facts are that though Borough had every bit as much of the game as their hosts, indeed had more of the play and were definitely the better side in the first half, the number of real shots they had at goal the whole game through could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Two of those shots came in the early stages of the game. Once goalkeeper Coe had to go down smartly to the foot of the post to save a Morrison drive; then, after the cleverest move of the game, Jackie Stewart fired in a shot which the goalkeeper was happy to push over the bar for a corner.

Then came an incident which proved the turning point so far as the home side were concerned – an incident which seemed to finish Borough, since afterwards they only very rarely produced the same calibre of football and looked even less likely to score.

It was three minutes before half-time when Scarth shot hard towards goal. Pembrey, in the direct line of fire was actually facing sideways when the ball hit him somewhere between the elbow and the shoulder and ran out for a corner. The referee blew his whistle, walked across to the linesman, spoke with him and then awarded Gravesend a penalty from which Bridge scored.

It was a harsh decision and Borough were never the same afterwards, as their chances of scoring almost completely vanished. And when Brown got a second goal for Gravesend 18 minute after half-time, it was over for Borough. What a remarkable goal it was. When the centre-forward received the ball way out on the left wing, he actually fell down, but regaining his feet in a flash, took a slash at the ball with his left foot and it simply rocketed into the Borough net.

It was the same player who got a third goal about ten minutes from the end when he headed home Lockhart's corner kick.

Hastings United v Nuneaton Borough 30-01-1960

Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Lovell, Plant, Yates and Brown.

Borough travelled to Hastings for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Two lowly teams provided some low grade football in a game, which, however, did provide the occasional thrill. Nuneaton only had themselves to blame for going home pointless. First and foremost among their faults was an almost complete lack of aggression in front of goal.



Borough were quite often in the region of the home penalty area, but in the first half there were only two shots of any consequence. One from Lovell was pushed round the post for a corner and another from Yates, which was a good effort, but Farnfield saved well.

Borough's other great weakness was the ease with which they fell into the Hastings' offside trap. Time and again they were pulled up and a promising move was spoiled. For a time they seemed to have found the answer, but then in the second half Hastings laid the trap again with great success.

Hastings were not a brilliant team by any means, but their forwards were willing to have a go at every opportunity. The home side took the lead a few minutes from the end of the first-half, following the best move of the match. The ball went from McCorkindale to Green, out to Taylor and then right across the goal to Sinnot. He pushed it back to Green and even Twigg, who had frequently averted danger by quickly coming out of goal to narrow the angle, could do nothing to stop a rocket-like shot from entering the net.

Borough's fate was sealed early in the second half, when Corbett handled in the area and Boon crashed the ball home from the spot. A few minutes from time Yates, who was the most aggressive of the Borough forwards, went through on his own and neatly slipped the ball past Farnfield as he came out. Yates, Barrass and Twigg were the pick of the Nuneaton team.

Meeting Of Borough FC Directors And Supporters

Asked at a meeting of Nuneaton Borough FC Supporters' Club why young players had not been brought into the first team, Mr Angus Morrison, player-manager, replied that at the moment he had got to depend on experience to get the club out of trouble. "You can't rely on raw youngsters to get you out of trouble," he said.

"If you are well up in the league, you can bring them in one or two at a time to give them experience," he said.

In reply to the question, "Do you think we shall avoid relegation?" he said: "I think we have a fair chance. To be quite honest the team is playing a lot better away than at home. I have no answer to that."

Mr Frank Robey complained that young players in the reserves had never had a chance in the first team, and Mr H. Crow pointed out that Parkinson, who played good football for Nuneaton last season – he was a good back and only about 23 – had left for Rugby. Parkinson, he believed was a far better back than Savin, who was signed during the close season.

Wanted To Go

Mr Morrison replied that Parkinson wanted to go and he let him. It was no use having discontented players.

Mr Robey pointed out that Parkinson had only one game in the reserves. If a player liked a game of football he was not

going to sit on the bench forever. It was obvious he would want to go.

Why had Stan Aston not been given a chance? asked another member.

Mr Morrison said the man in possession was carrying the defence. "It is the forwards who are letting Nuneaton Borough down," he said.

Local Press Criticised

He criticised the local Press for printing "too much fiction and very little facts." Mr Robey: "You don't have to read the papers when supporters can see the home games for themselves."

Mr Crow said if they got a winning side the tote would go up. Now when they went to people to support the tote, they said: "Who's going to support a side like that?"

Football at Manor Park was "tripe" now – it was not good football.

Team Has Done It

"At the start of the season we had 5,000 at Manor Park – we are now lucky to get 2,000. It is the team that has done it – a losing side. That is the reason the tote and gates have gone down. It stands to common sense.

"We were promised a second-to-none team in Nuneaton. We (the Supporters' Club) did our part. Has the team done theirs?"

Pointing out the player-manager had been given full control, Mr R. S. Bull, a director, said the players signed during the close season had not come up to expectations. They could not keep signing players up for the season – they had to draw a line somewhere.

Mr T. Aucott, chairman of the Supporters' Club, said that if they had had some industrialists in Nuneaton prepared to give jobs to players and house-owners prepared to give players houses, he was sure Angus Morrison would be "sitting pretty now." The question of finance, housing and jobs was a big problem.

Brass Tacks

At the outset of the meeting, Mr Ron Fisher said they ought to get down to brass tacks now and save the Borough – it wanted saving. Supporters who wanted football at Nuneaton had to work 100 per cent behind the directors and Angus Morrison to get them out of their present position.

Mr Aucott thought the trouble with the Supporters' Club was that they had too many armchair critics and not enough helpers.

During the meeting, suggestions were made that wrestling and boxing tournaments should be organised at Manor Park in the close season to raise money.

A resolution was passed denying an allegation that the Supporters' Club had tried to poach local amateur players for the Borough FC.

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 06-02-1960

Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Barrass and Pembery; Stewart, Yates, Brown, Duggins and Morrison.

Wellington: Richards; Whitehouse and Rodgers; Manders, N. Davies and G. Davies; Loughnane, Rogers, Cocum, Griffiths and Hoof.

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

Borough missed enough chances to have won two or three times over, and yet they were trailing 1-0 until 16 minutes from the end. The home side must be given every credit for sticking to their guns in the face of constant disheartening misses.

Wellington's goal was scored in the 30th minute when the ball was played straight down the field and when Pembery erred, Rogers was left with a clear course for goal and closing in, he netted with a well-placed low cross shot.

Even though disappointing when near the Wellington goal, Borough's enthusiasm never flagged; they kept slogging away and the question was how long the visitors' could hold out; how long Borough could go on failing to hit the target. When everyone was beginning to despair of Borough ever getting a goal, one came along.

Yates started the move with a choice pass to Jackie Stewart. The latter pushed the ball forward to Angus Morrison, who moved slightly inside before crossing the ball. Meanwhile Stewart had slipped into the middle. At first he seemed to have missed an easy scoring chance, but after a moment of agony for Borough supporters, both the right winger and the ball crossed the line into the net, and Borough were at long last level.

After that the game developed into a real fight between the Borough forwards, well-supported from behind, and a harassed, struggling Wellington defence. Whenever Jackie Stewart was in possession the visitors were in real trouble. Centre after centre went across from the right; centre after centre was scraped away – until ten minutes from the end when Borough were awarded a corner on the right, Stewart's flag-kick was not properly cleared and when the ball ran out to Tommy Brown, he promptly slammed it into the net to give his side the lead. Angus Morrison nearly made it 3-1 when he shot against the bar.

Poole Town v Nuneaton Borough 13-02-1960

Poole Town: Palmer; Rickaby and Miller; Clayton, Packer and Elliott; Littlejohn, Asher, Dixon, Dunsmuir and Hunter.

Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Barrass and Pembery; Stewart, Yates, Plant, Duggins and Morrison.

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

It was one of the worst Borough games of the season. Except for a brief period of about ten minutes or so early in the second half, during which time Poole missed a penalty and Borough scored twice, it was quite a colourless encounter

which scarcely raised a cheer all the way through. Poole hadn't won a game since December and had been beaten in their previous seven games. Borough had completed a 154-mile journey and arrived 30 minutes before kick-off and played like a team that had been on its feet since 8.30am.

The first half was a dreadfully tame affair. There was little skill about the play of either side and even less determination. The only incidents of note were two shots by Duggins, one which hit a post with the keeper beaten, while the other was well saved by Palmer. At the other end centre-forward Dixon missed two sitters before giving his side the lead. Dixon's goal came in the 29th minute. Barrass had moved across to near the corner flag to stop the Poole right winger. Having won the ball his clearance went straight to an opponent and the ball was quickly switched into the middle. Dixon collected the pass and with Barrass out of position, moved forward to score an easy goal.

Poole ought to have settled the issue five minutes after half-time when they were awarded a penalty. Twigg had beaten out one terrific drive from left-winger Hunter and the ball ran back to Hunter who slammed in another hard drive. To save what looked like a certain scoring shot Jack Dunn put his hands to the ball, which was diverted over the bar. Asher took the penalty kick, but placed the shot too close to Twigg, who beat out the shot and then dived onto and smothered the ball.

Five minutes later Borough were level. Duggins barged his way through and forced an opening for Angus Morrison, who swept the ball into the net. Four minutes after that Borough were level after Harry Yates laid on so choice a through pass that Ken Plant merely had to run forward and slip the ball into the net.

Poole reacted to this goal, became a more determined side and 16 minutes after Plant had put Borough ahead they were on level terms. The goal came from a mix-up in midfield in which Simpson and Morrison were involved. They both went for the ball and finished up by giving away a free-kick. The free-kick landed near the far post and Twigg failed to get his body behind a bouncing ball, which slipped from his grasp and ran to Dunsmuir who put the ball into the net.

Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 20-02-1960

Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Barrass and Pembery; Stewart, Yates, Plant, Brown and Morrison.

King's Lynn: Thomas; Mackey and Brown; Neilson, Cleary and Johnson; Chilleystone, Luke, Dixon, Rackley and Baxter.

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

After surviving three early shocks – Twigg made a fine save from a Rackley header, Johnson hit a post, and then Barrass kicked off the goal-line – Borough quite unexpectedly ran into a three-goal lead. In the 6th minute, Stewart floated the ball in front of goal straight to the feet of the unmarked Harry Yates, who shot. A defender in a desperate bid to clear merely helped the ball into the net.



Thirteen minutes later, hotly challenged by Ken Plant, King's Lynn's Cleary handled the ball in the penalty area and from the spot-kick Barrass netted with a hard low drive which had goalkeeper Thomas going the wrong way. Five minutes later Borough were awarded a free-kick. Stewart dropped the ball in front of goal for it to glance off Angus Morrison's head and roll over the line.

For some time before King's Lynn got a goal back, it looked like coming and it was no surprise at all when, with the Borough defence in a tangle, centre-forward Dixon reduced the lead. Three minutes later outside-right Chilleystone moved inside, beat two men, and then netted with a high shot. Twigg was at fault here for being caught four or five yards out of goal.

After surviving several early second-half assaults on their goal, Borough gradually began to settle down again and the visitors goal had some narrow escapes. First Brown saw a half-hit shot of his roll across an empty net and go outside. Then, in a hot attack, Plant, with the goal at his mercy belted the ball straight at the keeper.

Twenty minutes from the end the home side got the goal they so badly needed for their own and their supporters peace of mind. Brown went away on the left and when he put the ball into the middle it ran off one or two defenders to Plant, who got a centre over to Morrison, whose first-time shot had Thomas well-beaten. Yates should have increased Borough's lead when he dribbled round the goalkeeper, but was too slow and the ball ran out of play.

Borough collected the points and deserved to. Yet it was anything but a convincing performance.

Southern League Football: Move To Cut Wages

"A ceiling wage for players would have to come from a recommendation from the league," stated Mr P. Osborne, secretary of Nuneaton Borough FC, at a joint meeting of the Supporters' Club and the directors on Monday night.

His comment was made after a letter from Gravesend and Northfleet Football Supporters' Association had been read. This stated they had resolved an approach should be made to Southern League Supporters' Associations requesting their support by contacting their clubs' boards of directors with the idea of imposing a ceiling wage for players to operate from next season.

Experience had shown that the stars were few and far between and the way lay open for mediocre talent to claim very high wages and play one manager against another before signing...

...Describing it as a first-class letter, Mr M. Smith said gates were not sufficient to keep clubs going with the high wages paid in general. It made a club with good supporters' club far better off than a good gated club.

Supporters' Club Asked For More Help

With the continual loss of money week by week on home matches, Nuneaton Borough FC face a loss of £1,360 between now and the end of the season unless income increases, forecast Mr Reg Carris, chairman of the directors on Monday night, when with other directors he attended a joint meeting with the Supporters' Club.

"You have to appreciate that four directors will be responsible for £1,360 if we don't get money in to help us out," he said. Stressing that the club finances had come "a serious point," he said the income week by week was totally inadequate for the expenditure. It was mainly due to failing gates. Once they averaged 4,500. Now they were down by 2,000 at home. The Birmingham Senior Cup had cost the club £800 up to present.

He appealed to the Supporters' Club to stand by them and help them out as much as possible. "We do appreciate what you have done and what you are doing."

He pointed out the tote had dropped, which was not very encouraging, and gates had dropped – "I know the team has not done as well as it might have done."

The directors had spent £1,000 on ground improvements – money which would never have been spent had they known the prospects were not going to be so good.

Share Suggestion

A member of the Supporters' Club, Mr Ron Fisher, said as the club needed money quickly, £1 shares should be offered to the public, a suggestion which received the support of another member, Mr M. Smith.

Mr Carris said he was not prepared to make a statement on the suggestion at that stage. It would have to be given more serious thought. Personally he could not see that it would solve the difficulty at the moment.

When the question of increasing the tote was raised, Mr Carris said they had 1,500 staunch supporters, who would come hail, rain or sunshine, win or lose; and they had 600-700 supporters following the reserve team. They were the backbone of any club let alone the Borough. He thought something should be done to ask these supporters to take a tote card. That would solve the whole of the problem in his estimation.

Mr T. Aucott, chairman of the Supporters' Club, said the drop in the tote was not so much due to the team having a poor record as to the fact that they had lost agents. Fifty per cent of the total takings on the tote were not collected in Nuneaton.

When Mr Fisher asked how much money the Supporters' Club had at the bank as the parent club required finance urgently, Mr W. L. Love (secretary) said he doubted if it was above £200.

Got To Make A Real Drive

"We have got to make a real drive on this tote," said one member. "That's our only chance."

It was eventually decided that at next Saturday's home match a member be posted at each turnstile asking people entering the ground to have a tote card.

Agreeing with the decision Mr Carris hoped that something similar would be done at the next reserve match at Manor Park. The staunch supporters, who followed the reserves, were the body and soul of the club.

A full bodied all-out effort on the tote was needed.

Asked by a member if it would be possible to by-pass the Birmingham Senior Cup in future years because of the loss it was causing the club, Mr Carris said the club could be heavily fined if they did not enter the Senior Cup and would probably not be allowed to enter the FA Cup. He mentioned that League clubs in the Birmingham County FA had to pay to keep out of the competition.

When the question of "unloading" players was discussed, Mr Carris pointed out that certain players were paid a weekly wage. "If we don't play them we have to pay them," he said. "If we could unload these players you could rest assured we would unload them tomorrow."

Chelmsford City v Nuneaton Borough 27-02-1960

Chelmsford: Newton; Hayward and Gillott; Phillips, Tiffin and Mason; Barker, Eisentrager, Westwood, Barnard and Walker.

Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Savin; Corbett, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Yates, Plant, Brown and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to New Writtle Street to face Chelmsford City in the Southern League Premier Division.

Even though Borough were playing against ten men for an hour of this game, they rarely looked like winning because they had neither the skill nor determination to do so.

It was immediately after they had taken the lead in the 31st minute that Westwood, Chelmsford's new centre-forward from Tottenham, received a bad cut over the right eye and had to leave the field.

In spite of this handicap Chelmsford were still good enough to keep the Borough defence fully occupied and looked more like getting goals than their most unimpressive opponents, who seldom caused Newton in the home goal much anxiety.

Chelmsford got their first goal in the 31st minute when Westwood moved out to the right and centred for Barker, the Essex batsman, to score. Borough had a chance of damping Chelmsford's enthusiasm in the first minute of the second half when they were awarded a penalty. Plant was racing through the middle when he was well and truly sandwiched by two defenders. When the referee pointed to the spot home players swarmed round in protest, but the referee was adamant. The crowd were booing loudly as Malcolm Barrass stepped up to take the penalty kick and the booing intensified as he ran up to the ball. But the boos changed to loud cheers as Barrass shot yards wide.

Plant grabbed an equaliser 15 minutes into the second half when Yates robbed a defender on the left wing, moved inside, pushed the ball across to Brown, who turned it to Plant, who took full toll of an easy scoring chance.

Chelmsford netted their second goal in the 74th minute when Eisentrager scored with a great shot, while in the last minute Westwood drew Barrass out of position and then centred to the unmarked Walker who drove the ball past Twigg with his left foot.

This was a lifeless, dispirited display – a display most of the Borough players and club officials will wish to forget. It was the old, old story of Borough tip-tapping their way to inevitable defeat.



Gibson Joins League Club

Mike Gibson, Borough's brilliant young goalkeeper, has been transferred to Shrewsbury Town.

In addition to paying a fee, Shrewsbury have guaranteed to send their full League side to Nuneaton to play against the Borough. The side will include Gibson.

Gibson, who broke a thumb several weeks ago, had the plaster removed this week. It is understood that he will not be playing for another fortnight.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 05-03-1960

Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Barrass and Pembrey; Stewart, Lovell, Plant, Yates and Morrison.

Kettering: Crossley; M. Smith and Groome; Armour, Marston and T. Smith; Walden, Morrow, Draper, Kightley and Burrows.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division match.

It was a question of the result being more impressive than the performance in this game. Borough started well enough but slowly fell away. It was fortunate that while they were playing well Borough should have collected those two vital goals, for afterwards they lost their earlier punch and seldom looked like boosting their goals for record.

If Borough were a very mediocre lot, Kettering were worse. Like Borough they are a shadow of the team they were last season. In front of goal they were just about as ineffective as Borough were at Chelmsford, which was fortunate for Borough, since in the second half Kettering had much the better of the exchanges, only to fail miserably in front of goal.

Borough opened the scoring after 12 minutes when Morrison was put away on the left and centred perfectly for Plant to



head a good goal. Three minutes later Borough were two up. To prevent Plant reaching a Yates' centre which was simply asking to be turned into the net, a Kettering defender fouled the Borough centre-forward and the referee, who was right on the spot, had no hesitation in awarding a penalty. Despite his miss the week before Barrass again came up to take the spot kick. It was not a good shot; it was too near to goalkeeper Crossley, who pushed out his leg and actually touched the ball, but could not prevent it from entering the net.

Borough notched a third goal straight after the break, with a clever goal from Plant. Switching the ball from his left to right foot Angus Morrison crossed it for Plant to flick the ball into the net with his head.

After the goal there was a very marked falling off in the Borough ranks. The wing halves, who had fared reasonably successfully in the first-half, now began to lose their grip on Kightley and Morrow. Given more room in which to work, the Kettering inside men engineered many attacks on the Borough goal without very often creating any openings.

Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough	12-03-1960
Hereford: Sewell; Layton and Turner; Masters, Niblett and Horton; Bowen, James, Morris, Wood and Hardiman.	
Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Barrass and Pembery; Stewart, Plant, Yates, Lovell and Morrison.	

Borough made the journey to Edgar Street to take on Hereford United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Although it is quite a good performance to collect even one point at Hereford, the fact is that Borough should have picked up both, because they had played the better, the more controlled football throughout. On the other hand, but for some truly shocking finishing by centre-forward Morris, who several times missed the easiest of scoring chances, Hereford might have won with something to spare.

Indeed this was a game of missed chances or near misses, and twice late in the first-half Hereford's reserve left back Turner, saved his side by heading off the line with goalkeeper Sewell well and truly beaten. On the first occasion he headed away from Harry Yates; then, heading away a Ken Plant pile-driver with Sewell out of goal, he was dropped like a log and had to receive attention.

Borough could have been three goals up before Hereford even looked like scoring. Then, in the last ten minutes before half-time Hereford suddenly burst into life and might well have scored three times before the change of ends. Morris lifted the ball high over the bar with only Twigg to beat and then drew the keeper out before screwing the ball wide when he had three parts of the net to aim at; before Twigg made a brilliant save from James.

Sewell made a good save from Stewart and Morris missed another sitter before Borough took the lead in the 61st minute. Morrison started the move with a pass to Lovell, who

slipped the ball just ahead of Harry Yates, who toe-ended the ball into the net. Jack Dunn saved a certain goal by hooking the ball away with Twigg out of position. Then with only five minutes to go, Twigg made a great save from a James overhead kick which seemed destined for the back of the net.

Then with only two minutes to go, Dunn was caught in two minds, and instead of punting the ball upfield, tried to pass inside to a colleague. His badly placed pass went straight to the Hereford inside-left Wood, who moved forward and then crossed the ball into a crowded Borough goalmouth. In a hurried attempt to clear, Arthur Corbett put the ball back to Wood, who once again dropped it into the goalmouth, where, following a desperate struggle, Morris headed the ball into the net.

On the whole this was quite a good Borough performance, and it was a very great pity indeed that a defensive blunder led to Hereford avoiding defeat.

Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth	19-03-1960
Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Barrass and Pembery; Stewart, Plant, Yates, Lovell and Morrison.	
Weymouth: Smith; Stevenson and Peacock; Hobson, Langman and Anderson; Munroe, McIntosh, Dailey, Roper and Ormond.	

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

The writing is now on the wall, and if player-manager Angus Morrison does not heed it, the chances of Borough remaining in the Premier Division are anything but bright. The plain truth is that Borough are just not good enough for teams like Weymouth, and several other equally strong clubs still have to visit Manor Park.

Weymouth gave Borough a lesson. Like the home side the visitors contained many experienced players but theirs, were experienced players with a difference – players who knew how to make and take goals; players who kept the game open by using their wingers and virtually tore the Borough defence to bits.

Borough started well enough and went into the lead after seven minutes' play through Ken Plant, who cleverly lifted the ball into an empty net from a very narrow angle after Smith had been drawn out of goal. Up to this point Weymouth, though showing cleverness in their approach work, did not impress as marksmen.

All that changed in the ten minutes before half-time when Weymouth got three goals, all were the result of defensive howlers, and were scored by Dailey (2) and McIntosh.

Though Borough had every bit as much of the game as Weymouth after half-time, without even looking much like hitting back, Weymouth looked dangerous every time they got away and bagged two more goals.

Dailey got the first of them by shaking off the attentions of Jack Dunn after Barrass had been beaten by the bounce of

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the ball and running on to beat Twigg easily. Roper got the fifth with a great left foot drive. After Weymouth had hit a Borough post, Plant was adjudged to have scored a second goal for the home side, although the ball did not look to have crossed the line.

Weymouth were much the better side and thoroughly earned their victory. At the same time it must be said quite bluntly that they were materially helped on the way to success by the poorness of the opposition.

Wisbech Town v Nuneaton Borough 26-03-1960

Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Corbett; Simpson, Aston and Pembery; Stewart, Plant, Yates, Barrass and Morrison.

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

Can player-manager Angus Morrison really afford to make experiments like the one of playing Malcolm Barrass at inside left? The attack is already slow enough, without slowing it up further, by introducing the burly centre-half into the line. As everybody would have expected Barrass was altogether too slow and cumbersome, and accomplished little or nothing.

It was a very mediocre game, highlighted by lack of shooting power by both sets of forwards. Both sides did fairly well until reaching the penalty area, where 99 per cent of the attacks tamely fizzled out. The hanging back game does not suit Ken Plant, who did not have a happy match. With Barrass and Morrison achieving little and Jackie Stewart having only a fair game, it can easily be appreciated why the Borough attack was so dull, why it lacked edge.

Without being brilliant the Borough defence was the stronger part of the team. Simpson had a better game though Pembery was at fault when Wisbech got their goal. Twigg made some excellent saves, but some people thought he should have saved when Kiddle got Wisbech's goal. He took the ball forward and Pembery instead of going in for a tackle, retreated to 20 yards or so outside the penalty area. Kiddle decided to have a pot at goal. Twigg appeared to have it covered, but the ball swung appreciably and went into the goal, right in the top corner.

It was in the 69th minute that Borough were awarded a penalty. After having had one centre blocked, Jackie Stewart got the ball again and hit it across goal. Seeing the ball flashing across, centre-half Crossland panicked and pushed the ball out with his hand. The referee had no option but to award a penalty and Barrass made no mistake from the spot.

Borough might have had another penalty when Plant was brought down in the area, but the referee thought otherwise.

This was a useful point, but for all that the team does not inspire confidence, not even against one of the poorest sides they have encountered this season. Judged by this performance it is easy to see why the two teams are not happy both financially and from the playing point of view.

Banbury Spencer v Nuneaton Borough 02-04-1960

Banbury Spencer: Whitehouse; Bury and Ashcroft; Wilson, Harris and Rees; Hicks, O'Brien, Thomas, McGarrity and Brock.

Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Barrass; Simpson, Aston and Birch; Stewart, Plant, Yates, Corbett and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Leamington, to take on Banbury Spencer in the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

A streaky goal by player-manager Angus Morrison in the 56th minute gave Borough victory over a plucky Banbury Spencer side. The game was almost completely lacking in football skill and excitement and the crowd must have heaved a sigh of relief when the whistle sounded for full-time.

Although the woodwork of the Banbury goal was hit on two occasions, the finishing of both sides was weak and on very few occasions was either keeper seriously troubled. Most of the attacks petered out long before they reached the goal area. The only really good shot of the game was by Banbury inside-left McGarrity, who shot the ball just over the top.

Ken Plant had a flashing header hit the woodwork before Borough went close again when Bury, the Banbury right-back hit a Morrison centre against the post of his own goal. Borough's luckiest escape came midway through the second half when Twigg had to dive full length to save a shot. The ball ran loose to Hicks, whose shot was cleared off the line by Barrass. However, the ball came back again and after a hectic scramble, the ball ran out for an unproductive corner.

With the wind behind them in the second half Borough had the edge in midfield. When they reached the penalty area, however, they failed, as did the Banbury forwards. The only goal of the match came 11 minutes after the change of ends. Morrison had swung the ball out to Stewart, who returned the ball across goal to the player-manager. Goalkeeper Whitehouse had moved across with the ball and was at the near post when the left winger shot. The ball bounced quite a few times as it went goalwards. Whitehouse moved back to the middle of the goal and stood as though rooted to the ground as the ball suddenly twisted into the far corner of the net.

This must have been one of the poorest Senior Cup finals on record. It scarcely raised a cheer. Certainly it was not a good advertisement for the Southern League.

Nuneaton Borough v Wisbech Town 07-04-1960

Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Corbett; Aston, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Yates, Pembery and Morrison.

Wisbech: Stebbings; Rutter and Porter; Adamson, Crosland and Garratt; Kendall, Kiddle, Pye, Baron and Elliott.

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

Nuneaton Borough took a step nearer relegation last night when they were beaten 3-1 by a smarter, slicker Wisbech side. The experiment of playing Pembery at inside-left flopped,

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



but some consolation to Borough followers was the excellent display of Stan Aston both at wing-half and at centre-half when Barrass was injured.

Early on Yates forced a corner, and from the Morrison cross, Pembery put tamely wide. Borough should have gone ahead in four minutes when both Plant and Yates muffed splendid chances. Put through by Barrass, the inside-right hit the post from close range, and seizing on the rebound, Yates weakly scooped the ball into the goalkeeper's arms.

Immediately afterwards the home goal had a narrow escape when Pye swept the ball wide of the post from an Elliott cross. In another Wisbech raid, Twigg made a fine one-handed save from the visitors' player-manager. Stebbings pushed a shot from Morrison over the bar.

After 23 minutes, Elliott put Wisbech ahead, heading in a Kendall cross. Running into the centre, the former Sunderland outside-left found himself unmarked and had merely to pick his spot. In a retaliatory attack, Pembery got in a hard left-footed shot, but so far the experiment of playing him at inside forward had not been a success.

Just before half-time Plant raced on to a Stewart pass, rounded the advancing goalkeeper, but spoilt his effort when he fired wide from a somewhat awkward angle.

The visitors were the first to make progress in the second half, a shot from Elliott flashing wide of the post. After 49 minutes, Baron increased Wisbech's lead. Bad covering from the home defence left the inside-left unmarked, and although he failed to connect properly, the shot was sufficient to pass into the net off a post. Two minutes later Borough suffered a further setback when Barrass had to leave the field following a head injury. He resumed after a few minutes at outside left, and Stan Aston took over at centre-half.

After 60 minutes, the home side reduced the deficit through Plant, who swept the ball high into the net after bursting through in characteristic fashion. A spirited rally by Borough followed. Plant and Stewart figuring prominently in attack. Once Plant centred perfectly for Yates to get in a header which Stebbings saved brilliantly.

The home side mounted a desperate bid to get a late equaliser and for the first time in the match the Wisbech defence looked uncomfortable, but against the run of play, Wisbech increased their lead after 80 minutes through Baron, who calmly strode through Borough's defence as they appealed for offside.

Dartford v Nuneaton Borough 09-04-1960

Borough: Twigg, Dunn and Barrass; Corbett, Aston and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Yates and Hill.

Borough made the journey to Dartford for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

It was the old, old story at Dartford on Saturday – the story of a Borough attack that seldom looked like scoring. Much of their approach work was reasonably good, but they scarcely

produced a shot worthy of the name during the whole game.

The defence did not perform so badly in the circumstances, but suffered from the inability of the forwards to sustain their attacks and their failure to prevent home wing-halves coming upfield in support of their forwards. Though beaten four times, Twigg did not do badly in goal.

Borough did a great deal of switching in the second half without, however, being able to bring about any improvement, and were very largely on the defensive.

Dartford led by a goal scored by Clarke at half-time – he netted with a fine drive from 25 yards – and they went further ahead in the second half through goals by Harris, Dougan and Huckstep.

Nuneaton Borough v Headington United 11-04-1960

Borough: Twigg; Phoenix and Corbett; Aston, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Yates and Morrison.

Headington: Peters; Beavon and Adams; Atkinson, Denial and McDonald; Grieve, Jones, Thompson, Dixon and Love.

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

This is the story of Roy Manning, the young local centre-forward, who was not called upon until Borough had one foot in the relegation grave. He got three of his side's four goals and was the architect of Borough's most convincing win for months.

This was not a win over a poor side, but at the expense of one of the best teams in the league. It took Manning exactly 15 minutes to score his first Southern League goal of the season and he scored again a minute before half-time. Ten minutes from time he completed his hat-trick with one of the best goals seen at Manor Park this season. Next to Manning, Nuneaton's other outstanding player was another of the younger brigade – Stan Aston, who was the best half-back on view.

Manning scored the first goal of the game after 15 minutes. When Ken Plant hooked the ball into the middle, the centre-forward dashed in, beat goalkeeper Peters to the ball, and shot past him into the net. In the last minute of the half, Plant and Manning went through together, Plant's shot was only partly stopped by the goalkeeper and the centre-forward was on the spot to force the ball into the net.

Two minutes after half-time, Manning was fouled about 30 yards from goal. Aston took the free-kick and floated the ball to the far post. Morrison went up and nodded the ball forward to Yates, who, left with only goalkeeper Peters to beat, easily netted. Ten minutes from the end came Borough's fourth goal – the best of the game. Sent through by Yates, Manning raced ahead and left Peters helpless with a perfectly placed left-foot drive.

The game was a triumph for youth – for Roy Manning and Stan Aston. The only problem is that the introduction of younger blood, advocated by so many for so long, may have come too late.



Nuneaton Borough v Barry Town 16-04-1960

Borough: Twigg; Phoenix and Corbett; Aston, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Yates and Morrison.

Barry Town: Elliott; Bright and Morgan; Bowkett, Loader and Coleman; Dyke, O'Halloran, Sheffield, Kankkonen and Dolman.

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

It was Roy Manning versus Barry so far as getting goals were concerned in this bottom-of-the-league struggle. All the way through Barry played the better football and got a weak Borough defence into some awful tangles, especially in the first-half. The Borough rearguard improved slightly in the second session, but again had some very anxious moments. Indeed, had Barry's finishing compared at all favourably with their midfield and approach work the result might have been vastly different.

As it was it was really anybody's game until a few minutes from time when Manning clinched the issue with his third goal, after Dolman had missed an easy chance of levelling the scores after a brilliant dribble by Kankkonen, the Swedish international.

It should be stated in Borough's favour that after 15 minutes' play they lost the services of Harry Yates through injury. He came back after being off the field for a period and was a passenger on the right wing.

It was Manning's persistency and resourcefulness that won the game for Borough. He opened his account after six minutes when, following a pass by Stewart and a cross by Aston, he headed past the advancing goalkeeper Elliott. Kankkonen equalised.

Manning's second goal came in the early minutes of the second half when Loader erred to let in Stewart, whose pass was seized upon by the centre-forward and slipped into the far corner of the net. Manning completed his hat-trick four minutes from the end when following a Stan Aston free-kick, Stewart pushed the ball to the young leader, who banged the ball home from close range.

Nuneaton Borough v Tonbridge 18-04-1960

Borough: Twigg; Phoenix and Corbett; Aston, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Lovell and Morrison.

Tonbridge: Bickerstaff; Thompson and Lovell; Hamilton, Ruake and Nailston; Gorman, Boswell, Bell, Smith and Parkinson.

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

With Manning virtually smothered by centre-half Ruake, who policed the Borough leader throughout, the home side seldom looked like scoring against Tonbridge, who got the only goal of the match five minutes after half-time.

Right winger Gorman got Corbett and Barrass in a tangle in

the 50th minute and squared the ball for Bell to score the winner. Borough had a great chance of putting themselves on the winning track in the 14th minute when they were awarded a penalty for handball. Barrass shot almost straight at Bickerstaff from the spot. The ball was beaten out by the goalkeeper and ran to Lovell who, with the goal at his mercy, half hit the ball wide of goal.

The first half was fairly evenly contested, but after half-time Borough seldom produced a move likely to bring a goal. Borough were weak all down the left flank.

Tonbridge had one of the toughest defences Borough have encountered this season. They tackled strongly and gave Barrass and the rest of the Borough defence a lesson in the art of getting the ball away. The visitors deserved their success if only for their keener sense of urgency and general enthusiasm.

Nuneaton Borough v Boston United 19-04-1960

Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Phoenix; Aston, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Lovell and Pembley.

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

Two blunders by goalkeeper Dick Twigg cost Borough their third home point of the holiday, and possibly their place in the Premier Division of the Southern League.

Fourteen minutes from the start a high cross from left winger Lister dropped awkwardly near the far angle of the goal. Twigg missed the ball, which glanced into the net off the post. Boston's second gift came five minutes after half-time. Barrass failed properly to clear a bouncing ball and it ran back towards his own goal. Twigg came out, missed the ball completely, and left the visiting centre-forward Birkbeck with the simple task of walking the ball into the net.

Each time Borough managed to get on level terms. First Plant shot on the turn and possibly the ball was deflected past Pane by a defender. Then Barrass levelled the score at 2-2 from a penalty kick following a foul on Pembley.

Borough pressed heavily in the closing stages of the game to force a win, but were much too clumsy to cash in on quite a few reasonable scoring chances.

Manning was the chief culprit in the matter of missed chances, because he was about the only forward who really buckled into the Boston defence. He missed one or two fairly easy chances; on other occasions only cruel luck prevented him from scoring.

Again Borough, to all intents and purposes, had no left wing. Pembley fared no better than Morrison. Both are much too slow for wingers. Lovell had another poor game. The defence, which on paper, should have been as strong as any put out this season, disappointed. The visiting wingers were given far too much scope.



Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 23-04-1960

Borough: Twigg; Phoenix and Corbett; Aston, Barrass and Pembury; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Duggins and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to face Worcester City in a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Borough's do or die efforts to try to stave off the very real threat of relegation was very largely confined to the first 15 minutes of the game, during which period they could – indeed, should – have clinched the issue. They had three great scoring chances, which unfortunately were all sadly neglected, while goalkeeper Kirkwood made a great flying save from a terrific Stan Aston drive.

Borough's first easy scoring chance came in the ninth minute when Manning bored his way through. A terrific struggle for possession ensued in front of goal and when the ball ran loose, Duggins had the easiest of scoring chances. Only a couple of yards out he merely had to prod the ball into the net, but for some reason or other he failed to connect and then fell backwards.

The next let off came when Jackie Stewart, with plenty of time to spare and unhampered, fired well wide of an empty net. Then there was that glorious Kirwood save from Stan Aston, followed by another miss – this time from Morrison, who with a clear look at goal belted the ball high and wide.

Then, as so often happens when chances are created and missed, the other side breaks away and scores. Worcester's first goal came in the 25th minute when Skuse ran onto a loose ball and slammed it home in-off the far post. After this setback, Borough lost all their early fire and, to be quite frank, never looked like saving the game.

Then Worcester got a second goal mid-way through the second half when Lawlor netted from a left wing cross – it was all over bar the shouting, though in the dying minutes of the game both Corbett and Angus Morrison both had goal scoring efforts saved.

Nuneaton Borough v Chelmsford City 25-04-1960

Borough: Twigg; Dunn and Corbett; Aston, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Phoenix and Morrison.

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

Though Borough had some atrocious luck in this game on Monday, the cold fact is that the team just isn't good enough for Premier Division Southern League football. This latest Borough defeat – a defeat which must surely send them down into Division 1 – should never have happened; that they lost was partly due to bad play and partly to rank bad luck.

For instance, once in each half the woodwork of the Chelmsford goal was struck. Early on Jackie Stewart, after missing two chances, shot against the bar, while five minutes

from time Manning headed against the bar. then there was an incident when the City goalkeeper managed to scramble away from near the foot of the post a Stan Aston header, which many Borough supporters felt had crossed the line.

Borough had two penalty appeals ignored by the referee. On the first occasion the referee, after consulting a linesman about an offence which definitely occurred inside the area, gave Borough a free-kick a foot outside the area. In the dying seconds a defender appeared to divert a Plant header outside the post with his hands. Here again it looked a definite penalty, but once again appeals were ignored and Borough were awarded a corner kick.

On other occasions the forwards failed badly with easy scoring chances. Chelmsford won because they had a far stronger attack, which with fewer chances always looked the more dangerous, and a much more reliable defence.

Once again Manning tried his hardest to find a way through but what with lack of support and the fact that the ball was constantly in the air, where the City centre-half was always the master, he again had an unprofitable 90 minutes.

On the two occasions that they scored Chelmsford caught the Borough defence napping. In the 20th minute a through-the-middle pass enabled Stokes to run through unhampered to shoot past Twigg. In the early minutes of the second half, Brown ran right through on his own to net a brilliant solo goal. Jackie Stewart got Borough's only goal in the 26th minute when, following a Corbett free-kick and a feint by Plant, he netted with a splendid shot.

Headington United v Nuneaton Borough 27-04-1960

Borough: Twigg; Duggins and King; Corbett, Aston and Pembury; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Morrison and Hill.

Borough made the journey to Headington United for a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough were lucky to get a point in their vital game at Oxford on Wednesday night. The equaliser came three minutes from the end with United's centre-half injured and off the field.

Headington desperately needed both points in their struggle for second place in the league, but Nuneaton's need of them was just as great, to lift them out of the danger zone. With that in mind the result may seem a fair one, but in reality Nuneaton were very lucky. For 75 per cent of the game they were harried by the home forwards, who did everything but find the net, apart from their one goal.

Great credit is due to the Borough, however, for they had five reserves in the team, and even had to play Duggins at right back. The move, dictated by circumstances, was far from successful, and he had an unhappy game.

Centre-half Aston had a superb game, and always had the better of his exchanges with United's centre-forward Denial. Shortly after Plant forced Headington's goalkeeper Medlock



to go full length with a drive, Headington went ahead in the 36th minute, right winger Thompson placing the ball behind Twigg from an acute angle as he waited for the centre.

The Headington forwards threw away many chances of making the result safe, and hit the bar twice. The turning point in Nuneaton's fortunes came shortly before the end, when Quartermain, the Oxford club's centre-half, had to leave the field. Manning had a drive blocked, and Plant ran on to the ball and made no mistake, three minutes from time.

Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 30-04-1960

Borough: Twigg; Phoenix and Corbett; Aston, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Duggins and Morrison.

Cheltenham: Gourlay; Farrell and Dunn; Dunlop, Hyde and Taylor; Deacon, Fowler, Clelland, Coldray and Burder.

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

Though Gourlay in the Cheltenham goal made many fine saves, including a really great one from a Ken Plant pile-driver mid way through the second half, Borough still had enough easy scoring chances to have comfortably won their final home league game of the season.

For most of the game Borough were attacking but once again their finishing was poor. They took an early lead through Plant and a minute before half-time ought virtually to have clinched the score when they were awarded a penalty for a foul on Plant, who was brought down after some bulldozing by Gordon Duggins.

Malcolm Barrass took the spot kick, only to drive the ball against a post. From the rebound Manning shot hard for goal. Gourlay saved and the ball ran out to Jackie Stewart who also shot. Again Gourlay saved the situation.

Once again Borough were caught napping before they had found their second half legs, and five minutes after half-time Fowler levelled the scores after a blunder by Phoenix. After that it was nearly all Borough, who launched attack after attack. Ken Plant missed at least two easy chances, one after Stewart had teed up the ball. Stewart himself missed chances, as did Manning and Duggins.

In between their misses Borough got a goal. They were awarded a corner which was beautifully placed by Stewart and the ball glanced in off the bar for a defender to head away, but the ball had definitely crossed the line and the referee immediately awarded a goal.

Five minutes from the end Burden went away on the left. Phoenix failed to go in for a tackle and the winger doubled back and crossed the ball with his right foot. Deacon headed the ball back to Clelland, who got the equaliser.

This was another very ineffective display which further illustrated Borough's many weaknesses – weaknesses which must be remembered during the close season.

King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough

03-05-1960

Borough: Twigg; Phoenix and King; Corbett, Aston and Simpson; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Duggins and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to King's Lynn for the final Southern League Premier Division match of the season.

Borough, who had to win this game to keep alive their slim chances of staying in the Premier Division of the Southern League, were the better of two lethargic teams and on the whole were unlucky not to gain those two valuable points.

The game was a typical scrappy end-of-season affair, until the final ten minutes when it suddenly exploded into life. King's Lynn were give a goal in the second minute, scored by inside-right Rackley. But this did not lead to a goal-rush as might have been expected. Play was unexciting, but suddenly Nuneaton equalised when the unmarked Plant shot through. A brilliant solo effort by centre-forward Dixon gave King's Lynn a 2-1 interval lead.

In the second half, play continued along its mediocre path until the 72nd minute when Nuneaton surprisingly equalised through Duggins, who headed a rebound into the net.

Nuneaton now fought like tigers and eight minutes later they took a deserved lead when the unmarked Duggins again headed through. This was the time for an exciting finale. Young Rackley flashed into the game a minute later to head a brilliant equaliser for King's Lynn. Not to be denied, Nuneaton fought back and five minutes from time again took the lead through right-half Corbett, who hit a terrific drive into the net.

With only two minutes to go, the persevering Dixon headed a great goal for King's Lynn to level matters once more. And so ended a hectic ten minutes which made up somewhat for a disappointing match.

Nuneaton Borough v Shrewsbury Town

05-05-1960

Borough: Bateman; Burton and Hunter; Aston, Barrass and Corbett; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Lovell and Morrison (Manning).

Shrewsbury: Gibson; Hobson and Skeeck; Copp, Wallace and Walters; McLoughlin, Edgeley, Rowley, Starkey and Whittaker.

Borough welcomed Shrewsbury Town to Manor Park for a match which was arranged as part of Mike Gibson's transfer.

Watched by a crowd of 1,930, Nuneaton Borough put up a hard fight against a strong Shrewsbury Town side, but were finally beaten 2-1 after holding an interval lead.

The home side had an early escape when Barrass failed to clear in front of goal, leaving Edgeley with a golden opportunity. Fortunately for Borough, the visitors' inside-right shot across an untenated net and the ball was cleared. Little of Borough's attack had been seen before Corbett brought Gibson into action for the first time. The ex-Borough player dealt competently with a well-directed shot.

Aston earned a round of applause for a first-time shot which



flashed just wide. Borough were holding their own against their league opponents in a game which was being played at half-pace. Arthur Rowley, the Shrewsbury player-manager was prominent with some deft flicks to his inside men.

After 28 minutes Duggins put Borough ahead with a hard left-foot drive after receiving from Lovell. Stung by this reverse, the visitors raced forward for Edgeley to crash a pile-driver against the Borough bar with Bateman beaten. Fine anticipation by Barrass saved Borough in a dangerous situation, the centre-half heading over the bar from a Rowley header.

Manning came into the Borough side for Morrison after the interval. Shrewsbury had the better of the play for a spell, but their finishing was poor. Eventually, however, Bateman distinguished himself with a fine full-length save as Copp nodded in what looked to be a certain goal.

Not to be denied, Shrewsbury equalised after 65 minutes with a gem of a goal from full-back Hobson, who rammed home a shot from fully 30 yards. Bateman flung himself sideways but was well beaten.

Borough were far from discouraged and Aston tested Gibson with a fierce drive, but the keeper pulled off a fine save. After 80 minutes Shrewsbury went into the lead with a great goal by Rowley, who scored with a snap shot on the turn.

Season Review 1959-60

Five Or Six Good Men Needed For Next Season

Borough's relegation from the Premier Division of the Southern League to Division 1 should have convinced player-manager Augus Morrison that in future he simply must place more reliance on younger players. The average age last season was much too high.

Experience is all very well and can be a great asset, provided it is blended with youth. Last season there were far too many over-thirties in the side. The experience was there all right. What was lacking was the spirit and endurance of youth.

The player-manager's troubles began even before the season started – with his close season signings. Not one of those players was able to command a regular place in the Southern League side, with the exception of Gordon Pembury – and he was a very fortunate player indeed to have played so often.

The young players signed during the close season failed lamentably. But that was no reason why the player-manager should not have brought in much sooner other young players like Stan Aston and Roy Manning.

I know that Manning, after opening with two hat-tricks failed. The fact remains, however that by the time both he and Stan Aston were given their chance the damage had been done – the team was well on the way to relegation.

Could Have Been Avoided

It is possible that had Manning been brought in when the grounds were heavy (that is if Plant had to be moved), had

Aston been played at right-half much earlier, and had Arthur Corbett been played where he should have been played – at left-half – relegation might very well have been avoided.

The centre-forward problem need not have been created. Ken Plant was doing the job very effectively and why he was moved to inside-right was not easy to understand, unless it was to bolster up a weakness which existed at inside forward.

If that was the reason, then it amounted merely to strengthening one position and weakening another. The big weaknesses nearly all season were at left-back, wing-half and on the left-wing.

A team not strong enough at wing-half is always in trouble, and Borough were nearly always in trouble. What was missing here was the determination and strong tackling of players like Stan Aston and Arthur Corbett. The latter was wasted at left back and sorely missed at left-half.

The left wing was never the force it ought to have been, firstly because the inside position was never adequately filled, and secondly because of the failure of Hill. This left Morrison with little option but to play himself, and when Harry Yates was his inside partner, the handicap was age and general slowness.

The Bright Star

Until he was injured and later transferred to Shrewsbury Town, Mike Gibson was the bright start of the side. He gave many brilliant exhibitions, notably at Bath where the crowd gave him a great ovation after a truly magnificent display.

Dick Twigg, who took his place, always did better away from home. At Manor Park he gave many indifferent displays and conceded some soft goals. One hopes that the player-manager will strengthen this position.

Jack Dunn, Malcolm Barrass, Ken Plant and Jackie Stewart were far and away the most consistent performers. Barrass was the strong man in defence and was well supported by the exuberant Dunn. It is a pity some of the other players could not have shown the same enthusiasm as the right-back.

Needs Better Side

Ken Plant ran away with the goalscoring honours, scoring 38 goals. Had he been properly backed in the goalscoring department the club could easily have escaped relegation. We hope that next season Plant will be given much better support in this connection.

Jackie Stewart, the team's ever-present, was always a useful performer but, probably due to overwork in consequence of the lopsidedness of the attack, lost some of his sparkle towards the end of the season.

Borough picked up a sufficient number of points away from home (11) to have given them a comfortable position in the league if their home record had been anything like satisfactory. It was a long way from being satisfactory, however, no fewer than 20 of 42 home points being dropped.



It may be said, therefore, that Borough went down because of their poor home form, especially in the last few weeks of the season, when, with a number of home games in hand, they ought to have staved off the threat of relegation. But they failed for no other reason than that they just weren't good enough for the company with which they mixed.

Their full record was:

P55 W18 D13 L24 F103 A96

Goalscorers

Plant	38
Duggins.....	13
Stewart.....	10
Brown	9
Barrass.....	9
Morrison	7
Yates	7
Manning.....	6
Lovell	2
Corbett	1
Parry	1

If Borough are to stand any chance whatsoever of getting back into the Premier Division the team needs considerably strengthening, and good younger players are absolutely essential. Age had more to do with Borough's flop last season than anything else. It must not happen again, since another season like the one just ended could spell ruin for the club.

Southern League Premier Division 1959-60

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath City	42	32	3	7	116	50	67
Headington United	42	23	8	11	78	61	54
Weymouth	42	22	9	11	93	69	53
Cheltenham Town	42	21	6	15	82	68	48
Cambridge City	42	18	11	13	81	72	47
Chelmsford City	42	19	7	16	90	70	45
Bedford Town	42	21	3	18	97	85	45
King's Lynn	42	17	11	14	89	78	45
Boston United	42	17	10	15	83	80	44
Wisbech Town	42	17	10	15	81	84	44
Yeovil Town	42	17	8	17	81	73	42
Hereford United	42	15	12	15	70	74	42
Tonbridge	42	16	8	18	79	73	40
Hastings United	42	16	8	18	63	77	40
Wellington Town	42	13	11	18	63	78	37
Dartford	42	15	7	20	64	82	37
Gravesend & Northfleet	42	14	8	20	69	84	36
Worcester City	42	13	10	19	72	89	36
Nuneaton Borough	42	11	11	20	64	78	33
BarryTown	42	14	5	23	78	103	33
PooleTown	42	10	8	24	69	96	28
Kettering Town	42	9	10	23	60	90	28

TV Sport Hitting Football Clubs

Does the televising of sporting events on Saturday afternoons have an adverse effect on attendances at football matches. We think the answer is a very definite "yes," especially so far as clubs like Nuneaton Borough are concerned.

Time and again when sporting events have been televised, attendances at Manor park have been affected, and on many other grounds too.

In one instance, when a big athletic meeting was being televised, Borough's gate was down by four or five hundred compared with the previous home game. But it is in the winter months when the decline is most noticeable.

Not everybody is a football fanatic – one who will watch his favourite side whatever the weather. There are those who, on wet or cold or foggy days, prefer to be armchair sports enthusiasts.

Yes, those Saturday afternoon sports programmes are hitting many football clubs but we doubt whether anything can be done about it, except for teams like Borough to put out really good sides which will persuade their not-so-keen followers to leave their firesides.

Bateman Signs Pro For Borough

David Bateman, a promising young local goalkeeper, has signed professional forms for Borough.

Also, Geoff Coleman, a left full-back, who had experience with Northampton Town and was released to play for Lockheed midway through last season, has also signed professional forms for Borough.

Aged 24, and 5ft 10in tall, Coleman is a local product.

Borough FC Lost £2,000 Last Season

But For Tote It Would Have Been £7,000

It was reported to a meeting of Nuneaton Borough FC Supporters' Club last Thursday night, that the football club had a loss of £2,000 last season, and that but for the money brought in by the tote, the loss would have been well over £7,000.

Mr Reg Carris, the club chairman, who produced the balance sheet, said the club would be starting next season with a deficit of £1,975, but they hoped that the loss, due to the fall in gates, would not be repeated.

It was obvious that they could not go on losing £1,900 every year, he added. He said that the wages of the players and the

player-manager amounted to £10,223, while gate receipts for last season totalled only £8,003.

Wages Bill Up

The wages bill had risen by £1,733 on the previous season and gate receipts had dropped by £2,905.

He told members of the Supporters Club that they had done “a marvellous job of work” in raising money for the parent club. Expenses for the coming season, he added, would not be quite as high as in previous seasons.

Grant To “A” Team

The Supporters’ Club decided to make a grant of £100 towards the cost of running the Borough “A” team.

Mr Carris had explained that the running of the junior side would cost £150 to £200, and that a grant from the Supporters’ Club would help tremendously.

It was reported that a loss of £95 had reduced the Supporters’ Club balance to £221.

Borough Signings

Nuneaton Borough FC are among the clubs hoping to sign Andy Micklewright, an inside-forward, who is on Exeter City’s transfer list at £2,500.

Other clubs reported to be interested in him are Worcester, Hereford, Kettering and Hinckley.

Micklewright started his career with West Bromwich Albion

and later joined Swindon. He was signed at the beginning of last season by Exeter, for whom he made 42 first team appearances. It is understood that he is sought by two league clubs, Doncaster Rovers and Oldham, but he is reluctant to leave his home in the Birmingham area. Borough player-manager Angus Morrison is to see the player today.

Morrison will also interview Ron Stockin, the former Wolves inside forward, who is listed at £4,000 by Grimsby Town. When Stockin was transferred from Wolves to Cardiff the fee was £12,000. Later, he joined Grimsby for £8,000. Hinckley are also hoping to get his signature.

These are but two of the men Morrison is to see today, when he makes an extensive tour of Derbyshire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire in search of new players.

Last night, from his home in Derby, he told the Observer: “Many of the players I have seen are asking for ridiculous wages. It is unbelievable. With the wages they are asking, you would expect they were signing for a First Division club.”

Signings

Atherstone Town’s left-wing pair last season, Barry Shorthose and Barry Beeson have signed for Borough. Other signings announced are: Geoffrey Coleman (left full-back), formerly with Northampton Town, and last season with Lockheed Leamington. Gordon Simms (outside-right or outside-left), formerly with Coventry City. R. T. Wright (wing half-back), who two season ago was with Chelsea. Last season he played with Loughborough Brush.



Nuneaton Borough 1959-60

Borough 3, Lockheed Leamington 1. BSC Second Round.

Back Row: J. J. Dunn, J. D. Dunn, Gibson, Corbett, Barrass, Pembery.

Front Row: Stewart, Yates, Duggins, Plant, Knox.



Burton Albion — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Burton Albion for a 1st Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Burton: Townsend; Tye and Turner; Kennedy, Davis and McGlenon; Bolton, Codd, Rowden, Carberry and Hardy.

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and King; Simpson, Barrass and Pembery; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Yates and Morrison.

This cup tie at Burton was a triumph for Borough's superior football skill. Territorially the Albion had the better of the argument, and the Borough goal had a few lucky escapes. Where the Albion came unstuck, however, was that they sacrificed craft for speed and never gave themselves time to play calculated, defence splitting football.

Had Burton accepted their chances, Borough's task would have been a much more difficult one. It was not an easy win in any case. Borough had to be on the alert all the way through but their ability to make and accept scoring chances turned the result in their favour.

The game produced two stars, Davis, the tall, powerful Burton centre-half and Ken Plant, the best forward on view. Plant was in grand form. Not only did he score two excellent goals and put Jackie Stewart through to score the third, but all through kept probing the defence and finding where the weaknesses lay.

Borough went into the lead after 34 minutes' play when, following one of the many astute left wing raids, the ball was sent across to Ken Plant, who was lying in the inside left position. Townsend moved out of goal and as he did so, the Borough inside-right shot behind him, the ball going into the far end of the net off the inside of the near post.

Five minutes after half-time more clever work by Plant and Stewart ended in the former going right through again to beat the burly Bill

Townsend. Ten minutes later Plant brought down a high bouncing ball beautifully and swung it out to his partner Jackie Stewart, who weaved his way through to score a first-class goal.

Codd replied for Burton four minutes' later. He received a pass bang in front of goal and had the diving Gibson well beaten with a close range shot.

Four minutes from time Duggins broke through on the right, rounded a defender, and then crossed the ball to Angus Morrison, who promptly shot into the net.

Though they were very hard pressed at various periods during this game and had that sticky second half period, Borough were much the more convincing in this pulsating cup tie. They played a better brand of football than their opponents and, more important, knew how to round off the moves. Burton worked hard but lacked the cleverness of their opponents, both in midfield and in front of goal.

Brush Sports — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Brush Sports for a 2nd Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Brush: Burden; Smith and Cooper; Telfer, Hodges and Champion; Rees, Hanson, Sketchley, Simpson and Bullock.

Borough: Gibson; Dunn and Savin; Simpson, Barrass and Pembery; Stewart, Plant, Duggins, Lovell and Morrison.

Borough said goodbye to the FA Cup for yet another season, when they were humiliated by Brush Sports. Any resemblance Borough might have shown to a football team was purely accidental.

Borough have little or nothing to offer – not even spirit. They were completely devoid of football skill, were yards too slow, and when in possession were so long trying to make up their minds what to do that invariably they were dispossessed.

Brush moved the ball quickly and never hesitated to hit it hard upfield and chase it, tactics which badly rattled the Borough defence, which was just about as shaky and uncertain as any defence could have been.

Brush went into the lead in the 9th minute – three minutes after Pembery had hit the woodwork of the home goal with a fine shot. Barrass failed to clear and the ball went to right winger Rees, whose cross-shot went into the Borough net off the far post. They increased their lead in the 16th minute when Gibson palmed down a shot to Sketchley who shot into the Borough net.

Borough reduced the lead seven minutes before half-time when Pembery took a short corner kick from Morrison and swung the ball across goal for Duggins to head a fine goal. They drew level 26 minutes after half-time when a back-pass by Hodges put his goal in jeopardy. One shot was cleared, but the ball ran out to Plant, whose not too fast return shot ran into the empty net.

Then came a blunder from Simpson, which let Sketchley through to restore the lead for Brush, while 12 minutes from the end, with the Borough defence in a tangle, Simpson the Brush inside-left, headed the ball over a bunch of defenders and colleagues into the Borough net, while two minutes from the end Barrass converted a penalty kick.

This was undoubtedly Borough's worst display for two seasons and proved that the team just isn't good enough, and that worse is to come unless Angus Morrison really gets down to the job of remedying the many obvious weaknesses which exist both in defence and attack.

Malcolm Barrass was probably Borough's best defender, yet even he was often in trouble trying to quell the enthusiasm of the tearaway Sketchley, whose dashes for goal often sent the Borough defence into panic stations.



Nuneaton Borough 1959-60

Back Row: Jack Dunn, Alex Simpson, Mike Gibson, Atthur Corbett, Gordon Pemberry, Malcolm Barrass.

Front Row: Jackie Stewart, Johnny Lovell, Ken Plant, Tommy Brown, Angus Morrison (player-manager).

Southern League Premier: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1959-60

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
08.22	Bedford Town	A	L	1-3	Plant	
08.24	Cambridge City	H	L	1-1	Yates	5,635
08.29	Bath City	H	L	0-1		4,407
08.31	Hinckley Athletic	H	SLC 1st Leg	5-1	Duggins (3), Barrass, Plant	4,954
09.05	Boston United	A	L	1-1	Stewart	3,800
09.07	Moor Green	H	BSC1	7-0	Morrison, Duggins (3), Plant (3)	2,500
09.10	Hinckley Athletic	A	SLC 2nd Leg	2-3	Duggins, Plant	2,355
09.12	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	L	4-2	Plant, Yates (2), Duggins	3,978
09.16	Cambridge City	A	L	0-0		4,701
09.19	Burton Albion	A	FAC 1Q	4-1	Plant (2), Morrison, Stewart	5,181
09.23	Weymouth	A	L	0-4		2,696

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Southern League Premier: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1959-60

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
09.26	Poole Town	H	L	1-2	Morrison	3,927
09.28	Wellington Town	A	L	0-2		1,500
10.03	Brush Sports	A	FAC 2Q	3-4	Duggins, Plant, Barrass	2,500
10.10	Lockheed	H	BSC 2	3-1	Duggins, Plant (2)	2,434
10.17	Kettering Town	A	L	0-1		2,800
10.24	Hereford United	H	L	1-0	Brown	3,276
10.31	Tonbridge	A	L	3-2	Barrass, Plant (2)	2,085
11.07	Stratford Town	H	BSC 3	2-2	Stewart, Plant	2,300
11.12	Burton Albion	H	SLC 2	2-2	Stewart, Plant	1,000
11.14	Stratford Town	A	BSC 3 Replay	2-0	Parry, Brown	
11.21	Dartford	H	L	0-0		2,860
11.28	Barry Town	A	L	2-3	Plant, Stewart	900
12.02	Burton Albion	A	SLC 2 Replay	0-1		389
12.05	Worcester City	H	L	3-1	Brown (2), Plant	2,142
12.12	Cheltenham Town	A	L	2-4	Yates, Barrass	1,648
12.19	Bedford Town	H	L	2-4	Stewart, Brown	1,629
12.26	Yeovil Town	H	L	2-3	Brown, Barrass	2,439
12.28	Yeovil Town	A	L	3-0	Lovell, Plant, Brown	3,000
01.02	Bath City	A	L	1-2	Plant	4,800
01.09	Hastings United	H	L	2-0	Brown, Lovell	3,000
01.16	Bilston	H	BSC S-F	7-1	Plant (6), Stewart	1,302
01.23	Gravesend & Northfleet	A	L	0-3		1,588
01.30	Hastings United	A	L	1-2	Yates	1,830
02.06	Wellington Town	H	L	2-1	Stewart, Brown	2,036
02.13	Poole Town	A	L	2-2	Morrison, Plant	656
02.20	King's Lynn	H	L	4-2	Yates, Barrass, Morrison (2)	2,350
02.27	Chelmsford City	A	L	1-3	Plant	2,890
03.05	Kettering Town	H	L	3-0	Plant (2), Barrass	2,450
03.12	Hereford United	A	L	1-1	Yates	1,700
03.19	Weymouth	H	L	2-5	Plant, Lovell	2,500
03.26	Wisbech Town	A	L	1-1	Barrass	1,598
04.02	Banbury Spencer	At Leamington	BSC Final	1-0	Morrison	1,516
04.07	Wisbech Town	H	L	1-3	Plant	1,861
04.09	Dartford	A	L	0-4		1,110
04.11	Headington United	H	L	4-0	Manning (3), Yates	2,200
04.16	Barry Town	H	L	3-1	Manning (3)	2,936
04.18	Tonbridge	H	L	0-1		3,200
04.19	Boston United	H	L	2-2	Plant, Barrass	2,649
04.23	Worcester City	A	L	0-2		1,880
04.25	Chelmsford City	H	L	1-2	Stewart	2,203
04.27	Headington United	A	L	1-1	Plant	3,000
04.30	Cheltenham Town	H	L	2-2	Plant, Stewart	2,190
03.05	King's Lynn	A	L	4-4	Duggins (2), Stewart, Corbett	3,000
05.05	Shrewsbury Town	H	F	1-2	Duggins	

KEY: L = Southern League Premier Division, FAC = F.A.Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, SLC = Southern League Cup,

Borough FC Supporters' Club Building

Nuneaton Planning and Development Committee has considered plans for club premises proposed to be erected on the Manor Park football ground for the use of the Supporters' Club.

It was resolved that the plan be approved and that the Town Clerk be instructed to seek planning permission from the County Council.

Nuneaton Estates Committee has resolved that the quotation of Messrs. Wigfield and Fluck for the provision of the building at the price of £350 be accepted plus the cost of incidental works, bringing the cost to approximately £600, and that the Common Seal be affixed to any necessary documents in connection with the renting of such building to the Supporters' Club.



Pictured are the teams which took part in the Borough trial on Saturday. Above left to right (back row) are: Hunter, Aston, Taylor, Barrass, Simpson, Corbett. Front row: Stewart, Micklewright, Plant, Stockin, Lister. Below (left to right) back row: G. Taylor, Burton, Haywood, Coleman, Simmons, Bateman, Wright, Vickers. Front row: Rex, Simms, Kightly, Manning, Shorthose, Beeson, Buckley.

Borough's Full List Of Signings

Borough FC have signed Eric Lister, an outside left. Lister has been on Boston United books for the past three seasons and was formerly with Notts County. He is 26 years of age and is regarded as one of the best left wingers in the Southern League. The full list of signings for the coming season are:

Goalkeepers: R. Twigg, D. Bateman and J. Taylor.

Full backs: J. Burton, J. Dunn, A. Hunter, G. Coleman and A. Haywood.

Half backs: S. Aston, M. Barrass, A. Corbett, A. Simpson, D. Buckley, R. Birch, K. Shores, G. Simmons, R. Wright, T. Whitcroft.

Forwards: J. Stewart, K. Plant, H. Rex, R. Manning, B. Shorthose, W. Kightly, R. Stockin, A. Micklewright, B. Beeson, E. Lister.

Nuneaton Borough "A": W. Kent, T. Liggins, B. Smith, J. Cairns, L. Ashfield, R. Betteridge, T. Evans, H. Street, J. Hurley, M. Salt, P. Arnold, D. Randle, B. Willis, R. Corfield, L. Pinner, R. Burway, R. Cadman.

The prices of admission to the home fixtures is to remain the same as last season: Southern League fixtures: Ground, adults 2s., OAP and boys 1s., stand 1s. 3d. extra. Season tickets to ground and stand inclusive all home league fixtures £4 10s. It is hoped to arrange some of the "A" team's home fixtures at Manor Park and the admission charges will be: Ground 6d., stand 6d. extra.

Local Lad To Sign For Aston Villa

Fifteen-year-old Neil Shorthose, of 60 Ridge Lane, Nuneaton, brother of Nuneaton Borough player Barry Shorthose, is to sign for Aston Villa and is to be taken onto the ground staff.

Neil has played for Nuneaton and District Boys side and in a number of games for Chapel End Social Club FC.

Borough's Close Season Signings Impress Lister Outstanding In Trial Match

Although early impressions are often misleading it would appear from Nuneaton Borough's trial match last Saturday that player-manager Angus Morrison has chosen wisely and well in his close-season signings. With the emphasis on quality rather than quantity, supporters left Manor Park feeling sufficiently satisfied.

Many felt that one of the club's long-standing problems – a really class left-wing pair – had been solved by the signing of Ron Stockin (formerly of Wolves, Cardiff and Grimsby) and Eric Lister from Boston, who right from the outset combined with efficiency and understanding.

Lister, a menace to Borough in their Southern League encounters with Boston, seems sure of gaining more honours with his new club. Though diminutive in stature, he demonstrated in no uncertain fashion his prowess as a winger and proved himself the outstanding player on view with

unlimited trickery, accurate crosses, fine bursts of speed and a happy knack of turning up in the right place at the right time.

Stockin, though in the limelight to a lesser degree, impressed as a marksman with a second-half hat-trick in quick time. With Ken Plant, Jackie Stewart and newcomer Andy Micklewright (Exeter City) all functioning to good effect in the same attack – that of the Blue and Whites – the opposition Red and White defence suffered a severe grilling, and but for some sterling defensive work by two local lads, David Bateman and Geoff Simmons, the final score of Blue and White 4, Red and Whites 1, would have been much greater.

Brilliant saves by Bateman when all seemed lost earned spontaneous applause from the crowd. He outshone last season's keeper Twigg and new boy Taylor from Notts Forest. In Simmons, who comes from Hartshill, Borough have found a real prospect for the centre-half position. Cool under pressure, he turned in a fine performance, helping to curb the activities of what is almost certain to be the senior side's attack. Not that he is yet ready to take Malcolm Barrass' place. The burly ex-Bolton pivot, looking much fitter after shedding surplus pounds, dominated the middle on the other side.

While Borough's forward line looked like picking itself, Morrison may have some difficulty in finding the right blend in defence. At left back – another of last season's trouble spots – the tall, lean Geoff Coleman, formerly of Northampton Town and Lockheed Leamington acquitted himself well, but so did the persistent, tireless Arthur Corbett and Hunter, who occupied the position last season.

In William Vickers (formerly Mansfield Town), a sturdy left half, who was obviously not afraid to have a pot at goal, the answer to a wing half problem may have been found.

Another new wing half, Wright (formerly of Chelsea and Loughborough Brush) also caught the eye, as did Barry Shorthose (ex-Atherstone) and Bill Kightley (ex-Birmingham City and Kettering), who must surely be challenging for inside positions.



Angus Morrison and Ben Wannacott (extreme right) discussing training tactics with some of the Borough footballers who attended Manor Park for training on Tuesday. Photos: Nuneaton Observer

1960-61

Nuneaton Borough v Poole Town

20-08-1960

Borough: Taylor; Dunn and Hunter; Aston, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Micklewright, Plant, Stockin and Lister.

Borough welcomed Poole Town to Manor Park for a Southern League first division fixture.

After establishing a three goal lead in 60 minutes and looking all set for a comfortable victory, Borough, in their opening match of the season against Poole Town, fell to pieces and only a desperate defensive action in the final stages gained them both points.

A 20-yard drive which beat goalkeeper Brown all ends up from wing-half Stan Aston set Borough off on a happy note within two minutes of the new season opening, but for long periods after that, the visitors looked the more polished and dangerous force. That is until they reached close quarters – then they squandered chance after chance.

As if to prove goals were not so difficult to come by, Borough, backed by an element of luck, increased their lead. A Simpson shot directed goalwards, went straight to Stockin, who had merely to side foot the ball past Brown. When Plant headed a neat goal after 60 minutes, following clever work by Micklewright, who, from an almost impossible angle pulled the ball back from the left-wing by-line high on to the centre-forward's head, it looked all over bar the shouting.

But Borough, flushed in victory, overlooked the fact that right up to that time, Poole's play generally had been every bit as good, if not better. Once the visitors found their shooting boots – Steele in 75 minutes and Earl (penalty) in 83 minutes, reduced the deficit – the whole complexion of the game changed. Instead of a confident Borough, it was a side grimly hanging on as hang on they did by the slenderest of threads.

Borough's attack, of which so much was expected, operated in fits and starts. In spasms, it looked good; on other occasions, it was very moderate indeed. Particularly disappointing was Eric Lister, who failed to repeat the outstanding form he showed in the trials, although in mitigation it must be recorded that he received an inadequate service from Stockin.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough

24-08-1960

Burton: Spittal; Tye and Page; Kennedy, Davis and Finney; Grainger, Dordon, Moran, Burton and Chadburn.

Borough: Taylor; Dunn and Hunter; Aston, Barrass and Simpson; Stewart, Micklewright, Plant, Stockin and Lister.

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Though Borough lost to a harsh penalty, Albion just about deserved their win because of their greater industry. Burton went ahead when Moran swung round sharply and put in a



beautiful shot in the 30th minute. Borough drew level before half-time when Stockin turned in a Stewart centre. Although a defender kicked the ball away, there was no doubt that it crossed the line and the referee awarded a goal.

The winning goal came about when Hunter came out of a tackle with the ball and was moving away from an opponent with the ball at his feet, when he was palpably fouled from behind. Down he went with a thud and as he fell, his body and hands came into contact with the ball. It was a pure accident. Everybody, even the home supporters agreed on that. But the referee awarded Burton a penalty, from which centre-half Davies gave his side the points with a fast, rising shot.

Seeing that Borough failed with a penalty kick two minutes before, the visitors could hardly complain about their ill-luck. A Borough attack had the Burton defence in a hopeless tangle and though Stockin had a very easy scoring chance, he preferred to pass to Ken Plant, but before the centre-forward could get in a shot he was brought down from behind. The referee awarded a spot kick which Malcolm Barrass shot tamely straight at goalkeeper Spittal.

Generally speaking Albion were the better side, if not the better footballers, since they got on with the job of trying to score goals without fuss or frills, and took the shortest route to goal. Borough were more deliberate in their moves and consequently seemed slower than their opponents.

Barrass was Borough's best defender apart from Taylor, who made many fine saves. The forwards worked nicely at times, not nearly as nicely on other occasions. Micklewright was the best of the line. Stockin was slow.

Hinckley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 27-08-1960

Hinckley: Lines; Cheshire and Shepherd; Harrison, Aldis and Edwards; Bullock, Rhodes, Powell, Abbott and Brandon.

Borough: Taylor; Dunn and Hunter; Corbett, Barrass and Vickers; Micklewright, Shorthose, Plant, Stockin and Lister.

Borough made the short journey to Middlefield Lane to play Hinckley Athletic in a Southern League Division 1 game.

In the dying seconds of a dire second half, Jack Dunn made a midfield sortie and the ball was pushed through to Stockin, who had moved out on the right wing. He ran forward a few yards and then crossed the ball perfectly to Micklewright, who dashing in at speed headed a perfect goal to level the scores.

Quite a few Borough supporters did not see this face-saving goal. Many had left the ground disgusted with the visitors' display; others had gone to catch their buses. It was a pit they missed this one crumb of comfort – a very good goal from one of the precious few combined moves Borough made the whole game through.

Hinckley's goal came in the 66th minute of the game, when Aldis put Abbott through to score easily. After that it was virtually all Hinckley and it was very fortunate indeed that the home forwards should have missed so many chances of

settling the issue with further goals. The visitors' last minute success came like a bolt from the blue and left everybody, Borough and Hinckley supporters alike, almost stupefied, for a goal seemed highly unlikely.

The experiment of playing Micklewright on the right wing in place of Jackie Stewart was a dismal failure. He just didn't shape like a winger and was wasted there. Another experiment which misfired was that of playing Barrie Shorthose at inside right. It was most unfortunate that he should have come into the Southern League side when the whole front line was so badly out of gear. Ken Plant was totally shut out of the game by Peter Aldis, the Athletic pivot.

The game was ruined by an epidemic of offside decisions and spectators became a little sick and tired of hearing the whistle. By and large it was one of the worst games for a long time and Borough's showing in the second half was absolutely wretched. More shows like this and gates will fall with a wallop

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 01-09-1960

Borough: Bateman; Dunn and Hunter; Simpson, Barrass and Stockin; Stewart, Shorthose, Plant, Micklewright and Lister.

Burton: Richards; Tye and Page; Clarke, Kennedy and Finney; Granger, Jordan, Moran, Burton and Marsh.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup first round first leg tie.

After some fairly even play, Burton gained the lead in the fifth minute when Micklewright, back in defence, made a faulty pass and centre-forward Moran put inside-left Burton through to score easily past the advancing Bateman.

Borough retaliated strongly and a header by Plant, following a corner-kick on the right, brought Richards into action. A minute later and Plant was only just beaten to a Stewart cross by the goalkeeper. However, it was not all the Borough.

Marsh was left with a golden opportunity, but blazed the ball across an open Borough goalmouth. Despite one or two promising runs along the wing by Stewart, the Borough attack had not yet slipped into gear. Passes were going astray, with Micklewright the chief offender.

Just before half-time the Borough appeared to be getting the upper hand. Plant burst through to hit a post and Shorthose blazed over the bar following a free-kick. A few minutes later Shorthose, after beating two men, forced Richards into a flying save with a 25 yard drive. At this stage the visitors' defence seemed inclined to panic and they suffered several anxious moments before the ball was finally cleared.

Three minutes after the interval, left winger Lister put the Borough back on equal terms when he blasted home a low cross from Jackie Stewart. It was all Borough now, as wide cracks began to appear in the Burton defence, which was under constant pressure.

It was no surprise, therefore, when Shorthose headed the

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Borough into the lead following a free-kick. Seconds later Micklewright had a glorious chance, but he failed to bring the ball under control and his first-time shot flashed across the goalmouth.

Having gained the lead, Borough began to show signs of easing up, and they were indeed lucky when first Jordan fired over the bar from less than six yards, and Granger was only just stopped by a desperate tackle by Dunn. In the 75th minute the Borough consolidated their lead when a Lister centre floated home despite the efforts of the goalkeeper, who was unsighted by the close attention of Ken Plant.

Borough were again in command of the game, and a fierce drive by Micklewright knocked goalkeeper Richards off his feet. As the light began to fail, Shorthose scored Borough's fourth goal in the 82nd minute when he walked a right wing cross past the goalkeeper.

As the game drew to a close, Micklewright and Shorthose both engineered some fine moves which only just failed to bring more goals. The Burton defence was extremely ragged and the home forwards appeared to be cutting through at will.

Nuneaton Borough v Bexleyheath & Welling 03-09-1960

Borough: Bateman; Dunn and Hunter; Corbett, Barrass and Stockin; Stewart, Micklewright, Plant, Shorthose and Lister.

Borough welcomed Bexleyheath and Welling to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

It is no exaggeration to say that Borough failed to take advantage of at least half-a-dozen of the easiest chances, including a penalty which Jack Dunn feebly put almost straight at the goalkeeper, who saved without trouble. That happened in the 20th minute, after Shorthose has been brought down. Up to half-time Borough's form was a long way short of convincing. They did a great deal better after the change of ends and went ahead in the 58th minute when Micklewright, sent through by Plant, ran in to beat Howe with a cleverly placed shot as the goalkeeper came out to meet him.

A few minutes later Plant ran through in brilliant style only to shoot straight at Howe, when a flick to either side of the advancing goalkeeper would have given Borough a 2-0 lead. That was the forerunner of many more bad misses. Chance after chance was neglected – chances which, had they been accepted, would have put the Borough score well beyond Bexleyheath's reach.

Between all these Borough failures, including two by Jackie Stewart, who led many second half raids, and a dying seconds miss by Ken Plant, Bexleyheath stepped in with two goals to steal the points.

When Kelly got the first he lofted the ball into an empty net after Bateman had run right out when Barrass and Hunter could have dealt with the situation. Then a free-kick 40 yards out, taken by right back Fisher sailed into the net.

This was anything but a Borough display which augurs

well for the future. The big weakness was at left-half, where Stockin operated with even less success than at inside-left. Nearly all Bexleyheath's danger came from their right wing due to poor marking and general slowness by the wing-half.

Nekrews was outstanding at centre-half for Bexleyheath and seldom allowed Plant much chance. While it has to be conceded that Borough carried out some smart raids in the second half, and were maybe unlucky to lose, they fared miserably in front of goal.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough

07-09-1960

Burton: Follows; Tye and Page; Metcalfe, Kennedy and Finney; Harris, Clarke, Moran, Burton and Marsh.

Borough: Bateman; Dunn and Hunter; Aston, Barrass and Morris; Stewart, Shorthose, Plant, Micklewright and Lister.

Borough made the journey to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Cup first round second leg tie.

Only the most fantastic luck saved Borough's 4-1 lead from the first leg from vanishing completely in the second leg on Wednesday night.

Playing fast, open football the Albion ran Borough into the ground, and the visitors' goal had a whole series of amazing escapes. The Albion set up a scorching pace right from the word go, and it was truly remarkable that they should have kept it up right to the end of the match.

Albion did not let up for a moment and cut through the Borough defence like a knife through butter. After missing many chances in the first half, the Albion went ahead eleven minutes after half-time through left-winger Marsh, and in the 79th minute Moran made it 2-0, to make the aggregate score 4-3.

Could Borough hold out in those last few minutes? They did – but only by the skin of their teeth. Indeed, with only a minute to go, following an indirect free kick, Plant shot into the net, thus making the final aggregate score 5-3 in Borough's favour.

Although it was Albion's pace that tore Borough's uncertain defence into shreds, it was that same speed which probably caused them to misfire so often in front of the goal, because they did not give themselves time to get the ball under control before shooting.

Only three Borough players came out of this game with colours flying – and one was newcomer Morris from Bristol City, who came in at left-half. A strong and lively player, he went nearer to scoring than any other forward, Plant excepted. Half way through the first half, he shot well wide of the post with goalkeeper Follows scrambling helplessly across goal. Then, in the early minutes of the second half, he hit the woodwork of the Albion goal. His was a most promising debut. Shorthose was the only other forward who seemed capable of a decent shot.

Albion were masters for 80 per cent of the game, and had they enjoyed the least bit of luck near goal, Borough's first leg lead would have been just chicken feed.



Borough FC Supporters Ask For Assurance

The question every supporter of Nuneaton Borough FC is asking this week is: What did the club directors do after last Saturday's humiliating defeat by Tamworth, the Birmingham League club, in the FA Cup?

If nothing has been done, then what is going to be done, they are asking. And rightly so. For surely such a shocking display as that cannot be allowed to pass without something being said or done about it.

Supporters have had to accept many disappointments since that very creditable first season in the Southern League, but last Saturday's "exhibition" surely was the limit – the straw that broke the camel's back.

Even the most loyal supporters are now threatening to stay away from the matches, while many others are talking of withdrawing their support of the tote.

We trust that will not happen and that they will go on supporting the club in every way they possibly can. In the meantime, however, they should be assured that all steps are being taken to bring about a long-awaited – and very necessary – improvement.

Borough Supporter And Failure Of Team

To The Editor

Sir, –

I have been a Borough supporter for 12 years. My father played for them; my son is a member of the Supporters' Club, and since it started I have had 2s each week on the "tote." In short we donate 7s. per week to the Borough and I have only missed one match at home since 1948.

I have been away all over the country with them, and I often bring Hinckley Athletic supporters down when they are away and borough are home. I therefore consider I am a good supporter, but I am only one of some thousands.

What have Borough done for their supporters? They have appointed a player-manager who everyone knew was almost finished as a player prior to coming here. He promptly signs some men who played in football no better than the Southern League, and the result was that the locals, Dunn, Stewart, Corbett and Manning turned out to be more use than the so-called stars.

Last season we had seven new signings and finished the season with them mainly in the reserves, and the reserves had the poorest side since the war.

This season Borough have signed Stockin, Micklewright, Lister, Vickers, Shorthose and Taylor. Of these Stockin has lost his place, so has Vickers. Micklewright should have done by now. The others are just about retaining their positions.

What is the manager doing about the failure of the team? On Saturday against Tamworth he brings back Simpson, who

everyone I have spoken to agrees should not even have been signed again. He drops Dunn and Aston.

We read that team spirit is good. How can it be when players know they are better than the men who displace them?

On Saturday we were humiliated by a team who were fitter, faster and played better football – a team of Borough throw-outs playing in a league which we thought was inferior.

I am afraid that many supporters will stay away after this disgusting show. I certainly shall and I am cancelling my "tote." If everyone else did the same we might get improvements. – R. Ingram, 4 Goosehills Road, Burbage, Leicestershire.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 12-09-1960

Borough: Taylor; Dunn and Hunter; Corbett, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Morrison, Manning, Shorthose and Lister.

Burton: Follows; Tye and Page; Metcalfe, Davis and Kennedy; Harris, Clarke, Moran, Burton and Marsh.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Whenever Borough find themselves in dire trouble they send for Roy Manning. This season they've had to call on him much earlier than usual, but as always he obliged, aided by the opposition, with a couple of lucky goals.

A quarter-of-an-hour after half-time he was sent through by Morris. He raced away, cut in from the right and shot. The ball would have gone wide of the far post, but struck Albion centre-half Davis and went into the net. Fifteen minutes from time the centre-forward dashed through the middle and when near the penalty area, he was charged off the ball by a defender. As the latter bounced away, Manning shoved the ball towards goal and goalkeeper Follows, who was running out of goal, found himself on the wrong foot and the ball found the net.

Maybe there was a bit of luck about both goals – but after last Saturday's exhibition Borough needed it. These two goals gave them two most welcome league points – points earned the hard way. Nobody could possibly say that the team Angus Morrison turned out on this occasion is likely to get the club out of its troubles, but at least it showed fighting spirit and determination, if not a very great deal of skill.

Morrison, who made his first appearance of the season at inside-right, nearly put the cat among the pigeons in the dying minutes of the first half when he was guilty of a quite unnecessary foul on a Burton forward inside the penalty area.

Davis, who scored the winning goal from the spot in the league game at Burton earlier in the season, failed this time. He shot hard but too near the agile Taylor, who earned the cheers of the crowd with a fine save. Taylor was the best player on view. Although not overworked, he had some ticklish situations with which to deal, yet made everything look easy, including the saving of one or two really good shots.

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Borough finished the game on top, despite injuries to Shorthose and in the dying minutes to Jack Dunn. Borough deserved to win if only for the fact that they kept pegging away when things were not going nearly so well as they would have wished. A gold medal to Taylor – the man of the match.

Nuneaton Borough v Tunbridge Wells Utd. 17-09-1960

Borough: Taylor; Coleman and Hunter; Corbett, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Shorthose and Lister.

Borough welcomed Tunbridge Wells United to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Less than three minutes from time at Manor Park on Saturday, Borough were struggling painfully to prevent luckless Tunbridge Wells, who had scored but one goal in five previous games, from collecting their first points of the season, and home fans were getting almost as restive and critical as in the Tamworth game.

Then Jackie Stewart hit the ball down the middle and Ken Plant went after it, but was heavily sandwiched and flattened, almost on the penalty spot. It was a penalty and Hunter picked up the ball and put it on the spot. Seconds later it was nestling safely in the back of the Tunbridge net. That gave the home side a lucky 3-2 lead – and in the second minute of injury time Plant ran on to another through pass, rounded the advancing Farnfield, the Tunbridge goalkeeper, and then directed the ball into the empty net, via a post.

The team did not do at all badly in the first half; in fact played better than in the three previous games. Well supported by the wing halves, Corbett and Morris, the forwards carried out some quite useful looking attacks, especially on the left, where Lister was much too fast for the Tunbridge right-back Watkins and the visitors' goal had some lucky escapes, especially when Stewart hit the post and Shorthose headed against the bar.

It was against the run of play when in the 43rd minute Stan Aston misdirected a header to Fitzgerald, who ran in to give Tunbridge a totally underserved lead. Almost dead on half-time, however, Borough forced a corner and in trying to get away a very awkward Lister inswinger, goalkeeper Farnfield put the ball into his own net to give Borough a lucky equaliser.

Although playing not nearly as well as before half-time, Borough went into the lead 15 minutes after the change of ends when, after a barrage of shots had been saved by the goalkeeper or stopped or blocked on the goal-line by defenders, Manning hooked the ball into the net.

Two minutes later Taylor palmed away a corner for Fitzgerald to score his side's second goal. After that, Borough looked much less likely to snatch a winner than Tunbridge, until Hunter and Plant scored those late goals to settle the issue in the home side's favour.

Borough supporters' spirits were at a low ebb, until the two late goals put them in a much better frame of mind.

Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 20-09-1960

Corby Town: Williams; Smith and Ervin; Rodgers, Parsons and Day; Manor, T. Garvie, McCorkindale, Patenall and Armour.

Borough: Taylor; Batchelor and Hunter; Corbett, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Beeson, Micklewright and Lister

Borough made the journey to Corby on Tuesday night for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Borough played well in this game and did everything apart from score and were the better side. On this occasion Beeson led the attack, but it can be said right away that he is not anywhere near the answer to the centre-forward problem.

It was not a happy day for left full-back Hunter. He had a very good game by and large, yet it was he who missed a vital penalty 15 minutes before half-time and he too who slipped up to give Corby their winning goal 20 minute after half-time.

Corby took the lead against the run of play after 15 minutes when a centre from Armour was deflected out of Taylor's reach by Corbett for Major to head into the net. In the 31st minute Plant was fouled in the penalty area, but Hunter's hard rising spot kick was punched away for a corner by goalkeeper Williams.

Borough deservedly drew level in the 60th minute when Micklewright cleverly hooked into the net a Stewart cross. Ten minutes later Hunter's failure to clear his lines when he had ample time to do so enabled T. Garvie to nip in to beat Taylor from close range.

It was in the 26th minute with the score 1-0 in Corby's favour, that Borough had that goal disallowed. Plant had beaten one defender, cut by another, and then shot into the net. The referee gave a goal and was then persuaded to consult a linesman, who ruled that Lister was in an offside position.

The reintroduction of Micklewright into the attack gave it a much better look, while newcomer Batchelor, the former Wolves and Swindon player, did reasonably well at right-back.

Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 24-09-1960

Rugby Town: Cashmore; Walters and Green; Archer, Breakwell and Knox; Hunter, Jones, Draper, Crawley and Burrows.

Borough: Taylor; Batchelor and Hunter; Corbett, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Shorthose, Micklewright and Lister.

Borough travelled to Rugby Town for a Southern League Division 1 match.

Not until they were two goals down – Rugby got their second goal 16 minutes after half-time – did Borough start to play like a combined force and show signs of challenging the home side's superiority. Rugby got their opening goal after 15 minutes when Arthur Corbett deflected a left wing cross out of Taylor's reach, to leave Draper with an easy scoring chance which he promptly accepted. Their second goal – the best of the match and a brilliant solo effort – came in the 61st minute as Crawley gained possession about ten yards



inside his own half, ran right through the middle, passed the three defenders, none of whom attempted a tackle, and then shot into the net. Two minutes later Borough found the goal scoring trail. A low ball was crossed from the left and during a scramble in front of goal Lister forced the ball into the net.

After that Borough showed definite signs of improvement while Rugby, hitherto always the better side, fell away and were definitely displaying signs of distress. Following a free kick just outside the Rugby penalty area, Plant shot against the bar and then with less than five minutes to go, Borough equalised. Hunter started the move which was carried on by Jackie Stewart, who put the ball in front of the goal for Micklewright to run in and ram it into the net with his head.

Borough deserve credit for hitting back and collecting a point when they seemed headed for inevitable defeat. Give them credit for saving the game when the dice seemed heavily loaded against them. Yet taking the game all through, Rugby supporters could be forgiven for thinking Borough were lucky to avoid defeat.

This was a valuable away point for Borough – one which seemed quite unlikely at one time. The visitors should be commended, as at Hinckley, for salvaging a point when defeat was staring them right in the face. The fact remains, however, that Angus Morrison still has team troubles to contend with.

Borough FC – No Crisis Or Position Desperate? Varying Statements Puzzle Supporters

Members who attended a meeting of Nuneaton Borough FC Supporters' Club on Monday night will be puzzled by varying statements made by directors and officials regarding the club's financial position.

Mr Fred Carris, a director, told supporters on Monday, "We want immediate help. It is almost desperate. It is this season we must look after now if we are to survive."

The club secretary (Mr Percy Osborne) told the meeting: "The club is in a precarious financial position."

On Wednesday evening a local newspaper published a statement made by the chairman of the club, Mr Reg Carris. In this statement Mr Reg Carris is quoted as saying: "I would like to make it quite clear that this is no crisis. The directors are concerned and we have to cut expenses, but it is not serious at the moment."

The chairman is also reported as having said that the club needed another £20 on their home gates to cover expenses.

If as one director said: "We want immediate help. The position is almost desperate," then there must indeed be a crisis. There must also be a crisis if, as Mr Osborne stated, the club is in "a precarious financial position."

If on the other hand there is no crisis, then the club's position can be neither "desperate" nor "precarious."

What is the position? Is there no crisis or does the club need immediate help? The position needs clarifying, for if the club is, in fact, in need of financial assistance, supporters should be told so – and we are sure they will want to help.

Ashford Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-09-1960

Ashford: Haydon; Clarke and Nixon; Hunt, Harris and Hughes; Tayne, Burdon, Stevens, White and Burden.

Borough: Taylor; Batchelor and Hunter; Corbett, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Shorthose, Morrison and Lister.

Borough made the journey to Ashford Town on Wednesday for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Borough had no answer to Ashford's unorthodox tactics of a deep lying centre forward and attacking inside forwards. The inability of full backs Batchelor and Hunter to hold Ashford's flying wingers, Tayne and Burden, was largely responsible for Nuneaton's defeat. In the early stages it seemed that Nuneaton would win easily and their superiority was rewarded in the 14th minute with a goal by inside-right Plant, who was Borough's best forward, following a well-placed pass by centre-forward Shorthose.

Surprisingly, Nuneaton faded after this goal and allowed Ashford's sprightly forwards to dominate the game. Ashford's three goals, scored by right winger Tayne, inside-left White and left winger Burden, came in a three-minute spell midway through the first half.

Borough keeper David Taylor, had no chance with any of them, and was kept busy throughout the second half when Ashford's goalkeeper, Haydon, had an easy time.

Haydon ran out of his goal to take the ball from the toes of right winger Jackie Stewart as he was about to shoot just after half-time. Taylor made a fine diving save from a shot by Burden which looked a goal all the way.

After Ashford's centre forward Stevens had sent a shot just over the bar, Tayne hit the side rigging. Nuneaton's centre forward Shorthose missed a good chance when he broke through in the middle, but shot wide with only Haydon to beat.

Nuneaton Borough v Gloucester City 01-10-1960

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Morrison, Micklewright and Lister.

Gloucester: Barton; Meek and Lacey; McBean, Bell and Weston; Adlum, Symington, Horlick, Greenaway and Bowman.

Borough welcomed Gloucester City to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Gloucester were the poorest side yet seen at Manor Park this season, but there was something about Borough's performance that was heartening. In many of their games this season they have not played as a team, but in this match they did.

The men behind Borough's improved performance were player-manager Angus Morrison, Micklewright and the

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wing-halves. Playing the role of a deep lying centre forward, Morrison had his periods of inactivity, but he helped to give Borough's wingers the best ball service they have received this season. The new scheme did not work smoothly to start off with and early on several balls came across from the wings and there was nobody in the middle to accept them. The same thing happened a few times in the second half. By and large, however, considering that this style of play was being adopted for the first time, it worked pretty well.

Borough took the lead after 25 minutes, when Micklewright collected a Stewart cross and netted with a fast low shot. He was injured in scoring the goal, and seemed troubled with it for the rest of the game. Borough's second goal was scored in the 42nd minute, following a Lister centre a scramble ensued in front of the Gloucester goal and Plant sent the ball through at the second attempt.

Borough's third goal came ten minutes after half-time when a Stewart corner was headed by Morrison to Plant, who netted his second goal. The fourth and final goal came about when Morrison seized on the ball about 20 yards inside the Gloucester half. Without hesitation he swept the ball out to Stewart. The winger closed in, put the ball inside full-back Lacey to Plant. The latter quickly squared the ball and, running in, Lister drove the ball low into the net. It was a really good goal following a really good move.

Even allowing for the fact that Gloucester were not a good side, far from it, there was something about Borough's play on this occasion which kept even their severest critics quiet for most of the game. More of this and gates should improve.

Sittingbourne v Nuneaton Borough 08-10-1960

Sittingbourne: Round; Greenwood and Lunsted; White, Price and Bockington; Clarke, Robinson, Eckersall, Cluston and Crowshaw.

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Morrison, Micklewright and Lister.

Borough made the journey to Sittingbourne for a Southern League Division 1 game.

With but three minutes to go, the score at 1-1, and Borough struggling desperately to stop the home side getting a winner, goalkeeper Taylor collected a Clarke shot and kicked the ball high and long down the middle of the field.

The only two players anywhere near the ball as it dropped about ten yards over the half-way line, were the home centre half, Price, and Ken Plant, all the other players, with the exception of goalkeeper Round, being in Borough's half of the field. Worried, no doubt, about the close attentions of Plant, Price got too far under the ball as it came down. He slipped and the ball bounced over his head. Plant ran round the centre-half and there was nobody between him and the home keeper, who came dashing out of his goal. Home left-back, Lunsted was fast closing in on Plant and for a few anxious moments it looked as if the Borough inside-right had delayed his shot for too long. But no, before Lunsted

could reach him, Plant coolly, quite deliberately, sent the ball rolling into an empty net, giving his side a dramatic 2-1 win.

Sittingbourne went into the lead in the 11th minute when, following a mix-up between Hunter, who did not have so good a game as usual, and Morris, Clarke crossed the ball so perfectly that centre-forward Eckersall merely had to nod the ball into the net. Two minutes later Borough drew level. Stewart played the ball inside to Wright and the latter transferred the ball to Plant, who pushed it ahead to Micklewright. The inside-left moved in and though nearly brought down, pushed the ball away from the goalkeeper. The latter dived to his left and at full stretch managed to touch the ball, but could not prevent it going into the net.

Taking the game all through, and having regard to the fact that the Borough goal had some narrow squeaks before Plant got their winner, the home side no doubt felt they were unlucky to lose. In a way they were, but nobody could deny Borough thoroughly deserved at least one point.

Nuneaton Borough v Cradley Heath 15-10-1960

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Morrison, Micklewright and Lister.

Cradley Heath: Morris; Horne and Hadley; Flanagan, Collins and Smith; Bowen, Whitehouse, Brookes, Hillyer and McGrath.

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

From start to finish this game was a one-horse race. Only for fleeting moments were Cradley ever in the picture, and for all that he had to do in the Borough goal, Taylor might just as well have stayed at home. Cradley were completely outplayed, and had Borough taken only half the easy chances they had, the score would still have reached double figures.

The man who saw more of the ball than anybody else in the game was Eric Lister, Borough's outside left. He was spoon fed both from inside and by the strong wing-half Morris. Lister was yards too fast for Horne, the Cradley right back. He got clear on too many occasions to count, but put his centres behind the goal.

Borough's half-back line dominated the proceedings and it looks as though Wright, Aston and Morris have come to stay. They have given the side not only a much younger look, but a stronger, much sounder look.

Although shooting in for the whole of the second half, Borough got all their goals in the first half. They opened their account after only three minutes' play when Plant was brought down well inside the penalty area. He took the spot kick himself, and scored. The second goal did not come until the 28th minute. Lister sent Micklewright away on the left. The former Exeter man swung the ball across to Jackie Stewart and moved into the middle for the right winger's return centre, and headed it smartly home.

The third and last goal came three minutes before half-time.



Lister again started the move with a pass to Micklewright, who crossed the ball perfectly to the far post for Stewart to nip in and drive the ball hard into the net just inside the post.

This game was much too one-sided to have much appeal. It was because Borough had matters so much their own way that the game developed into a shooting-in match in which even Wright and Arthur Corbett joined. It was fortunate indeed for Cradley that the Borough forwards were in such generous mood.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Athletic 22-10-1960

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Manning, Micklewright and Lister.

Hinckley: Lines; Cheshire and Shepherd; Bate, Aldis and Harrison; Train, Rhodes, Round, Edwards and Brandon.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Athletic to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

For the second time this season a late goal by Andy Micklewright saved Borough from defeat at the hands of their near neighbours. As at Hinckley, Borough's late equaliser came out of the blue.

Borough went into the lead in the 25th minute when Lines the Hinckley goalkeeper, was penalised for carrying. From the resultant free-kick Jackie Stewart touched the ball to Ken Plant, who banged the ball into the roof of the net with unerring accuracy. Hinckley drew level 12 minute later when Brandon drew the defence on to his side of the field and then centred. Rhodes got his head to the ball which Taylor failed to hold and allowed to escape into the net.

Fifteen minutes after half-time the ball was crossed from the right and with the Borough defence spreadeagled Edwards was able to head past Taylor to give the Athletic the lead.

Hinckley's second goal took the wind out of Borough's sails and for the next 25 minutes or so the Athletic looked far more likely to increase their lead than Borough appeared likely to level the scores, as most of Borough's attacks ended in the Hinckley offside trap. Then, with about five minute to go, the ball was switched into the middle from the left to Plant. The inside-right ran in and shot, not too well. However, goalkeeper Lines was able only to parry the shot and the ball ran out to Micklewright, who quite coolly and deliberately, tucked it safely into the back of the Hinckley net with the inside of his foot.

Just before time Lister had a great chance of giving Borough both points following a right wing move but failed to properly get hold of the ball, which he turned feebly into the goalkeeper's hands.

This wasn't a bad game. Indeed the first-half kept the crowd on tenterhooks. What tended to spoil things was Hinckley's liberal use of the offside trap. On the other hand the Borough forwards are to be blamed for walking into the trap, when they should have altered their tactics accordingly.

Tommy Whitcroft Leaves

The disbandment of Nuneaton Borough FC Reserves means that the club will be losing one of its long serving players, Tommy Whitcroft.

Speaking of the disbandment, Whitcroft, who has been in charge of the reserves, told our reporter: "It was a bolt out of the blue to me. I am leaving the club on good terms and there are no hard feelings on my part."

Asked about his future in football, he replied: "I am getting old (he is 35) but I might carry on footballing if the opportunity presents itself."

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 29-10-1960

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Morrison, Micklewright and Lister.

Kettering: Smethurst; Marston and Wyldes; Armour, Quigley and Smith; Walden, Shaw, McGill, Pearson and MacCabe.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Kettering came to Manor Park with an unbeaten league record, but after seeing them in action, people could be forgiven for wondering how they had come to possess that record, for it is indisputable that all the good football came from Borough.

Indeed about the only time they really looked like getting on top was during a short period early in the second half when some of the Borough players, rattled by a series of fouls against them, began to retaliate. For a short time the football deteriorated badly. Undignified fouls were frequent; players' names were taken – and Kettering's Pearson received marching orders in the 63rd minute.

Kettering's spoiling tactics probably kept the score down but never gave them the slightest chance of winning, because the football ability just wasn't there. At least not on this occasion.

Borough opened their account in the 58th minute. Lister was sent away on the left and his centre dropped awkwardly around Smethurst's ankles. He held the ball for a second, dropped it – and Micklewright was on the spot to take the loose ball over the line.

Borough's second and decisive goal came six minutes from the end. Ken Plant took up a pass in the inside-right position, moved in a few yards and then crossed the ball perfectly for Micklewright to rise into the air and head the ball home.

Borough richly deserved their success, while Kettering reaped the reward of not sticking more closely to the rules of the game. The result was a triumph for football skill.

Stan Aston was always on top of McGill, while Hunter ably dealt with the visitors' danger-man Walden. While Corbett kept MacCabe quiet. Taylor was not overworked in goal.



Season Ticket Holder and Borough FC

Sir – Nuneaton Borough FC, in its various comments regarding the withdrawal of its second team from the Central Alliance, has forgotten to offer an apology to season ticket holders.

Do the directors not realise that from now onwards, people like myself who hold season tickets, are only going to have half value for their money?

None of us, I suppose, are asking for a rebate, but I would have thought someone associated with the club would have at least expressed regret that we should have lost on the deal.

Are they to remain silent on this matter? – Ticket Holder

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 05-11-1960

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Morrison, Micklewright and Lister.

Cambridge: Smith; Gammie and Deacon; Howell, Kirk and Welsh; Woods, McRory, Hayes, Moore and Hoskins.

Borough welcomed Cambridge United to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Though faced by only ten men for almost half the game – Gammie, the Cambridge right-back, was sent off in the first minute of the second half – Borough took a real hiding, much to the disappointment of their supporters, who, following recent improved displays, had hoped they had turned the corner, if not on the financial side at least on the field of play.

It was an extraordinary game. Borough started off in great style and for 15 minutes looked as though they were headed for another victory. Plant was brought down in the penalty area only for the referee to turn down appeals for a penalty.

Immediately after those Borough penalty appeals had been turned down, Cambridge raced to the other end. The ball was switched into the middle. Centre-forward Hayes bore through, past a hesitant Stan Aston, and shot into the net. This unexpected goal came in the 21st minute and virtually shook the Borough defence – and before they knew where they were Cambridge were two up, a terrible mix-up allowing Woods to add an easy second goal.

Generally speaking Borough badly needed a pick-me-up as the half wore on, since all their early sparkle seemed to have been snuffed out by those two shock Cambridge goals. The encouragement they so badly needed came in the very last minute of the half when a seemingly slighter reason than when he turned down earlier appeals for a penalty, the referee awarded Borough a spot kick when Plant went down in the penalty area. He netted from the spot.

For the next 20 minutes Borough were on top territorially, and attack after attack was launched on the United goal. It seemed an equaliser was inevitable.

Borough paid the penalty for their goal shyness in the 77th minute, when McRory went away to wend his way past three Borough defenders to make the score 3-1. Except for one shot by Arthur Corbett and misses by Ken Plant and Jackie Stewart, Borough had now shot their bolt and the visitors rubbed it in by getting two more goals in the last five minutes through Hayes and Howell.

Cambridge had their biggest advantage in attack, where centre-forward Hayes, playing well up, was a constant menace to the Borough defence and was a real headache to Stan Aston. Roy Kirk, the former Coventry City and Leeds United pivot, having no centre-forward to mark was able to devote the whole of his energies in the critical stage following the sending off, to breaking up the none-too-cleverly designed but persistent Borough attempts to break through.

Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 09-11-1960

Borough travelled to Cheltenham Town to play a Southern League Cup second round match.

Badly missing the generalship of player-manager Angus Morrison and the power to finish of Ken Plant, Borough bowed out of the Southern League Cup without much resistance on Thursday night.

A remodelled Borough attack never really got to grips with Cheltenham's defence and ruined fluent midfield movement at the penultimate stage with one pass too many.

In fact, this Nuneaton forward line played right into Cheltenham's hands, for the whole defence preferred to retreat to the 18 yard line where it formed up in a solid wall of resistance.

This appeared to baffle an otherwise enterprising Borough front line which tried interchanging and bulldozing methods, all of which were to no avail.

Borough were as good as out of this competition when the game was only seven minutes old, for by then Cheltenham had established a two goal lead and both these goals were partly due to defensive lapses.

The first came after two minutes when left winger Burder weaved past two defenders before scoring from an oblique angle with a shot which should have been saved, but goalkeeper David Taylor and centre-half Stan Aston were involved in a private mix-up.

Five minutes later following a weak and badly directed goal kick, the defence which was kept at full stretch for long stages folded once again, as Stan Aston and Colin Morris allowed Coldray to increase the lead with an eighteen yard drive. There was never much real threat from Borough after this, though Cheltenham were rather lucky when Micklewright went close.

Jackie Stewart and Micklewright worked tremendously hard in an attempt to put Borough into the game with a chance, but it proved all in vain, for Grant put the issue beyond doubt with a third goal from Cheltenham in the 65th minute.



Supporters' Club Criticism Of Directors

Criticism of the directors in withdrawing the reserve team from the Central Alliance League and disbanding the side without informing the Supporters' Club was voiced by several members of Nuneaton Borough FC Supporters' Club at their meeting.

Remarking that he did not agree with the way the directors had gone about things, Mr Ron Fisher said the Supporters' Club were never approached about the resignation...

...The disbandment of the reserve team half-way through the season was wrong. What about those people with season tickets – had the directors thought about them?..

Nuneaton Borough v Brierley Hill Alliance 12-11-1960

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Shorthose, Micklewright and Lister.

Brierley Hill: Marson; Plant and Wood; Dunn, Russon and Tibbets; Sanson, Hackeson, Perrin, Watson and Beach.

Borough welcomed Brierley Hill Alliance to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

A notable feature of this tie was not so much the size of Borough's victory, as the excellence of most of their goals, which were brought about by skilful approach work and, especially in the last half-hour, deadly finishing.

With player-manager Angus Morrison absent, Shorthose was brought in as leader of the attack. He did little in the first-half to suggest that he is the answer to his side's centre forward problem. But after the change of ends he took advantage of first class passing play to bag three goals, two of which were glorious headers.

The scoring began after ten minutes when Stewart centred for Andy Micklewright to head in. Marson could only push the ball away, and following up, the inside left shot into the net. Three minutes later Micklewright shot hard and low into the net from Stewart's corner kick. The shot may have got a slight deflection, but was a winner all the way. After 21 minutes Plant was going through when down he went in the penalty area. A penalty was awarded and Plant himself converted his third successive spot kick. Two minutes later Perrin sent winger Sanson away and he centred accurately for Hackeson to head a clever goal.

Seven minutes after the break, Brierley Hill's right back, Plant, took the ball upfield and then put Sanson away. The winger crossed the ball for Watson to turn the ball into the net, making the score 3-2. After 60 minutes Morris fed Lister and the latter crossed a low ball so perfectly that Ken Plant had no trouble in ramming it home. Five minutes later Shorthose failed to connect with another Lister centre and the ball ran on to Stewart who shot low into the far corner of the net.

On 68 minutes Stewart gave Wood the dummy and sent Micklewright through. The inside-left moved in and his perfect cross was fastened onto by Shorthose, who beat Marson easily from only a yard out. Five minutes later Stewart again sent Micklewright away. Again the ex-Exeter forward crossed the ball perfectly for Shorthose to head a glorious goal. During a scuffle on the edge of the area, Micklewright brought the ball down cleverly and volleyed it past Marson to make the score 8-2 after 78 minutes. Five minutes from the end Lister put a long ball out to Stewart, who centred for Shorthose to round off the scoring with another header.

Canterbury City v Nuneaton Borough 19-11-1960

Canterbury: Lloyd; Carragher and Morley; Wildman, Burtenshaw and Evans; Ray, Edwards, Pearson, Green and Williamson.

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Shorthose, Micklewright and Lister.

Borough made the journey to Canterbury City for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

The odd thing about this game was that although Borough were much superior in the first-half than in the second, they could cross over with only a single goal lead because their finishing was not on a par with the excellent quality of their approach work.

The goal they did get in the first half was in the nature of a gift, for in an effort to relieve pressure in the 22nd minute, Morley, the Canterbury left-back, tried to pass back to his goalkeeper. The pass fell short, however, and nipping in, Ken Plant rounded the stranded goalkeeper and slipped the ball into the net.

Canterbury's trouble in the first half was that they kept the ball too close in the ankle-deep mud – tactics which were sure to come unstuck. But after the change of ends, obviously as the result of a half-time chat, they began to swing the ball about, and immediately they looked a slightly better side. Indeed, only four minutes after half-time they drew level, when a cross by Williamson was put into the Borough net by right winger Ray. It was not long before Borough regained the lead when Micklewright crossed the ball for Shorthose to pivot quickly and slam the ball past a helpless Lloyd.

In the next few minutes Micklewright twice missed with easy chances. Once he contrived somehow to spoon the ball over the bar from a Stewart centre when he was so near that such a feat seemed impossible. Then he beat the whole field, came right in, only to steer the ball wide. In the 70th minute Borough went further ahead. Goalkeeper Lloyd lost a Shorthose centre and Plant was on hand to accept a dolly scoring chance.

Five minutes later Shorthose was brought down well inside the penalty area, but Plant failed from the spot, putting the kick yards wide. Borough would have been in an impregnable position with a 4-1 lead, but 12 minutes from the end Canterbury got a goal to make the score 3-2 and put them

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right back in the game, Pearson being the scorer. But a few minutes from time, Micklewright came along with a goal to clinch the issue. And what a goal! He secured possession midway in the Canterbury half and though hampered by two defenders, who were hot on his heels, the inside left bore down on the Canterbury goal and from about ten yards released a real thunderbolt left-footer which nearly tore through the net.

Margate v Nuneaton Borough 03-12-1960

Margate: Archer; Wells and Walton; Worthington, Conroy and Laing; Foan, Webb, Brown, Hills and Roberts.

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Shorthose, Micklewright and Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Hartsdown Park to play Margate in a Southern League Division 1 game.

Although facing a strong wind in the first-half, Borough gave a lively display and the interval score of 1-1 could well have been 3-1 in favour of the visitors. In the second half, however, when the conditions should have been in their favour, their attacks became more and more infrequent.

Wingers Stewart and Morrison, deputising for Lister, led the Margate defenders a rare dance in the first-half by virtue of their speed and accurate centres. In fact, it was Stewart who made the Borough goal in the 16th minute, when he sent over a long ball into the middle. Quick as a flash, Shorthose controlled it, held off the challenge of Conroy and Walton, and fired home a good goal, right into the corner of the net.

Borough looked the more dangerous side in the first-half and Micklewright twice broke through to test Archer with strong efforts. Margate's attack, which persisted in too much close passing, so often came to grief in the penalty area, where the cool Aston was always the master. Right-back Corbett virtually blotted out Roberts and the frail Foan, at outside right, could only seldom escape from the hard tackling Hunter.

Young inside left Hills was the outstanding Margate forward and he gave Wright a real headache. It was fitting that he should score the equaliser in the 40th minute. Taking a short pass from Laing just inside the Margate half, Hills jinked his way past three defenders in a long solo run and then nudged the ball past the advancing Taylor.

Many expected Borough, with the wind at their backs, to push on in the second half, but it wasn't to be. Although individually, the Borough forwards all appeared capable of scoring, much of their earlier rhythm had disappeared. Margate, on the other hand swung the ball about more and it was only in finishing that they lacked snap.

Shorthose had a good effort saved by Archer and shortly afterwards, following their third successive corner, a header from Plant looked a winner all the way, but Walton was on hand to clear off the line. This was virtually the end of Borough's efforts, however, and they were the more tired side

at the finish. But a draw was a reasonable result in a game spoilt by the poor conditions.

Nuneaton Borough v Sittingbourne 10-12-1960

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Shorthose, Micklewright and Lister.

Borough welcomed Sittingbourne to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

There's one thing that can be said in Borough's favour – and that is that when they are in the right mood there's no limit to their generosity. They give goals away left, right and centre, as in this game. This was the first senior game at Manor Park for a month and supporters turned up to give their favourites an extra cheer for having picked up three of four away points. So disgusted were they at Borough's shocking performance that half the crowd had left the ground 15 minutes before the end.

It was an astounding game, in that with the score 2-1 in Sittingbourne's favour, Borough had three distinct scoring chances, but missed the lot. The visitors replied with three goals in little more than ten minutes, all the result of deplorable defensive play.

Nearly all Sittingbourne's goals could be traced to mistakes by the opposition. For instance Lister erred twice before the visitors opened their account after 15 minutes. First of all he passed direct to an opponent and then used his hands to stop the ball reaching another. The free-kick was well placed by Dawson and Asher rose into the air to head it home.

A quarter of an hour later Borough somewhat unexpectedly drew level. Wright blasted the ball towards goal for Plant to divert it well out of the goalkeeper's reach with a flick of his head. Sittingbourne deservedly went ahead again five minutes before half-time. Plant was going through when, anticipating the whistle to blow for a foul, he suddenly stopped dead in his tracks. The ball ran to Greenwood who sent it down the wing to Clugston, who had moved out on to the right. The latter crossed the ball and Robinson was on the spot to steer it into the net.

The score remained 2-1 until 20 minutes after half-time when a whole series of defensive lapses allowed Sittingbourne to collect three goals within the space of about ten minutes through Asher and Eckersall (2).

Poole Town v Nuneaton Borough 17-12-1960

Poole Town: Feehan; McGhee and Earl; Anderson, Osmond and Ames; Munro, Brown, Moyse, Hutton and Littlejohn.

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Shorthose, Micklewright and Lister.

Borough made the journey to Poole Town for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Poole were made to look cumbersome by a fluent Borough side and only for a brief spell during the second half were Borough in danger of losing the grip they held for most of

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the 90 minutes. Ken Plant gave Borough the lead after eight minutes, following a corner on the right. In the scramble that followed the corner, Plant slammed the ball into the roof of the net. After 21 minutes Brown equalised, scoring from Munro's accurate centre, but in the next minute Shorthose restored the Borough's lead, with a good header from Lister's centre. Shorthose got his second goal in the 48th minute with a shot from a narrow angle that completely beat Feehan. Then the Nuneaton leader completed his hat-trick with a 15-yard left-foot shot on 60 minutes, following a centre from Lister and a pulled-back pass by Stewart.

Nuneaton were well in command, but Poole suddenly shook themselves into action and from a Littlejohn free-kick Brown hit the post, but scored from the rebound on 70 minutes. Two minutes later Munro headed Poole's third from Hutton's centre. It seemed as though Poole might still salvage a point, until in the 78th minute Plant drove the ball in and home defender Ames stopped the ball near the goal-line. Then – in attempting to pass back – pushed the ball into his own net. After 85 minutes Earl tried to head clear following Lister's great run and cross-shot, but he too turned the ball into his own net.

Borough were well worth their two points. Their attack was more mobile than that of the home side. Aston was a solid centre-half for Nuneaton while in attack Micklewright and Lister formed a lively left wing. And in the centre there was three-goal Shorthose, always ready to cash in on his colleagues' good work.

Nuneaton Borough v Trowbridge Town 24-12-1960

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Shorthose, Micklewright and Lister.

Trowbridge: Chilvers; McCormack and Edwards; Henderson, Doughty and White; Skull, Baker, Lambsden, Sampson and Gough.

Borough welcomed Trowbridge Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

There have been some shoddy performances at Manor Park during the last two seasons, but this game was just about the shoddiest of the lot. A goal ten minutes from time by Ken Plant from a Corbett centre – yes, a centre by the right back, who came upfield to show the Borough wingers how to cross the ball – enabled the home side to stave off their third successive home defeat.

Trowbridge were a poor enough side without being quite so poor as their hosts. Yet so shabby was Borough's display that the visitors could quite easily have had the game all sewn up in the first 20 minutes. In that period, they got their goal and saw the best shot of the match hit the back of the net only for another goal to be disallowed for some obscure reason. Then they missed at least three more golden opportunities of extending their lead.

Only two home players came out of this game with credit – Taylor in goal and Stan Aston at centre-half. Hunter was once

again weak at left back and late in the game changed places with left winger Eric Lister, who was bang off colour and did little right.

Both Wright and Morris were sadly remiss and failed, sadly in the art of creating openings, as also did Plant and Micklewright – Shorthose might have done better with more support. Trowbridge, for whom Skull scored cleverly after 15 minutes' play, were definitely the better side in the first half and often got through a shaky Borough defence. After the change of ends, however, they faded and the balance of play favoured Borough. The home side's territorial advantage came to naught because of poor finishing.

Trowbridge Town v Nuneaton Borough 27-12-1960

Trowbridge: Chilvers; McCormack and Edwards; Henderson, Doughty and White; Skull, Baker, Lambsden, Sampson and Gough.

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Haywood; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Shorthose, Micklewright and Lister.

Borough made the journey to Trowbridge Town for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

On a heavy, waterlogged pitch, Borough challenged Trowbridge's superiority only once – in the first 15 minutes of the second half. A goal down at half-time, the visitors restarted as though they were going to hit back. They staged quite a number of attractive looking midfield moves but apart from two occasions when Plant and Morris missed easy chances, the visitors' finishing, as all through the game, was poor in the extreme.

The plain truth is that both in defence and attack Borough were just not good enough – not good enough to worry even this very moderate Wiltshire side. The main trouble all the way through was that Borough made the fatal mistake of playing too closely in the deep mud and far too much across the field. Trowbridge were far and away the better side.

Sensing that Borough had shot their bolt, Trowbridge quickly took command again and settled the issue with two more goals to give them a winning 3-0 lead. The visitors' goal came so near the end as to be of no real value.

Trowbridge opened their account in the 7th minute. Wright, trying to pass back to Taylor, put the ball out for a corner. As the ball came across White hit it first-time. His shot crashed against the bar and rebounded to the feet of Baker, who shot into the net. There was no further scoring until 26 minutes after half-time when a corner kick on the right, taken by Skull went right across goal to inside left Sampson, who drove the ball hard and low into the far corner of the net.

About 10 minutes from time a lovely long ball inside the full back was chased by Skull, who beat Taylor to the ball, and slammed it into the roof of the net. Borough's goal came three minutes from time. The move was started by Wright, who fed Lister and the latter's cross was collected by Shorthose, whose shot entered the net near the post.



Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 31-12-1960

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Haywood; Wright, Morris and Shorthose; Simmons, Plant, Micklewright and Lister.

Corby Town: Williams; Irving and Smith; Rogers, Parkson and Rennie; Morris, Gardie, Cruickshank, Day and Tomlinson.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Had Borough had one good marksman they must have won by a comfortable margin. Corby showed nothing like the form expected of them and it was solely because of Borough's ineptitude in front of the goal that the visitors went away with a share of the spoils. They certainly did not earn the point by their own efforts; they were just handed a point.

Considering they had to field a much changed side owing to injuries and in order to accommodate a new forward, Borough perhaps did better than expected. They fought hard all the way through and did far more attacking than Corby.

Though he headed a fine goal to give Nuneaton the lead after 15 minutes, from a perfect centre by Micklewright, and had another fine flicked header well saved by Williams, Ken Plant, back at centre-forward, had far from a happy game. He missed a great chance in the first-half when Lister broke away and shot low. Williams could merely push the ball straight out to Plant, who, with the goal at his mercy, shot over the top of the empty net.

Corby, whose eleventh game without defeat this was, shaped so indifferently that it has to be wondered at how they had come to avoid defeat for so long. Their goal came in the 23rd minute. Following a free-kick on the left the ball reached Tomlinson, who put across a high centre. A Borough defender jumped in an effort to head away but failed to reach the ball, which ran on to an unmarked Johnnie Morris, the ex-Leicester City star, who scored from close range.

Simmons, a new right winger from Bexleyheath, was useful without being impressive. He did not have a very good first half but did much better after the change of ends. Generally speaking Borough performed reasonably well considering the team's make up. There still exists the need for a sharp shooting forward.

Borough FC Director Talks Of Possible End Of Present Set-up

Nuneaton Borough FC's financial position was so serious that the end of the season might mean the end of the club in its present set-up. Mr N. Peckett, a director, told members of the Supporters' Club at their meeting on Monday night.

Further questioned, he said by set-up he meant wage bills and Southern League football.

Mr Ron Fisher said the Supporters' Club had been made "a laughing stock" by the disbanding of the reserve team. When

they approached people they were told: "You can't even keep up your own commitments."

The club should have done their best to keep the reserve team going until the end of the season. Gates might have gone up as they were playing better at the time of disbanding.

Declaring the directors knew the situation last February, Mr F. Robey said they should have resigned from the Central Alliance League then and it would not have cost the club a penny.

Pointing out he joined the Board after the disbanding of the reserve team, Mr Peckett said if they had been running a reserve team now the club would not have survived this season.

Very Worrying

Mr Fisher said it was very worrying indeed to loyal and true Borough supporters. Couldn't they before the end of the season open it up as a limited company to the people of Nuneaton and see what response they got? "Let's do something now before it is too late," he said. "It's the only way out."

Doubting whether there would be a response, Mr Peckett pointed out the directors were losing money. If people were going to give, they expected to receive.

Mr Fisher: With the club in such financial difficulties anything is worth a try – anything to save the club going out of existence.

Mr M. Smith (assistant secretary of the Supporters' Club) said he was sure they would get some response from the public of Nuneaton.

Sinking Ship

Mr J. Brindley, another director, said he could not see people coming to a sinking ship, taking shares, and being prepared to lose their money. Most of the shares would have to be held by working class people. "How many of these football fanatics would be prepared to do it and see nothing back for it?" he asked.

They had to put the club back on an even keel and then was the time to come out with shares. He emphasised the disbanding of the reserve side was only a temporary measure.

Nuneaton Borough v Ramsgate Athletic 07-01-1961

Borough: Taylor; Haywood and Hunter; Corbett, Aston and Morris; Simmonds, Plant, Shorthose, Micklewright and Lister.

Ramsgate: Davies; Pounder and Crowbie; Jays, Marshall and Winfield; Jeans, Clifton, Callan, Naysmith and Crayford.

Borough welcomed Ramsgate Athletic to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Far too many goals are being conceded; indeed once opponents start scoring they seem able to go on scoring without a great deal of trouble. That just won't do. The defence badly needs rebuilding



After taking an early lead through Shorthose, who, though seemingly yards offside, was allowed to carry on and beat Davies with a cleverly placed lob, and then enjoying a slice of luck when the ball struck their bar, Borough had two fine chances of running into a comfortable lead.

Borough hung on to their narrow lead until a minute before the interval when Ramsgate equalised through Clifton. There was not the slightest suggestion in the first half play of a run away win for the visitors. Indeed, they were rather lucky to be level at half-time.

The turning point in the game came ten minutes after half-time with the score at 1-1. Borough had just forced three consecutive corners. From the third the ball was secured by right back Haywood. He might have been expected to bang the ball back in front of the Ramsgate goal, but instead tried to pass inside to Stan Aston, but the pass was intercepted and Ramsgate raced straight through the Borough defence and before anyone knew what was happening the ball was in the Borough net.

This goal had an alarmingly bad effect on the Borough defence, which went to pieces. Ten minutes later Ramsgate scored again, and two minutes after that the visitors extended their lead to 4-1.

Two minutes later Micklewright crossed the ball to Lister, who cut inside and with his right foot drove the ball past Davies to make the score 4-2. After 70 minutes Borough further reduced the lead when Plant fed Simmonds, who centred to Shorthose, and the latter wasted no time in banging the ball home. That fifth Ramsgate goal near time ended all notions Borough may have had of sharing the points. Ramsgate's second half goals were scored by Naysmith, Callan (2) and Jeans.

The defence must take the major share of blame for this latest rebuff. Once their armour had been pierced, Borough's whole defensive system collapsed. Mistake followed mistake – goal followed goal.

Future Of Borough

Directors Should Call A Town's Meeting

It has been suggested that before Nuneaton Borough FC directors make any decision regarding the future of the club – whether it be to continue in the Southern League, join some other league or, maybe disband – they should call a town's meeting.

At this meeting, it is suggested, the directors should be prepared to lay their cards on the table and say exactly how much money is required to put the club on an even keel financially.

To continue to decline information about the club's position can achieve nothing. It merely causes resentment, whereas if the directors take the public into their confidence, much may be gained and very little lost, since nobody wishes to see the club go out of existence.

Bexleyheath & Welling v Nuneaton Boro' 14-01-1961

Bexleyheath: Howe; Fisher and Taylor; Saunders, Nekrews and Morgan; Peters, Gill, Kelly, Johnson and Gunning.

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Haywood; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Shorthose, Plant, Micklewright and Simmonds.

Borough made the journey to Bexleyheath & Welling for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Bexleyheath's 20-year-old winger, David Peters, crashed in four superb goals, none of which goalkeeper Taylor had the slightest chance of stopping. And the unpalatable fact from Angus Morrison's point of view was that on his own left wing he had Johnny Simmonds, the man young Peters outstayed from the Bexleyheath first team.

While Simmonds had a fairly good game against right back George Fisher, the former Colchester player, he was part of a slow-moving pat-a-cake attack which seldom troubled Howe in the home goal. Peters on the other hand popped up in the 15th, 56th, 65th and 76th minutes to blast cannonballs into the Borough net and generally led the visiting defenders a merry dance. Left-back Haywood just did not know where the winger was going to appear.

Barry Shorthose sent in the only worthwhile effort by a Nuneaton forward. In the 40th minute his long range power-drive skimmed over the home bar. Apart from that the Nuneaton attacks seldom looked dangerous. On the other hand, whenever Bexleyheath switched over to attack, goals appeared inevitable.

The home side opened the scoring in the 9th minute, when Borough defenders got all tangled up with a cross from Gunning. It went through the defence to Peters who put the ball back in the middle and Terry Gill crashed his shot into the net. In the 15th minute Peters challenged Haywood for the ball and the back slammed his kick against Peters, who fastened on to the loose ball and bore down on Taylor before slamming in a hard low drive.

Peters went on to score a fantastic second half hat-trick. His second goal came when he hit a Gunning corner just inside an upright. The third was again from Gunning's centre.

On this form few teams, even in the Premier Division, could have stopped the strong young Bexleyheath side, who are on the crest of a wonderful run.

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 21-01-1961

Borough: Taylor; Haywood and Hunter; Corbett, Aston and Morris; Plant, Sinagoga, Shorthose, Micklewright and Lister.

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park for the semi-final of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Borough have been playing poorly for several weeks now. On this occasion they excelled themselves in this connection; they just didn't look like a football team. Certainly they didn't play like one – not even against such moderate opposition.



There is little doubt this is the weakest Borough defence for years and years. David Taylor seems to have so little faith in his two full backs that he is easily panicked into rushing out of goal when he has little chance of reaching the ball.

The game had been in progress only ten minutes when Taylor broke through on the left and centred. Haywood tackled him, gained possession and then tried to pass back to goalkeeper Taylor. The goalkeeper was out of his ground and the ball went into the empty net to give Tamworth the lead.

On three more occasions in the first half, had Tamworth forwards shot more accurately they could have run into a comfortable lead, for on each occasion Taylor was again yards out of his goal and virtually stranded. He also seemed to have been out of his ground when, ten minutes from the end, namesake Taylor settled the issue with a header from a right wing cross. The defence was badly at fault this time for back-peddalling when the ball was on the Tamworth right wing. The result – that the winger went unchallenged until crossing the ball.

Borough just can't hope to win with so poor a defence. Haywood is a definite weak link. Hunter is but a shadow of the fearless-tackling player of the early weeks of the season and has lost all his confidence. Stan Aston is much too easily enticed into going backwards. Morris was just moderate, and the best of a very, very shaky defence was the hard-working Arthur Corbett.

This was yet another Borough display calculated to accomplish one thing only – to drive even more diehards away from Manor Park. This team just isn't good enough and the football they serve up is wretched.

Borough FC Risk £500 Fine

...If They Leave The Southern League

If Nuneaton Borough FC, who this week announced the resignation of the manager, Angus Morrison, do not continue in the Southern League next season, they risk a maximum fine of £500.

All clubs in the Southern League have to state by December 31, whether they intend to withdraw – and the league has received no correspondence whatsoever from Borough in this connection. Other clubs have intimated they intend to withdraw.

The Borough club have already paid two fines – one for leaving the Birmingham League after having indicated their intention to remain in membership, and the other for withdrawing the reserve side from the Central Alliance this season.

Will They Risk Fine?

Will the Borough club risk paying a fine up to £500 by withdrawing from the Southern League at the end of the present season, or will the directors decide to carry on in that league? That remains to be seen, but it is hardly likely they

will wish to incur yet another fine. The club could, of course, disband.

Supporters are hoping that every effort will be made to keep the club in the Southern League. That means that the club must be put on a sound footing. There is much to be done to revive the fortunes of the club – and not until the directors take supporters into their confidence will much be achieved in that direction.

Judging from the conversations at Manor Park on Saturday, it would seem there is a large amount of support for a town's meeting to discuss the future of the club.

It has been suggested that the Supporters' Club should write to the directors recommending the calling of a town's meeting, at which measures aimed at improving the position of the club could be considered.

In their efforts to revive the fortunes of the club, the directors will need not only the help of their Supporters' Club, but the support of the townspeople generally.

But they will not secure that support by continuing to refuse information as they did at the last meeting with supporters.

Nuneaton Borough v Barry Town

28-01-1961

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Shorthose, Plant, Micklewright and Lister.

Barry Town: Eaton; Bright and Bowkett; Tennant, Loader and Daulman; Whitlock, Edwards, Sheffield, Shelinder and Latina.

Borough welcomed Barry Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

It was daylight robbery as far as Barry were concerned. Yet who could blame them for cashing in on Borough's failings and decamping with the points? Borough, though, were unlucky to have lost. After an even first half they kept Barry almost wholly on the defensive in the second session.

They launched attack after attack on the Barry goal, and only those 600 or so people who braved the wretched conditions to see the game can really appreciate how fortunate Barry were to have hung on to their slender lead. Time after time it seemed Borough must score; time after time they failed when the equaliser seemed imminent.

Although the defence was at fault when Shelinder got Barry's goal – slackness in getting the ball away was the prelude to the visitors' success – blame for this latest Borough failure lies fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the forwards. They had numerous chances, not only to wipe out Barry's lead, but to go into a winning lead. Their approach work was much better than for some little time thanks largely to the reintroduction of Jackie Stewart on the right wing.

Andy Micklewright missed two great chances of giving Borough their first home victory for weeks. On one occasion Arthur Corbett, having come upfield, floated a beauty in front of the Barry net. The ball landed right on Micklewright's head. With a



yawning net about six yards ahead, a goal seemed certain – but the ball flew over the bar. Next, he was put through the middle. He moved in as far as the penalty spot. Instead of shooting, as indeed he should, he swivelled round and pushed the ball out to Stewart, who was not in such a good position.

Borough should most certainly have got back on to the winning trail in this game. They had the chances to break the ice – to stop the slide towards the bottom of the league table, only to fail through rank bad finishing. A goal-grabbing centre forward is Borough's first requirement under the new regime. Then two defenders.

Harry Broadhurst To Join Borough?

Is there any link between the resignation of Mr Harry Broadhurst as hon. secretary-manager of Atherstone FC and “the personality connected with another club in Warwickshire” who it is stated, may be joining Nuneaton Borough FC?

There are many rumours in circulation with regard to Nuneaton Borough FC. Last Tuesday the local Press expected a statement from the club about certain moves. But no statement was forthcoming.

It was later intimated that a statement could be expected after next Monday's meeting of the Borough directors.

Will Mr Broadhurst, who is headmaster of St Joseph's School, Coton Road, be joining the Borough club in some capacity? This could happen in view of the fact that Mr Broadhurst's experience as a Football League referee, and as someone with considerable knowledge of junior professional football could prove invaluable in these trying times for the club...

Tunbridge Wells Utd. v Nuneaton Borough 04-02-1961

Tunbridge: Farnfield; Wicks and Pitcher; Kirkpatrick, Felton and Irvine; Back, Bean, Davies, Whitear, Fitzgerald.

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Wright, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Shorthose, Plant, Micklewright and Beeson.

Borough made the journey to Tunbridge Wells United for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

In a match not without incident and thrills, the Borough showed up much better than did their opponents, who failed to play direct football and often were prone to hang on to the ball much too long. The result was that the quick hard tackling of the Borough midline prevented them from turning some useful moves to good account.

Standing head and shoulders in the Nuneaton defence was centre-half Aston. Although Plant was the livewire of the forwards, the honours went to inside-right Shorthose, who got both of Borough's goals and was unfortunate to have another one disallowed. Had this not happened it may have changed the whole course of the game.

The game opened at a rare pace with the young and enthusiastic home forwards launching a series of attacks. A quick move on the left started by Fitzgerald and Bean saw the ball flash across the Borough goal. It was missed by the defenders and Dai Davies, the Tunbridge centre-forward seized upon it to ram it into the empty goal with Taylor out of position.

Five minutes gone and a goal down, that was the misfortune facing Nuneaton. Borough refused to be unsettled by the setback and gradually took charge of the game. Attack after attack was made without result until in the 38th minute Farnfield was judged guilty of carrying. The free kick was taken by Plant just inside the penalty area. The home players lined up but Plant chipped the ball to the waiting Shorthose, whose neat header sailed into the home goal.

There then ensued a dour struggle with the Borough having the edge and soon they forged ahead thanks to Shorthose, who converted a penalty when Plant was brought down in the area by Felton. Before the interval, Shorthose, who had seen a close range shot palmed away by Farnfield, had a goal disallowed and Borough crossed over with a 2-1 lead.

Tunbridge were a different side after the break and it was no surprise when right winger Alan Black crashed home a shot to put his team on level terms; and towards the end, although Nuneaton fought stubbornly, Dai Davies ran through to score the winning goal.

Borough To Continue In Southern League

Readers will not be the least surprised by the announcement this week that Nuneaton Borough FC are to continue in the Southern League next season. As was stated several weeks ago, the club had not signified its intentions of leaving the league, which meant that they could not resign, except at the risk of a £500 fine.

Nor will fans be surprised at the news that Mr Harry Broadhurst, former hon. secretary and manager of Atherstone Town FC has joined the Borough. Mr Broadhurst has been appointed chief scout. Mr Bill Boffin, who was formerly in charge of the Borough Reserves, has also joined the club as a scout.

Another appointment is that of Jack Brindley, as director-in-charge of the team. This means that team selection will be in the hands of the whole Board.

Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town

11-02-1961

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Simmons, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Micklewright, Plant, Shorthose and Beeson.

Rugby: Paul; Redford and Walters; Ardin, Breakwell and Knox; English, Crawley, Draper, Jones and Burrows.

Borough welcomed Rugby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 match.

The faithfuls keep turning up hoping for the tide to turn; hoping for a long overdue victory. But how can the tide be turned; how can that long overdue victory come about when



there are so many weaknesses in the side? In plain English, the team just isn't good enough for the Southern League.

Borough were really unlucky not to go into the lead when after 10 minutes, Beeson, taking a Micklewright pass, moved in to shoot against a post with goalkeeper Paul well beaten.

The defence had done reasonably well to keep Rugby out – especially having regard to the fact that the visitors' left winger, Burrows, was often allowed to continue when yards offside. The home goal had one or two escapes but generally speaking Borough deserved to be on level terms at the break.

Then, as so often happens, a tragic slip-up by the Borough defence made the visitors a presentation in the shape of really silly goal. Simmons, who had displaced Wright at right half, checked a Rugby move and would undoubtedly have cleared his lines. Bert Hunter, however rashly intervened and lost the ball to English. The latter let it run on to Crawley. His first effort at a shot on goal struck the on-rushing Taylor and rebounded to the former Bedworth player, who this time put the ball through Taylor's legs and into the empty net.

That goal beat Borough, who were never the same afterwards and in the first ten minutes or so of the second half might well have conceded two or three goals, failing with an open goal before English and Jones shot against a post.

Borough's best chance of saving the game fell to Barrie Shorthose. Arthur Corbett put the ball bang in front of the Rugby net. Anything approaching a properly timed header must have produced a goal, but Shorthose mistimed the ball and it glanced off the side of his head and ran away from goal.

Jackie Milburn At Manor Park

The Yiewsley team tomorrow will include ex-Newcastle United centre-forward Jackie Milburn. Milburn is the holder of fifteen international caps and three FA Cup Final medals.

Nuneaton Borough v Yiewsley 18-02-1961

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Morris; Simmons, Aston and Hunter; Stewart, Shorthose, Plant, Micklewright and Beeson.

Yiewsley: Hunter; Lowden and Reid; Watson, Moore and Sibley; Tomkys, Dare, Milburn, Cadwallader and McLaren.

Borough welcomed Yiewsley to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Borough were so superior in the first-half, so much on top, that by half-time they ought to have been in an almost unassailable position. They could easily have been two or three goals ahead. Some excellent scoring chances were frittered away, either through bad or hesitant shooting. But Borough's luck was dead out when a great Andy Micklewright shot hit the underside of the bar and came out with goalkeeper Hunter hopelessly at sea.

And only a great last ditch save by the goalkeeper, who

somehow managed to finger tip the ball over the bar from a Ken Plant header prevented another goal. Yes, Borough might so easily have settled the issue before the break. Yet it was only through a not-so-clever penalty that they led at half-time.

The penalty goal came in the 17th minute when Plant, racing through the middle, was heavily brought down inside the area. It was a penalty all right. Shorthose, who took the spot kick, shot hard but straight at goalkeeper Hunter, who fumbled the ball and allowed it to escape his grasp and roll into the net as Shorthose went rushing in to try to score from the rebound. It was a lucky goal, but throughly deserved.

During the first half Borough played much better than for some time. Morris shaped quite usefully at left back and Hunter at left half, while Stan Aston was a dominating figure at centre half. Micklewright engineered many nice looking attacks. Where Borough slipped up however, was that they failed to make capital out of the fact that Beeson was constantly left unmarked. Much better use should have been made of the left winger's speed.

After half time Yiewsley showed much livelier form and under steady pressure the Borough defence behaved anything but confidently and but for a great display by Aston anything might have happened. Eleven minutes after half-time Yiewsley drew level. A move on the right had the Borough defence in trouble and evading a tackle, Tomkys went through to score.

Some wondered whether the equaliser would be the signal for one of Borough's customary slumps, but not a bit of it. They swept into attack with even greater determination and the Yiewsley goal had a series of narrow escapes. Corner after corner was forced by the home side and shots were rained in from all angles. Some were stopped by design, others by accident. What a roar there was when eventually, after several rebounds, Ken Plant drove the ball home in the 67th minute.

This was a vastly improved display by Borough, but the defence still need strengthening, as at the moment there is too much reliance on Aston and Corbett.

Gloucester City v Nuneaton Borough 25-02-1961

Gloucester: Barton; Weston and Dunn; McLean, Coltman and Bell; Adlam, Symington, Horlick, England and Box.

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Morris; Simmons, Aston and Hunter; Stewart, Shorthose, Plant, Micklewright and Beeson.

Borough made the journey to Gloucester City for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

If after the win against Yiewsley, supporters had visions of a Borough revival, well they had better forget all about it, if the display against Gloucester is anything to go by. Borough's latest performance merely confirmed the growing opinion that this is the weakest team ever to represent Borough.

They lacked speed, skill, determination, enthusiasm and above all, shooting ability, and were well beaten by a side



who had won only five games this season – a side which had little to offer except the will to go in and get the ball and to take a crack at goal.

A dreadful mistake by the Borough defence gave Gloucester the encouragement of a goal in their first attack. When Gloucester came through on the left, Arthur Corbett put the ball back towards goal. Morris missed it and Taylor who was moving out of goal was landed in Queer Street, and the ball ran slowly across the Borough goal. There was no defender there to kick away and running in about ten or twelve yards, winger Adlam slammed the loose ball into the empty net.

For the next 20 minutes Borough virtually swamped the City. They put in an almost constant onslaught and had the Gloucester defenders running around like scared rabbits. One good marksman would have really feathered his nest with such gilt-edged chances that fell Borough's way, but they could do nothing better than a Stewart shot which went over the bar and a Plant header which was saved.

Heartened by Borough's complete failure to press home their heavy attacks, Gloucester began to hit back against a now dispirited Borough side, and only a great full-length save by Taylor prevented Gloucester going further ahead.

The second half belonged to Gloucester as Borough gradually vanished from the scene, and in the 68th minute they suffered their second reverse. Symington, seemingly yards offside, was allowed to go through on his own with the Borough defence wide open. Taylor, who had no alternative but to come out of goal was rounded by the Gloucester forwards, who ran on towards the empty net and then, almost on the goal-line, slammed the ball into the net.

Then ten minutes from time Symington wormed his way through the Borough defence, drew them out of position, and then passed to Bell, who scored easily.

In short this was another very, very poor Borough display. Even the two directors present Arthur A'Ness and Jack Brindley must realise that the team just isn't good enough.

Borough Players To Take Wage Cut

To help the club's serious financial position, Nuneaton Borough FC players have agreed to take a 15 per cent wage cut until the end of the season.

Merthyr Tydfil v Nuneaton Borough 04-03-1961

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Morris; Simmonds, Aston and Balach; Stewart, Sinagoga, Plant, Micklewright and Lister.

Borough made the journey to Merthyr Tydfil for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Merthyr's strength lay undoubtedly in the positions where the visitors were weakest. Wing halves Collins and Willis tackled hard but fairly; their passes had a devastating accuracy and

they were always in position. Between them they had more shots at goal than the whole of the Borough's forward line.

In the forward line it was the same dismal story. The home inside trio were ever alert; their interchange of position was intelligent and each packed a powerful shot and did not hesitate to prove it. O'Halloran had five shots at goal in the first eight minutes. By way of contrast Plant and Micklewright played in a lack-lustre manner, while Beeson was never really in the picture.

In the Borough's first real attack, Plant came near to scoring. A well directed drive taken on the run saw Crump diving full length to clutch the ball at the foot of the post. Borough stayed on the offensive and Hancocks showed a rare turn of speed as he tore through the centre, but Volpe was there to pass back to his goalkeeper.

After 26 minutes Merthyr's player-manager Les Graham was the brains behind a four-man move that developed a right wing attack and culminated in a rasping left foot drive from O'Halloran. The resultant goal kick reached Graham; a quick return into the goalmouth and Taylor was too far out of his goal to prevent a header from Hancocks dropping into the back of the net.

After 55 minutes O'Holloran gained possession on the edge of the area. Before a Borough player could move, the ball had flashed into the net via the underside of the bar. This was the signal for yet another all-out onslaught on the Borough goal. Taylor was in the thick of it all, saving point blank from all three inside men in quick succession. Full-back Steel joined in and rattled the crossbar.

There was more excitement when Hancocks brought down O'Halloran and a penalty seemed inevitable. The referee turned the appeal down and gave a corner. Godsall's kick reached Collins who headed forward to O'Halloran, who easily beat Taylor.

Many changes are necessary in the Borough side to bring them up to Southern League standard. Where can adequate replacement be found? The cash isn't available for Football League players. Part-timers will not move at this stage, so it looks as if the long-suffering customers will have to "make do" for the rest of the season.

Nuneaton Borough v Ashford Town 11-03-1961

Borough: Bateman; Corbett and Morris; Simmonds, Aston and Balach; Stewart, Sinagoga, Plant, Micklewright and Lister.

Ashford: Sanders; Clarke and Gregory; Stevens, Harris and Hughes; Payne, White, McFall, Stokes and Burden.

Borough welcomed Ashford Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

"It's an imposition to play kids like this in the Southern League." The man who made this comment as he left Manor Park on Saturday was merely echoing the sentiments of the vast majority of Borough supporters. It certainly is a very

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great pity that youths like Simmonds, Balach and Sinagoga should be pitchforked into the Borough side with so little experience behind them.

About the only thing that can be said in favour of the Borough is that they were very unfortunate to have Eric Lister crippled again after 27 minutes play. He was reappearing at outside left after a long absence through injury. At that point Borough looked slightly the better of two poor sides. Lister was off the field for the remainder of the first half. He re-appeared after the change of ends limping and little more than a passenger.

It was bad enough to have Lister injured, but worse was to follow three minutes later when Payne converted a spot kick awarded for hand ball. That successful penalty kick occurred while Borough were a man short; so did Ashford's winning goal a minute before half-time, a cross from the right being converted by McFall, who beat Bateman from close range.

Borough's goal was about the one and only bright spot in an otherwise typical display by the home side. It came in the eleventh minute. Lister crossed the ball which was switched by Jackie Stewart to Andy Micklewright, who sent in a hard low drive. Sanders got his hands to the ball but could not prevent it from going into the net.

Making every allowance for Lister's injury, Borough's display was much as before so far as supporters were concerned – listless, unimaginative, uninspired, and sometimes thoroughly boring in the second half. Lacking power at wing half and badly served by Morris at left back, Borough were in difficulties nearly every time the lively Ashford wingers, Payne and Burden, got on the move.

Ashford just about deserved their win, they were slightly better than Borough both in attack and defence. Had Lister not been injured, however, Borough might easily have drawn – or might even have won.

To sum up, this was just another very poor Borough display, the kind of performance which results in supporters expecting only defeat even before a game starts. This team would win few games in the Birmingham League.

Barry Town v Nuneaton Borough 18-03-1961

Barry Town: Geten; Bright and Rossiter; Tennant, Clark and Dolman; Berndtssen, Whitlock, Sheffield, Edwards and Lafita.

Borough: Taylor; Haywood and Morris; Wright, Aston and Balach; Stewart, Hancock, Plant, Shorthose and Beeson.

Borough made the journey to Barry Town for a Southern League Division 1 match.

Without their captain, Arthur Corbett, injured in training, Borough faced stiff odds in South Wales for Barry are staging a revival and 17 points from their last 11 games have carried them from the lower reaches of the table to a comfortable mid-way position. And within the last fortnight their lively attack has been strengthened by the arrival of the Swedish World Cup winger, Berndtssen, who assisted the Welshmen

a couple of seasons ago. So far as Morris is concerned, the sooner he returns to Scandinavia the better.

Thanks to him it was no jaunt by the seaside for the Nuneaton full-back. The Swede's superb control of a lively ball, his sudden acceleration of pace and pin-point passing had Morris in trouble from the first minute. Full credit to Morris for sticking gamely to his task, and there was some improvement in the second half, when Morris concentrated on gaining possession first.

It was fortunate for the Borough that Barry's inside men were far from happy in front of goal, otherwise the margin of defeat would have been heavy. Taylor in goal was often in difficulty – twice Morris saved on the line with the goalkeeper beaten – but he brought off some good saves. Aston made great efforts to cover the centre, but he was up against a live-wire centre forward in Sheffield and with the backs often beaten, he was frequently drawn out of position.

In attack Plant did little to hold the line together. Shorthose was the most enterprising forward, but failed with second half chances which might have snatched a point. It was neat passing between Lafita and Sheffield which created the opening for Whitlock to head Barry into the lead in the 13th minute with Taylor out of goal trying to reach Sheffield's lob.

Borough equalised three minutes later. From a corner Bright stopped a shot on the line, but Plant was in position to drive the ball home. The winning goal in the 65th minute was scored by Lafita, who was presented with a gift opening when a shot from Whitlock rebounded from the crossbar.

Borough's crude methods and lack of skill on the unusually hard ground suggests that the possibility of summer soccer might not be to their liking.

Nuneaton Borough v Dover 25-03-1961

Borough: Taylor; Haywood and Morris; Wright, Aston and Balach; Stewart, Hancocks, Plant, Shorthose and Micklewright.

Dover: Dunkley; Robson and Crickson; McKenny, Boon and Goodfellow; Taylor, Quinn, Harris, Moore and Walker.

Borough welcomed Dover to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 match.

Borough are indeed a strange side. Playing their best football for weeks in the first half against an admittedly mediocre Dover side, they led 3-0 at the half-way mark and seemed to be coasting home. They fell away in the second half, but managed to keep their three goal lead until 15 minutes from time.

Spurred on by a brilliant first-minute goal by Ken Plant, who slammed a perfect Andy Micklewright cross into the net, Borough went on to play some quite good football. They moved the ball intelligently, interchanged positions smartly, and, generally speaking, made a poor Dover side look even worse than they probably were.

Micklewright, who was doing very well indeed on the left-wing, collected a Hancocks' pass and went through to transfer the ball from his left to right foot to score easily. Two

goals up in 15 minutes is quite an achievement these days, but worse was to follow for struggling Dover. In the 24th minute Plant was bursting through the middle when he was fouled well inside the penalty area and Shorthose scored with a perfectly-placed low shot. Borough crossed over with a comfortable lead and all seemed well.

But it was too good to last. A hitherto confident, fast-moving side began to dither when the game was resumed. Passes began to go astray, and the polish began to disappear. Soon the home side were back in the old familiar routine.

A defence which in the first-half, had played reasonably well against a side which seemed to possess neither skill nor punch, had already begun to waver in the face of steady if not particularly heavy Dover pressure. Still, all seemed well until the 75th minute when, after Taylor had conceded a corner in saving, the ball came across for Moore to reduce Borough's lead.

Borough's defence just folded up and in the next minute Dover nearly further reduced the lead. Then five minutes from the end, Moore got another goal to make the score 3-2. It was panic stations so far as the Borough defence was concerned. Not even a Dover win was being ruled out. Still, by hook or by crook Aston and Co. held out until there was less than a minute and a half to go. Borough raced to the other end and Shorthose shot, and the ball crossed in front of goalkeeper Dunkley and struck the far post. It might have rebounded anywhere, but it ran straight to Plant, who slammed the ball into the back of the net.

But straight to the other end went Dover, and before anyone knew it the ball was in the Borough net once again, Quinn being the scorer on this occasion. Only a second later the whistle went for full-time. This was a welcome victory, but how close Borough came to losing if not both points, then at least one.



Borough Chairman Resigns

The last remaining founder-director of Nuneaton Borough FC has resigned.

He is Mr Reg Carris, member of the board since the club was formed in 1938 and chairman since the resignation of Mr Harry Watkins several years ago.

The club issued the following statement on Thursday morning:

“Following a meeting of the Board of Directors of Nuneaton Borough FC on Wednesday night, Mr Reg Carris, chairman of the Board of Directors, tendered his resignation as chairman of the club and also as director.”

The remaining members of the Board are: Messrs. R. S. Bull, F. C. Carris, A. A'Ness, J. Brindley and N. Peckett.

Cambridge United v Nuneaton Borough 31-03-1961

Borough travelled to league leaders Cambridge United for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Borough put up a brave show against the league leaders at Cambridge and the final score scarcely did them justice, for at times they had the home side really worried.

Borough's only goal was scored by Jackie Stewart, who had a very good match.

Hunter, who also did well on his return to the side was injured, as also was Andy Micklewright, and neither was though likely to be fit for the Kettering match.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-04-1961

Kettering: Smethurst; Marston and Storey; Froggatt. Quigley and Armour; Morrow, Shaw, Savage, Ritchie and Pearson.

Borough: Taylor; Wright and Haywood; Simmonds, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Hancocks, Plant, Shorthose, Beeson.

Borough made the journey to Kettering for a Southern League Division 1 game.

It took a great goal by Peter Hancocks in the fifteenth minute – he put in a tremendous drive from 35 yards and left goalkeeper Smethurst standing – to put Kettering really on their mettle and in the next half-hour the visitors were outplayed.

A minute after Hancocks' goal Pearson took a pass from Hughie Morrow and scored with an equally fine shot, even though Taylor was not faultless in that he seemed more intent on trying to punch the ball away than positioning himself properly to deal with the shot.

Then, between the 32nd and 44th minutes Kettering got three more goals aided and abetted by flagrant defensive errors. In the 32nd minute a badly sliced attempt at a clearance went straight to Hughie Morrow who rounded Haywood and then slashed the ball into the net.

Three minutes later a long ball through the middle found Aston out of position and much too far upfield. While he was trying to turn he was passed by Savage. Taylor had no option but to race out of goal and take a fly-kick at the ball just outside the penalty area. The ball crashed against the home centre-forward and rebounded into the empty net.

A minute before half-time from a corner kick, left half Armour received the ball in a completely unmarked position and was able to kill it at leisure and volley it into the net.

After half-time Morris went to centre-half and Aston to right-half. This move had the effect of stopping the goal avalanche – until the last few minutes or so when Kettering scored two further goals through Ritchie, he headed home following a free-kick and Savage, who netted during a scramble in front of the Borough goal.

This game proved once again that the Borough defence just

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isn't good enough. During the period when Kettering got four of their six goals, Haywood and Morris had no answer to the clever inter-passing and dribbling of Shaw and Morrow.

Generally speaking, though, Kettering were far and away the better side, they were not impressive and were helped to their victory by the incompetence of the Borough defence.

Nuneaton Borough v Merthyr Tydfil 04-04-1961

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Ballach, Aston and Morris; Stewart, Sinagoga, Plant, Shorthose and Micklewright.

Merthyr: Crump; Carpenter and Owens; Collins, Volpe and Willis; Shergold, Hancox, O'Halloran, Graham and Fossredge.

Borough welcomed Merthyr Tydfil to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Everyone appreciates Borough's limitations, but it is difficult to understand, at least on this display, how the Welshmen are challengers for promotion to the Premier Division. The football of both sides was often crude, and there were many instances of vicious tackling by Merthyr. Borough are incapable of playing good football; there are too many weaknesses in the side to produce anything like skilful play.

Merthyr were expected to show the home side a thing or two when it came to football. Instead the backs and halves relied heavily on slamming the ball upfield and hoping for the best. If the Borough had a very narrow squeak when the ball rebounded off the bar and dropped into goalkeeper Taylor's hands, Merthyr escaped by the skin of their teeth in one short period late in the game when the home side temporarily got right on top.

From a Micklewright cross Shorthose directed a delightful header towards the far corner of the net. It seemed a goal all the way – until the last second, when up bobbed Owens to deflect the ball over the top with his head, certainly more by luck than judgment. Then, from another Micklewright cross Plant, unmarked, tried to pick his spot with a calculated header, only to see goalkeeper Crump despairingly thrust out an arms and direct the ball over the top.

The return of Arthur Corbett and Bert Hunter gave the Borough defence more stability even though it had many moments of sheer panic. The attack was fair without ever looking menacing. The line did best in the second half when Micklewright put across quite a few likely centres, although often losing a ball when trying to dribble round a defender.

Stewart had few chances to shine and was neglected for lengthy periods in the second half. Undoubtedly he suffered from the lack of experience of both his inside partners, Sinagoga and his wing-half Ballach. The latter covered a lot of ground and displayed any amount of enthusiasm, but found the heavy and greasy ball difficult to control.

Borough deserved a share of the points. Without looking like a good side, they were as good as their opponents, from whom the crowd expected something much better.

Nuneaton Borough v Canterbury City 08-04-1961

Borough: Taylor; Corbett and Hunter; Morris, Aston and Ballach; Stewart, Sinagoga, Plant, Shorthose and Micklewright.

Canterbury: Lloyd; J. Gallagher and Morley; T. Gallagher, Burtenshaw and Edwards; Ray, Carter, Ashes, Green and Williamson.

Borough welcomed Canterbury City to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Pathetic Borough, offering very little in terms of effective resistance, were easily beaten by an average Canterbury side. Borough's efforts at scoring were so poor that Lloyd may as well have stayed at home. There was virtually only one occasion during the whole of the game when the visitors' defence was in desperate straits.

That was early in the second half when, during a brief but heavy assault on the Canterbury goal, Lloyd and his co-defenders got in the way of three or four short-range shots. This brief period of anxiety aside, Lloyd was hardly troubled for the rest of the game.

It is difficult to understand why Andy Micklewright should be kept on the left wing or why young Sinagoga should be played in an already almost shot-less attack. Micklewright, although putting across a few inviting centres, is being wasted on the left wing and Sinagoga just isn't ready for this class of football.

If anything can be said in favour of the attack, and it couldn't be much, it is that it had precious little support from defenders. Arthur Corbett tried hard to put a bit of pep into things, but fared no better than most of the others when it came to using the ball. He invariably sent it straight to an opponent.

The visitors scored with the last kick of the first-half, Ray flicked the ball with his head, almost out of the hands of Taylor and the ball ran slowly across goal and into the net. The keeper was, as he so often is, yards out of goal when, ten minutes from the end Carter clinched the issue with a header from a left wing cross.

Borough probably did three-parts of the attacking, but seldom looked like scoring and Canterbury were worthy winners. Borough, weak in both attack and defence, lost because defeat was all they could expect from a display such as this – a performance which sent their supporters home wishing they had given it a miss. But they keep coming back for more punishment.

Dover v Nuneaton Borough 19-04-1961

Borough: Taylor; Haywood and Morris; Wright, Aston and Balach; Stewart, Hancocks, Plant, Shorthose and Micklewright.

Borough made the journey to Dover for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Battling valiantly with 10 men after left-half, Ballach, had been rushed to hospital with an ugly gash over his left eye,



Borough came close to sharing the points on Wednesday. Weathering an early storm during which Taylor saved brilliantly on two occasions and Hunter cleared off the line, Borough were just finding their feet when Ballach collided with Harris and was taken off.

Minutes afterwards, star of the Dover forward line, inside-right Quinn, jinked through on the right and lobbed over a perfect centre for Harris to give the home side the lead. Nuneaton were on the defensive for most of the time, but nevertheless gave Dover some anxious moments in lightening breaks. From successive corners Shorthose and Micklewright had flashing headers pushed over the bar.

Late in the half Shorthose, pick of the Borough attack, had a scorching shot palmed out by goalkeeper Vosper, and Stewart rattled the upright with the return. Dover again had most of the attacking after the interval, but Nuneaton's defence, with pivot Morris and full-back Hunter outstanding, held out magnificently.

Borough's defence was left helpless, when following a seven man move Quinn volleyed a spectacular 30 yard shot past Taylor. Shortly after the goal Ballach returned, sporting a heavy plaster, to play on the right wing. With a spirited rally Borough came within fighting distance when Shorthose scored from the penalty spot after centre-half Goodfellow had handled a dangerous cross from Fellows.

Stunned into retaliation Dover turned on the heat, but somehow leg weary Nuneaton managed to hold out. Always in the right place at the right time, Hunter again saved certain goals when he cleared two snap shots off the line. Taylor then made the save of the match when he clawed down a scorching drive from winger Walker, who continually left young full-back Haywood standing.

In the last ten minutes Borough had two clear scoring chances. Number one went to Micklewright who missed from a free kick from the edge of the penalty box, and then Shorthose muffed the other by tepid finishing after running through the home defence in a spectacular solo effort.

Borough FC To Increase Its Share Capital

Mr R. S. Bull, on behalf of the directors of Nuneaton Borough FC, announced at a meeting of the Supporters' Club on Monday night that it was their intention to increase the share capital of the club and they were putting the necessary machinery in motion to do so.

He said notification would go out to shareholders, and they didn't anticipate any opposition. They expected in a month's time to increase the share capital and for shares to be issued to applicants at par.

Mr M. Smith (assistant secretary of the Supporters' Club), describing it as one of the best statements they had heard, said it showed the directors meant business.

In answer to a question, Mr Bull said the club would remain a private, not public limited company.

After Mr F. Robey had asked about the present financial position of the club, Mr Bull said it had still deteriorated. If they had not disbanded the reserve team, the club would have been finished. "I should say we have scarcely held our own," he said.

Another director, Mr N. Peckett, said the tide was not flowing against them so strongly now as it was four or five months ago.

Nuneaton Borough v Margate

22-04-1961

Borough: Bateman; Haywood and Hunter; Aston, Morris and Simmonds; Stewart, Shorthose, Plant, Micklewright and Beeson.

Margate: Long; Walton and Joyce; Bridger, Conroy and Laine; Silver, Wells, Maxted, Hunt and Roberts.

Borough welcomed Margate to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 match.

Supporters who have stuck to the club through the worst period in its history, had the satisfaction of seeing Borough close their home programme with one of their rare victories. And what is more they deserved to win.

There was nothing spectacular about this last home match success. It was earned the only way the team seems capable of winning – the hard way. Nevertheless it certainly was earned. Borough owed much to a reconstructed half-back line. Playing at centre-half Morris had his best game for a long time. He seldom erred and put Margate leader Webb right out of the game.

Stan Aston enjoyed the comparative freedom of playing right-half and entered the fray with an abandon which suits his particular style of play. He tackled hard and fast and both in attack and defence did a very useful job of work. At left-half Simmonds waded in with energy and completed a very much improved middle line.

Borough might have won by a bigger margin as they had several scoring chances. The fact that only one goal settled the issue was done in no small measure to general lack of shooting ability by the three inside men on both sides. Ken Plant could do nothing right and seldom looked dangerous. Shorthose was too slow and cumbersome. Micklewright, though occasionally threatening, completed an inside trio who largely failed to function.

The only goal of the game came eight minutes after half-time. Beeson got the better of Walton and centred. The ball touched the full-back and swung in front of goal where it ran from Plant to Stewart, who slid in to push the ball through from close range.

Though Borough played better than in some recent games and fully merited their success, they were still a long way short of being even a useful side. Still, in these lean times, a win is welcome.



Ramsgate Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 25-04-1961

Borough: Bateman; Hunter and Haywood; Aston, Morris and Simmonds; Ballach, Shorthose, Plant, Micklewright and Fellows.

Borough made the journey to Ramsgate to play a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Borough were lucky to avoid an even heavier defeat than 3-0, on Tuesday, when only a fine display of goalkeeping by Dave Bateman prevented the home side from reaching a much higher score. Adroitly employing the offside trap, Ramsgate effectively dealt with the inept Borough attack, which lacked initiative.

Within a minute of the kick-off, Borough were a goal down when Clinton was allowed to stand unchallenged on the edge of the penalty area and boot the ball into goal. After this early setback the Borough defence settled down to play some solid football, but the attack never really got under way and very little was seen of wing men Ballach and Fellows.

After the change of ends, Ramsgate continued their incessant attack on the Borough goal, but largely through the efforts of Bateman, they were kept at bay until the 79th minute, which saw the first of two goals scored in three minutes.

The first came from inside-left Callam, and was followed by a simple goal by Craig, who took advantage of a defensive error.

Yiewsley v Nuneaton Borough 29-04-1961

Borough: Bateman; Haywood and Hunter; Aston, Morris and Ballach; Hancocks, Shorthose, Beeson, Micklewright and Fellows.

Borough made the journey to Yiewsley for a Southern League Division 1 game.

After holding their own for more than half the game, Borough cracked at Yiewsley and conceded four second half goals.

After Adwallader had opened the scoring for Yiewsley, Tomkys shot wide from a penalty, and then Beeson, who was leading the attack, took advantage of a defensive error to level the score. All went well for Borough until the 68th minute when Yiewsley went ahead again through Barlow.

That goal was the beginning of the end for Borough who went to pieces. The home side added further goals through Cadwallader, Watson and Dare.

None of Last Season's Players Offered Weekly Terms

Mr R. S. Bull, on behalf of the directors of Nuneaton Borough FC, confirmed yesterday afternoon that the club have not offered weekly terms to any of last season's players. Asked if the result of this was that players who had been retained had not re-signed because they had been offered only match by match terms, he replied: "That is hardly correct. We have offered players certain terms and at the moment we are waiting to see if they accept them."

It is believed that an application has been made for membership of the Warwickshire Combination. It is reported that Stan Marshall will have charge of the A team next season.

Season Review 1960-61

So Poor Was The Team – The Crowd Just Vanished

Borough ended a disastrous season – by far the most disastrous in the club's history – by losing 5-1 at Yiewsley.

From mid-November everything that could go wrong went wrong and things deteriorated to such an extent that long before the end of the season it was a case not of trying to stop the rot but of completing the fixture list and putting out eleven players, quite a few of whom were not nearly good enough for Southern League football.

Right from the start things never looked really bright. Player-manager Angus Morrison had placed great faith in close-season signings Ron Stockin and Andy Micklewright. Stockin never produced the form expected of him, soon lost his place, and eventually left the club.

Micklewright started anything but promisingly and was dropped for a game or two. He came back to play better and for a while was the best forward.

The team did better for a time and, in fact, occupied a reasonably fair position in the league.

Turning Point

The turning point was the Cambridge match at Manor Park on November 5. That day Borough were trounced 5-1. Though three weeks later they won 4-2 at Canterbury, Borough were obviously on the downward grade. Huge cracks appeared in the defence and the rot quickly spread.

From November 19 when they won at Canterbury, until the end of the season Borough won but four of 27 games, 17 of which were lost and six drawn – a truly shocking record.

Was it surprising then that gates should have dropped to 725 for the last home game of the season against Margate? Indeed, it was a wonder the crowd did not vanish completely so wretched was the football played by the Borough. The standard of football was the worst witnessed at Manor Park for a very, very long time.

Couldn't Stick It

The majority of supporters just couldn't stick it – and stayed away, leaving only the thousand or so diehards – those faithfuls who will turn up hail, rain or sunshine, win or lose.

The first hint of money troubles came on September 20 when it was stated that the financial position of the club was "precarious" and that immediate help was needed.

During the first week in November it was announced that the reserve side had been withdrawn from the Central Alliance, and then, towards the end of January Angus Morrison resigned as player-manager.

Not Good Enough

No useful purpose can be served by criticising players individually. The plain truth is that the team was not nearly good enough for Southern League football.

It is quite obvious that whoever succeeds Angus Morrison as player-manager will have the unenviable task of starting almost from scratch – of getting virtually a new side. And that is a tall order.

Some of the young players may be re-signed for reserve team duties next season, but it is not likely that many of the professionals will be retained.

The club's full record was: P41 W14 D8 L25 F77 A101

Goalscorers:

Plant	22
Shorthose	18
Micklewright.....	17
Lister.....	5
Stewart.....	4
Manning	3
Stockin.....	2
Hancocks.....	1
Aston.....	1
Hunter	1
Beeson.....	1
Opponents	2
Total.....	77

Southern League Division One 1960-61

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kettering Town	40	26	7	7	100	55	59
Cambridge United	40	25	5	10	100	53	55
Bexleyheath & Welling	40	22	8	10	93	46	52
Merthyr Tydfil	40	23	6	11	88	65	52
Sittingbourne	40	21	10	9	77	63	52
Hinckley Athletic	40	17	13	10	74	59	47
Ramsgate Athletic	40	19	7	14	77	56	45
Rugby Town	40	18	9	13	89	71	45
Corby Town	40	16	10	14	82	73	42
Poole Town	40	18	5	17	71	65	41
Barry Town	40	16	9	15	65	74	41
Yiewsley	40	17	7	16	65	76	41
Trowbridge Town	40	14	10	16	71	73	38
Ashford Town	40	14	8	18	61	67	36
Margate	40	11	12	17	62	75	34
Dover	40	12	7	21	67	74	31
Canterbury City	40	10	10	20	52	75	30
Nuneaton Borough	40	11	7	22	60	91	29
Burton Albion	40	12	4	24	63	85	28
Tunbridge Wells United	40	8	5	27	56	115	21
Gloucester City	40	7	7	26	40	102	21



Kernick Snaps Up Bliss

Brian Bliss, the young local goalkeeper, who gave such a fine display in Arthur Corbett's testimonial match last Thursday, has been snapped up by Dudley Kernick, the Hinckley Athletic manager, who has signed Bliss on Southern League and Warwickshire Combination forms.

John Jarman Candidate For Borough Job?

Is John Jarman, Walsall wing-half, one of the candidates for the post of player-manager of Nuneaton Borough FC?

During Arthur Corbett's testimonial match last Thursday, Jarman, was in earnest conversation with Borough officials.

Jarman, a native of Monmouthshire, but brought up in Wolverhampton, first played for the Wolves, but later joined Wellington Town. From there he went to Barnsley and was then transferred to Walsall in 1956.

Jarman assisted in the coaching at Walsall, for he is a Football Association coach. For three years he was sports master at Harborne Collegiate School, Birmingham.

The name of Joe Kennedy, the West Bromwich Albion centre-half, has been mentioned in connection with the Borough post, but it is not thought that Kennedy has, so far, applied for the job.

A club representative also visited Rugby recently – the day Rugby Town played Kettering. It may be that Borough are interested in a Rugby player.

Borough Players Transfer Listed

Nuneaton Borough FC reports having retained the following players for the season 1961-62: Bateman, Taylor, Dunn, Hunter, Corbett, Aston, Morris, Simmons, Plant and Shorthose.

Dunn, Bateman and Morris have re-signed, but Taylor, Hunter, Aston and Plant have not accepted the terms offered them and have been placed on the transfer list.

The club has made application for membership of the Warwickshire Combination for the reserve side next season.

Borough FC Share Capital Move

At an extraordinary general meeting of the Nuneaton Borough Association Football Club Ltd, on Monday, May 15, it was resolved that the capital of the company be increased by the creation of 1,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, such new shares to ran pari passu in all respects with the existing



ordinary shares in the company and to be subject to Article Six of the Articles of the Company.

The question of the company becoming a public limited liability company was also discussed, and it was unanimously agreed that this should be fully investigated so that, if possible, it could be implemented at a later date.

Jarman Offered Borough Job But -

It is understood that John Jarman, the 29-year-old Walsall wing-half, has been offered the post of player-manager of Nuneaton Borough FC, and that the directors are awaiting his reply.

It is also understood that Jarman is considering offers from other clubs and has also applied for a year coaching position with Norwich FC, with the recommendation from his own club.

Jarman has also been offered a six month overseas coaching appointment with the Football Association.

Borough FC Re-Advertising For Player-Manager

Nuneaton Borough FC are re-advertising for a player-manager. After weeks of negotiation John Jarman has declined the offer of the job and has joined West Bromwich Albion as a coach.

Talks with Dudley Kernick, manager of Hinckley Athletic have also ended – because Mr Kernick is under contract with his present club. So the Borough club is back to where it was before the season ended.

A former player has revealed the terms he has been offered and which he has refused. Now, while these terms might be good enough for what might be termed Southern League borderline prospects – players who might or might not make the Southern League grade – they are not terms likely to attract players of proven ability and doubtless will have to be stepped up in order to get the right men.

As has been said before some Birmingham League players may be good enough for Southern League football. By and large, however, they are not and if there is to be an improvement on last season – and there must be – at least four or five ex-League players will be needed to fill the main positions in the side. A first-class centre-forward and centre-half are “must haves.”

Borough FC Lost £6,222 Last Season - But Deficit Cut To £1,718 By Donations From Supporters' Club

When a loss on the year's working of £1718 15s. 10d. was reported at the annual general meeting of Nuneaton Borough Football Club, it was revealed that the actual loss on football was £6222 2s.

It was stated that donations from efforts of the Supporters' Club and Association realised £4,503 6s. 2d. thus bringing the deficit to £1,718 15s. 10d.

Gate receipts £3,902 1s. as against £7,521 last year was a drop of £3,600. Donations from the Supporters' Club and Association were also down from £5,109 to £4,505 15s. 10d. – a drop of £600...

...It is perfectly obvious that without the financial help from the Supporters' Club and Association the club could not carry on, the meeting was told.

Mr R. S. Bull was elected chairman and Mr N. Peckett vice-chairman. Mr A. C. Dawson, a well-known local businessman and staunch supporter, was elected to the board of directors. Mr R. Tromans was re-elected hon. financial secretary and Mr P. Osborne hon. secretary

Borough Signings

Nuneaton Borough have issued their list of signed players. Signed as goalkeepers are D. Bateman (with Borough last year), J. Walder (formerly of Atherstone and Northampton), and J. West (Collycroft). The full backs are J. Dunn and Alan Haywood (last year's players), Keith McCarthy (a former youth international and Atherstone player).

Half-backs are D. Trueman (a PT schoolmaster at Coventry and a qualified football coach who has played for Grantham), Peter Balach (one of last year's players), John Pettifor (Rugby), Greg Whelan (Eire amateur youth international), Ron Breakwell (Rugby and Northampton), Ron Gaylor (Borough, Tamworth and Atherstone). Forwards are C. Mitchell (Tamworth), T. Burns, J. Sandford, H. Coles (all Atherstone), T. Chorley (Coventry), Neil Shorthose (last season with Aston Villa and brother of former Borough player, Barry Shorthose).

The Borough are still negotiating terms with Stan Aston, last year's centre-half.

Borough FC – No Alteration To Admission Prices

Nuneaton Borough FC announce that prices of admission to home matches are to remain the same as last season.

These are as follows: Southern League – ground, adults 2s.; OAP and boys, 1s.; stand 1s. 3d. extra.

Warwickshire Combination – ground, adults, 1s. 3d.; OAP and boys, 6s; stand 9d. extra.

Season tickets, ground and stand inclusive, £4 10s. Seats can be reserved if required.

For the first time, the directors have decided to offer for sale season tickets for admission to the ground only, at £2 10s. each.

Season tickets are available for all Southern League matches and all Warwickshire Combination fixtures, including cup qualifying competitions, Group C, FA Cup, County Senior Cup, Southern League Cup and Warwickshire Combination League Cup, all pay.



Borough's New Manager-Coach

Nuneaton Borough's new manager-coach, Fred Badham, is a FA Coach, has been on Birmingham City's books and has played for Lye Town, Moor Green and Cradley Heath.

Thirty-six years of age and married with two children, Mr Badham told the Observer that his policy would be to stabilise the team and to develop local talent along the lines of the FA coaching scheme.

He has been given a free hand to build his own team and is at present negotiating for an inside-forward and a wing-half.

At present Mr Badham lives at West Heath, Birmingham, but is considering moving to Nuneaton. After being appointed manager-coach Mr Badham received an invitation from Walter Winterbottom to assist in coaching an English youth team at Lilleshall.

He is a brother of Jack Badham, the former Birmingham City and Peterborough wing-half.



Nuneaton Borough FC 1960-61

Back Row (left to right): Bert Hunter, Stan Aston, Dave Taylor, Malcolm Barrass, Alec Simpson, Arthur Corbett.

Front Row (left to right): Jackie Stewart, Andy Micklewright, Ken Plant, Ron Stockin, Eric Lister.

Photograph taken at pre-season trial.



Tamworth — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park for a 1st Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Taylor; Coleman and Hunter; Simpson, Barrass and Morris; Stewart, Plant, Shorthose, Micklewright and Lister.

Tamworth: Clarke; Smith and Tallis; Sims, Gaylor and Hartopp; Wallbank, Seedhouse, Muir, G. Taylor and Mitchell.

This was just dreadful, and one can readily understand the attitude of those Borough supporters who vowed they would stay away from Manor Park. One hopes, of course, that they will relent; that they will go on supporting the club – but Borough’s shocking display was such that the crowd’s patience must have been sorely tried.

To have been ousted from the money-spinning FA Cup at the very first time of asking by Birmingham League neighbours Tamworth, whose wage bill would look almost comical beside that of the Borough, was an ignominious affair, and will take some living down.

Borough just didn’t look like a team. They didn’t make a good start, even though Shorthose headed against the Tamworth bar in the early minutes, and as the game progressed it was soon obvious that Tamworth were in the game with a chance.

They took the lead through Willie Muir, ex-Borough leader, who turned in a centre from the right in the 26th minute.

Almost on half-time Micklewright ran through to level the scores. It was imagined this goal would give Borough the encouragement they seemed to need so badly. Instead, when the game was restarted, the side just went to pieces and any resemblance they had to a football team was purely accidental.

Tamworth, in between many Borough misses, got three more goals to win the game with an ease which must have astounded them. The scorers of these additional Tamworth goals were Muir, Mitchell and Seedhouse.

Borough lacked nearly everything a football team should have except,

maybe, a goalkeeper. Taylor was in no way to blame for his side’s defeat.

While the defence – Taylor apart – just disintegrated and must shoulder much of the blame for this latest Borough shambles, the forwards, even though lacking help from behind, still had a sufficient number of chances to have done a very great deal better than they did.

Indeed, they had enough chances in the air to have headed themselves out of the mess the defence had got them into.

It was strange to see players like Ron Gaylor, Tallis and Hartopp holding the Borough forwards with the greatest of ease, even though the visitors never neglected to put the ball into touch if it served their purpose. Which in any case, is not an offence.

All the bouquets go to Tamworth for an honest-to-goodness, workmanlike display. At least they shaped like a football team. Which is more than can be said for Borough, who went down without a fight.

Southern League Division 1: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1960-61

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
08.20	Poole Town	H	L	3-2	Aston, Stockin, Plant	3,390
08.24	Burton Albion	A	L	1-2	Stockin	3,000
08.27	Hinckley Athletic	A	L	1-1	Micklewright	2,483
09.01	Burton Albion	H	SLC 1 1st Leg	4-1	Shorthose (2), Lister (2)	2,500
09.03	Bexley Heath & Welling	H	L	1-2	Micklewright	2,750
09.07	Burton Albion	A	SLC 1 2nd Leg	1-2	Plant	
09.10	Tamworth	H	FAC 1Q	1-4	Micklewright	2,508
09.12	Burton Albion	H	L	2-0	Manning (2)	2,300
09.17	Tunbridge Wells United	H	L	4-2	Farnfield (o.g.), Morris, Hunter (pen), Plant	2,066
09.20	Corby Town	A	L	1-2	Micklewright	
09.24	Rugby Town	A	L	2-2	Lister, Micklewright	2,700
09.28	Ashford Town	A	L	1-3	Plant	
10.01	Gloucester City	H	L	4-0	Plant (2), Micklewright, Lister	1,472
10.08	Sittingbourne	A	L	2-1	Micklewright, Plant	1,500
10.15	Cradley Heath	H	BSC 1	3-0	Plant (pen), Micklewright, Stewart	1,651
10.22	Hinckley Athletic	H	L	2-2	Plant, Micklewright	2,026
10.29	Kettering Town	H	L	2-0	Micklewright (2)	2,282
11.05	Cambridge United	H	L	1-5	Plant (pen)	2,500
11.09	Cheltenham Town	A	SLC 2	0-3		
11.12	Brierley Hill Alliance	H	BSC 2	9-2	Micklewright (3), Shorthose (3), Plant (2, 1 pen), Stewart	1,481



Southern League Division 1: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1960-61

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
11.19	Canterbury City	A	L	4-2	Plant (2), Micklewright, Shorthose	669
12.03	Margate	A	L	1-1	Shorthose	1,200
12.10	Sittingbourne	H	L	1-5	Plant	1,700
12.17	Poole Town	A	L	6-3	Shorthose (3), Plant, Ames (o.g.), Earl (o.g.)	886
12.24	Trowbridge Town	H	L	1-1	Plant	1,367
12.27	Trowbridge Town	A	L	1-3	Shorthose	1,327
12.31	Corby Town	H	L	1-1	Plant	1,361
01.07	Ramsgate Athletic	H	L	3-5	Shorthose (2), Lister	1,200
01.14	Bexley Heath & Welling	A	L	0-5		3,006
01.21	Tamworth	H	BSC S-F	0-2		1,366
01.28	Barry Town	H	L	0-1		618
02.04	Tunbridge Wells United	A	L	2-3	Shorthose (2, 1 pen)	384
02.11	Rugby Town	H	L	0-1		1,500
02.18	Yiewsley	H	L	2-1	Shorthose (pen), Plant	1,526
02.25	Gloucester City	A	L	0-3		650
03.04	Merthyr Tydfil	A	L	0-3		
03.11	Ashford Town	H	L	1-2	Micklewright	1,420
03.18	Barry Town	A	L	1-2	Plant	700
03.25	Dover	H	L	4-3	Plant (2), Micklewright, Shorthose (pen)	1,026
03.31	Cambridge United	A	L	1-4	Stewart	
04.01	Kettering Town	A	L	1-6	Hancock	2,137
04.04	Merthyr Tydfil	H	L	0-0		1,300
04.08	Canterbury City	H	L	0-2		1,220
04.19	Dover	A	L	1-2	Shorthose (pen)	
04.22	Margate	H	L	1-0	Stewart	725
04.25	Ramsgate Athletic	A	L	0-3		
04.29	Yiewsley	A	L	1-5	Beeson	

KEY: L = Southern League Division 1, FAC = F.A.Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, SLC = Southern League Cup



He Wishes Mr Badham Luck

Sir, -

At long last Nuneaton Borough FC directors have appointed, not a player-manager, but a manager-coach.

Mr Badham has got a deuce of a job ahead of him and little time in which to do it, for all the supporters I have spoken to feel that the list of players so far signed is scarcely an awe-inspiring document, and that more class players are needed.

It looks to me as though nearly everything now depends upon what Mr Badham does – the players he signs.

I wish him luck. He'll need it. – Spion Kop.

What Has Happened To Those Shares?

To The Editor

Sir, -

While wishing Nuneaton Borough FC every success for the coming season, it would be interesting to know what has happened to the much talked about 1,000 £1 shares, which it was understood would be open to anyone. – S. W. Holmes, 10, Cheverel Place, Nuneaton.

Continental Outfit For Borough Players?

It is understood that Nuneaton Borough FC directors are considering providing their players with a Continental-style outfit for next season in the familiar blue and white colours.

TV All Stars Match At Nuneaton

A football match between the Original TV All Stars XI will be played at Manor Park on Sunday, September 3.

The match is being organised by Nuneaton Boys' Club and the proceeds will go towards a new gymnasium for the club.

The Original TV All Stars team has travelled all over the country, and in the short time the team has been formed many thousands of pounds have been raised for deserving charities including the Boys' Clubs Association.

The team to play Jack Badham's XI will be chosen from the following: Jess Conrad, Michael Cox, Maurice Kaufman, Andrew Ray, Hugh Elton, Pete Murray, Larry Taylor, Mike Winters, Bernie Winters, Roy Castle, Ronnie Corbett, Norman Rossington, Albert Finney, Bernie Breslaw, Ivor Emmanuel and Stan Stennett.

'Rarin' To Go' Says Mr Badham

Borough's manager-coach Fred Badham is confident that even though he has no 'star' players, he has a team which he was sure would pull together.

"The players have promised to give all they have got and we are rarin' to go," he said.

Asked if he had completed his signings for this season, Mr Badham said he hoped to sign two more forwards so that there would be keen competition for places.

Recent Borough signings include John Conlon, an outside right from Stafford Rangers and formerly of Hereford United, and Harold Cox, an inside forward from Birmingham City. Aged 23, Cox can also play at wing half.

Two amateurs from the Birmingham district have also been signed. They are Ron Morgan, aged 27, an inside forward, and Bernard Jones, aged 23, an inside forward or wing-half.

Dennis Harper (24), former Birmingham City inside forward, who played for Romford last season has also been signed.

More Borough Signings

Tom Roberts, former Birmingham City, Barrow, Atherstone Town and Rugby Town outside left; Mick Waters, a wing-half or full-back, who was with Rugby Town last season and was formerly with Coventry City; John Anderson, goalkeeper, formerly of Leicester City and Peterborough United.

Terry Wilkes, aged 19, of Bedworth, who was on the books of West Bromwich Albion last season. He is a right or left full-back; Stan Aston, last year's centre-half, who has re-signed.

These signatures were announced by Borough's manager-coach, Mr Fred Badham at the annual meeting of the Supporters' Club.

Mr Badham commented: "There is a lot going on behind the scenes and I have been given full co-operation by the board of directors."

Mr W. Love, secretary of the Supporters' Club, reported that it had been a trying season and the poor showing of the team had been reflected in the money raised by the supporters.

It was decided to donate £50 to the parent club towards running an "A" team, and to give further assistance with this team during the season.

Bread And Butter Of Football

Before some of us get back from our holidays, the new football season will have started. On August 26, Nuneaton Borough FC will be opening their new season and, quite naturally, supporters are wondering what is going to happen.

After two most disappointing seasons, Borough followers are hoping for much better things this season. The ground itself has been brightened up. Will the play be equally cheerful?

Our view is that this will probably be the most critical season since Borough first joined the Southern League. The club just cannot afford another bad season, or else the crowd, which has dwindled badly these last two seasons, will disappear altogether.

For the sake of everybody concerned it is to be hoped that happier days lie ahead. New manager-coach, Mr Fred Badham, has not had long to get a team together, but

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



appears to have done a fairly good job of work in regard to signings for the new season.

On paper at any rate he seems to have got together a side which, at least, should be better than that of last season.

But many supporters would be much happier if Mr Badham were able to announce the signings of a centre-forward goal-getter. After all, goals are the bread and butter of football, no matter what may be said to the contrary.

Season 1961-62

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Athletic 12-08-1961

Borough: Anderson; Dunn and Waters; Cox, Aston and Morris; Conlon, Harper, Breakwell, Wyer and Roberts.

Hinckley: Bliss; Ballinger and Sheppard; Harrison, Aldis and Harris; Round, Rhodes, Crawley, Micklewright and Edwards.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Athletic to Manor Park for a public trial match.

A sound defence, but a forward line with several weaknesses, were revealed on Saturday. A crowd of 1,077 watched the game and at the end of it the Borough supporters must have left the ground with mixed feeling. For although they had seen their side win they were given sparse encouragement to predict a successful season.

The attack was obviously not a goal-getting machine and lacked cohesion. Once again it would seem that unless coach-manager Fred Badham can find some way of bringing punch to the forward line then goals are going to be hard to come by.

Neither of the Borough's two wing men, Conlon on the right and Roberts on the left, had a good game. Conlon did manage to get across one or two good centres when unopposed but when challenged became erratic. Another weakness was a centre forward, where Breakwell, despite scoring a goal, failed to impress and lacked speed and finesse.

On the brighter side Anderson, the former Leicester City goalkeeper, handled the ball well and gave no cause for concern. Stan Aston and Jack Dunn, a firm favourite with the crowd, also gave sterling performances. In fact the only weak link in the defence appeared to be at right half where Cox always seemed to be struggling.

Borough made three changes at half-time and brought in Wilkes for Waters at left-back, Gaylor for Aston at centre-half, and Morgan for Harper at inside-right. Wilkes cannot be assessed as he was on the field only a matter of minutes before going off injured. But Gaylor gave a good account of himself as did Morgan, who impressed with his intelligent ball distribution and fetching and carrying.

To predict a rosy further for this Borough team would, on Saturday's performance, be foolish. But Badham's task is not yet completed and more signings will have to be made and a lot of hard training done if the Borough are to fight their way back to the premier division this season.

Harper, Breakwell and Morgan scored for the Borough and Stevenson and Crawley for Hinckley.

Hinckley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 15-08-1961

Hinckley: Lines; Ballinger (Cheshire), Shepherd; Harrison, Aldis (Dunn), Chapman, Round (Lawlor), Follan, Crawley, Micklewright (Rhodes), Edwards.

Borough: Anderson; Bedford (McCarthy), Waters; Cox, Aston and Allen; Harper, Morgan, Breakwell (Burns), Wyer (Conlon), Roberts (Wyer).

Borough made the journey to Middlefield Lane to face Hinckley Athletic in a public trial match.

As on Saturday, the Borough defence gave a sterling performance and the apparent weaknesses were in the forward line.

At inside right Ron Morgan played a useful game, and Conlon, who on Saturday had turned out on the right-wing, played a constructive game at inside-left.

It would appear that coach-manager Badham's most urgent task is to find a good centre-forward, for neither Breakwell nor Burns filled this position satisfactorily, and two good wing men. Roberts was again unimpressive on the left wing, while Harper was less at home on the right wing than he was in the inside berth. Borough's scorers were Harper and Morgan.

Tunbridge Wells Utd. v Nuneaton Borough 19-08-1961

Tunbridge: Farnfield; Craggs and Harropp; Brittan (capt), Boon and Saxby; Hay, Back, Davies, Logan and Peters.

Borough: Anderson; Dunn (capt) and Waters; Cox, Aston and Morris; Conlon, Harper, Breakwell, Wyer and Roberts.

Borough made the journey to Tunbridge Wells to play a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

With victory well within their grasp – winning 4-1 with only 30 minutes to go – Borough, as a result of defensive lapses, let a point slip through their fingers in their opening match of the season at Eridge Road. From Borough's point of view, it was a disappointing end to what had been an excellent curtain raiser, but nevertheless there is some consolation in the fact that an away point is hard earned in Southern League soccer.

The most pleasing feature for Manor Park fans was the fine showing of centre-forward Breakwell, who completely contradicted the unimpressive reports credited him in the trial games. Leading the line with great skill he crowned a grand display with a well-taken hat-trick.

In fact, generally speaking, Borough's attack acquitted itself well, particularly in the early stages of the second half when their liveliness had the home defence in serious trouble. Perhaps significantly, their domination began to reveal itself when Conlon and Roberts switched wings. This move resulted in many openings being carved in a rugged defence, in which tough tackling centre-half Boon was the strong man.

Harper and Wyer also played their parts admirably in this period of Borough ascendancy, keeping a steady supply of

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passes going wingward. The shortcomings of the rearguard in the closing stages must have given Fred Badham food for thought. Aston had some anxious moments against the bustling Tunbridge Wells leader, while Dunn and Waters similarly had their problems against the fast moving wingers.

Borough did not start the game well on the bone-hard pitch, which has a pronounced slope. United were nippy in attack, and Davies and left-winger Peter Peters came very near to scoring early on. It was no surprise when in the 15th minute Peters scored from a Davies pass. Just on half-time, however, Breakwell scored after a cross had rebounded off the crossbar.

In the first 15 minutes of the second half the Nuneaton forwards came to life and rapped in three opportunist goals. The wingers featured prominently in the scoring spree. The openings were all made in the same fashion – a swift dash down the wing and an accurate cross to the centre. Breakwell, twice, and Wyer were well positioned to connect.

After looking all set for a comfortable win, the visitors made the common mistake of many teams in commanding positions of resting on the laurels. Borough fell back on defence and the Kent side received all the encouragement they needed when their inside-right Back reduced the deficit.

Borough's defence, which had hitherto given quite a good account of itself, panicked in the closing stages and centre-forward Davies notched two goals in the last five minutes to pull the game out of the fire.

Nuneaton Borough v Poole Town 26-08-1961

Borough: Anderson; Dunn and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Morris; Conlon, Morgan, Breakwell, Wyer and Roberts.

Poole Town: F. Brown; McShee and Earl; Ames, Osmond and Elliott; Beasley, P. Brown, Moyses, Humphrey and McLuckie.

Borough welcomed Poole Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Borough lost their first home point of the new season, and on the evidence of this game many more are likely to go begging unless they can improve – and improve considerably – on this showing against moderate opposition. Blame if you like the light ball and stiff breeze which made control difficult, but the inescapable fact remains that Borough did not possess sufficient skill to lift this game out of mediocrity. In fact, the proceedings cried out for a star, but no-one was available to stamp his name indelibly as an outstanding performer.

Breakwell ploughed a lone furrow, but with Morgan and Wyer offering little support, goals looked unlikely to come. The one that did come, eventually, after 63 minutes was from the penalty spot, following a handball offence against a Poole defender. From the spot, Breakwell did the necessary with a neat side-foot, low and wide of the keeper's left hand.

Borough failed to build on this break and Poole, smarting from what they thought was a harsh penalty decision,

took the upper hand, and quite deservedly equalised eight minutes later when centre-forward Moyses pulled a ball back from the left wing for McLuckie to beat Anderson all ends up with a half-volley in the angle of post and bar.

The game, for the most part, was almost completely devoid of incident and cohesive football. Not until 38 minutes had passed did Borough look like opening their account. Then, Breakwell made a good effort with a header which flashed narrowly past a post. But, by and large, both keepers had comfortable afternoons, though Anderson impressed with some clean handling from a number of cross shots and centres.

To sum up, this form was just not good enough. The 90 minutes provided a suitable reminder that fitness alone is no substitute for skill. Both are required in large doses for a team to operate really successfully.

Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 31-08-1961

Borough: Anderson; Dunn and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Morris; Conlon, Harper, Burns, Wyer and Roberts.

Cheltenham: Gourlay; Farrell and Hopkinson; Carvin, Quinlan and Cavanagh; Flynn, Wells, Shiner, Jones and Coldray.

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup first round, first leg match.

Showing much better form Borough secured a 2-2 draw against Premier Division opposition. In the very first minute, Cox was forced to put back to Anderson to relieve pressure, and Dunn did likewise shortly afterwards. After seven minutes, Borough went into the lead through left-half Morris, whose 25 yards power-drive left Gourlay helpless.

The visitors' goal only narrowly survived in the next minute when Conlon put over a perfect cross, but Roberts was a little slow in meeting it, and the danger was cleared.

Cheltenham, whose fast-moving forwards were giving the home defence plenty to think about, equalised after 13 minutes when Wells fastened on to a through pass, which was deflected by Aston, to net from close range. A neat pass on the turn by Shiner to Wells resulted in the inside-right flashing in a shot which Anderson did well to push round the post for a corner.

Then Conlon broke away on the wing, cut inside, and fired in a hard, rising ball which brought the best out of Gourlay. Roberts missed a great chance when he was put through by Harper. The outside-left, from short range, crashed the ball straight at Gourlay. Borough's form so far had shown a considerable improvement on recent form and they were quite the equal of their Premier Division opponents.

A constant source of danger to the visitors' defence was the diminutive Conlon, who repeatedly left Harkinson on the wrong foot. On one occasion Gourlay was only just in time when he leapt out of goal to pull a Roberts' centre off the head of Burns. Against the run of play, the visitors went into the lead in the 40th minute, through Wells.



Receiving a Shiner cross from the left, the inside right, on bended knee, whipped in a glancing header from a near-impossible angle, but his effort found the net via a post.

Borough were forced to defend early in the second half, but suddenly sprang to life when Burns tested Gourlay, who did spendily to push Conlan's perfectly placed corner kick round the post for another corner; and from Conlan's perfectly placed kick, Wyer headed a fine equaliser, with 78 minutes gone.

Although Borough were outplayed for the first 20 minutes of the second half, they found a new lease of life, and it was the turn of the Cheltenham defence to show anxiety. Harper missed a golden opportunity of putting his side ahead. After rounding the advancing Gourlay, the inside-right lobbed wide with an open net yawning in front of him. Anderson then brought off a fine diving save from a Shiner header.

Dartford v Nuneaton Borough 02-09-1961

Dartford: Bourne; Redmond and Newstead; White, Mabey and Pyke; Cooper, Taylor, Ackerman, Fletcher and Adams.

Borough: Anderson; Bedford and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Morris; Conlon, Harper, Burns, Wyer and Roberts.

Borough made the journey to Dartford for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Borough's defence must shoulder the blame for their side's first defeat of the season. The visitors put up an excellent first-half show and well deserved to be on level terms at half-time. After the change of ends, however, the defence just dithered and Dartford went on to win comfortably. It was the home side's fifth consecutive win.

For the first 20 minutes Borough were the better side and took the lead quite deservedly. In fact, had left-winger Tom Roberts taken toll of two easy scoring chances the visitors might so easily have established a winning position. One of Roberts' misses had to be seen to be believed. When the ball came over from Conlon on the right, Roberts found himself unmarked not more than three or four yards from goal.

He had all the time in the world to get the ball down and virtually pick his spot in the net, but he hurriedly shot high and wide. Borough's attack, well supported from behind often outwitted the Dartford defence and their opening goal in the 14th minute was a glorious effort. Wyer started the move with a pass to Cox. The latter slipped the ball out to Conlon and he drifted the ball to the far post. Tony Burns brushed Roberts aside and rising above the defenders headed a delightful goal.

Meanwhile player-manager Ackerman, the ex-Millwall player, was worrying Aston and when the latter was penalised for a push, the referee awarded the home side an indirect free kick. Taylor took the kick and shot directly into the net, but obviously it did not count. It was Ackerman who levelled the scores after 30 minutes when, after a long throw-in from the right half, White, he managed to push the ball past Anderson at the second attempt. Dartford were now getting into their

stride and they took the lead in the 42nd minute, good work by Adams and Ackerman ending in right-winger Cooper going down on to his knees to head into the net just inside the post.

Almost on half-time Borough drew level. Aston and Ackerman were involved in a duel for the ball inside the Dartford half. Both seemed guilty of pushing and shoving but the referee gave the free kick to Borough. While the spectators were yelling at the referee and the home players were arguing about the decision, Conlon pushed the ball forward. Burns went after it unchallenged and slipped the ball past the advancing Bourne. The goal was received in deathly silence.

There could be no argument about Dartford's superiority throughout the second half and they full deserved their two goals. The first came in the 56th minute when Fletcher shot through while the Borough defence was merely looking on and again in the 65th minute when little or no attempt was made to intercept a crossfield pass and Taylor scored at his leisure

Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 06-09-1961

Cheltenham: Gill; Farrell and Hopkinson; Carvin, Turner and Cavanagh; Thorndale, Wells, Shiner, Jones and Coldray.

Borough: Anderson; Bedford and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Morris; Conlon, Harper, Burns, Wyer and Roberts.

Borough made the journey to Cheltenham Town for a Southern League Cup first round, second leg tie.

Nuneaton's attack, weak on the flanks, seldom gave the Cheltenham defence much anxiety, in this Cup tie on Wednesday night, and the Premier Division club won by a comfortable margin.

Borough's attack was hardly in the game during the first-half and it was due to skilful defending from Harold Cox, Stan Aston and Cliff Morris that prevented Cheltenham scoring more than once in the first half. This goal came from inside right Wells, who scored twice in the first leg at Manor Park.

Peter Wyer and Dennis Harper tried desperately to infuse a little light into the Borough front line but their only chances to demonstrate their aggressive intent arrived from breakaway efforts. Wyer hit one powerful shot which bounced on the cross bar, and Harper hooked another fine effort just over the top.

Keith McCarthy had an uneasy night against Cheltenham's replacement right winger, Thorndale, and it was from this flank that Cheltenham's second goal came in the 53rd minute when Shiner headed in from the winger's centre. Borough had their best spell after this, with Cox and Morris in great form in midfield.

They gave Borough's approach play real polish, but time after time the moves broke down when they pushed the ball out to wingers Conlon and Roberts. Again the best scoring efforts came from the inside forwards and Wyer with one snappy shot brought a great diving save from keeper Gill.



Although the latter stages of the game were dominated by the visitors, it was Cheltenham who put the result beyond doubt when right half Carvin scored with a 20 yard shot which entered the net off a defender.



Funeral Of Borough FC Secretary

Representatives of Nuneaton Borough FC, of which he had been hon. secretary for a number of years, attended the funeral at Nuneaton Parish Church, of Mr Percy Osborne, of Bavos, Newtown Road, Nuneaton, who died in Manor Hospital aged 62.

Few people have given of their services more unstintingly in the interests of local football than Mr Osborne.

A member of a footballing family – his father played for Sheffield United and Wolverhampton – Mr Osborne had a life-long interest in the game and his connections with the old Nuneaton Town FC went back to 1922, when he played centre-half for the Town Reserves.

When an ankle injury ended his playing career, Mr Osborne turned his attention to the administrative side of the game and in 1934 he was appointed assistant secretary to the Town club under the late Mr F. J. Perry. He held that position until the club was wound up.

On the formation of Nuneaton Borough FC, Mr Osborne was elected to the committee and at the start of the 1938-39 season was appointed honorary secretary of the club upon Mr Perry's resignation due to ill health – and he held that position right up to the time of his death, with the exception of a brief period during the war...

Ramsgate Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 16-09-1961

Ramsgate: Uprichard; S. Jest and Cromble; Winfield, Marshall and Laing; Tomkys, Nisbet, Gilbert, McFall and Clifton.

Borough: Anderson; McCarthy and Morris; Cox, Aston and Allen; Conlon, Jones, Breakwell, Harper and Burns.

Borough made the journey to Ramsgate for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

A luckier brace of Southern League points than those snatched by Borough at sundrenched Southwood on Saturday will surely not be gained by them this season. The home side, reduced to nine men at one stage, were woefully weak in front of goal.

Ramsgate were at a disadvantage from the 16th minute when right-half Winfield was in collision with a Borough forward and was a passenger for the rest of the game.

The home side opened like world beaters and were a goal up in the first minute when Gilbert headed a peach of a goal from a cross by Tomkys, with the Borough rearguard completely spreadeagled.

Gradually, however, the Borough defence tightened up, which was just as well as the home side had two-thirds of the play. Despite the home side's dominance, Borough grabbed an equaliser after 35 minutes when Marshall punched out a harmless looking cross from Jones. Breakwell made no mistake from the penalty spot.

Ramsgate goalkeeper Uprichard had comparatively little to do in either half, but he appeared to be badly positioned when Borough grabbed the winner with 77 minutes gone. A loose ball just outside the penalty area was pounced upon by the hard-grafting Harper who tried a speculative shot which ended up in the far corner of the net.

This knocked much of the life out of the "Rams" who were already handicapped by having Winfield hobbling and Laing, who was off for a short spell in the second half, not 100 per cent fit. Play slowly deteriorated in the second half into a series of dull midfield exchanges, neither side being able to make the final all-important pass.

On this showing, both sides will have to improve if they are to have any hopes of being in the top four at the end of April.

Hastings United v Nuneaton Borough 30-09-1961

Hastings: Marshall; K. Birrell and McGuinness; Murray, Ashen and Edwards; Kenny, Dougan, Daly, Farmer and Walker.

Borough: Anderson; McCarthy and Morris; Cox, Aston and Allen; Conlon, Harper, Breakwell, Jones and Wyer.

Borough made the journey to Pilot Field, the home of Hastings United, for a Southern League Division 1 game.

The home side looked clear favourites to take the match, following a first-half, which they totally dominated. Hastings had Borough pinned in their own half, but could not score any goals. It was an entertaining game to watch, for both teams played intelligent football, and the approach work was often good. But lack of punch in front of goal was another quality which both teams shared.

It was the goal-snatching ability of John Conlon, the danger man in the Borough attack, which finally and deservedly, gave the visitors maximum points and enabled Hastings to extend their winless run. Nuneaton's defence was well held together by Aston, and even when severely pressed, they rarely allowed Hastings' forwards to shoot, and when did, Anderson was equal to the occasion. He had luck on his side on one occasion in the second half when a Daly header beat him, only to hit the crossbar.

Breakwell all but gave Borough the lead in the opening minutes, when Marshall only parried his rising drive and had to retrieve the ball just as it was about to cross the line. This was Borough's only attack for some time, but towards the

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end of the half Jones twice went close, once with a header and once with a shot which only quick anticipation and sure handling by Marshall prevented from entering the net.

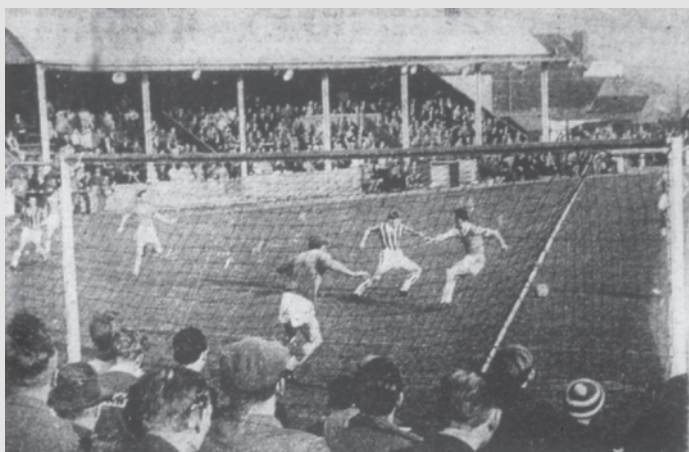
Four minutes after half-time, Borough took the lead. Cox passed to Conlon and the winger, after beating Marshall in a duel for the ball, ran on and shot into an empty net. Dougan should have equalised almost at once, but though right through, he shot well wide of the far post.

Wyer, drawing Marshall out of his goal, almost put Nuneaton two goals ahead, but his shot was saved on the line by McGuinness. Again Hastings had a chance to equalise when Walker was put through, but he sliced his drive and Borough retained their lead. Five minutes from time Conlon settled the matter when he made a brilliant run, finishing with a scorching drive.

Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town 14-10-1961

Borough: Anderson; Gaylor and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Hartland; Conlon, Harper, Breakwell, Wright and Wyer.

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



Another Borough attack which fizzled out in their match with Rugby Town last Saturday, newcomer Alan Wright is seen being challenged by a Rugby defender. Goalkeeper Thomson is seen moving out of goal.

Photo: Maxwell Richards/Nuneaton Observer

Borough's superb defensive system saw to it that the strong, experienced Rugby forward line were kept out of the 18 yard area, with the result that although the visitors shot hard and often they were not really dangerous. With Ron Breakwell throwing away his last chance of regaining the centre-forward berth, this second round Birmingham Senior Cup game ended in a goalless draw and the replay will take place in the next week or so.

An experienced centre-forward would have snapped up three chances laid on by Wright. The only Breakwell effort that looked goal-worthy was a header that whistled wide of the post. Breakwell's failure is not a surprise. He is after all a centre-half thrown into the forward line as an experiment. He has been so busy marking other players throughout his

career that he can't get out of the habit and spends most of the time marking the opposing centre-half.

Many defences would have cracked against the power play of the Rugby attack led by Hazelden and backed up by two fine attacking wing-halves in Archer and Buckley. Aston and Co. were in complete command. Only once did they falter, when they stood and appealed for offside, allowing Murphy to go through unchallenged. Anderson was quickly off his line and saved the day.

Badham has made a find in 17-year-old half-back Mick Hartland. A last minute choice, young Hartland showed no sign of nerves in his Cup tie debut for Nuneaton. He tackled strongly, used the ball shrewdly and linked up neatly with his forward line. The manager-coach must wish he had a centre-forward capable of turning good approach work into goals.

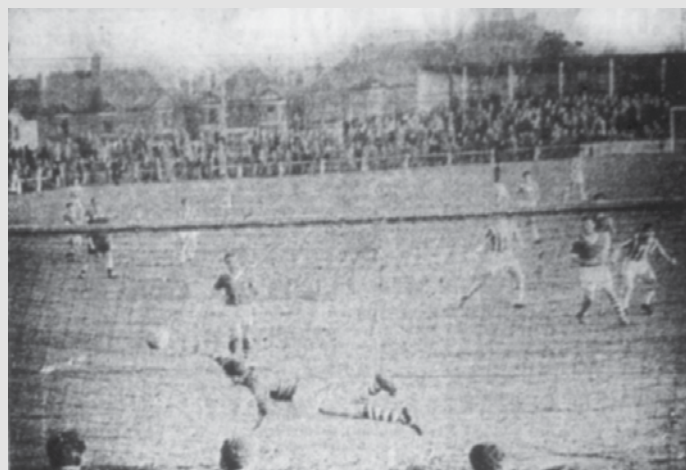
Borough's present line-up is the youngest ever in the history of the club – only one man is over 24, and that is goalkeeper John Anderson.

Nuneaton Borough v Gloucester City 21-10-1961

Borough: Anderson; Morris and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Huss; Conlon, Wright, Burns, Hartland and Wyer.

Gloucester: Barton; Reeves and Weston; Keylock, Hyde and Bell; Skull, Adlam, Horlick, Day and Cooper.

Borough welcomed Gloucester City to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 match.



Michael Hartland (extreme right) is pictured scoring Borough's third goal against Gloucester City. The goalkeeper is seen diving to his left in a vain effort to save the young inside forward's great shot.

Photo: Maxwell Richards/Nuneaton Observer

Gloucester were a poor side, but Borough gave a much brighter display and, probably much more pleasing, did more shooting in this game than in the half-a-dozen previous games. The man who did much to pep up the Borough attack was Alan Wright, who was playing in his first Southern League game since joining Nuneaton. In the first five minutes he put in two excellent shots and followed up with many other worthy efforts.



Oddly enough, the goal he got did not come from one of his best shots, but from one of his less spectacular efforts. In the 25th minute Wright shot for goal, Barton moved to cover the shot but the ball struck a defender and was deflected into the opposite end of the net, leaving the keeper stranded.

Worse was to follow for City. Ten minutes later Borough were awarded a corner on the left. Wyer's inswinging flag kick swung so viciously that it went into the net either directly or via the goalkeeper's hands. It was difficult to see exactly what happened – but it was goal number two for Borough.

There was no good fortune about the home side's third goal in the 39th minute as 17-year-old Michael Hartland, who was also making his debut in Borough's Southern League side, beating Barton to a frazzle with a great shot which entered the net like a rocket. Borough notched a fourth goal after 53 minutes. Conlon was put away on the right and crossed a perfect ball for Peter Wyer to run in and crash home an unstoppable shot.

Having established an unassailable lead, Borough took their foot off the pedal and they lost much of their earlier fire. Gloucester came more into the game and finally reduced the lead. Indeed, City might easily have got another when an inviting centre from the right flashed across the Borough goal, but was missed by three visiting forwards. Gloucester's goal came five minutes from time. Anderson failed properly to clear a corner kick and left Horlick with an easy scoring chance.

Borough's outstanding player, once again, was Stan Aston, who dominated the middle of the field and completely blotted out Horlick. He scarcely put a foot wrong throughout the game.

Wisbech Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-10-1961

Wisbech: Chandler; Phillips and MacDonald; Elliott, Gale and Jayes; Olah, Nicholson, Lawrence, Pye and Flatt.

Borough: Anderson; Morris and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Huss; Poynton, Wright, Burns, Hartland and Wyer.

Borough made the journey to Wisbech Town for a Southern League Division 1 game.

A goal down after 26 minutes, Borough fought on gamely. Seven minutes later they drew level through an own goal, and for the remainder of the first-half were, if anything, the better side. Unfortunately their finishing did not compare with their midfield and approach work, and just before half time they found themselves in arrears.

Flatt opened the scoring for Wisbech in the 26th minute with a cleverly placed left foot shot after Morris had failed to clear. Seven minutes later Elliott put through his own goal in trying to clear Burn's centre, with Wright in close attendance.

In the 43rd minute Jesse Pye put his side ahead with a great volley. Two minutes after the break Olah scored when the Borough defence stopped, expecting an offside decision. Even Olah stopped, himself expecting an offside flag, but

when it didn't come, he slipped the ball past Anderson and into the net. This had the most depressing effect on the visitors; they lost all their earlier rhythm and enthusiasm, with the result that Wisbech got right on top. With five minutes to go Pye went through and scored a fourth goal for the home side.

What Borough badly needed in this game was an "old hand" who could have rallied them after that third Wisbech goal.

Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-11-1961

Rugby Town: Thomson; Jackson and Finch; Archer, Knox and Buckley; Draper, Jones, Murphy, Hazelden and Burrows.

Borough: Bateman; Huss and Haywood; Cox, Aston and Morris; Harper, Wright, Breakwell, Allen and Wyer.

Borough made the journey to Rugby Town for a Birmingham Senior Cup 2nd round replay.

Borough's young hopefuls were all at sea in this Senior Cup replay at Rugby. Veteran ex-Birmingham forward Peter Murphy opened Rugby's account after 20 minutes, with a fast low drive. The home side extended their lead 20 minutes into the second half when Knox and Hazelden opened up the Borough defence for Jones to score. Murphy struck again five minutes from time when his shot struck first one post and then the other, before crossing the line.

Borough never looked like scoring. When the forwards reached the penalty area they just didn't know what to do, and goalkeeper Thomson must have had his cushiest ever afternoon. Even Wright and Allen, who can usually be relied on to have a go, failed to cause the slightest trouble.

In an effort to improve things, Breakwell and Aston changed place in the second half, but there was still no shooting. Playing at full back, Huss and Haywood were too lacksadaisical and revealed no sense of urgency. In goal, David Bateman at least had the satisfaction of saving Knox's penalty, which was awarded for a handball offence against Haywood.

Rugby were always on top except for a brief period late in the first-half when Borough temporarily pulled up their socks. It didn't last long, however. This was another very poor Borough performance. They will have to do much better than this if they are to maintain their present satisfactory position in the league.

Borough To Launch Scheme

Nuneaton Borough FC directors are to launch a scheme which is intended primarily to raise funds for ground improvements at Manor Park.

Mr R. S. Bull, chairman of the directors has revealed that they have received a quotation for having the pitch ploughed up, levelled, drained and re-sown. He said that if sufficient funds were available the money would not be restricted to ground improvements.

Nuneaton Borough v Sittingbourne 04-11-1961

Borough: Anderson; McCarthy and Hicks; Cox, Aston and Morris; Morgan, Wright, Burns, Allen and Wyer.

Sittingbourne: Round; Rutter and Lusted; Brockington, Greenwood and Pearce; Newcombe, Whyte, Eckerstall, Dann and Brown.

Borough welcomed Sittingbourne to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.



Stan Aston scores Borough's goal from the penalty spot.

Photo: Maxwell Richards/Nuneaton Observer

This was a drab, colourless encounter in which neither set of forwards displayed much idea of marksmanship. This, of course, is nothing new so far as Borough is concerned, but one expected something better from the experienced Sittingbourne side, who last season gave Borough a 5-1 drubbing on the same ground.

Indeed both goals were more or less the result of accidents. Borough got theirs in the 20th minute when Greenwood handled and Stan Aston scored easily from the penalty spot. Sittingbourne levelled the scores in the 71st minute when Keith McCarthy erred and let in Whyte, who drove low into the net. Seldom did either side look like scoring from what might be called a legitimate move.

In the first half Borough produced some neat looking forward moves without looking much like scoring. In the second session they went to pieces and it was 20 minutes after half-time before they really got anywhere near the Sittingbourne goal. Then, a Burns header went over the top, followed by a shot from Alan Wright which goalkeeper Round saved.

Once Sittingbourne had equalised it was really a question of whether Borough would manage to save the game. They did – but supporters were glad to hear the final whistle. The defence cannot shoulder too much blame, but failing to get the ball away can cause problems. Skipper Harold Cox revels in the attacking game and never neglects any opportunity to go upfield in support of the forwards, but the ball was coming back so quickly that on occasion McCarthy was left with both Brown and Dann to face.

Borough's biggest problems were in attack where Wyer had a quiet game. Ron Morgan, tried on the right wing, was slightly better than Dennis Harper, who played in that position at Rugby. Even Alan Wright seems to have caught the non-shooting bug. Borough might have won this game in the first-half had their attack had any edge, which it just hadn't.

Dover v Nuneaton Borough 11-11-1961

Borough: Anderson; McCarthy and Huss; Cox, Aston and Morris; Morgan, Wright, Burns, Allen and Conlon.

Borough made the journey to The Crabble Athletic ground to take on Dover in a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Borough were slightly unfortunate not to come away from this game with a point. Two vital goals from the seasiders in the opening minutes of each half upset the Borough, but on each occasion they fought back magnificently. Although, despite holding the territorial whip hand in the main, they could not find the net. Making his first appearance for Dover, ex-Aldershot and Brighton goalkeeper Manning was largely responsible for this, but even so, the woodwork came to his assistance on three occasions.

Borough almost took the lead in the first minute when Morgan swung the ball over and centre-forward Burns sent a skilful header wide of the goalkeeper, but against the post. Dover opened the scoring two minutes later when Anderson came out to punch clear from Dover's first attack. The defence got the ball away, but a bad pass enabled Rowan to cut in and drive a 25 yard shot past Anderson.

Play continued to swing from end to end at a great pace until both defences began to tighten and get the measure of opposing forwards. Of the two, Borough were more successful and with wing halves Cox and Morris prominent, began to press for an equaliser. Dover were always dangerous on the counter, however, and almost increased their lead when Pearson went through on his own and prompted a great save from Anderson.

Dover's second goal in the 54th minute was the outcome of a prolonged struggle between the youngest and oldest players on view. Youth bowed to experience when Huss failed to hold veteran ex-Chelsea star Parsons and the winger cut through to provide a perfect centre from which centre-forward Jones scored at the second attempt.

With nothing to lose Borough put everything into attack and only a mixture of atrocious luck and a dour defence kept them at bay. Burns came close with a header. Wright and Allen both hit the woodwork and Manning kept his charge intact with a series of first-class saves before Borough eventually scored late in the game. Morgan forced a corner out on the right which the home defender failed to clear and from the ensuing scramble Burns found the net with a six yard shot.

Borough tried hard to salvage a point with further attacks, but if anything Dover were unlucky when Rowan hit the post.

Nuneaton Borough v Ashford Town 18-11-1961

Borough: Anderson; McCarthy and Huss; Cox, Aston and Morris; Conlon, Wright, Burns, Wyer and Brandon.
Ashford Town: Haydon; Gregory and Nixon; Peplow, Harris and Hughes; Payne, Bean, White, Collins and Burden.

Borough welcomed Ashford Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.



Alan Wright (extreme right) slamming home the first of his two goals against Ashford Town on Saturday.

Photo: Maxwell Richards/Nuneaton Observer

Borough well deserved their success over Ashford, because they showed better marksmanship and snapped up their chances, which was a refreshing change. Indeed, this was the factor that tipped the game in the home side's favour, as territorially there was little in it.

Borough struck their first blow after six minutes play, in their first real attack on the Ashford goal. Up to this moment there had been only been one team in it – Ashford. Borough were all at sixes and sevens and the visitors were piling on the pressure with their full-backs almost on the half-way line.

A ball through the middle found Tony Burns, who had a more or less clear course for goal ahead of him. Off he went and then exactly at the right moment he slipped the ball to Alan Wright, who lost no time in thumping it into the back of the net. In the 18th minute came Borough's second goal – and Wright was again the scorer. Wyer cut through and then transferred the ball to the inside-right, whose shot goalkeeper Haydon got his hands to but could not prevent from going into the net.

Goal number three, came in the 65th minute. Wyer swung the ball over to Conlon, who cut in and drove hard for goal. It seemed that Haydon again got his hands to the ball, but Tony Burns was on the spot to put it into the net. After that Borough fell away. Whereas up till then their passing had been crisp and accurate, it now became slovenly and Ashford came more and more into the game in the last 15 minutes and were doing all the attacking.

It was not until two minutes from time, however, that Collins put through for Ashford following a scramble in the goalmouth.

Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 25-11-1961

Corby Town: Williams; Fisher and Harris; Rodgers, Parsons and Rennie; Tomlinson, Robinson, Kelly, Kearns and McCorkindale.
Borough: Anderson; McCarthy and Huss; Cox, Aston and Morris; Conlon, Wright, Burns, Wyer and Brandon.

Borough made the journey to Corby Town to play a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Borough were truly pathetic for all but a short spell, and then they gradually deteriorated and in the end were desperately bad. Stan Aston had an off day and could do little right. The Borough pivot is entitled to a bad game, since he has been the most consistent performer in the side. The way the defence broke down as a result of Aston's off day shows how much the whole team depends upon him.

Things might not have been so bad had not Cox and Morris persisted in going upfield together, thus leaving a terrific gap in midfield and completely exposing the full backs, McCarthy and Huss. Corby were quick to move into the open spaces and often there were as many as seven home players bearing down on the Borough goal. Things were made even worse by the fact that Anderson made mistakes which led to two goals.

Corby opened their account after 26 minutes when, following a corner and a hectic scramble in front of goal, Kearns shot hard into the net. Robinson increased the lead 13 minutes later when he took a pass from Kearns to lob the ball home.

The second half was a one-horse race. In the 65th minute Anderson left his goal to try to reach a McCorkindale centre, failed to do so, and left Kearns to shoot into an empty goal. Two minutes later, with the defence spreadeagled, Tomlinson made it 4-0, and nine minutes from time Rodgers completed the scoring with a long shot which Anderson got his hands to, but could not prevent from going into the net.

This was a thoroughly feeble Borough display and Fred Badham must be wondering what he has to do now to improve matters.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Athletic 02-12-1961

Borough: Anderson; McCarthy and Huss; Cox, Aston and Morris; Conlon, Wright, Maradan, Stokes and Brandon.
Hinckley: Lines; Harris and Shepherd; Chapman, Aldis and Bate; Round, Rhodes, Crawley, Follan and Edwards.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Athletic to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Reinforced by new signings Alf Stokes, former Tottenham, Fulham and Watford forward, who took over from Wyer at inside-left; and Andrew Maradan, a Swiss player from Aston Villa, who led the attack, Borough had a slight edge up to half-time.

Hinckley used the long ball liberally; Borough kept the ball close, and in their own particular styles the two sides served up some quite good looking moves until the break.

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The only goal of the half came after 32 minutes when Alan Wright hit the ball home following a low cross by Ken Brandon. Borough held that lead until half-time – and in fact just about deserved to be a goal up.

The second half, it seemed would produce a fine struggle for supremacy. Instead Borough faded and for long periods were defending desperately. In the face of constant Hinckley raids Borough's defence put on an almost non-stop back-peddalling display. Indeed, at times the halves and backs were all crowding back on Anderson, leaving the Athletic to dominate the wide open spaces in midfield.

These tactics brought trouble aplenty for Borough who often got the ball away more by luck than judgment and it appeared inevitable that the equaliser must come.

And come it did, 15 minutes from the end, when Brian Rhodes took a pass from Follan to shoot past John Anderson.

There is no doubt that the inclusion of Stokes and Maradan made the attack look better. In fact while it received adequate support from behind the forward line did reasonably well.

If we expected Stokes to set the park alight then we were disappointed, for the new man had a rather quiet game. Occasionally, however, he flashed into the picture with a classy pass which suggests that when he gets settled in he might very well provide the experience the present Borough attack so badly needs.

Death Of Ex-Nuneaton Town Chairman

The death has taken place at Hove, Sussex, of Mr George Henry Wheway, a former chairman of the old Nuneaton Town Football Club.

For many years Mr Wheway was in business with his sons in Queen's Road, Nuneaton, as a boot and shoe and furniture dealer. He retired in 1946.

Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 09-12-1961

Rugby Town: Thompson; Jackson and Whale; Archer, Knox and Buckley; English, Draper, Murphy, Jones and Burrows.

Borough: Anderson; Dunn and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Huss; Conlon, Wright, Maradan, Stokes and Brandon.

Borough made the journey to Rugby Town for a Southern League Division 1 game.

For most of the first half it was very largely a case of John Anderson versus Rugby. Indeed, but for brilliant saves by the goalkeeper from Archer and Murphy, and two pieces of good luck when Archer hit the bar and Murphy fired wide from a penalty kick, Borough would have been hopelessly in arrears.

Then in one of their few raids on the Rugby goal, Alf Stokes crossed the ball for Conlon to move inside and shoot into the net via the far post. This surprise goal came in the 36th

minute and put Borough in a completely false position. But with little more than a minute to go for half-time Archer sent Peter Murphy through to level the scores.

The fun really started when the game was resumed, for within three minutes Borough were ahead again, when Stokes got through on the right to square the ball for Maradan to open his scoring account for Borough.

This goal really set the game alight. Lightning forward moves by both sides had the defences rocking and reeling and the crowd yelling with excitement. In the 56th minute, after Maradan had hooked the ball on to the bar, Rugby drew level again when full back Whale came upfield to take a pass from Jones and fire the ball past Anderson to make the score 2-2.

Then in the 65th minute came one of those lapses by Anderson, who up to now had played brilliantly. Draper from near the touchline lifted the ball towards goal and to everybody's amazement it dropped behind the Borough goalkeeper and into the net. At 68 minutes Maradan slammed home a Conlon centre to make the score 3-3 and eleven minutes later David Huss sent Brandon away and the winger's centre was sent into the net by Alan Wright to put Borough ahead again at 4-3.

Borough held that lead until six minutes from time when Murphy made an opening for English to blast the ball home. It was one of the most exciting second halves possible. The crowd didn't know what to expect next, and the issue was in doubt right to the last kick.

Nuneaton Borough v Tunbridge Wells Utd. 16-12-1961

Borough: Anderson; Dunn and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Huss; Conlon, Wright, Wilson, Stokes and Brandon.

Tunbridge: Kirk; Cragg and Yeuell; Brittan, Boon and Batley; Back, Hall, Davies, Logan and Morris.

Borough welcomed Tunbridge Wells United to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 match.

It was bad luck for Borough that Andre Maradan was unfit to play, due to a groin injury. Lack of an effective spearhead blunted the Borough attack, which, after a bright start, gradually became less effective, and then totally ineffective in the second half.

Borough should have scored twice in the first few minutes of the game. First Wilson spooned the ball over the top after being put through by Stokes. Then, from a cross by Brandon, Conlon was too long in getting the ball under control and lost his chance.

Tunbridge got their first goal eleven minutes after half-time when Davies fastened on to a Brittan through pass to beat Anderson from close range. Their second goal came in the 65th minute when Davies centred for the injured Yeuell to shoot the ball into the net.

Borough got a consolation goal two minutes from the end

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when Wilson went through from a Stokes' pass and had his shot helped into the net by right-back Cragg.

This was a very disappointing Borough display, especially having regard to the fact that Tunbridge were no better than their lowly position in the league would suggest.

Tunbridge deserved to win because of their second half superiority. Although their superiority was not particularly pronounced it was sufficient to give them the edge. This in spite of the fact that left back Yeuell was injured and spent most of the second session in the forward line.

Poole Town v Nuneaton Borough 23-12-1961

Borough: Anderson; Bedford and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Morris; Conlon, Wright, Burns, Stokes and Huss.

Borough made the journey to Poole Town to play a Southern League Division 1 game.

The Borough display at Poole must have convinced manager Fred Badham that he has still a long way to go before he can sit back and feel satisfied.

Mr Badham did not see the game because he was watching the Reserves at Manor Park, but the score speaks for itself. It was a particularly one-side game with the visitors seldom being in the hunt. Borough never recovered from a fourth minute goal and were easy prey to a side that was always well on top.

It was Bellett who opened Poole's account after four minutes and in the 18th minute he made an opening for Dailey to make it 2-0. Borough showed up a little better in the second half but were no match for a sparkling home side. Five minutes after the change of ends Bellett fastened on to a through ball from Dailey and further increased Poole's lead before McLuckie made it 4-0.

Burns pulled a goal back for Borough, but 15 minutes from the end Earl got the home side's fifth goal from the spot after Bellett had been brought down in the area.

Nuneaton Borough v Canterbury City 26-12-1961

Borough: Anderson; Bedford and Huss; Cox, Mooney and Morris; Harper, Wright, Poynton, Stokes and Brandon.

Canterbury: Manning; Wells and Bailey; Carroll, Carragher and Hill; Dawson, Ray, Naysmith, Robinson and Crowshaw.

Borough welcomed Canterbury City to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Borough practically threw this game away by missing a penalty in the 59th minute. Brandon ran in to reach a pass, took a swipe at the ball, missed, and fell. To everyone's surprise the referee awarded Borough a penalty. Alan Wright drove the ball against the woodwork, from where it ran to safety. That miss prevented Borough taking a 2-1 lead.

On a frost-bound pitch Borough adopted the suicidal tactics of trying to keep the ball close. When it should have been

obvious that the long ball was the one and only answer to the trying conditions underfoot. Borough far too often went across the field and then backwards.

Their attempts to defy the conditions by trying to weave intricate patterns were the main cause of their defeat. And the fact that Canterbury used the long ball was the principal reason for the visitors' success. The team using the right tactics won.

The forwards may have done better had they been better served from behind. Stokes did his best to get the line moving properly, but all to no avail. Canterbury were better together as a team, though it must be admitted anything approaching a reasonable Borough side would have beaten them without very great difficulty.

Canterbury went ahead in the 41st minute when Anderson, rushing out of goal, missed the ball. Robinson shot towards the empty net, with Huss being just too late to prevent the ball crossing the line. Two minutes later a cross by Harper caught Poynton on the wrong foot, but whipping round the centre-forward hooked the ball into the net with his left foot.

Canterbury's winning goal came in the 61st minute when Anderson pushed out a header to Robinson who again found the net. Unless Borough can do better than this, goodness only knows what will happen to the crowd, especially now that winter is well and truly with us. There were no more than 1,400 spectators on Tuesday. That figure will get even less if there is not an improvement – and a big one too.

Villa-Borough Link-Up

'Far Better Team In The Immediate Future'

"It means we shall have a far better team in the immediate future," Mr Fred Badham, manager of Nuneaton Borough FC, said when asked for his comments about the link-up between Borough and Aston Villa, which was announced on Wednesday.

Mentioning that for some time now he had been trying to arrange the link-up of the two clubs, he said that Mr Joe Mercer (Villa's manager) was going to give them the option on professional players he could not play regularly in his Central League side, due to the fact he could pick only 11 players. Villa would retain them on Football League forms, but they would come to Borough on Southern League and Warwickshire Combination forms.

Asked if the link up would result in a better standard of football at Manor Park, Mr Badham replied: "It has got to. Their professionals and amateurs are better than ours."

It also meant that Borough would have first option on Villa's amateurs and he had had two recently. In return Villa would have first option on any young players from Nuneaton.

No player that came from Villa would be transferred without the mutual agreement of the two clubs.



Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 13-01-1962

Burton: Spittle; Finney and Martin; Mays, Davis and Metcalfe; Newbery, Barker, Brown, Awde and Jones.

Borough: Anderson; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Fellows; Conlon, Poynton, Maradan, Stokes and McLeod.

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

John Poynton, who was only in the side because of Alan Wright's injury, played a major part in Borough's win. He not only scored two of the goals, but set up the other two.

It was a remarkable game in that although they won by a margin, Borough were defending desperately for a large part of the game. It is no exaggeration to say that Burton did 80 per cent of the attacking, but Borough scored four out of the six opportunities that came their way.

After 12 minutes Stan Aston banged a clearance upfield. This was seized upon about ten yards inside the Burton half by Poynton, who raced on, shook off a challenge by Davis, and then slipped the ball past goalkeeper Spittle and into the net. In the 18th minute Borough struck again. Poynton moved out to the left and then crossed the ball. A defender failed to clear and running in Andre Maradan banged the ball home.

From that point until half-time it was all Burton. They attacked almost non-stop and ought easily to have wiped out Borough's two-goal lead. Twice they failed with only Anderson to beat.

After half-time Burton again applied heavy pressure without troubling a confident John Anderson. Then on 65 minutes Borough struck once more. Maradan sent Conlon away and when the winger dropped the ball to the far post, Poynton was there to head Borough's third goal. Five minutes later Burton achieved their one and only success from a free-kick which was taken three times before it met with the referee's approval. Eventually Borough players lined up on the goal-line, Brown touched the ball to Mays, who drove it into the roof of the net. Eleven minutes from time Poynton rescued the ball and swung across a hard centre, which Davis lost and before he could recover McLeod rocketed the ball into the Burton net.

Much interest was taken in the debuts of Roger Thompson at full-back and inside-left McLeod, on loan from Aston Villa.

Gloucester City v Nuneaton Borough 20-01-1962

Gloucester: Barton; Reeves and Dunn; Keylock, Hyde and Bell; Simcox, Weston, Skull, Anderson and Day.

Borough: Anderson; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Fellows; Conlon, Poynton, Maradan, Stokes and McLeod.

Borough made the journey to Gloucester City to play a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Johnny Poynton maintained his goal-in-every-match record by grabbing both of Borough's goals, bringing his total to three in five Southern League matches.

Up until the final 15 minutes Borough looked anything but an up-and-coming side. Indeed they were struggling to avoid defeat against a side which played much better than expected. If anything, what little good football there was prior to Borough's late resurgence, was provided by City.

Borough certainly finished better than they started and because of that last-ditch onslaught deserved to collect one of the points, if not both.

Gloucester went ahead after 15 minutes when Skull flashed the ball across goal with what most likely was an intended shot, for Day to shoot into the net. Gloucester held that lead until five minutes after half-time when, from a McLeod pass, Poynton shook off a Hyde challenge, ran in and scored with a low drive which Barton got his hands to but could not prevent going in the net.

The home side went ahead again in the 64th minute when following a Simcox corner kick, Borough's marking was so poor that Day was able to tee-up before scoring. Anderson just touched the ball before it entered the net. In the face of heavy pressure in the last 15 minutes, Gloucester wilted, but more by luck than judgment, especially when Aston hit the bar, hung on to their 2-1 lead until two minutes from time when Conlon took a Maradan pass, cut in, and crossed the ball to Poynton, who accepted his chance gleefully.

Nuneaton Borough v Ramsgate Athletic 03-02-1962

Borough: Anderson; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Morris and Fellows; McLeod, Wright, Poynton, Stokes and Jones.

Ramsgate: Uprichard; Pounder and Crombie; Kirkpatrick, Marshall and Clifton; Tomkys, Cronin, Dicks, Roberts and Fardey.

Borough welcomed Ramsgate Athletic to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

This was a very good performance indeed by Borough. Not only did they win – and win well – but they beat a solid Ramsgate side which battled to the bitter end.

Encouraged by a 20-second goal by Johnny Poynton, Borough played brilliantly in the first half, and well though Ramsgate fought back the visitors were fortunate to be only 2-0 down at the half-way mark, even though the seaiders missed a penalty.

Skipper Alf Stokes was in terrific form. His artistic ball play and precision passes sparked off many truly grand forward moves which had the 2,100 crowd yelling with excitement. Newcomer Alan Jones on the left wing quickly made his presence felt, and by brilliant ball play, so often bamboozled the Ramsgate defenders, that two visiting players had their names taken for fouling the winger.

Before the crowd had settled down, Wright had fired in a terrific shot which Uprichard did well to reach and push up in the air. Before the former Welsh international goalkeeper could catch the ball, Poynton had headed it into the net. In the 28th minute Alan Wright scored from a rebound off a

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defender, blazing the ball home for Borough's second goal. They kept their 2-0 lead until five minutes after half-time when Roberts headed through a Tomkys cross.

Five minutes later – just at the right moment for Borough – McLeod sent Stokes away and the Borough skipper beat Uprichard with a long shot which, so it seemed, the goalkeeper ought to have covered.

That was the best game seen at Manor Park this season. It was certainly one of the hardest. If Borough can keep up this form, then they should bring the crowds back.

What About The Spectators?

To The Editor

Sir, –

It is very gratifying to see the Borough's new scheme gaining in momentum. This talk of improving the playing pitch – let's hope the long-suffering spectators will receive the first improvements

Who knows, we might even get floodlighting at Manor Park. – S. W. Holmes, 10 Cheverel Place, Nuneaton.

Trowbridge Town v Nuneaton Borough 10-02-1962

Trowbridge: Sunderland; McCormack and Marks; Doughty, Prosser and Simpson; Coggins, Tilley, Baker, Thompson and Woolford.

Borough: Anderson; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Morris and Fellows; McLeod, Wright, Maradan, Stokes and Jones.

Borough made the journey to Trowbridge Town to play a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Trowbridge took the lead after 30 minutes, in controversial fashion. Following a free-kick, Anderson moved forward to collect the ball but appeared to be pushed. Being off balance, he could only manage to push the ball into the air and in a desperate effort to clear the ball as it dropped down, Roger Thompson put through his own goal. Anderson's protests were ignored.

That goal looked like giving Trowbridge the full points, as Borough were but a shadow of the side they were against Ramsgate. Missing Johnny Poynton, who had missed his bus in Birmingham, Borough looked unimpressive and rarely looked like saving the game.

However, Trowbridge defenders had pulled the ball down with their hands on more than one occasion, and when left-back Marks used his hands inside the penalty area five minutes from time, the referee awarded Borough a spot kick. Alan Wright did the necessary from the penalty spot to level the scores at 1-1.

Two minutes later, from the second of two corner kicks, McLeod dropped the ball in front of the Trowbridge goal for skipper Alf Stokes to shoot into the net to give Borough victory. Borough's victory may have been somewhat

fortuitous, but in the final 15 minutes of the game Trowbridge wavered in the face of Borough pressure.

While in the end Borough's persistency was rewarded, Trowbridge only had themselves to blame for losing. With the wind and slope to aid them in the opening half, the Wiltshire side had enough of the play and a sufficient number of chances to have settled the issue by the half-way mark, but what with poor finishing and some good work in goal by Anderson, all they could show for a marked superiority in the first half, was a solitary goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Hastings United 24-02-1962

Borough: Anderson; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Morris and Fellows; McLeod, Wright, Poynton, Stokes and Jones.

Borough welcomed Hastings United to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

By defeating Hastings on Saturday, Borough brought their points total from the last five games to nine, but the performance against the league's bottom side was anything but impressive.

Aided by the wind in the first-half Borough produced some delightful football, thanks largely to grand left-wing play by skipper Alf Stokes and Alan Jones. The former again did nearly all the prompting and featured his play with some precision cross-field and inside the full-back passes. Jones weaved his way in and out of the opposition and put across some delightful centres.

The first half was most decidedly Borough's and by half-time they had virtually assured themselves of victory by having established a three-goal lead. Johnny Poynton put Borough ahead with a goal after only two minutes' play. The goal followed a corner kick which Taylor failed to clear. The ball reached Poynton and the centre-forward nodded the ball home.

Borough's second goal came in the 18th minute when Stokes split the Hastings' defence for Alan Wright to slip through and steer the ball past Agate. Three minutes before half-time from another McLeod corner kick, Harold Cox rushed in to slam the ball into the back of the net. With three goals in the bag it seemed Borough were coasting home to victory.

But Hastings had other ideas. Making the best use of the wind and controlling the ball quite skilfully, the visitors kept up a steady attack – and the Borough defence was often in trouble. The visitors reduced the lead in the 57th minute, when Farmer headed through a perfect O'Donoghue centre.

This goal was the outcome of a Morris blunder, which was by no means the only mistake made by the centre-half. Roger Thompson also had a rough time, and was anything but confident against the Hastings left winger.

Had Hastings made full use of their second half opportunities they might conceivably have saved a point. But as the visitors failed to cash in on their chances, Borough won, though anything but convincingly.

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Margate v Nuneaton Borough 24-02-1962

Borough: Anderson; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Morris and Fellows; McLeod, Wright, Holbutt, Stokes and Jones.

Borough made the journey to Hartsdown Park to play Margate in a Southern League Division 1 game.

Borough gave their worst display of the year and went down by two goals to nil. Perhaps Borough would have fared better if left-half Geoff Fellows had not been injured in a collision with home centre-forward Alan Blackburn in the eighth minute. Fellows spent the rest of the half having treatment in the dressing room. Strangely enough, however, the visitors played better in the opening half and were a shade unlucky to change round a goal in arrears.

After the break it was all Margate and they forced corner after corner on both flanks. They finally clinched the issue in the 80th minute with a second goal.

Borough's new centre-forward from Aston Villa, Barry Holbutt, had few chances to shine against the burly home pivot Harrop and the "general" of the front line, inside-left Stokes, faded after a bright start.

Once Margate had settled they began to pile on the pressure and Jeans headed against the upright from a Fraser centre with Anderson beaten. In another sharp raid the lively Blackburn tried a header from Fraser's corner which McCarthy nodded off the line. Margate went ahead in the 40th minute when Hills made ground down the left before sending over a cross which Blackburn met with his head and the ball ended up in the corner of the net.

In the second half, what little fire Nuneaton had shown previously was quickly extinguished as Margate threw in wave after wave of attacks. Smart positioning by centre-half Morris and goalkeeper Anderson dealt with all the raids until the 80th minute when Margate added their second goal. A quick throw-in by Hills midway in the Nuneaton half, found Fletcher unmarked. The inside-left worked his way to the six yard line before switching the ball back into the middle. With Morris for once caught off-guard, Blackburn wasted no time in prodding the ball home.

Nuneaton Borough v Wisbech Town 03-03-1962

Borough: Anderson; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Morris and Fellows; McLeod, Wright, Holbutt, Stokes and Jones.

Wisbech: Chandler; Phillips and McDonald; Jayes, Gale and Elliott; Pye, Olah, Marshall, Nicholson and Platt.

Borough welcomed Wisbech to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

The game proved two things. Firstly, that the Borough defence needs strengthening – a state of affairs which has been evident for a long time now. Secondly, that the club just cannot afford to discard goalscorers. The defence must take the major part of the blame for this defeat.

For the first half-hour the Borough attack led the Wisbech defence a merry dance and should by half-time have put the issue beyond doubt. They had the chances to do so.

New centre-forward Holbutt missed an easy chance with only goalkeeper Chandler to beat. Wright hit the woodwork and also fired wide of an empty net. McLeod also hit the woodwork and then fired wide of an empty net.

Borough opened their account after 15 minutes when a long centre by Roger Thompson sailed across the Wisbech goalmouth to the unmarked Alan Jones, who rose into the air and made no mistake with a well-placed header. The second goal came in the 20th minute. In a Borough attack, goalkeeper Chandler fouled Stokes in the area. The ball ran to Wright who promptly blasted the ball into the net, but the referee had already blown for a penalty. Wright made no mistake from the spot and gave Borough a 2-0 lead.

Two minutes later bad marking both near the corner flag and in front of goal enabled Nicholson to cross the ball to an unmarked Jesse Pye, who scored a simple goal to make it 2-1. Five minutes before half time Roger Thompson handled the ball in the area and conceded a penalty and Elliott levelled the scores from the spot. Thus Borough's two goal lead had already disappeared.

Wisbech got their winner twenty minutes after the change of ends when Nicholson scored after a Wisbech breakaway. Borough never should have lost this game. They made a gift of the two points to Wisbech, who should have been beaten without any great difficulty.

Canterbury City v Nuneaton Borough 10-03-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Morris and Fellows; Wright, Poynton, Holbutt, Stokes and Jones.

Borough made the journey to face Canterbury City in a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Early in the match Borough owed a lot to the solidity of their defence, for Canterbury, after three wins in a row – the last 4-0 away to promotion challenging Poole – were in a confident mood. Although Borough showed much promise, they achieved little because their forwards could not pierce a rugged Canterbury defence. The home side dominated for long periods in the first-half and so few shots did Borough manage that the only time Laslett, the home goalkeeper, was in trouble was when Stokes seized a mis-hit back pass – only to be bundled off the ball.

Otherwise it was a keen duel between Canterbury's swiftly interchanging attack and Nuneaton's defence, in which goalkeeper West – making his debut – was outstanding. He made a fine catch from a fierce cross-shot from Brown, the Canterbury inside-left, and dived full length to divert efforts from outside-right Hinshelwood and his partner, Ray.

After much pressure, Canterbury eventually took the lead in the 32nd minute. Brown headed in a free-kick from

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Hinshelwood. Until half-time they stayed on top, and only superb anticipation by left-back McCarthy prevented them from scoring again. With West beaten, he headed out a cracking first-time shot from left-winger Dawson. Stokes left the field injured in the 38th minute and did not return until the second half.

Borough overcame the handicap brilliantly. They were the more forceful side in the second-half, and equalised in the 57th minute. Outside-left Jones, whose skill and speed worried Canterbury, centred and inside-right Poynton, taking full advantage of some uncertainty in Canterbury's defence, banged the ball into the net.

With wing-halves Fellows and Cox blotting out Canterbury's inside forwards, Borough continued to play with plenty of spirit and almost snatched the winner when a cross-shot from Jones was just caught by keeper Laslett.

Sittingbourne v Nuneaton Borough 14-03-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Morris and Fellows; Wright, Poynton, Maradan, Hartland and Jones.

Borough made the journey to Sittingbourne to play a Southern League Division 1 game.

With Stokes injured and Holbutt down with flu, the Borough's attack, intelligently led by Maradan was still more than a handful for a slow-moving Sittingbourne defence, too often vulnerable through the middle.

It was a mix-up between three hesitant defenders that enabled Poynton to equalise four minutes after Payne, the Kent club's most dangerous forward, had given them a 27th minute lead. Eight minutes before the interval Maradan's opportunism created an opening for Wright to score with a first-time shot. It was not until well into the second half when Nuneaton's young inside forward began to tire that Sittingbourne established a grip on the game.

Payne's cross saw Eckersall head a 65th minute equaliser that young West, playing only his second game, thought was going wide. Ten minutes later Payne put Sittingbourne in the lead, but when all seemed lost for Borough, Maradan nipped in to take full advantage of a blunder by left-half Pearce and levelled the score, with just two minutes to go.

Nuneaton Borough v Dover 17-03-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Morris and Fellows; Wright, Poynton, Holbutt, Maradan and Jones.

Dover: Marshall; Robson and Horns; Swain, Davies and Watkins; Parsons, Hooley, D. Jones, Quinn and Rowan.

Borough welcomed Dover to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Borough flopped badly after a bright start. They had sufficient chances in the first 15 minutes to have won the game. Early on Poynton took a pass from Alan Jones, raced through, drew the goalkeeper and then shot. The ball hit the

post and shot across the face of the goal, from where a Dover defender cleared the ball. Just after that both Holbutt and Andre Maradan blazed the ball over the top with only the keeper to beat.

From that point on Borough gradually deteriorated until in the second half they became positively boring, spending most of the half bashing their heads against a brick wall. If ever a player was missed, it was skipper Alf Stokes. Without their leader Borough played like lost sheep.

The goal that gave Dover the points came in the 35th minute when Hooley snapped up a chance to lift the ball over West's head into the Borough net. This goal apart, West had very little to do, but what he had to do he did well. Marshall also had an easy time in the Dover goal.

This game proved how valuable an asset Alf Stokes has been to Borough. Without him they looked very much like the unsuccessful Borough side of the first half of the season; and also that even Poynton can't be expected to get goals all the time unless there is someone to open up opposing defences. There was nobody in this Borough side capable of doing that.

Nuneaton Borough v Dartford 22-03-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Morris and Hartland; Conlon, Poynton, Holbutt, Harper and Jones.

Dartford: Bourne; Redman and Newstead; White, Mabey and Pyle; Pacey, Taylor, Johnson, Howells and Adams.

Borough welcomed Dartford to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 match.

With the non-arrival of Alf Stokes and with Fellows down with flu, Fred Badham had to make two late changes in the Borough team, bringing in Harper at inside-left and Hartland at left-half. Two minutes after the game had started Alf Stokes arrived at the ground and watched his colleagues from the trainers' bench.

After an anxious moment in the seventh minute when a faulty back pass by Conlon almost let Dartford in, the Borough took the lead in the tenth minute with a well-taken goal by Harper. The inside-left hustled the ball past Pyle, side-stepped a tackle from Redman and then raced through to beat the advancing goalkeeper with a carefully placed drive.

Borough almost went further ahead in the 15th minute, as Jones opened up the game on the left and then swung the ball right over to Conlon on the opposite wing. The winger nodded the ball into the centre and a first-time effort by Poynton sent the ball hurtling just inches over the bar.

Disaster befell Borough in the 21st minute when the defence failed to cut out a simple cross and Dartford's centre-forward Johnson was able easily to beat both West and Morris as they stood on the goal-line. As the pace of the game slowed, Dartford came more into the game and they dominated the rest of the game up to the half-time whistle.

Straight from the re-start Borough went into the attack and

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Jones presented Harper with a marvellous scoring chance, but the inside-left partially sliced his shot and the ball spun the wrong side of the far upright. Borough were well in command now and were looking dangerous in attack. Conlon ran the ball to the by-line and pulled it back to Holbutt, but the centre-forward muffed the chance. A minute later Holbutt had a pile-driver saved by the goalkeeper.

Dartford were gradually being played right out of the game as the Borough forwards did everything but score. The reason they were not scoring was goalkeeper Bourne. He was in tremendous form and time and again he robbed the forwards. With less than a minute left to play Poynton took the ball through on his own and left Conlon with the easiest of tasks to beat the goalkeeper. The winger made no mistake and hammered the ball home.

Barry Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-03-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and Huss; Cox, Morris and Fellows; Farrell, Harper, Holbutt, Stokes and Jones.

Borough made the journey to South Wales to face Barry Town in a Southern League Division 1 game.

Any faint resemblance to a football match disappeared after the first few minutes of this game. Nearly five hours of heavy rain onto a previously bone-hard ground created conditions that did not lend themselves to playing football. Many areas of the pitch were under water.

With the Welsh club's congestion of fixtures and Borough in no mood to waste their long journey, it was a relief when referee Mr Bailey decided that the pitch was playable.

With both clubs in reasonably safe league positions, nothing serious was at stake, which was just as well, for the rain continued throughout the match and by the end two almost exhausted teams were bogged down on the waterlogged pitch. Exchanges were of a farcical nature, but Barry adapted to the conditions better and could have had both points with a bit of luck.

Full credit must be given to Nuneaton's defenders for holding out, especially in the second-half, when the home club attacked continually. Borough did better in the first-half when they were kicking towards the shallow end and there was an occasional flashing run by Jones on the left wing.

Borough's best chance came in the 30th minute when Harper squared the ball across goal. Holbutt only had to tap the ball into the net, but could not get up the necessary speed and failed by inches.

There were many exciting incidents round the Nuneaton goalmouth and they had one slice of luck. In a scrimmage the ball dropped at the feet of right-winger Collins within a yard of the goal-line, but he was taken by surprise and Huss was able to clear. Then West brought off a point blank save from Arriola near the end and with the last kick of the game Whitlock was only inches wide.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 31-03-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Morris and Fellows; Farrell, Harper, Holbutt, Stokes and Jones.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Apart from some purple patches in the first 20 minutes, Borough gave yet another disappointing show in front of their own supporters and Corby ran out worthy winners.

Corby's attack was made to look lethal by Borough's dithery defence. When Tommy Crawley put the Steelmen ahead in the third minute, the covering was so lax that the inside-left had time to manoeuvre into a position from which he could hardly miss. There were other instances where either sheer bad luck or the woodwork prevented Corby from scoring. McCarthy was often outwitted by Robinson and Cliff Morris did not possess the speed to control centre-forward Kelly.

Borough's best moments came in the 5th and 6th minute. First Harper back-heeled a Stokes free-kick past the astonished Wealthall and then Holbutt chased a long ball down the middle and cleverly lobbed it over the goalkeeper's head. These goals snuffed out Crawley's third minute goal for Corby.

It was no surprise when Nuneaton-born Kearns equalised from a goalmouth scramble after 60 minutes. In this case two defenders had a chance to clear the ball and failed to do so. The decider, which came 17 minutes from the end, only served to pinpoint Borough's lack of understanding. Harper and Farrell, both back in defence, left the ball to each other and allowed Crawley to zip in and cross the ball for centre-forward Kelly, who scored from close range.

It was almost 4-2 when referee King, of Bromsgrove, ignored a blatant foul on West, and as the ball ran loose, Kelly thumped it back against the bar.

Nuneaton Borough v Barry Town 02-04-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and Morris; Cox, Aston and Fellows; Conlon, Poynton, Holbutt, Hartland and McLeod.

Borough welcomed Barry Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

There were only two good shots in the entire 90 minutes, in this drab, featureless game; and those two shots brought the goals – one to each side.

The first good shot came in the 17th minute when a dithering defence allowed Copp to nip in an drive the ball low into the far corner of the net. The other one came in the 58th minute, when after a foul on McLeod, the referee awarded a penalty, from which Stan Aston gave former Borough goalkeeper Twigg, no chance.

A much-changed Borough side was very poor indeed in the first-half and mounted few attacks which looked like producing a goal. One move left Holbutt with a reasonably

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



good chance, but he fired over the top. That chance apart, Borough hardly ever looked like scoring. They certainly played with more enthusiasm after the change of ends, but goals still looked miles away – until Stan Aston banged home that penalty kick.

This game proved one thing if nothing else. That is that the defence is much better with Aston as pivot. He was Borough's best defender. The attack? Well, with four changes from the side beaten on Saturday, it was the very essence of docility. Time was when Johnny Poynton looked a real goal-getter. Now he appears no more likely to score than many of the other forwards brought into the side in recent games.

The result was a fair one, since neither side played well enough to earn full points. Barry were the better side in the first-half and Borough in the second.

Hinckley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 07-04-1962

Hinckley: Hood; Harris and Shepherd; Harrison, Aldis and Chapman; Lockton, Rhodes, Round, Follan and Edwards.

Borough: West; Thompson and Huss; Cox, Aston and Fellows; Conlon, Poynton, Holbutt, Stokes and Jones.

Borough made the journey to Middlefield Lane to take on Hinckley Athletic in a Southern League Division 1 game.

Borough's defence has often been criticised but in this game it was their first-half grafting against wind and slope that paved the way for the visitors' unexpected win.

For long periods in the opening half Hinckley attacked strongly and only fine spoiling work by the defence and by Stan Aston in particular, and the excellence in goal of up-and-coming John West kept them at bay. West made two great saves, once when he pushed a short-range shot round the post, and then when he finger-tipped a storming drive over the bar. The attack, too, did much better. Cleverly prompted by Alf Stokes, who again showed outstanding ball control and an ability to put the ball into the vacant spaces, the forwards looked more dangerous at close quarters than Stan Round and his colleagues – and Borough's goals were two beauties.

The first came in the 38th minute. Poynton send Conlon away, and the right winger's long centre heat Hood and there stood Holbutt at the far post to nod the ball home. Their second – and winning – goal came ten minutes from the end and was almost a replica of the first. Conlon again sent over a long centre for Poynton to dart in and head into the net.

Hinckley's success came six minutes after half-time, Eddie Follan getting the ball into the net following a well-placed long free-kick by Shepherd.

Although Hinckley might have felt that they had enough of the play to have deserved a share of the points, Borough can look back on this performance as a really good one. Their only problem position on this occasion was at left back, where David Huss struggled without much success to contain Lockton.

Nuneaton Borough v Margate 09-04-1962

09-04-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and Huss; Cox, Aston and Fellows; Conlon, Poynton, Holbutt, Wright and Jones.

Margate: Long; Parry and Hingley; Mullins, Harrop and Jones; Barnett, Jeans, Hills, Fletcher and Cavanagh.

Borough welcomed Margate to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

There can be little doubt that Borough were very pleased to hear the referee blow for time. Indeed, a minute before the end only a brilliant save by John West from a Fletcher header prevented Margate getting away with a share of the points.

Borough did well to be leading at half-time, considering they had been playing with a strong wing against them. But after the change of ends they failed to use the wind to their advantage.

The defence was not nearly so good as at Hinckley and again owed a great deal to the steadiness of Stan Aston at centre-half and to West for that last minute save when an equaliser appeared imminent. Roger Thompson also did well.

The attack sadly missed Alf Stokes' guiding influence. Alan Wright was a mediocre substitute, while Barry Holbutt accomplished little. Johnny Poynton opened Borough's account two minutes after the start when he headed home a Fellows free-kick after a foul on Holbutt. On two occasions later in the first-half he lofted the ball over the top when well-placed, while early in the second half he turned the ball wide of the net when goalkeeper Long was stranded. Despite these misses he was Borough's liveliest forward.

In the 17th minute Jeans scored an equaliser with a grand slam first-timer from a cross by Cavanagh, while in the last minute of the half Cox headed Borough's winner from an Alan Jones free-kick.

Borough were a trifle lucky to win, although they shaped well in the first-half. After the interval, however, they faded out considerably and were often in trouble.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 14-04-1962

14-04-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Fellows; Conlon, Wright, Poynton, Stokes and Jones.

Burton: Spittle; Finney and Martin; Mays, Davis and Metcalfe; Chadburn, Barker, Brown, Walker and Newbery.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Borough have given some dismal home displays this season – and last season, and the season before – but this one really took the biscuit. It was really pathetic. The home side started on the wrong foot and were out of step throughout, and any resemblance to team-work was purely accidental.

Burton got their goals in the 25th and 33rd minutes. Mays secured the first from a penalty for handball against Stan

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Aston; the second was scored by Walker, who put through by Mays, slammed the ball past West.

The Borough never looked like neutralising those two goals. Indeed, the game had been in progress 61 minutes before Aston put in their one and only good shot. The forwards were hopelessly out of touch and Stokes, injured early on, had his least effective game since joining the club.

Poynton missed two easy chances and was generally blotted out by the tall Davis. The wingers Conlon and Alan Jones, were poor, while Alan Wright is but a shadow of what he was when he first joined the club. The defence was all at sea throughout, with the best of a poor lot being West, Aston and Thompson.

Burton deserved their success, because what little good football there was, the Albion supplied it. Davis was outstanding.

This was a rock-bottom Borough display. So bad indeed that spectators began to drift away long before the end. And who could blame them?

Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town 16-04-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Fellows; Conlon, Poynton, Holbutt, Wright and Jones.

Rugby Town: Thomson; Jackson and Pollard; Archer, Crowther and Knox; English, Hazelden, Finch, Jones and Burrows.

Borough welcomed Rugby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Tragic second half slip-ups by Borough's two outstanding players – Stan Aston and Roger Thompson – enabled a highly apprehensive promotion-seeking Rugby Town to take two priceless points.

The first slip-up occurred in the 57th minute when the score sheet was blank and looked like remaining so, as the respective defenders were so much on top and so little idea did either set of forwards have. Crowther palpably fouled Barry Holbutt and the referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty. Stan Aston, who had not failed previously, shot wide. A goal then would probably have finished Rugby.

Then 13 minutes from time Thompson, quite unnecessarily, attempted to put a long ball back to goalkeeper John West. The ball fell short and Hazelden nipped in to slip the ball past the goalkeeper.

To add insult to injury, three minutes from time Alan Jones tried to dribble round two opponents. He lost the ball, which was put through the middle by Knox. The Borough defence was caught on one leg and Finch raced through to beat West with a cross shot.

Borough had played much better than against Burton without, however, being able to show the necessary finishing power. Rugby were very fidgety – until Thompson erred. They would have been well satisfied with a point but when the chances to win came along they accepted them.

Yiewsley v Nuneaton Borough 21-04-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and McCarthy; B. Jones, Mooney and Morris; Conlon, Cox, Holbutt, Wright and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Yiewsley in a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Borough are nothing if not perplexing, while they play so poorly at home, they continue to pick up away points. Indeed, when they ran into a two goal lead in the first-half, it seemed they were destined to collect maximum points.

Morris opened Borough's account in the 10th minute with a free-kick which goalkeeper Waters misjudged and allowed to pass over his head into the net. Wright made it 2-0 in the 22nd minute, with Cox and Conlon engineering the opening for the inside-left.

After the interval, however, Yiewsley, who had missed many first-half chances, played with much more determination and switched Watson from left-half to inside-left. This move bore fruit for the player and he reduced the arrears in the 57th minute by hooking the ball past West.

Spurred on by this initial success, Yiewsley attacked strongly and two goals in as many minutes by Moore and Batson put them into the lead. Two minutes later, however, Holbutt equalised from a Wright pass and a little later missed a great chance of giving his side victory.

Though they picked up a point, Borough, after a bright opening, found the going very hard indeed and struggled for most of the second half. The many changes made bore marked results.

Nuneaton Borough v Yiewsley 23-04-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and McCarthy; Cox, Morris and B. Jones; Conlon, Hartland, Holbutt, Wright and A. Jones.

Yiewsley: Waters; Lowden and Dunne; Cadwallader, Angel and Watson; Dare, Hayes, Milburn, Meadows and Moore.

Borough welcomed Yiewsley to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

This was another rock-bottom display by Borough – a pathetic performance that caused some supporters to give the slow handclap in the second half. It was another home game in which Borough were so utterly inept in attack that they scarcely if ever looked like scoring.

The attack certainly was bad, but not a great deal worse than the defence which made any number of mistakes and was often caught out of position. Indeed it made so many mistakes that Yiewsley ought to have won by a much-wider margin. Twice Morris presented the visitors with golden scoring chances, first when he fell down and let in Milburn, who missed a sitter, and then when he miskicked and left Hayes with only West to beat. He too failed. But Morris was by no means the only offender. He was in good company.

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



So badly did Borough play that it would be difficult for anybody to pick out a single player as being outstanding.

Yiewsley were the better side and well deserved their victory. At least they played like a team, which was more than could be said for their opponents, whose almost complete lack of football ability and enthusiasm irritated the supporters a great deal.

The visitors went ahead after 15 minutes when Watson won possession near goal and beat West with a lob from close range. They clinched the issue after 70 minutes when Moore headed home a centre from the left. West was not entirely blameless where this goal was concerned.

The nearest the Borough came to scoring was when a Conlon centre struck the bar. They couldn't even score when in the last minute, the ball was practically on the goal line and only needed tapping into the net.

Manager Fred Badham must be scratching his head after this display and wondering what he can do next. Fortunately there are only two more games to play.

Ashford Town v Nuneaton Borough 27-04-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and Dunn; B. Jones, Aston and Morris; Farrell, Cox, Holbutt, Poynton and A. Jones.

Borough made the long journey to Ashford on Friday for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Borough were lucky to come away with a draw as it was Ashford who did most of the attacking, with the visitors making only occasional breakaways.

However, neither attack was really effective. The Borough had a rearranged side in which centre-half Aston was outstanding and completely blotted out the Ashford centre-forward, giving him time to dedicate to the inside-forwards as well.

The lively ball upset both sides, but many passes went unnecessarily astray and the Nuneaton attack often failed through careless passes.

In the opening minutes the Borough defence had some anxious moments and it was not until the game was 27 minutes old that their first really dangerous move materialised. Centre-forward Holbutt picked up a good pass and only a despairing foot by centre-half Harris prevented Holbutt shooting home. Ashford goalkeeper, Mountford, shortly after made a great save from a Poynton shot.

The Borough's goal had a narrow escape when a terrific 30 yard drive bounced off the upright with goalkeeper West completely beaten. After 65 minutes Ashford inside-forward Burden was brought down in the penalty area, but Ashford's penalty king Peplow hit the upright.

In the closing stages Ashford did most of the attacking, but their shooting was erratic and West had little difficulty in saving those shots aimed at the goal. This was the Kent side's ninth consecutive draw.

Nuneaton Borough v Trowbridge Town 30-04-1962

Borough: West; Thompson and Dunn; Cox, Aston and Morris; Wright, Poynton, Holbutt, Stokes and Jones.

Borough welcomed Trowbridge to Manor Park for the final Southern League Division 1 game of the season.

A last-minute goal enabled Borough to win their final game of the season on Monday. Borough had missed several easy chances of settling the issue prior to this last-minute winner and it seemed a draw would be the result.

Then Borough were awarded a free-kick near the dead ball line just outside the penalty area. Skipper Alf Stokes, who took the kick, floated the ball towards the far post and Harold Cox, who had come upfield with Stan Aston, headed the ball home. Thus for the second time this season Borough beat Trowbridge with a last-minute goal.

Borough deserved their success but they made hard work of what should have been an easy task, for Trowbridge had little to offer.

Borough went ahead in the 34th minute when goalkeeper Chilvers put through his own goal in trying to clear a very awkward dropping centre from Alan Wright. The home side's winner came in the last minute.

Though they missed some easy scoring chances, Borough were livelier than in previous home games.

Southern League Division One 1961-62

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisbech Town	38	21	11	6	76	42	53
Poole Town	38	23	6	9	81	47	52
Dartford	38	21	8	9	89	50	50
Rugby Town	38	20	9	9	82	49	49
Margate	38	20	6	12	74	55	46
Corby Town	38	19	6	13	82	60	44
Sittingbourne	38	16	12	10	69	51	44
Dover	38	19	6	13	66	55	44
Yiewsley	38	18	6	14	64	51	42
Barry Town	38	14	11	13	55	51	39
Ashford Town	38	14	11	13	66	70	39
Hinckley Athletic	38	15	8	15	75	65	38
Burton Albion	38	16	5	17	70	79	37
Nuneaton Borough	38	12	12	14	63	71	36
Tunbridge Wells United	38	12	7	19	61	85	31
Canterbury City	38	11	8	19	60	82	30
Ramsgate Athletic	38	10	9	19	49	70	29
Trowbridge Town	38	9	9	20	45	67	27
Gloucester City	38	6	4	28	46	104	16
Hastings United	38	5	4	29	46	115	14



1961-62 Season Review

The most remarkable feature of the 1961-62 football season, so far as the Nuneaton Borough FC was concerned, was the fact that the club's leading goalscorer was Johnny Poynton with 11 goals. It is doubtful that there has ever been a season when the top scorer had anything like so small a total as 11.

Which all goes to prove how badly off Borough have been for goal scorers – and without goal scorers how can any team hope to succeed? Of course, it can't. Hence the reason why Borough have had yet another poor season – one which supporters were glad to see the back of.

During the season Borough's record in all games was:

P46 W14 D16 L16 F71 A81

A total of 71 goals in 46 games!

Even in the season 1959-60, when they were relegated, Borough scored 103 goals, top goalscorer being Ken Plant with 38 – more than three times as many goals as this season's top scorer. In fairness to Poynton, however, it should be pointed out that he did not get a Southern League side chance until Boxing Day. And taking first and second team matches, Poynton has proved himself easily the club's most prolific scorer.

In the 1958-59 season – Borough's first in the Southern League – 129 goals were scored, Harry Yates being top scorer with 25 goals.

Last season, bad as the team was, it scored more goals than this season. Ken Plant again being top scorer with 22 goals.

Big Weakness

It will be appreciated from these figures where a big weakness has lain – in attack.

But let us not put all the blame on the forward line. The defence has not been all that it should have, largely because the team lacked power at half-back where, if a team is to be successful, it should be the strongest.

And the curious fact is that Borough have done almost as well away from home as at Manor Park, indeed have scored more goals away than at home.

The clubs home and away records are:

Home: P24 W9 D8 L9

Away: P24 W5 D9 L10

It will be seen from these figures that Borough have lost one fewer game away from home than at home and have drawn nine away games as against eight at home.

Unusual Fact

One unusual fact is that in the league Borough picked up exactly the same number of points away from home as at home – 18 – making a total of 36 points.

Future Of Manor Park

The Town Clerm (Mr A. A. Crabtree) has submitted a letter to Nuneaton Estates Committee from the solicitors for Nuneaton Borough Association Football Club Ltd., requesting the council to consider again the question of the sale of the football ground to the club.

It was resolved that the Club's solicitor be invited to attend the next meeting of the committee to discuss the matter.

Borough's New Signings

Nuneaton Borough have secured eleven new signings, including centre-forward Mike Deakin, who played for Aldershot last season, and was previously leading scorer at Crystal Palace and Northampton Town.

Mike is also a useful inside forward. His younger brother, Alan, an England Under-23 international, plays for Aston Villa. Two Coventry City players, Eric Jones (centre-half) and Mick Golder (wing-half or full-back) are included in the signings.

Jones, who has been a regular in the City reserves side, and an understudy to George Curtis, is a sports master at a Coventry school. He wishes to retain this post, and it is because manager Jimmy Hill has decreed that all his professionals shall be full-time that he had left the City club.

Mick Golder is a promising 20-year-old players, and is 6ft 1in tall. Goalkeeper Les Green has also been signed. He was transferred from Atherstone Town to Hull City two seasons ago. He has played regularly for Hull's reserve side, and has turned out on a few occasions for the first-team. He was retained, but asked to be released.

Negotiations are still going on for a right-half who has had First Division experience with a Midland club, and was a regular member of a Third Division club last season.

Full List

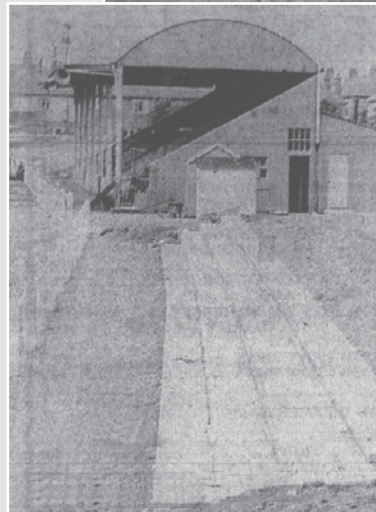
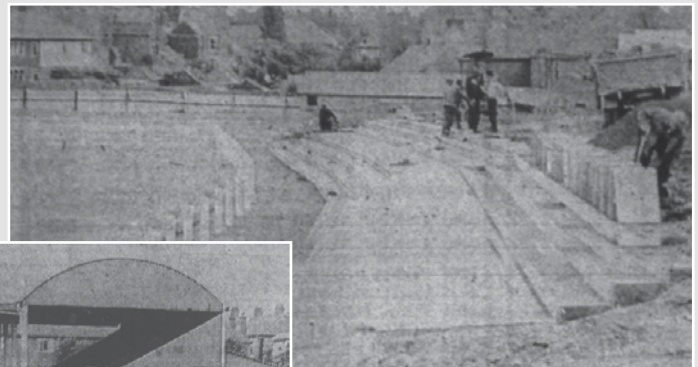
Borough's full list of signings and retained players is as follows: M. Allen (wing-half) Nuneaton B; R. W. Beaman (inside-forward/winger), Walsall; R. M. Beddow, Redditch; J. Conlon (right-winger) Nuneaton B; M. Deakin (centre-forward/inside forward) Aldershot, Northampton, Crystal Palace; J. Dunn (full-back), Nuneaton B; L. Green (goalkeeper), Hull City; M. Golder (wing-half/full-back) Coventry City; A. Hawkes, Redditch; M. Hartland (wing-half/inside-forward) Nuneaton B; R. Hamblett; B. Hart (inside-forward), Brierley Hill, WBA; D. Huss (full-back/inside-forward), Nuneaton B; B. Holbutt (centre-forward), Nuneaton B; Eric Jones (centre-half), Coventry City; A. Jones (left-winger), Nuneaton B; W. Mooney (centre-half), Nuneaton B; K. McCarthy (full-back), Nuneaton B; M. Plows, Redditch; A. Stokes (inside-forward), Nuneaton B; R. Thompson (full-back), Nuneaton B; J. West (goalkeeper), Nuneaton B; A. Wright (inside-forward), Nuneaton B.

Future Of Manor Park

At a meeting of the Estates Committee of Nuneaton Town Council the solicitor to the Nuneaton Borough Association Football Club Limited, met the committee and explained the plans that were in mind for improving the facilities at the football ground involving an estimated expenditure of some £7,000. He inquired if the Town Council would allow the club to acquire the freehold.

The club would be prepared to enter into covenants restricting the use of the ground to the playing and watching of the game of association football, other open-air games, open-air sporting events and open-air athletic pursuits and to undertake to give every facility to junior and school football teams for the playing of football matches on the ground and generally to encourage amateur sides in the borough, wherever possible.

After careful consideration, it was resolved that the Borough Football Club be asked to make an offer for the ground for consideration by the committee.



Pictures show the improvements being carried out at Manor Park football ground in readiness for the coming season. The top picture shows the terracing work behind the goal at the Cock and Bear end, and (left) similar improvements being carried out near the main stand.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer



Nuneaton Borough 1961-62

Back Row: Fred Badham (manager), Keith McCarthy, Alf Stokes (captain), John Anderson, Cliff Morris, Roger Thompson, Harold Cox, Ben Wannacott (trainer).
Front row: Tony McLeod, Alan Wright, John Poynton, Alan Jones, Geoff Fellows.



Tamworth — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park for a 1st Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Anderson; Dunn and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Allen; Conlon, Jones, Burns, Harper and Roberts.

Tamworth: Lewis; Allsopp and Tallis; Sims, Coggins and Smith; Wallbank, Seedhouse, Muir, Taylor and Mitchell.

About the only two things that put this FA Cup game on a slightly higher plane than the displays Borough supporters have become so accustomed the last few years, were the goals – one a great effort by Malcolm Allen, making his first team debut at left-half, and the other a Stan Aston penalty

The goals apart, there was little to enthuse over. The first-half was a dreadfully drab affair with neither side producing anything approaching a move worthy of a goal or a shot capable of extending the opposing goalkeeper. The half was entirely colourless and devoid of football skill.

Borough certainly improved in the second half. They needed to, so poor had been in their earlier finishing. The opening goal came like a bolt from the blue, when in the 55th minute, left-half Malcolm Allen showed the forwards the way home. Securing the ball near the half-way line, he bored his way through the Tamworth defence, beating four men in a long dribble, and then shot unerringly past the advancing Des Lewis.

Borough then went back into their shell, though still doing most of the attacking, and it remained anybody's game until six minutes from the end when they were awarded a penalty.

Jones was going through and about to go past Lewis when the goalkeeper brought him down. A penalty was the obvious reward for this offence – and Stan Aston did the rest with an unstoppable shot from the spot.

Although he was sometimes off target with his passes, Stan Aston was

Borough's outstanding player. He had Willie Muir well under control and generally was the boss in midfield.

Jack Dunn made a welcome return. Though never totally subduing Mitchell, he improved the defence.

Borough were no great shakes when it came to shooting. But they managed a couple of goals and that entitled them to their success, which, on the whole, was deserved if only because of their second half superiority.

Burton Albion — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a 2nd Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Anderson; McCarthy and Morris; Cox, Aston and Allen; Conlon, Harper, Breakwell, Burns and Wilson.

Burton: Spittle; Tye and Finney; Mays, Davis and Metcalfe; Chadburn, Barker, Newbury, Brown and Daley.

Except for the last 15 minutes or so, Burton had the edge on Borough, and played the better brand of football. Where they came a cropper, however, was in front of goal, for like Borough they badly lacked a marksman.

They had more clear-cut chances than the home side and ought to have made the issue safe before Borough got the only goal of the game 14 minutes from time. Borough owed a great deal to their defence even though there were occasions when delay in getting the ball to safety put their goal in jeopardy.

The all-important goal came in the 76th minute. Cox started the move with a pass just inside the line to Conlon. The right winger carried on for a few yards, then turned the ball inside to Harper, who in turn transferred to Burns, who put through from close range.

Generally speaking, Borough's defence was the stronger part of the team. The outstanding Borough defender was Stan Aston, who rescued his side from many sticky situations.

He was ably backed by McCarthy,

an intelligent young player who improves with every game, and by the effervescent Malcolm Allen, who looked far more likely to get a goal than any of the forwards.

Once in the first-half he made one of his typical dashes and finished off a warm onslaught on the Burton goal with a shot which struck goalkeeper Spittle and luckily for the Albion, ran to safety.

Then, in the second period he created a great chance for Breakwell, which the latter neglected through slowness.

While the Borough defence was fairly compact, the attack was a two-man affair – and those two men were on the right wing. Conlon's great speed made him a menace to the Burton defence. When he was quiet, the whole forward line seemed to pass away.

Dennis Harper is a clever ball player and created quite a few openings for his colleagues – openings which were made little use of. The left wing was practically non-existent, the experiment of playing Tony Burns at inside-left and Wilson on the extreme left being a signal failure.

Once again it was grit – nothing more, nothing less – that won Borough the game. They were lacking in many respects, especially in attack. What they did not lack, however, was determination – and determination and a bit of luck pulled them through. But they will have to do much better to beat Hinckley in the next round.

Hinckley Athletic — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to Middlefield Lane to face Hinckley Athletic in a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Hinckley: Lines; Harris and Shepherd; Harrison, Aldis and Chapman; Round, Rhodes, Crawley, Forrester and Micklewright.

Borough: Anderson; Morris and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Allen; Conlon, Harper, Burns, Jones and Wyer.

An injury to full-back Cliff Morris who, just before half-time, sustained a bad

cut over the left eye and had to go to hospital to have three stitches inserted in the wound, very nearly upset Borough's FA Cup applecart.

Morris returned shortly after the change of ends and moved to outside left. This caused a team reshuffle, which very largely disturbed Borough's earlier poise and assurance and gave Athletic the chance to take the initiative and force a draw after being two goals down at one period.

In the end the visitors were slightly fortunate to finish all square at 2-2 and had to thank John Anderson for two superb saves in the dying stages of the game, when Hinckley staged an all-out effort to snatch a winner.

Borough shook Athletic by scoring two goals in as many minutes with what were virtually the first serious attacks they made on the Hinckley goal.

The first goal came in the 10th minute when centre-half Peter Aldis made a hash of an attempted clearance and rushing in, Burns took advantage of an easy opening to give Borough the lead. Before Hinckley had recovered from the shock of this goal, Lines failed to clear a harmless looking Burns shot and dropped the ball at the feet of Harper, who banged it home.

Hinckley reduced the lead in the 40th minute when Tom Crawley moved in from the left and scored with a low shot which crossed in front of Anderson and entered the far corner of the net. The Hinckley leader's shot was at such an acute angle, that it looked as though Anderson could have done better.

After the change of ends Borough had to make enforced changes to accommodate the injured Morris on the left wing – and they were never the same team afterwards and were very largely engaged in a desperate effort to save the game.

In the 62nd minute Round made all the running for Forrester to head an equaliser. Anderson got his fingers

to the ball but could not prevent it entering the net.

One of the big mysteries of the game so far as Borough were concerned was the neglect of John Conlon – the man who won the game at Hastings. For long periods of the second half he was merely a passenger, standing there waiting for the ball that seldom reached him.

On the other hand, passes were constantly sent out to the left wing, where Morris was in no condition to mix it in a duel for possession.

It would be wrong, however, to blame all Borough's second half troubles on to the injury to Morris, and on the whole a draw was a fair result; one which did justice to both sides.

Hinckley Athletic – 3rd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Hinckley Athletic to Manor Park for a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Cup replay.

Borough: Anderson; Mooney and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Allen; Conlon, Harper, Burns, Jones and Wyer.

Hinckley: Lines; Harris and Shepherd; Bate, Aldis and Chapman; Round, Rhodes, Forrester, Follan and Edwards.

Outplayed by Hinckley in last night's FA Cup replay, Borough are fortunate to find themselves still in with a chance and going to Leicester City's ground on Monday for a second replay.

Both teams were quickly into their stride and within minutes Borough's goalkeeper, Anderson, was called upon to intercept a dangerous centre from right-winger Round.

In the 24th minute, Hinckley's left winger, Edwards, put across a pin-point centre and Stan Round, racing in, knocked it out of Anderson's hands and sent it into the back of the net. All the spectators cheered what looked a good goal, but when the excitement died down the referee was seen to have disallowed it as Round had pushed the goalkeeper.

Hinckley were definitely on top at this stage and twice within a matter of seconds Anderson was somewhat lucky to come away with the ball when challenged by Rhodes and Forrester.

A foul by Stan Aston on Stan Round led to a Hinckley free-kick just outside the penalty area, but left back Shepherd placed it harmlessly over the bar.

Then a foul by Malcolm Allen on Peter Harris, as the full back was going through, ended with Harris receiving a lecture from the referee for retaliating and another harmless free kick for Hinckley.

On the left-wing for Hinckley, Edwards was a constant source of danger to the Borough as the visiting forwards piled on the pressure.

A minute from half time Hinckley almost took the lead. Anderson moved across his goal to cut off a Stan Round shot, but the ball was deflected off Stan Aston and as the goalkeeper stood by one upright the ball bounced slowly just outside the other.

Hinckley were soon back on the attack after the re-start and a cracking drive from Brian Rhodes hit the corner of the Borough crossbar. After being penned in their own half for fully seven minutes, the Borough broke away on the right and Burns put across a blazing centre which brought the Borough their first real applause from the crowd.

It was short-lived glory for the Borough, however, for within a minute Edwards scored a fantastic goal from the touchline to put Hinckley in the lead after 56 minutes.

Hinckley really had their tails up now. Two quick corners followed by a barrage of shots at the Borough goal and Borough were defending groggily.

Borough just could not get going. Passes were going astray and they were being beaten to practically every loose ball by a quicker Hinckley side.

An amazing miss by Stan Round when he only had the goalkeeper to beat robbed Hinckley of what should have been their second goal. Then a piece of luck for Hinckley. Peter Wyer hammered the ball off goalkeeper Lines and the keeper did not know he had saved the shot.

A surprise goal by Conlon put the Borough right back in the game in the 70th minute. He met a Wyer cross and hammered it past Lines.

After this Borough came more into the picture. The goal was acting as a tonic.

The game went into extra time and Hinckley only had themselves to blame. They had created and missed enough chances, which could have given them a comfortable win.

Borough began to pile on the pressure and Stan Aston moved up with his forwards and succeeded in putting in one of the best shots of the game.

A wonderful save by Anderson at point blank range had the spectators gasping with surprise.

Hinckley Athletic — 4th Qualifying Round 2nd Replay

Borough made the journey to Filbert Street, Leicester, to face Hinckley Athletic in a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Cup 2nd replay.

Hinckley: Lines; Harris and Shepherd; Harrison, Aldis and Chapman; Forrester, Rhodes, Round, Follan and Edwards.

Borough: Anderson; Morris and McCarthy; Cox, Aston and Allen; Conlon, Harper, Burns, Jones and Wyer.

Let there be no excuses. Borough took a hiding from Hinckley Athletic

at Filbert Street on Monday evening. The final score did not do the winners full justice, for if Borough had lost by half-a-dozen goals they could hardly have complained, so marked was the Athletic's superiority.

Borough were never really in the game with a chance. From start to finish Hinckley called the tune, even though it was not until nearly 20 minutes after half-time that they got a second goal, to virtually seal Borough's fate.

A few minutes later Hinckley got a third goal and before the end missed at least three more chances of adding to their lead.

It was not until centre half Stan Aston joined in the attack in the dying stages of the game that Borough netted to make the final score 3-1.

And it was Aston who got their goal. A long high ball into the goalmouth saw goalkeeper Lines and Aston go up for the ball together and it popped off the Nuneaton player's head and into the net.

It was ironic that a half back should have scored, as the forwards just never looked like beating Lines. Only twice did they even look like getting the ball into the net – and both those were from scuffles in the goalmouth and not from clearly defined moves.

Borough's weakness in attack was never more pronounced. Most of the time the forwards scarcely knew what to do with the ball when they had it. And as regards marksmanship – well it was practically non-existent. Something really must be done to introduce more shooting power into the front line.

The defence, too, was not all that it could have been. Against a fast-moving, virile, not afraid to shoot attack, the Borough defenders often erred and left wide open spaces which Stan Round and Co. were not slow to exploit.

Hinckley were immeasurably the better side. They were sounder in defence, where Aldis was always prominent, while there was just no comparison between the two sets of forwards.

While the Borough front line was woefully weak, the Hinckley forwards threatened danger every time they went down the field. They were stronger on the wings and had a big advantage both inside and in the middle.

Hinckley went ahead after 15 minutes when a high crossfield pass found Forrester, who cut in and put the ball low and square across the goalmouth for Follan to drive into the net.

Their second goal – the one which finished Borough – came in the 65th minute and was due to faulty positioning by goalkeeper John Anderson. He allowed a shot-cum-centre from Chapman, who was right out on the left wing, to pass over his head into the net.

Less than five minutes later Round broke away on the right, cut in and squared the ball to Forrester, who had little difficulty in beating Anderson.

It was a very bad evening for Borough, whose many weaknesses were fully exploited by a dashing Hinckley side, who fully earned the right to travel to Grantham.

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Southern League Division 1: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1961-62

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
08.19	Tunbridge Wells United	A	L	4-4	Breakwell (3), Wyer	1,000
08.26	Poole Town	H	L	1-1	Breakwell	2,900
08.31	Cheltenham Town	H	SLC 1 1st Leg	2-2	Morris, Wyer	2,400
09.02	Dartford	A	L	2-4	Burns (2)	2,300
09.06	Cheltenham Town	A	SLC 1 2nd Leg	0-3		
09.09	Tamworth	H	FAC 1Q	2-0	Allen, Aston	2,625
09.16	Ramsgate Athletic	A	L	2-1	Breakwell, Harper	1,404
09.23	Burton Albion	H	FAC 2Q	1-0	Burns	2,800
09.30	Hastings United	A	L	2-0	Conlon (2)	793
10.07	Hinckley Athletic	A	FAC 3Q	2-2	Burns, Harper	2,992
10.12	Hinckley Athletic	H	FAC 3Q Replay	1-1	Conlon	3,037
10.14	Rugby Town	H	BSC 2	0-0		2,700
10.16	Hinckley Athletic	At Filbert St.	FAC 3Q	1-3	Aston	2,750
			2nd Replay			
10.21	Gloucester City	H	L	4-1	Wyer (2), Wright, Hartland	1,950
10.28	Wisbech Town	A	L	1-4	Elliott (o.g.)	1,655
11.01	Rugby Town	A	BSC 2 Replay	0-3		
11.04	Sittingbourne	H	L	1-1	Aston Ipen)	1,937
11.11	Dover	A	L	1-2	Burns	1,191
11.18	Ashford Town	H	L	3-1	Wright (2), Burns	1,875
11.25	Corby Town	A	L	0-5		1,180
12.02	Hinckley Athletic	H	L	1-1	Wright	2,100
12.09	Rugby Town	A	L	4-4	Maradan (2), Conlon, Wright	2,100
12.16	Tunbridge Wells United	H	L	1-2	Wilson	1,975
12.23	Poole Town	A	L	1-5	Burns	948
12.26	Canterbury City	H	L	1-2	Poynton	1,400
01.13	Burton Albion	A	L	4-1	Poynton (2), Maradan, McCarthy	2,000
01.20	Gloucester City	A	L	2-2	Poynton (2)	1,000
02.03	Ramsgate Athletic	H	L	3-1	Poynton, Wright, Stokes	2,100
02.10	Trowbridge Town	A	L	2-1	Wright, A. Jones	1,137
02.17	Hastings United	H	L	3-1	Poynton, Wright, Cox	2,202
02.24	Margate	A	L	0-2		1,393
03.03	Wisbech Town	H	L	2-3	A. Jones, Wright	1,715
03.10	Canterbury City	A	L	1-1	Poynton	803
03.14	Sittingbourne	A	L	3-3	Poynton, Wright, Maradan	1,000
03.17	Dover	H	L	0-1		2,373
03.22	Dartford	H	L	2-1	Harper, Conlon	1,500
03.28	Barry Town	A	L	0-0		1,668
03.31	Corby Town	H	L	2-3	Harper, Holbutt	1,900
04.02	Barry Town	H	L	1-1	Aston	1,314
04.07	Hinckley Athletic	A	L	2-1	Holbutt, Poynton	640
04.09	Margate	H	L	2-1	Poynton, Cox	1,900
04.14	Burton Albion	H	L	0-2		2,201
04.16	Rugby Town	H	L	0-2		1,737
04.21	Yiewsley	A	L	3-3	Morris, Wright, Holbutt	
04.23	Yiewsley	H	L	0-2		1,500
04.27	Ashford Town	A	L	0-0		
04.30	Trowbridge Town	H	L	2-1	Cox, Chilvers (o.g.)	1,326

KEY: L = Southern League Division 1, FAC = F.A.Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, SLC = Southern League Cup,



Latest Borough Signings

The latest Borough signings are Trevor Birch, a 26-year-old wing-half, and Chris Joyce, a 28-year-old inside-forward.

Birch was with Aston Villa before going to Stockport County, of which side he was a regular member last season. He lives in Birmingham.

Joyce has been with Notts County for three years and made 25 first team appearances last season. Before joining the County, he had three seasons with Notts Forest. He lives in Nottingham.

Death Of Billy Barrett

A former Nuneaton Town footballer, Mr William Henry (Billy) Barrett, of 126, Heath End Road, Nuneaton, died in Manor Hospital, Nuneaton on Wednesday at the age of 69.

Billy was playing for Nuneaton Town when he joined the Nuneaton Fortress Company during the First World War and after returning from France he played for a time with Hinckley United.

He then went to Leicester City and played full-back for them for six seasons, and on one occasion he was presented to King George V when playing in a cup tie at Stamford Bridge.

He afterwards played for Derby and Hereford United. A keen cricketer, he captained Griff and Coton II and also played for the first team. He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter.

Borough FC Board Future Policy

At the commencement of another football season the Board of Directors of Nuneaton Borough FC would like the public to know something of their future policy.

The Directors consider that for a town of this size there should be a class of football at least comparable to that of English League.

On this assumption they are endeavouring to acquire the freehold of the ground so that more extensive improvements can be carried out. Already a considerable sum has been expended on improvements and this is only a commencement.

It is of course appreciated that the public are entitled to see good football with all possible amenities and with this in mind the Directors are anxious to provide attractive football and proper facilities for the public.

The ground has been partly terraced and can now accommodate at least 5,000 people with cover for 2,000 and the Directors invite the public of Nuneaton to visit Manor Park to see what has already been achieved in the way of improvements.

Obviously it is impossible to guarantee playing success, but the Manager now has the advantage of residing in the Borough and is doing everything possible to acquire players of the required calibre.

“If the public will come along and give the supporter, without which the team cannot succeed, then it may be that in the not too distant future Nuneaton may have a football team and a football ground commensurate with the size and importance of the town,” say the Directors.

Season 1962-63

Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town

13-08-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Golder; Wright, Joyce, Holbutt, Stokes (Allen), Hartland.

Borough welcomed Rugby Town to Manor Park for a public trial game on Monday evening.

Unless manager Fred Badham can inject some life and direct methods into his attack, Borough's chances of finishing in the top four this season remote.

The first meeting of the two teams, at Rugby on Saturday, brought a 3-1 defeat for Borough. Monday's game was dominated by the defences and Eric Jones and his men were in control apart from Hazelden's match winning shot nine minutes after the break.

Borough did not appear to have any subtle ideas in attack. Holbutt could do little against the towering Stan Crowther, while the wingers, Wright and Hartland, were inferior to Rowe and Burrows. Hartland came in for Allan Jones, who had a bruised thigh.

During the first-half Joyce and Stokes showed several promising touches, but all too frequently spoilt their chances through over-elaborating. Malcolm Allen, brought in for Stokes after the interval, added thrust to the attack and on this display Stokes cannot be sure of his place.

For Borough to have lost both their trial games against Rugby is naturally a keen disappointment for Borough supporters, yet there is some consolation to be gained from the solidarity of the defence. Eric Jones hardly put a foot wrong, and if Birch and Golder appeared slow at times, they were quite adequate wing halves. The full backs, Thompson and McCarthy, did well and Green handled cleanly throughout.

The only goal in Monday's game came when Hazelden found himself in an open space and cracked the ball home from 15 yards out.

Rugby had many narrow escapes after this. Allen almost equalised with a shot taken on the turn, and Hartland had the bad luck to see his header rebound from the crossbar. But it is goals that count and how to get them is manager Badham's immediate problem. More convincing form from the attack is a must.



The Borough team which won 3-2 at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday and drew 1-1 with Hastings United at Manor Park on Monday. Back row, left to right: Thompson, Dunn, Green, Birch, E. Jones, Golder. Front row: Conlon, Stokes, Holbutt, Joyce, A. Jones. Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Tunbridge Wells Utd. v Nuneaton Borough 18-08-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and Dunn; Birch, E. Jones and Golder; Conlon, Stokes, Holbutt, Joyce and A. Jones

Borough made the journey to Tunbridge Wells for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Borough came back from behind to beat Tunbridge Wells in fine fashion in the opening game of the season. Until Allan Jones levelled the score 20 minutes from the end, it was anybody's game. After that Borough outplayed the home team to such an extent that full-backs Thompson and Dunn were able to move upfield and join in the hammering.

It was not really a surprise when Simpson gave Tunbridge the lead. Borough's defence had looked unhappy and they were wide open when Peters' low cross was coolly side-footed home in the sixth minute. Joyce pounced on a ball from Mick Golder and was pulled down by the goalkeeper as he attempted to go round him. Holbutt made no mistake from the spot with a hard rising shot.

After this Borough gradually got on top and they were unlucky to fall behind again almost on half-time. Goalkeeper Green and centre-forward Simpson both missed a fast low centre from the right wing and Eric Jones did not see the ball until it bounced off his knee and into the net.

It was after the interval that Borough got down to brass tacks. Birch and Golder got a grip on the game and Tunbridge were forced back into their own penalty area. Stokes almost did the trick with a swerving shot taken on the turn and then a header by Holbutt was turned over the bar by Bentley.

A goal had to come and Allan Jones did the trick 20 minutes from the end. He shook off the attentions of a defender and screwed the ball into the far corner of the net as the goalkeeper advanced to narrow the angle.

It was just reward when Holbutt hit the winner three minutes

from the end. Much credit for this goal must go to Alf Stokes, who bamboozled the Tunbridge defence into thinking he was going to pass to Conlon on his right. Instead he slipped the ball inside to Holbutt and the ball was in the net in a flash.

Nuneaton Borough v Hastings United 20-08-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and Dunn; Birch, E. Jones and Golder; Conlon, Stokes, Holbutt, Joyce and A. Jones.

Hastings: Agate; Cockburn and Tucker; Brown, Page and Stone; Back, Marshall, Davies, Nisbett and Olah.

Borough welcomed Hastings United to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

After winning 3-2 at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, Borough flopped in their first home match on Monday night and were extremely lucky to draw with Hastings. Borough's attack never functioned and they kept the ball too close and lost possession so many times that the crowd of over 3,000 was sent home with a deep sense of frustration. Hastings were a much better side than last season when they had to apply for re-election and were made to look potential champions by the Borough.

Even the encouragement of a goal, scored in the 26th minute when Allan Jones' drive was deflected into the net by full-back Tucker, failed to provide the incentive to give onlookers a reward for their presence. Instead, they saw a futile exhibition which was pitiful to watch.

Had it not been for the solid tackling and positional play of Eric Jones and his defenders, Borough would certainly have gone down with a bang. But the main trouble was in the forward line. Apart from having a hand in Borough's only goal, Allan Jones did little of note, and Barry Holbutt was never in the game.

In fact Borough did not have a forward of the calibre of Marshall, the inside-right, still on Newcastle United's books at £3,000. He hit the equaliser in the 34th minute with a drive which left Green standing.

Fred Badham's job must be to find an attack worthy of the support Manor Park will get with a good side. At the moment there is no punch and few ideas beyond the tip-tapping methods which never look like producing results.

Efficient training and a smart looking ground is no substitute for effective football. The sooner that is realised the better.

Nuneaton Borough v Canterbury City 25-08-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and Huss; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Beaman, Hartland, Deakin, Joyce and A. Jones.

Canterbury: Black; Proverbs and Buscall; Hodgkins, Carragher and Laing; Hinshelwood, Ray, Dick, Laraman and Denton.

Borough welcomed Canterbury City to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Borough's five changes injected more zest into the team and

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



their 3-1 win was well-deserved. They were on top for long periods and showed a degree of fight and determination which was too much for Canterbury.

The man behind the majority of the moves was Hartland. He was here, there and everywhere. Ever alert for an opening he scored two goals and made the third. All eyes were focused on the newcomers Deakin and Beaman. Deakin did not perform at all badly. His ball distribution is effective, and once he settles down he should be useful. Beaman was disappointing. He packs a hefty shot but appears to lack bite and pace, ingredients so vital to wingers in this class of football. Of the other changes, Allen and Huss did sufficient to justify their retention. Joyce benefited by Allen's promptings.

Canterbury's performance must have been a disappointment to manager Ike Clark. They had six newcomers on parade, but their slow moving forwards rarely looked like penetrating Borough's defence.

Joyce showed many cultured moves and had a hand in the first goal. His pass was carried on by Beaman and Black seemed out of position when Hartland's shot trickled into the net. Borough scored again just before the interval through Joyce. After Hartland had had a shot blocked, he dispossessed the goalkeeper and returned the ball into the centre for Joyce to put it into an empty net.

It was 3-0 after ten minutes of the second half, and again it was Hartland who did the trick. His right-footed shot gave Black little chance and the game was as good as over. With only a few minutes left Canterbury got their only goal from a penalty taken by Hinshelwood.

Even if Borough have room for further improvement, this win is a step in the right direction. They will meet stronger teams than Canterbury, but if the same spirit is shown there will be little to complain about.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 27-08-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and Huss; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Beaman, Hartland, Deakin, Joyce and A. Jones.

Burton: Taylor; Finney and Martin; Mays, Davis and Metcalfe; Chadburn, McGowan, Brown, Newsham and Delaphena.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup first round first leg tie.

Borough delighted a crowd of 3,292 with a brilliant first-half display against Burton in the first round of the Southern League Cup. It was a great pity therefore that they could not sustain their brilliance after the change of ends, when an apparently well-beaten Albion side took the initiative.

It's a long time since Borough played with such assurance as they did before half-time in this game. What a contrast it was to the poor quality football they served up the week before. Prompted by Chris Joyce at inside-left, Borough carved up the Albion defence for the first 45 minutes, with a whole series of clashing attacks which had the crowd roaring their

approval, and Burton were a trifle lucky to be only four goals behind at half-time, for supporters are still wondering why a Joyce goal was disallowed.

The four first-half goals were all good ones with the exception possibly of the first, after eight minutes, when Joyce was lucky to have a second bite after a penalty shot of his had been punched away by Taylor in the Burton goal. Joyce was able to seize on the rebound and steer the ball safely out of the keeper's reach.

The second goal was scored in the 29th minute and came after Mick Hartland shot into the net through a crowd of players. Hartland made it 3-0 when he beat Taylor after Beaman had headed against a post. Goal number four came after 32 minutes when Joyce lifted the ball over a defender and then cleverly lobbed the ball over the goalkeeper's head and into the net.

At half-time it looked as though the Albion were in for a real hiding, but after Delaphena had reduced the lead, directly from a corner kick – the ball entered the net off the far post – Burton improved so markedly that for the rest of the game they were well on top territorially. Fortunately for Borough their finishing failed to match their skilful, calculated approach work.

Borough completely failed to reproduce their dazzling football of the first half. Only occasionally did they look like making it the "old five". Nor did the Albion for that matter, but they looked more likely to do so than Borough – until they got to goal. There they had that clever goalkeeper Les Green to contend with.

Yiewsley v Nuneaton Borough

01-09-1962

Yiewsley: Clark; Dunne and Lawlor; Watson, Russell and Moore; Murphy, Hayes, Milburn, Goodfellow and Pearson.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Huss; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Beaman, Joyce, Deakin, Hartland and A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Yiewsley for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Just how inconsistent Borough can be was shown at Yiewsley, where they went down 4-1 despite the fact that they had an equal share of the play. Yiewsley's task was made simple by the fact that Mike Deakin missed two or three easy chances and, to cap it all, Les Green made them a present of two goals at the other end.

No team showing such an amount of laxity can expect to collect away points, and Borough simply went from bad to worse when Yiewsley got their third goal. There was always a slender hope of Borough making a recovery until then, afterwards it was just a matter of how many more goals Yiewsley would pile on.

Borough's troubles started when Deakin missed an absolute sitter after 12 minutes play. The burly centre-forward had only to tap the ball into an empty net, yet he lofted the ball

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over the bar. Inspired by Jackie Milburn, Yiewsley hit back and there were some uncomfortable moments for Eric Jones and his men before Hayes beat Green with a cracking drive after 32 minutes. Three minutes later came the first slip by Green who allowed a long low drive by Milburn to slip from his grasp, and the ball rolled over the line.

Even though they started the second half two goals down, Borough still had plenty of opportunities to pull the game out of the fire. On three separate occasions Deakin was clean through, but was too slow to take advantage. Passes started to go astray, and in a sudden breakaway Hayes showed how a goal chance should be taken. The ex-Cambridge United inside-forward nipped in to score as Eric Jones and Green waited for each other to clear an innocent looking centre from Murphy.

Hardly had the cheers from the home crowd died down when Green allowed a high centre from Pearson to drop behind him and Hayes helped the ball into the net from almost on the line. Beaman, who had a poor game, was credited with Borough's consolation goal seconds from the final whistle. His shot glanced off Lawlor's leg and gave Clark no chance.

Lacking solidarity in defence and having to play with virtually only three effective forwards Borough could not complain at the result although the margin was flattering to Yiewsley.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 05-09-1962

Burton: Taylor; Beeby and Martin; Mays, Davis and Jones; Chadburn, McGowan, R. Taylor, Walker and Delaphena.

Borough: West; Thompson and Hawkes; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Holbutt, Joyce, Hartland, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to face Burton Albion in the Southern League Cup first round, second leg.

After playing in the first half as though they would never score, this experimental Borough side, a goal down at half-time, suddenly sprang into life and after Joyce had twice blazed the ball into an empty net – they rammed home three goals in nine minutes – and, just to rub it in, got another seven minutes from time to win 4-1.

Having lost 4-1 at Manor Park, Burton were not in a happy position, but when Delaphena crashed the ball into the Nuneaton net after 17 minutes play it looked as though they might pull it off after all.

And as Borough were ragged at this time, it looked as though the visitors could be in trouble. Certainly when the half-time whistle sounded Taylor, in the Burton goal, had not had one single direct shot to save.

Early in the second half Joyce twice drove the ball high over the top from excellent positions, and it looked as though Borough would never score. Then the shocks came thick and fast. In the 53rd minute Hart and Hartland carved out an opening and this time Joyce made no mistake with a great shot.

Five minute later Borough were awarded a free-kick. Allan

Jones brought the ball inside and then slipped it to Hart, who slammed it home. Seven minutes from time Roger Thompson took the ball down the right wing and crossed it for Holbutt, who had moved into the middle to make it 4-1.

Burton, who were slightly the better of two poor sides in the first-half, just fell to pieces after Joyce had levelled the scores, and thereafter it was merely a case of how many goals Borough would score. It was a good win for Borough, but whether this team is good enough to beat stronger teams than Burton remains to be seen.

Rhodes To Make Debut Tomorrow

Brian Rhodes, a new signing from Hinckley Athletic, makes his debut for Borough at Cheltenham tomorrow.

Rhodes was at one time an amateur with Aston Villa. He was at Evesham when Dudley Kernick was manager there and when Mr Kernick went to Hinckley, he took Rhodes with him. He was a regular member of the Hinckley side last season, but has had to stand down for newcomers this campaign.

Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 15-09-1962

Cheltenham: Lamont; Thorndale and Haskins; Palmer, Northcott and Radford; McCool, Hauser, Calland, Buick and Shepperley.

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Joyce, Hartland, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Cheltenham Town for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

While Borough played football they always looked winners. It was when they joined in a rough and tumble in the second half that they lost the initiative.

During the first half Borough were infinitely the better side, playing a brand of football the home side were quite unable to match. When they deservedly went ahead through newcomer Brian Rhodes after 25 minutes – the goal was laid on by Allan Jones – the indications were that Borough were set for victory. They had a great chance to clinch the issue five minutes later when centre-half Northcott crudely barged into Joyce in the penalty area, and the referee pointed to the spot. Borough's travelling fans let out a collective groan seconds later as Joyce's weak shot was easily saved by Lamont.

Nine minutes later it was the Cheltenham fans' turn to be elated after winger Shepperley was brought down in the box by Thompson and Birch, but they were also left to groan as Northcott pulled the spot kick wide of the goal.

After the change of ends the game quickly developed into a shambles. Borough completely lost their first half poise and assurance and there was a whole series of free-kicks, mostly awarded against Borough, who now found themselves mostly on the defensive.

They paid the penalty for rash tackling 20 minutes after half-



time when, after a free-kick had been beaten out, Haskins found the net with a fine shot. It would seem that Green, who had a good game in goal, did not see the ball until it was too late, owing to the crowd of players in the goalmouth.

For a time it seemed as though Cheltenham might win the game. Ten minutes from time, however, Borough broke away and after one centre had been cleared, Rhodes put the ball in front of goal, Hartland got a touch to Hart, and the inside-left notched the winner.

Borough were too fast, too clever, too smart altogether for Cheltenham during the first half and it is difficult to understand why, having regard to their overwhelming superiority football wise, they should have foresaken their footballing ability. Nobody did more to get Borough back on the rails than Malcolm Allen, who starred at left half. He persisted in playing football and in the end persuaded his colleagues that the only way to win was to settle down to football once again.

Borough's Offer For Manor Park Ridiculous

'Should Be Twice That Amount'

An offer by Nuneaton Borough Football Club to buy Manor Park ground from the council at a figure of £10,000 was described as "ridiculously low" by Coun. J. N. James at Wednesday's meeting of Nuneaton Town Council.

The council decided that the Estates Committee's recommendation that "the offer be not accepted, but the club be informed that the council would be prepared to consider a long term lease at the appropriate time" be referred back for further consideration.

Coun. J. Waistell asked for the figure offered by the Borough Football Club to be disclosed. He also asked if the committee had decided not to sell the ground under any circumstances.

Coun. H. Roston, chairman of the Estates Committee, replied that the figure offered was £10,000. A large minority of the committee were not in favour of the resolution.

Should Sell For Fair Price

Moving the reference back to the minute, Coun. J. N. James said they must consider the ratepayers. The club's offer of £10,000 was "ridiculously low." If the matter was referred back the way would be open for the club to make a further offer, if they were sincere in their desire to purchase the ground. It would stop some of the caustic remarks being made all over the town. Quite a few people thought the club had offered a fair price, and that the council were withholding the ground from them.

In his opinion, if they were offered a fair price for the ground they should sell it. The money could be used to put the grounds of amateur clubs in the town in order.

Seconding the reference back, Ald. W. R. Chamberlain said he certainly agreed that the ground should not be sold for £10,000, which he could not conceive to be a serious offer.

The ground had been rented at a nominal figure, and the council had lost money. He agreed with Coun. James that if the ground was sold the money could be used to develop the town's sporting facilities. If the club were really serious in their intention of acquiring the ground the committee should be prepared to consider a reasonable offer, which should certainly not be less than twice the amount already offered.

Ald. Reg Hadden said he was surprised that the minute should be worded in such a manner. He thought the club's board of directors should be asked to meet the committee and talk the matter over.

Putting Town "On Football Map"

He thought he was quite right in saying that at long last the club had a board of directors who were really out to put the town on the football map. The club had already shown willingness to do something for the ground and had spent in the region of £2,500 on it. They were prepared to go on spending money. If changes were made to the Football League, and the Borough club owned a really up-to-date ground, then there was a sporting chance they would be able to obtain membership of an extra fourth division.

He suggested that they should "get round the table" and negotiate a reasonable figure. He thought the club would be prepared to accept a clause that the ground would always be used as a sports ground.

Coun. L. D. Bosworth said several weeks ago when it was known the club were going to make an offer, most of the members had appeared to be in favour of selling the ground. He would like to know how far the offer fell short of the district valuer's price, and if there were any permanent restrictions regarding the use of the ground. If there were restrictions, the club's offer could be a reasonable one, but if there were no restrictions the offer could be a poor one.

Coun. Frank Smith said the offer should not prejudice any further offer the club might make. He thought there was a good chance the club would make another offer, and they should not get despondent about the matter at that stage.

Dover v Nuneaton Borough

29-09-1962

Dover: Kirkwood; Robson and Reeves; Cavell, Davies and Watkins; West, Kirkup, Jones, Quinn and Rowan.

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Joyce, Hartland, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Dover to play a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Borough ended Dover's unbeaten home record, and had Nuneaton doubled their score it wouldn't have flattered them one iota. The Borough defence was never seriously extended

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apart from one early scare when Dover centre-forward Alan Jones cracked a shot against the post.

Wing-halves Birch and Allen dominated the midfield and Hartland and Hart were spearheads of a busy fast-moving set of forwards who could reproach themselves for turning only two of the crop of openings they carved for themselves into goals. Borough were applauded from the pitch by the home supporters at the end – and it was an ovation well-merited.

In the closing stages they came in for some unnecessarily crude treatment from a desperately over-worked Dover defence, but there was never the slightest sign of retaliation.

There can only be one criticism levelled at Borough and that was their lack of accurate marksmanship overall – but at least they used their shooting boots on every conceivable occasion. Joyce belatedly put the Borough ahead in the 39th minute following a free-kick on the left. Hart chipped the ball into the middle, there was a untidy skirmish, and the inside right, shaking off a challenge from pivot Davies, the former Reading skipper, flicked the ball into the net from close range.

Dover should have equalised early in the second half when Thompson was outpaced by Rowan, but Jones, presented with a gilt-edged chance in the middle, shot wide with Green virtually at his mercy.

With 15 minutes to go Borough settled the issue beyond any doubt. Allan Jones dropped a corner to the fringe of the penalty area and Hartland sent in a low shot which full-back Robson helped on its way into the net.

The remainder of the game was a formality. It was one-way traffic in the direction of the Dover goal and Hartland suffered cruel luck with a fierce shot which rocked the woodwork.

Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town 11-10-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Joyce, Hartland, Hart and A. Jones.

Rugby: Crosby; Jackson and Finch; Nicholas, Crowther and Archer; Rowe, Knox, Draper, Jones and Burrows.

Borough welcomed Rugby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup first round tie.

Borough gained revenge for their 1-0 defeat at Rugby last Saturday in the FA Cup, by beating Rugby in the Southern League Cup by the same margin. Rugby kicked off, but it was Borough who put in the early attacks. Goalkeeper Crosby was soon brought into action when he was called upon to make a diving save from centre-forward Hartland.

Borough wasted free-kicks by kicking the ball into a mass of defenders, rather than placing it to their own players. Only Rowe came anywhere near scoring for Rugby, but even his effort was well-saved by Green.

Borough had a lucky escape when Malcolm Allen appeared to handle the ball inside the penalty area, but the referee waved play on. Both attacks were held in the grip of the defences,

and it was a question of which defence would crack first, or if the game was to peter out to a goalless draw.

A brilliant full-blooded drive by full-back Thompson set an example to the Borough forwards, but alas they failed to take the hint, and all too often lost the ball when in shooting range. Rugby were looking a better team nearing the end of the first-half when both Rowe and Burrows looked dangerous. In contrast Rhodes and Allan Jones created little impression on the visitors' defence.

Borough opened the second-half with a series of attacks and the first signs of weakening in the Rugby defence appeared. Hart opened the Borough's account in the 51st minute, when the inside-forward dribbled around Stan Crowther, and shot past the advancing keeper, with the ball entering the net off a post. There can be little doubt that Borough were the masters at this stage insofar as direct football was concerned, but attempts by Draper and Knox deserved to succeed.

Borough should have increased their lead, but the wingers lack of penetration, coupled with the fact that Rugby's two ex-league half-backs Crowther and Nicholas, worked overtime, prevented them from doing so. Rugby swapped Winters and brought full-back Finch into the forward line, in an effort to equalise, but it was the Borough who did all the pressing. First Hart, then Hartland and then Hart again, went close to scoring, but the Rugby defence – more by luck than judgment it seemed – kept them at bay.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch

13-10-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and Hawkes; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Wright, Hartland, Holbutt, Hart and Rhodes.

Redditch: Evans; Noakes and Flanagan; Piller, Beddow and Berridge; Richardson, Robertson, Voss, Clarke and Vine.

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

There was plenty of good football from both sides, and at times it was hard to realise the difference in league status between them. In the first-half particularly the "Needlemen" displayed their footballing crafts in no uncertain manner and they shook Borough with a 10th minute goal, when Robertson headed in from an acute angle after a mazy run by left-winger Vine.

The Borough defence apparently assumed that Vine's centre was floating over for a goal kick, but they reckoned without Robertson who popped up right on the line to nod his side into a surprise lead.

Borough replied with some slick forward moves in which Brian Hart played a prominent part. He combined well with inside colleague Hartland, distributing the ball with ease and gracefulness, and it was all good stuff to watch. Hart's defence-splitting passes certainly had the Redditch half-back line in a quandary, and Borough's goalward moves always carried with them the threat that a goal was in the offing.



But oh, what a different story it was when they reached the penalty area. Time and again high centres were lofted into a packed goalmouth where Redditch's towering defence had complete control over the situation. Eventually, however, Borough's pressure paid dividends when a two goals in a two minute spell had Redditch reeling. The first came in the 34th minute when Alan Wright wandered into the middle to prod in a waist-high shot after goalkeeper Evans had failed to clear Rhodes' centre.

Centre-forward Barry Holbutt broke clear a minute later and let loose a screaming 25 yard drive which Evans found too hot to handle and all Hart had to do was tap the ball into the net. This burst of enthusiasm was just about the end of Borough's noteworthy contributions to this game which never rose higher than a level of mediocrity. True, they created scoring opportunities in the second-half, but the forwards had obviously left their shooting boots at home.

Leader Barry Holbutt had an unfortunate afternoon, and one he will probably want to forget. He missed a couple of good scoring chances, and was refused a penalty when he was bundled unceremoniously off the ball in the Redditch penalty area. The game's outstanding performer was Evans in the Redditch goal. Although he was at fault when Wright got Borough's first goal, he made some fine saves, two from Malcolm Allen being great efforts.

Manor Park To Be Sold For £20,000?

After giving further consideration to the question of selling Manor Park football ground to the Borough Football Club, Nuneaton Estates Committee has agreed that, subject to the consent of the Minister of Housing and Local Government, and conditions as to resale and restricting the use of the ground to football purposes, it be offered to the club for the sum of £20,000.

Ramsgate Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 20-10-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Conlon, Rhodes, Hartland, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Ramsgate Athletic for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Ramsgate expected a tough game from Nuneaton and that is exactly what they had. For almost 80 minutes of the 90 minutes play was in the Ramsgate half and when the final whistle went the spectators left Southwood wondering how on earth the home team took a point.

If Borough had cashed in on just one of the whole host of chances which came their way, the "Rams" would deservedly have been sunk. As it was they were still hanging on at the end and Borough must have felt bitterly sore about it. In attack they had five men capable of making the openings, but not one who could convert them into goals. Shots hit the

post and were blocked in desperate fashion by defenders, but this was to be a match starved of goals.

Borough did find the net after eight minutes, but the referee disallowed the effort for offside. The man who "scored" was centre-forward Hartland, a real livewire, who hammered a great 25 yarder past Barnes. Inside-left Hart was standing offside though and the referee awarded a free-kick.

Borough continued to put on the pressure with wingers Allan Jones and Conlon often dangerous. Inside forwards Rhodes and Hart also worked hard to carve out scoring opportunities, but the smooth approach work fizzled out inside the Ramsgate penalty area.

The visitors rearguard was not sorely tried for the Ramsgate front line was a great let-down to the spectators hoping for a repeat of the previous week's smart display at Hastings. Former Borough inside-left Alf Stokes looked far removed from the days when he wore an England B and Tottenham shirt. Only the other inside man Blackley and winger Dunwell looked even remotely like scoring.

Centre-half Eric Jones was the master of Horne in the middle and wing-halves Birch and Allen had plenty of scope to add their weight to the attack. Right back Thompson occasionally found the nippy Dunwell a menace, but he just had the edge and made several timely interceptions. McCarthy had little trouble with right winger Selway and Green was safe and sound in goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Sittingbourne 27-10-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and Dunn; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Joyce, Hartland, Hart and A. Jones.

Sittingbourne: Round; Greenwood and Lusted; Grievson, Brockington and Pearce; Crayford, Whyte, Eckersall, Fleming and Fittock.

Borough welcomed Sittingbourne to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 match.

Forget the score. It was only a last-minute penalty from Whyte that made Sittingbourne's defeat look closer than it really was, for Borough had this game well and truly wrapped up long before the 89th minute.

Once they got moving, the Borough forwards cut through the Sittingbourne defence like a knife through butter, and inside-left Brian Hart was the man responsible for most of the damage. He was the general of the attack, spraying passes in all directions with pinpoint accuracy. And it was also Hart that set Borough off on the winning trail with a well-taken goal in the 20th minute.

From a short corner on the left, Allan Jones tricked his way into the penalty area and slipped the ball to Hart, who placed it wide of goalkeeper Round. It was a goal that Borough undoubtedly deserved, for their fast, determined method of approach was so much more effective than that of the opposition. For long periods the Sittingbourne forwards did not seriously threaten to break down Borough's stout



defensive barrier, and it came rather as a surprise when centre-forward Eckersall equalised in the 40th minute. For once, the Borough defence was in a real tangle and Eckersall took full advantage of the situation by coolly lobbing the ball into the net from fully 30 yards out.

For a short period after the interval the Sittingbourne forwards seemed to find their feet and they settled down to play some attractive football, with speedy right winger Crayford the danger man of the line. He had an interesting duel with Jack Dunn at left back, standing in for tonsillitis hit Keith McCarthy, but Green in the Borough goal was rarely tested.

On the few occasions Sittingbourne did break through they found Green on top form. He may appear to look rather on the small side for a goalkeeper, but what he lacks in inches he makes up for in courage. His confident aerial work is a joy to watch, and he wasted no time with his subsequent distribution to winger Allan Jones.

Any hopes Sittingbourne had of winning were dashed by a hectic five minute spell midway through the half when Borough scored two fine goals. Newly-wed Chris Joyce celebrated his comeback when he dived to head through in the 65th minute after Hart's header had been palmed aside by Round. Five minutes later Borough made it 3-1 when right-half Trevor Birch finished off a neat left wing move by Jones and Hart, which had the Sittingbourne defence appealing vehemently for offside. Even goalkeeper Round ran up to the centre circle to express his sentiments.

Borough were unfortunate in having a penalty refused when Joyce was blatantly obstructed in the penalty area. The game was marred by a regrettable incident in the later stages when Sittingbourne inside-left Fleming was injured in a clash with skipper Eric Jones. Fleming was first booked and then sent off, presumably for something he said.

In a last minute attack, the visitors were awarded a free kick outside the penalty area. No less than seven Borough players lined up on the goalline, but someone stuck out a hand, and it was left to White to score from the spot with the very last kick of the game.

Council Offer Manor Park To Borough Club For £20,000

A recommendation by the Estates Committee that Manor Park football ground be offered to Nuneaton Borough FC for £20,000 provoked a lively, and sometimes heated, discussion at Nuneaton Town Council meeting on Wednesday. The minute was finally passed after an amendment by Ald. Reg Hadden that the words "for the sum of £20,000" be deleted had been defeated.

Coun. L. D. Bosworth asked whether, at the time the council acquired the ground, there were any stipulations as to its use. Must it always be used for football? If no, did the council

consider that it should be regarded as a football ground permanently? If it was agreed that the ground should be used permanently for football would it be more advantageous to retain the ground or sell it? His own opinion was that it would be more advantageous to sell it.

Duty To Sell At Fair Price

If the council were in favour of selling the land it was their duty to sell it at a fair market price. If there were no restrictions on the ground then it might be worth more than £20,000, but if there were restrictions £20,000 might be too much. Was the district valuer's price for the land known?

Coun. H. Rowston, chairman of the Estates Committee, said he was not sure he could give a correct answer as to whether there were any restrictions on the land when it was bought by the council, but he did not think there were any. With regard to keeping Manor Park as a football ground, that depended entirely upon the council. At no time had the council sought to sell the ground; the approach had been made by the Borough Club.

The committee felt that if it was decided to sell the ground it must be at a figure which would usefully benefit the town.

Ald. Reg Hadden then moved an amendment that the words "for the sum of £20,000" be deleted. He said Coun. Bosworth's questions had not, unfortunately, been answered. He wanted to know if the committee knew the district valuer's figure.

Coun. Rowston replied that the committee knew nothing about the valuation.

Ald. Hadden then pointed out that the ground was scheduled on the Town Map as a playing field, and said that 90 percent of the townspeople wished Manor Park to remain a football ground forever. It was not valued as a building site, but as a playing field, and some members felt that £20,000 was too much.

He went on to say there would be changes in the Football League, and the Borough would have a better chance of getting into a fifth division if they owned the ground. Otherwise, better class football for the town was doomed.

Double Your Money

Coun. Frank Smith did not agree that £20,000 was a reasonable price. He said it was a case of "double your money" and the price was prohibitive.

Coun. E. S. Reekie said the club paid a rent of only £125 a year. He objected to the selling of the land because a small piece of it would be needed for road widening. It was no use the council tying themselves up.

Coun. S. T. S. Walters said he believed it was the intention of the Estates Committee to devote the money to providing sporting facilities for the town which badly needed a sports stadium.

Alderman W. R. Chamberlain: It is obvious the Conservatives



would like to sell the ground at a much lower figure than £20,000. They do not show much concern for the ratepayers. I know the history of the ground and I know the council salvaged it for Nuneaton when it was likely to be split up by developers. The club have the use of the ground for a very nominal rent which does not compensate the council for maintaining it.

The council, went on Ald. Chamberlain, had granted the club a seven-year lease. If the club did not wish to buy the ground they had the assurance that a further lease would be offered to them. It was not true to say that the club would not be able to get into a higher class football unless they owned the ground. The Tories wanted to sell it “for a song.”

A Reasonable Offer

Referring to Alderman Hadden’s remarks about a district valuer’s figure, Ald. F. B. J. Warr said the district valuer could only value land according to the demand for it. That was all right for normal building land, but in this case there was “only one bidder.” It was not a case of “double your money.” He felt £20,000 was a reasonable offer, and it would be in the club’s interests to accept it. The council were prepared to do everything in their power to assist first-class football in Nuneaton.

Coun. Roston said the Borough club had had a “fair crack of the whip” for years. The council were being fair both to the club and the ratepayers.

It was decided that, in the event of a sale, conditions would be imposed concerning re-sale and restricting the use of the ground to football purposes.

Gloucester City v Nuneaton Borough 03-11-1962

Gloucester: McCluskey; Palmer and Quilan; Head, Hyde and Cox; Humphrey, Day, Horlick, Coldray and Cooper.

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Joyce, Beaman, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Gloucester City for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Two goals apiece – that was the final score, but what truly heart-stopping goalmouth scrambles and near misses there were in this tense, end-to-end affair which could so easily have ended 5-5.

The game was more notable for the near misses than sheer footballing ability, a fact that could readily be excused considering the glue-pot conditions of the pitch, but a draw was a very fair result. It was evident from the kick-off that short, tip-tap movements would be futile, as Borough found out as the game progressed. They started in their neat, ball playing style, but soon ran up against trouble in the form of the strong Gloucester defenders.

Towards the end of the first-half, with things beginning to liven up, Gloucester inside-left Coldray worked his way into the Borough goalmouth, where his shot was beaten down by Les

Green. The ball ran loose to Horlick, but with a yawning goal in front of him, he somehow contrived to slice the ball, which was eventually cleared. Then it was Borough’s turn. Left-winger Allan Jones, celebrating his 21st birthday, took the ball into the penalty area, ran up the goalline and lobbed over a perfect centre which had “goal” written all over it. But everybody missed it, and Gloucester breathed a sigh of relief. At the half-way mark honours were even and it looked anybody’s game.

With the second half only five minutes old, there was more aquatic fun and games in the Borough area, as first Coldray then Day miskicked almost on the goalline with the Borough defence beaten all ends up. Goodness only knows how the ball stayed out of the net. And so it went on. Thrills came aplenty as the sides battled on gamely in the quagmire, and when Les Green brilliantly turned a Coldray rocket over the bar midway through the second period, everyone wondered if the goals were under some sort of spell.

But sooner or later a goal had to come. And come it did, in the 55th minute from stand-in centre-forward Ralph Beaman. Replacing the unfit Hartland, reserve Beaman lobbed the ball over McCluskey’s head from Malcolm Allen’s free-kick, with the Gloucester defenders rooted to the ground. Gloucester retaliated and right half Head equalised seven minutes later, when his tame shot was allowed to trickle through a ruck of Borough defenders with Les Green apparently unsighted. The home side’s constant pressure was rewarded in the 80th minute when centre-forward Horlick scored from a beautiful through ball to put his side into the lead for the first time.

Yet still it seemed that the result could have gone either way. Borough were undaunted, but it appeared that they would just be pipped at the post, until up popped Eric Jones to nod in a deserved equaliser with only five minutes left. Again it was a goal engineered by left-half Allen, who placed his free-kick perfectly for skipper Jones to score.

Nuneaton Borough v Ramsgate Athletic 11-10-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Wright, Joyce, Hartland, Hart and A. Jones.

Ramsgate: Ward; Winfield and Pardey; Horne, Wright and Clifton; Campbell, Blackley, Dowe, Stokes and Dunwell.

Borough welcomed Ramsgate Athletic to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 match.

Borough collected another two precious points at the expense of Ramsgate on Saturday, but something must be done, sooner or later, about their quite unimpressive finishing. And the sooner the better, for how chances could be missed as they were in this encounter seems quite beyond comprehension. If Borough had taken advantage of all the opportunities they created, they could really have sent the “Rams” home with their tails between their legs.

Not that this is in any way detrimental to the Kent club, for they really stuck to their guns and gave Borough a full run for their money. Had the game progressed much longer, it

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would have seemed quite feasible that the Rams would have taken a firm grip on their opposition, and perhaps popped one in the net. But by that time, Borough had had enough scoring opportunities to last them a lifetime. The Ramsgate goalkeeper Ward, must still be wondering how Micky Hartland missed a sitter in the 25th minute, which ballooned over the bar after Joyce squared a beauty from the goalline.

Hartland made amends for his miss eight minutes later though. Keith McCarthy slid a beautiful pass to Allan Jones, and his centre was floated into the net off Hartland's head. Two minutes later Borough should have had another goal when Chris Joyce was unceremoniously brought down as he jinked his way into the penalty area. But referee J. B. Holmes waved play on.

Ramsgate could have taken the initiative when Trevor Birch was assisted off the field after a collision with ex-Borough player Alf Stokes, but the nearest they could get to scoring was one or two long range shot which never really bothered Les Green.

But Hartland's header was the turning point for Borough. Up to then they had seemed strangely quiet, with McCarthy often being caught in two minds and Allan Jones unusually ineffective. The game suddenly woke up when Hartland sliced the ball wide from only five yards, with the goalkeeper groping in the mud.

After only ten minutes of the second half, Borough scored their second goal, and what a real piece of opportunism it was. Allan Jones' centre from the left passed straight across the face of the goal, and Ward appeared to have no difficulty in collecting it by the far post. But he reckoned without Brian Hart, who nipped in, literally took the ball out of his hands and walked the ball into the empty net.

Folkestone Town v Nuneaton Borough 17-11-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Joyce, Hartland, Hart, A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Folkestone for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Although Borough had to be content with a share of the points at Folkestone on Saturday, they took the honours in a game which was largely dominated by the defences, and the Kent side were eventually thankful to hear the final whistle after defending desperately during the last five minutes.

Once Brian Hart had put Borough back on terms after Churm's 68th minute goal for Folkestone, the tide turned in Borough's favour. They hammered away for the decider and it seemed they must score when Barrie Holbutt stood poised three or four yards away from the Folkestone net. Unfortunately for Nuneaton, the ball hit his shoulder and ran out of play.

Borough also had the bad luck to see shots from Hart and Joyce stopped by the woodwork, and on another occasion

Hart failed to control the ball properly on the saturated surface when in an ideal position to score.

On the other hand there were many anxious moments for Borough when the sharp shooting Folkestone front line peppered in shots from all directions. Three fantastic saves by Les Green within five minutes in the second half counterbalanced the good fortune Folkestone had experienced at the other end and it remained anyone's game.

Apart from a penalty to Folkestone in the first half, nearly all the incident took place during the second period, which was played under floodlights. The penalty incident came about when Churms hit a shot against Eric Jones' arm on the edge of the 18 yard line. It would have been virtually impossible for Jones to have got out of the way and even the home crowd were surprised when the referee pointed to the spot. It seemed that justice was served when Peplow shot weakly outside after apparently changing his mind as he was about to blast the ball from the kick.

In the second half Hart hit the crossbar, and it took an acrobatic save from Sanders to keep out the rebound from Joyce's head. Sanders was also in luck when a shot by Joyce beat him and again hit the woodwork.

Without a doubt Hart was Borough's best forward, and he worked tirelessly, sprayed the whole line with precision passes and took his goal impressively. Hartland put him in possession and he turned smartly to put the ball into the far corner of the net. This came five minutes after Churms had slammed in a shot which Green could only deflect on to the inside of the post and the ball bobbed behind him into the opposite corner of the net.

Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough

23-11-1962

Corby Town: Alexander; Fisher and Rodgers; Laird, Parsons and Rennie; Adams, Kearns, Huckstepp, Crawley and Harkness.

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Joyce, Hartland, Holbutt, Hart and A. R. Jones

Borough made the journey to Corby Town to play a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Borough have only themselves to blame for their defeat at Corby last Friday. They had their chances, especially in the second half, but squandered them in the Borough fashion. Full marks must go to Corby – the "Steelmen" played for 70 minutes with only ten men, left-half Rennie limping off with a twisted knee. There were occasions when these ten seemed more lethal and dangerous than Borough's eleven.

But Corby's two goals were rather fortunate affairs, both being scored from rebounds after Borough had tried to clear their lines. Right-half Laird scored in the 26th minute, after Thompson's clearance ricocheted off Allen's head straight to his feet. This goal followed a truly fantastic save by the agile Les Green, when he dived to smother the ball after Tommy Huckstepp broke clean through on his own.

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In the 30th minute, inside-left Crawley put the “Steelmen” two up when another Borough clearance bounced right in front of him in the six yards area.

The second half was mostly Borough’s, but they just could not find the back of the net. Chris Joyce missed two heaven-sent opportunities within ten seconds of each other, blasting the ball wide when it looked easier to score.

It proved that this was obviously not Borough’s night, for Hartland missed a similar chance after Hart had squared the ball back from the goal-line. Farcical conditions did not assist Borough either; on a pitch that resembled a lagoon, any football craft was quite out of the question.

And that was where Borough’s faults lay. They persisted in playing their usual short passing game, but it got them absolutely nowhere, Corby, a big, strong team all round, had the right tactics. They pushed the ball around and the forwards ran into the open spaces.

For Borough, the defence played very well; the half-back line being particularly outstanding. The forwards? The speed and skill was evident at times, but there was no punch. One hopes that Borough took note of big, burly Corby leader Tommy Huckstepp – a man who chased every ball and worried the life out of the visitor’s defence. Borough could do with a player of his determination.

Nuneaton Borough v Stratford Town 24-11-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; B. Jones, E. Jones and Hawkes; Conlon, Birch, Hart, Huss and A. Jones.

Stratford: Gerry; Stowe and Reece; Merrett, Rowley and Gillham; Keenan, Wileman, Horton, Jessop and Ghent.

Borough welcomed Stratford Town to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

With several changes from the side that lost at Corby, Borough went down ingloriously to amateur side Stratford Town at Manor Park on Saturday. The only players who retained their proper places were Green in goal, Thompson at right back, Eric Jones at centre-half and Allan Jones at outside left. With so many changes was it surprising that Borough should have played so badly? Team work was practically non-existent.

When it is said that they hit the woodwork three times and had a goal disallowed – well that just about sums up Borough’s worth. Frankly they were terribly poor. Stratford had plenty of luck but at least they scored a couple of good goals, which was more than Borough could accomplish.

David Huss opened Borough’s account five minutes before half-time. His shot, after a move in which Conlon and Birch took part, was touched by goalkeeper Stowe, but went into the net.

Jessop levelled the scores in the 58th minute when he accepted a back header from Ghent to hook the ball home. Ghent got the winner in the 76th minute when he crashed

the ball past Green from Keenan’s cross. Goals apart, the least said about this game the better, except that Borough deserved to lose.

Tonbridge v Nuneaton Borough 26-11-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Holbutt, Joyce, Hartland, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Tonbridge on Monday night for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Borough did remarkably well to take a point from a dour struggle at the Angel Ground. Tonbridge attacked for fully three-quarters of the game without being able to find a way through Nuneaton’s tightly knit defence in which centre-half Eric Jones was in outstanding form. And near the end Borough came within inches of scoring when Holbutt had the ball kicked off his toes by goalkeeper Crump.

Tonbridge, who won at Yiewsley on Saturday, went all out to keep up their championship challenge and had they won this game they would have gone top of the league. But despite having control of the midfield exchanges, they could not overcome Borough’s retreating defence which packed in depth and barred the way out.

Full backs Thompson and McCarthy were too strong for the Tonbridge wingers, and Skyme and White were tackled out of the game by Birch and Allen. With Shackleton held in a tight grip in the centre, Borough’s diminutive goalkeeper, Green, was not seriously troubled apart from odd moments in the first half.

Little was seen of the Borough attack after the fire had subsided from their early raids. Like Tonbridge they found their movements restricted, but centre-forward Hartland showed original ideas and Hart was constructive at inside-left.

In the end both sides settled for a draw, and this was a good away point for Borough.

Hinckley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 01-12-1962

Hinckley: Lines; Harris and Aldis; Chapman, Aston and Adams; Round, Gosling, Lockton, Bate and Edwards.

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Holbutt, Joyce, Hartland, Hart and A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Middlefield Lane to take on Hinckley Athletic in a Southern League Division 1 match.

What a sensational start there was to this clash of the local favourites on Saturday. With the game no more than 20 seconds old, centre-forward Roy Lockton had flashed Hinckley into a shock lead – and Borough were stunned.

It was sad to see that a Borough man set the “Robins” off on their goal path, for Chris Joyce’s midfield error was whipped out to left winger Pat Edwards. He squared a beauty across the goalmouth for Lockton to stab it home.

Borough never really recovered from this early setback until

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a short period midway through the second half. They pulled out all the stops in a valiant effort to get the all-important equaliser, but it remained beyond their reach. It was a woeful first half for Borough. Their distribution – especially in the forward line – was wretched.

Barry Holbutt is certainly not the answer at outside-right for he had a miserable afternoon. Little or nothing went right for him, and he got no change out of Hinckley's skipper Peter Aldis. The nearest he came to scoring was when his high arcing header dropped just over the bar in the 10th minute.

Borough's usually reliable defence was suspect too. It was at panic stations between the 25th and 28th minutes when only a hairsbreadth kept Hinckley's score to one goal and not three. The first of these two remarkable escapes came from a Pat Edwards' centre. The ball trickled right along the Borough goal-line when only the breath of wind would have blown it in.

A similar opportunity fell to the eager Hinckley forwards three minutes later, but nobody could pounce quickly enough to turn it into a goal. When Stan Round lobbed the ball into the goalmouth from an acute angle, a goal seemed inevitable. How Borough managed to scrape that one away nobody knows.

Up until half-time, the game had been inept and lifeless, apart from one or two near misses, but ten minutes after the restart it really livened up and set the 3,906 crowd on its toes. Maybe Fred Badham's pep-talk infused a little spirit into the Borough team, but whatever it was it had the crowd talking.

Les Green pulled off two fantastic saves within a minute, both of which were out of this world. Hinckley's loping Edwards, their real danger man, skipped past Thompson and Eric Jones, only to be thwarted by a diving save from Green. And it was Green again, a minute later, who save Borough's bacon when he smothered a shot on Lockton's poised foot.

Not to be outdone, Tony Lines displayed his agile gracefulness when he leapt to grasp Hart's sizzling header right on the line. There was near-hysteria in the Hinckley rearguard when a 25-yard bullet shot from Brian Hart smashed against the woodwork and dropped on the line. Dame Fortune was not on Borough's side, and as the minutes ticked past, the Blues' hopes faded away.

Nuneaton Borough v Tonbridge 08-12-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Conlon, Hartland, Golder, Hart and A. R. Jones.

Tonbridge: Crump; Carolan and Lovell; Rainford, Kilford and Truett; Francis, Shackleton, Jones, White and Wright.

Borough welcomed Tonbridge to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

At precisely 4.10 pm last Saturday afternoon in the December gloom, Brian Hart ended Borough's long barren League goalscoring spell. And how fitting that the solitary goal should be scored by this irrepressible player – Borough's most consistent trier.

If ever a man deserved a goal it was Hart. No doubt about it, the 1,320 who braved the wintry elements played a vital part in this great Borough victory. In the earlier stages of this fantastic game they had the word "goal" stifled in their throats as luckless Hart put his heart and soul into this game.

It must have been agony in the 36th minute when he broke through on his own, only to be thwarted by a courageous save from Crump. That was, perhaps, Hart's most glaring miss, and one that he alone can be blamed for. But by that time Borough had stamped their superiority over the opposition so convincingly that a goal seemed imminent each time they raided the Tonbridge goal.

How the visitors managed to survive even 45 minutes without conceding a goal seemed quite beyond comprehension. Little or nothing was seen of their forward line, but when they did manage to mount a promising attack it seemed conceivable that they might just sneak in a cheeky goal. Their only danger-man was roaming centre-forward Jones, who created some concern in the Borough rearguard with his long, inswinging centres.

Borough tore into the league leaders straight from the start, and were unlucky not to be two up after 15 minutes. When Allan Jones was upended it looked a certain penalty, but the referee awarded an indirect free-kick. And a few minutes later Golder's long range pile-driver struck the crossbar and appeared to drop over the line, but the referee ignored Borough's appeals for a goal.

Due to Tonbridge arriving late, the teams turned straight round at half-time and the crowd, sensing victory, roared on the home side. Borough battled on and put in wave after wave of attacks. The Tonbridge rearguard found it necessary to defend en bloc, and shots from Golder, Hartland and Hart were all scrambled off the line in a hectic five minute spell.

As the game entered the closing stages, it became evident that Tonbridge's luck must run out sooner or later. How could one side have so much of the play and have nothing to show for it? But the inevitable goal finally materialised. Borough must have felt that it was well-worth waiting for. Golder collected the ball on the left wing, took it on a few yards and cut into the penalty area. From there he slipped it inside to Hart, who beat Crump in a smart burst and the ball finished up nestling in the back of the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Tunbridge Wells Utd. 15-12-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Conlon, Hartland, Golder, Hart and A. R. Jones.

Tunbridge: Buck; Griffiths and Yeuell; Simpson, Judges and Brittan; Peters, Saxby, Asher, Evans and Morris.

Borough welcomed Tunbridge Wells United to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 match.

Borough must have regarded Saturday's game as quite a refreshing tonic from their recent dour struggles. Never hard pressed, they cantered into a 3-0 interval lead and overcame

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the blustery conditions to chalk up their best league win of the season. It would appear that Fred Badham's goals-for drive has already paid dividends, for one has to go way back to January 13 last to find a game in which Borough last topped the four goal mark in a Division 1 game.

After only two games, Mick Golder, a strapping centre-forward, shows bags of promise. An intelligent player who has already grafted in with the fashion of the forward line. Golder also possesses an excellent heading style.

A smart piece of anticipation by Brian Hart in the 21st minute put Borough on the goal trail. Malcolm Allen's intended shot lacked power, but Hart snicked the ball past Buck. Three minutes later Hart celebrated his wedding day by scoring Borough's second goal. Left back Yeuell handled rather unnecessarily and Hart made no mistake from the spot.

Tunbridge inside-left Evans, their most effective attacker, had two good opportunities to reduce his team's deficit, but luck was not with him. His deceptive header in the 28th minute nearly caught Les Green napping, and a few minutes later a defensive mistake left Evans with only Green to beat, but he was too slow off the mark.

With the last kick of the first-half Borough made it 3-0. And what a glorious goal it was. Allan Jones put Hart through on the left and the inside man unleashed a power-packed drive that smashed against the bar. It dropped straight to Johnny Conlon, who promptly smacked it into the net.

Borough had a pretty convincing lead, but a slight relapse let in Evans to score with a beautiful diving header in the 60th minute. Johnny Conlon's wing thrust and speed certainly pepped up the front line, and Micky Hartland worked earnestly in combination. The only out of touch forward was Allan Jones, who frequently distributed the ball to the wrong man. But he did, in all fairness, have a hand in two of the goals.

Mick Golder's 71st minute goal really put the nail in Tunbridge's coffin. He rose effortlessly and gracefully to divert Allan Jones' centre into the roof of the net for his first Southern League goal.

Canterbury City v Nuneaton Borough 22-12-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Conlon, Hartland, Golder, Hart and A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Kent to face Canterbury City in a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Borough manager Fred Badham was a bitter man after his side had crashed to a shock defeat at Kingsmead Stadium on Saturday. "I don't mind being beaten," he said, "but this was robbery. Canterbury were never in it, until that penalty."

But this was not true. Nuneaton had certainly dominated the first half, but after the interval the City had come more and more into the game. Unquestionably, the turning point came nine minutes from the end, when Borough's centre-half, Eric Jones, punched the ball out from underneath the bar, with

Green beaten by a Laraman header. Referee Harding pointed to the spot and City right-half Mike Buscall came up to fire the ball against the post. Borough's gasp of relief was quickly stifled when the referee consulted a linesman and ordered the kick to be retaken – "the goalkeeper moved from his line before the kick was taken," Mr Harding explained afterwards.

Furthermore, he added that if the second kick had failed a third attempt would have been allowed for the same reason. But this was not necessary as Canterbury centre-half John Carragher easily beat Green to equalise.

It was Carragher who had put Nuneaton ahead in the 32nd minute, with an unfortunate own goal. A through ball into the City penalty area bounced awkwardly, and the centre-half prodded high into the net, as he attempted to clear.

Nuneaton were worth the lead though, because they looked by far the more dangerous team in the opening stages.

Early on it looked as if Nuneaton would stroll to victory as the shrewd Hart and speedy Conlon carved out the openings. Canterbury were grateful to scramble the ball away on two occasions when Black failed to gather it, but Borough's constant pressing went unrewarded until the 32nd minute gift.

Even so this seemed to be enough to clinch two points, for the City forwards were not even making scoring opportunities. Then came the change, but the football was poor stuff and the match looked like fizzling out to a dreary end before the twice taken penalty came as a prologue to Borough's disaster.

Banbury Ask £500 For John Redding

Some weeks ago Fred Badham approached Banbury about John Redding, who has impressed with his goal snatching in the West Midlands Regional League. Now Banbury have told Borough they want £500 for him.

To say Borough were flabbergasted would be an understatement, for Redding is 24 and very few Birmingham League players have risen to great heights when transferred to a higher grade. Borough have replied to Banbury, offering what they consider a more realistic price and the next step is with Jimmy Gringan's directors.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 24-12-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Conlon, Hartland, Golder, Hart and A. Jones.

Kettering: Smethurst; Marston and Ramshaw; Barnes, Quigley and Armour; Morrow, Walker, Randall, Curran and Hogg.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup second round tie.

After a very indifferent first-half performance Borough fought back with great spirit against Premier Division Kettering and converted a 1-0 half-time deficit into a deserved 3-1 victory.

Kettering took the lead with a goal in the eighth minute, scored by inside-right Walker, following some indecisive



defensive work. Borough's equaliser came in the 51st minute when a Hartland shot was deflected past his own keeper by the head of centre-half Quigley. The equalising goal set Borough alight and in the 65th minute Hartland was adjudged to have been fouled in the penalty area, and Hart crashed the ball home from the spot.

Borough clinched the issue ten minutes from time due to the persistence of Mick Golder. Racing through on the left, the centre forward had his first centre charged down. He seized on the rebound and put the ball in front of goal for Johnny Conlon to turn the ball past Smethurst with the side of his foot. Golder very nearly made it 4-1, only a brilliant save by Smethurst preventing the centre-forward from finding the net with the best shot of the game.

Ground conditions were all against good football, the iron-hard frosty surface making ball control extremely difficult and football precarious. Though such conditions are a great leveller, star-studded Kettering's form was most disappointing. They had the chances to settle the game in the first-half when they were generally on top, but their finishing was poor.

Borough too, hardly shone as marksmen in the opening half and scarcely got in a really good shot until Quigley put through his own goal. After that Badham's boys were definitely the masters. They threw everything into attack, swinging the ball about freely and eventually took control of the proceedings.

Nuneaton Borough v Trowbridge Town 26-12-1962

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Conlon, Hartland, Golder, Hart and A. Jones.

Trowbridge: Miller; McCormack and Thompson; Tilley, Prosser and Sampson; Heath, Noake, Smith, Gunn and Woodford.

Borough welcomed Trowbridge Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Borough scored four goals – and missed as many. And the difficult conditions underfoot were not the sole reason for their misses. Chief offender was the usually dependable Brian Hart who, after opening Borough's account, failed on three occasions with only goalkeeper Miller to beat. Mick Golder also missed one or two chances, but made amends by scoring two goals, the first of which was a really grand effort.

Generally speaking Borough were much too smart for a very moderate Trowbridge side which, though producing an occasional neatly contained move, seldom looked like causing Les Green much trouble.

Hart opened the scoring in the sixth minute when he turned into the net a Birch centre. Birch got a second goal from an Alan Jones cross in the 38th minute. The score remained 2-0 until the 70th minute when, after missing a sitter, Golder scored a great goal. Put through by Hart, he moved in from the inside-left position and beat Miller all ends up with a shot which entered the net near the far post.

Nine minutes later Trowbridge got their only goal, Woodford scoring from a pass by Gunn, but near the end, following a grand run by Conlon and one save by Miller, Golder made it 4-1.

The only real fault that could be found with a go-ahead, cultured Borough side was that they ought to have doubled their score – and goals could very well be all-important in the promotion stakes. Even so they were much too good for Trowbridge, whose outstanding players were Prosser and goalkeeper Miller, who made two great saves from Hartland.

Borough FC's Bold Move

This week Nuneaton Borough FC paid £2,250 to Coventry City for the transfer of centre-forward Ken Satchwell. This is by far the highest fee ever paid by the club for a player, and proves the determination of the Board of Directors, if at all possible, to make 1962-63 a promotion season.

It is indeed a bold move on the part of the club, but if Satchwell's presence in the Borough side does result in promotion, then the money will have been well spent.

Borough have been reasonably well supported in Division 1 of the Southern League. If next season brings Premier Division football to Manor Park, there is every reason to hope that the money spent on Satchwell's transfer will be recouped through greatly increased gate receipts.

Supporters should show their appreciation of what the directors have done in securing the services of Ken Satchwell by giving the club their wholehearted support not only for the rest of this season but, (dare we hope?) in the Premier Division next season.

Football At Last!

After five consecutive blank Saturdays, Borough will resume their chase for promotion at Manor Park tomorrow. The visitors are Cheltenham Town, and no doubt the Borough will be searching for their second "double" of the season. In September, Badham's men came out 2-1 winners at Cheltenham. Secretary Harry Broadhurst said that the Manor Park staff had put in a lot of hard work during the week in an effort to get the pitch playable for Borough's first game of the year.

On Tuesday, the pitch was thawing beautifully, he said. He added that yesterday's sudden fall of snow would probably act as a protective covering. The game will see the long-awaited debut of Ken Satchwell.

Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 02-02-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Conlon, Joyce, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

That was the goal that was! Yes, that 31st minute effort by new boy Ken Satchwell which vindicated the club's decision

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to hand over £2,250 to Coventry last month. Satchwell had, in fact, waited since January 4 to make his debut in the Borough colours (and what natty colours they were too!)

He must have been itching for his first game at Manor Park – as were the 2,110 spectators who turned out to pass their own opinion on the main attraction. His ability was restricted to a certain extent on the snow covered pitch, but what adroit touches he showed. Here surely, is a player with class, with finesse. And Borough's rangy new leader also possesses a fair turn of speed.

The hearts of the Borough directors must have glowed with satisfaction when their latest asset swooped like a hawk to score the only goal of the match just past the half-hour mark.

It was a grand header from Satchwell after a snap shot on the turn from Chris Joyce had crashed against the crossbar. Borough were so much on top during the first period that they looked like running away with the game.

Rarely did the Cheltenham side seriously threaten with their goalward moves. The visitors' defence was constantly under pressure as Borough penned Cheltenham in their own penalty area. But still the Borough could not round off their moves with positive results. A bad patch in the area didn't make matters any easier.

Time and again the ball came skidding across the face of the Cheltenham goal. On two or three occasions zippy Johnny Conlon sliced wide from good opportunities when perhaps a little more steadiness would have been to his benefit.

During the second half Borough seemed content to sit back on their 1-0 lead and strolled along with nonchalant ease. With the exception of Satchwell and the oft-starved Conlon, the Borough forwards seemed to have an off-day.

On the whole, this game was disappointing as a spectacle. To the volunteers and staff who spent many cold hours preparing the pitch it was probably more of a come-down. Borough's second half display was inept and lifeless and it must have been most harassing for the shivering spectators. But to criticise forcefully on a players' performance would be unfair – considering the conditions.

Margate v Nuneaton Borough 09-02-1963

Margate: Hughes; Parry and T. Joyce; Fletcher, Harrop and Marshall; Roberts, Shepherd, Blackburn, A. Jones and Hills.

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, Jones and Allen; Conlon, Joyce, Satchwell, Hart and A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Hartsdown Park to face Margate in a Southern League Division 1 match.

There was more mud than sand at Margate on Saturday, but for the opening stages at least, it looked as though Borough had been training in such conditions.

Using the less treacherous areas along the touchlines, both Allan Jones and Johnny Conlon played havoc with the

heavy Margate defenders. Conlon especially sent over some accurate centres, which under normal conditions, would have led to goals. But his inside men were not sure on the mud.

Occasionally the Borough wingers made their own attempts to score and Hughes, in the Margate goal, had to dive backwards to save one low, angled drive from Jones. Later, Thompson stormed upfield for a goal shot, and left half Allen had Hughes diving again to stop the visitors taking the lead.

Margate's first goal, scored by Jones after 25 minutes, followed a goalmouth melee in which the players, plastered in mud by this time, were almost indistinguishable. Although the goal was not deserved, Borough lost much of their earlier sparkle and it became the turn of the Margate wingers to take the offensive.

Full-backs McCarthy and Thompson had difficulty holding Hills and Roberts, but they did well to anticipate and quell several Margate moves before they became really dangerous.

In the second half Borough's energy seemed to flag, for their goal came under constant bombardment which led to Margate's second goal. It was scored by Blackburn after Green had punched clear one drive and held another, all within the space of a few seconds.

Hart put Borough back in the game when he scored from close range after a free-kick, but although the visitors tried hard to gain the equaliser, big Bob Harrop, Margate's centre-half booted the ball far upfield on every possible occasion.

Roberts, on the Margate right wing, beat Allen after collecting one such pass, but he was fouled by McCarthy in the tackle which followed and Hills scored Margate's third from the penalty spot. Borough never looked dangerous again after that and the final whistle saw Borough go down 3-1.

Borough Sign Norman Rowe

Borough have secured the signature of Norman Rowe from Rugby Town. He will get his first outing in Borough colours when he turns out for the Reserves against Netherton Town, who are currently struggling at the foot of the Warwickshire Combination table.

Sittingbourne v Nuneaton Borough 02-03-1963

Sittingbourne: Round; Frayne and Lusted; Whyte, Brockington and Pearce; Hinshelwood, Muir, Eckersall, Fleming and Crayford.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Dunn; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Conlon, Golder, Satchwell, Hart and A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Sittingbourne for a Southern League Division 1 match.

In the "Battle of the Bull Ground" on Saturday, six players had their names taken, two after having indulged in a personal sparring contest. This was a great pity for at the start the game looked like being a football feast.

Borough's football was a joy to watch as Allen and Birch

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worried the Sittingbourne half-backs into errors. Conlon easily had the beating of Lusted down the right wing, and Mick Golder found himself with bags of room to work midfield. And as Borough threw everything at Sittingbourne during the first 20 minutes, it seemed Borough would take the points.

Two great shots in the space of five minutes from Trevor Birch looked goal-bound. The second in the 15th minute – was a fantastic 40-yard volley that every half-back dreams about. The crowd must still be wondering how goalkeeper Round managed to palm it over the bar. And sandwiched between those Birch efforts was a “goal” from Brian Hart.

Diminutive Johnny Conlon made a really determined right-wing run, shrugging off three tackles, and squared the ball to Hart. From there, it flashed along the ground and into the net, but Satchwell was judged to be standing in an offside position.

Borough were so much in command, that Sittingbourne’s first real threat did not arrive until the 30th minute. And how near they came to scoring! Everybody stood rooted as Crayford’s corner-kick scythed across goal, when only a touch was needed. But Borough stormed back into the attack with Roger Thompson supplying Conlon with a stream of useful passes.

The goal touch was missing though, and Ken Satchwell twice failed to gather the ball cleanly when in good positions. Sittingbourne were indeed fortunate to be on level terms at the half-way mark.

More hard luck came Borough’s way in the 62nd minute when Hart “scored” again, but the referee gave a handball against the Borough inside-left. Then Satchwell sprawled headlong in an effort to convert Conlon’s fast centre.

As the game progressed, tempers became frayed, and the storm clouds seemed to be looming up on the horizon. They broke in the 72nd minute, when Sittingbourne centre-forward Eckersall hit the surrounding gravel path. Then, in the space of ten remarkable minute, the referee produced his notebook no fewer than six times. First it was Golder after a harmless looking foul on Sittingbourne’s Whyte. Then Les Green and Eckersall started swinging fists at each other and both were booked. Eric Jones protested and joined them and following an incident between Roger Thompson and ex-Chelsea winger Wally Hinshelwood, the former was booked. Sittingbourne’s winner came after 77 minutes and was scored by Muir.

Nuneaton Borough v Gloucester City 09-03-1963

Borough: Green; Dunn and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. R. Jones.

Gloucester: McCluskey; Quinlan and Weston; Head, Hyde and Cox; Short, Humphreys, Coldray, Day and Bell.

Borough welcomed Gloucester City to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

This was Borough back at their rampaging best, unlucky Gloucester running up against a side that swept all before them in the Manor Park morass. At the start Badham’s men

looked like pulverising the visitors – and that is exactly what they did. What a complete contrast to the ineffectual display at Sittingbourne. Manager Fred Badham must surely have impressed on his team that a killer-like attitude plus all round footballing ability is the recipe needed for promotion.

And the boys duly obliged. Poor Gloucester must have wondered what hit them in the opening minutes, as Borough forced three corners in as many minutes. The inevitable goal materialised after eight minutes when Ken Satchwell snicked in a smart goal via Allan Jones’ long centre.

Hart scored Borough’s second goal after 54 minutes. In fact, it should have been Satchwell to score. Borough’s leader cottoned on to a beautiful through ball which left him about 25 yards out, with only McCluskey between him and the back of the net. But as the goalkeeper advanced, Satchwell’s shot rebounded to Brian Hart, who joyfully smacked the ball home.

A shot from new signing Norman Rowe that crashed against the bar intimated that Borough really meant business. And it was Ken Satchwell, who really sealed Gloucester’s fate with a grand goal after 56 minutes. A pin-point through pass from Malcolm Allen was eagerly accepted by Satchwell, who ran on and cleverly hooked the ball past the advancing goalkeeper.

Borough stormed on relentlessly, with the half-back line prompting and urging the forwards to greater efforts. And that’s how the fourth goal came Borough’s way after 77 minutes, this time from Hart. As Weston passed back to his goalkeeper, Borough’s leading goalscorer nipped in between them and cheekily popped the ball into the net for an opportunist goal.

The incessant rain ultimately converted the pitch into a quagmire, and it seemed that the players were more or less content to just keep on their feet. For some, though, this was impossible, and conditions became near farcical towards the end.

Nuneaton Borough v Yiewsley 15-03-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. R. Jones.

Yiewsley: Waters; Dunne and Lawler; Watson, A. Angel and Goodfellow; Murphy, Lang, Hayes, H. Angel and Golding.

Borough welcomed Yiewsley to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

Is this going to be Borough’s year? A few weeks ago promotion prospects seemed to be fading somewhat – but not now. This convincing 3-0 victory over Yiewsley has put Borough back in the hunt, and on current form they’re going to take some stopping.

A new confidence has crept into the team, a confidence that, on paper, will take them into the Premier Division with no trouble at all. And why shouldn’t it? Team problems are almost non-existent and Saturday’s only disappointment was Mick Golder, who was given the run around by Yiewsley left winger

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Golding. Ken Satchwell is already repaying for the faith shown in him by the directors and he is already averaging a goal a game and seven goals in the last two matches have seen Borough move up to third place in the table.

The first goal was scored in the 14th minute, and was a really brilliant effort from Brian Rhodes. Standing a few yards out from goal, he pulled down Alan Jones' centre with his right foot and slipped it past Walters with all the nonchalance of a star player. Rhodes has played two outstanding games in the last two weeks and has fully justified his selection.

Within the next ten or so minutes, the Yiewsley goal underwent some hair-raising escapes as Satchwell broke clear, only to be dispossessed by the keeper and Rhodes headed a Rowe centre against the bar. Goal number two came from Ken Satchwell in the 37th minute. The ball flowed effortlessly from Rowe to Rhodes to Satchwell, who pivoted in the six yard area and cracked a beauty past Waters for a picture book goal. Then a fantastic shot from hard-working Malcolm Allen brought a magnificent save from the Yiewsley goalkeeper.

The second half lacked a great deal of the first-half's sparkle, but for the first-time Yiewsley came into their own. Once they got moving, they played some very entertaining football and could have put themselves back in the game when a snap shot from centre-forward Hayes went just over the top.

But Borough were not to be outdone, and when Ken Satchwell scored an easy goal from a pass by Rhodes after 77 minutes, that clinched the issue. Allen again had the Borough supporters gasping when an 82nd minute cannonball shot hit the crossbar. But Norman Rowe, standing with a gaping goal before him, sliced the rebound yards wide.

Five minutes from time Eric Jones floored Lang as the inside-right looked all set to score, and referee Mr Holmes had no hesitation in awarding a penalty. Up stepped Goodfellow, but his shot hit the post and rolled out for a goal kick.

Nuneaton Borough v Wisbech Town 21-03-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. R. Jones.

Wisbech: Chandler; Phillips and Porter; Noon, Acton and McDonald; Dixon, Morton, Ward, Flatt and Kiddle.

Borough welcomed Wisbech to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup third round tie.

Borough romped home against Premier Division side Wisbech on Thursday evening. Ken Satchwell was again on the mark – this time with a hat-trick. Wisbech opened strongly with a hard shot from centre-forward Ward after only one minute. The first corner came to the visitors, but Les Green confidently cleared Dixon's centre.

After five minutes, Borough came within an ace of scoring as Rhodes collected a pass from Satchwell and shot from an acute angle – but the goalkeeper, Chandler, managed to collect the ball.

A header from Wisbech's Flatt nearly caught Borough napping. His header crashed against the post with Green unsuspected, but the ball was eventually scrambled clear. There were howls of disapproval when Allen was bundled over when boring through, but the free-kick was wasted.

Borough found their men well with some attractive combined moves coming from their young forward line, but they came up against some difficulty when trying to penetrate a stout, confident Wisbech rearguard.

A flying header by Norman Rowe from Jones' centre, had the crowd on its toes, and then Allen went near with a rising 25-yard shot which passed just over the bar. Both teams were playing strong, attractive football – giving nothing away, and nine minutes from half-time Rhodes opened Borough's account.

After 59 minutes, Borough raced into a 2-0 lead when Phillips turned the ball into his own net after Allan Jones had made the running. Borough's goal had a very close shave after 65 minutes when Dixon headed just wide with Les Green yards out of his goal. Satchwell headed a really brilliant third goal for Nuneaton after 66 minutes when he jack-knifed to score from Allan Jones' centre, and at this stage it was all Borough.

It was Satchwell again who headed through after 70 minutes, but the referee ruled him offside. In this Wisbech humiliation, Satchwell scored a fourth goal for Borough after 71 minutes, when he intercepted Acton's back pass and slipped the ball past Chandler. Satchwell completed his hat-trick after 74 minutes when he scored with a beautiful drive from Jones' pass to make the score 5-0.

Nuneaton Borough v Folkestone Town 23-03-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough welcomed Folkestone to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Borough are on top of the world at the moment. They go from strength to strength, and in their last four games – three in the league and one in the Southern League Cup – have scored 17 goals without conceding. That is promotion form if you like.

Folkestone played some quite useful football in midfield, but were just no match for non-stop Borough, whose general superiority became more pronounced as the game wore on. Slowly but very surely, Folkestone were edged out of the game and in the last half-hour were more or less outplayed, even though, to their credit, they continued trying to play football.

Borough were always too good for Folkestone, whose defence had a gruelling time against a fast-moving, clever, thrustful Borough attack. The busiest man on the field was unquestionably visiting goalkeeper Sanders. But for him Folkestone's plight would have been even worse than it actually was. It was difficult to keep count of the number of occasions he had to hurtle out of goal to collect through passes with a Borough forward in hot pursuit. The most

worried defender of them all was Patrick, the former Coventry City player, who had a frustrating afternoon trying to deal with Ken Satchwell, whose speed almost did for Folkestone on a couple of occasions.

It took Borough 20 minutes to get on the scoring trail with Brian Hart crashing home first time a lob centre by Allan Jones. Their second success came in the 40th minute when Malcolm Allen snapped up another Allan Jones centre, ran through the middle of the Folkestone defence, and then beat Sanders with a low shot from the edge of the area.

Then minutes after the change of ends, Borough made it 3-0. Centre-half Patrick blundered and left Ken Satchwell with a clear course for goal. Though Wilson tried to tackle him, Satchwell shook off his challenge and moved in to beat Sanders with a fast cross-shot.

The fourth goal was scored by Norman Rowe who found the net following a terrific onslaught on the Folkestone goal, during which several shots were charged down by defenders. Borough rounded off their scoring seven minutes from time when goalkeeper Sanders mishandled a cross from Rowe and Brian Rhodes ripped in to slam the ball into the net.

King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 30-03-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, Mooney and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to King's Lynn for a Southern League Division 1 match.

Though not offered as an excuse for their not winning, it was unfortunate for Borough that they lacked the services of skipper Eric Jones for their visit to King's Lynn. Bill Mooney tried his hardest as Eric Jones' deputy, but the defence did not look so compact without their captain's guiding influence.

Borough should have won but occasional defensive lapses enabled the home side to stay in the game. Twice in arrears, the home side fought back to level the scores. King's Lynn's second equaliser coming 15 minutes from the end. It has to be said in favour of the home side that ten minutes from the start they were reduced to ten men. Goalkeeper Mick Manning being injured in a collision with two Borough players as he dived to recover a loose ball.

Although he remained after receiving treatment for concussion, Manning was only able to go on the wing until just before half-time. His place in goal was taken by Mick Wright – who made some fine saves, but had no chance when Satchwell beat him for Borough's first goal after 20 minutes. Allan Jones made the opening, hitting the ball hard across goal for the Borough centre-forward to score via the inside of the post.

Twelve minutes later Edwards and Bacon opened up the Borough defence for Partridge to bang the ball past Green. Satchwell restored Borough's lead in the 64th minute, when he hooked the ball into the net, but 15 minutes from the end right-winger Bacon headed in the equaliser.



Professional Footballer

A well-known local sporting personality is Mr John Schofield, of 55, Mythe View, Atherstone, the Birmingham City goalkeeper.

John started his football career with Ansley Hall Colliery and from there he moved to Grendon FC.

After a period with Grendon, John moved on to Nuneaton Borough and was signed by Birmingham in the 1949-50 season. He made his debut for the "Blues" against Bury in 1952 and since then hasn't looked back. When asked about his ambition, there was no hesitation. "I think it is every professional footballer's ambition to play in a Cup Final, and quite naturally, it is mine too," said John.

Apart from his football activities Mr Schofield is a keen golfer and a member of the Atherstone Golf Club.

Said John: "As well as golf, I also enjoy tinkering about with my car."

He has lived in Atherstone all his life and is married to the former Miss Grace Finney. The couple have two children, Wendy, aged four years, and Neil, who is nine months old.

John is hoping that his son will follow in his footsteps.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 01-04-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Hartland, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Cambridge: Heath; Suddards and Cruickshank; Salt, Craig and Pearce; Bennings, Moore, Wilson, Devine and Derrick.

Borough welcomed Cambridge City to Manor Park for the semi-final of the Southern League Cup.

Ken Satchwell failed to score in this game, but there is no doubt that he played a dominant role in the defeat of the Premier Division leaders. Though Borough's great win was undoubtedly essentially a triumph for solid, sometimes brilliant, team work, the Borough leader, admirably supported by a brilliant half-back line, was the architect of their victory, for every time he got the ball he caused panic among the Cambridge defenders.

Borough opened the scoring in the 68th minute after Satchwell was fouled on the edge of the penalty area, and taking the free-kick with his left foot, Brian Rhodes drove the ball into the Cambridge net with unerring accuracy. With defenders lined up in front of him, it is doubtful whether goalkeeper Heath saw the ball as it flashed into the net near

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the corner of the bar and post. Even if he had seen it, he could have done little in the way of stopping it.

That goal set the crowd of 4,465 alight. Seven minutes later there was another great roar as, following a mistake by goalkeeper Heath, who fell and lost the ball during a terrific goalmouth struggle, Rhodes prodded the ball into the net again, virtually setting the seal on the outcome.

Success went to the better side and Cambridge were lucky not to have been beaten by a wider margin, as Borough missed two or three good chances before they took the lead.

If Cambridge missed Banks, their leading goalscorer, Borough certainly missed Norman Rowe, who was injured at King's Lynn. In Rowe's absence, Rhodes moved out to the wing, while Hartland came in at inside-right.

Cambridge, who could not possibly grumble at the result, must have been surprised at the calibre of football played by the Division 1 side. There is no doubt that the Premier Division leaders are a good footballing side; they would not be where they are otherwise. They played well enough but just weren't the equals of Borough on this occasion. Borough most surely had the better, the sounder, the more skilful defence – a defence which contested every inch of ground.

Nuneaton Borough v Guildford City 06-04-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Hartland, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Guildford: Gill; Sillett and Watts; Massey, French and Mundy; Woodhouse, Cliss, Hasty, Fullick and Bennett.

Borough welcomed Guildford City to Manor Park for the Southern League Cup final first leg.

What was expected to be the showpiece of the season turned out to be a shambles, a lifeless, listless, lack-lustre game which ended as it deserved to end – in a goalless draw.

Thus the two teams will enter the second leg on level terms, and unless Borough can produce something more like their normal form, then the odds must be in favour of the Surrey side. On the other hand, should Borough hit anything like the form that enabled them to beat Cambridge City – well the result is by no means a foregone conclusion.

This was a game in which there was not one outstanding player. All were on more or less the same level – and a very low level at that. Even Ken Satchwell fell way below the form which has so quickly established him as a big favourite with the Manor Park crowd. His failure to treat centre-half French as he has treated other centre-halves since he joined the Borough was due to two factors – first the scant support he received from his forward colleagues; secondly, and most surprisingly, the poor backing he was given by wing halves Trevor Birch and Malcolm Allen.

On the whole this was a most disappointing Borough, just when they ought to have been at their best, since there was the biggest crowd of the season to welcome them – 4,610. Guildford

were every bit as bad as Borough. For a Premier Division side they were most disappointing and their football left much to be desired. Right from the start it seemed from their play that they would be quite happy to draw.

That very nearly cost them the game for in the dying minutes Borough nearly scored. Eric Jones, who had gone upfield, hitting a post. After a terrific scramble almost on the Borough goal-line, Les Green managed to emerge from a crowd of players clutching the ball. On another occasion outside left Bennett slammed in hard drive, which Green pushed onto the bar.

Ashford Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-04-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the long journey to Kent on Monday to face Ashford Town in a Southern League Division 1 game.

A stranger would have found it difficult to spot which team was supposed to be chasing promotion in this rugged encounter. The lowly Kent side were hard hit by injuries, but they gave Borough a shock and had sufficient chances to have won.

Borough had a stroke of bad luck when Birch pulled a leg muscle in jumping for a ball. He was a passenger on the left wing during the second half. Brian Hart moved to right-half, but after a few minutes Allan Jones replaced him.

It seemed as though Borough were going to have an easy task when Ken Satchwell scored after three minutes. The centre-forward stuck out a boot to convert a smart move engineered by Allen and Allan Jones. But Ashford had other ideas. They hit back, and the Nuneaton defence looked anything but sure. Eric Jones made several panic clearances and gave away one free-kick too many just before half-time. Ashford left-half Luckhurst, dropped the ball under the bar, and Green could only weakly palm it aside to Nicholas who netted easily.

With Birch unable to take an effective part, Borough were up against it in the second half. Ashford should have gone ahead when Nicholas gained possession after Green missed a low centre. The winger stood as if transfixed to the spot, and when forced into action he blazed the ball over the bar.

Brayne failed with another clear chance, and Borough looked anything but promotion candidates. In the end when both sides had settled for a point, Satchwell almost snatched both points for Borough. His shot beat goalkeeper Mountford, but went the wrong side of the post.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 12-04-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Hawkes, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Hartland, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough travelled to Burton Albion on Good Friday for a Southern League Division 1 game.

Borough started their Easter holiday programme badly by failing to beat a poor Burton Albion side. The home team

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had little to commend them except that they were triers, yet Borough could do no more than pick up one point when two were there for any side worthy of mention.

It was another very pathetic Borough display – a performance which aroused strong criticism from the large number of supporters who made the journey.

The defence was shaky, though in actual fact it had little to worry about, while the attack sadly lacked bite. Wingers Allan Jones and Brian Rhodes were poor; Hartland again did little and once nearly gave Burton a goal with a badly placed back-pass, while Ken Satchwell could make little progress against Davis, though twice in the dying stages he was very nearly carved out chances for a winning goal.

Raynor gave Burton a first-half lead when he tapped through a cross from the right after Brown had completely missed the ball. The latter's miss probably got Green on the wrong foot. Borough then levelled the scores six minutes after half-time, Hart heading through a Rhodes' corner kick. It was a very poor game indeed and contained few decent moves or good shots.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 13-04-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

This game, between two promotion rivals was a veritable nightmare for Corby goalkeeper Alexander, who had a hand in all of Borough's three goals.

In the 13th minute Trevor Birch sent a long ball through the middle. Quite unaccountably Alexander lost the ball, leaving Satchwell with the simple task of putting the ball into the empty net. After 40 minutes Alexander failed to hold the ball when Allan Jones fired in a hard drive, and this time Rhodes was on the spot to prod the ball home. Then, a minute before half-time, from a Rhodes inswinging corner on the left, Alexander failed to cut the ball out and Rowe headed home.

To all intents and purposes the game was now all over bar the shouting. Corby had a fair share of the second half proceedings without, however, being able to cause Les Green much trouble in the Borough goal.

Borough again acquitted themselves well in the second session without being quite so effective as hitherto. However, Brian Hart all but added a fourth goal when he shot a Rowe cross against the Corby bar.

Borough's big improvement on their display the day previously at Burton was very largely due to the re-introduction of Norman Rowe at outside right and the replacement of Hartland by Rhodes at inside-right. As before Rowe's injury, Borough again had an effective right wing. Indeed, the bringing back of Rowe and the restoration of Rhodes as an inside forward played a material part in the home side's clear cut victory.

In fact there was a big improvement in Borough's play compared with the previous day, the return of Trevor Birch restoring the balance of the half-back line and enabling Malcolm Allen to go well upfield in support of his forwards.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 15-04-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

If the game at Burton on Good Friday was as dead as a dodo, there were thrills galore for the 3,801 spectators on Easter Monday, which produced some fantastic goals. Four up at half-time Borough looked like running up a cricket score. They did in fact score three more after the change of ends. So did Burton, to take the aggregate score to ten.

The Albion are to complimented on fighting back in such grand style when they seemed down and out. They quickly reduced that 4-0 half-time deficit to 4-2, and though Borough hit back with three more goals, the visitors got another one in the last minute, thus showing their defiance to the bitter end.

Trevor Birch opened Borough's account in the first minute when he rammed home a cross shot after good work by Satchwell and Rhodes. Satchwell put Hart through for Borough's second goal in the tenth minute. Then came two great goals from Norman Rowe. After 20 minutes he scored with a tremendous left footer from 30 yards out, and just before half-time he crashed home another unstoppable shot past the unfortunate Bowering, who had no chance with any of the goals.

The fun started immediately the game was resumed. Taking a throw-in Delephena surprised himself and everybody else by landing the ball in the net from an almost impossible angle near the corner flag, while nine minutes later the same player beat Les Green all ends up from a free-kick just outside the penalty area. it is likely Green never saw the ball owing to a crowd of defenders being lined up in front of him.

Borough hit back in the 65th minute when Satchwell opened up the Burton defence for Hart to score his second goal. The inside-left completed his hat-trick five minutes later and took his personal bag to four ten minutes from the end. Then in the last minute Walker got through again for Burton.

Nuneaton Borough v Ashford Town 22-04-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Ashford: Taylor; Stevens and Lockhurst; Dellar, Judges and Sibley; Thomson, Smith, Hambling, Hughes and Rees.

Borough welcomed Ashford Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Playing well in this game, Borough established a 3-0 lead, and looked like indulging in another goal rush. Instead, they fell away markedly and failed to add to their score.

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Their second half failure was due almost entirely to the fact that they neglected football skill and tried to charge their way through to goal. They failed to carve out openings as in the first-half and generally lost touch. However, by half-time the issue had been settled. The points were securely tucked away and in Borough's safekeeping.

It was Borough "as usual" in the opening session. Their fast-moving forwards opened up the Ashford defence time after time and in addition to scoring three goals, failed with a penalty kick. Hart shooting almost straight at goalkeeper Taylor, who had little difficulty in saving. Borough also forced numerous corners and missed one or two other scoring chances.

Had Borough continued playing football after the change of ends, there is every reason to suppose they would have scored more goals. But in their efforts to get goals at all costs they lost their poise and rhythm and became much less like a promotion seeking side. Indeed, play in the second half deteriorated badly and about the only incident which caused a stir was when Brian Rhodes crashed a shot against a post and meeting the rebound Allan Jones sent another terrific shot against the same post.

The game had been in progress only four minutes when Malcolm Allen swung the ball across to Satchwell, who piloted it past Taylor to open Borough's account. The second goal came in the 24th minute when Taylor could only push out a Satchwell shot and Rhodes was on the spot to prod the ball home. Hart missed that penalty in the 30th minute after Rhodes had been fetched down. Then, four minutes before half time, Allan Jones started a move with a pass to Hart. The latter switched the ball to Satchwell, who after a tussle with a defender slammed the ball home.

Hastings United v Nuneaton Borough 27-04-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to top-of-the-table Hastings United for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Hastings showed why they are top of the Southern League Division 1, by the way they convincingly beat Borough. The visitors did not play badly, they were simply beaten by a side which gave its best performance for many weeks.

Nuneaton had their full share of the game without ever looking capable of snatching goals. Conversely, the Sussex side, with Terry Marshall outstanding, grabbed three goals in the space of 27 minutes during the first-half.

Borough's defence must shoulder some of the blame. They were wide open at times and it would not have been surprising had Hastings scored on two or three other occasions. With Gordon Burden having the beating of Roger Thompson and Joe White troubling Eric Jones with the high ball, the Hastings attack was always menacing.

Borough's football was neat and constructive, but they had

little bite. The shots they mustered were ably countered by Ian Agate, who gave an immaculate display in goal.

On each occasion when Hastings scored, the build-up followed a spell of intense Borough pressure. The first goal, six minutes from the start, was a beauty. Cockburn found Marshall with a free kick and the inside right cut his way past three defenders to score with a brilliant shot.

Marshall made it 2-0 with a shot which Les Green could not hold. Again the Borough defence was caught napping when a through ball from Stone found Marshall in an open space.

The third goal was the direct result of a mistake by Roger Thompson. He had plenty of time to clear, but he held the ball, ran into trouble, and lost it to Olah. Two or three quick passes led to Lloyd getting a chance too good to miss.

Nuneaton had further escapes when Burden and Marshall missed badly in the second half, and Trevor Birch saved a certain goal by heading off the line. Keith Tucker returned the compliment by stopping a shot by Eric Jones on the line in the closing minutes. But by then the leaders were coasting along to a victory which has practically assured them of promotion.

Nuneaton Borough v Margate

29-04-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and Allan Jones.

Margate: Hughes; Parry and Simpson; L. Smith, Harrop and Smith; Jenns, Jones, Blackburn, Dann and Hills.

Borough welcomed Margate to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

Although three of the divisions leading goalscorers – Blackburn of Margate (23 goals) and Hart and Satchwell of Borough (20 and 16 respectively – were in these promotion sides, 90 minutes of tense, rugged football failed to produce a goal.

There were quite a few near misses, mostly by Borough. The Margate goal had two very narrow squeaks when first left-back Mick Golder slammed a terrific shot against the post, and then when Ken Satchwell headed against the woodwork.

In addition goalkeeper Hughes made a number of fine saves from Rhodes (twice), Allan Jones and Birch. On the other hand, although not having nearly so many shots at goal as Borough, Margate once or twice very nearly snatched victory, notably when Green had to make a desperate dive to his right to turn the ball round the post for a corner.

Ken Satchwell, apart from a couple of headers, seldom looked dangerous – because his colleagues persisted in putting the ball in the air, where he generally came off second best to Harrop. The Borough defence, while playing with great determination, often had to indulge in desperate clearances under pressure. The best footballer on the park was Malcolm Allen. At times his footwork was little short of brilliant.

Though the game kept the 4,700 crowd on its toes from the first kick to the last, it produced more free kicks than a little,

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with the referee's whistle being sounded with sickening regularity. This and the fact that they probably thought Borough should have been awarded a penalty later in the game when Brian Hart went down, was probably the reason why hundreds of Borough supporters swarmed around the referee as he left the pitch.

Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 04-05-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and Allan Jones.

Borough welcomed King's Lynn to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

After playing for more than an hour as though they were going to put paid to their promotion prospects by losing their first home league game of the season, Borough, a goal behind, suddenly hit form and three goals in 13 minutes kept alive their hopes of going up into the Premier Division.

Lynn had taken a well-deserved lead in the 30th minute when Coates chased a long ball through the middle and lofted it over Green's head into the net. Green may possibly have been at fault for coming out of his goal too soon. Until they levelled the scores in the 57th minute, Borough seemed headed for certain defeat, so badly were they playing. Indeed up to that time they had put in but one good shot, a Rowe effort being tipped over the bar by goalkeeper Walls. Lynn, playing much the better football really had the Borough defence in trouble, and looked far more likely winners than their hosts.

Then, 12 minutes after half-time Malcolm Allen worked his way upfield before slipping the ball to Norman Rowe, whose hard, low centre was swept into the net by Ken Satchwell. This totally unexpected success put Borough on their mettle and eight minutes later they went into the lead. Satchwell had had a shot headed away for a corner, and from Allan Jones' corner, Trevor Birch unleashed a terrific shot which hit the back of the net like a rocket.

Then in the 70th minute a Birch free-kick crashed against a defender and seizing on the rebound, Brian Rhodes slammed the ball home to give Borough a 3-1 victory.

Trowbridge Town v Nuneaton Borough 06-05-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and Allan Jones.

Borough made the journey to Trowbridge Town for a Southern League Division 1 game.

This was the much-needed tonic Borough required to overcome the away match jinx that has beset them since their last away win, against Dover at the end of September. It could have been more had not five-goal Ken Satchwell unselfishly tried to get his inside forward colleagues onto the score sheet.

It was Satchwell's night. He was a will-o-the-wisp harassing

the Trowbridge defence into mistakes and cashing in on their errors with a tenacity of purpose that earned the admiration of everyone on the ground. It puts him ahead of Brian Hart in the League goalscorers charts with 22 goals in 18 matches.

Borough played with the slope and the sun on a well-grassed pitch. After seven minutes domination, they opened their account. Allen flicked the ball out to Satchwell, who played a clever one-two with Hart and then worked his way along the goal-line to slide the ball in through the narrowest of gaps. Trowbridge fought back valiantly and none better than right-winger Heath, who kept the still improving Mick Golder at full-stretch. Then Satchwell struck again. Receiving a down-the-middle pass he side-stepped Doughty, drifted to the right of McCormack and beat the bewildered Sunderland with a right foot drive from an oblique angle.

Satchwell completed his hat-trick four minutes later with an exact replica of goal number two, except that the angle was narrower. Five minutes before the interval, to the unrestrained delight of the hard core of Borough fans, Satchwell made it four up with a low drive that entered the net via the far post. The "nap-hand" came about 14 minutes after the break. Former Bristol player Sampson did his utmost to shackle the centre-forward, but both he and the non-plussed Doughty were left flat-footed as quicksilver Satchwell darted between them to shoot high into the net.

Following the fifth goal, Borough slackened off, but even so Rhodes, Hart and the enigmatic Allan Jones should have improved the goal difference. Ten minutes from time came the home side's consolation goal. Heath crashed home a penalty after Eric Jones and Thompson, the Trowbridge left-half had clashed in a heavy tackle.

Barry Town v Nuneaton Borough 09-05-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and Allan Jones.

Borough made the long trip to play Barry Town in a Southern League Division 1 game on Thursday.

Borough gained two vital points with a well-deserved 4-1 win at Barry. In the second half Borough were completely on top, and the home side were unable to cope with the enterprise and opportunism of Ken Satchwell, who scored two fine goals.

Having had an end-of-the-season flourish which brought two consecutive wins, bottom of the league Barry had a narrow escape in the first few seconds of the match, when Satchwell missed an open goal. Within a few minutes Rowe set the ball up again for Satchwell, who dallied and lost his chance.

Barry all but proved that such misses could be costly, for Thompson had to move fast to cut off Griffiths. Three times Green cut off corner kicks, conceded under pressure. In the 30th minute Barry scored through Armytage, who ran on to a through ball by Morgan. Hart almost equalised, but his volley off Satchwell's centre scraped the upright.

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It proved to be an isolated incident, for Borough could not break through Barry's defence until a minute before the interval, when Birch moved smartly on to a flighted ball and slotted home an equaliser.

Green cleared what might have been an own goal by Golder before Satchwell showed great ball control, when moving in from the wing where he had been lurking. He rounded the centre-half and scored with a low shot, inches inside the post. Within minutes Satchwell's opportunism brought him another. He was on hand to take advantage of a mis-header by Niblett, and although challenged on the edge of the box by the keeper, he angled the ball over the line. Winger Jones then dazzled the opposition with his speed and footwork to get a fourth goal. After the fourth goal, Borough strolled through the rest of the game.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Athletic 13-05-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Hinckley: Lines; Bate and Shepherd; Chapman, Aston and Aldis; Round, Follan, Lockton, Adams and Edwards.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Athletic to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 encounter.

With three-quarters of this "match of the season" gone, it was beginning to look as though Borough would never penetrate Hinckley's defence-in-depth system. Then in the 64th minute, came a spectacular Norman Rowe goal – a goal which could very well spell promotion for Borough.

In a way Rowe's goal was a fantastic affair, yet it was merely a replica of the two goals he got against Burton, which rules out any suggestion that it was a fluke. The goal came like a bolt from the blue. Ken Satchwell had chased the ball, which eventually ran to Rowe. The winger chested the ball down to his feet, turned inside, and then unleashed a terrific left foot shot which was nestling in the far corner of the net before goalkeeper Lines could move.

Not long before this, Lines had saved spectacularly from a Satchwell header following an Allan Jones corner kick. But generally speaking the game was notable for its lack of good scoring attempts. Twice Hinckley came near to succeeding – in the first half when a Bate shot struck the woodwork, and in the dying minutes when Round fired just over the bar following a free-kick.

By and large defences were on top and it became obvious long before the end, that if either side got a goal, it could very well prove decisive. Borough, or rather Rowe, got that goal – and so the home side's march towards promotion continued.

It was not a football spectacle, which was scarcely surprising having regard to the prize at stake – possibly the league championship for Hinckley and promotion for the Borough. Rather it was a tense, dour, gruelling affair, in which neither side conceded ground without a fight.

Borough had more of the play than their opponents, yet for most of the time seemed completely baffled by Hinckley's defensive set-up. On occasions the visitors seemed to have three centre-halves.

Hinckley's success has obviously been built on its intricate defensive system which is almost invulnerable. Aston came through his duels with Ken Satchwell most creditably. Round was a useful winger and put across many inviting centres. Even so, Mick Golder proved himself a worthy opponent.

To sum up, Borough would be quite happy with their single goal success, and there can be no doubt at all that everybody in the Borough camp was glad when the whistle sounded the end of hostilities, for there always seemed the likelihood of Hinckley snatching a point.

Nuneaton Borough v Barry Town

18-05-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and Hartland.

Barry Town: Twigg; Bright and Morgan; Prosser, Kane and Dowdell; Collins, Cullen, Rossiter, Gully and Wood.

Borough welcomed Barry Town to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 fixture.

After playing for half-an-hour as though they were going to make hard work of a simple, straightforward job, Borough at last got on the goal track and then crushed a poor Barry side.

Early on Barry showed some fight and experienced no great difficulty in holding a much too hasty Borough forward line in check. Wave after wave of Borough attacks came to grief – and the crowd began to get impatient.

Borough did eventually get their act together, and after 35 minutes they took the lead. Former Borough goalkeeper Dick Twigg got to, but failed to hold a shot from Mick Golder and seizing on the loose ball, Brian Hart shot past the sprawling goalkeeper and into the net. Two minutes later Ken Satchwell slammed the ball into the Barry net, but the referee had already blown for a penalty kick, a visiting defender having apparently handled in the area.

Brian Rhodes took the spot kick and foxed Twigg with a side-footed shot which had the goalkeeper going the wrong way. Two minutes after half-time, though playing against a strong wind, Borough took a three goal lead when Mick Hartland shot from a Rowe centre and the ball was deflected into the net by a Barry defender. After that Barry were never in the hunt.

In the 53rd minute Brian Rhodes got his second goal, his left-footer going in off a post. Then, in the 60th minute, Satchwell broke through on the left and crossed the ball for Norman Rowe to prod the ball into the net. The scoring was completed six minutes later when Ken Satchwell converted a Rowe cross.

Barry played reasonably well early on when Borough were all at sixes and sevens. Once Borough had scored, however, Barry cracked up and thereafter it was merely a question of how many goals Borough would score.

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A disappointment for Borough fans was that Ken Satchwell only scored one goal, for the fans are hoping that he will top the Division 1 goalscoring chart. If he succeeds, it will indeed be a remarkable performance having regard to the fact that he did not make his first appearance for Borough until February 2.

Jack Dunn's Benefit

There was a crowd of 2,223 at Manor Park on Monday night for Jack Dunn's benefit match. The game was rather more interesting than exciting – more of an exhibition than the real thing. Jack Dunn's English League side was content to coast along – until the very late stages when they scored twice to give them their 4-2 win – while the Borough players obviously had their minds on the all-important Southern League game against Dover.

Hope (WBA) gave Dunn's XI the lead in the 8th minute, but Norman Rowe equalised just four minutes later. Five minutes before half-time George Lee (WBA) chased a ball which appeared to be running out of play and pulled it back to Johnny Dixon (Aston Villa), who slammed it home. Brian Rhodes levelled the scores with a lob shot as Reg Matthews (Derby County) came out to meet him.

Johnny Jarman (Walsall) cracked a terrific shot against a post immediately after the restart, but the score remained 2-2 until 12 minutes from the end when Johnny Dixon ran through to make the score 3-2, and just before the end the same player completed the scoring.

Tonight's The Night For Borough

Tonight's the night so far as Nuneaton Borough FC is concerned, for if they beat Dover at Manor Park, they will gain promotion. If they drop a point, then Borough will have to await the result of the Tonbridge-Margate match tomorrow to know whether they go up or stay in Division 1.

So, to make absolutely certain of promotion, Borough must win tonight. Dover are a good side and Borough will do well not to take too much for granted.

Nuneaton Borough v Dover

24-05-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Hartland, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Dover: Kirkwood; Horne and Reeves; Kirkup, Davies and Vaessen; West, Swain, B. Jones, Quinn and Rowan.

Borough welcomed Dover to Manor Park for a Southern League Division 1 game.

It would have been sheer tragedy had the width of a post robbed Borough of promotion. Fortunately it didn't, thanks to Tonbridge's failure to win at Margate on Saturday night. In the dying seconds of the Dover game, with the score 2-2, Brian Hart shot against a post and after a terrific goalmouth

scramble the ball was cleared. Borough had to win this game to make certain of promotion, but all they could manage was a draw, though in actual fact, they should have been in the Premier Division by half-time.

That the game was not securely tied up by the mid-way mark was entirely the doings of the forwards, who missed enough chances to have ensured promotion two or three times over. Had they accepted only the really easy chances that fell to them Borough ought to have been three goals up at half-time. Instead they crossed over without having anything at all to show for a pronounced first half territorial advantage.

Early in the second half Ken Satchwell headed high over the bar when a downward header must have meant a certain goal. Then, in the 51st minute, against the run of play, Dover took the lead. One inswinging corner from left-winger Rowan had been cleared only with difficulty, then came another corner and this time the ball was headed down to Bernard Jones, who steered the ball into the net. Shortly afterwards Green saved brilliantly from Rowan, who had broken through the middle.

Borough drew level in the 65th minute, Brian Rhodes accepted an Allan Jones centre to send home a hard, low cross shot to level the scores at 1-1. Five minutes later Bernard Jones accepted another chance to put Dover ahead again. Hart missed a great chance of equalising after going right through the middle.

In the 80th minute Allan Jones was fouled in the penalty area. A spot kick was awarded and Brian Rhodes had the goalkeeper going the wrong way with a shot which entered the opposite corner of the net.

The fight was now really on and encouraged by 6,255 supporters, Borough fought desperately to get the winner. Mick Golder went up into the attack with Allan Jones falling back. The winner just would not come. With less than a minute left to play, Hart hit the post.

If this failure to beat Dover had lost them promotion, Borough would have had only themselves to blame. They had plenty of opportunities to win, but failed to accept them. However, Tonbridge's failure to win against Margate sees Borough go up on goal average.

Guildford City v Nuneaton Borough

25-05-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Hartland, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Guildford for the Southern League Cup Final second leg.

Borough led 1-0 until 12 minutes from time at Guildford on Saturday, but two late home goals gave the home side victory.

Guildford deserved their success, even though every credit must be given to Borough for fighting so gamely. Right-half Mick Hartland gave Borough the lead after 10 minutes, when



he ran on to a Rowe through pass and put a low shot well out of Gill's reach.

The Borough goal was under almost continuous pressure in the second half, but their defence held firm until a shot from Bisset rebounded off Eric Jones to Barrett and the inside-right beat Green from close range.

The score remained 1-1 until five minutes from the end when Sillett's free-kick was headed by Bisset to Woodhouse for the outside-right to snatch the winner.

Prior to their equaliser Guildford had twice struck the woodwork of the Borough goal.

Southern League Division One 1962-63

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Margate	38	21	13	4	86	47	55
Hinckley Athletic	38	22	9	7	66	38	53
Hastings United	38	22	8	8	86	36	52
Nuneaton Borough	38	21	10	7	82	41	52
Tonbridge	38	22	8	8	81	51	52
Dover	38	22	7	9	78	56	51
Corby Town	38	19	8	11	79	50	46
King's Lynn	38	19	7	12	76	66	45
Cheltenham Town	38	18	7	13	83	52	43
Folkestone Town	38	15	10	13	79	57	40
Canterbury City	38	14	8	16	42	56	36
Yiewsley	38	11	10	17	63	71	32
Ramsgate Athletic	38	12	7	19	58	82	31
Trowbridge Town	38	11	9	18	50	81	31
Burton Albion	38	10	10	18	48	76	30
Gloucester City	38	9	11	18	42	78	29
Sittingbourne	38	12	3	23	56	76	27
Ashford Town	38	9	6	23	48	75	24
Barry Town	38	6	5	27	35	76	17
Tunbridge Wells United	38	6	2	30	43	116	14

Promotion

Congratulations to Nuneaton Borough FC on having gained promotion to the Premier Division of the Southern League – even though it was only on goal average.

We feel they deserved the honour. Yet how much more satisfying it would have been had they achieved the ascent to the higher division entirely off their own bat, instead of having to rely on Tonbridge not winning at Margate.

Borough failed to complete what would have been a remarkable double by losing 2-1 at Guildford in the second leg of the Southern League Cup final.

Still, promotion was by far the more important, since it will mean a better class of football next season.

All in all, Borough did extremely well to gain promotion with so young a side, and the players, manager, directors and everybody connected with the club deserve a pat on the back.

Borough Annual Dinner

A cheque for 200 guineas – the proceeds of his benefit match – was presented to Jack Dunn at the second annual dinner of the Nuneaton Borough Association Football Club Ltd., held at the Newdigate Arms Hotel on Monday night.

The chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr R. S. Bull presided. The cheque was presented by the vice-chairman, Mr N. Peckett, who said that Jack Dunn had given the club good service. He had never heard anything unkind said about him either on or off the field. Receiving the cheque, Jack Dunn expressed his thanks to all who had helped him in his benefit.

Mr Peckett presented salvers to Trevor Birch, who was unable to play in the second leg of the Southern League Cup at Guildford, owing to illness, and to the club trainer, Mr Downs. The chairman said they were all very happy that night following their success in gaining promotion to the Premier Division. He extended a welcome to the ladies, to the vice-presidents and to their guests.

Officials Praised

He paid tribute to the work of the secretary, Mr Harry Broadhurst, and the treasurer, Mr Roy Tromans, the men who did a great deal of hard work behind the scenes. They were fortunate in having two such men as officials of the club.

Mr Bull eulogised the work of the manager-coach, Mr Fred Badham who, he said, had done a very good job of work for the club. Mr Badham could not help but succeed because of his enthusiasm, and the Board felt he might very well lead the club into the English League.

Free Hand

Although the Board had not always agreed with Mr Badham's team selections, they had given him a free hand and the success he had made of the job was shown in the results he had obtained.

Mr Bull concluded by praising the players, who had given supporters a good brand of football.

Mr Badham described Nuneaton people as "very genuine" and said he felt there was a tremendous opportunity for football in Nuneaton.

Skipper Eric Jones expressed thanks to the directors and said the players had had a happy season. They had an unbeaten home record in the league and had gained promotion, if only by the skin of their teeth. Unfortunately they were beaten by Guildford in the Southern League Cup Final and thus failed to complete the double.

Manor Park Admission Charges Up

Admission charges to Manor Park next season have in some instances been increased to conform with charges made by other Southern League club.

Ground charge at 2s. 6d. shows an increase of 6d., and



transfer to the stand at 1s. 6d. shows an increase of 3d. Charges for pensioners, boys and reserve matches show no change. Season tickets (ground) will cost 3 guineas and season tickets (stand), 5 guineas cash or 6 guineas deferred terms. Season ticket holders (stand) will have tip-up seats in the centre of the stand. They can claim their seats for cup games up to the time of kick-off. There will be 21 league games and 16 reserve team matches.

Application for season tickets can be made to the secretary, stating the type of ticket required. Personal application for tickets can be made at Manor Park on Tuesday evening from 7 to 9 or on Sundays from 11am to 12 noon.

Badham Did Not Ask For His Release

The following statement has been issued by Mr Harry L. Broadhurst, honorary secretary, of behalf of Nuneaton Borough FC.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Nuneaton Borough Association Football Club Limited, held at the ground on Tuesday evening, Mr F. Badham, the manager, informed the Board that there was no truth whatsoever in the report published in a local newspaper on June 25, which stated that he was to ask for his release at the Directors' meeting. So far as Mr Badham and the Board are concerned there are no such "behind the scenes differences" as referred to in the report.

The Directors and Mr Badham are at a loss to understand how such a report could have originated and can only reiterate that it is entirely without foundation.

It follows from the foregoing that Mr Badham had no intention of asking for his release and did not in fact do so as stated in the report.

Nuneaton Borough AFC AGM

Borough Gates Up By £3,170

At Nuneaton Borough Football Club's annual meeting on Monday, it was reported that the major items of expenditure during the season 1962-63 were £10,245 on players wages, and £2,238 on travelling expenses.

Whilst wages showed an increase of £3,182 an economy of £84 was effected on travelling. A similar economy on administrative expenses of £77 was realised. A new item, transfer fees, accounted for £1,950, which, it is understood, represents part of the fee paid to Coventry City for Ken Satchwell.

Encouraging Increase

Gate receipts showed an encouraging increase of £3,170 on the previous season, the net figure being £7,789. But the most valuable contribution towards the club's income was again the donations, mainly from the Improvement Fund, £13,231 and Touch Line Tote, £490. Slightly less than £3,000 of this went on ground improvements. In addition £700 was

invested with the Borough of Nuneaton, and £525 was spent on new equipment, leaving a net profit for the year of £637.

In asking the shareholders to approve the balance sheet, the chairman, Mr R. S. Bull, expressed satisfaction with the financial statement for the year, and paid tribute to the hon. treasurer and secretary for their invaluable work in this direction. Mr Bull made special reference to his vice-chairman, Mr N. Peckett, reminding the shareholders that the present financial stability of the Club stemmed from the vice-chairman's timely introduction of the "Daily Draw" scheme.

Manager Praised

Mr Bull continued his report with a word of praise to the manager Mr Fred Badham, for his untiring enthusiasm during the past season. He referred to the work that Mr Badham performed on the ground outside the normal sphere of duty. The direct result of this was a very successful season, with the team gaining well-deserved promotion and coming near to winning the Southern League Cup, only losing by the odd goal in three in a two-leg final.

Mr Bull looked to the future with confidence, having regard to the standard of football revealed by the team last season and the knowledge that the manager would undoubtedly give attention to any improvement in the playing strength of the team that he thought necessary.

At the first meeting of the directors which followed Mr Badham welcomed the new directors Messrs. G. Greenfield and C. Coe, whose appointment as directors had been confirmed at the annual general meeting.

The Board of Directors then showed their own confidence in their officers, by re-electing unopposed, Mr R. S. Bull as chairman, for the third year, Mr N. Peckett, as vice-chairman, and the hon. treasurer, Mr R. Tromans, and hon. secretary, Mr H. L. Broadhurst.

It was also confirmed that the new overhead cover for the whole of the Cock and Bear end of the ground would be completed, under contract, by August 17 – a week before the season officially opens. Training and pre-season coaching classes for the juniors will commence on Tuesday next, July 9, under the guidance of Mr Badham.

Borough Signings – No Surprise Omissions

The list of players signed up by Nuneaton Borough FC for next season shows no surprise omissions. As was expected, agreement on terms for next season has been reached with all of last season's recognised first team players.

This means that Borough for their opening games of the season could, if desired, rely on the team that acquitted itself so well last season against powerful premier division opposition in Kettering, Cambridge City, the league champions, and Guildford, the cup winners.

The only departure of note has been the utility player, Mick

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Hartland, who signed for Arthur Turner at Oxford City, the Fourth Division club, at the beginning of the close season.

Reserve team players West (goalkeeper), Mooney (centre-half) and Hawkes (wing-half), it is reported, have joined Johnny Conlon, at Banbury Spencer. They must have realised that prospects of permanent first team football at Manor Park were not very bright.

The first new signings announced indicate that manager Fred Badham is again putting his confidence in younger players with some experience of Football League rather than the “old hand” with a limited value of one or two years service.

Alfred Dewis is a 19-year-old goalkeeper from Coventry, who had three years with Birmingham City; Mick Crump, another 19-year-old, plays equally well at left or right back, where he was a regular with Coventry City’s reserve team last year. Ron Archer (27) brings experience as a wing-half, having played with Barnsley and more recently Rugby Town, and at inside forward, new signing Bradley, who last season was with Burton Albion.

It is understood that Mr Badham is still negotiating for players to further strengthen his professional playing staff, but as yet there are no names available.



Nuneaton Borough 1962-63

Back Row: Roger Thompson, Mick Golder, Les Green, Trevor Birch, Eric Jones (captain), Malcolm Allen, Alan Jones.

Front row: Norman Rowe, Brian Rhodes, Ken Satchwell, Brian Hart, Micky Hartland.



Halesowen Town — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Halesowen Town to Manor Park for a 1st Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Conlon, Joyce, Hartland, Hart and A. Jones.

Forget the score in the game, for it was by no means a one horse race. Indeed, until midway through the second half, Borough had scarcely seemed able to get into top gear and but for bad finishing and some bad luck – twice they hit the woodwork – the visitors at that point, could have been on level terms.

In the end, however, the Halesowen defence wilted and finally cracked, and three goals in eleven minutes finished them off altogether. But let's give them credit for a fighting display. Certainly they were never so badly mauled as the score might suggest.

For three parts of the game Borough, though coming up now and again with a goal, merely creaked along. For too many of their moves ended through faulty passing, while the defence quite a few times was caught out of position.

Make no mistake, until the own goal finally broke their resistance, Halesowen were not a great deal Borough's inferiors – except in front of goal. At the time Borough were leading 2-0, Halesowen had missed three clear-cut openings, centre-forward Hargreaves having twice failed with only Green to beat.

That was their own funeral, of course. But it was just misfortune when the width of the woodwork stood between them and what would have been two well-deserved goals.

Even so, Borough must be given credit for winning. After all, it's goals that count and though they were not always "on the job" when it came to finishing off their moves, the fact that they got five goals off their own bat

proves that they didn't miss all the chances that went their way.

Mick Hartland, as at Burton, led the attack and was again among the goals. In fact he got three of them. On the whole he gave another most promising performance.

Though Conlon's scoring potential is not particularly good; though he still relies upon speed rather than cleverness to beat an opponent, at least he was an improvement upon Holbutt and Beaman. On the whole the Borough attack, while not always clicking, was in pretty good form and continued where it finished off at Burton.

It was easy to understand why Halesowen hold an unbeaten record in their own company in the West Midlands Regional League – the old Birmingham League. They are not a bad side, but their big fault was the inability of their forwards to round off good midfield and approach work.

Borough opened the scoring after four minutes when a Conlon corner kick ran loose to Brian Hart, who drove the ball past the helpless Farrow. After eleven minutes Hart fastened on to an Allan Jones pass, wormed his way inside before slipping the ball to Mick Hartland, who had no trouble in making the score 2-0.

After 61 minutes a centre by Allan Jones passed across goal to Conlon, who headed it back into the middle for Hartland once more to beat Farrow. Eight minutes later Allan Jones again flashed the ball into the middle and Culwick diverted it past his own goalkeeper.

On seventy-five minutes John Conlon put a short ball to Hartland, who rounded a defender before hitting the ball into the net for his third goal.

Ten minutes from time Allan Jones took the ball right through the Halesowen defence and left Chris Joyce with the easiest of chances, and he duly obliged.

Lockheed — 2nd Qualifying Round

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

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Joyce, Hartland, Hart and A. Jones.

Lockheed: Woodward; Coleman and Lane; R. Bradley, Hancock and Jenkins; Ward, B. Bradley, Newberry, Shorthose and Hall.

This was a typical cup-tie – a game which kept a crowd of 3,750 on its toes from first kick to last. And the result was in doubt until less than five minutes from the end when Borough got their all-important second goal – the winner.

Lockheed gave Borough their hardest game of the season, and if anything, their style of play was better, and their fast movements had the Borough defence working at full stretch. Indeed it is true to say that the home defenders were struggling throughout for they never seemed quite capable of containing an attack which had its spearhead on the wings.

Though never looking wholly capable of subduing the Lockheed forwards, at least the Borough defence stuck to its guns and never threw in the sponge. There can be no doubt though, that Keith McCarthy was glad to hear the whistle sound at the end.

The Borough left back was kept working at full stretch by the speedy Ward, who was about the best forward on view. Whenever he was on the move trouble brewed for Borough. Roger Thompson also had his hands full trying to keep Lockheed left winger Hall in check. Sometimes he was successful, sometimes not.

Malcolm Allen had his least conspicuous game this season. Every player, though is entitled to one off day. Birch was also bang off colour, he could do very little right.

The Lockheed defence also had a worrying time once Borough touched something like their norman form. But



for half an hour – the first half hour – there was no questioning the visitors' superiority. Their attacks were well conceived, well executed, while most of Borough's moves ended in mid-air because of the general tendency on the part of the forwards to try one move too many to try to beat too many defenders. Attack after attack came to grief through this fault.

After their first half-hour superiority, Lockheed found Borough a hard working side – a team which continued to peg away when things were not going as well as they would have wished. This was undoubtedly due to the fact that Lockheed were no mean performers, indeed were as good as many Southern League sides.

Lockheed opened the scoring after 37 minutes when Shorthose, a former Borough player, took a pass from Hall and whipped the ball into the net, his fast cross-shot giving Green no chance whatsoever.

The visitors held their lead until the 61st minute, when Rhodes swung the ball over to Allan Jones, for the latter to put the ball back into the middle for Joyce to turn it into the net.

The score remained 1-1 until just under five minutes from the end. Hart made all the running for this Borough winner. He moved inside Lane, dodged outside again, and then swung across a perfect centre to the far post, where Allan Jones was on hand to head the ball home.

It was a pity that one side should have had to be beaten in this really thrilling game. It was the most satisfying encounter seen on the ground for some time, and that Borough had to struggle so hard to scrape through to the next round of the FA Cup is a tribute to the quality of the

opposition. It is easy to understand why Lockheed are so determined in their own company – they are a fine side – a side containing a few players who would grace Borough colours.

Rugby Town – 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to Rugby Town for a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Rugby: Thomson; Jackson and Pollard; Nicholls, Crowther and Archer; Finch, Clayton, Knox, B. Jones and Rowe.

Borough: Green; Thompson and McCarthy; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Joyce, Hartland, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough are out of the Cup, and nobody can honestly complain. Premier Division side Rugby were no great shakes, but they were good value for their narrow victory.

After having the better of the first-half exchanges, Borough fell away and once in arrears they seldom looked like saving the game. Borough played the better football for 45 minutes and ought to have been leading at the interval.

Hartland missed an early easy chance of giving his side the lead, while Allan Jones saw a header strike the woodwork. Hartland's was a bad miss, while Jones was unlucky.

Hereabouts Borough's slick forward moves had the Rugby defence worried and the visitors certainly had the chance to have ensured for themselves a replay.

During this period Rugby booted the ball about with great freedom, but were unable to make much impression on a defence in which centre-half Eric Jones was a dominating figure, so dominating in fact that Knox, the Rugby leader, just didn't have a look in.

At the half-way stage it looked as though Borough's chances of at least forcing a replay were particularly bright.

But Borough had flattered only to deceive, for after half-time they deteriorated and slowly but very surely the home side took command, without ever showing the skill expected of a Premier Division side.

Borough's second half display sadly disillusioned their supporters. Wing halves Malcolm Allen and Birch, who had occupied the centre of the field in the first half, now lost their grip on Clayton and Bernard Jones. McCarthy, as before the interval, failed to hold Finch. Thompson was worried by the speedy Rowe – and the attack went right out of the picture.

Indeed, at half-time the visitors left all their football skill in the dressing room, and that's where it stayed for the rest of the game.

Rugby got the only goal of the match ten minutes after half-time when Bernard Jones finished off a right-wing move and a Clayton centre in appropriate fashion.

That goal virtually finished Borough who, except for a single shot by right winger Rhodes, which skimmed the bar, hardly ever looked like wiping out that slender one-goal lead.

The reason for Borough's second half fade out is not easy to understand, especially having regard to their first-half superiority, which ought to have given them all the confidence they needed to go all out for victory.

They really had little to fear in Rugby and, with the exception of Eric Jones and Green, the way they lost their grip on things after the change of ends was perplexing.

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Southern League Division 1: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1962-63

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
08.18	Tunbridge Wells United	A	L	3-2	Holbutt (2), A. Jones	1,197
08.20	Hastings United	H	L	1-1	A. Jones	3,545
08.25	Canterbury City	H	L	3-1	Hartland (2), Joyce	2,229
08.27	Burton Albion	H	SLC 1Q 1st Leg	4-1	Hartland (2), Joyce (2)	2,062
09.01	Yiewsley	A	L	1-4	Beaman	1,527
09.05	Burton Albion	A	SLC 1Q 2nd Leg	4-1	Hart, Joyce, Birch, Holbutt	2,062
09.08	Halesowen Town	H	FAC 1Q	6-0	Hartland (3), Joyce, Hart, o.g.	2,814
09.15	Cheltenham Town	A	L	2-1	Rhodes, Hart	2,024
09.22	Lockheed	H	FAC 2Q	2-1	Joyce, A. Jones	3,750
09.29	Dover	A	L	2-0	Joyce, Robson (o.g.)	1,982
10.06	Rugby Town	A	FAC 3Q	0-1		4,013
10.11	Rugby Town	H	SLC 1	1-0	Hart	1,613
10.13	Redditch	H	BSC 2	2-1	Wright, Hart	1,973
10.20	Ramsgate Athletic	A	L	0-0		1,032
10.27	Sittingbourne	H	L	3-2	Hart, Joyce, Birch	2,265
11.03	Gloucester City	A	L	2-2	Beaman, E. Jones	1,100
11.10	Ramsgate Athletic	H	L	2-0	Hartland, Hart	2,132
11.17	Folkestone Town	A	L	1-1	Hart	780
11.23	Corby Town	A	L	0--2		1,772
11.24	Stratford Town	H	BSC 3	1-2	Huss	1,631
11.26	Tonbridge	A	L	0-0		2,032
12.01	Hinckley Athletic	A	L	0-1		2,906
12.08	Tonbridge	H	L	1-0	Hart	1,320
12.15	Tunbridge Wells United	H	L	4-1	Hart (2, 1 pen), Conlon, Golder	1,945
12.22	Canterbury City	A	L	1-2	Carragher (o.g.)	525
12.24	Kettering Town	H	SLC 2	3-1	Hart, Conlon, Quigley (o.g.)	2,656
12.26	Trowbridge Town	H	L	4-1	Golder (2), Hart, Birch	1,356
02.02	Cheltenham Town	H	L	1-0	Satchwell	2,110
02.09	Margate	A	L	1-3	Hart	1,710
03.02	Sittingbourne	A	L	0-1		1,037
03.09	Gloucester City	H	L	4-0	Satchwell (2), Hart (2)	1,365
03.15	Yiewsley	H	L	3-0	Satchwell (2), Rhodes	2,197
03.21	Wisbech Town	H	SLC 3	5-0	Satchwell (4), Rhoddes	2,176
03.23	Folkestone Town	H	L	5-0	Satchwell, Allen, Rhodes, Hart, Rowe	2,927
03.30	King's Lynn	A	L	2-2	Satchwell (2)	1,129
04.01	Cambridge City	H	SLC S-F	2-0	Rhodes (2)	4,465
04.06	Guildford City	H	SLC F 1st Leg	0-0		4,910
04.08	Ashford Town	A	L	1-1	Satchwell	731
04.12	Burton Albion	A	L	1-1	Hart	2,100
04.13	Corby Town	H	L	3-0	Satchwell, Rowe, Rhodes	3,172
04.15	Burton Albion	H	L	7-3	Birch, Hart (4), Rowe (2)	3,801
04.22	Ashford Town	H	L	3-0	Satchwell (2), Rhodes	3,848
04.27	Hastings United	A	L	0-3		2,720
04.29	Margate	H	L	0-0		4,700
05.04	King's Lynn	H	L	3-1	Satchwell, Rhodes, Birch	3,555
05.06	Trowbridge	A	L	5-1	Satchwell (5)	547
05.09	Barry Town	A	L	4-1	Satchwell (2), Birch, A. Jones	312
05.13	Hinckley Athletic	H	L	1-0	Rowe	7,524
05.18	Barry Town	H	L	6-0	Hart, Rhodes (2, 1 pen), Hartland, Rowe, Satchwell	
05.24	Dover	H	L	2-2	Rhodes (2, 1 pen)	6,255
05.25	Guildford City	A	SLC F 2nd Leg	1-2	Hartland	5,843

KEY: L = Southern League Division 1, FAC = F.A.Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, SLC = Southern League Cup

Borough FC Director Resigns

Mr Norman Peckett, of Welbeck Avenue, Burbage, has resigned from the board of directors of Nuneaton Borough Football Club.

He handed in a written resignation over a week ago, and was asked to reconsider the matter, but was unable to alter his decision.

Mr Peckett was vice-chairman of the club and had been a director since 1960.



Talking things over with four new Borough signings at the start of the season's training last week is Mr Fred Badham, the team manager. The new faces are (left to right): A. Dewis, J. Walker, M. Crump and R. Archer.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Hughie Morrow Returns To Borough

The latest addition to Nuneaton Borough's playing squad is Hughie Morrow, who returns to Manor Park after several seasons with West Bromwich Albion and more recently, Kettering Town. Hughie is a skilful and forceful winger which means healthy competition for Norman Rowe and Allan Jones, last season's regular wingers.

More punch in the forward line may be added if Stan Round, the Hinckley Athletic forward, finally decides to quit the "Robins." Behind the scene stories indicate that Round is intent on leaving, and that Borough and Hinckley have agreed a modest fee and a player in exchange. Whether the player named, Chris Joyce, the former Notts Forest and Notts County inside-forward is willing to join Hinckley is not known.

The negotiations with Pat Saward, on Huddersfield's transfer list at £3,000, made no further progress when the player, a former Aston Villa wing-half and Eire international stated his terms which, it is understood, included a hefty "in lieu of benefit" signing-on fee and other conditions which did not appeal to the Borough directors. An amateur whom the manager thinks could make the 1st XI this season is Robin

Whetnall, an inside-forward from Moor Green, who was highly recommended by Jack Badham to his brother.

The departure of Eric Le Maitre, for two seasons in charge of the 2nd XI and assistant coach to Mr Badham, has meant the promotion of Stan Marshall, who has been in charge of the "A" team. Stan, who played for Borough, Wellington, Atherstone and Bedworth in both Birmingham League and Birmingham Combination football, will have a probationary period as second team manager.

Will Take Aerial Photos Of Borough

Mr Reg Bull, of Edward Street, the very keen amateur photographer, who is also a keen Borough fan, has chartered a plane for an hour on Saturday afternoon, and will fly over Manor Park while the public trial match is in progress, taking aerial photographs.

Dr Plester has been invited to become the honorary medical officer to Nuneaton Borough FC in succession to Dr McIlveen. We are informed that one of the improvements contemplated at Manor Park, is the provision of a separate specially equipped medical treatment room.

A much-needed improvement that should be completed by the opening home match is the closing in of the Press box. The newspapers concerned have been invited to defray the cost of this work. The box will have glass fronted sliding shutters and improved lighting.

1963-64

Nuneaton Borough v Aston Villa

19-08-1963

Borough: Green (Dewis); Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe (Morrow), Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart (Walker) and A. Jones.

Villa: Gavan; MacEwan (Wright) and Briggs; Trevis (Prosser), Chatterley, and Fellows; Ewing, Park, Carruth, Graham and Fencott.

Borough welcomed Aston Villa to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly match.

If Borough heed the lessons handed out by Aston Villa in last night's pre-season work-out, they need not feel humbled by their 3-0 defeat. For Joe Mercer's reserve string exposed just where Fred Badham's men are likely to fail against the higher company of the Southern League Premier.

The plain fact of the lesson was that Borough must get more bite in attack and find a way to filter through the ranks of tightly knit defences. Villa's ball distribution was slick and smooth. They created space, moved for the ball, and fully exploited the quick one-two. Conversely, Borough telegraphed passes and persisted in doing the obvious. Good enough maybe in some company, but inadequate when a side of Villa's class is on the same pitch.

These are early days and Villa were a good side. Yet only a

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super optimist could smile with satisfaction. For the realist would not blind himself to the fact that Borough will meet comparable talent in many league matches.

Villa's goals were scored by Graham, after five minutes, Park after 24 minutes and Carruth after 67 minutes.

Bexley United v Nuneaton Borough 24-08-1963

Bexley: Howe; McDonald and Taylor; Forwell, Nekrews and Lillis; Peters, Kelly, Gill, Johnson and Hughes.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Bexley United for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.



Brian Hart challenges keeper Howe for possession during a Borough raid in the second half of the match with Bexley United, on Saturday.

Photo: R. S. Bull/Nuneaton Observer

Borough flashed a timely warning to the rest of the Premier Division Southern League sides, and the critics who had written them off before the season started, when they celebrated their return with a convincing 3-1 win.

A five star rating must be given to Allen, who dominated the centre of the field with a display of cultured football that made his opposite numbers in the Bexley team look insignificant. Of equal status was Allan Jones on the left flank, who silenced his critics with a best-ever performance marred only by a single offence that earned the crowd's displeasure and a rebuke from the referee.

Neither goal had been in danger when Borough struck. Allan Jones neatly edged his way past one defender to take a pass from Satchwell. Two more white shirts converged on him, but he crossed inside. Delicate touches by Hart and Rhodes saw the ball transferred to Allen, some 25 yards out. Advancing five yards as the Bexley rearguard hesitated, he hit a beautiful shot, a foot or so off the ground just inside the post.

Borough maintained the offensive and Satchwell had a shot parried by the goalkeeper and with Nekrews in close attendance, the centre-forward sidefooted wide of the post from six yards out. A let-off, but only a temporary one.

Green took out a number of crosses from the Bexley right-

winger Peters, and immediately turned defence into attack with throws out to the wing, where Rowe and Jones lurked. It was from a shrewd back-pass by Birch to Green that the second goal originated. The ball reached Allan Jones. He slipped his full back and crossed a hard centre which Hart intelligently let run on to Rowe, who whipped in a low drive from ten yards out to give Borough a 2-0 lead.

Bexley pushed forward in the second half, and urged on by the crowd, came very close to scoring on two occasions, but again the Borough defence held out. Defence became attack and the magic of Jones became apparent. With three defenders barring his way, he crossed the ball to Satchwell, who had Nekrews and Howe hopelessly tangled up before he forced the ball over the line.

A fourth goal, an exact replica of number three, was being acclaimed before the Nuneaton contingent realised that the ball had not crossed the line. Slow hand clapping did not help the home team, but to their credit they fought back to score a good goal through Peters. Golder was blinded by the sun as the winger appeared to control the ball with his arm and rounded Eric Jones before beating Green with a fine drive.

Hinckley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 29-08-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rowe, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Middlefield Lane to take on Hinckley Athletic in a Southern League Premier Division game.

After throwing everything at the solid Hinckley defence in the first half, in a vain attempt to wipe out an early deficit, Nuneaton became frustrated and fumbling in attack and faded out of this tough and often thrilling local derby.

Aston and Aldis gradually began to master the middle and the hard-working Satchwell, finding support sparse, began to roam. The attack faltered and fell apart. Hinckley on the other hand were much improved up front, although they still require more thrust from the wings.

Borough began the match with a few quick flourishes, but the all-important goal was scored in five minutes as the Robins began to show signs of hitherto unseen forward power. The move was started by McGowan who enjoyed an impressive match, but his hand in the goal was only incidental. Inside his own half and near the right hand touchline he urged Roy Lockton to set off down the right flank. His long ball was well ahead of the winger and Mick Golder easily got there first to slip it into touch.

Lockton moved up smartly and took a quick throw to Mellor just outside the penalty area. The centre-forward brushed the ball back out to Lockton who caught it near the by-line and swung over a perfect centre for Roy Clayton to meet. Eight yards out and unhampered, Clayton lunged forward to smack the ball high into the net past Les Green.

Borough were stung into retaliation and Tony Lines, who had

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a fine game, had to tip over a header from Brian Hart and scramble a Ken Satchwell angled shot round the post.

When Stan Aston handled on the edge of the Hinckley penalty area he stood erect and rooted to the spot to show referee Kirkpatrick quite clearly that he was not inside the 18-yard line. The little ball of energy from Leicester handled the match splendidly and added spice to the entertainment. He is surely the most popular official for many miles around.

With three points from the opening two matches, Hinckley are carrying on where they left off last season. Borough are finding it less easy to reproduce last season's form.

Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 31-08-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Morrow, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Hereford: Isaac; Thomas and Lawton; Olnier, Daniel and Jacques; F. Morris, McIntosh, R. Morris, Hewitt and Perry.

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

Borough made very hard work of what should have been a simple task when they beat a poor Hereford side 2-0 in their opening home game of the season.

Although they did enough attacking to have won all hands down, it was not until 14 minutes from time that Brian Rhodes settled the issue in Borough's favour with a great shot from an Allan Jones cross. Up until that moment Borough were holding a slender 1-0 lead.

This was anything but an impressive Borough performance. They mounted attack after attack, some of which troubled a none-too-sure Hereford defence, while many more passed away long before the danger zone was reached, following badly placed passes. In this respect Malcolm Allen was the chief offender.

There were two exceptions to the general criticism that could be levelled against both sets of forwards – Hughie Morrow on the Borough right wing and Bill Perry, the former Blackpool player on the Hereford left wing. Morrow, back in familiar surroundings after several seasons' absence, showed the crowd that he still knows a thing or two; indeed what craft there was in the Borough attack, Hughie provided it.

Ken Satchwell got Borough's first goal after 31 minutes play, when he accepted a pass from Rhodes and cleverly beat the advancing Isaac.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 02-09-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Crump; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Morrow, Dawes, Satchwell, Golder and A. Jones.

Borough travelled to St. George's Lane to face Worcester City in a Southern League Cup first round first leg tie.

Borough received a shock in the first 30 seconds of the game when the linesman signalled that a hard, low cross by

Worcester right winger Hudson, had been controlled by Eric Jones using his arm. Luckily for Borough Reg Cutler steered the spot kick wide of the upright.

The first hour of the match belonged to Worcester who used the slope and greasy conditions to good advantage. Quick bursts of inter-passing alternated with the long crossfield or down the middle ball. Cutler, the hero of Bournemouth's historic victory over Wolves in the FA Cup, created the openings and was in the Borough area to try his luck every time the opportunity arose.

It was Cutler and Bassett who split Borough's defence open with a sudden change of direction that enabled Hudson to beat Green with a hard drive. The goalkeeper almost saved, but had to grope helplessly as the ball rolled slowly over the line. Borough were struggling against razor-like tackles and a swift moving attack.

It was Borough's defence against the weight of the Worcester attack. Green was in splendid form and Eric Jones a dominating figure. The rest of the defence stuck manfully to their task. Mick Golder was ineffective in attack and Dawes, being given a first-team try out after encouraging form in the second team, was unimpressive.

The tide turned in the last 30 minutes and suddenly the one goal deficit did not look unsurmountable. Dawes made a more favourable impression as he dummied intelligently past Read; his centre was met by Satchwell diving headlong across the goalmouth. Satchwell and Morrow engineered a right wing attack and Ball was thankful to concede a corner. The centre-forward moved over to the opposite flank and electrified the crowd with a fifty yard burst that outstripped three defenders. His angled shot was turned aside for another corner. The exuberant Satchwell and the goalkeeper clashed in a lively exchange before the referee intervened.

Then, the crowd was silenced by Satchwell's equalising goal. The centre-forward hotly challenged Ball and Madley for possession as a Dawes centre crossed the face of the goal. Different views gave all four as possible scorers, but the majority view was that Satchwell deflected the ball into the net.

For Borough it was a fine performance against skilful opposition. Experiments that were partly successful provided an opportunity to fight back when the odds were against them.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 09-09-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Crump; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Morrow, Joyce, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

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

After a dull, drab, colourless first half, Borough, a goal behind at half-time, improved sufficiently after the change of ends to beat Burton Albion 3-1 on Monday night.

Far too many of Borough's attacks fizzled out before the danger point was reached and the first-half was a boring

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affair. Borough got little change out of a Burton side which showed two changes and several switches of position from the side beaten at home 1-0 by Tamworth in the FA Cup.

Borough revealed poor finishing power before half-time and the only shots that troubled Christie in the Albion goal were oddly enough sent in by wing halves Trevor Birch, who made five grand efforts and Malcolm Allen.

Though Burton were little better in this respect, former Hinckley forward Stan Round succeeded in fastening on to a through-pass, outpacing the Borough defence and shooting hard past Green after 14 minutes. It was a lead that the visitors took into the second half.

Borough did much better after the change of ends and apart from one shock when Hardiman shot against a post and three successive follow up shots were rained in at the Nuneaton goal without success, always looked capable of winning. Borough equalised in the 47th minute when a move in which Eric Jones, Allan Jones, Ken Satchwell and Hughie Morrow all took part, ended in Brian Hart beating the Albion keeper with an excellently placed shot.

In the 72nd minute Hart gave Borough the lead. He took a pass from Allan Jones and swinging round sharply, slammed a hard low shot past the helpless Christie. Three minutes later a Hughie Morrow free-kick was headed home by Ken Satchwell. It was not a very exciting game, the only highlights being the four goals, which were all well-taken.

Nuneaton Borough v Dartford 14-09-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Crump; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Morrow, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Dartford: Bourne; Redmond and Mobey; Howell, Burns and Pyke; Ripley, Grierson, Crages, Taylor and Denning.

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

Although Dartford's late equaliser was strongly disputed by the Borough players – their protests were turned aside by referee Hartles, of Solihull – they could hardly complain with real justification about the result.

The better tacticians throughout, Dartford deserved their point. Indeed had their finishing matched their cultured approach work they could very well have won. Borough never really got down to the fundamentals of good football. They were again shaky in defence and except for two minutes of glory in the opening half when they wiped out a Dartford lead and then went ahead, they lacked both ideas and finishing power in attack.

Full-back Mick Crump had a very bad time against Dartford danger-man Ripley. The half-back line of Birch, Eric Jones and Allen, so strong last season, is not proving nearly so formidable this campaign and the rest of the team is suffering as a consequence. Except for an occasional dash by Allan Jones and a few flashes of brilliance from Hughie Morrow, the

forward line presented no great difficulties to a solid Dartford defence in which Burns was a dominating figure.

Apart from their grumble over Dartford's second goal, Borough had one other complaint. They felt that when, midway through the second half, Hart rounded goalkeeper Bourne and then went down in the area, they should have had a penalty. The referee disagreed.

Ripley gave Dartford the lead when, following a through-pass, he easily beat Les Green with a well-placed shot. Six minutes later, following a pass by Allen, and a cross by Morrow, Howells fouled Satchwell in the area and Brian Rhodes safely tucked the spot kick into the back of the Dartford net.

Two minutes after that goalkeeper Bourne failed to get away a high lob into the goalmouth by Roger Thompson, and Brian Hart who had followed up, collected the ball as it ran loose and steered it into the empty net. Dartford's disputed equaliser came less than a quarter of an hour from the end, when left winger Dennis shot into the Borough net, just inside the post.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Athletic 16-09-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Archer; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Morrow, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Hinckley: Lines; Wileman and Aldis; Chapman, Aston and Bate; McGowan, Mellor, Lockton, Clayton and Knowles.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Athletic to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Two goals in the last seven minutes transformed the game, for up till then the football had hardly been worthy of the 4,179 crowd. For most of the game Borough, although enjoying a big advantage territorially were struggling painfully against a very mediocre Hinckley side, which, until Borough's third goal seven minutes from time, must have been hopeful of snatching a point, so unimpressive was the home side. Certain it is that Fred Badham's side has got to show a very great improvement if it is to keep its supporters satisfied.

It was not until they realised that by standing still nearly every time they got the ball, wondering what to do with it, they were getting just nowhere, that Borough, for the first time in the game, looked anything like masters of the situation.

Archer was an improvement upon Mick Crump at left-back, he tackled well and always endeavoured to use the ball. Even so, the defence as a whole, goalkeeper Les Green excepted, often creaked along. If the defence was again indifferent, the attack, until the last ten minutes or so, lacked both ideas and finishing power, even though all four goals were good ones.

It took Borough 30 minutes to open their account, Satchwell dispossessing Aldis and crossing a perfect ball to Brian Rhodes, who had no trouble in heading it home. Five minutes later Hart put the ball through to Rhodes who swivelled smartly and beat Lines with a well-placed left-foot shot, to give Borough a 2-0 half-time lead.

In the 55th minute Hart lost the ball and Mellor ran on to leave Les Green standing with a powerful 25-yard drive. It was not until the 83rd minute that Rhodes made things safe for Borough with a perfectly placed shot and two minutes from the end Ken Satchwell picked up a loose ball to shoot hard and low into the net.



Borough FC's New Vice-Chairman

Mr S. Downs, who has been appointed vice-chairman of Nuneaton Borough FC in succession to Mr N. Peckett, who resigned from the Board of Directors during the summer months.

Mr Downs has been a member of the Board for two years.

Mr George Bennett, senior steward at Manor Park for some years, has been appointed assistant treasurer to Mr Roy Tromans while Mr T. Aucott, former chairman of the now defunct Supporters' Club has been appointed assistant secretary to Mr Harry Broadhurst.

In the 12th minute Brian Rhodes had failed with a penalty kick for Borough. Cornbill was brought down in the area by Dolman, and goalkeeper Ball brought off an excellent save from Rhodes' spot kick. In the first half, too, Chris Joyce had missed an easy chance by first-timing the ball over the bar when he had time to trap it and almost pick his spot.

While Borough have played worse than this and won, the cold fact remains that they are still far from being a good side. Not until the half back line strikes its form of last season and Ken Satchwell reproduces his goal-scoring powers can Borough hope for anything approaching a marked improvement.

Nuneaton Borough v Margate

28-09-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Cornbill, Joyce, Satchwell, Whetnall and A. Jones.

Margate: Hughes; Parry and Marshall; John, Harrop and Teece; Dann, Hatsell, Blackburn, Green and Naysmith.

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

Changes made in the Borough side did nothing to help put the team right. Indeed, both Borough and Margate played so indifferently that neither side deserved to win.

Robin Whetnall, making his debut for the home side, got their goal, but I am certain that nobody would claim that he is yet ready for this class of football. And nobody would say that Joyce is an improvement on Rhodes. Borough badly need goals and Rhodes has more scoring potential than Joyce.

The forward line was again most disappointing. Even Satchwell seems to have forgotten the way to goal. Ken Cornbill had a very moderate first half, putting many centres behind goal. He improved after the change of ends and often disconcerted the Margate defence with his speedy runs.

The defence was hardly inspiring and was all at sea with Roger Thompson and Eric Jones on the ground when Margate got their goal. There was one flash of the Malcolm Allen of last season when he opened up the way for his side's solitary success. Roger Thompson had an anxious time against the best forward on view – Naysmith, the Margate left-winger.

Altogether there was little to enthuse over. The first half was a dull, colourless, entirely uninteresting affair. There was some improvement after the change of ends, though not enough to keep the crowd particularly interested.

What few thrills there were came in the first ten minutes of the second half. First Hatsell missed an early chance of putting Margate ahead after Green had made his one mistake of the match; next Parry kicked off the line from Satchwell.

Then in the 50th minute, after an Allan Jones-Malcolm Allen move had only been partially stopped, the latter got possession again and crossed the ball for Robin Whetnall to run in and shoot into the net. Seven minutes later with the Borough defence in a tangle, Ivor Green was left with only Les Green to beat and this he did without too much trouble.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City

23-09-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Archer; Cornbill, Rhodes, Satchwell, Joyce and A. Jones.

Worcester: Ball; Tierney and Gray; Phillips, Madley and Dolman; Herrity, Williams, Fairbrother, Bassett and Cutler.

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

It has been obvious for some time that Borough's first home defeat could not long be delayed. That defeat came on Monday. Changes made in the Borough side brought some improvement, though not nearly enough to inspire complete confidence in their ability to beat the stronger Premier Division sides.

Ken Cornbill, who took Hughie Morrow's place on the right wing has speed and takes the shortest route for goal. Ron Archer at left-half for Malcolm Allen, and Chris Joyce who took Hart's place at inside-left performed usefully, if not brilliantly. Certainly the changes resulted in Borough playing better football, without however, giving the attack a great deal more finishing power.

In recent games Borough have snatched late goals and got away with it. Early in this game it looked like a single goal would take the game. Worcester got that goal in the 68th minute when Herrity took a short pass, swung round sharply, and beat Les Green with a well-placed shot. Worcester got this goal at a time when an injury to Bassett had reduced them to ten men.

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Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth 30-09-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Morrow, Rhodes, Satchwell, Whetnall and A. Jones.

Weymouth: Gourlay; Sheppard and Gulliver; Elliott, Hobson and O'Farrell; Wright, Nelson, Robertson, Nugent and Camp.

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

From the playing angle, Borough are in trouble – dire trouble – and the only solution is to sign better players, since the constant swappings recently has accomplished nothing.

Weymouth have been performing little better than Borough, but they proved much too good for the home side, whose supporters began to drift from the ground long before the end.

Once Borough went behind, apart from one good shot by Allen which Gourlay saved brilliantly, a shot by Brian Rhodes and then two late efforts by left back Golder – Borough appeared quite incapable of saving the game, so pathetic were their goalscoring efforts. On the other hand, Weymouth not only got another two goals, but twice hit the woodwork, outside left Camp and left half O'Farrell being the unfortunate players.

It was Camp who opened Weymouth's account in the 43rd minute. He broke through on the left, moved inside, and then shot hard and low. Les Green got to the ball at the foot of the near post, but it escaped his grasp, shot across goal and then entered the net via the far post. Camp opened up the Borough defence for Nelson to cross the ball to Robertson, who shot past Green to make it 2-0 after 55 minutes.

Borough's crowning blow came 15 minutes from the end when, following hesitancy on the part of the defence, Thompson tried to put the ball back to Les Green. The pass fell yards short and nipping in, Robertson rounded the stranded keeper and tucked the ball safely into the empty net.

Despite the re-introduction of Morrow and Rhodes as Borough's right wing pair, the home side still looked like a side completely lacking in confidence. The backs, especially Roger Thompson, kicked erratically; the halves often strayed out of position to leave holes in defence; while the forwards seldom looked like troubling the Weymouth goalkeeper.

Bedford Town v Nuneaton Borough 10-10-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Brown, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones

Borough made the journey on Thursday to face Bedford Town in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough continued their bad run when they were beaten at Bedford. Brown, Borough's new signing from Notts County, made a satisfactory debut.

The home side established a three-goal lead through Fahy (2) and Heckman before Brian Hart replied for Borough. Sturrock made it 4-1 before the end.

Lockheed v Nuneaton Borough 12-10-1963

Lockheed: Woodward; Coleman and Lane; Bradley, Hancocks and Davies; Ward, Shorthose, Jepson, Straw and Hall.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Brown, Satchwell, Hunt and Dawes.



Woodward the Lockheed goalkeeper, about to collect the ball in the Senior Cup game with Borough. Borough players in the picture are Eric Jones and Trevor Birch.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Borough travelled to Leamington to take on Lockheed in the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Lockheed followed up their 2-0 FA Cup success by beating Borough again, this time in the Senior Cup. But while Lockheed well merited their first success, this success was hardly deserved.

A snap goal by Ward, the Lockheed right winger, who scored with a speculative 30 yard shot four minutes from time settled the issue. It was a fine opportunist goal. Yet for 15 minutes before this goal, Borough had got right on top and if anybody looked like winning then it was Borough.

Before Ward's winner, Lane had twice come to the rescue of his side with timely clearances when goals seemed imminent. Once Brian Rhodes beat goalkeeper Woodward to a through-ball and steered it past him towards the empty net. Fortunately, Lane was able to dash across and whip the ball away when it was a yard or so from goal.

A little later Ralph Brown just failed to give Borough the lead with a shot which passed two feet wide of a post with goalkeeper Woodward making a desperate dash across goal to try to reach the ball, but without ever looking like doing so.

Lockheed took the lead in curious fashion nine minutes from the start. Shorthose got his foot to a Ward corner kick and the ball appeared to spin into the net via Thompson and Green. Ralph Brown sparked off the move which led to Borough's equaliser in the 20th minute. He took the ball through and when it was switched to the left Mick Golder, who had followed up, was on hand to drive home a 30-yard shot which left Woodward and finished up in the far corner of the net.

This was an average sort of game provided by two very average teams. Borough gave a slightly improved display following a reshuffle – but they have still a very long way to go before supporters can begin to feel happy.

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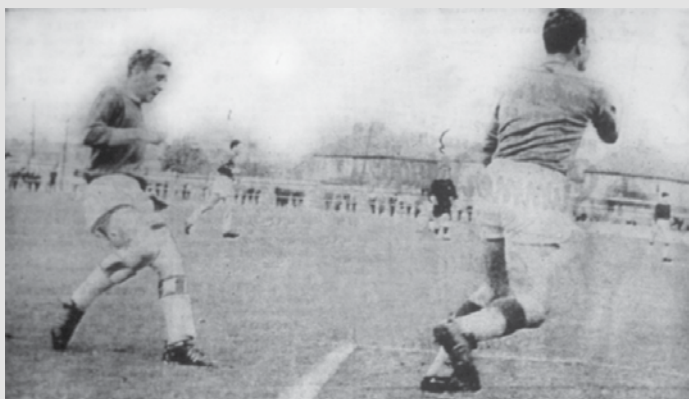


Nuneaton Borough v Hastings United 19-10-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Dunn; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Satchwell, Brown, Whetnall, Hart and A. Jones.

Hastings: Agate; Cull and Tucker; Brown, Smith and Stone; Razzell, Wright, Carter, Lloyd and Burden.

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



Robin Whetnall challenges Hastings' goalkeeper Agate.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Although they strove desperately at times to shake off the effects of the double hang-over left by their Lockheed defeats in the FA Cup and Birmingham Senior Cup, Borough suffered yet another severe headache as they toppled to their fifth consecutive defeat.

This time the knock-out mixture was administered by lowly Hastings, who though not the greatest of sides, were good value for their win.

The plain truth is that for long periods Borough were never good enough to offer any serious threat to a defence which had a comparatively easy afternoon subduing the indecisive efforts of an out-of-touch attack.

Hastings opened the scoring in the 38th minute, when Razzell, who found himself unmarked, had the easiest of tasks in picking his spot past Green's outstretched right hand. There was a slice of luck involved when Satchwell grabbed the equaliser in the 53rd minute, as his 30 yard drive took a slight deflection and though Agate appeared to have the ball well covered, the slight change of direction was enough to beat him.

A complete mix-up in Borough's defence following a well-taken free-kick by captain Tucker led in the 59th minute to the visitors' second goal, through Carter, who rose high above everyone else to head home the winner. In the next minute, Burden missed a golden opportunity of making the game absolutely safe for his side, but he shot high over the top from close range.

His miss gave Borough hope and encouragement of a second equaliser, but although they mounted attack after attack, it didn't look at all likely.

Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough 26-10-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Dawes; Morrow, Brown, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to the Buck's Head to take on Wellington Town in the Southern League Premier Division.

Two points thrown away! That is the simple truth after last week's defeat at Wellington. Borough failed to establish a three or even four goal lead by half-time only because of their forwards' inability to shoot hard, straight and often.

Against opposition that was mediocrity itself, the visitors had a glorious opportunity to redeem themselves in the eyes of their faithful supporters.

A more defensive pattern of play with Malcolm Dawes standing in for Allen who had not fully recovered from his knee injury, meant that the Borough always had one defender to spare. So much so that Green was not called upon to make a single save of note after the first five minutes when he clutched a hard swerving centre from Buck off the head of centre-forward Bentley.

Then came the crowning injustice. In one of their rare attacks, the home team forced a left wing corner. Love pinpointed his kick to inside-left Rees, who headed a good goal from the inside-right position. No-one was to blame, it was a well-taken goal that was almost repeated when a second Love corner kick floated menacingly over the Borough's goalmouth before being scrambled away.

It was a desperate Borough that played out the final minutes, over-anxious to score and looking very disjointed indeed as their final attacks petered out.

The defence was steadiness itself and the approach work and midfield play in the first hour was good. But the woeful lack of penetration and inability to hit the ball hard when half a scoring chance presented itself was all too obvious. It is costing Borough valuable points, and is being reflected in the gates. These are inescapable facts that must be remedied if this unhappy decline in Borough's fortunes is to be halted.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 02-11-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Satchwell, Brown, Lovatt, Hart and A. Jones.

Cambridge: Stack; Boggis and Dai Jones; Lawrence, Welsh and Scurr; Adlam, Haasz, Flatt, Gibson and McVittie.

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

After almost two months of almost complete frustration, supporters really had something to shout about, for this was Borough's first win in eight games – their first success after six consecutive defeats.

Newcomer Johnny Lovatt from West Bromwich Albion had a leading role in this long-awaited victory. He scored his side's

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first goal; provided the pass from which Ken Satchwell got the second; and he was also credited with the third, though most of the praise should go to Trevor Birch whose hard drive was deflected into the Cambridge net by the centre-forward.

It was good to see Borough recover so effectively after a quite undeserved set back in the 21st minute when, all against the run of play, the United went into the lead. Not so good was the fact that after their great fight-back, after having established what they imagined to be a winning 3-1 lead, Borough relaxed and got themselves into a lot of unnecessary trouble. Indeed, for 20 minutes or so after their third goal Borough were penned in their own half; at times they had nine players almost within touching distance of goalkeeper Les Green.

It was only fine work by Les Green that kept Cambridge at bay during this shaky Borough period. He made one glorious save from centre-forward Flatt, whose effort seemed headed for the back of the net. Had the visitors scored during this phase of supremacy, Borough might so easily have found themselves in trouble. Yet in the last minute of the match, they should have made it 4-1. Ralph Brown missing an easy chance.

Cambridge took the lead after 21 minutes when Flatt fastened on to a Gibson through-pass and cleverly hooked the ball home as Les Green moved out of his goal. Five minutes later Allan Jones made ground on the left, side-stepped full-back Boggis and dropped the ball in front of goal for Lovatt to rush in and head a fine equaliser. Borough went ahead in the 41st minute when Allan Jones again centred, for Lovatt to turn the ball across to Ken Satchwell, who headed through.

Six minutes after half-time Borough got their third and final goal. An Allan Jones corner kick was only partially cleared and the ball ran out to Birch, who from 30 yards fired in a hard low drive which entered the net via Lovatt.

The inclusion of Lovatt, a big, strong-raiding forward, gave the side new heart. On this performance Lovatt is an extremely useful player. Ken Satchwell and Allan Jones on the wings also figured prominently in Borough's success.

Romford Game Abandoned

Borough's game at Romford on Wednesday night was abandoned owing to thick fog. Borough were losing 3-1, when in the 34th minute, the referee, who could be heard but not seen, abandoned the match.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 09-11-1963

Kettering: Smethurst; Marston and Ramshaw; Dodge, Stanley and Armour; Daldy, Tebbutt, Randall, Curran and Hogg.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Satchwell, Brown, Lovatt, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough travelled to Rockingham Road to face Kettering Town in a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

This was very largely a case of Borough cashing in on

Kettering's goal-shyness. The home side frittered away many scoring chances, while Borough with far fewer opportunities, grabbed two goals – and the points.

One thing seems certain – that if Kettering go on setting up chances and missing them with the same alacrity as in this encounter, then their stay near the foot of the league table is going to be a long one.

In the early stages the Borough defence was so shaky that Kettering got through almost at will. It was fortunate that when the "Poppies" got into the area, they failed to make use of the openings that came their way. And so it went on, Kettering creating chances and failing in front of goal.

Then Borough, who had very largely been on the defensive gave the home crowd their first shock. In the 32nd minute, Allan Jones put out a long ball to Ken Satchwell, who dashed in, centred first time – and there was Lovatt to drive the ball home via the underside of the bar.

Fortunately the Borough defence tightened up after half-time and although they occasionally left gaps in midfield – gaps which Kettering were not slow to exploit. Yet although they held a marked territorial advantage, the home side still failed to round off their many attacks with goals. Time after time they worked themselves into favourable positions without ever succeeding in causing Les Green much trouble.

In the 55th minute came the real tit-bit of the match. Allan Jones received the ball practically on the touchline near the half-way line. He partially stumbled after evading the tackles of two defenders, regained his balance and cut diagonally across the field, beat two more defenders in the process, and then slipped the ball ahead of Ken Satchwell, who racing in, volleyed the ball past Smethurst and into the net.

The cold fact remains that had Kettering accepted only a few of their scoring opportunities, they would have won rather comfortably, which is a sobering thought.

Nuneaton Borough v Merthyr Tydfil 16-11-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Satchwell, Brown, Lovatt, Hart and A. Jones

Merthyr: Norton; Davies and Owens; Griffiths, Watkins and Goggin; Worthington, Hancox, Graham and Tucker.

Nuneaton welcomed Merthyr Tydfil to Manor Park for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

This was the Kettering match all over again, except that this time the position was in reverse so far as Borough were concerned. The week before the "Poppies" supporters groaned and gasped as their favourites frittered away many chances of winning the game and then allowed their opponents to slip away with the points.

This time it was Borough who bewildered their supporters by throwing away numerous opportunities of beating bottom-of-the-league Merthyr and then in the end, capsizing. This

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game was much too reminiscent of the Borough that lost six successive games for the comfort of their supporters, who must now be aware of the fact that team strengthening must go on with all possible haste.

To be beaten by the league bottom dogs was a humiliating experience, but the game could have been sewn up in the first ten minutes of the second half when Borough had three of the easiest possible scoring chances.

First Brown made an opening for John Lovatt but with the goal at his mercy the Borough leader missed so badly that he hung his head in anguish. He missed another opening from a left wing cross almost immediately afterwards, and then Brown, with a yawning net ahead of him, shot outside. They were all incredibly easy chances.

Merthyr, who up to this point had not been overly impressive, suddenly began to throw a shaky Borough defence into confusion. In the 68th minute right winger Goggin ran through a wide open Borough defence to beat Green with a fast low drive. Two minutes later Hart lost the ball to Worthington who closed in to shoot past a late diving Green for the visitors' second goal.

Then in the 78th minute Birch faltered and let in Haycox, who slammed home number three. All of Merthyr's goals came within the space of ten minutes.

There can be no excuses at all for this truly pathetic Borough display. It was no credit to the defence that they should have so often been in trouble against a forward line which had averaged but one goal a match in 13 league games. If the defence was bad, so was the attack. Not one of the forwards looked the least bit dangerous.

This display must have shaken everybody in the Borough camp. It is perfectly obvious that Borough have not yet turned the corner – not by a long chalk. There are problems to be solved both in attack and in defence.

Borough Players On 'Open To Transfer' List

Southern League clubs have been circularised to the effect that two Borough players are on the "open to transfer" list.

They are goalkeeper Les Green and right-half Trevor Birch. Green, who has been placed on the transfer list at his own request, is 22, and has made 72 first-team appearances for Borough. He was formerly with Hull City.

Birch, a right-half, is 29, and has made 70 Borough first team appearances. He was formerly with Aston Villa and Stockport. Mr Fred Badham, Nuneaton Borough FC manager said that he had no statement to make with regard to the two players.

"I am not prepared to discuss the ifs and buts," he said. "Quite obviously we shall require a fee for one or both."

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 23-11-1963

Worcester: Ball; Tierney and Wood; McEwan, Madley and Dolman; Eades, Williams, Fairbrother, Harry and Cutler.

Borough: Dewis; Thompson and Golder; Dawes, E. Jones and Allen; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Hart and Wright.

Borough travelled to face Worcester City in a Southern League Premier Division match.

If Borough don't rid themselves of the habit of setting up scoring chances and then throwing them away, then the threat of relegation is very real. They came a 4-1 cropper at Worcester for one reason only – because they had nobody who could turn chances into goals. Territorially there was little of nothing in it, but when it came to snapping up chances the home side were way ahead.

It is no exaggeration to say that Borough had quite as many scoring opportunities, with Lovatt (twice), Rhodes and Hart all missing the easiest of chances. The decisive phase of the game started in the 23rd minutes when City were awarded a penalty. They had opened their account – or rather Roger Thompson had opened their account – in the third minute when the Borough right back made a spectacular dive to try to head clear but put the ball past his own goalkeeper from a Harry cross.

When Worcester were awarded their penalty, two Borough defenders and Fairbrother, stumbled as all three crashed – and the referee pointed to the penalty spot. Cutler slammed home the spot kick for Worcester's second goal.

The game was won and lost in the next 15 minutes. First Lovatt, put clean through, had only Ball to beat, but from six yards he shot wide. Shortly afterwards Rhodes was put through in similar circumstances, but he too, shot wide of a yawning net. Having missed these chances, Borough were made to pay, when Tierney put a high lob down the middle. Eric Jones failed to reach the ball and it ran to Fairbrother who accepted his chance to beat Dewis from about ten yards.

Thus Worcester crossed over with a 3-0 lead – a lead which greatly flattered them. Though Terry Wright took advantage of a fine cross by Rhodes to reduce the lead two minutes after half time, Worcester hit back with a fourth goal in the 61st minute when Harry headed through a right wing corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Guildford City 30-11-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Dawes; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Allen and Hart.

Guildford: Gill; Sillett and Watts; Porter, Hughes and More; Woodhouse, Cliss, Parnell, Barrett and Bennett.

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

Showing improved shooting, Borough picked up two valuable points from this match. But if there's anybody who feels that Borough are now headed for a jump right out of the danger zone, then they may very well be disappointed.

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Borough got off to a good start and inside ten minutes had run into a two goal lead. It was all most encouraging. Guildford managed to reduce the lead rather luckily, but Borough quickly made it 3-1, also in lucky fashion.

Borough opened their account in the seventh minute when Lovatt, who had earlier hit the bar, took an Allen pass, shook off the attentions of a defender, and rammed the ball past the helpless Gill. Three minutes later an attempted clearance by More struck Hughes, and Satchwell was on the spot to pick up the loose ball, take it on, then cleverly place it past the advancing Gill into the empty net.

Guildford reduced the lead in rather fortunate fashion in the 24th minute. Les Green had collected a high ball and seemed to have been elbowed by one of the Guildford forwards and went down. The referee surprised everybody by giving a bounce up only about a yard from goal. Following a scramble the ball went out to Bennett whose cross was headed home by the unmarked Woodhouse.

Three minutes later Borough got back their two goal advantage when a shot by Rhodes struck Satchwell and was diverted way out of the reach of Gill, who had been completely wrong footed by the deflection.

In that they won – and deserved to – Borough could look back upon this game with some satisfaction, though it would be idle to pretend that they were impressive. They weren't. But two points are two points in these lean times.

Romford v Nuneaton Borough 07-12-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Dawes; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Allen and Hart.

Borough travelled to the Brooklands home of Romford for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were unlucky in having to return home without any reward from the league leaders, having conceded an 80th minute goal.

The tightly disciplined Borough defence was more than a match for the goal hungry Romford forwards who had scored 40 goals in 17 league games. Their approach work, in which MacLeod excelled, came to naught when confronted by Borough's retreating blanket defence. Malcolm Dawes, a mobile defender, who was always on call when a colleague was hard pressed, stood out in a defensive pattern that defied numerical description. Stong yet clean in the tackle and outstanding in the air, this young Geordie was always in action, yet seldom out of position.

Mick Golder though up against an exceptionally fast and tricky winger in Sanders, came through the game with flying colours; close marking with scrupulously fair tackles reduced the danger from Sanders. Not once in the whole 90 minutes was he allowed to cut inside and his by-line centres were either charged down or plucked out of the air by the ever so efficient Les Green.

A goal-less first half in which the visiting Borough goal was seldom in danger went a long way to shaking the confidence of the Romford players and spectators. Their confident "Come On Borough" (disconcerting at first, but no doubt Nuneaton Borough were able to recognise the North London accent) changed to a very exasperated and plaintive cry with pent up feeling running riot when the match-winning goal came after 80 minutes.

It was a good goal, but a tragic end to the magnificent work of the Borough. Danger man MacLeod gained midfield possession and seeing Barnett unmarked he feinted to send his centre-forward away and at the last minute switched direction to the left wing where Barnett made quick progress down the touch line and pulled another defender away from the centre to help out Thompson. At this vital moment the ball was crossed to Cappi, who picked his spot with unerring accuracy.

Even then the Borough were determined to snatch the equaliser and a hair line offside decision robbed Malcolm Allen of the all important equaliser.

Nuneaton Borough v Bexley United 14-12-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Dawes; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Allen and A. Jones.

Bexley: Howe; McDonald and Taylor; Sharpe; Little and Morgan; Peters, Newton, Kelly, Johnson and Hughes.

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



One of the few exciting incidents in the game. Bexley goalkeeper Howe falls to the left as co-defenders and Borough's Birch, Lovatt and Satchwell watch the ball go over the bar. Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Borough have given some poor displays this season, but Saturday's performance very nearly capped the lot. It was a tame affair. Borough teams occupy lowly positions in the League – and the reason was there for everybody to see. After their gallant show the previous week, Borough's display came as a big disappointment to their supporters.

No two goalkeepers could have had an easier afternoon than Les Green and Bexley's Howe. The latter was worried by about two shots only – both Brian Rhodes' efforts which sailed just over the bar. His most anxious moment came when a back pass from a colleague went just wide of the post.

At the opposite end Green had to make the save of the match when he dived across goal to punch away for a corner, a

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smart header from Johnson, who had moved in fast to a cross from the right.

These efforts apart, neither goalkeeper had much to do except pick up the balls that ran through to them, though twice Green had to move out of goal pretty smartly to scoop up the ball as an opposing forward rushed in.

The football in the first half was so lacking in imagination, that it was felt that the second session must be better; that it certainly could not be worse. There was, in fact, some slight improvement and, if anything, Bexley had a slight edge. By and large, however, neither side showed much sign of togetherness and even less of shooting power.

Ken Satchwell tried hard in the second session to get Borough on the scoring trail but lacked support. Allan Jones who had one good lob put over the bar by Howe could do little or nothing right, and had to take most of the criticism from the crowd.

In short the game could be described as lacking nearly all the essentials that make for good football – lacking in most of the skills that keep the customers satisfied.

Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 21-12-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Dawes; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Allen and Hart.

Borough made the journey to Edgar Street to take on Hereford United in the Southern League Premier Division.

Borough secured a welcome two points on a pitch that had been frozen solid, which ruled out any possibility of controlled football. Mistakes were to be expected and they were certainly numerous. But there was no lack of excitement, and after Johnny Lovatt had put his side in front Borough had to defend desperately to keep out the eager Hereford forwards who were inspired by the former Coventry City inside-forward Ron Hewitt.

Hereford did not play like a side struggling at the bottom of the league. They never stopped trying, and but for two dramatic goal-line clearances by Thompson, Nuneaton could have been in trouble.

Borough had the edge in midfield where Birch found the space to engineer many of their moves, and in Johnny Lovatt they had an intelligent leader who gave a thorough test to Neville, Hereford's reserve centre-half, who had been brought in to replace the discarded Ray Daniel.

The wandering Satchwell was another who was a constant menace. The only black spot in his showing was when he sent his shot tamely into Peter Isaac's hands in the dying moments of the game when a goal seemed certain.

It was Nuneaton's defence which took the main honours, however, and Eric Jones completely snuffed out Barry Meyer. The few shots which United got in were capably dealt with by the agile Green, and neither Fred Morris nor Bobby Dixon could make much progress against the Borough full-backs.

The only goal came in the second half shortly after Hereford had been refused a penalty when the ball struck Allen on its way into the goalmouth. Borough quickly broke away, and as Hereford hesitated to put their offside trap into action, Lovatt ran on to a pass from Hart and cracked in a shot which thumped the back of the net before Isaac could move.

Borough should have made the game safe even before Satchwell's miss, for Brian Rhodes shot too high from six yards range. But Hereford were unable to profit by this good fortune and suffered their sixth defeat in the last seven games.

Wisbech Town v Nuneaton Borough 26-12-1963

Wisbech: Chandler; Noon and Vallard; Howell, Clarkson and Jones; Woods, Denial, Bailey, Devitt and Withers.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, Jones and Dawes; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Allen and Hart.

Borough made the journey to Wisbech for a Boxing Day Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Although they played their part in providing the crowd of 1,330 with some remarkably good football on a slippery surface, Borough could have few complaints at their 3-1 defeat at Fenland Park.

The overnight thaw had made the surface muddy and a swirling mist at one time threatened to bring a fast entertaining game to a premature end. Borough played some swift and accurate man-to-man football in midfield, but they lacked the foresight and accuracy in finishing, needed to break down a top-form home defence.

Wingers Satchwell and Hart roamed tirelessly in an attempt to find a way through, but the former repeatedly spoiled good moves by being caught offside.

Inside-left Malcolm Allen's clever ball play gave the Wisbech rearguard some anxious moments, but it was only centre-forward Lovatt who looked as if he possessed the shooting power needed to beat Chandler, one of the best goalkeepers in the division.

In fact, it was Lovatt who netted Borough's goal in the 59th minute, chesting down a short, square pass from Satchwell and flashing between two defenders before steering the ball inside the post.

During the game, several players were spoken to and exchanges became a little heated, and it was Nuneaton's tendency to give away free-kicks that eventually cost them the game. After 27 minutes Thompson, who otherwise played a fine game, conceded a free-kick, and Clarkson lobbed a ball over a motionless line of defenders for Howell to nod home.

In the 52nd minute Jones sent Devitt sprawling and Withers smashed the 25 yard free kick into the far corner with Green well beaten. After Lovatt had reduced the arrears, Rhodes had a good shot saved, but then Denial headed home a good goal from a corner, and the match ended with a packed defence beating out two close range shots from the same player.

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Nuneaton Borough v Wisbech Town 28-12-1963

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, Jones and Dawes; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Allen and Hart.

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

This was the day when Borough won back the admiration and respect of the cash customers. Inspired by four goal Johnny Lovatt, they served up a brand of decisive soccer which tormented, humiliated and finally utterly routed highly placed Wisbech. At last the goal-hungry fans had something to shout about.

The Fenmen promised much in the early stages, yet once Borough clicked with their twin centre forward plan the writing was on the wall. For the Wisbech defence, whose main weapon was an offside trap, was gradually ripped wide apart.

The turning point came after Wisbech had equalised when Les Green was caught off his line by an intelligent 35-yard lob by right-half Howell. For the visitors may have taken a two-goal lead when Denial had a clear-cut chance and Jennings saw his header sail over the bar after out-jumping Green.

Borough escaped, and all the luck was with Wisbech from that moment onwards as they fought in vain to stem the tide so irresistibly launched against them. They had panic in their hearts every time Lovatt had the ball, and their confusion grew as Satchwell linked up with him to provide a double spearhead. The centre-forward was the complete footballer and rarely has the talented Bill Clarkson been so outwitted. The Wisbech centre-half has the reputation of being one of the best in the league, but he will remember this as the nightmare of his career.

Borough opened the scoring after 11 minutes when Lovatt picked up a pass some 40 yards out, swept by Clarkson as he slipped, shrugged off a despairing tackle by Vallard, and then pushed the ball past the advancing Chandler. Wisbech equalised after 13 minutes after a right wing corner by Woods was only partially cleared. With Green still out of his goal, Howell sized up the situation and lobbed in a 35 yarder which sailed into the net.

On 42 minutes Rhodes ploughed his way through, and finding himself fenced in by three defenders, he pushed the ball to Lovatt. A smart pass to Satchwell and Borough were back in front. The same player scored after 55 minutes when Lovatt weaved in from the left and chipped over a short centre, which Satchwell headed in from a kneeling position. Two minutes later Lovatt teased the Wisbech defence with some wonderful footwork and suddenly switched the ball to Hart, who belted the ball into the top corner.

After 62 minutes, Satchwell got the better of a tussle on the left. He sent a low pass into the middle which Lovatt slammed home. With only six minutes to go Lovatt was on the spot again, nonchalantly rolling the ball into the net.

The visitors' agony was complete a minute later when Allen danced his way through to lay on a perfect cross which Lovatt nodded past the groping hand of Chandler.

Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 04-01-1964

Cambridge (probable): Jones; Pickup and Cruickshank; Craig, Bone and McNally; Benning, Derrick, Moyse, Moore and Bunce.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Dawes; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Allen and Hart.

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

Borough can have no excuse for this defeat in the Cambridge fog. For when a team has the major share of attacking and fails to create chances there is no alibi. The approach work was effective until they reached striking distance – then it became too orthodox to outwit the rugged City defence in which transfer-listed O'Carroll was outstanding. He put an effective brake on Johnny Lovatt, and the men who shared the glory in the 7-1 rout of Wisbech were but pale shadows in this tough and testy affair.

It was tough because referee G. Reed of Bishops Stortford added weight to those who consider there are far too many "homers" in the Southern League. Here was a man who seemed intent on making himself popular with the excitable Milton Road crowd and in consequence forgot the basic rule which led to City scoring their first goal.

For when Brian Hart retaliated after being fouled by Bobby Craig, Mr Reed ignored the City man's offence and gave a free-kick against Borough. Pickup's centre ran to Albert Derrick who scored after his first shot had rebounded from another Cambridge forward.

Borough dominated for a spell and although they forced nine corners in the opening period, there was hardly a single worthwhile chance created. And while Borough floundered, there was always trouble in store from the cultured promptings of City's Derrick – the best forward on the field. He was the brains behind an attack which included three reserves thrown in by manager Frank Cruickshank in an attempt to find the goal touch which some of the regulars had lost in recent weeks.

It was Derrick who clinched the issue as the fog thickened after the break. Slack marking gave him his chance, and as Les Green moved out to narrow the angle, the inside left neatly lifted the ball over his head and it dropped in just below the bar.

After this goal City got on top for the first time and Borough gradually faded from the picture. Apart from one attempt by Ken Satchwell, who was unlucky to see his close-range shot turned around the post by a defender, there was little suggestion of a goal. Most of Borough's inability to progress stemmed from the fact that Lovatt could not escape the attentions of O'Carroll.

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Nuneaton Borough v Bedford Town 11-01-1964

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Dawes; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Allen and Hart.

Bedford: Wallace; Coney and Avis; Gowndry, Banham and Anderson; Lovell, Sturrock, Fahy, Heckman and Miles.

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

Bedford were the more skilful side, but Borough deserved their point in a game attractive for its excitement and notable for its full-blooded tenacity. Had either side lost, it would have been rank injustice, for while the Eagles had the edge in the creation of chances and came nearest to scoring, the well-drilled Borough defence did not deserve to be beaten.

Borough had their moments of luck, and John Fahy, the man who is going to Oxford for £3,000 when Bedford are out of the FA Cup, made an awful hash of a gilt-edged opportunity near the end. He also had the frustration of seeing a first-half rocket rebound into play from the crossbar.

There was the moment when Sturrock failed to connect after Les Green had made one of his rare mistakes. But some of the luck was counter-balanced when Satchwell skidded at the vital second when it seemed he had a gift offering.

Borough relied heavily on Lovatt and Satchwell in attack and Lovatt got little change out of Banham, the former Peterborough pivot, who came in for Mike Collins. Satchwell looked the danger man and came close to snatching victory after the break with a typical thrust down the middle. Jock Wallace did remarkably well to get a hand to his shot low down.

Brian Rhodes never stopped searching for an opportunity to land the knock-out blow but the Eagles were sufficiently compact to deny him the space. Rhodes has lost much of his striking power in recent weeks and does not have the craft to compensate the line. But where Borough really fell down in attack lay in the fact that they played the second half virtually without a right winger. The 3-3-4 system demands mobility, and as at Cambridge, they did not fully utilise the width of pitch. Satchwell quickly became a second spearhead, and there was not sufficient variety in the build-up to catch the Eagles on the hop.

Despite the technical faults, this was an exciting affair which kept the crowd on its toes throughout. The absence of goals was hardly felt in the abundance of thrills, and it was a pity that there were so many sceptics who stayed at home. For the gate, although comparing favourably with many other Premier Division grounds, fell 400 below expectations. For a game with a high spectator appeal this was surprising.

Manager Fred Badham gambled on snuffing out Fahy, and Eric Jones and Dawes did their job admirably. Dawes improves with every game and promises to be the natural centre-half when it is considered prudent to adopt a more attacking style.

Dartford v Nuneaton Borough 18-01-1964

Dartford: Prodger; Redmond and Mabey; Howells, Burns and Craggs; Ripley, Taylor, Ackerman, Pyke and Dennis.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, Jones and Dawes; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Allen and Hart.

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



Kent cricketer John Prodger looks around to see Johnny Lovatt's powerful header bounce out of the back of the net.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

One moment of indecision 60 seconds after Borough scored their second goal altered the whole course of the game. It was ironical that the culprit should be skipper Eric Jones, for he had done as much as anybody to put his side in a commanding position.

Dartford looked shattered when Johnny Lovatt coolly squeezed the ball past John Prodger 18 minutes from the end, and it was doubtful whether they would have had the mental strength to have hit back if Jones had not presented them with a morale-boosting goal by deflecting the ball into his own net.

Even the most partisan Dartford fan must have been warmed by Lovatt's header which put Borough in front just before the interval. He rose high above Burns and flashed in a rocket which had Prodger groping in vain. When the centre-forward ran through a yawning gap, drew Prodger, and scored his second as the Darts tried to operate their offside trap once too often, it seemed that Borough were home and hosed.

Dartford found themselves back in the game courtesy of Eric Jones' own goal and rescued a point four minutes from the end when Dennis hammered a shot between Green and Thompson and into the net.

Although Alf Ackerman's men had had the bulk of the play, they had shown more enthusiasm than ability, and the only danger to Borough was in the shooting power of Bob Taylor and the energies of winger John Dennis. In fact they had practically given up hope of wiping out Borough's single goal lead when they found themselves two down. Yet that was precisely the time when fate took a hand in the proceedings.

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Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 25-01-1964

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Dawes; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Allen and Hart.

Cambridge: R. Jones; Pickup and Cruickshank; Moyse, O'Carroll and McNally; Benning, Brand, Bleanch, Derrick and Craig.

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

Once Borough realised Ken Satchwell had the key to open the City defence there was little doubt about the eventual result. Yet for much of the first half Cambridge looked the slicker outfit. They dictated the pace and had the greater punch, but their regal stride gradually waned as Borough turned on the heat after the break and the scoreline could have been wider.

Satchwell tormented the rapidly tiring legs of player-manager Frank Cruickshank, and it was Satchwell who did more than anybody to stretch City to the limit. Such was Borough's defence that Cambridge rarely got close to goal and on the two occasions they managed to penetrate, Les Green made superlative saves from Benning and Derrick.

Derrick, high in the leading scorers with 16 goals, was quelled by Trevor Birch and Borough were able to switch from their 3-3-4 style of the last nine matches to a more attacking game.

The second half tactics soon became obvious – Borough directed their strength at City's weakness instead of attempting to ply the shackled Lovatt with passes he could not turn to good account. And City were soon reeling.

The inevitable goal came on the hour. The effervescent Golder chased a ball which seemed to be running out, and Satchwell rammed his cross high into the net before City could get near him. Cambridge lost their solidarity in defence, and even though Lovatt rarely looked a striker, the path to the City goal was often laid bare by the insistence of centre-half O'Carroll in stalking the roving leader.

At this time Birch and Allen took knocks, which hampered Borough's chances of taking complete control. But the discomfort was quickly forgotten when Dawes clinched the issue eleven minutes from the end. Borough had been on the receiving end for some minutes when they built up an attack, and Cruickshank gave away a corner to halt Satchwell. The winger's flag kick knifed its way through to Dawes who breasted the ball down and hit it low and hard into the net.

Hastings United v Nuneaton Borough 01-02-1964

Hastings: Bentley; Cockburn and Tucker; Brown, Brand and Stone; Back, Marshall, Eckershall, Wright and Burden.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, Archer and Allen; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Hart and Jones.

Borough made the journey to play Hastings United in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Five stars each for Borough and Hastings after the most entertaining game seen at Elphinstone Road this season –

marred only by an over-officious referee who booked skipper Trevor Birch, Brian Rhodes and Brian Hart between the 65th and 80th minutes. But these incidents apart, the game was a cracker to watch and gave the crowd of 1,836 good value for their money.

Both sides had many shots at goal, and it was a refreshing sight to see two football teams go all out for goals when valuable league points were at stake. Borough took fully eight or nine minutes to settle down – and in that time Hastings had taken the lead, had another goal disallowed and shaken a post. But once Badham's men had found their feet, they gave as good as they got. Hastings did well to recover from a Nuneaton onslaught, which deserved more than just bad luck.

As it was Borough did not snatch the equaliser until practically the last kick of the game, when Brian Rhodes let loose a special from close range – a goal which cancelled out Arnold Ackersall's two minute shock. In the meantime, both Borough and Hastings served up a football banquet – full of thrills and near misses – and bad misses. The score could have easily been five or six goals each, but Les Green and Alf Bentley were in fine form in goal.

Borough combined well in attack, and though Ken Satchwell and Johnny Lovatt were guilty of a couple of squandered chances, they gave Hastings many headaches. Hastings main threat came from inside-left Wright and outside-right Back – but Birch and Co were able to cope quite easily. In fact, danger man Terry Marshall was snuffed out of the game after a bright start and was forced to wander to the wings, where he found Thompson and Golder equally unpassable.

A draw could not have been a fairer result. Although Borough had to wait until near the end for their deserved goal, Hastings could not complain. Nuneaton's shoot-on-sight tactics paid off in the end.

Margate v Nuneaton Borough 08-02-1964

Margate: Hughes; Parry and Marshall; Teece, Harrop and Simpson; Adlam, Hatsell, Roache, Dann and Golding.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, Archer and Allen; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, Hart and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to face Margate in a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Borough left-back Mick Golder was the saviour of Margate at Hartsdown Park on Saturday. In the 66th minute when the home forwards were getting nowhere in a typically confused attack, Golder handled the ball as it bobbed up awkwardly.

At the same time Margate inside-right Dennis Hatsell went down injured on the edge of the area. The referee, Mr Mann, made his way to the injured player with his right hand raised, and looked as though he would award an indirect free-kick. After consulting a linesman, the referee made his way back to the area, took the ball off a Borough defender and pointed

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to the penalty spot. Nuneaton protested, but a moment later goalkeeper Les Green was retrieving the ball from his goal after Margate right back Bill Perry had fired in a perfect shot from the 12 yards mark.

Had not Margate benefited from the referee's decision, it is unlikely they would have erased Borough's lead, however much they attacked. The sturdy Nuneaton defence, though it was under a fair amount of pressure, was not often in trouble for in the main the pressure was misdirected.

Borough, usually faster in thought and action, attacked with more power and firmness, spurred on by wing halves Trevor Birch and Malcolm Allen. But like the home side they were unable to combine sufficient force and accuracy in their shooting. As a result neither Green nor Margate goalkeeper Brian Hughes were called upon to make a diving save.

Only once did Borough have to rely upon Green's alertness to prevent them from losing. This was 15 minutes from the end when Hatsell summoned up reserves of energy to aim a hefty drive at the Nuneaton goal. Birch, who had always covered well, was in position to block the ball, but it skimmed off his side and flew upwards to Green's right. With great anticipation and swift movement, the goalkeeper was able to move into position and catch the ball cleanly.

Borough took the lead in the 16th minute when Allen took possession in midfield and moved swiftly into the Margate half. The seaside's defence was already caught off balance as the wing-half stabbed the ball out to the left winger Allan Jones and when Jones beat Parry and lobbed over a high centre it was in desperate trouble. Brian Rhodes came in from the right to meet the centre and headed into a crowd of milling forwards and defenders. It bounced back to him and he had plenty of time to pick his spot. Instead he simply slammed the ball as hard as possible and it swerved between the legs of goalkeeper Hughes, who was unsuspecting.

Satchwell silenced the home crowd in the second half, as he hammered the ball against the inside of the post and Lovatt had them gasping with relief as he pulled the ball wide of an empty net.

Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 15-02-1964

Rugby: Crosby; Finch and Jayes; Nicholas, Davis and B. Jones; Morrow, Jackson, Hazelden, Knox and Burrows.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Dawes; Satchwell, Brown, Lovatt, Allen and Moore.

Borough made the journey to Rugby Town to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough were steam-rolled out of this game because they played badly. It was as simple as that. The defence, which for weeks had boasted an iron cover, suddenly became shoddy, and a luckless attack fumbled insipidly until their efforts became monotonous.

Rugby had the vim and determination to upset a more

calculated mental approach, and in Dennis Jackson, the full-back converted to an inside-forward, they had the punchy match winner that Borough lacked.

It was Jackson who killed Borough's hopes with two goals in four minutes during the first-half. He was allowed to break from the centre circle like a rucker fly-half to score his first after 31 minutes and Borough were still reeling under the impact when Jackson prodded home a Morrow cross which should have been cleared by a dithering defence.

It was ironical that Borough should have lost two goals at this period, for they had hammered everything at Crosby without possessing sufficient science to penetrate a closely packed line of tangerine shirts. The experiment of playing Brian Moore at outside left was a dismal failure. He looked much more effective when he switched to the right after the break, but by then the damage had been done.

Ralph Brown chased everything and ran himself into the ground in an attempt to impress. He made some effective moves, yet Borough missed the sharp shooting of which Brian Rhodes is capable. To make matters worse, Johnny Lovatt and Ken Satchwell were out of touch. Lovatt looked clumsy, and Satchwell was a pale shadow of the darting goal grabber of the past.

Even the goal from Lovatt was a present from full-back Derek Finch. The Arley lad gave it to him on a plate in attempting a pass in the goalmouth. In fairness to the rangy ex-West Bromwich man, he always had two or three defenders to beat when he received the ball.

Les Green had one of those days he will want to forget as quickly as possible. He was strangely rooted to his line when Jackson galloped through a flat-footed defence to hammer the first goal and was slow in leaving his line as Wally Hazelden pushed a shot past him which Eric Jones prevented from going into the net. Also, Green did not narrow the angle when Jimmy Knox was allowed to run through without a challenge and ran home the third goal eight minutes after the break.

Nuneaton Borough v Romford

22-02-1964

Borough: Green; Thompson and E. Jones; Birch, Dawes and Allen; R. Brown, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Romford: Dunbar; Read and Deeks; Elias, Choules and Abbiss; Sanders, Coates, W. Brown, McLeod and Barnett.

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

This was the mixture as before – and the dosage equally unpalatable. For with an ounce of punch in attack Borough would have defeated this clever but unconvincing Romford outfit who relied heavily on the speed and ability of right winger Roy Sanders.

Borough were impressive until they got to the Romford 18-yard area. Then they groped blindly and lost their way. It seemed

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they did not have a clue in making further progress when a well-drilled defence funnelled back and covered the approaches to goal. In consequence, the men of Manor Park were forced to make their final effort from a distance where only a super optimist would have given them a chance of success.

The league leaders found the Borough barrier similarly formidable, but at least they did have the devastating Sanders and a couple of inside forwards, Coates and McLeod, who were sharper and more constructive than the Nuneaton pair. But while Romford had extra skill, they were fortified by additional luck when Ken Satchwell blasted his shot over the top of an empty net in the first half, and the occasion when a mere inch separated the outstretched boot of Brian Rhodes from the ball.

Rhodes was the man who looked most likely to succeed through power alone. One of his specials flew inches over the bar, another was brilliantly parried by Dunbar. His efforts were comforting rays of hope on a day when much of Borough's shooting was lamentable.

Romford grabbed their goal 14 minutes from the end. Eric Jones had the ball, but hit it straight to Coates. The inside-right gratefully accepted the gift and quickly switched it into the middle where Bill Brown had sufficient space and time to shoot past the diving Green as Jones held his head in anguish.

Borough were crestfallen. Yet few of the spectators were surprised, for with their fewer chances Romford had threatened to snatch this goal for so long. Its execution was an object lesson to the men who had worked so aimlessly at the other end.

Thompson subdued the dangerous Tom Barnett much better than he did at Romford. Green shook off his jitters of the previous week and inspired confidence in all he did, and Dawes has surely come to stay at centre-half. It seemed unkind to them that a single slip should prove so fatal.

Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 29-02-1964

Weymouth: Clarke; Ashall and Stocker; Wright, Hobson and Elliott; Cribb, Forrest, Robertson, Nugent and Camp.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, Dawes and Allen; Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt, E. Jones and A. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Weymouth for a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

The Terras had lethal power at inside forward, they possessed speed and penetration on the wings. They had wing halves who played to a plan and a defence which dealt with most of Borough's raids with contemptuous ease. Much of their poise and confidence was boosted by a dramatic first minute goal, but their mastery was embarrassingly apparent in every stage.

They moved the ball around with accuracy and purpose and it seemed that every man in the front line packed a lethal shot. Their efficiency was in stark contrast to the gallant but inadequate tactics Nuneaton employed, and the difference

was truly reflected in the ultimate scoreline. Borough can justly claim that three of the Terras goals were fortuitous. Brian Rhodes is still kicking himself for missing a penalty, yet only the devoted partisan could have complained.

Les Green saved his side from a heavier defeat and Allan Jones seemed to be the only forward with constructive ideas and Allen was always trying to achieve something, even if he rarely succeeded. Whether the margin would have been narrower if Borough had not been caught on the hop from the start is debatable. As it was, they suffered a psychological setback before they could put their 3-3-4 plan into operation.

From the kick-off Golder made a crude tackle on the darting Cribb. Ashall floated the free-kick into the middle where Forest nodded it down for Nugent to ram the ball into the net. The writing had been on the wall for some time before the second goal arrived in the 14th minute. Once again the marking was sadly astray, and Forrest had no difficulty in slamming a fierce drive inches under the bar.

The Terras had some bad luck in their eagerness to add to the tally, but it was fully counter-balanced when Forrest hit goal number three shortly before the interval. His short-range prod was deflected into the right corner of the net by Thompson as Green dived the other way.

There was little change after the break, although Rhodes lost a glorious chance from the penalty spot after Allen had been tripped. He sent a feeble shot too close to Clarke's left hand and the goalkeeper saved after a momentary fumble. If Borough held out hopes of fighting back they were shattered a couple of minutes later when referee Martin pointed to the spot at the other end, following Thompson's tackle on Camp. Cribb belted the ball in and Borough were four down.

To everyone's surprise Rhodes let fly from 25 yards and Clarke made a novice-like attempt to save. The ball bounced from his upraised hands and dropped over his shoulder and into the net, making the score 4-1 to Weymouth. For a period Borough looked likely to cut the arrears still further, but it was only a temporary phase and Cribb drove the final nail into their coffin with a power-laden rocket which thumped against the underside of the bar and obligingly rebounded to the waiting head of Robertson

Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 07-03-1964

Borough: Green; A. Jones and Thompson; Birch, Dawes and Allen; Satchwell, Rhodes, R. Brown, Hart and A. R. Jones.

Wellington: G. Brown; Whitehouse and Hoof; Timmins, Dunn and Cocker; M. Jones, Deakin, Bentley, Rees and Love.

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

After a lethargic first half Borough stepped up the pace, and it was remarkable that the only way they could emphasise their obvious superiority was through a penalty and two own goals by Wellington centre-half Sid Dunn.

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The visitors had little answer when Borough turned on the heat, yet they were repeatedly let off the hook by finishing which was alternatively wild and punchless. And when the Borough were on the target they found Gary Brown in great form.

There was little indication of what was to come during the chilly opening half. In fact when a delicate glancing header by Rees from a Love corner put Wellington ahead in the 33rd minute, it seemed that Borough's prospects were bleak. Wellington had the edge in midfield and there was always the menacing Bentley. For although Bentley's personal progress was shackled by the convincing Malcolm Dawes, he kept the line moving with intelligent distribution.

Just when it appeared that Borough were to face the second half a goal down, Birch hit the equaliser. He placed his low shot into the net with precision after the depleted Town defence had been torn apart. For the goal came when left-back Hoof was in the dressing room nursing an arm injury.

He resumed after the break – and Wellington certainly needed him. They were subjected to a constant hammering and Borough should have put the result beyond doubt within two minutes of the restart. First Hart was too slow to cash in on a delightful four-man move. He failed again when Satchwell laid a chance on a plate, and to complete the frustration, Allan Jones sliced his shot when the ball ran loose to him.

When Borough got the inevitable goal, it came from the penalty spot. Hart looked a certain scorer when Hoof sent him crashing to the ground, and Rhodes, mindful of his miss at Weymouth, placed his shot perfectly as the goalkeeper momentarily moved the wrong way.

This was the signal for Borough to serve up some really attractive soccer which had Wellington reeling. The visitors pulled back seven defenders, yet Borough still carved out sufficient chances to have reaped a rich harvest.

Incredibly, Wellington survived until Dunn demonstrated just how easy it was to put the ball into the net. Unfortunately for him, it was his own net. Ten minutes from time Dunn buried his head in his hands when he boomed again. This time Roger Thompson hammered a head-high free-kick which Birch nodded down and the flailing boot of Dunn did the rest.

Chelmsford City v Nuneaton Borough 09-03-1964

Chelmsford: Medlock; Ling and Gillot; Salt, Eades and Smith; Maughan, Butcher, Wilson, Smillie and Nicholas.

Borough: Green; A. Jones and Thompson; Birch Dawes and Allen; and from: Holder, Satchwell, Rhodes, Brown, Hart and A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to New Writtle Street to face Chelmsford City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The difference between part-time and full-time professionals was there for everyone to see in this game. Chelmsford were the more skilful side and were quicker than Borough in both deed and thought. The pity of it all is that Borough presented City with three of their four goals.

It was in defence that Borough were most disappointing and they ended the game a well-beaten side. Ralph Brown got Borough's consolation goal.

Cambridge United v Nuneaton Borough 14-03-1964

Cambridge: Smith; Boggis and E. Jones; Atkinson, Kelly and Scurr; Gibson, Haasz, Lawrence, McVittie and Devine.

Borough: Green; A. Jones and Thompson; Birch, Dawes and Allen; Rhodes, Brown, Satchwell, Lovatt and A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Cambridge United for a Southern League Premier Division match.

There was no indication of the outcome of this match in the first half, as United were slightly superior and appeared to pack the greater punch. But it was all so different after the break when Borough took a 50-second lead and never looked back. Inspired by Lovatt, they cut out the frills and adopted the obvious sensible tactics in the conditions – imaginative open soccer. Wing halves Birch and Allen made one pass to the work of four or five. Invariably the ball was switched to Lovatt and he did the rest.

Cambridge persisted in keeping the ball close and rarely looked like penetrating Borough's closely knit defence in which Dawes and Thompson were outstanding. United seemed incapable of stepping-up the pace, and when their normal methods failed they had no alternative plan.

Lovatt had the ability to slide into an open space, and his well-measured passes had the United defence in such trouble that at times they were plainly humbled. Allan Jones was the first to appreciate the possibilities of Lovatt's long-range service. He threw off his first-half mediocrity and stormed back in sparkling fashion with a goal straight from the re-start.

Inevitably it was Lovatt who started the move. Satchwell ran on to his down-the-middle lob, Smith could only push out the shot, and there were four Borough forwards on the spot when Jones applied the finishing touch. It was after this goal that Borough had their stiffest fight. For United, shocked and stung by the reverse, hit back with all they had. But they were so stereotyped in approach and wild in finishing that Green was not unduly disturbed.

Borough weathered the storm and dramatically went further ahead in the 62nd minute. Once again the Cambridge defence was torn wide open and the unhappy Smith could do no more than push out Brown's close range shot to Rhodes. The winger pulled it back into the middle for Lovatt to slam home.

Allan Jones had a goal disallowed, and then it was that man Lovatt again. A 35-yard pass knifed its way inside the full-back, Rhodes ran on to it in a flash and his shot left Smith groping thin air. Borough did much as they pleased, and as Cambridge sagged again, Satchwell, who had an unhappy match despite his willingness to chase and probe, grabbed the fourth. By then, however, hundreds of frustrated fans had left the rain-sodden stadium unable to comprehend what they had witnessed.



Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 21-03-1964

Borough: Green; Thompson and Dawes; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Brown, Satchwell, Lovatt and A. R. Jones.

Kettering: Smethurst; Marston and Ramshaw; Dodge, Stanley and Armour; Daldy, Tebbutt, Randall, Curren and Hogg.

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

The last traces of relegation talk died on the lips of Manor Park fans following this win over the virtually doomed Poppies, but the home side made hard work of the job. Apart from some bright flashes after they had been presented with an early gift goal, Kettering were gallant – and nothing more. Yet Borough, with the great opportunity to feed the goal-hungry crowd, squandered so many chances that they simply left them rather limp.

But once Borough had recovered from their initial dithering, they looked a class above Kettering. They had the ability to switch the point of attack and were that vital second faster in thought and movement, but Ken Satchwell excepted, they were merely equals when it came to hitting the target.

Eric Jones was the culprit when Kettering grabbed a shock lead in their first serious attack eight minutes after the start. He failed to collect an over-hit pass from Allen some 30 yards out and unwittingly presented Tebbutt with a clear run through. The exchange of gifts was completed when Curran stupidly handled to prevent a short free-kick by Allan Jones reaching Allen. Referee Ivan Hartles awarded what must have been the most obvious penalty of the season and Rhodes hammered the ball in as Smethurst moved the wrong way.

It was Satchwell with two well-taken goals after Brian Rhodes had slammed home a penalty, who rescued the situation and finally sank the Poppies.

His first goal was a brilliant piece of opportunism and was made possible by his speed in chasing a through ball when the Kettering defence was caught napping. Satchwell was through in a flash. He ran the ball past the advancing goalkeeper and side-footed it into an empty net.

The goal which gave Borough a 3-1 lead was equally impressive and was a fitting reward to a slick four-man move which culminated with Johnny Lovatt laying on an ideal pass close in, which Satchwell hooked into the top of the net.

Kettering were unfortunate in that playing a game that was so important to them, they lost right-winger Daldy, their brightest forward, who fell awkwardly after colliding with Dawes, and there was a three-minute hold up before he was taken off on a stretcher, having suffered a broken leg.

In the circumstances it was entirely Borough's own fault that they did not grab half-a-dozen instead of a modest three goals. Any win must be laced with some satisfaction, yet here was a chance lost to give full reward to the third highest gate in the Southern League.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 27-03-1964

Bath: Drinkwater; Book and Gough; Carter, McFarlane and Jacobs; Jackson, Gibbs, Cartwright, Owens and Blannin.

Borough: Green; A. Jones and Dawes; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Rhodes, Brown, Satchwell, Lovatt and A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park to face Bath City in a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

Two goals by Ken Satchwell in the second half of Thursday's game made Nuneaton only the second team to beat the championship-chasing home side on their home ground.

Borough's win was in front of a crowd of 3,698, the best attendance in a Premier Division game at Bath so far this season. The home side rested four of the regular team members, and it was soon obvious they were missed. However, Nuneaton were rarely a great attacking force, and throughout, Bath did far more attacking, but they failed to make use of their chances.

Satchwell and Brown were Borough's best forwards. However, Satchwell only got away once in the first-half when Allen halted a Bath attack and sent a good through ball to the centre-forward who raced through on his own. However, as he raced goalward, he was harried into shooting well over.

Green saved Nuneaton by diving at the feet of Bath's centre-forward, Cartwright, and with no score at half-time it was a fair reflection of a scrappy game.

Two minutes after the restart, Satchwell, with a well taken header from left winger Jones' high centre, gave Nuneaton an unexpected lead. Eight minutes later, the centre-forward took his second chance to put the visitors two ahead with a low shot. Only seconds beforehand A. Jones had saved on Nuneaton's goal-line.

Four minutes later with Bath forcing four corners, they reduced the arrears from the fourth when Cartwright beat Green with a header. After this, Borough had a good chance of adding to their score, when left-winger Jones hit the ball across the face of the Bath goal, but it was the home side who launched the more sustained and concerted attacks.

Merthyr Tydfil v Nuneaton Borough 28-03-1964

Merthyr: Norton; Pratt and Owen; Wood, Williams and Watkins; Edwards, Hancox, McLaughlin, Davies and Tucker.

Borough: Green; A. Jones and Dawes; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Holder, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Pennydarren Park to face Merthyr Tydfil in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The urgent fighting spirit of desperate Merthyr was too much for clueless Borough on a rough cart-track pitch which defied all attempts to preserve the laws of gravity. The outcome was a crude maul with the big boot being infinitely superior to the misguided and futile efforts practised by the travel weary outfit.

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The astonishing face emerging from this travesty of soccer was that Merthyr did not hammer in three or four goals instead of the solitary effort by which Welsh amateur international Peter Davies won the game shortly after the break. The desolation and isolation which is Merthyr Tydfil gives pride of place to greyhound racing on its own Pendarren Park. Be that as it may, there was little excuse for the state of the pitch, there was no excuse for the fact that the only ball they could produce was an antiquated object which persisted in bouncing a foot over the head of the tallest man on the park.

What is more, and despite the conditions, there was no reason why Borough should have played so badly. The defence, often in trouble, fought gallantly. Les Green was superb, Eric Jones proved he is fighting his way back and Malcolm Allen worked himself into the ground, but apart from some sterling work by Trevor Birch, there the credit must end.

For young Alan Jones and Malcolm Dawes did not have the essential devil in the tackle and the front line existed only in infrequent bursts with the man who could have swayed the issue, Ken Satchwell, being starved out of it. In the circumstances it was not surprising that the Welsh battlers, who had everything in their favour, should have won.

Even so, had it not been for an incredible miss by Hart, Borough could have salvaged a point. He darted through the middle, drew out Norton, dribbled past him, and then with the goal at his mercy he lost control and ran the ball over the line. Maybe a crafty nudge by the desperately chasing Williams might have contributed to the miss, but it was a startling boob all the same.

The only goal was a good one. Keith Edwards was a yard too slick for Dawes in a touchline sprint. He hammered over a low centre which was slammed home by Davies as Green was about to pounce – a well-taken match-winner and made possible by Davies' intelligent anticipation.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 30-03-1964

Borough: Green; Thompson and A. Jones; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Hart, Dawes, Satchwell, Lovatt and A. R. Jones.

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

Bath City will never get two more fortuitous points than those they took from Manor Park yesterday. And it was a debatable goal by Charlie "Cannonball" Fleming four minutes from the end that decided the issue – and sparked off the resentment which led to an irresponsible section of the crowd invading the pitch at the final whistle.

Borough had threatened to score for so long without managing to carve out a clear-cut chance, they had been frustrated in having three penalty appeals turned down, that the tension had built up to white hot limits when the all-important goal came.

It started with Sanderson having a shot charged down. The ball ran to Cartwright who found a gap and squeezed it to Fleming. As the former Sunderland star hammered in a drive which was deflected off the outstretched fingers of Les Green into the top of the net, a linesman raised his flag on the far side.

A protesting crowd of Borough players persuaded the referee, Mr K. W. Atkins, of Worcester, to consult him. He did – and awarded a goal. Afterwards Mr Atkins refused to comment on his decision.

It was a pity Borough should have been defeated by this dramatic incident, for they served up some slick soccer and had the Bath defence at panic stations so often that it was incredible they were kept out. A heroic dive by Drinkwater at the feet of Satchwell prevented a certain goal, Allan Jones was not quite sharp enough to cash in when City were split open, and there were countless occasions when Bath survived by the skin of their teeth.

In a game which had everything, the Bath manager, Malcolm Allison, to whom the game was vital for his championship quest, was warned by the referee for his encroachment from the line. But as the minutes slipped by, the Borough fire faded. City, acknowledging their reprieve, found the gaps until Fleming hammered the winner.

The penalty claims will be discussed for many a day and there were a few Borough supporters in the crowd who did not make the referee the villain of the piece. It is true to say they will play much worse than this and still win.

Bath were cultured and at times moved with delightful precision, yet Eric Jones and his men had full control and with every man giving his best the issue was in doubt until the tempestuous finale which brought credit to nobody.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 04-04-1964

Borough: Green; Thompson and A. Jones; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Hart, Brown, Satchwell, Dawes and A. R. Jones.

Worcester: Ball; Brack and Wood; Tierney, Madley and McEwan; Hudson, Herry, Fairbrother, Dolman and Cutler.

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

It was inexplicable that Borough, so impressive in defeat against Bath City, could be so disappointing in a snatched victory over Worcester City. For if it had not been for a Malcolm Allen penalty two minutes from the end, they would have thrown away the silliest point of the season. Two goals down, City played like a side who had no interest in the proceedings, until they were presented with an own goal by Alan Jones, and another goal courtesy of a misguided defence, which forgot the golden rule of playing to the whistle.

Borough dominated and played badly at the same time. City survived 42 minutes of the first half in spite of their own ineptness. Then Ralph Brown grabbed a goal following a slick move initiated by Les Green, and when the same player



hammered in a second shortly after the break it seemed all over bar the shouting. It should have been, but Brown, who had squandered a couple of gifts in the opening half hour, blundered yet again. City were let off the hook, and an incredible mix-up between Alan Jones and Green gave them the softest goal seen on the ground this season. Jones, in attempting to head the ball back to his goalkeeper, failed to spot that Green had moved out – and he merely succeeded in nodding it into his own net.

This was just the tonic Worcester needed. They took on a new lease of life and nearly drew level when the darting Fairbrother, high in the marksmen's list, waltzed his way through only to lose control when Green bravely dived at his feet.

Worcester drew level 14 minutes from the end, when for the second time in five days the referee ignored – as he is perfectly entitled – the upraised flag of a linesman. And while the Borough defence stood and waited for the whistle that never came, McEwan blasted home the second.

It was at this point that Borough realised they were in danger of losing a point, if not two, and their determination in the closing stages was quite commendable, even if it should never have been necessary.

Borough's first goal was the result of a quick break out of defence. Green threw the ball to Hart, standing just inside his own half. Allen linked up with him, and while City were desperately chasing back, Allen slipped a short pass inside which Brown hammered into the corner of the net. His second came when an Allan Jones centre had the Worcester defence in confusion and Brown suddenly found himself unmarked and with sufficient space to cash in.

Guildford City v Nuneaton Borough 11-04-1964

Guildford: Gill; Sillett and Watts; Porter, French and More; Barrett, Cliss, Hasty, Burton and Bennett.

Borough: Green; Thompson and A. Jones; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Hart, Brown, Satchwell, Dawes and A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Guildford City for a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's defeat was narrow in score only. They were fortunate that the City forwards, who pierced the Borough defence with ease, displayed a gross lack of marksmanship. So much for Borough's hopes of gaining a point by the use of the 4-3-3 tactical system. This meant that the centre-half Eric Jones, became an additional line of defence. The object was to cover those forwards who managed to elude other defenders.

The new system did not sit easy with Borough's defence and there were some appalling scrambles in the penalty area. Passing was inaccurate and ill-timed. Confidence was thus badly shaken, and it was hardly surprising that few of the team gave of their best. One who did give his best, was Les Green whose performance was thoroughly creditable, and his agility did much to keep down the score. But even his form

was no excuse for the finishing of the Guildford forwards. They created enough chances to have scored a good half-dozen goals. Instead, they themselves scored once and had to rely on an own goal to get the other. Only Burton shone in the Borough penalty area. The other forwards had an almost casual approach.

There was little sign of the scoring form that has given wingers Barrett and Bennett 25 and 18 goals respectively. Both moved briskly and had the beating of the Borough defence, but they were off-target. Borough had their moments. Shortly before the interval, and at times in the second half, they took time off defending to create a few attacks, but they were able to penetrate the City penalty area only rarely, and then did not look capable of scoring.

Dawes headed an own goal to give Guildford a 1-0 lead at half-time. He tried to clear a shot from Burton, but he must have misjudged his position and the ball entered the net. It was more of an unfortunate deflection than anything else. Burton added Guildford's second with a first-class shot from an acute angle. The pass which led to it came from Barrett.

Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town 13-04-1964

Borough: Green; Thompson and A. Jones; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Hart, Rhodes, Satchwell, Lovatt and A. R. Jones.

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

Take three measures of haphazard passing, an equal amount of feeble shooting, lace it with stale ideas – and there you have the unpalatable soccer dish which was served up at Manor Park last night. For two clueless attacks fumbled insipidly for 90 boring minutes without producing a single worthwhile flash of inspiration.

Borough had no formula to counter tight midfield marking and when chances came their way they were slow and jaded. Rugby were so weak at inside-forward that the only hope they had of scoring was if the defence handed it to them on a plate. Their big moment came ten minutes after the break when teenager Pearson ran on to a pass from Wally Hazelden. Only Les Green stood between him and his moment of glory, but like every other effort made in this poor game, he failed. As Green moved out Pearson hit the ball straight into his arms.

It was that sort of match. Jimmy Knox bottled up Ken Satchwell just as easily as Eric Jones smothered Wally Hazelden. Roger Thompson and Alan Jones snuffed out George Burrows and Hughie Morrow as effectively as the Rugby pair shackled Allan Jones and Brian Rhodes. And with Johnny Lovatt and Brian Hart doing no more than the insipid Rugby inside men, it was bound to be a stalemate.

When just one flash of inspiration could have done the trick there was nobody on the park to provide it, and in the absence of craftsmanship which might have compensated for other shortcomings, Borough's position was painfully exposed.



Nuneaton Borough v Chelmsford City 18-04-1964

Borough: Green; Thompson and A. Jones; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Satchwell, Brown, Golder, Lovatt and A. R. Jones.

Chelmsford: Medlock; Ling and Gillett; Salt, Eades and Smith; Maughan, Butcher, Wilson, Smillie and Nicholas.

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

This was the old familiar tune, only the lyric was changed in this stupid defeat, and the result was the same, because of the out of tune fiddling in front of goal. Borough should have been three goals up at the break, and when they tossed away further chances in the second half it was as clear as daylight that highly-placed City would need only one goal to win.

This was the 15th time this season Borough have failed to score, but more alarming was the fact that five of those occasions have been in the last six matches. In this game they were impressive in the creation of chances, but pathetic in the execution of them. The pattern was set in the first minute when Johnny Lovatt made a hash of a slide-rule pass by Ken Satchwell after Trevor Birch and Mick Golder had paved the way.

Two further chances came when Golder found himself clear through the middle. Each time he proved he was not a centre-forward by failing to squeeze the ball past the advancing Medlock. With City being so susceptible to the through ball it was remarkable that nobody thought of switching Satchwell with Golder. Borough were so much on top that Eric Jones could afford to attack. His header from Roger Thompson's free-kick was as near as anybody got in the first-half.

It was a different Chelmsford in the second half. Realising that they had been let off the hook, they moved the ball more freely and wing halves Sammy Salt, the most impressive man on the field, and Bobby Smith, took a grip. City sent out a warning when Tom Wilson suddenly accelerated through the middle and unleashed a shot which was deflected on to the line. Before Ron Smillie could apply the finishing touch Birch bobbed up and dramatically rescued the situation.

And Borough fans, fully immune to shock, could only accept the inevitable when Wesley Maughan hammered the winner just on the hour. Wilson's shot had been kicked out and Butcher helped the ball on to the winger's lashing boot before Les Green could take up position

Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 22-04-1964

Borough: Green; Thompson and A. Jones; Birch, E. Jones and Dawes; Wootton, Lovatt, Satchwell, Allen and A. R. Jones.

Yeovil: D. Jones; Herrity and Harris; Albury, Lambden and Webber; Pounder, Foley, Hall, Davies and Pound.

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

The season slipped away quietly, almost unnoticed by half of Borough's supporters. Unable to take more frustration, they

stayed away – and missed another ration, for Borough once again missed chances, the only difference in this game was that they, instead of the opposition, managed to grab the vital goal.

A victory over the champions must not be under-estimated. It is true that Yeovil, already assured of the title, were slightly relaxed, but they had the poise and polish their position suggested and did not travel to Manor Park simply for the coach ride. Yet in the first half they were below a Borough side which was quite impressive until it came to scoring. Allan Jones, who played despite knee trouble, missed a couple of easy chances. The first he blasted wide, the second he fluffed with his notorious right foot from three or four yards.

To cap it all Malcolm Allen sent a penalty kick hopelessly wide after Ken Satchwell, the best forward on the field, had been sent sprawling. Having failed to score in six of their last seven games it seemed that Fred Badham's men were to end the campaign with another blank. And then it happened. Just two minutes after the interval, John Wootton won a ball from two defenders wide on the right. He switched inside to Satchwell and as the Yeovil defence hesitated thinking he would be offside, the centre-forward streaked through, ran past the advancing Dave Jones, and tapped the ball into an empty net.

It should have been 2-0 when Trevor Birch had a similar chance after centre-half Lambton made a slip. He shot too closely to the goalkeeper, however, and Yeovil survived again. Instead of being able to coast along with a comfortable lead – as it should have been – Borough had to be content with a single goal advantage.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough 25-04-1964

Yeovil: Jones; Herrity and Harris; Albury, Lambdon and Muir; Pounder, Foley, Hall, Davies and Pound.

Borough: Green; Thompson and A. Jones; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Wootton, Davies, Satchwell, Lovatt and A. R. Jones.

Nuneaton made the journey to Yeovil Town for the final Southern League Premier Division game of the 1963-64 season.

Practically all the superlatives in the English language would be needed to describe the sort of game Nuneaton goalkeeper Les Green had at Yeovil Town last night.

He gave the best goalkeeping display seen on the Somerset club's ground this season, and although beaten for the only goal of the game in the 78th minute, he had the 3,800 crowd on their feet with some incredible saves.

In the first half Nuneaton looked like a side that needed two points for the Southern League title. They were quicker thinkers, quicker movers, and fought for every ball. Only snag was, they were inclined to fight a little too literally. In the 28th minute inside-left John Lovatt found his way into the referee's notebook for the sort of tackle that is frowned upon, even in the Rugby League – and eight minutes later Eric Jones had his name taken too. The centre-half's sin? Querying a decision. This prompt action by the referee reduced tempers from

boiling point, and although he went on to give more lectures than a university professor, things never got out of control.

But although Nuneaton were the more impressive side in the first-half, when the floodlights came on, they fizzled out. A tremendous transformation came over the game, Nuneaton lost their grip and Yeovil's attack, which, with the league's top scorer Dave Taylor, suspended, had looked totally impotent, crashed into top gear.

It was then that Green came to the rescue. A shot from centre-forward Hall from the edge of the penalty area looked a goal all the way, but Green hurtled across the goalmouth to save. Then, in a hectic 60 seconds, he miraculously saved point blank shots from three Yeovil attackers who had the goal at their mercy. Green continued to sparkle, but the goal that just had to come, finally arrived in the 78th minute.

Hall carried the ball to the left wing and centred for player-manager Glyn Davies to head home. At least that is how it should have happened – but Green had other ideas. He became airborne yet again to stop the header, but not even he could hold it this time and inside right Foley ran in to crash the ball home.

Apart from Green, the one Nuneaton man who deserved the bonus money he won't be getting was left winger Jones. He alone of the forwards caused Yeovil much trouble, and it was from a move inspired by him that Nuneaton came nearest to scoring, the ball being scrambled off the line after a goalmouth mix up.

Southern League Premier Division 1963-64

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	42	29	5	8	93	36	63
Chelmsford City	42	26	7	9	99	55	59
Bath City	42	24	9	9	88	51	57
Guildford City	42	21	9	12	90	55	51
Romford	42	20	9	13	71	58	49
Hastings United	42	20	8	14	75	61	48
Weymouth	42	20	7	15	65	53	47
Bedford Town	42	19	9	14	71	68	47
Cambridge United	42	17	9	16	92	77	43
Cambridge City	42	17	9	16	76	70	43
Wisbech Town	42	17	8	17	64	68	42
Bexley United	42	16	10	16	70	77	42
Dartford	42	16	8	18	56	71	40
Worcester City	42	12	15	15	70	74	39
Nuneaton Borough	42	15	8	19	58	61	38
Rugby Town	42	15	8	19	68	86	38
Margate	42	12	13	17	68	81	37
Wellington Town	42	12	9	21	73	85	33
Merthyr Tydfil	42	12	8	22	69	108	32
Hereford United	42	12	7	23	58	86	31
Kettering Town	42	10	5	27	49	89	25
Hinckley Athletic	42	7	6	29	51	104	20

Old Nuneaton Town Footballer's Death

A well-known player with the old Nuneaton Town Football Club, Mr George Edward Paul, of 116, Corporation Street, Nuneaton, died on Wednesday afternoon at the home of his daughter, Mrs Marjorie Kiteley, of 187, Edward Street, Nuneaton. He was 68 years of age.

Mr Paul always remembered the day he first turned out for the old town club shortly after the First World War. Coventry City were the opposition, and the game resulted in a draw of six goals each.

He joined the club as an amateur after a season with the "Adders." Two years later he signed professional and served the club for many seasons at full-back. Partnering him on the opposite flank in the early days was Milton, who is still considered by many to be one of the finest backs ever on the clubs books.

In the later years of his association with the club, he became player-trainer. He afterwards joined Griff Colliery team and played until an injury put paid to his football career. His son, Ray, followed in his footsteps as a footballer and played for Nuneaton Borough, Coventry, Notts Forest and Atherstone. Mr Paul Snr. worked for Hall and Phillips for many years. He became a journeyman hatter, and was later manager of the firm's canteen. He was caretaker of the Masonic Hall, Nuneaton, at the time of his death.

Born at Coton, Mr Paul, in his younger days was a member of Coton Parish Church choir and the Church Lads' Brigade. A Freemason, he was a member of the Newdegate Lodge and the Chapter Lodge.

His wife died two years ago. He is survived by two sons and two daughters.



Borough manager Fred Badham looks out over Manor Park.

Photo courtesy of the John Moore Collection



Nuneaton Borough 1963-64

Back Row: M. Golder, T. Birch, E. Jones, L. Green, M. Allen, R. Thompson.

Front Row: H. Morrow, B. Rhodes, K. Satchwell, B. Hart, A. Jones.

Photo taken before Hereford United match. August 1963



Hednesford Town — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to play Hednesford Town in a 1st Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Hednesford: Yates; Bridgett and Royle; Arrowsmith, Hyde and Norton; Train, Hickman, Powell, Nicholls and Edwards.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Morrow, Rhodes, Satchwell and Hart.

If Borough had lost this FA Cup tie – they won only after a great deal of sweating and straining against the West Midland League side – blame would have rested fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the defence, which, in the face of determined home raids, at times became positively shaky.

Eric Jones and his none-too-merry men in the Borough defence had a particularly bad time midway through the first-half when Hednesford not only wiped out an early Borough lead but went in front.

Though Borough levelled the scores before half-time, Hednesford took advantage of yet another defensive slip to take the lead again at 3-2 early in the second half. Fortunately Borough pulled themselves together after this third setback, drew level again, and then snatched a winner.

Hednesford proved themselves worthy opponents and were not slow to exploit weaknesses in the Borough defence.

During that very stormy period of about 20 minutes in the first half, the Borough wing halves, Malcolm Allen, and Trevor Birch, lost control of the midfield proceedings and Hednesford quickly took over the initiative.

Fortunately on the occasions when they really got together Borough found sufficient skill to break the home defence and provide opportunities for Ken Satchwell to prove his opportunism.

The Borough leader got the first of this three goals after five minutes play

when he headed home an Allan Jones centre. After 25 minutes Train hit a Borough post with a great shot but the home side got their desserts in the next minute when Powell slammed home an Edwards centre.

After half an hour's play, with the Borough defence in a hopeless tangle, Powell's half-hit shot contrived to enter the Borough net just inside a post, but ten minutes before half-time Allan Jones rounded Hednesford right-back Bridgett and crossed to Satchwell, who cleverly turned the ball into the net well out of Yates' reach.

In the 50th minute, confusion in midfield between two Borough players let in Train, whose centre Edwards headed against the crossbar. The ball dropped down into the crowded goalmouth and Train, who had moved into the middle shot Hednesford into the lead again.

A quarter-of-an-hour later Allan Jones pushed the ball to Brian Rhodes, who lobbed the ball in front of goal for Satchwell to beat the goalkeeper to it and head the ball home. This was a particularly well-taken goal.

After 67 minutes Borough got the winner. Satchwell started the move with a pass to Rhodes; Rhodes slipped the ball across goal to Morrow, and Morrow in turn slid the ball inside to Brian Hart, who beat Yates to a frazzle with a great shot.

Halesowen Town — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Halesowen Town to Manor Park for a 2nd Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Birch, E. Jones and Allen; Morrow, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Halesowen: Collins; Hall and Field; Purvis, Culwick and Adams; Bowen, Holmes, Dugmore, Wood and Anderson.

The result of this game was a gross injustice to Halesowen. All the way through they were the better side,

certainly the better footballers, and but for Les Green, who was in fine form in the Borough goal, they would probably have won. Green brought off a number of excellent saves and was constantly plucking the ball off the heads of the Halesowen forwards. But he was lucky when, with the score at 1-1 and the game entering its closing stages, Holmes hit the Borough bar.

A few minutes later – in the 83rd minute – Allan Jones got Borough's winner. It came like a bolt from the blue. The left winger took a square pass from Malcolm Allen, cut inside, ran on a few yards and then beat the astonished Collins, the Halesowen keeper, with a great shot.

The goal was all against the run of play, and once again Borough had got away with it – and won a game after playing so badly for most of the time.

It was astonishing to see Borough struggling so painfully against a side they were expected to beat without trouble – more astonishing to see the Worcestershire side playing all the good football.

Whereas Borough just could not get together – they groped and fumbled like someone in the dark – Halesowen moved smoothly and found each other with great facility and an accuracy which Borough sadly failed to match.

Halesowen got the opening goal of the match, as they had always threatened to do, five minutes before half-time when, after Dugmore and Adams had opened up the Borough defence, Wood, the visitors' inside left shot into the net.

No sooner had the game been re-started than Borough were on level terms. Hughie Morrow cutting in from the wing and dropping the ball over Collins' head and into the far corner of the net. Then as already stated Allan Jones got the Borough's winner seven minutes from time.

Lockheed Leamington — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Lockheed Leamington to Manor Park for a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Green; Thompson and Golder; Allen, E. Jones and Birch; Dunn, Rhodes, Satchwell, Hart and A. Jones.

Lockheed: Woodward; Coleman and Lane; R. Bradley, Hancocks and B. Bradley; Ward, Shorthose, Straw, Jepson and Hall.

Borough's dismissal from the FA Cup was not really surprising. The writing had been on the wall for some weeks. What was surprising, however, was the fact that they lost to a Lockheed side which played nowhere nearly so well as the team Borough beat in the same competition last season. Which all goes to show how very real has been Borough's decline.

Lockheed were by no means a good side. Borough had enough of the game in the first half to have made themselves immune from defeat. Once again, however, their finishing was very poor indeed.

They went on trying to make openings without ever hardly looking like getting goals. Then in the 65th minute, the Leamington side got their first goal.

That was the beginning of the end for Borough, whose chances of saving the game became more and more remote as the game progressed, as the attack, which had never looked lethal, just faded away. Even so they could not be written off so long as Lockheed failed to extend their lead. Then, with but three minutes to go, things really began to happen.

Borough were awarded a corner and all but goalkeeper Les Green crowded into the Lockheed half, most of them being in the vicinity of the goalmouth.

As the ball came across it was booted upfield – and there, completely unmarked about 15 yards inside his own half was Hall, the visitors' right winger.

With no Borough defender between

him and Green, the Lockheed player set off for goal, left behind two Borough players, ran to the edge of the penalty area, and then slammed a hard low shot into the net well out of the reach of the advancing goalkeeper to put the final nail in Borough's coffin.

The next minute a spectator who ran onto the pitch was hurried off by three policemen – and with but a minute to go Allan Jones received his marching orders.

What an ending to an otherwise uninspiring match. Make no mistake, though, Lockheed deservedly won, they were not a great deal better than Borough – except that they did manage a couple of goals. Which was more than Borough ever looked like achieving.

In fact the whole front line failed. Ken Satchwell, who was well held by Hancocks, appears to have lost the knack of turning half chances into goals.

Nearly all Borough's scoring chances went to Brian Rhodes. Unfortunately he was seldom on target. Hart was no better than he has been this season, while Allan Jones usually held the ball long enough either to be dispossessed or to allow the opposition to cover up.

The defence had its moments – good and bad. They were all at sixes and sevens with Les Green lying on the ground when Hall opened Lockheed's account ten minutes after half-time. Though half-tackled he kept his feet, threaded his way through and hooked the ball into the net.

That looked like being the only goal of the match, until Hall came along with that opportune goal three minutes from time. The Borough defence was really caught napping on this occasion, but the defenders had nothing to lose by going upfield to try and grab an equaliser, and everything to gain seeing they were a goal down with only a few minutes left to play. They gambled – and lost.

Altogether this was yet another bitter pill for Borough supporters to swallow.

It was announced before the game that manager Fred Badham had secured the signature of Ralph Brown, an inside forward from Notts County and formerly of Aston Villa. It is to be hoped that this 20-year-old player will help to solve the problems up front. But more than players are required to bring about the improvement necessary to keep Borough in the Premier Division.



Lockheed goalkeeper Woodward saves one of the few dangerous shots put in by Borough.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1963-64

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	
08.19	Aston Villa	H	F	0-3		
08.24	Bexley United	A	L	3-1	Allen, Rowe, Satchwell	2,537
08.29	Hinckley Athletic	A	L	0-1		*3,915
08.31	Hereford United	H	L	2-0	Satchwell, Rhodes	3,548
09.02	Worcester City	A	SLC 1 1st Leg	1-1	Satchwell	2,616
09.07	Hednesford	A	FAC 1Q	4-3	Satchwell (3), Hart	3,048
09.09	Burton Albion	H	BSC 1	3-1	Hart (2), Satchwell	2,871
09.14	Dartford Town	H	L	2-2	Rhodes (pen), Hart	3,607
09.16	Hinckley Athletic	H	L	4-1	Rhodes (3), Satchwell	4,179
09.21	Halesowen Town	H	FAC 2Q	2-1	H Morrow, Alan R. Jones	3,277
09.23	Worcester City	H	SLC 1 2nd Leg	0-1		3,632
09.28	Margate	H	L	1-1	Whetnall	3,071
09.30	Weymouth	H	L	0-3		2,381
10.05	Lockheed Leamington	H	FAC 3Q	0-2		3,642
10.10	Bedford Town	A	L	1-4	Hart	2,287
10.12	Lockheed Leamington	A	BSC	1-2	Golder	1,488
10.19	Hastings United	H	L	1-2	Satchwell	2,333
10.26	Wellington Town	A	L	0-1		2,211
11.02	Cambridge United	H	L	3-1	Satchwell, Lovatt (2)	2,737
11.09	Kettering Town	A	L	2-0	Lovatt, Satchwell	2,058
11.16	Merthyr Tydfil	H	L	0-3		2,640
11.23	Worcester City	A	L	1-4	Wright	2,331
11.30	Guildford City	H	L	3-1	Satchwell (2), Lovatt	1,751
12.07	Romford	A	L	0-1		3,552
12.14	Bexley United	H	L	0-0		1,881
12.21	Hereford United	A	L	1-0	Lovatt	1,400
12.26	Wisbech Town	A	L	1-3	Lovatt	1,330
12.28	Wisbech Town	H	L	7-1	Lovatt (4), Satchwell (2), Hart	2,169
01.04	Cambridge City	A	L	0-2		2,278
01.11	Bedford Town	H	L	0-0		2,652
01.18	Dartford	A	L	2-2	Lovatt (2)	943
01.25	Cambridge City	H	L	2-0	Satchwell, Dawes	2,301
02.01	Hastings United	A	L	1-1	Rhodes	1,800
02.08	Margate	A	L	1-1	Rhodes	1,450
02.15	Rugby Town	A	L	1-3	Lovatt	2,400
02.22	Romford	H	L	0-1		2,705
02.29	Weymouth	A	L	1-5	Rhodes	1,402
03.07	Wellington Town	H	L	4-1	Birch (pen), Rhodes, Dunn (2 own goals)	1,449
03.09	Chelmsford City	A	L	1-4	Brown	3,500
03.14	Cambridge United	A	L	4-0	Alan R. Jones, Satchwell, Rhodes, Lovatt	1,811
03.21	Kettering Town	H	L	3-1	Rhodes, Satchwell (2)	2,042
03.27	Bath City	A	L	2-1	Satchwell (2)	3,698
03.28	Merthyr Tydfil	A	L	0-1		532
03.30	Bath City	H	L	0-1		3,003
04.04	Worcester City	H	L	3-2	Brown (2), Allen (pen)	1,793
04.11	Guildford City	A	L	0-2		1,857
04.13	Rugby Town	H	L	0-0		2,854
04.18	Chelmsford City	H	L	0-1		2,350
04.22	Yeovil Town	H	L	1-0	Satchwell	1,942
04.25	Yeovil Town	A	L	0-1		3,800

KEY: L = Southern League Premier, FAC = F.A.Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, SLC = Southern League Cup
F=Friendly



Preparing For Soccer

The fact that Nuneaton Borough FC players reported for training last Tuesday night reminds us that the new soccer season is not so very far away. And Borough fans are, of course, wondering what the new campaign has in store for them.

Manager Fred Badham has made four major signings during the close season, and much will depend on how these four players shape up.

It was obvious for much of last season that three or more good men were needed to bring the side up to scratch, and before the new season has been long under way, we ought to know whether the men Mr Badham has signed are, in fact, the men he really needs.

The experienced Johnny Watts, a wing-half or centre-half from Birmingham City should strengthen the defence a great deal, while Derek Dean from Aston Villa should make an excellent partner for Roger Thompson.

The inclusion of right winger Norman Ashe from Rotherham and Clive Hopkin, of Birmingham City, in the attack – that is assuming the latter is to be used as a forward and not a half-back – ought to bring thrust to the line.

To sum up: If these four new men are able to fit in with the rest of the team – and there is no reason at all why they shouldn't – then the club should enjoy a better season than last. Here's hoping it does.

Twin Spearhead Attack For Borough?

In a game in which few reputations were enhanced and one or two were tarnished, the only concrete evidence which came out of Saturday's trial was that the "Probables" rearguard will stay. Rarely, if ever, does a public trial game give an accurate indication of true potential. This was one of them.

What did emerge quite clearly is that manager Fred Badham is thinking on the lines of using Ken Satchwell and Barrie Shorthose as a double spearhead with Clive Hopkin lying deep. Hopkin looked more than useful in this role.

It is certain they will be flanked by Norman Ashe and Allan Jones even though Jones did little of note in this game. In fact, the majority seemed affected by the humid atmosphere and the holding turf which had a braking effect on legs not fully adjusted from summer inactivity.

Whereas the manager must have felt a glow of satisfaction in the Probables defence, he was painfully aware it was at the expense of an experienced Possibles inside trio. For Lovatt and Brown were blatantly exposed and Brian Hart had few moments of inspiration.

Yet until injuries to Brewerton and Fenn forced changes in the Possible defence they looked capable of holding the Probable first-team attack. The departure of Ashe, however, with a damaged knee, was a prelude to a crop of minor knocks which brought about so many changes it was difficult to make a comparative assessment.

Burly John Ward came in for Ashe and moved to centre-forward with Satchwell adopting a roving commission based on the right wing. Ward showed plenty of honest-to-goodness endeavour until he went off injured after the break. Whether he has the ability for Southern League soccer is debatable.

It was not until 58 minutes had elapsed that the Possibles defence started to cave in. Knight had given the Probables a fortuitous goal in the first-half when he deflected Ward's effort into his own net, and Corrian Lee repeated the act from Wootton's cross.

During the next 20 minutes Shorthose, Hopkin and Satchwell took advantage of some confused defensive play by the Possible to make the score 5-1. As if determined to get in on the own-goal act, Hopkin lobbed the ball high over Green's head to make it 5-2 near the end.

Probables: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Birch (Hopkin), Watts, Allen, Ashe (Wootton), Hopkin (Satchwell), Satchwell (Ward, Skidmore), Shorthose, A. R. Jones.

Possibles: Bott, Smith (Jackson), Knight, Brewerton (Barber), N. Jones, Fenn (Lee), Wootton (Edwards), Brown, Lovatt, Hart and Burton.

1964-65

Nuneaton Borough v Aston Villa

18-08-1964

Borough: Green; Thompson (Brown), A. Jones, Birch, Watts, Allen (Fenn), Ashe, Hopkin, Shorthose, Lovatt (Hart), Hart, Burton.

Villa: Wilson, Lee, Briggs, Parker (Fellows), Paterson, Pountney, Roberts, Baker (L. Martin), Park, Bloomfield, J. Martin.

Borough welcomed Aston Villa to Manor Park for a friendly match. Without being able to match the sustained efficiency of an extremely useful Aston Villa side, Borough did sufficient to suggest they will hold their own in the Southern League when Allan Jones and Ken Satchwell are back in the team.

Villa were a split second faster in thinking, a shade smarter in reaction. They had poise and purpose which is the hallmark of full-time training. But they found Fred Badham's men were superbly fit and capable of hitting back with two goals in the last ten minutes after being 3-1 down.

All eyes were focussed on Borough's close season signings. It would be rash to accept or reject on one showing in which the tempo lacked realism. Even so, it will be surprising if the darting Norman Ashe does not hit the high spots. Clive Hopkin did not overly impress when he lay deep in the first-half, but he earned full marks when he slammed in a rocket which bounced back from the woodwork for Barrie Shorthose to nullify a goal scored by Alan Baker for Villa.

Hopkin looked more effective in an attacking role after the break and the goal which levelled matters eight minutes from the end was brilliantly taken.

There is little doubt that Johnny Watts will fit in. Perhaps his positional play in the first-half was open to conjecture, but

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he appeared to be playing well within himself. Gradually his command became more evident and his distribution was admirable. Shorthose, who played the whole 90 minutes because Satchwell was ruled out with an ankle injury, worked hard without possessing the finesse so necessary to create an impact against a talented Villa rearguard, in which Lee was outstanding. Of the second half substitutes Peter Burton showed up best.

Les Green gave further evidence of his immaculate handling and was confidence personified, while Roger Thompson handled the dangerous Martin quite capably.

Throughout the game Villa were sharper and more methodical and it came as no surprise when Baker shrugged off a couple of tackles, and profiting from the bounce of the ball, stroked his shot past Green in the 33rd minute. At a time when Borough were being dazzled by sheer science, Hopkin suddenly unleashed a power-laden drive which thumped against the bar. Shorthose picked up the rebound and Borough were level.

Villa went ahead through two simple goals in the 47th and 70th minutes. First a move by Geoff Fellowes, led to Bloomfield being given space and time to lay on a choice offering which J. Martin accepted gracefully. And then a mistake by Harold Fenn enabled Park to get his boot to a ball which rolled gently into the net as Green scrambled on all fours in an ungainly attempt to snatch it from the line.

Shortly after Hart had fluffed a chance with only the goalkeeper to beat, the inside-left redeemed himself with a well-taken goal after Ashe had done the spadework. Suddenly Borough played like a team inspired, and as Villa visibly wilted, Hopkin took advantage of a muddled defence. His tenacity won him the ball against weight of numbers, and as the men in claret and blue stood flat-footed he flicked the ball into the far corner.

Bedford Town v Nuneaton Borough 22-08-1964

Bedford: Bellotti; Davis, Morgan; Wright, Collins, Skinn; Benning, Emery, Cooley, Sturrock, Miles.

Borough: Green; Thompson, Alan Jones; Birch, Watts, Allen; Ashe, Hopkin, Satchwell, Wiggin, Allan Jones.

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

Had the defence played as well as the forwards, Borough would not have returned pointless from their opening game of the season. The defence will have to close its ranks much more effectively than on Saturday if there is to be a marked improvement on last season.

Against a lively attack strongly led by Norman Cooley and skilfully prompted by Denis Emery, the former Peterborough star, and David Sturrock, a fast-moving inside man, Watts and Co. were often struggling in the first half. Though things were tightened up after the change of ends, there was still room for

improvement. The attack generally did well, although twice in the second half – once in the last minute – Allan Jones missed reasonable scoring chances.

Bedford opened their account in the 11th minute when Sturrock took a pass from Benning and swept the ball past a surprised Les Green, the ball entering the net via the far post. Four minutes later Bedford were two up. In a goalmouth tussle following a corner Sturrock hooked the ball in and although Thompson made a last ditch effort to save the situation, the ball entered the net.

Before the cheers for Bedford's second goal had died down Borough had reduced the lead. A cross from the left was diverted to Ashe, who, standing in an unmarked position, swung round and drove the ball past a well-beaten Bellotti. After 21 minutes Ashe was again unmarked when Allan Jones swung the ball into the middle, and the winger again netted with a well-placed header to level the scores. A minute later Cooley got what proved to be the winning goal when, though harassed by two Borough defenders, he ran in to drive the ball home.

There was no scoring in the second half, but there were two penalties. The first award came just after the break when Roger Thompson and Bedford winger Miles merely brushed and there was great surprise when a penalty was awarded. Green saved Sturrock's spot kick. The second came 18 minutes after half-time when the referee awarded Borough a penalty when Davis was alleged to have fouled Malcolm Allen, and Borough had a chance to save the game. Unfortunately Malcolm Allen shot too close to Bellotti and the Bedford keeper saved.

Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 26-08-1964

Weymouth: Clarke; Gulliver, Stocker; Forrest, Hobson, Hinchcliffe; Hannigan, Spratt, Jackson, Hutchinson, Camp.

Borough: Green; Thompson, A. Jones; Birch, Watts, Allen; Ashe, Satchwell, Wiggin, Shorthose, A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to The Rec to take on Weymouth in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough crashed to their second defeat in five days against remodelled Weymouth on Wednesday night. It was a defeat from which only the heavy sea mist which reduced visibility in the second half could have saved them.

They met a new-look Weymouth side, including five new players, intent on silencing the critics, who were beginning to write them off after a series of none too impressive trial games and an opening match defeat at Cheltenham.

But for a magnificent display by goalkeeper Les Green, Borough's defeat would have been far larger. He was in terrific form, producing a string of fine saves to baulk the aggressive home forwards. But Borough's attack was often depleted by the need to help out in their own penalty area, and they could never move as a combined unit.

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Only in the first 20 minutes of the second half, when Weymouth's smooth-flowing movements faltered, did Borough come into the picture, but even then they could seldom worry Clarke in the home goal.

Green was in continuous action from the kick-off, but held out until the 34th minute. Then Spratt took a quick free-kick 20 yards out and inside-left Hutchinson slammed in a drive which flicked a defender and crashed home with luckless Green going the wrong way.

Late in the half Wiggin squandered Borough's best chance when he shot weakly instead of passing to the unmarked Shorthose.

At the start of the second half, with Borough forcing four quick corners, Shorthose and Allan Jones both tested Clarke, but their fight back was ended in the 65th minute when Hutchinson scored Weymouth's second. Twelve minutes from the end Hannigan rammed home the third after Green had twice parried shots, and as the fog thickened, Camp turned home a Jackson pass to complete the scoring.

Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 29-08-1964

Borough: Green; Thompson, A. Jones; Birch, Watts, Allen; Ashe, Hart, Wiggin, Lovatt, A. R. Jones.

Cheltenham: Barton; Claypole, Hasking; Thorndale, Northcott, Radford; Nisbet, Grant, Brown, Ferns, D'Arcy.

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

This result came as a big shock to a crowd of 2,510 – a crowd that will quickly thin out unless Borough do not very soon produce much better football than they did on this occasion.

It was generally agreed that Borough had had two very hard opening away games and that defeat in those two games was not altogether surprising. Supporters did, however, expect something better from Borough's opening home game of the season. Instead they saw them sustain their third successive defeat. Which is not the best way to start a new season.

Borough just never looked like winning. Cheltenham, who gained promotion last season, were no great shakes, but they experienced little difficulty in overcoming an unimpressive Borough side.

When Borough were one goal behind it was hoped they would make a fight of it. But when Cheltenham got their second goal – well it was obvious the home side just weren't good enough to save the game. The changes made in the home attack – Wiggin led the line with Hart and Lovatt in the inside positions – certainly did not bring about an improvement. Indeed goals seldom looked like coming.

As the defence did not have a happy afternoon either, it is easy to appreciate why supporters left the ground shaking their heads. What Borough really lacked in this match, as in their previous two games, was a half back line capable of exercising influence on the proceedings.

Cheltenham opened their account in fortunate fashion in the eighth minute. Nisbet squared the ball across goal and when, almost from off the byline, Grant pulled the ball back in front of goal, Roger Thompson turned the ball into his own net. The visitors clinched the issue ten minutes after half-time when centre-half Johnny Watts was adjudged to have fouled centre-forward Brown in the penalty area. Grant gave Les Green no chance from the spot.

Altogether this was a most unpromising Borough display. A big improvement is needed if supporters are to be kept happy.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 31-08-1964

Borough: Green; Thompson, A. Jones; Hopkin, Birch, Allen; Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Shorthose, A. R. Jones.

Burton: Lines; Finney, Reeves, Walters, Aston, McCarthy, Moore, Follan, Barker, Bate, Frank.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup first round first leg tie.

This was Borough's first win of the season, but whether their odd goal success will suffice to keep them in the Southern League Cup remains to be seen. Only a greatly improved display will see them through since the visitors were without their most consistent scorer, Stan Round, on Monday.

While Borough did better than on Saturday, they were still a long way from being convincing. Certain it is they will have to do a great deal better if they are to command a respectable position in the league. On Saturday, Hart and Lovatt occupied the inside forward positions, while on Monday they were taken by Ralph Brown and Barrie Shorthose. But still the attack lacked bit. Surely Ken Satchwell must come back.

Wiggin got Borough's only goal – and that was in the nature of a gift from Lines the Albion keeper – but only a brilliant save by Lines in the dying stages of the game prevented Wiggin getting another. These efforts and one surprise shot by Brown apart, the attack showed little appreciation of marksmanship.

The half-back line with Trevor Birch as pivot, Hopkin at right half and Allen at left half, was lively though never able completely to subdue the Burton attack, strongly led by Barker. As Borough could manage but one goal, the Albion always had a chance and several promising down the middle moves had the Borough defence more than a little worried.

The only goal of the game came in the 16th minute. Following an Allan Jones corner on the left, goalkeeper Lines caught the ball near the far post, but dropped it at the feet of Ray Wiggin, who slammed it into the roof of the net. Before this goal Borough should have had a penalty when Finney pulled the ball down with his hands in the penalty area.

It was a game which, while producing a few useful looking moves, furnished few thrills and not a great deal of excitement. Borough supporters are still not happy and feel the side will have to do much better if they are to overcome their first FA Cup hurdle at Loughborough.



Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone Town 07-09-1964

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Watts, Lovatt, Allen, Ashe, Hopkin, Satchwell, Brown, A. R. Jones.

Atherstone: Farndon, Pyle, Archer, Awde, Morris, Dougall, Warmington, Wassall, Carter, O'Brien, Upton.

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

Even though he fumbled the ball to give Borough their third goal, Farndon, the Atherstone goalkeeper, was undoubtedly the hero of the game. In the first half it was very largely a case of Farndon versus the Borough forwards, and it was mainly due to his display that his side lived to fight another day.

It was astounding that a side so much on the defensive should have crossed over with a two goal lead. Time after time Farndon rescued his side with spectacular saves. Yet there were times when only poor finishing by Borough's forwards saved the situation. In midfield there was virtually only one team in it for most of the game, and everything went very much for Borough.

The goalkeeper saved superbly from Hopkin and Brown as well as making saves from Satchwell and Ashe. Yet when half-time arrived the Adders led 2-0. In the eighth minute Carter put O'Brien through. Lovatt, playing at centre-half in place of the injured Trevor Birch, tried to relieve the situation by putting a long ball back to Les Green. But the goalkeeper had left his goal and the ball ran into the empty Borough net.

Then in the 38th minute O'Brien hustled his way through and passed to Wassall who, after having one shot stopped, seized on the rebound to make the score 2-0.

Five minutes after half-time Allan Jones reduced the lead with a low cross-shot from Thompson's free kick following a foul on Ashe, and it looked as though at long last Borough were on the right track. In the 67th minute Paul Morris put through his own goal in trying to clear from Allan Jones.

Even though they had lost their two goal lead, the Adders were playing better than at any other period of the game. But in the 70th minute Farndon fumbled a simple shot and Ken Satchwell was on hand to force the ball home to put Borough in the lead for the first time. It now seemed all over bar the shouting, but the Adders were by no means done for, and after Lovatt had stopped one dangerous move, Upton took a Carter corner kick to shoot past Green and force a replay.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 10-09-1964

Burton: Lines, Finney, Reeves, Walters, Aston, Bate, Moore, Follan, Round, Barker, Franks.

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Watts, Lovatt, Fenn, Wootton, Wiggin, Satchwell, Shorthose, Hart.

Borough travelled to Eton Park to face Burton Albion in the Southern League Cup first round second leg.

Borough's much changed attack presented Albion's defence

with unexpected problems at the start. With Satchwell again leading the attack and Wiggin at inside-right, the Borough attack provided lively opposition and the game opened with some brisk exchanges.

Both forward lines were quick off the mark and there was one promising occasion for Burton when Round burst through, nodded down the ball, but slammed his shot on the run over the top. The Borough, no less lively, tried some early long shots without troubling the Burton defence, but took the lead in the 32nd minute. The move started with Shorthose, from whose pass Hart out on the left, squared the ball to Wiggin, who from close in nodded the ball into the right hand corner of the net.

Albion hit back and forced two corners, but some poor finishing and over-eagerness particularly on the part of Moore and Barker, wasted good chances.

Trailing 1-0 Burton mounted a sustained attack on the Borough goal at the start of the second half and only superlative goalkeeping by Green prevented an equaliser. At the other end, Lines saved the day when he parried a shot from Satchwell and then raced back to prevent it trickling over the line.

Burton were by far the more likely side throughout the second half, but there was no beating Green and finally the ferocity of the Albion attacks died away. One final attempt by Round towards the end of the game failed to trouble Green and Borough deservedly progressed to the second round.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 12-09-1964

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Satchwell, Wiggin, Hart.

Worcester: Ball, Palin, Gray, McEwan, Madley, Dolman, Cutler, Deeley, Fairbrother, Webster, McParland.

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

Borough well deserved the applause of the 2,939 crowd as they left the field last Saturday, for they had produced what was undoubtedly much their best display of the season against a powerful Worcester City outfit.

The home side should be given every credit for a very fine performance, and the fact that they had to fight right to the last kick, made their win all the more meritorious, even though City's effectiveness was reduced by an injury to Deeley, the former Wolves player. Very few people gave Borough much chance against City, but they rose to the occasion in great style, played as good football as their rivals, and what is more, shaped much more convincingly in front of goal.

Worcester started as though they expected a comfortable journey at the expense of the pointless Borough, but they were very quickly made to realise that Borough were not going to be a pushover.

After ten minutes play, Ralph Brown, who just before had

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brought the best out of goalkeeper Ball with a powerful drive which was pushed over the bar, took a pass from Ashe and slammed home a great shot from 25 yards. It was a replica of the goal he got at Loughborough the week before.

Borough very nearly went further ahead when a Hart cross hit the bar and dropped down in front of goal. Fortunately for the City no Borough forward was at hand to accept what would have been an easy chance. Borough, too, had a stroke of luck when Roger Thompson got in the way of a McParland shot when he seemed a certain scorer.

Worcester started the second half in determined style and things began to look ominous for Borough when after 52 minutes McParland and Deeley carved out an opening for Fairbrother to level the scores. It looked as though Worcester would now turn on the heat, but six minutes later Borough took the lead once more when Hopkin found the net with a hard, long drive which seemed to have surprised Ball.

Lovatt was lucky to prevent City equalising. Then, at 61 minutes, Ralph Brown made it 3-1, when he ran through on the left, moved inside, and then put the ball into the net. It now seemed Borough had the game well in hand. In the 67th minute, however, Lovatt brought down Fairbrother in the penalty area and Palin made no mistake from the spot.

City really put on the pressure in the dying stages of the game, but the Borough defence held on grimly. Cutler missed a great chance for Worcester when, with only Green to beat, he fired wide of the goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth 14-09-1964

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Birch, Lovatt, Allen, Wootton, Hopkin, Satchwell, Wiggin, Hart.

Weymouth: Connolly, Sheppard, Gulliver, Forrest, Hobson, Hall, Hannigan, Spratt, Robertson, Hutchinson, Camp.

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

Although their defence took a hammering in the last quarter of an hour, when Weymouth made desperate efforts to save the game, Borough, fortunate to win, did not deserve to lose. Lacking the services of Ashe and Brown, who both sustained knocks in the Worcester game, Borough also had Ken Satchwell injured early in the game. Though a shoulder injury obviously pained him, he courageously stuck it out to the bitter end.

Young Johnny Wootton came into the side at outside right, and had as his inside partner Hopkin. Trevor Birch resumed at right-half. Weymouth were nearly always the better footballers and in Hannigan they had the game's outstanding performer. No doubt Alan Jones is very thankful he does not have to meet a winger of Hannigan's calibre every week. He had little chance against the Weymouth winger; indeed there were times when it took the whole Borough defence to stop him.

It was because Borough could not contain Hannigan that they

had so many frights before the referee ended their troubles by sounding the final whistle – much to the relief of the Borough defence and their supporters.

Two quick goals early in the second half won the game for Borough. After 47 minutes Ken Satchwell, though challenged by goalkeeper Donnelly and two defenders, managed to glance a Birch free-kick into the Weymouth net with his head. Four minutes later Borough got their second goal. Wootton ran through a wide open Weymouth defence and put a beautiful cross bang in front of goal for Brian Hart to move in and head a perfect goal. It was a case of Borough cashing in while the going was good, as after that Weymouth really turned on the heat.

After Borough's goal had had a remarkable escape when Lovatt managed to get back and clear a Hannigan shot just as it was about to run into an empty net, the irrepressible Hannigan ran through a hesitant Borough defence to drive a low ball into the net, well out of the reach of the helpless Green.

After that the Weymouth forwards gave the home defence little respite. Indeed one expected an equalising goal almost any time. Though often hardly knowing which way to turn to deal with the Weymouth attacks, Borough nevertheless fought on gamely and aided by a bit of luck managed to keep their goal intact.

Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Borough 15-09-1964

Atherstone: Farndon, Pyle, Horlick, Dougall, Morris, Archer, Hicks, Warmington, O'Brien, Thompson, Carter.

Borough: Green, A. Jones, Dean, Lee, Lovatt, Fenn, Wootton, Hallsworth, Alcock, Shorthose, Hart.

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

Borough found no difficulty in eliminating Atherstone with goals from Wootton, Shorthose and Alcock giving them a comfortable victory. Had Borough forwards been more accurate with their efforts the margin of defeat could easily have been doubled.

A large contingent of Borough supporters cheered as Johnny Lovatt led out his team, which owing to injuries included five reserve players and two players from the A team. Even with a weakened side, Adders were no match for Borough and the home forwards found the barrier created by Lovatt at centre-half almost impregnable. When a centre from the Adders wingmen did elude the tall Lovatt, Les Green was on hand to cut out the danger.

The only Atherstone player to give the Borough any real concern was outside-left Alan Carter, who often found himself marked by two Borough defenders. It was evident that Borough's all-round supremacy would bring dividends and it was in the 22nd minute that Wootton opened his side's account. Following a melee in the Atherstone penalty area the outside-right snapped up a loose ball and drove it into the roof of the net, with Farndon well-beaten.

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A minute before the interval Barrie Shorthose headed home from a perfectly placed cross from centre-forward Alcock. Alcock then made it 3-0 three minutes from time when he netted from close range after Shorthose had created the opening. The Adders were not in the same class as Borough as far as footballing ability was concerned, and few people could have expected Atherstone to upset the Southern League club's plans.

Cambridge United v Nuneaton Borough 21-09-1964

Cambridge: Slack, Scurr, Finch, Gibson, Kelly, Welsh, Day, Haasz, Randall, Atkinson, McVittie.

Borough: Green, Thompson, Dean, Birch, Lovatt, Watts, Hart, Shorthose, Satchwell, Fenn, A. R. Jones.

When the final whistle sounded at the Abbey Stadium on Monday, the spectators were probably as breathless as the two teams. For it had been a hectic battle and one of the most exciting seen on the ground for a long time.

Whereas United had the greater thrust and speed on the wings, Borough were more concise in building up attacks. If Cambridge were sharper in movement, Nuneaton had the positional sense to nullify all that was thrown at them.

Perhaps United were victims of their own enthusiasm. On several occasions they lacked calmness and authority when chances were made, and they never really found a way through a barrier efficiently generalised by John Lovatt. It was the big centre-half who had done so much to keep United at bay before Nuneaton scored the goal which had looked likely for some time.

Winger Allan Jones beat off two tackles, and when Satchwell pushed the ball across to Shorthose the inside forward failed to turn it in from two or three yards. But Brian Hart ran in to hit the rebound high into the net. United had complete charge for much of the second half and Billy Day levelled the scores with an opportunist goal in the 55th minute following a rare slip by Lovatt.

With greater steadiness Atkinson could have put Cambridge in front, and for a time the Borough defence had to fight with all they had to keep their lines intact. But whenever Nuneaton got on the move there was trouble in store at the other end. Slack, who had been unbeaten for three games, performed as impressively as his opposite number, Les Green, and centre-half Kelly had his hands full in holding Satchwell.

There was no relaxation in the speed of the game, and Brian Hart missed a wonderful chance of clinching the points for Borough when he received a pass close to goal. Instead of steadying himself, he shot hurriedly and with only Slack to beat, he blazed the ball wide. Then, in the dying moments, Nuneaton nearly did the trick again when goalkeeper Slack could not hold Satchwell's ground shot after Lovatt had galloped half the length of the field. Luckily for United it rolled just the wrong side of the post, as the Cambridge crowd held their breath.

Nuneaton Borough v Margate 26-09-1964

26-09-1964

Borough: Green, Thompson, Dean, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Hart, Brown, Satchwell, Shorthose, A. R. Jones.

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

When the two teams trooped off at half-time, the crowd applauded them generously for it had been a fine, entertaining 45 minutes – a session crammed with good football. But when the whistle sounded for full-time, Borough supporters wended their way home bitterly disappointed.

They had every reason for being disappointed because not only had they conceded a last minute goal, but just before that Brown had shot wide from the penalty spot, while just after he shot against a post.

For some time prior to the penalty kick, Borough had been struggling to retain their 2-1 lead. A successful penalty kick at that point would probably have settled the issue. Failure caused them to go on struggling. Thanks largely to Les Green's ability to pluck the ball out of the air when things were looking threatening, Borough held on to their lead until half a minute from time when, after a shot had struck a post, Blackley put the ball past Green and into the net.

In the first half Borough were the better of two very good sides and deservedly led 2-1 at the break. Indeed, had their forwards made full use of their scoring chances, they could have been in a commanding lead. After half-time, however, Borough surrendered the initiative and Margate wing-halves Waldock and Hatsell slowly but surely took command, and despite another fine display from John Lovatt, the Borough defence was often sorely tried.

Margate took the lead after 15 minutes. Outside left Hills avoided a tackle by Hopkin well inside the Margate half. He ran on completely unchallenged to within a few yards of the Borough penalty area and then squared the ball accurately for Blackburn to run in and score. Ten minutes later, after Waldock had conceded a corner in stopping Satchwell, Hart placed his flag-kick high in front of goal for Shorthose to rise above the defenders to head a neat goal.

Five minutes before half-time Allan Jones raced in at full speed to head a spectacular goal from Hart's centre. Borough held on to their 2-1 lead until the last minute when Blackley equalised.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford 10-10-1964

10-10-1964

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Lovatt, Fenn, Wootton, Brown, Shorthose, Hart, Ashe.

Hednesford: Yates, Royle, Ballinger, Merritt, Humphries, Platt, Ironmonger, McDermott, Nicholls, Robertson, Cornbill.

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

Borough had an easy passage into the third round, but did little

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to reassure supporters after the Atherstone debacle. Indeed their display merely emphasised the fact that they really must pull themselves together if Southern League Premier Division status is to be maintained. They beat Hednesford for no better reason than that their opponents had little to offer apart from pluck and no little determination.

Borough had so much of the game that they should have won by a cricket score. That they didn't was due entirely to wretched marksmanship. In the second half alone, Hart, Brown, Ashe, Shorthose and Fenn all missed at least one easy scoring chance.

It is not an easy task to describe this game, so poor was the general quality of play – so few really good moves were there. Les Green had about one good save to make, while Yates at the other end was almost constantly in action, and he saved his team on many occasions.

Borough took the lead after 15 minutes when Ralph Brown moved in from the left and as Hednesford defenders were retreating, he lifted the ball towards goal, and it went off a defender and into the net. Three minutes later, following a centre by Ashe, goalkeeper Yates, challenged by Shorthose, fell backwards and the ball dropped over the line.

Borough got their third goal in the 65th minute, when Hednesford's right-back Royle put the ball past his own keeper. The ball was scrambled away, but the referee ruled that it had crossed the line. The only good goal of the game came three minutes from time when Shorthose took a cross from the right and shot into the roof of the net from an acute angle.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 17-10-1964

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Wootton, Brown, Shorthose, Hart, A. R. Jones.

Cambridge: Heath, Carroll, Poole, Moyse, Craig, McGugan, Devine, Spears, Bailham, Cornwell, Bircumshaw.

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

This was a bright and breezy display by Borough – one which left supporters in a happier frame of mind than the Atherstone and Hednesford games. Though they lost their grip on the proceedings in the last 15 minutes or so and conceded a goal in the last minute, Borough still clearly deserved their victory.

In fact they played their best football for weeks – clever, calculated stuff which had the Cambridge defence perplexed for three parts of the game. Borough's defence, in which John Lovatt at centre-half, Clive Hopkin at right-half and Roger Thompson at right-back, were outstanding, was more than a match for the City forwards until late in the game when Cambridge tried hard to make inroads into Borough's three goal lead.

Cambridge got off to a bad start by presenting Borough with a goal in the first minute, though credit must be given

to Ralph Brown for some quick thinking. Goalkeeper Heath pushed the ball forward to left-half McGugan. The latter tried to return the ball to Heath, but his pass was too short, and nipping in, Brown gained possession and shot the ball past a surprised Heath into the empty net. Borough increased their lead after 35 minutes. Astute play by Hart, Allan Jones and Brown paving the way for Barrie Shorthose to sweep the ball past the advancing goalkeeper. They made it 3-0 in the 63rd minute. Hopkin opened up the defence for Ralph Brown to drive a low shot into the far corner of the net.

In the very last minute of the game, Bailham slipped through Borough's hesitant defence to ram home a shot which left Green standing.

Apart from this late Cambridge rally, Borough were always the better side. Strongly backed from behind, especially by the strong, go-ahead Hopkin, the home forwards kept the City defence working at full stretch. Ralph Brown was always in the picture, as was Allan Jones, though just before half-time he had to go off the field with blood streaming from a badly cut nose. He returned five minutes after half-time.

Hart played better than for some time; Barrie Shorthose was always probing the City defence; while Johnny Wootton showed much promise until he tired in the last quarter. Generally speaking, it was a greatly improved Borough display; they defended with purpose and attacked with no little skill. One can only hope they can keep it up.

Guildford City v Nuneaton Borough 24-10-1964

Guildford: Gill, Hunt, Watts, Porter, French, Parnell, Coltar, Cliss, Stevens, Barrett, Bennett.

Borough: Green, Thompson, Jones, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Wootton, Brown, Shorthose, Hart and Satchwell.

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

Although Borough scored first at Guildford on Saturday, inside-left Brian Hart's seventh minute goal was not enough to give Borough even one point.

Nuneaton could have been in front at half-time, but they were restricted to Hart's goal by poor finishing. Guildford's lack of understanding in defence should have been exploited far more by forwards who were well prompted by wing-halves Hopkin and Allen. Hart scored after taking advantage of a misunderstanding between goalkeeper Gill and right back Hunt and the inside-left's goal from a narrow angle was a good one.

Even though Guildford equalised in the 24th minute through centre-forward Stevens, Borough kept the home defence at full-stretch up to the interval.

Shorthose had spearheaded a lively Nuneaton opening and Guildford, trying to keep an unbeaten home record intact, had a lucky escape in the first minute. From Jones' long range pass Wootton crossed the ball to Shorthose, whose strong bid to score with a header was saved by Gill with difficulty.

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After Hart had scored for Borough, Guildford skipper Porter's effort to rally the home side had some effect but the forwards were comfortably held by Borough's defence. Cliss had a chance to equalise in the 20th minute when Stevens headed the ball to his feet but the inside-right's shot skimmed the crossbar. Spurred on by the crowd, Guildford sharpened up their attacking movements and it was Nuneaton's turn to defend desperately.

Stevens had a shot saved by Green at point-blank range before he hooked the ball fiercely into the net for the equaliser from Porter's 40 yard free-kick. Nuneaton, however, continued to exploit weaknesses in the home defence and Gill had to dive full length to keep out a shot from Brown.

There was a second half transformation with Guildford's attack showing a lot more striking power near goal. Centre-half Lovatt was unable to subdue Stevens and winger Bennett had too much speed for Thompson's comfort. It was Bennett who engineered Guildford's winning goal in the 70th minute after a prolonged tussle near the goal-line.

Green and Jones looked to have Bennett covered, but he somehow got the ball back to the unmarked Barrett, who had an empty net to aim at. This was a bad defensive mistake by Borough who deserved to share the points, if only for their first-half superiority, which should have been turned into a number of goals. Shorthose was Nuneaton's best forward, but the experiment of playing centre-forward Satchwell at outside-left was not a success.

Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 31-10-1964

Borough: Green, Thompson, Dean, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Shorthose, Hart, A. R. Jones.

Wellington: Brown, Whitehouse, Rodgers, Dunn, Hair, Cocker, Askey, Dawes, Bentley, Laverty, Boner.

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

Borough are thoroughly unpredictable. They play well at times – such as against Cambridge City – but on other occasions they fail to overcome the most moderate opposition. Every home point dropped, especially to lowly teams like Wellington, is a step nearer relegation. After this showing that is a possibility that cannot be ignored.

Nearly everyone expected Borough to pick up two much-needed points from this encounter, having regard to the fact that Wellington occupied bottom but one position in the league. Not that Borough's own record was a very great deal more impressive. But they could do no better than collect one point; indeed had Wellington won the game in the final quarter nobody would really have been surprised, since on at least two occasions the visitors had chances of snatching victory.

Both of those chances came about as the result of slips by John Lovatt who, even so, was still one of Borough's best defenders. First he let in Cocker, then Bentley. Both these

players had a clear course for goal, but each hesitated and was dispossessed. Cocker missed another chance when he shot over an empty net after Les Green had punched away a shot by Laverty. It is a certain fact that Wellington had the best chances of winning the game, though twice earlier on, luck had been on the visitors' side.

Once right back Whitehouse standing on the goal-line, headed away a fine shot by Malcolm Allen with goalkeeper Brown nowhere near. Then, when a Hart shot looked like hitting the target, Whitehouse stuck out a foot and deflected the ball wide of goal. They were fortunate escapes for the visitors – but there were few other occasions when Borough really looked like scoring, so inept was their finishing.

It was a game devoid of excitement, and lacked most of the essentials that make for good entertainment.

Nuneaton Borough v Lower Gornal 07-11-1964

Borough: Green, Thompson, Dean, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Satchwell, Hart.

Lower Gornal: A. Hackett, Babb, Page, Hawkes, Smith, Johnson, Cornfield, M. Hackett, Andrews, Ransom, Fullwood.

Borough welcomed Lower Gornal to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Borough forwards had another bad attack of squandermania when they entertained Lower Gornal, and it was not until 18 minutes from time that they clinched the issue. Lower Gornal may be at the top of the West Midland League, but there is nothing in their play that ought to have seriously troubled a Southern League side.

Indeed, after holding their own fairly well in the first-half, the visitors fell away rather badly and had their forwards shown more thrust, Borough would have galloped on to a fairly easy victory. As an attacking force Lower Gornal almost ceased to exist after the change of ends and traffic was very largely one way – towards the Cock and Bear end of the ground which Gornal was defending.

But though they had such an overwhelming share of the play, most of the Borough's attacks came to an abrupt ending through a final bad pass, offside or bad finishing. Borough opened their account in the seventh minute, when Hart broke through on the left and centred accurately for Norman Ashe to head a perfect goal. The visitors drew level a few minutes later. Cornfield broke away on the right and put the ball back from almost on the dead ball line to M. Hackett, who headed the ball on to Ransom, who from almost underneath the bar merely had to apply the finishing touch with his head.

The score remained 1-1 until 18 minutes from time when Hopkin pushed the ball through to Brown, who snapped up the pass, ran on, and then slid the ball past the advancing goalkeeper, Hackett. With the amount of chances created and missed by Borough, this should have been a more comfortable victory.

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Bexley United v Nuneaton Borough 14-11-1964

Bexley: O'Dell, McNeice, Taylor, Sharp, Pearce, Morgan, Peters, Rutherford, Gill, Gregory, Hughes.

Borough: Green, Thompson, Dean, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Satchwell, Hart, Wiggin.

Borough made the journey to Bexley Heath for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough were extremely fortunate in bringing back both points from Bexley on Saturday, and had it not been for the great work put in by Les Green and John Lovatt, the story may have been very different.

In the first half, Borough were the better team and should have scored more than once. However, the Bexley forwards hammered almost incessantly at the Borough goal in the second period, and at times when a home goal seemed certain, a desperate tackle or a brilliant save let the visitors off the hook.

The standard of soccer was not enhanced by the treacherous state of the pitch. The whole of one half of the ground was carpeted with wet, slippery leaves and workmen were still removing them from the goalmouth when the Borough skipper John Lovatt led out his team.

Before the interval the visitors' approaches to goal were created mainly with the ball being played on the ground and troubled the Bexley defence. However, the high ball was used in the second half and Ken Satchwell had little chance against the tall home centre-half, Ken Pearce. If Borough had continued to play the ball along the ground it is doubtful that Bexley would have come back into the game as they did.

After receiving an ankle injury in the fifth minute Norman Ashe was on hand seventeen minutes later to lash the ball into an empty net to give Borough the points. Ralph Brown's shot was parried by keeper Ray O'Dell and fell at the feet of Brian Hart, who pushed the ball on to Ashe. The winger picked his spot and made no mistake.

Although Borough were a shade lucky to win the fact remains that they are two points better off and are to be credited with a good away win. It was not a convincing win, but it was a win and that is what counts.

Wisbech Town v Nuneaton Borough 21-11-1964

Wisbech: Robinson, Jacobs, Jackson, Howell, Clarkson, Jones, Woods, Hall, Flatt, Devitt, Withers.

Borough: Green, Thompson, Dean, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Satchwell, Hart, Wiggin.

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

Even though there was not a goal to show for 90 minutes of all-out effort by two well-matched sides, this game was well worth seeing. But once again one has to say that had

Borough had a goal-grabbing forward they must have won. Both sides had scoring chances – Borough more than the home side – yet none was accepted, sometimes due to excellent goalkeeping, and on other occasions because of bad finishing.

Wisbech had their first real escape in the 24th minute when Brian Hart sent Ken Satchwell clean through the middle. He was faced only by goalkeeper Robinson, signed that morning from Peterborough United, but no doubt realising that a defender was on his heels, the Borough leader shot hurriedly straight at the advancing goalkeeper. The ball rebounded off the keeper and twisted backwards toward the Wisbech net. Satchwell and two defenders went after the loose ball and in the general excitement, Satchwell helped the ball into the net with his hand.

Borough's centre-forward had another chance about 20 minutes from the end, when a smart move left him somewhere near the penalty spot. But this time he was too slow making up his mind what to do and was dispossessed. Norman Ashe had another good shot saved by Robinson shortly afterwards.

Once again Borough owed much to Les Green and particularly John Lovatt, who was in commanding form throughout. He was rarely beaten either in the air or in a tackle, and it was largely due to his fine work that Flatt was not much more troublesome. He was well supported by the wing-halves.

Altogether this was a thoroughly satisfying game – a game which had all the right ingredients, except goals. The 1,140 spectators were kept right on their toes throughout and there is little doubt that players and spectators alike were happy with the result.

Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town 28-11-1964

Borough: Green, Thompson, Dean, Hopkin, Brewerton, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Satchwell, Hart, A. R. Jones.

Rugby: Leckie, Gamble, Denial, Neal, Scott, B. Jones, Morrow, Walsh, E. Brown, Walker, Carter.

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

Until Brian Hart scored from a penalty in the 79th minute Borough were having to work very hard to maintain their single goal lead. Up till then it was really anybody's game with Rugby in with a chance. Borough were without doubt in the first half, when their work was much more controlled, much more precise than that of their opponents, who started brightly and then became much less so as the first-half wore on.

After half-time Borough began to hang on to the ball. Another fault was that they kept the ball too much on the left wing. This was surprising having regard to the fact that while Allan Jones was always closely watched by Gamble and sometimes by Neal as well, Norman Ashe was given the freedom of Manor Park at times. This was another game in which, by and large, the defences held the upper hand.

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Making his debut at centre-half for the Borough was 18-year-old Roger Brewerton, who came through with flying colours. Some doubted his ability to match up with the experience of players like Jimmy Walsh. But not only did he keep a cool head, but he virtually shut Rugby leader Eddie Brown out of the game. His was a most encouraging start.

Alan Carter, the former Adders left winger, had a very good first-half and was Rugby's most persistent raider. To start with he troubled Roger Thompson a great deal, but as the game wore on the persistency of the never-say-die Borough full-back was rewarded and Carter became less menacing.

Borough opened their account in the 24th minute when, after one shot had been beaten away, Brian Hart seized on the rebound and slammed in a hard drive which went into the net off Denial, who was defending on the goal-line. The score remained 1-0 in Borough's favour until 11 minutes from time when Scott handled in the penalty area and Brian Hart netted from the spot. Goal number three was an astonishing affair. With about two minutes left for play, Borough were awarded a free-kick. Clive Hopkin touched the ball to Brown who pushed it back to Hopkin, and the latter hit a high ball towards goal, where goalkeeper Leckie seemed to have it well covered. But for some reason or other the ball eluded Leckie and dropped into the net. It was a bolt from the blue.

There was certainly not three goals difference between the two teams. Rugby played pretty well, and no doubt contributed very largely to their own defeat by conceding a penalty and then virtually presenting Borough with their final goal.

Tonbridge v Nuneaton Borough 05-12-1964

Tonbridge: Crump, Simmons, Lovell, Truett, Kilford, Bowman, Francis, Taylor, Kemp, A. Jones, Wright.

Borough: Green, Thompson, Dean, Hopkin, Brewerton, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Satchwell, Hart, A. R. Jones.

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

Borough were much the better side for the opening ten minutes, but failed to press home their early advantage and by the end, Tonbridge were in total command. The quality of the game never rose above the wet and soggy conditions. Drizzle persisted throughout, and after half-time the mist was so thick that the ball and players became lost when they were at the far end of the pitch.

Tonbridge, who had given away more goals than any other team in the Premier Division, except Rugby, were fortunate not to be in arrears when winger Jones dallied when he had a clear run at goal, and the defence was at sixes and sevens to such an extent that it seemed Nuneaton had to score. How they failed no-one will every know.

Instead of trailing by at least three goals, the home side found themselves in the lead when free-scoring Alan Jones forced home a Gerry Francis free kick in a scramble right on the Nuneaton line.

Borough had one stroke of cruel luck. When everybody expected the referee to award a penalty after winger Allan Jones had been tackled from behind, the official hesitated before giving a corner kick.

It was the last straw for Nuneaton minutes later when Ray Kemp put Tonbridge further ahead. The hard hit low ball had worried the Borough defence throughout, and they were caught flat-footed as the centre-forward ran onto a pass from Jones. Borough staged something of a comeback, but bad luck and missed opportunities were their downfall. Hart took the ball too far after beating the advancing Crump, and as time ran out they tried long, hopeful efforts which indicated their state of mind

The final blow came seconds from the end. By then it was impossible to see what was happening, but Bobby Taylor was credited with the goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 10-12-1964

Borough: Green, Thompson, Dean, Hopkin, Brewerton, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Satchwell, Hart, A. R. Jones.

Borough welcomed Cambridge United to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup second round tie.

Defensive errors and a tendency to over-elaborate in front of goal by the Borough forwards ruined Borough's chances of progressing in the Southern League Cup.

Gibson opened the scoring for Cambridge in the 29th minute following a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area, which was teed up by McVitie. Twice Borough had shots stopped on the line minutes later, with the Cambridge defence at sixes and sevens. Four minutes from the interval Allen had to receive attention after stopping a clearance from Welsh full in the face.

Just before half-time a fierce shot from Hart was deflected on to the post by Cambridge centre-half Welsh with the goalkeeper well beaten.

A few minutes after the break Finch let fly with a beautiful 25 yards shot which Les Green could only push away. With a chance to score, Brown skied his shot hopelessly wide when put in a perfect position by A. R. Jones. The Cambridge defence was happy to boot the ball away from danger as Borough piled on the pressure. In the 56th minute Hart put his team on level terms after a defensive mistake involving Finch and goalkeeper Smith.

Hobbs restored the visitors' lead after outside right Day had ripped the Borough defence wide open. Scurr had no difficulty in firing past Green after Dean had given the ball to speedy winger Day.

A header from Lawrence was handled on the line by Malcolm Allen after 81 minutes and Gibson made no mistake with his spot-kick. Hart scored Borough's second goal five minutes from time following a corner from Norman Ashe.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedford Town 12-12-1964

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Brewerton, Allen, Ashe, Wiggin, Hubbard, Hart, A. R. Jones.

Bedford: Bellotti, Coney, Morgan, Wright, Collins, Skinn, Benning, Sturrock, Bailey, Cooley, Heckman.

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

This was a great Borough victory. Reduced to ten men after only 13 minutes, Borough were really up against it and soon found themselves a goal down. But in a splendid second half, in which they fought like tigers, Borough netted twice to bring off a truly fine win. The game had hardly got under way when 17-year-old Trevor Hubbard, making his debut in Southern League football, had the cruel luck to fracture his left leg in a collision with Bedford goalkeeper Bellotti.

For a time the injury to Hubbard seemed to have a most depressing effect on the Borough players and when Bedford went into the lead in the 25th minute, it looked as though the handicap of being a man short would prove too much for them. They did well to finish the first half only one goal behind.

Bedford opened the scoring in the 25th minute. A hard, high cross by Benning was headed back into the goalmouth by Heckman. The ball reached Cooley who, with a yawning net in front of him, had little trouble in scoring.

Despite the setback Borough, roared on by the crowd, put all they had into everything they did. It was forward Borough, backward Bedford. Once a Thompson free-kick struck a defender and Bellotti had to move smartly across goal to stop the ball going into the net. Next a visiting defender luckily got in the way of an Allan Jones shot.

Then success. In the 64th minute, Wright fouled Brian Hart. Malcolm Allen's free-kick went sailing into the crowded goalmouth to Brian Hart, who swivelled round smartly to hook the ball into the Bedford net. Five minutes later Borough were ahead. Ray Wiggin swooped on to a bad back pass which right back Coney intended for Bellotti, moved slightly over to the right, and then calmly placed the ball between two defenders and into the net.

When the final whistle sounded a big cheer went up from the crowd. No team more deserved those cheers.

This was a most satisfying win for Borough. The way they overcame the handicap of being a man short for most of the game was a tribute to their courage. They played their hearts out in the second half and nothing that Bedford could do could dampen their enthusiasm.

Every single player pulled his weight. Displacing Derek Dean at left back, Alan Jones fought with great spirit in the closing stages to stop Benning the visitors' most persistent raider.

Malcolm Allen played a captain's game, his clever ball play often carrying him right through to support the forwards.

Broke Leg In First Senior Game



Trevor Hubbard, the 17-year-old local lad, who, in his first appearance in Borough FC's Southern League side last Saturday against Bedford Town fractured his left leg. Borough supporters will wish him a quick recovery and speedy return to football.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 19-12-1964

Cheltenham: Taylor, Thorndale, Claypole, Elliott, Northcott, Radford, Crichton, Cornwell, Horlick, Grant, Haskins.

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Brewerton, Allen, Ashe, Wiggin, Lovatt, Hart, A. R. Jones.

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

Borough ought really to have won this game. With the least bit of luck they would have done so. Yet they went perilously close to losing in the dying minutes when an apparently down and out home side suddenly got to its feet and landed blows which very nearly brought them what would have been an entirely undeserved victory.

All of the thrills – or very nearly all of them – came in the second half. The first session had been no great shakes, and play had been decidedly patchy and lacking not only lustre but shooting power as well. Roger Thompson set the pattern for the thrills that were to follow in the second half. He broke through on the right and unleashed a rocket of a shot which went sizzling just over the bar.

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Then Cheltenham really began to apply the pressure and for a time they had the Borough defenders in trouble. They launched attack after attack and it came as no surprise when, in the 57th minute, they went into the lead. Cornwell pushed the ball through. Out from goal came Les Green, but he and other Borough defenders were beaten to the ball by Horlick who slid it past the advancing Green and into the empty net.

This goal was the signal for a real Borough blitz. Several attacks had the Cheltenham defence reeling all over the place and in the 64th minute the visitors reaped a well-deserved reward. With the home defence in a real tangle as the ball criss-crossed the goalmouth, Allan Jones pulled a short ball back to the onrushing Malcolm Allen, who without the slightest hesitation slammed in a fierce ground shot which hit the back of the net before goalkeeper Taylor knew what was happening.

Borough went all out for victory. First Malcolm Allen had another very good shot finger-tipped over the bar by Taylor, next Johnny Lovatt turned an Allan Jones centre just wide of the far post with Taylor out of position. Fifteen minutes from time Brian Hart had the mortification of seeing his shot beat the goalkeeper all ends up, only to hit the inside of a post and rebound across goal and into safety.

At this point Borough were bang on top. Suddenly, almost without warning, Cheltenham started to hit back. In their first raid for quite some time a half-hit shot from Haskins rolled towards an empty net and stopped almost on the line. Fortunately for Borough Alan Jones was at hand to kick the ball to safety. Just before time Grant shot tamely wide. It was a remarkable ending to a thoroughly exciting, pulsating second half.

Nuneaton Borough v Hastings United	26-12-1964
Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Brewerton, Allen, Ashe, Wiggin, Lovatt, Hart, A. R. Jones.	
Hastings: Agate, Cockburn, Tucker, Howe, Brown, Simpson, Back, Marshall, Francis, Olah, Burden.	

Borough welcomed Hastings United to Manor Park for a Boxing Day Southern League Premier Division game.

Conditions were admittedly far from easy at Manor Park. A frost-bound pitch not only made ball control a difficult proposition, but the players experienced trouble in keeping their feet. Nevertheless, one felt that the conditions underfoot were not wholly responsible for the moderate Christmas holiday fare provided for 2,217 spectators who had braved the very cold weather to see the game.

One of the good things that came out of 90 minutes of mediocre football was Brian Hart's winner in the 19th minute. It was a smartly taken goal. The move was started by Johnny Lovatt, who again led the Borough attack. He pushed the ball out to Norman Ashe who, though half losing the ball, managed to get it to the Borough inside left who brought it down smartly and then turned to crash the ball past the helpless Agate in the Hastings goal.

Hart's second big chance came in the 68th minute – at a moment when Borough were making hard work of preserving their orphan goal lead. Lovatt was racing through when he was palpably fouled well inside the penalty area. The referee had no option but to award Borough a penalty. From the spot kick Hart shot straight at Agate.

Hastings were undoubtedly the better team in the second period and had they drawn level Borough could not have complained with any real justification. The visitors were often on the attack with left-winger Burden causing plenty of trouble to the home defence. They moved the ball around smartly but where they came unstuck was in their finishing.

Although Borough ought to have had the game well in hand by the time the half way stage had been reached, in the end they were slightly fortunate to collect both points, as for the most of the second session Hastings called the tune without, however, being able to match their neat approach work with good marksmanship. Indeed, this was yet another game in which shooting power was conspicuous by its absence.

Hastings United v Nuneaton Borough	28-12-1964
Hastings: Agate, Simpson, Tucker, N. Howe, Cockburn, Carter, Back, Marshall, Francis, Olah, Burden.	
Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Brewerton, Allen, Ashe, Wiggin, Lovatt, Hart, A. R. Jones.	

Borough made the journey to Hastings United for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were lucky to escape so lightly in the return Southern League game at the Pilot Field on Monday and owe a big debt to goalkeeper Green, who made a dozen fine saves, left back Alan Jones who three times stood on the line and cleared, right-back Thompson who performed a similar service and a charitable cross bar which stood between Hastings and three more goals.

A light covering of snow on a frozen pitch made it very difficult to turn and Nuneaton had far more players struggling than did Hastings. The Borough's tactics were difficult to fathom. For the first 20 minutes they used centre-forward Lovatt as an additional centre-half and any attacks depended on three forwards. These never progressed further than a dozen yards into the Hastings half.

Hastings dominated the first-half and Green made some thrilling saves. He was well beaten by Nick Howe, the Hastings left half who shot in from a corner after sixteen minutes. The hard pressed Nuneaton defence blocked shot after shot and the woodwork shivered before Burden rammed in a power drive after 40 minutes.

Nuneaton showed a little more life in the second half, but a lovely pass from Ashe skidded clean through a crowded goal area. Meanwhile Green was leaping and diving to keep out the goals from Hastings.

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Nuneaton had a chance when Lovatt put Hart through but Agate ran out and swept the ball off his toes as he fell.

After Marshall had hit the bar and with Green sprawling, Francis headed the rebound neatly in after seventy two minutes. Three minutes from time, Lovatt turned and shot home A. R. Jones' pass for Nuneaton's consolation goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 02-01-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Hart, A. R. Jones.

Cambridge: Slack, Boggis, Jones, Gibson, Kelly, Finch, Day, Lawrence, Randall, Scurr, Hobbs.

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

This was a remarkable game. After what happened in the first 15-20 minutes, nobody would have given much for Borough's chances. Indeed it looked as though they were in for a real hiding. Cambridge went through the Borough defence almost at will and how Borough managed to come through a most critical period without conceding not one goal, but two or three, nobody can really say.

There can be no doubt at all that Cambridge had the chance to have won the game there and then. After an early mistake by Malcolm Allen, Les Green had to make a desperate dive at Randall's feet to save the situation. Then Day sent Lawrence through, but with only Green to beat the Cambridge inside-right, put the ball tamely wide as the goalkeeper left his goal.

Hobbs hooked the ball over the Borough bar following a Randall header. Next Hopkin in attempting a back pass to Green, put the ball well wide of the goalkeeper. It ran right across the face of the Borough goal. Luckily, Alan Jones was the nearest to the ball and put it behind for a corner.

The usually reliable Borough defence was rocking and reeling like a boxer who had just taken a punch squarely on the jaw. It was most disquieting for the silent Borough supporters. Then, in the 32nd minute in one of their few attacks, Borough were awarded a penalty, Norman Ashe having been brought down in the penalty area by Dai Jones, and from the spot Johnny Lovatt scored. The goalkeeper got his fingers to the ball but Lovatt's shot was too hard and too well-placed to be stopped. It was remarkable that Borough should be leading after all their early trials and tribulations.

Lovatt's penalty success was the turning point in the game. It gave Borough the encouragement they so badly needed; it had a depressing effect on their opponents, who were never the same afterwards.

Two minutes before half-time Borough had another chance. Brian Hart made the early running, and when Ralph Brown turned the ball across goal, Ray Wiggin was on the spot to prod the ball home.

Throughout the second half Borough were a very different

proposition – the equals in every respect of their opponents. It was no one-horse race now. The United were still suffering from the effects of those two Borough shock goals – goals very much against the run of play.

Although they were very fortunate indeed to have weathered that early storm without conceding a goal or two, Borough did what they are often criticised for not doing – they accepted their chances. They struck while the iron was hot, whereas United missed the boat when the tide was running entirely in their favour. An unexpected Borough victory, but one upon which they are to be complimented.

Nuneaton Borough v Romford 09-01-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Hart, A. R. Jones.

Romford: Ditchburn, Read, Gitsham, Reed, White, Abbiss, Sanders, Towers, Tapping, Kelly, Barnett.

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

Set to play against a strong wind in the opening session Borough did well to be only one goal behind at the half-way stage. Romford took the lead after only seven minutes when Tapping headed home a Gitsham free kick after Thompson had fouled Barnett. Borough drew level after 60 minutes, when Norman Ashe turned an Allan Jones cross into the Romford net.

Eleven minutes later Romford got the winner. From a corner on the right, well placed by Sanders, Tapping headed the ball on to Kelly who rose above the Borough defenders to head into the roof of the net.

Conditions were bad, and could not have been much worse, what with a strong wind and the heavy holding pitch. Even so Borough should never have lost this game. Borough missed a great opportunity to save the game in the last three minutes, but squandered the chance. When the ball came across from the right, Allan Jones was left unmarked with only the goalkeeper to beat. But with plenty of time in which to make reasonably certain of scoring, he preferred a first-time shot which was hopelessly off target.

The Romford keeper Ditchburn had few really good efforts to deal with the whole game through. His best save came just after half-time when he did well to push a Ralph Brown shot out for a corner, after the latter had been put through by Hart.

Though the forwards could be faulted for their lack of finishing power, the covering of the defence was not always what it should have been. Each time Romford scored – the first time from a free kick and later from a corner – opponents were left unmarked.

Though having a pretty good game, Johnny Lovatt has played better. Hopkin once again got through a terrific amount of work, but there were times when Malcolm Allen held on to the ball too long when a quick, slick pass would have helped.



Satchwell Transferred To Walsall

Borough's record signing, Ken Satchwell, who was signed from Coventry City for a fee of £2,250 has been transferred to Walsall. Satchwell's progress with Walsall will be watched with interest by Borough fans. If he can strike the form he displayed when he first came to Manor Park, then Walsall will be very happy indeed.

Trevor Birch has had his contract cancelled by mutual consent, reducing Borough's professional staff to 14.

Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Boro' 16-01-1965

Kidderminster: West, Buxton, Logan, Cox, Eden, Henderson, Gilbert, B. Wassall, P. Wassall, Gosling, Bailey.

Borough: Green, Thompson, Dean, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Ward, Wiggin, A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Kidderminster Harriers for a Birmingham Senior Cup semi-final tie.

This was probably Borough's most inept display since they were bundled out of the FA Cup by the Adders, way back in early October. This, like that, was a humiliating defeat.

Without Brian Hart, transferred to Cambridge City, Borough were well-beaten by the West Midlands League side, who won almost as they pleased. Indeed the home side had the game all sewn up by half-time and were virtually assured of a place in the final of the Senior Cup, of which they are the holders.

Aided by a strong wind in the first-half, the Harriers piled up a 3-0 interval lead – a lead which Borough seldom looked like reducing, let alone wiping out. The Borough defence has seldom played so badly and in the first-half especially, seemed to have no answer to the fast raids of the Harriers' forwards in general and the Wassall brothers in particular.

The visitors had only four chances throughout, two headers by young John Ward, who was making his debut at centre-forward, and solitary shots by Ralph Brown and Ray Wiggin.

In the second half, even with the wind at their back Borough struggled so painfully that towards the end Allan Jones was operating on the right wing. Norman Ashe on the left, Ralph Brown at right back and Roger Thompson at centre-forward. Still they could do very little right.

The Harriers opened their account after 15 minutes when following a Gilbert corner kick, Peter Wassall lifted the ball across goal to Gerry Bailey, who put the ball into the Borough net. In the 35th minute Brendan Wassall flashed the ball past Les Green after brother Peter and left half Henderson had carved out an opening. Two minutes later Peter Wassall picked up a loose ball to cut through and beat Green all ends up with a great left-foot drive.

Borough never got to grips with the Harriers. They started well and then slowly allowed the home side to take charge.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 18-01-1965

Worcester: Ball, Palin, Dolman, McEwan, Madley, Mullen, Deeley, Webster, Fairbrother, Palmer and McParland.

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Lovatt, A. R. Jones.

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

Borough gave title chasing Worcester a mighty big scare before finally conceding this league game on Monday night. Trailing 2-0 at the break, the Borough looked a well beaten side, but they staged a tremendous second half fight back and on the run of the play they were well worth a point.

Allan Jones was in great form on the left-wing, having the beating of full-back Palin time after time. The only pity was that the Borough failed to take advantage of the many openings he created.

After the break, the visitors' wing-halves, Clive Hopkin and Malcolm Allen, took a firm grip on the game and consequently the forwards saw plenty of the ball. That they managed to score only once was mainly due to goalkeeper Ball, who saved his side on a number of occasions when goals looked certain.

Johnny Watts also had a fine game, despite the fact that Worcester's centre-forward, Johnny Fairbrother, scored twice. Les Green also played well, especially in the first half when Worcester were well on top.

The home side took the lead after only four minutes. After intercepting a pass, Allen was caught in possession by Deeley, the ex-England winger, who squared the ball to Fairbrother, whose shot thundered into the corner of the net. Borough also had their moments and Mullen cleared a Wiggin header off the line in the 9th minute and Allan Jones had the ball in the net after 17 minutes, but Lovatt was ruled offside.

Five minutes before half-time Worcester increased their lead. McEwan beat several defenders in a dazzling run before centring. His cross was headed on by Webster and there was the livewire Deeley running in to hammer home a shot from three yards out.

Whereas Worcester had dominated the first-half, it was Borough's turn to call the tune after the interval. They bombarded the home goal almost non-stop and deservedly reduced the arrears in the 53rd minute. Picking up a clearance by Green, centre-forward Wiggin slipped the ball inside to Lovatt, who strode through to beat Ball all ends up.

Try as they might however, Borough just could not get the ball into the net again. Then to cap it all, Fairbrother scored in injury time. The centre-forward fired in a shot which beat Green, hit a post, and went into the net.

So Worcester avenged the 3-2 defeat at Manor Park in September, but Borough could consider themselves unlucky not to have taken a point from the game.



Nuneaton Borough v Folkestone 23-01-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Lovatt, A. R. Jones.

Folkestone: Cochran, Russell, Lewis, Campbell, Patrick, Tredwell, Ireland, Churms, Biggs, Tyrrell, Cheesewright.

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

Borough played pretty well in the first-half and well deserved their 2-0 interval lead. But after the change of ends they temporarily lost their grip on things and for a time were striving to preserve their two goal lead.

Shortly after half-time Alan Jones saved one very awkward situation when, with Les Green out of goal, he kicked clear a Tyrrell shot when a Folkestone score appeared imminent.

The game got off to a rousing start, and there was a rousing finish. Inbetween, however, there were many dull periods. After only two minutes play Wiggin put Allan Jones through and the winger ran in coolly to place the ball into the Folkestone net. But after consulting a flagging linesman, the referee disallowed the goal on the grounds of offside.

Two minutes afterwards a Roger Thompson shot flashed into the Folkestone net via Ralph Brown's head to give Borough the lead. After 18 minutes play, Lovatt broke through on the left and his cross shot hit the far post and rebounded to an unmarked Ralph Brown, who slammed the ball into the net.

It was in the 60th minute that Wiggin got Borough's third goal. He took a through pass and after beating three defenders and out-flanking the goalkeeper, the centre-forward put the ball into the net. At 72 minutes Folkestone got a well deserved goal when Ireland raced through on the right and the ball reached Biggs via Tyrrell and the visiting leader cracked the ball past Green.

Romford v Nuneaton Borough 30-01-1965

Romford: Ditchburn, Pitt, Gitsham, Reed, White, Abbiss, Sanders, Towers, Tapping, Kelly, Barnett.

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Lovatt, A. R. Jones.

Borough travelled to the Brooklands Stadium to play Romford in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough sprang a big surprise on Romford. After winning five consecutive matches, the home side were looking to complete a double over a team they had defeated three weeks previously, but Borough had other thoughts. After spending much of the game on the defensive, Borough won comfortably.

Borough were sharper in taking chances, and the defence, in which Les Green and Clive Hopkin were outstanding, rarely allowed the Romford attack to get in close. Nuneaton's attacks were rare in comparison, but they carried the greater punch, and as the game went on, the result became a foregone conclusion.

There absolutely nothing to suggest there would be such a dramatic drubbing for Romford as they rocked the Borough defence in the first half. Roy Sanders had the bad luck to see his header bounce back off the crossbar with Les Green out of his goal, and Tapping was only inches wide with a shot taken on the turn.

But there was danger in store for Romford when the Borough wingers went into action, and it was Norman Ashe who beat Ted Ditchburn after 40 minutes following a free-kick. The goalkeeper beat out his first effort but was powerless when Ashe cracked in the rebound.

Romford started the second half as if they were determined to regain the initiative, but they could not beat the nimble Green, and with John Watts taking a tight grip in the middle, the Nuneaton defenders continued to control all that was thrust at them. And when skipper John Lovatt scored a splendid solo goal in the 62nd minute, Romford were virtually out of the game. The lanky inside forward did well to resist the combined attentions of Pitt, White and Reed and force his way through to beat Ditchburn.

It was after this goal that Nuneaton had their best moments. Apparently content to keep possession, they cheekily stroked the ball around and forced Romford into unnecessary running. The game was finally clinched when the Romford defence failed to spot the danger in a move started by Brown. The ball flowed smoothly along the line and when Wiggin sold the dummy from Hopkin's hard, low centre, Allan Jones was able to pick his spot.

Many Romford supporters had left the ground bitterly disappointed when in injury time, Green was charged into the net with the ball.

Margate v Nuneaton Borough 06-02-1965

Margate: Hughes, Clifton, Marshall, Blackley, Harrop, Waldock, Scott, Ballagher, Blackburn, Thompson, Holder.

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Lovatt, A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Margate to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

With a shade more steadiness in front of goal, Margate would have gained a share of the spoils in this rugged encounter at wind-swept Hartsdown Park. Their best chance came in the third minute of injury time when a defender handled a Scott corner in the penalty area. The Margate winger took the spot kick himself and put the ball at least two yards wide.

Nuneaton, however, did just about enough to earn their slender win. Their defence, with Green and Watts outstanding, never put a foot wrong. In the second half when Margate had the north-easter at their back, they were penned back for long periods and yet faltered only once, when Ballagher ran through to net in the 75th minute.

Earlier Borough had shown just how to make the most of the



elements. In the opening half they played some attractive football and were good value for their 2-0 interval lead.

Inside-left John Lovatt notched them both. His first, in the 22nd minute, was a typical flash of his opportunism, neatly turning in a low cross from the hard-working Allen. On the half-hour he added another from the penalty spot. The penalty was awarded when Clifton clumsily brought down winger Allan Jones just inside the area.

In this half Lovatt popped up here, there and everywhere. At one stage he headed away two Margate corners and then raced back upfield in the role of striker. Margate never really got into their stride though, even in the second half. Their wing-halves failed to get a tight enough grip on the midfield exchanges and their attack lacked the know-how to outwit Watts and co.

When a shot was on target, chiefly from Ballagher or Thomson, there was always Green, as safe as the Bank of England, to thwart them. For the last 20 minutes Borough were virtually down to 10 men, with winger Allan Jones hobbling after some fierce tackles with the Margate right flank.

After Ballagher had netted Margate's consolation effort with a solo run down the wing, the home side threw in everything they had in a bid for the leveller. But it was not enough. The tight Nuneaton rearguard stood firm.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 13-02-1965

Borough: D. Jones, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, West, Brown, Lovatt, Wiggin.

Bath: King, Jeffries, Gough, Spencer, MacFarlane, Carter, Gilligan, Phillips, Denton, Horton, Fordham.

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

Deputising for the injured Les Green, new goalkeeper David Jones got off to a bad start and was at fault when Bath City opened their account, but the goalkeeper should not be held responsible for everything that went wrong.

After making due allowance for the fact that the early shakiness of the goalkeeper had an unsettling effect upon the team and probably put it out of gear, there was still no real excuse for Borough's defeat by bottom-of-the-league Bath, whose last success was against Wisbech way back in October.

Borough started badly and never recovered. In the seventh minute goalkeeper Jones mishandled a cross from Gilligan and the ball dropped at the feet of Denton, who had the simplest of tasks to give Bath the lead. City went further ahead after 25 minutes, after Watts had failed to cut out a pass which ran to Horton. Jones moved out of goal to deal with the latter's hard drive, but for some reason or other the ball reared up awkwardly and flew over the goalkeeper's head into the net.

Two minutes before half-time Borough got the goal they so badly needed. When both Carter and John Lovatt went down in a tackle, the City man was adjudged to have handled

the ball, and from the spot the Borough skipper had the goalkeeper going the wrong way with his shot, which entered the net at the opposite end to where the goalkeeper dived.

Five minutes after the change of ends, Bath were awarded an indirect free kick. The Borough players lined the goal, but when MacFarlane touched the ball back, Horton ran in to slam the ball into the roof of the net. Five minutes later Borough were back in the game with a chance, Ashe making an opening for Trevor West, who was making his first team debut, to swing round and blast the ball past King.

But in the 69th minute Bath went into a two-goal lead again – a lead which they retained to the finish. A midfield mistake by Alan Jones let in the irrepressible Horton who raced through the Borough defence and shot. His effort was beaten away. Two more shots were rained in before the ball eventually came back again to Horton, who this time hooked the ball home.

Borough Floodlight Appeal

In an effort to improve playing conditions and the standard of soccer in the town, Mr Des Martin, Editor of Nuneaton Borough Football Club's programme, has launched an appeal for £10,000 to buy floodlights for Manor Park.

Mr Martin has put forward the question of floodlights in the two programmes he has edited, and he believes that evening football at Manor Park is essential. He also believes that a public appeal would work and the people of Nuneaton would respond to it.

"The Club is appealing not only to the supporters, but to industries, shopkeepers, pubs and clubs. People such as shopkeepers who are not able to see a match on Saturday afternoon would be able to see floodlit games."

All donations will be received and recorded by Mr Martin, and a separate bank account under the heading "Nuneaton Borough Football Club Floodlight Appeal" will be opened. Any person making a contribution will be able to see his name in the programme and the local press.

Mr Martin is sure that if every person in the town who is able to make a donation, no matter how small, did so, then work on the floodlights could begin in the close season. Those wishing to help the club are asked to send their donation to Mr Martin, at 188, Tomkinson Road, Nuneaton.

Nuneaton Borough v Chelmsford City 20-02-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggins, Lovatt, West.

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

A solitary slip by Chelmsford's 16-year-old Colts' goalkeeper, Brian King, enabled Borough to gain a somewhat fortunate victory over their visitors on Saturday.

The only goal of the game came in the 15th minute. Malcolm

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Allen came out with the ball from a tussle with a City player, moved on a few yards, and then shot. It wasn't a thunderbolt by any means. Indeed, its chief merit was that it was on target. King caught the ball easily enough, but quite inexplicably allowed it to drop out of his hands and into the net. That goal gave Borough victory. In fact, but for the young goalkeeper's mistake in not getting his body behind the ball, it is doubtful Borough would have scored at all.

But it was fitting that Allen should have got the winner, for he was one of the few successes in this drab, colourless encounter, though the other Borough halves gave him good support.

It just wasn't Chelmsford's day on this occasion. Had they played football anything like in keeping with their lofty position in the league – they stood third in the table – they must have at least drawn. That they lost, was entirely their own fault. In the second half alone they had enough chances to have won the game, but neglected all of them. On two or three occasions it looked as though they simply must score, and how the Borough goal escaped only they can say.

Three times in the last 15 minutes Chelmsford had distinct scoring chances. Once when Butcher and Les Green went down together in a scramble for possession, Butcher, while still on the ground, hooked the ball across the face of an empty Borough net. Shortly afterwards Alan Jones kicked away when the Borough defence was in great trouble during a prolonged tussle in front of the net. Then, with only four minutes to go, Salt had a great chance to save the game after Green had punched the ball out to him. But with ample time in which to pick his spot in the Borough net, the Chelmsford wing-half tamely lifted the ball over the bar.

On the whole this was a scrappy, uninteresting game – a game that lacked smoothness, a game that merely spluttered along, and supporters must have been glad when it was over. The only real satisfaction Borough supporters could have had was that they picked up two points.



Co-opted To Borough Board

Mr A. T. Scattergood, of 61, Hinckley Road, Nuneaton, has been co-opted on to the Nuneaton Borough FC board of directors. Manager of Walkers (Century Oils) Ltd., of Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Mr Scattergood is a former Warwickshire and Leicestershire hockey player, and for a number of years has been associated with Nuneaton Cricket Club, of which he is a life member.

His son, Ian, is the Nuneaton RFC, Loughborough Colleges and Warwickshire wing forward.

Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 27-02-1965

Cambridge: Heath, Carroll, Poole, Pearce, McGugan, McNally, Spears, Moyse, Bailham, Hart, Wall.

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Lovatt, A. R. Jones.

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

This was another very good away win for Borough, after one of the most desperate and tensely exciting rearguard actions seen for some time. After a goalless first half, Borough ran into a two goals lead. Cambridge reduced the deficit and then staged an all-out effort to save the game. They launched attack after attack on the Borough goal and there were times when it seemed they simply must score.

But the harder they pressed, the harder became Borough's resistance. With their backs to the wall, John Watts and Co. fought like tigers to keep out the swarming Cambridge hordes. Sometimes there were as many as ten Cambridge players in their opponents' half and the Borough defence must be given credit for keeping them out and eventually emerging triumphant.

Borough missed a couple of chances before taking the lead. First Lovatt shot straight at the keeper when well-placed and then Ray Wiggin, in an excellent scoring position, also hit the ball straight at the keeper. Had Borough accepted those two chances, they would have been in an impregnable position, and there would have been no need for that long drawn-out second half defensive campaign.

It was after these two misses that Borough scored. Their goal, a lucky affair, came in the 56th minute when John Lovatt's shot struck the City inside-right Moyse and ran into the net. Three minutes later it was 2-0. Taking a pass from Allan Jones, Ray Wiggin ran on a few yards and then, from about 25 yards, unleashed a terrific shot which fairly hurtled into the far corner of the net, leaving Heath quite helpless.

Cambridge reduced the lead in the 65th minute, when right-half Pearce tried his luck with a long cross-shot which struck Roger Thompson and went into the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Guildford City 06-03-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Lovatt, A. R. Jones.

Guildford: Gill, Hunt, Sillett, Massey, French, Porter, Bennett, Cliss, Stevens, Barrett, Vafiadis.

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

The odd thing about this game was that Borough had their most anxious moments midway through the second half – after Massey, the Guildford right-half, had received marching orders following an incident in which Ralph Brown was involved.

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Up to that point – Massey was sent off in the 64th minute – Borough then leading 2-0, though never being able to relax, looked certain winners. But after Massey's dismissal, Borough temporarily lost their grip on things, and during a period of defensive indecision, Guildford reduced the lead and for a spell Borough were definitely struggling.

Borough took the lead in the 27th minute after Ray Wiggin pushed a long ball through the middle and while two defenders hesitated about tackling him, Norman Ashe, who had moved inside, ran forward to shoot past Gill, as the goalkeeper left his goal. After Green had done well to save a Cliss effort, when John Watts had made a slip, Borough struck again five minutes before half time. Malcolm Allen started a move which led to a tussle near the Guildford goal-line but wide of the goal, and when Gill went down to try to prevent a corner, Allan Jones gained possession and from an acute angle found the far corner of the Guildford net.

Guildford reduced Borough's lead in the 71st minute when John Watts fouled Barrett, and the City inside-left slammed the ball past Green from the penalty spot. Then in the 77th minute, Lovatt took the ball through from his own half, raced on, and then put the ball in front of the goal. The ball ran through to Norman Ashe, who closed in to virtually settle the issue with a third goal.

This third Borough goal was the end of the road for second-in-the-table Guildford, who in fact, were lucky not to concede further goals, for Johnny Lovatt (twice) and Allan Jones, who had earlier shot against the bar, both failed to add to their side's lead with only goalkeeper Gill to beat.

Borough won this hard-fought game through sheer industry and determination. Nevertheless, their performance in beating championship-chasing Guildford was a more than useful effort. They fully deserved their success.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 08-03-1965

Bath: King, Jeffries, Gough, L. Phillips, Macfarlane, Carter, Owens, D. Phillips, Denton, Horton, Fordham.

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Lovatt, A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park to take on Bath City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough never got going after being slowed down by traffic conditions on their way to Bath on Monday night. They arrived at Twerton Park nearly 15 minutes late and, as a result, the kick-off took place 30 minutes after the published time.

Borough never settled on a frost-bound ground against the hard, faster tackling of the very enthusiastic Bath side who, though lacking the finer arts, always looked more capable of scoring goals. The first-half of this Premier Division game was, however, notable for the scarcity of goal-scoring shots made by either side. It was towards the end of the first period that the persistence of Bath centre-forward Denton, and the ease

with which Owens on the right wing began demonstrating how he could trouble Alan Jones, that laid the foundations of Bath's double over Nuneaton.

The game might have swung Borough's way if Wiggin had managed to contact with a hard cross from winger Alan Jones in the early stages of the game, and if King in the Bath goal had not saved a difficult low shot by Lovatt. After this, however, it was fade-out for Borough's forwards, who could never find enough room to work against the uncompromising Bath defence.

Towards the end of the first-half a flick by Horton, who scored a hat-trick against Borough at Manor Park a few weeks ago, nearly caught Green napping. Then, from a free-kick on the edge of the 18 yards line, a Fordham shot hit Thompson and flashed across the Borough goalmouth with Green caught out of position.

Just on half-time the Borough goalkeeper saved from Dave Phillips at the expense of a corner, and from it Thompson headed away when Horton drove a hard shot at goal.

In the second half Borough were frankly disappointing and Lovatt saw his one good effort of the second half flash inches wide of the post when he headed on from Ashe. In any case the Borough forwards had left it far too late, for the game was then in its dying seconds.

Denton scored Bath's first goal in the 54th minute and Owens got the second in the 87th minute, beating three Borough players, with Allen vainly trying to dispossess the winger. Just before Bath's second goal Horton hit the Borough crossbar with a great 30 yard drive.

Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough 13-03-1965

Wellington: Knight, Whitehouse, Rodgers, Dunn, Hair, Cocker, French, Cullen, Bentley, Campbell, Boner.

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Lovatt, A. R. Jones.

Borough travelled to the Buck's Head to face Wellington Town in a Southern League Premier Division encounter.

This drab, colourless, unimaginative Borough display deserved but one reward – defeat. And defeat it was.

It soon became painfully obvious that goals were going to be in short supply, and that if either side did manage a goal it would most likely bring victory. That proved to be the case. A penalty goal in the 60th minute sufficed to give the home side two valuable points in their fight to avoid relegation.

The penalty kick was awarded when Alan Jones was adjudged to have fouled right winger French in the penalty area. Cocker made no mistake from the spot. Even when the Salopians were reduced to ten men nine minutes after the penalty – French receiving marching orders following an incident in which Malcolm Allen was involved – Borough just never looked like saving the game until four minutes from the end when they were awarded an indirect free kick in



the penalty area when goalkeeper Knight was pulled up for carrying. Lovatt touched the ball to Ralph Brown, whose shot was saved on the line by Whitehouse. This and other odd efforts apart, Borough hardly ever looked like scoring. Ralph Brown missed an easy early chance after being put through by Lovatt, spooning his shot over the bar. Later the inside right sent Knight sprawling to his left to save a shot at the expense of a corner.

Allan Jones, too, missed a likely scoring opportunity. Otherwise the Borough forwards lacked venom.

Wellington had periods of pressing and once had a shaky Borough defence in an amount of trouble, but their efforts were easily dealt with by the agile Les Green. Except for the penalty kick the Borough goalkeeper had only one other truly anxious moment – when near the end he was out of goal and Alan Jones headed away from under the bar from a Cullen effort.

Chelmsford City v Nuneaton Borough	15-03-1965
Chelmsford: King, Gillott, Gladwin, Salt, Eades, Brennan, Imlach, Butcher, Brown, Wilson, Maughan.	
Borough: Green, Thompson, West, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Lovatt, Wiggin, A. R. Jones.	

Borough made the journey to New Writtle Street to play Chelmsford City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Although they fought bravely at Chelmsford on Monday night, the Borough just could not match the extremely fast and menacing home side which turned on one of their best performances for months on a rain-sodden pitch.

There was a time in the second half when Borough, urged on by a handful of enthusiastic fans, pulled back to 2-1, but they were twice foiled by magnificent interceptions by Chelmsford's 17-year-old reserve goalkeeper Brian King, an amateur among an otherwise completely full-time professional side. But in truth, it was Chelmsford's own failure to capitalise on a string of bright chances which kept Nuneaton's hopes alive this long.

Moving the ball swiftly and accurately, the home forwards gave a workmanlike Borough rearguard a grilling and time and time again carved it to shreds. It was as well for the visitors that goalkeeper Les Green was on hand to make some fine saves. The pattern was set in the first few minutes when Johnny Watts had to kick off the line from Stuart Imlach. The crew-cut former Scottish international winger, who used to be at Coventry with Billy Frith, the Chelmsford manager, gave deputy full-back Trevor West a testing evening, and although the youngster did his best, Imlach usually owned an extra trick or two. His combination with leading scorer Tony Butcher, was of constant danger.

Tommy Wilson, the old Nottingham Forest cup final star, was linking well, and Sammy Salt and Bill Brown also impressed as the home side piled into one attack after another.

Green, in particular, was earning his wage packet the hard way as he pulled off timely saves from the eager home forwards. Forced onto the defensive for long periods, Nuneaton nevertheless troubled Chelmsford on occasions and skipper John Lovatt especially had the beating of Terry Eades, whose frustration got the better of him more than once.

After 23 minutes of sustained pressure, Chelmsford took the lead when following a Wilson corner on the left, Imlach shot for goal and the ball hit a defender and whipped past Green. Then in the 36th minute, Butcher headed a brilliant second goal, despite the close attentions of three Nuneaton defenders.

Lovatt pulled back a goal after 63 minutes when his shot deceived young King, who thereafter was called into action to make his two most vital saves as Borough pressed back. Chelmsford, though, were lasting the pace much better, and in the 83rd minute, a goal by Brown, who turned a Matt Brennan effort wide of the goalkeeper finally ended Borough's hopes of a point.

Nuneaton Borough v Bexley United	20-03-1965
Borough: Green, Thompson, West, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, Lovatt, A. R. Jones.	
Bexley: O'Dell, McDonald, Taylor, McNeill, Pearce, Morgan, Peters, Thompson, Hake, Gregory, Wheeler.	

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

Shortly after Norman Ashe had assured Borough of victory with his second goal of the match seven minutes from time, skipper Johnny Lovatt was carried off the field on a stretcher and taken to hospital with a broken right leg. It was a sad ending to a game in which skilled football was rendered difficult by heavy, cloggy underfoot conditions following hours of heavy rain.

Borough did 75 per cent of the attacking and ought to have won with the greatest of ease, yet it was not until that late Ashe goal that the home side really got in the clear. In addition to getting two goals, Borough twice struck the woodwork of the Bexley goal – Ray Wiggin hit the bar and Ralph Brown hit a post. Borough also had two goals disallowed – once when O'Dell dropped the ball over the goal-line when challenged by Allan Jones, and late in the game when Johnny Lovatt turned the ball into the net following a shot by Hopkin.

Bexley were on the defensive most of the time, but while Borough only led by a single goal, they were in with a chance of making a draw. But like Borough, they lacked marksmanship. In fact, only twice during the game did Les Green in the Borough goal have to extend himself.

Borough opened the scoring in the 39th minute when Roger Thompson put a long ball through the middle. Challenged by Ray Wiggin, centre-half Pearce failed to cut out Thompson's pass, and racing in smartly Norman Ashe took the ball round the advancing goalkeeper and then, after very nearly losing

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his feet, recovered to place the ball into the empty net. It was a cleverly taken goal.

It was seven minutes from time that Borough clinched the issue with a second goal. Allan Jones started the move with a pass to Ralph Brown. The latter's shot from an acute angle beat goalkeeper O'Dell and ran towards the far post where Norman Ashe was on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Folkestone v Nuneaton Borough 24-03-1965

Folkestone: Cochran, Anderson, Russell, Gamble, Patrick, Peplow, Ireland, Churms, Biggs, Treadwell, Leggatt.

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, West, A. R. Jones.

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

Two of Folkestone's goals against Borough on Wednesday came when the Borough defence stood leaden footed. The others came after a bad back pass and from a penalty. All four were a sad reflection on a poor display by the Borough defenders. Poor marking, sluggish clearing and tackling allowed the home side to play slick football and gain an easy win.

Centre-half Watts and his colleagues stood rooted to the ground when Patrick lobbed a free-kick over a wall of defenders in the 16th minute, and Biggs headed the ball back to Treadwell, who scored. Treadwell accepted another chance when Hopkin fumbled a pass back to Green and left the Town inside-forward with a clear run in the 30th minute. Before half-time Hopkin handled and Anderson blasted home his spot-kick.

Within two minutes of the start of the second half more slack defensive work by Nuneaton led to them conceding another goal. Biggs was allowed an almost free shot at goal after a Leggatt corner but he mis-kicked and Ireland picked up the ball to crack it into the net.

It was then that Borough woke up and forced three successive corner kicks, but Ashe, who had been the biggest worry to the home defence, was twice too slow to turn half chances into goals. Ashe produced Nuneaton's best attempt at goal when in the 57th minute he drove a fierce shot from 18 yards which Cochran did well to snatch from the foot of the post.

Ray Wiggin made the miss of the match in the 65th minute. Put through by Hopkin he shot tamely wide of the goal with only Cochran to beat. Minutes later the Borough leader had bad luck when he took a pass from Allan Jones and, shooting from a narrow angle, hit the far post before Patrick cleared the rebound. West popped up again in the 73rd minute to fire a great drive from 30 yards, but Cochran pushed the ball over the bar.

Five minutes from the end West was brought down by Patrick in the Folkestone penalty area and Wiggin atoned for earlier misses by scoring from the penalty spot.

Dartford v Nuneaton Borough 27-03-1965

Dartford: Bourne, Sitford, Mabey, Humphries, Burns, Anderson, Ward, Amato, Gill, Ripley, Stevens.

Borough: Green, Thompson, West, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Wootton, Brown, Ward, Wiggin, Ashe.

Borough made the journey to Dartford's Watling Street home to play a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Not many teams escape defeat at Dartford, so Borough did well to force a goalless draw. They had less of the play and certainly fewer chances, but the defence kept cool under pressure, never sacrificed its good positioning sense, and were quick to the ball to frustrate a skilful attack which, albeit, were too slow to drive the ball through and often wrecked their scheming by not quickly sensing the chance when it came along.

But the game's hero was undoubtedly Les Green. He was a jack-in-the-box who had a grand day defying his adversaries. He had a good sense of anticipation, quick reactions and above all, was quick to react to Dartford's shots. At least three magnificent saves excited the crowd as Green demonstrated the flying and diving save to perfection.

Borough were as good as the Kent side in their approach work, but too often they squandered the final pass – particularly in the first half, and this militated against much intelligent use of the ball. Some of the finishing was a little wild, too, and more punch in front of goal could have won the day for Borough. Wootton and Ward, well served with passes by the industrious long-passing Wiggin, came closest to scoring and severely tested Bourne in the Dartford goal.

Left-half Allen made intelligent use of the ball, and wasn't averse to having a go himself, but there was only limited threat from the Borough forwards shot wise.

In a late flurry, Dartford threw everything into attack with right back Sitford often making his way into the penalty area to meet incoming centres with his reliable head, but Borough spotted the move and their defensive skill in those late, thrilling minutes, was most commendable. And still the splendid Green continued to frustrate the home attack.

Dartford looked almost certain to score, when their leading goalgetter, Phil Amato, went through on his own, but Green somehow jammed the ball on to the post.

Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 29-03-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, Brewerton, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, N. Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, West, A. R. Jones.

Yeovil: D. Jones, Read, Herrity, Albury, Lambden, Muir, Pounder, Foley, Hall, Hirst, E. Ashe.

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

For 77 minutes of this game Borough played as if they would never score. Norman Ashe had just missed an easy chance,



shooting outside with only goalkeeper David Jones to beat. This, supporters felt, must surely be Borough's last chance of winning. But before the groans of the crowd at Ashe's miss had died down, right back Roger Thompson, gained possession about 35 yards out and let fly at goal. Jones seemed to have Thompson's long drive covered, but at the last moment, it appeared to dip and the ball sailed into the net.

And before the cheers for this out of the blue goal had subsided, another big cheer went up as the ball was again nestling in the Yeovil net.

This time Ralph Brown was the scorer. Put through by Clive Hopkin, Brown put his first shot against the goalkeeper's shins, but seizing on the rebound, made no mistake with his second shot, to give Borough a 2-0 victory.

Few people expected so lively, so exciting a finish to a game which had produced so little in the way of good marksmanship from either side. Quite a feature of Borough's play was the number of passes that went astray. Yeovil unquestionably were the better technicians. In midfield and in building up their attacks, the visitors were markedly superior, and it was really surprising having regard to their talented approach work that they had fewer clear-cut scoring chances than Borough.

Les Green's main occupation was collecting the ball in the air and cutting out crosses. And how well he did the job! He never put a foot wrong from start to finish. Borough owed much to their defence which though often in difficulties, stuck to its task with great determination.

Borough must certainly be commended on their unexpected victory, for Yeovil must still be wondering how they came to lose. But the result proved what we already know – its goals that count in football.

Nuneaton Borough v Wisbech Town 18-04-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, Brewerton, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, West, A. R. Jones.

Wisbech: Chandler, Jacobs, Jackson, Howell, Clarkson, A. Jones, Woods, Jennings, Flatt, Withers, Devitt.

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

Two penalty kicks enabled Borough to beat bottom-but-one club Wisbech Town on Saturday. The scorer on each occasion was centre-forward Ray Wiggin – and on each occasion, too, the spot kick was awarded when the same player – Trevor West – was brought down when haring through the Wisbech defence. The first penalty came five minutes before half-time; the other, which proved the winner, in the 73rd minute. Each time Wiggin left goalkeeper Chandler standing with well-placed left-foot shots.

Wisbech were a trifle unfortunate to lose. No doubt they felt they were worthy of a point. Borough were definitely the better side in the first half and ought to have been leading by more than Wiggin's penalty goal.

The second half was unquestionably Wisbech's. As Borough fell away, the visitors slowly, but surely, took over the initiative and quite some time before Withers levelled the scores in the 70th minute with a hard crossshot, it seemed likely that they would score. Immediately before Withers' goal, Jennings all but had the ball in the Borough net. And right from the restart after Wiggin's second penalty, the Borough goal almost fell when, following a Woods' centre, the ball ran just wide of a post.

But Borough's luckiest escape came when, early in the second half, Flatt headed against the bar with Green beaten.

Once again Borough did not impress as marksmen. Indeed it has to be wondered whether they would have scored at all if they had not been awarded two penalties.

Jock Lauderdale Dies

The older generation of Nuneaton Borough supporters heard with regret of the death of Mr John (Jock) Lauderdale, the former Coventry City star who played for Borough during World War 2.

Jock was the idol of the Highfield Road crowd in the thirties. He joined Coventry City from Blackpool in 1931, and it was his skill that helped Clarrie Bourton to set up an all-time club record of 49 goals in 1932. Jock was a brilliant ball player and tactician.

Nuneaton Borough v Dartford

05-04-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, Brewerton, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, West, A. R. Jones.

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

The feature of this game was the amount of chances that Borough set up for themselves and then promptly discarded. It is really remarkable that a side having as many scoring chances as Borough, should have finished the game without having chalked up a single goal. Indeed neither set of forwards had much idea of the whereabouts of the net.

Twice only did Borough produce shots worthy of special attention. One was a smashing drive by Norman Ashe which brushed the crossbar with goalkeeper Bourne well beaten. Then there was a long shot by Ray Wiggin which Bourne dealt with confidently.

Otherwise the finishing of the Borough forwards was very poor indeed. And the fact that the Dartford forwards also had little to offer in the way of marksmanship made this a dull and uninteresting game.

Generally speaking the defence – for most of the time at any rate – had little to worry about, so poor was the shooting. Ralph Brown and Trevor West between them had a sufficient number of shooting chances to have given Borough a comfortable win, but they frittered them away.

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Dartford came closest to scoring when John Watts had twice made slips. First he let in Ripley and only a timely tackle by Roger Brewerton rescued Borough. Then, the centre half lost the ball to Stevens. This time Les Green came to Borough's rescue with a save near the post.

Despite these two incidents – plus an ill-directed back pass which caused the goalkeeper to dive smartly to clear – Green was not overburdened with work. What he did have to do, however, he did cleanly and confidently.

Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 10-04-1965

Rugby Town: Smethurst, Hinde, Lawton, Walker, Scott, B. Jones, Morrow, Walsh, Mellor, Denial, Carter.

Borough: Green, Thompson, Brewerton, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Wootton, Brown, A. Jones, Wiggin, A. R. Jones.

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

Relegation threatened Rugby Town picked up two valuable points from the near neighbours on Saturday evening. Having regard to Borough's comfortable placing in the league, the home side – and their supporters – must have been surprised with the ease with which their victory was achieved.

Rugby are by no means a good side, as their lowly position in the table indicates, but they were too good for a Borough side, which, after a fair first-half, just faded from the scene. There was little to choose between the two sides in the first-half, with the initiative swinging first one way and then the other. Neither side was able to maintain a sustained supremacy, and with neither showing much in the way of on-the-target shooting, it was not surprising that the half-way stage should have been reached without either side having managed to score.

However, there could be no doubting Rugby's second half superiority. They kept Borough on the defensive for long periods of the half, and once they had gone into the lead, there was really not much doubt that they would win. Little was seen of the Borough attack, which was more or less cut off from any support from behind, owing to Rugby's continued attacking.

Greatest threat to Borough was Alan Carter, the former Atherstone winger. It was from a vicious Carter inswinging corner on the right wing that Geoff Denial opened Rugby's account in the 55th minute, just after the same player had shot against the Borough bar.

Carter himself got Rugby's second goal 12 minutes from time, when, during a hot attack on the Borough goal, he hooked the ball into the net. Before the end Jimmy Walsh nearly added another when he shot against a post with Les Green beaten.

This was a most uninspiring Borough display. The changes made in attack did nothing to improve matters up front. In fact Smethurst was only tested on three occasions throughout the match, by Allen, Wiggin and Wootton.



Easter's cold, dismal weather made no difference to these young people as they took the plunge in the modern, heated surroundings of the new Pingles Swimming Bath. They were among 4,736 people who visited the baths between Easter Sunday and Tuesday. Photo: Nuneaton Observer

King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 16-04-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Brewerton, Allen, Wootton, Fretwell, Brown, West, A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to King's Lynn on Good Friday for a Southern League Premier Division game.

When they left the field together at the end of the match, two players, Nuneaton goalkeeper Green and Lynn inside-right King, were given a special ovation. They were the two men of the match. Had it not been for a brilliant display by Green, King would certainly have scored at least a hat-trick.

Nuneaton had to thank their defence and Green in particular for escaping a heavier defeat. The Borough attack was rarely in the picture, apart from one early raid during which goalkeeper Walls was lucky to scramble round the post a hot shot from the full-back Thompson.

King brought two fine saves from Green in the first five minutes and from then on the Nuneaton goalkeeper was the master. He was lucky when Thompson headed away a header by right-winger Bacon and when left-winger Partridge flashed a shot against the post, but he made many fine saves.

The deciding goal came after 63 minutes from inside-left Lythgoe, who netted from an opening by King.

Nuneaton Borough v Tonbridge 17-04-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, Brewerton, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, West, Wiggin, Brown, A. R. Jones.

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

After a rather drab first half display by both teams, Borough pulled out all the stops to hand out a crushing four goals to nil defeat to the visitors. Borough's first goal, which came ten minutes before the interval, was right against the run of play, for the Angels were the masters in all the early exchanges. Once again it was sound defensive work by Johnny Watts and Co. that prevented the home side from foundering on the rocks.

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The second half saw a revitalised Borough performance, and with the gale-force wind in their favour the home team gave the Tonbridge defence no peace. It was evident the tired-looking visiting defence would not hold out and indeed when the goals came they were well worth waiting for.

The game was held up for four minutes just after the interval when referee Mr J. B. Holmes, of Leicester, ordered the players off the field during a freak hailstorm. Les Green, however, stayed in his goal until play was resumed.

A bad defensive error by left-back Peter Lovell let in Norman Ashe to score Borough's first goal in the 35th minute. Somehow the full-back completely missed a ground cross from Wiggin, and Ashe darted in to squeeze the ball between keeper Fred Crump and a post.

Allan R. Jones had the simplest of tasks in firing the ball into an empty net ten minutes after the interval. Credit for the goal must go to Hopkin who harried centre-half Kilford into a careless clearance which left the goal at Jones' mercy. Borough's third goal came after 76 minutes and was right out of the picture book. Roger Thompson put in a long curling centre and before the Tonbridge defence could move Trevor West dived to meet the ball and his header zipped into the net.

Four minutes from the end Malcolm Allen carved out an opening for Ralph Brown, who gratefully accepted the chance. The wing-half's low cross was hammered first-time into the rigging from close range.

Borough were worth the points on the second-half showing alone. Had it not been for a sound defensive display the story could well have been a different one.

Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 19-04-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, Brewerton, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Arnold, Wiggin, Brown, West.

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

Borough ended their home matches on Easter Monday on a winning note – and in doing so amply avenged their 1-0 defeat at the hands of the Norfolk side on Good Friday. In conditions all against good football, Borough, by sheer persistence, twice found a way through a close covering defence, and although the visitors tried hard, particularly in the last 20 minutes, to get on level terms, they were repelled by a determined home rearguard.

A high wind and intermittent rain and hailstorms made ball control a difficult business, and it was to the credit of both teams that they managed to produce a fair number of worthwhile movements. The home side were troubled in the early stages by two lively wing raiders in Bacon and Partridge, but as Thompson and Brewerton gradually got on top of the situation, so Borough themselves gained the upper-hand, without being particularly dangerous in front of goal.

In this respect, both Wiggin and West wasted good chances

by delaying their final efforts and finding themselves dispossessed in the process.

A blinding hailstorm 30 minutes after the start caused the referee and players to seek refuge. With the resumption of play after a four minute break, it was again Borough who dominated the exchanges, but they had to wait until the 39th minute before going ahead. Thompson came up to take a free-kick from just outside the penalty area. His power drive through a wall of defenders was deflected by Wiggin, who had placed himself in their midst. The deflection saw the ball rocket past the helpless Walls and into the roof of the net.

The visitors could count themselves unlucky not to have been on even terms shortly before the interval. From way out on the left, Partridge swung in a high swirling cross which completely deceived Green, who misjudging its flight, fisted the ball into his own net. The referee, however, disallowed the goal because of an infringement in the area.

When West increased Borough's lead after 57 minutes, it served only to spur the Linnets into greater efforts. That they failed to reduce the deficit was due to some sterling defensive work in which skipper Watts played a prominent part.

Clive Hopkin also played a great part in Borough's win. His excursions into opponents' territory and constant probings caused the visitors' defence some anxious moments. A special word of praise, too, for young Glen Arnold, who made a useful debut in the senior side, working industriously throughout. It was from one of his efforts that Borough got that vital second goal. Walls could only parry the inside-forward's shot and the ball went straight out to West, who from the easiest of positions close in, made no mistake.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough 24-04-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Bewerton, Allen, Ashe, Arnold, Wiggin, West, A. R. Jones.

Borough made the journey to Yeovil Town for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Borough were saved from a heavier defeat in their last game of the season at the Huish by the fine goalkeeping of Les Green. Only in the closing stages did Nuneaton show any power in attack, and then Ray Wiggin was unlucky to have a goal disallowed. A linesman who raised his flag, failed to spot that Yeovil skipper Bill Albury, had played Wiggin inside.

It was Albury who won the game for the home team, seven minutes before the interval. He placed a free-kick into the far corner of the net from 20 yards after David Taylor had been brought down by Clive Hopkin.

Yeovil kept up a constant attack and Borough had to pack their defence to keep them out. Green had to work overtime in pulling down centres and clutching shots and headers from all directions. But even the capable and spectacular

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goalkeeper would have stood little chance had Brooks, Foley and Hirst been more accurate with their finishing.

Yeovil played into the hands of the Borough defence by insisting on making one pass too many. On most occasions centre-half Roger Brewerton was master of Foley, and full-backs Thompson and Jones tackled with determination. Apart from Wiggin's stroke of bad luck, the nearest Nuneaton came to scoring was when former England youth international Glen Arnold, was prevented from scoring by a brilliant diving save by David Jones.

While the Borough defence was as good as anything seen at the Huish this season, the attack was probably the weakest. Left-winger Allan Jones might have saved a point when put through by Arnold, but he pushed the ball too far forward and lost his chance. Norman Ashe had some promising moments, but made little progress against Harris. Ashe made a good effort near the end with a hard rising drive which screamed over the bar, but was out of the picture for most of the time.

Arnold seems to be a bright prospect. He could not maintain the cracking pace he set in the first-half, and this was hardly surprising. Borough's defensive system calls for hard-running inside forwards and the sharply sloping Huish pitch is inclined to tire the muscles of most players.

Had Nuneaton saved the game during their final spurt it would have been an injustice to Yeovil whose better football should have sealed the game long before the end. But for Green, whose lack of inches was made up by ability, Yeovil would have had the game in their pockets.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 26-04-1965

Borough travelled to Burton Albion on Monday evening to play a benefit match for Burton player Terry Finney.

The soccer produced by both teams was a credit to them. The crowd applauded as Finney, who has been with Burton for six years, led out his team onto the bone-hard pitch. Midway through the first-half sweeping rain made the conditions more difficult. Yet the standard of soccer was high and in the early stages the Borough attack had a see-saw battle with the home defence.

In fact, it was only a 28th minute flashing drive from 20 yards out by Allan Jones that caught Notts County goalkeeper, Peter Butler napping and gave Borough an interval lead. Earlier on a dipping shot from Staples rebounded off the upright with Les Green beaten.

After the break the Borough made two changes. Wootton and Charnell replaced Ashe and West. Charnell proved to be a real opportunist. Twice Butler could only parry shots from Allan Jones, and twice Charnell bobbed up to slam the rebounds home. He scored in the 47th and 90th minutes. Inside-right Tony Parry scored for Burton in the 55th and 83rd minutes.

Nuneaton Borough v Walsall 29-04-1965

Borough: Green, Thompson, Brewerton, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Wiggin, West, A. R. Jones.

Borough welcomed Walsall to Manor Park for a match in aid of the Borough Floodlight appeal.

Despite two penalty kicks – one scored and the other missed – Borough still could not contain Walsall's Third Division side on Thursday. A crowd of 2,019 people paid to see the game, and about £258 was raised for the appeal. The total now stands at approximately £444. Young Alan Clarke was the biggest threat to the home defence, and his speed and ball control was a headache to Johnny Watts and Co.

Holbutt put the visitors into the lead 12 minutes after the break when he slammed home a cross from Clarke. Three minutes later, Wiggin scored from the penalty spot after Allan Jones had been brought down by Gregg.

In the 65th minute Norman Ashe burst through a wall of defenders to put the ball wide of Carling into the corner of the net. Six minutes later Alan Clarke dribbled his way into the penalty area and netted from an acute angle.

Borough had a golden opportunity to take the lead ten minutes from the end, but Ashe rocketed the ball against the bar from a second penalty kick. Clarke flicked home a cross from Taylor three minutes from time to give Walsall victory.

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Weymouth	42	24	8	10	99	50	56
Guildford City	42	21	12	9	73	49	54
Worcester City	42	22	6	14	100	62	50
Yeovil Town	42	18	14	10	76	55	50
Chelmsford City	42	21	8	13	86	77	50
Margate	42	20	9	13	88	79	49
Dartford	42	17	11	14	74	64	45
Nuneaton Borough	42	19	7	16	57	55	45
Cambridge City	42	16	11	15	78	66	43
Bedford Town	42	17	9	16	66	70	43
Cambridge United	42	16	9	17	72	69	41
Cheltenham Town	42	15	11	16	72	78	41
Folkestone Town	42	17	7	18	72	79	41
Romford	42	17	7	18	61	70	41
King's Lynn	42	13	13	16	56	79	39
Tonbridge	42	10	16	16	66	75	36
Wellington Town	42	13	10	19	63	78	36
Rugby Town	42	15	6	21	71	98	36
Wisbech Town	42	14	6	22	75	91	34
Bexley United	42	14	5	23	67	74	33
Hastings United	42	9	14	19	58	86	32
Bath City	42	13	3	26	60	86	29



Season Review 1964-65

Nuneaton Borough FC did sufficiently well during the season just ended to finish seventh in the league table – the highest position they have ever achieved in the Premier Division of the Southern League.

Judged by any yardstick this is a most creditable performance, but to suggest that everything has been entirely satisfactory would be an exaggeration. Much of the team's success undoubtedly has been due to the solidarity of the defence, which was always the strong part of the team. Only infrequently was the attack able to match up to the high standard set by the defence, for while the forwards did reasonably well in building up attacks, they never found goalscoring an easy matter.

Attack Needs Most Attention

Manager Fred Badham has already announced that he is negotiating with a centre forward and inside man for next campaign. It could be new forward signings will not end there, since it is the attack which needs most attention.

Indeed, if the forward line can be so improved as to compare favourably with the defence, then there would seem to be no reason at all why the team should not do even better next season than during the one just ended.

Forwards who can shoot are Borough's most urgent need, since goals are the things that really matter – the magnet that pulls in the crowds. And there can be no doubt that the directors would be happy to see increased attendances at Manor Park.

Norman Ashe was the most consistent of the regular forwards, and it was fitting that he should have headed the club's goalscoring list. For a winger to be leading scorer is unusual. Until his transfer to Cambridge City, Brian Hart was playing very well indeed. Ray Wiggin, Ralph Brown and Allan Jones have rendered useful service without hitting the high-spots as marksmen, though Wiggin has proved himself a capable penalty kicker. Trevor West could be a most useful utility player.

Nearly all Borough's outstanding performers were in the defence, with goalkeeper Les Green the star. He played outstandingly well throughout the season and had few, if any, superiors in the league. His consistency was really remarkable.

When playing at centre-half, Johnny Lovatt, who had the cruel luck to break a leg against Bexley Heath at Manor Park on March 20 – this was a fate shared by two other players, Trevor Hubbard and Gordon Carter – gave some brilliant performances. When Lovatt was moved into the attack to try to improve things, Johnny Watts stepped in at centre-half. After settling in, the former Birmingham City player gave some solid displays.

Malcolm Allen and Clive Hopkin were strong, highly efficient wing halves who were nearly always in the thick of the fray, while Roger Thompson was a relentless, fearless tackler who never willingly gave best to any opposing winger. Roger Brewerton showed promise both at left back and centre-half.

Though Borough finished so high in the league – and for this they are to be given every credit – consistency was not one of their chief virtues, and some results, such as the FA Cup defeat by the Adders and those reverses at the hands of teams hovering near the foot of the table, were inexplicable.

Full Records

Borough's full playing record, the Burton benefit match and the Walsall game for the floodlights fund excluded, was:

P54 W26 D9 L19 F80 A74

Borough's home record in the league was:

P21 W15 D3 L3 F40 A18

League away record:

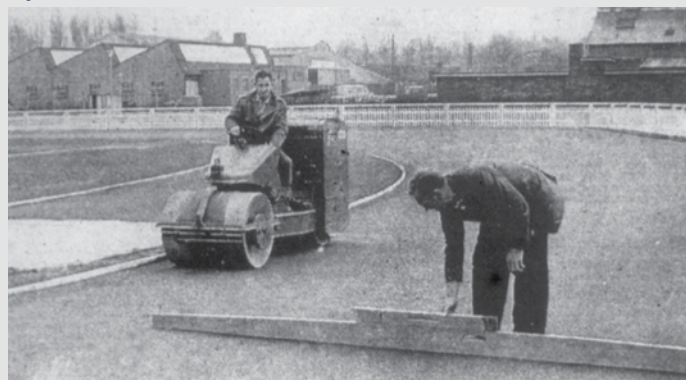
P21 W4 D4 L13 F17 A37

Goalscorers

Norman Ashe.....	13
Ralph Brown.....	11
Ray Wiggin.....	10
Brian Hart.....	9
John Lovatt.....	8
Allan Jones.....	7
Barrie Shorthose.....	5
Malcolm Allen.....	3
Ken Satchwell.....	3
Clive Hopkin.....	3
Trevor West.....	3
John Wootton.....	1
Alcock.....	1
Roger Thompson.....	1
Opponents.....	4

The highest home gate of the season was against Tamworth in the FA Cup (3,179) and the lowest gate was against Cambridge United on December 10 (667).

Sports And Athletics Track



Workmen put the finishing touches to Nuneaton's new £11,500 sports and athletic track ready for the official opening of the Pingles Sports Centre by the Mayor, Coun. H. Rowston. The track is only one of many sporting facilities provided in the Centre and the total cost, including the baths is about £420,000.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer



Loughborough United — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to meet Loughborough United in a 1st Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Loughborough: Upton, Dunn, Cooper, Scothern, Hodges, Mann, Smith, Richards, Hopkins, Walker, Lister.

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Birch, Allen, Satchwell, Brown, Wiggin, Hart, Ashe.

After throwing away a whole series of scoring chances in the first half, including yet another penalty kick, Borough had to struggle throughout the second period.

The visitors had so many scoring chances in the opening half that the game should have been well and truly sewn up by the half way stage. By far the easiest of these chances were the two missed by centre-forward Ray Wiggin, even though the ball rolled against a post on the second occasion, and the penalty kick which Roger Thompson slammed against a post, after Ashe had been brought down in the penalty area.

It was odd, having missed so many tailor-made chances that Borough should have scored when a goal seemed least likely in the dying seconds of the half. Following a long goal kick by Les Green, Trevor Birch sent the ball out to Ralph Brown, who was roaming on the right wing. Brown ran in a few yards and then unleashed a shot which fairly ripped into the roof of the net.

Borough crossed over a goal to the good when it should have been at least three or four. Realising that something just had to be done to improve things up front, Borough made second half changes in attack. Wiggin was moved from the middle to outside-left, Ashe, who had operated there in the absence through injury of Allan Jones, taking over his customary position at outside-right. Ken Satchwell moved from outside right to centre-forward.

Borough's midfield superiority disappeared and Loughborough were

now very much in the game. Indeed only a superb save by Les Green from Stan Hodges' header prevented the home side from drawing level.

Then, in the 70th minute, Wiggin sent Malcolm Allen through to beat goalkeeper Upton with a well-placed shot to give Borough what appeared to be a 2-0 winning lead.

But in the very next minute, Allen was adjudged to have fouled an opponent in the penalty area and Mann reduced the lead from the spot.

The fight was now really on. Brown missed an excellent chance of restoring Borough's two-goal lead, while Ken Satchwell had atrocious luck with a shot which rattled the bar. Just before the end Smith missed a chance of saving the game for Loughborough.

Tamworth — 2nd Qualifying Round

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

Borough: Green, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Ashe, Brown, Satchwell, Wiggin, Hart.

Tamworth: Cashmore, Allsopp, Bonham, Sims, Coggins, Plows, D. Smith, G. Smith, Bayliss, Seedhouse, Morrow.

Even though this was only Tamworth's second defeat in 34 games, the best that can be said of Borough is that they won. That having been said, the manner of their performance was a long way short of convincing.

Borough's winning goal came just five minutes before the end – just at a point in the proceedings when it looked as though a replay would be necessary.

Twenty-five minutes after Borough had taken the lead – their goal came in the 49th minute – Tamworth drew level after a series of determined attacks on the home goal.

The Borough defence, with the exception of John Lovatt, who was outstanding throughout, did not cover itself with glory when, for the

first time, the visitors really looked like a side boasting so remarkable a playing record. Tamworth's equaliser was thoroughly deserved and it was anybody's game – until five minutes from the end when Borough snatched their winner.

Even then Tamworth were not licked, and as the sands of time were running out for them, they caused Les Green to make a daring save at the feet of Bayliss and then to concede a corner.

Tamworth certainly went down with flying colours. They could be forgiven for feeling they did not deserve to lose.

The first-half was as dull as dull could be. Goals looked unlikely until the 49th minute when Wiggin failed to properly connect with a Hart cross, the ball ran to Ken Satchwell, who swivelled round and drove the ball home.

Not long afterwards the Borough goal had a remarkable escape when John Bayliss, with a yawning net in front of him, shot against a post. The ball rebounded across goal and was then scrambled away.

Tamworth drew level in the 74th minute when Seedhouse made an opening for Graham Smith to put the ball into the net well out of Les Green's reach.

It was a foul on Satchwell by Coggins that paved the way for Borough's winning goal. Malcolm Allen's free-kick ran loose and eventually went to Norman Ashe who, from 25 yards out, found the corner of the net.

Atherstone Town — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to take on Atherstone Town in a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Atherstone: Crosby, Pyle, Archer, Dougall, Morris, Awde, Hicks, O'Brien, Horton, Wassall, Carter.

Borough: Green, Thompson, Dean, Hopkin, Lovatt, Allen, Hart, Brown, Satchwell, Shorthose, Jones.

Borough tried all they knew on Saturday in an attempt to oust

Atherstone from the FA Cup, but the home team's tenacity and fighting spirit earned them a 1-1 draw.

It is doubtful that anyone would have begrudged Atherstone the right to a replay, even though the Borough held a one goal advantage until five minutes from time.

In fact, the Borough goal took a real pounding mid-way through the second-half, when Atherstone did everything but get the ball past Les Green.

The game was marred by petty fouls, and after a melee involving Shorthose, Dougall and O'Brien the referee took O'Brien's name.

Nuneaton were the superior side as far as footballing ability was concerned and it was no surprise when Barrie Shorthose popped up to head a free-kick by Lovatt past Crosby after 33 minutes. Prior to the goal Lovatt had gone close on a number of occasions and was the only Borough forward who looked like scoring.

Apart from one or two dashes through the middle Ken Satchwell did little else. He was closely watched by centre-half Paul Morris.

Borough's strength and midfield supremacy stemmed from Johnny Lovatt and Clive Hopkin, who both put in good performances. Hopkin did a tremendous amount of work and often went up front in an effort to boost Borough's attack. Johnny Lovatt seldom put a foot wrong and Atherstone centre-forward Horton could never make an impression on the Borough captain.

When, however, a ball escaped the tall centre-half, Les Green was always on hand to eliminate the danger. Tony Wassall, who scored Atherstone's goal five minutes from time, should have cut Borough's lead in the first half. With only Green to beat, the inside-forward delayed his shot and stumbled to have the ball whipped away from him by Roger Thompson,

who was faced by Atherstone's most dangerous forward Alan Carter.

Borough threw everything into attack after Atherstone had equalised and the home spectators' hearts were in their mouths when Johnny Lovatt moved up front for a corner in the dying seconds of the game. The Borough captain got his head to the ball, but Morris booted the ball away.

Atherstone Town — 3rd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Atherstone Town to Manor Park for a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Cup replay.

Borough: Green, Thompson, Dean, Birch, Lovatt, Watts, Wootton, Hopkin, Satchwell, Wiggin, A. R. Jones.

Atherstone: Crosby, Pyle, Archer, Dougall, Morris, Awde, Hicks, O'Brien, Horton, Wassall, Carter.

Borough were shocked on Thursday night when they were beaten 5-2 by West Midlands League side Atherstone. A goal behind at half-time, the Adders fought back and rocked Nuneaton with four second half goals.

No-one could deny Atherstone their well-earned win, for they were the better team. Borough lacked method

and in the second-half wilted in the face of the Adders determined raids.

Carter opened the scoring for Adders in the 22nd minute with Les Green unsuspected after a cross by Hicks eluded the Borough defence. One minute later Allan Jones equalised with a header from a cross by Wootton.

Borough took the lead with 34 minutes gone when Allan Jones completed a fine solo run to beat Crosby with a great shot that went in off a post. Five minutes from half-time Watts had his name taken for a foul on O'Brien.

Seven minutes after the interval Hicks put Atherstone back into the picture. Following a neat movement between Hicks and Wassall the right winger's shot hit Thompson and slid past the helpless Les Green. In the 54th minute Lovatt attempted a pass back to Green, but it was intercepted by Wassall, who beat the keeper with a fierce shot.

O'Brien scored for Adders from a pass by Hicks, following a free-kick, after 60 minutes and Carter completed the scoring in the 74th minute.

A minute from time Lovatt was sent off the field for arguing with the referee.



Ralph Brown is challenged by Crosby, the Adders' goalkeeper, and two other defenders as he tries to break through.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer



Nuneaton Borough 1964-65

Back Row (left to right): Clive Hopkin, Ralph Brown, Roger Brewerton, Malcolm Allen, Roger Thompson, Ray Wiggin.

Front Row (left to right): Trevor West, Norman Ashe, Les Green, John Watts, Allan Jones.

Photograph taken on April 29th before Borough Floodlight Appeal game v Walsall

Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1964-65

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
08.18	Aston Villa	H	F	3-3		2,857
08.22	Bedford Town	A	L	2-3	Ashe (2)	2,857
08.26	Weymouth	A	L	0-4		2,850
08.29	Cheltenham Town	H	L	0-2		2,510
08.31	Burton Albion	H	SLC1 1st Leg	1-0	Wiggin	2,239
09.05	Loughborough United	A	FAC 1Q	2-1	Brown, Allen	1,260
09.07	Atherstone Town	H	BSC1	3-3	A. R. Jones, Satchwell, o.g.	1,667
09.10	Burton Albion	A	SLC1 2nd Leg	1-0	Wiggin	1,617
09.12	Worcester City	H	L	3-2	Brown (2), Hopkins	2,937
09.14	Weymouth	H	L	2-1	Satchwell, Hart	2,486
09.15	Atherstone Town	A	BSC1 Replay	3-0	Wootton, Shorthose, Alcock	952

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1964-65

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
09.19	Tamworth	H	FAC 2Q	2-1	Satchwell, Ashe	3,179
09.21	Cambridge United	A	L	1-1	Hart	3,379
09.26	Margate	H	L	2-2	Shorthose, A. R. Jones	3,026
10.03	Atherstone Town	A	FAC 3Q	1-1	Shorthose	2,200
10.08	Atherstone Town	H	FAC 3Q Replay	2-5	A. R. Jones (2)	1,719
10.10	Hednesford	H	BSC 2	4-0	o.g., Shorthose, Brown, A. N. Other	1,296
10.17	Cambridge City	H	L	3-1	Brown (2), Shorthose	1,917
10.24	Guildford City	A	L	1-2	Hart	2,077
10.31	Wellington Town	H	L	0-0		2,049
11.07	Lower Gornal	H	BSC 3	2-1	Brown, Ashe	1,487
11.14	Bexley United	A	L	1-0	Ashe	741
11.21	Wisbech Town	A	L	0-0		1,147
11.28	Rugby Town	H	L	3-0	Hart (2, 1 pen), Hopkin	2,181
12.05	Tonbridge	A	L	0-3		777
12.10	Cambridge United	H	SLC 2	2-4	Hart (2)	661
12.12	Bedford Town	H	L	2-1	Hart, Wiggin	1,441
12.19	Cheltenham Town	A	L	1-1	Allen	996
12.26	Hastings United	H	L	1-0	Hart	2,217
12.28	Hastings United	A	L	1-3	Lovatt	973
01.02	Cambridge United	H	L	2-0	Lovatt (pen), Wiggin	2,109
01.09	Romford	H	L	1-2	Ashe	1,507
01.16	Kidderminster Harriers	A	BSC S-F	0-3		1,158
01.18	Worcester City	A	L	1-3	Lovatt	2,868
01.23	Folkestone Town	H	L	3-1	Brown (2), Wiggin	1,750
01.30	Romford	A	L	3-1	Ashe, Lovatt, A. R. Jones	2,484
02.06	Margate	A	L	2-1	Lovatt (2)	1,669
02.13	Bath City	H	L	2-4	Lovatt (pen), West	1,846
02.20	Chelmsford City	H	L	1-0	Allen	1,682
02.27	Cambridge City	A	L	2-1	o.g., Wiggin	2,783
03.06	Guildford City	H	L	3-1	Ashe (2), A. R. Jones	2,308
03.08	Bath City	A	L	0-2		1,636
03.13	Wellington Town	A	L	0-1		1,842
03.15	Chelmsford	A	L	1-3	Lovatt	2,085
03.20	Bexley United	H	L	2-0	Ashe (2)	1,176
03.24	Folkestone	A	L	1-4	Wiggin (pen)	1,168
03.27	Dartford	A	L	0-0		993
03.29	Yeovil Town	H	L	2-0	Thompson, Brown	2,211
04.03	Wisbech Town	H	L	2-1	Wiggin (2 pens)	1,894
04.05	Dartford	H	L	0-0		1,899
04.10	Rugby Town	A	L	0-2		1,730
04.16	King's Lynn	A	L	0-1		1,929
04.17	Tonbridge	H	L	4-0	Ashe, A. R. Jones, West, Birch	1,887
04.19	King's Lynn	H	L	2-0	Thompson, West	1,864
04.24	Yeovil	A	L	0-1		1,965
04.26	Burton Albion	A	F	3-2	A. R. Jones, Charnell (2)	
04.29	Walsall	H	F	2-3	Wiggin (pen), Ashe	2,019

KEY: L = Southern League North Western Section, FAC = F.A.Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, SLC = Southern League Cup, NHC = Nuneaton Hospital Cup



Floodlights At Manor Park In September

Floodlights are to be installed at Manor Park in September. This fact was revealed yesterday in a statement by the Nuneaton Borough Football Club Board of Directors, who said that although the Floodlights Appeal Fund stood at only about £400, the decision to go ahead had been made. The floodlights will be the tungsten iodized type.

It was also stated that negotiations for Notts County centre forward Jim Raynor had fallen through, but it was hoped to sign another League player within the next week or two.

Negotiations had been completed for a number of players and an entirely new forward line would be on view next season.

A new pools promotion scheme will come into operation on July 10 and an office had been secured in Abbey Street for the purpose of selling tickets.

The statements also pointed out that Mr Fred Badham had been appointed general manager. It was intended to appoint an assistant manager, as Mr Badham would be in charge of the pools promotion as well as team selection and administration.

A lot of hard work has been put into the renovation of the pitch during the close season, and a considerable amount of money spent on the playing surface.

The Board had not so far received any inquiries about goalkeeper Les Green, who has been placed on the transfer list at his own request.

Borough Signings Next Week

Nuneaton Borough general manager, Mr Fred Badham, said yesterday that he was still looking for a man to fill the post of assistant manager.

He said he had a short list of three players in mind and he expected to make an appointment within the next three or four days.

Goalkeeper Les Green was signed by Burton Albion on Wednesday, for what Mr Badham termed a "small fee." Mr Badham is now looking for a man to replace Green and he hopes to announce a full-list of playing staff next week.

Players report to Manor Park for pre-season training on Thursday, July 22.

Billy Hails Appointed Assistant Manager

Twenty-nine years old Billy Hails, who gained championship medals with Northampton in Division III and with Peterborough in Division IV, has been appointed assistant manager and a full-time player with Nuneaton Borough, it was announced yesterday.

The signings of three other players, all of whom played in league football last season was also announced. They are Tim Rawlins (Port Vale), Bob Murray (Dunfermline) and Terry Bell (Portsmouth).

Billy Hails is primarily an outside right, but he has also played at inside-forward. He spent seven years, during which time he made 300 appearances, with Peterborough in their rise from the Midland League to Division IV. He was transferred to Northampton for a substantial fee and made over 40 appearances in the Division II side. Last season he was with Luton Town.

Hails is to help Mr Fred Badham (general manager) with the daily draw and with coaching, being a fully qualified FA coach. He is 5ft 9½ins tall and weighs 10st. 8lb. Married, he has three children and will be coming to live in the Nuneaton area.

Bob Murray, who is 21 years of age, has been a centre forward or inside forward with Dunfermline, who finished second in the Premier Scottish Division last year and were Scottish Cup finalists. He started his career with West Bromwich Albion and is a Scottish youth international. He made a number of first team appearances with Dunfermline last year. He is now returning to the Midlands and will be married at West Bromwich tomorrow. He is to live and work in Nuneaton.

Tim Rawlins, aged 31, married, was with Port Vale last year. A centre-half or wing-half, he is noted for his rugged style of play. Was previously with Walsall, although he started his career with West Bromwich Albion. He is 5ft. 11ins. tall and weighs 12st. 4lb.

Terry Bell, aged 20, is 5ft. 10ins. and weighs 11st. 4lb. He is an inside-forward from Portsmouth. Earlier he was noted for his good ball play with Burton Albion. Coventry City were chasing him two years ago, but he decided to join Portsmouth. He is now living in Nuneaton.

Mr Badham has also announced three more new signings:

Kevin Cornwell (23), 6ft. 2½ins. tall and weighing 12st. 4lb., a centre-forward or inside forward. Was with Cheltenham last year and previously played with Oxford United.

Michael Potts (19), goalkeeper, was with Stratford Town last season. He is 5ft. 10ins. tall and weighs 11st. 8lb., and comes from Sutton Coldfield. Son of Vic Potts, former Aston Villa full-back and former Walsall trainer.

Brian Naylor (22), an amateur who made a number of Central League appearances with Aston Villa last season. He is a wing-half or full-back.

Mr Badham said that at the moment he was negotiating with a goalkeeper and an outside-left and hoped to announce the signings within the next few days. He announced that Norman Ashe had re-signed for the club. John Lovatt was now out of plaster and on holiday but no agreement with him had yet been reached.

Allan Jones (outside left) and Ray Wiggin, who were originally offered terms, but had refused them, were put on the open-to-transfer list. Mr Badham said he had had an inquiry about Jones from Rugby Town...

Borough FC Lost £860 Last Season

A nett loss of £860 8s. 3d., increasing the adverse balance from £5,635 2s. 3d. to £6,495 19s. 5d., was reported at the annual meeting of Nuneaton Borough Association Football Club Ltd., on Tuesday night.

Mr R. S. Bull, the chairman, commented that it seemed increasingly obvious that it was well nigh impossible to run a Southern League side without the assistance of the Improvement Association, which runs the daily draw.

The Improvement Association raised £10,734, as against £5,763 and £3,447 for ground improvements, the previous year.

So far as the playing season was concerned, Mr Bull said that the club did quite well except for the disastrous exit from the FA Cup. The team finished higher than it had ever done in the Southern League and the manager, Mr Fred Badham, was to be congratulated on the achievement.

The directors, said Mr Bull, had decided to install floodlights and it was hoped that this amenity would be appreciated and supported accordingly. "I don't want to make any predictions for the future," said Mr Bull, "but if the team is successful, everything else will fall in automatically.



Nuneaton Borough players are back in training for the new season. Here they are seen tuning up their muscles to concert pitch, in readiness for a challenge for Southern League honours. Photos: Nuneaton Observer



The main picture shows Malcolm Allen and Terry Bell practicing tackling under the watchful eye of Fred Badham, while the smaller photo shows Malcolm Allen giving a confident wink ahead of the new season and Bob Murray showing off his ball control. Photos: Nuneaton Observer

Start On Floodlights Next Week

Workmen move into Manor Park on Tuesday morning to start laying the cables for Nuneaton Borough FC's floodlights.

It is understood that within eight weeks the lights will be ready to use.

Borough Announce More New Signings

Nuneaton Borough general-manager Mr Fred Badham has signed 22-year-old Geoffrey Jepson, a utility forward, who Mr Badham spotted playing for Cheltenham. Former Nottingham Forest player, Jepson moved west while studying at Bristol University to become a teacher and has now completed his studies.

Borough have also obtained the signature of 28-year-old goalkeeper Tony Lines from Burton Albion.

1965-66

Nuneaton Borough v Leicester City

14-08-1965

Borough: Lines (M. Potts), Thompson (A. Jones), Brewerton, Hopkin, Watts, Allen (Rawlings), Hails (Ashe), Bell, Murray (Jepson), Cornwell, Carter.

Leicester: Shilton, B. Potts, McDermott, Clark, Woollett, Dougan, Riley, Tewley, Goodfellow, Mackay, Matthews.

Borough welcomed a Leicester City XI to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly.

The visitors chose to play the offside trap and they did this so effectively that time after time Borough's forwards were caught in the trap when only a few yards inside the Leicester half. The home forwards could not master the challenge of a well-drilled visiting defence, and the game dwindled into a boring affair as the stoppages for offside offences continued.

On the face of it the 6-1 result in Leicester's favour does not shed an encouraging light on Borough's prospects. However, it must be remembered that the score was 1-1 after 45 minutes play.

During the first-half the home side were more of a match for the young Leicester side, and in fact, Alan Carter put Borough in front after only seven minutes. Billy Hails and Clive Hopkin combined down the left flank to give the left winger his chance.

All the Borough forwards showed good ball control, but their inability to break down the visiting defence was a mystery. Malcolm Allen adopted the right tactics when he attempted a go-it-alone run into the heart of the Leicester half. Allen's example went unheeded and the attack faded.

Several dashes down the right wing by the diminutive Norman Ashe caused the visiting defence a headache, but otherwise the side was not strengthened. Rawlings was a

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trifle slow off the mark and Jepson saw very little of the ball at centre-forward.

Leicester were a much fitter and faster side than the Borough and it was evident that full-time training had paid dividends. Tewley (13 and 48 minutes), Dougan (51 minutes), Matthews (65 minutes) and Goodfellow (81 and 83 minutes) scored for the visitors.



A powerful drive from Bob Murray is tipped over the bar by Leicester goalkeeper Shilton.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Nuneaton Borough v Aston Villa 16-08-1965

Borough: Lines, Thompson, Brewerton, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Hails, Bell, Murray, Cornwell (Ashe), Carter.

Villa: Gavan, Lee, Briggs, Parker, Pountney, MacEwan, Rudge, Stobart, Shillock, Bloomfield, Martin.

Borough welcomed Aston Villa Reserves to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly.



Aston Villa goalkeeper Gavan dives in vain as Terry Bell's shot hits the back of the net for Nuneaton Borough's first goal on Monday evening.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Opportunity knocked just twice for Borough, but it was enough to give them victory over a Villa side which included eight men with first-team experience. For Borough fans it was their last chance to see the team in action before they open their league programme against Worcester City. More than 1,700 turned up, hoping that Saturday's sad story would be wiped away and forgotten. They were not disappointed.

Borough, though not producing form which will win league honours, played attractive soccer and in the end deserved their win. But it was not any individual brilliance which earned it. Simply it was rugged team effort and unselfishness which finally broke Villa's defence.

A three-man movement in the 43rd minute which led up to Borough's first goal typified their team work. Centre forward Murray pushed a through ball to Hails and from the winger's cross Bell rose high to head home.

Villa had held a slight edge in the first-half. They had struck the woodwork and caused goalkeeper Lines and the rest of the defence some anxious moments. Twice full-back Thompson had cleared off the line. But in the second half Borough found their confidence and inspired by Bell's goal, created more room in which they could work. However, it was not all honey and in the 56th minute Stobart put Villa on level terms.

As the game went on, Borough improved more and more, but it was not until the 85th minute that they regained the lead. Ashe, who replaced Cornwell for the second half, scored a great goal from a fine pass by winger Alan Carter.

Though manager Fred Badham must be very pleased with his team's performance, his problems are by no means over. The need for a good inside-forward is still urgent and in this match was heavily underlined.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 21-08-1965

Worcester: George, Peck, Palin, McEwan, Madley, Clamp, Deeley, Ward, Reeves, Crawley, McParland.

Borough: Lines, Thompson, Brewerton, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Hails, Bell, Murray, Cornwell, Carter.

Borough made the journey to St George's Lane for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough trailed on three occasions during the match, but they fought back to level on two occasions and were unlucky not to bring a point home.

Worcester were no more workmanlike in their approaches than Borough and gained their victory through a gift goal. Playing as a team, Borough moved well and often pressured the home defence. Their forward line certainly matched the expensive Worcester attack which featured two ex-international players.

Clutching a one goal lead given them by McParland in the 24th minute, Worcester had it snatched from them within seconds of the re-start. Borough attacked and levelled through Bell, after winger Hails had crossed perfectly. Three minutes later Worcester regained the lead, Deeley scoring from the spot. The penalty was hotly disputed by Borough players, but the referee claimed that a McParland shot had been handled.

Barely had the cries of the 4,000 crowd died before Hails gave Cornwell the chance to equalise for the visitors. Rising high, Cornwell gave goalkeeper George no chance with his header.

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When it seemed that Borough would bring home a point, Worcester scored through a gift goal. Lines, distracted as a hopeful shot by Ward trickled goalwards, allowed the ball to slip past him and into the net via a post.

It was a cruel blow to a Borough side which, after having fought so well, deserved a point. Their only consolation is the thought that if they can maintain the form shown in this game, points should not be hard to come by in the future.

Nuneaton Borough v Tonbridge United 23-08-1965

Borough: Lines, Thompson, Brewerton, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Hails, Bell, Murray, Cornwell, Carter.

Tonbridge: Seymour, Carolan, Lovell, Truett, Kilford, Hillings, Saunders, Anderson, Jones, Taylor, Kemp.

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

Borough's inability to match Tonbridge's soccer prowess and the fact that the equalising goal was debatable, cost the home side two points. Borough opened the scoring in the eleventh minute when Cornwell scored a beautifully executed goal to give them the lead. Alan Carter flashed past full-back Joe Carolan and squared the ball back across the goal-line. Cornwell found it the simplest of tasks to side-foot the ball into the net.

The goal that surprised the players as well as the 3,420 spectators came a minute later when inside-left Bob Taylor appeared to handle the ball in bringing it under control, and the home defence ignored the policy of playing to the whistle. Taylor nipped past two Borough defenders as they hesitated and the ball was nestling in the back of the net before Tony Lines had moved. The fact that Johnny Watts and his colleagues waited for that vital few second cost Borough the lead and put new heart into the Kent side.

After a bright start the home team faded and allowed Tonbridge to gain the upper hand. Both in attack and defence the Borough were inferior to Tonbridge, whose forwards missed several simple chances from close in.

Without suffering a tackle outside-right John Saunders slipped through a wall of Borough defenders to score the visitors' winner in the fourteenth minute. Why the home rearguard did not make a decisive challenge to prevent the winger's threat was a mystery.

Even though Saunders was allowed to get in his shot, Lines was slow to the ball. The winger's effort was well-placed, but lacked power. Every one of the Borough forwards showed great promise in their midfield play, but when it came to finishing off a move, the vital punch was lacking.

One player who earned the admiration of the crowd was Tonbridge's 16-year-old goalkeeper Ian Seymour. Deputising for Fred Crump, Seymour put in a display worthy of the honour bestowed upon him. What the frail-looking keeper lacked in inches he made up for in anticipation and courage.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 28-08-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Brewerton, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Hails, Ashe, Bell, Murray, Carter.

Cambridge: Heath, Carroll, Dennis, Pearce, McGugan, McNally, McVittie, Ward, Bailham, Gregory, Wall.

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

A faulty Borough defence and a punchless attack gave Cambridge a slender, but deserved 1-0 victory. The usually sound home defence was caught napping far too often, and had it not been for a sparkling debut in the Borough goal by Bill Wilson, who was signed 2½ hours before the kick-off from Tranmere Rovers, the City forwards may have had more goals.

The slightly-built keeper made an impressive start to his football career at Nuneaton. His lightning reactions in stopping a shot from point blank range by Alan Gregory in the 27th minute earned him a warm round of applause.

Borough lacked bite in the half-back line where Clive Hopkin and Malcolm Allen did not dominate the midfield play as well as they have done in the past, and Hopkin in particular was often caught in possession. However, Johnnie Watts was always prominent in defence and coped admirably in handling ex-Eire international Eddie Bailham. Apart from one or two minor slips in defence, the Borough matched their visitors in soccer skills during the first-half, and it seemed the game would continue to be a close tussle after the break.

A scrambled goal from Bailham in the 65th minute knocked a lot of the fight out of the Borough. Wilson parried a fierce drive from Gerry Ward and the centre-forward hammered the ball home on his second attempt.

As in the other two games played so far, the Borough attack looked menacing until the time came for a move to be finished off. The inclusion of Norman Ashe for Kevin Cornwell did infuse a little more fire into the line, but it was not enough to cause the Cambridge rearguard a great deal of trouble.

Terry Bell, who had earlier seen two good efforts well-saved by Bill Heath, wasted a perfect opportunity to salvage a point. With eleven minutes left to play City right-half Reg Pearce completely missed the ball in his own penalty area and Bell found himself with the ball at his feet. Unfortunately Bell rushed his shot, which rebounded to safety via the crossbar.

Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 30-08-1965

Hereford: Wallace, Vale, Timms, McCall, Daniel, McIntosh, Punter, Rodgerson, Fogg, Derrick, Jones.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Brewerton, Rawlings, Watts, Allen, Hails, Hopkin, Bell, Murray, Carter.

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

Two goals in the last eight minutes enabled Borough to finish level on Monday night. At one period they seemed to be

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heading for their fourth successive defeat, but Hereford lost their grip on the game after skipper Ray Daniel had missed a penalty mid-way through the second half.

In the first-half Hereford did all the attacking and would have built up a big lead but for fine goalkeeping by Bill Wilson. Centre-forward Ron Fogg, an expensive close-season signing from Aldershot, put them ahead in the seventh minute, and inside-left Albert Derrick added a second in the 17th minute.

Little was seen of the Nuneaton attack, but mid-way through the half Terry Bell stormed through to crack a 20 yards shot into the corner of the net. Hereford, however, continued to dictate matters and winger Freddie Jones added a third for them in the 42nd minute.

After the interval Borough tightened their defence and when they survived Daniel's penalty miss, came storming back into the picture. They reduced the arrears in the 82nd minute when Alan Carter, the pick of the forwards, moved into the middle to collect a right-wing cross. With the home defence standing still, he cracked the ball home just under the crossbar.

This threw the home team completely out of gear and a minute from the end Bob Murray got the equaliser after a free-kick from Hails had been blocked by a wall of defenders. With only seconds left Hereford tried hard to get in front again, but a header from Daniel was kicked off the line.

Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 06-09-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Jones, Rawlings, Watts, Hopkin, Ashe, Bell, Callaghan, Allen, Carter.

Hereford: Wallace, Vale, Timms, McCall, Daniel, McIntosh, Punter, Rodgeron, Fogg, Derrick, Jones.

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

Although they were two goals up in three minutes, Borough could do no better than draw with Hereford on Monday. After the two games the teams are level at 5-5.

Borough opened the scoring in the first minute when Callaghan, Bell and Allen combined to give Alan Carter a clear shot at goal from eight yards out. The roar from the crowd had hardly died down when Norman Ashe popped up on the goal-line to prod home a cross from Carter in the third minute. Hereford, however, settled down and Freddie Jones headed home from a corner by Rodgeron.

Three minutes from the interval Albert Derrick equalised with one of the best goals seen at Manor Park for some time. Ron Fogg and Johnny Watts both went for the ball, but it ran loose to the inside-left who had his back to the goal. He turned round on the spot and his fierce shot billowed the roof of the net with the Borough defence scrambling into position.

After the early purple patch which produced their two goals, Borough's form declined, and it was obvious long before the end that the changes made in the Borough side are hardly

likely to bring about the improvement required. Punch is badly needed in the inside forward positions.

Callaghan, who led the attack tried hard without creating many big problems for Ray Daniel, the Hereford pivot, while Malcolm Allen is not likely to produce the marksmanship needed. Norman Ashe did fairly well.

The defence, once the visitors had settled down found it no easy task to keep the Hereford forwards at bay. Johnny Watts performed usefully at centre-half, while Bill Wilson did all that was required of him in goal. But, so far at any rate, the defence, generally, is not nearly so solid as last season and, like the attack, will have to show much better form if Borough are to get away from the bottom position in the Premier Division of the Southern League.

Borough had a great chance of winning the game, in the 76th minute when they were awarded a penalty for a foul on Norman Ashe. But Carter put the spot kick straight at Wallace and the ball was cleared.

Romford v Nuneaton Borough 11-09-1965

Romford: Ames, McDonald, Gitsham, Reed, White, Gibbs, Sanders, Aggio, Kelly, Tapping, Barnett.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Jones, Brewerton, Watts, Hopkin, Ashe, Callaghan, Bell, Allen, Carter.

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

After taking a hammering for most of the game at Brooklands Stadium, Borough snatched a dramatic win when Alan Carter scored with the last kick of the match. It was a tremendous shock to Romford who in the first-half looked capable of overwhelming their defensive-minded opponents.

But full credit must be given to Nuneaton, who repeated their victory on the same ground last season. And once again Romford were caught napping by a side which had the courage to back up their ideas.

Romford were so much on top, however, that it seemed that courage was not enough. The only danger to the Essex side was that they might run out of steam in their constant bombardment. To a certain extent this did happen, yet when Tom Barnett gave Romford the lead nine minutes after the start, it looked all so easy. Barnett found the net after Wilson had pushed out a header by Kelly.

Former Scottish junior international Wilson performed wonders in the Nuneaton goal. The most overworked player on the field, he saved his side with agile and daring saves. Barnett threw up his hands in frustration as Wilson grabbed one shot from the line and moments later he flicked a goal-bound header from Aggio over the bar.

The first sign that Romford were not going to have matters all their own way came after 20 minutes. There seemed little danger to Romford when Clive Hopkin collected a ball

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in midfield, but after forcing his way through he took full advantage of the element of surprise. The ball was in the back of the net before Ames fully realised the threat.

Romford continued to overwhelm Nuneaton, but they could not find a way through a packed defence in which the experience of Johnny Watts was particularly evident. Sanders should have restored Romford's lead in the second half. Wilson had just dealt with a bullet-like volley from Kelly and was out of position, but Sanders was too hasty and banged the ball yards over the top.

Almost cheekily Nuneaton began to hit back and the tall Carter sent out a warning with a flashing drive which Ames did well to pull down. The Romford defence was guilty of being too casual. They granted the Borough forwards too much space and had Callaghan been sharper they might have been in trouble much earlier.

They did not learn their lesson, however, and as the referee was about to blow for time, Alan Carter robbed Gitsham to score a goal which must have been a bigger surprise to Nuneaton than it was to Romford.

Tonbridge United v Nuneaton Borough 15-09-1965

Tonbridge: Seymour, Carolan, Lovell, Truett, Kilford, Hilling, Saunders, Anderson, Jones, Taylor, Kemp.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, A. Jones, Brewerton, Watts, Hopkin, Ashe, Hails, Wiggin, Allen, Carter.

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

A goal on the stroke of half-time was enough for Nuneaton to clinch this game on Wednesday at Tonbridge's Angel Ground. A defensive mix-up between Joe Carolan and John Kilford let Norman Ashe, the visitors' dangerous outside-right, through, and with only Seymour to beat he shot the ball into the corner of the net. By winning Borough had full revenge for their 2-1 defeat at Manor Park.

Before the goal and, indeed, afterwards, neither team looked like scoring a goal – Tonbridge due to the hard tackling of the Nuneaton defence, and the visitors because of their own ineptitude rather than because of the efforts of the Angel's defence.

Tonbridge's leading goalscorer Alan Jones was carefully marked and was given very few opportunities to show his ability as a marksman. Borough keeper Bill Wilson pulled off several good saves to ease the situation for Nuneaton when they were under pressure.

For Nuneaton, Ashe always looked dangerous and had many fine runs down the wing, and he was helped by some fine defence-splitting passes from Hails.

Twice after Norman Ashe's solo goal, Alan Carter was put through in a similar fashion, but with only keeper Seymour to beat his first shot went wide and his second shot had no power in it.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 18-09-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Jones, Brewerton, Watts, Hopkin, Ashe, Hails, Bell, Allen, Carter.

Corby Town: Alexander, McBain, Pollard, Riley, Needham, Armour, McGlichey, Stenhouse, Goodhall, Garden, Jagger.

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

The scoreline in Borough's odd-goal in seven defeat by Corby suggests a much closer game than it actually was. The Steelmen were quicker on the ball than Nuneaton, and dictated the terms for about 75 per cent of the game. In fact the visitors' superior skill was always an obvious factor – yet Borough should have snatched a point.

In the opening minute of the game Corby right-half Rob Riley had two terrific shots charged down by Borough defenders. Alan Carter put Borough in front after only two minutes when he hammered home a low cross from Billy Hails, following a corner. A rare mistake from Borough keeper Bill Wilson in the 12th minute gave Corby the equaliser. Wilson dropped George Jagger's flag-kick and Alex Garden was on hand to prod the ball home. A beautiful 30 yard shot from Charlie McGlinchey put the Steelmen in front after 18 minutes. The winger collected the ball ten yards from the right touchline and his shot rocketed into the corner of the net. A 20 yards shot from Armour in the 32nd minute gave Corby a 3-1 interval lead.

Twenty-one minutes after the break Billy Hails put Borough back into the game. Alexander could only partially save a cross shot from Carter and the inside-right nipped in to score. Borough then missed the chance to draw level, when they were awarded a penalty, but Terry Bell bungled the kick.

Corby right-back McBain made it 4-2 in the 80th minute. He bobbed up six yards from the Borough goal-line to tap home a left wing cross. Carter completed the scoring with a well-taken goal in the last few seconds of the game.

The vital penalty miss cost Borough at least a point. After the two wins at Tonbridge and Romford this game proved to be yet another disappointment for Borough fans.

Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 20-09-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Hails, Bell, Wiggin, Carter.

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

With just ten minutes to go in this Southern League Cup game on Monday, and the scores tied at 6-6, left winger Alan Carter slipped round right back Vale and sent across a perfect centre, which Terry Bell sent flying into the Hereford net with an equally perfect header to give Borough their first home win of the season. This was a finely worked and finely

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executed goal – one of the few highlights in a game which scarcely bristled with excitement.

Hereford may very well have considered themselves unfortunate to lose, seeing that they played for more than half-an-hour – from just before half-time until 15 minutes from the end – without centre-half Ray Daniel, who had to go to hospital to receive treatment for an eye injury.

On the whole Borough just about deserved to win. Though the Borough forwards had few really good shots – the best was a Billy Hails drive which the visiting goalkeeper was pleased to turn over the bar – Wallace proved his worth time and again by swooping out of goal to cut out centres or to whip the ball off the heads of the home attackers.

Bill Wilson, too, gave a competent display – although Hereford's one and only goal followed a mix-up between the goalkeeper and Clive Hopkin, which enabled Fogg to snap up the loose ball and shoot into the empty net.

That goal came four minutes after Hails had given Borough the lead in the 10th minute. Carter started the move and when Terry Bell turned his centre across goal, Hails was there to slam the ball into the roof of the net.

Hereford are without doubt a good footballing side. They moved the ball with greater precision than the home side, who played too closely and too much across the field. Even so, the home side shaped better than on Saturday, with Malcolm Allen back in his old position at left-half and Ray Wiggin at inside-left. The changes gave the side more stability without entirely putting things right.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough 25-09-1965

Yeovil: D. Jones, Herrity, Harris, Albury, Lambden, Muir, Pounder, Foley, Randall, Taylor, E. Ashe.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, A. Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, N. Ashe, Hails, Bell, Wiggin, Carter.

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

Borough left Yeovil bitterly disappointed that their run of away victories had been halted by a debatable penalty, which was netted by home skipper Bill Albury in the 51st minute.

Most of the 2,075 fans missed the incident in which full-back Jones was alleged to have fouled a Yeovil forward. But a linesman flagged and, after consulting him, the referee awarded the kick which yielded the only goal of a disappointing match.

Yeovil had practically all the play and were thwarted in the first-half by Wilson's brilliant goalkeeping and the solid play of twin centre-halves, Watts and Hopkin.

Nuneaton's attack was poor in comparison. They never moved as a line and relied on Hails finding a way through the middle which was adequately policed by centre-half Lambden.

Little was seen of centre-forward Bell, and Carter was forced

to roam into the middle to look for a chance. Yeovil should have had the game wrapped up early in the second half. They found gaps in Nuneaton's hard-working defence, but did not have the accuracy to take advantage.

Taylor was guilty of a particularly bad miss and Foley saw his hard drive bounce back from a post. This was not Taylor's day, for in the next minute Thompson suddenly appeared on the line to kick out a ball that was going in near the post.

Much of the play deteriorated and Borough never looked capable of salvaging a point and when the final whistle sounded, it was a profound relief to all concerned.

Nuneaton Borough v Rugby Town 02-10-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Hails, Bell, Murray, Carter.

Rugby: Smethurst, Bramwell, Lawton, Bennett, Scott, Radford, Morrow, Walker, Timmington, Walsh, Senior.

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

Borough supporters left Manor Park on Saturday in a happier frame of mind, not simply because Borough had collected their first home points of the season, but because the forwards had shown something like the punch that will be needed to get them clear of the last four positions in the league table.

In so many games this season the Borough forwards have not shown a great deal of shooting power. But on this occasion they not only displayed ability in building up their attacks, but, more important, showed a marked improvement in their finishing. Alan Carter scored one goal himself – from the penalty spot – made all the running for another, and laid on a defence-splitting pass to pave the way for a third goal.

Rugby hardly deserved to lose by so wide a margin. Twice when they seemed to be edging their way back into the game they faltered – once when they conceded an own goal and later when they missed a penalty kick.

There was no doubt, however, that Borough were the better side. They were more solid, more purposeful in defence, and showed far more punch in attack. Usually the boot has been on the other foot; usually Borough are the inferior finishers, but this time there was no questioning their general superiority up front.

Borough went ahead after five minutes play – shortly after Bennett had headed against a Nuneaton post. While chasing a long ball down the middle, Bell was fouled by Scott in the penalty area, and from the spot kick Alan Carter scored with ease. This was Borough's first successful penalty kick this season. Twice before they had failed from the spot.

After 25 minutes' play Alan Carter collected the ball near the half-way line and after rounding Bramwell and Bennett, squared the ball bang in front of goal for Bob Murray to run in and beat Smethurst with a well-placed shot.

Borough's third goal came after 33 minutes, when Norman Ashe moved inside and found Bell with a defence-splitting

pass and the centre-forward coolly lifted the ball over the advancing goalkeeper into the empty net.

Five minutes after half-time Jimmy Walsh reduced the lead when he took a pass from Hughie Morrow and cut in to beat Wilson with a well-placed cross-shot. For a short time Rugby threatened to make further inroads into the Borough lead, with Walsh very nearly getting a second goal. But after 68 minutes Roger Thompson took the ball upfield and in trying to clear the full-back's low centre, Lawton turned the ball into his own net.

Ten minutes later Walsh went down from a tackle by Jones inside the penalty area, but Senior's spot kick was brilliantly saved at the expense of a corner by Wilson. Straight from the flag kick Alan Carter put a long ball into the wide open spaces upfield. Some people thought Bell offside, but he was allowed to go on to beat Smethurst with a low drive as the goalkeeper advanced to meet him.



Ex-Footballer Retiring After 50 Years In Pits

A former well-known local footballer retires from Haunchwood Colliery on October 24, after 50 years in the mining industry.

He is Mr George Canner, of 68, Ryde Avenue, Nuneaton, who scored the first goal on the Manor Park football pitch as it is situated today.

The season before – the first season at Manor Park – the pitch ran parallel to the Cock and Bear hill. Describing the goal Mr Canner said: "I had gone to watch the match that day. It was a practice match and Jimmy Nock was injured in the first half. Fred Payne asked me to play. I wasn't on the pitch more than two minutes in the second half before Emmin Dunn gave me a perfect pass and I scored the first goal as the goals stand today."

After playing for Nuneaton United for three seasons, Mr Canner played for Atherstone Town FC and Griff FC...

...Mr Canner was born in Swadlincote but came to Nuneaton at the age of 12 months. After leaving school at the age of 13 he worked at a local brickyard for a year before beginning his career in the mining industry at Stanley's pit in 1914. He also worked at Griff Colliery before moving to Haunchwood...

Dudley Town v Nuneaton Borough 09-10-1965

Dudley: J. Edwards, Gamble, Cooper, Adams, Coll, Watson, Bent, Vine, Wiggan, Meek, P. Edwards.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Charnell, Bell, Murray, Goldsby.

Borough made the journey to Dudley Town for a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

This was a very poor display by Borough – a display that must have made supporters despair. West Midland League side

Dudley Town called the tune throughout and Borough were always playing second fiddle. The absence of Alan Carter and Billy Hails was badly felt, but it should not be made an excuse for Borough's thoroughly disappointing display. The fact is that Dudley were superior in nearly every phase of the game. They were the more purposeful, the more virile side, vastly superior in attack and far more solid in defence. Which is just another way of saying that Borough were well beaten.

It is no exaggeration to say that Johnny Edwards in the Dudley goal did not have a really good shot to save the whole game through. Even though they were only one goal in arrears until 12 minutes from the end, Borough hardly ever looked like saving the game, let alone winning it.

Their one great chance of equalising came in the 70th minute when Goldsby, deputising for Alan Carter, was left with a clear look at goal. He did not get hold of the ball properly, but his shot was merely palmed away to Norman Ashe, who from close in, blazed the ball over the top.

Dudley had the games two outstanding players in George Meek, the former Walsall player, and Watson, their left-half. It was Meek who sparked off most of Dudley's raids. Watson was a great defending-cum-attacking wing half and was in the thick of the fight from start to finish.

Dudley got their first goal in the 13th minute. Outside left Pat Edwards rounded Thompson, as he so often did in this game, and his pass found Vine. The latter's first shot was blocked by Malcolm Allen and the ball ran back to the Dudley man whose second shot was deflected into the net off Allen's foot.

Dudley clinched the issue 12 minutes from the end when George Meek evaded a Jones tackle, moved in, and then squared the ball for Vine to shoot hard into the Borough net. It was a well-taken and well-executed goal.

Had Borough been beaten by a larger margin they could hardly have complained; indeed the wonder was that they were not two or three goals behind at half-time. Dudley fell away slightly after the change of ends, but were still too good for Borough.

Two New Signings For Borough

Two Football League players may be in the Borough team to meet Cheltenham at Manor Park tomorrow.

General manager, Mr Fred Badham, said that last-minute negotiations between himself and the players' club, Torquay, were holding up final team selection.

The men who Mr Badham has agreed terms with are Colin Bettany, aged 30, who was a centre-forward with Crewe Alexandra and Birmingham City before being converted into a full-back at Torquay; and Bill Atkinson, aged 23, a centre-forward who joined his present club from Birmingham two years ago. The general manager said he hoped one or both players would be included in the team for the Cheltenham game.

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Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 23-10-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Hails, Atkinson, Bell, Carter.
Cheltenham: Nicholls, Claypole, Bielkus, Carson, Holder, Etheridge, Hurford, Horlick, Underwood, Ferns, Green.

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

Borough's eagerness to please was the most evident factor in their 2-1 win over Cheltenham, when their two new signings were on view. Happily for both supporters and Borough officials, the new men from Torquay, Colin Bettany and Bill Atkinson fitted into the positions allotted to them as if they had been tailor made.

At left-back Bettany was cool and dominant. His stylish approach to the game, coupled with the determination of Roger Thompson, provided a formidable barrier against the three-man Cheltenham attack, which only for a period in the first-half threatened to end Borough's hopes for two points.

Atkinson was always in the picture at centre-forward and the new Borough leader grabbed the equaliser after Cheltenham had scored a penalty. Previously he had two good efforts well-saved by keeper Ron Nicholls, who gave a fine display for the Robins. The attack, in which Terry Bell was dominant, had the visitors defence at panic stations time and again. Only rugged tactics halted the busy Nuneaton forwards on many occasions.

Cheltenham took the lead in the 32nd minute, following an unusual penalty decision. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot after Bill Wilson had apparently quite harmlessly punched away the ball with two Borough defenders and a Cheltenham forward in attendance.

As it was, Wilson could only palm the ball into the net from left-half Bobby Etheridge's shot, and the Town took what was really an undeserved lead. Borough did not get back on level terms until 26 minutes after the break when a Johnny Watts header rebounded off the bar. In the ensuing melee Bill Atkinson popped up to head the ball into the Cheltenham goal.

It was a fitting reward for Terry Bell when he rounded off a fine performance by scoring the winning goal in the 75th minute. Following clever midfield play by Malcolm Allen, the inside-left seized his chance and made no mistake from 10 yards out.

Mayor Switches On Borough Floodlights

A major step forward in Nuneaton's footballing history was made on Monday evening, when the Mayor, Coun. R. A. Moore, switched on Nuneaton Borough's new £10,000 floodlighting system at Manor Park.

A crowd of about 6,500 people were present as the chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr R. S. Bull, introduced the Mayor before the start of the game with Leicester City.

Nuneaton Borough v Leicester City 25-10-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Bell, Atkinson, Murray, Carter.
Leicester: Shilton, Sjoberg, Norman, Roberts, King, Cross, Riley, Gibson, Dougan, Sweeney, Tewley.

Borough welcomed Leicester City to Manor Park for the official opening of the club's new floodlights.



The picture shows Peter Shilton, the Leicester City goalkeeper, punching clear during an all out Nuneaton Borough attack on the City goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

The result of Borough's friendly game with Leicester City at Manor Park on Monday evening was far better than the most optimistic of Borough fans could have expected.

The game itself was well worthy of being the first floodlit match to be played on the ground, for as a soccer spectacle, it was just what the 6,500 spectators wanted. The City team which included nine regular first team players, produced a slick brand of football that had the crowd on its toes throughout the match, and the sporting way in which they approached the game was a credit to them.

Yet it was Borough who stole the honours. The home side matched their opponents move for move, although City could, if they had wished, have won the match. However, an acrobatic goalkeeping display by Bill Wilson prevented the visitors from running up a big score. It was definitely a night in which everything went right for the home team.

Goals from Terry Bell (2) and Billy Atkinson were enough to clinch the game for Borough. Sweeney replied for Leicester.

Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 27-10-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Bell, Atkinson, Murray, Hails.

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

The home side, chasing the leadership, had a leisurely victory against a disappointing Nuneaton Borough side on Wednesday night.

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Hereford needed at least the 3-0 win to take over top place from Corby Town and the way Borough played they could have scored several more goals. A great third minute goal by Ronnie Burbeck, playing his first senior game of the season, had Nuneaton reeling. From then on Hereford mounted non-stop attacks and Borough goalkeeper Wilson was continually kept busy. He was left limping with a leg injury after a collision with United centre-forward Ron Fogg, making a courageous save in the 30th minute, but he still proceeded to make several fine saves.

Hereford had little difficulty in penetrating a shaky Borough defence and apart from their goals, they also hit the crossbar twice, had two shots kicked off the line with Wilson beaten and inside-left Brian Punter had a 40th minute “goal” disallowed for offside.

Terry Bell was responsible for some clever midfield play, but generally speaking the visitors’ attack was disjointed.

In the third minute, Burbeck picked up a McCall pass and streaked around Allen and Bettany. With Wilson advancing from his goal, the ex-Leicester and Middlesbrough winger slammed the ball into the far corner of the net. The Nuneaton goal had several narrow escapes before a weak clearance by centre-half Watts went to the other Hereford winger Freddie Jones, in the 32nd minute. The outside-left moved into the middle and flashed in a low shot which completely beat Wilson.

United kept up the pressure until half-time while Borough managed only two shots in the first-half – both from Bell – but neither of them really tested Hereford keeper Peter Isaac. Hereford completed their scoring two minutes after the interval when a centre from Ian McIntosh floated over the head of Watts. Fogg was left with all the time he needed to place his header out of Wilson’s reach.

Bedford Town v Nuneaton Borough 30-10-1965

Bedford: Bellotti, Morgan, Skinn, Wright, Collins, Bailey, Lovell, Paton, Brown, Hall, Cooley.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Bettany, Ashe, Murray, Atkinson, Bell, Carter.

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

It is difficult to criticise Borough for this defeat. Being forced to make a last minute change in the team, coupled with a 27th minute injury to the new Borough leader Bill Atkinson, put Borough on the wrong foot.

Although Nuneaton were not prominent in the early exchanges, it was obvious that the absence of Malcolm Allen had not enhanced Borough’s chances of collecting the points. Allen was unable to play because of a toe injury, and Colin Bettany took over at left half. Alan Jones filled the vacant left back position.

Borough looked to be in with a slim chance up until Atkinson was carried off the field on a stretcher. The centre-forward did

resume after the break, but the injury had taken its effect. He was in obvious pain and it is to his credit that he continued if only to be of nuisance value to the Eagles’ defence.

After Borough were reduced to ten men the strong home side pressed into the Nuneaton half with ease, and it was evident that the Eagles must open the scoring. Unfortunately, the usually reliable Roger Thompson must shoulder the blame for both of the goals. Twice the full-back was dispossessed well in his own half by winger Norman Cooley, and twice the outside left flashed the ball across goal for one of his colleagues to apply the finishing touch.

The Borough attack had completely lost its sting, and the best effort came from Johnny Watts shortly after Bedford had taken a 32nd minute lead through Bill Brown, the Eagles’ leader. With goalkeeper Bellotti beaten Watts’ header was cleared off the line by full back Skinn.

Borough’s fate was sealed six minutes from time when Peter Hall side-footed home a cross from Cooley with the visiting defence caught on the hop.

For Borough to have won this game under such handicaps would have taken a superhuman effort by all concerned. As it was the team returned home pointless, but they had the satisfaction of knowing they had put up a good fight.

Nottingham Forest v Nuneaton Borough 01-11-1965

Borough: Ashton, Jones, Bettany, Hopkin, Watts, Parton, Ashe, Bell, Thompson (Murray), Currie, Carter.

Forest: Grummitt, Hindley, Mochan (Brindley), Winfield, McKinley, Whitefoot, Kear, Addison, McArthur, Chapman, Moore.

Borough welcomed Nottingham Forest to Manor Park for a floodlit friendly match.

The game did not come up to the expectations of the 3,429 spectators who braved the biting, gale-force wind to see the match. What should have been an entertaining game, proved a colourless affair. No doubt the bad conditions had something to do with this.

Borough had three new players on view. Goalkeeper Tony Ashton made several useful saves, but his handling was suspect. Clive Parton at left-half and John Currie at inside-left both showed clever touches without being outstanding.

Roger Thompson had the unenviable task of trying to break the barrier created by Bobby McKinley. The centre-half was his usual dominant self and Thompson had a lean time. Bob Murray replaced Thompson after the break, but he too, could make little headway down the middle.

Of the forwards Alan Carter provided the most serious threat to the visitors’ defence. The Borough outside left often had the beating of full-back Hindley, and his flashing crosses caused the Forest defence one or two worrying moments. But he saw little of the ball in the second half.

Forest hit the post twice, but by and large they were forced into shooting from long range. Borough’s best efforts came

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from Terry Bell and John Currie. Bell was inches wide with a header, and Currie shot just over the bar after Carter had carved a hole in the Forest defence. Apart from these and one or two other chances, there was little in the way of goalmouth excitement.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 03-11-1965

Bath City: Beel, Whitehouse, Thresher, Gough, MacFarlane, B. Carter, Lofty, Docherty, Denton, Horton, Walker.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Murray, Atkinson, Bell, A. Carter.

Borough made the journey to Bath City on Wednesday for a Southern League Cup second round tie.

Borough, against the run of play and in front of a crowd of 1,770, snatched the lead in the 30th minute. It was only the second occasion that they had looked dangerous and breached a strong home defence, in which MacFarlane completely blotted out centre-forward Billy Atkinson.

Johnny Watts rammed the ball home from close range after Murray had hit a shot against the crossbar following Carter's corner. Before the goal Borough had survived a drive from 25 yards which flashed inches wide and after Wilson mistimed a free-kick, Allen almost put the ball into his own net. The first worthwhile shot from Nuneaton came five minutes before their goal when Atkinson, with a hooked drive, whipped the ball across the Bath goal.

Borough played some direct and purposeful football, but it invariably broke down against a fast-tackling home defence. Borough were saved on several occasions by last ditch clearances. Just before half-time a full back cleared from the line after Wilson failed to hold a header, and right on the whistle the Borough goalkeeper did well to tip a 20 yards free-kick by Horton over for a corner.

The second-half was virtually all Bath and Borough were limited to only two shots – both well wide. It was not surprising that Bath should equalise and they did so in spectacular fashion in the 57th minute with a tremendous shot from Horton which deflected off Watts into the Borough goal.

With Bath on top it was only the failure of their forwards to accept their chances and some hurried clearances by Nuneaton's defenders that enabled them to hold out for a replay. Four minutes from the end one of the banks of floodlights fused, but the teams agreed to play out time.

Nuneaton Borough v Wimbledon 06-11-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Arnold, Atkinson, Bell, Murray.

Wimbledon: Kelly, Crodjohn, Willis, Ardrey, Law, Davies, Brown, Cooke, O'Rourke, Cartwright, Murphy.

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

So poor was the football provided by Borough on Saturday,

that spectators began to leave the ground 15 minutes before the final whistle.

Although Alan Carter dropped out of the side at the last minute with a heavy cold, this was no excuse for such an inept performance. Apart from one fine 25 yards drive by Glen Arnold, who was playing his first senior game this season, the Borough attack was never in the picture and the Wimbledon defence marshalled by the dominant Roy Law, was rarely called into serious action.

The home defence never looked like containing the busy visiting attack, and mistake followed mistake as the Dons advanced into the heart of Borough territory. In fact all three of the visitors goals came as a result of defensive errors. Colin Bettany and Bill Wilson being the players responsible.

Wimbledon are a useful side, but they were made to look even better against such poor opposition, and if the visitors had not rested on their laurels in the second half, the margin of victory could have been greater.

Johnny Watts and Co. just did not seem able to cope with the task confronting them, while the attack just never looked like causing Kelly in the Wimbledon goal much trouble. Ted Murphy opened the scoring in the 15th minute after Bettany had lost the ball in his own penalty area. Five minutes from the break Borough went further in arrears. This time Bettany headed the ball at the feet of Ian Cooke, who sent a first-time effort from 25 yards into the corner of the net.

Exactly one minute after the re-start Wilson failed to cut out a cross from Brown and Cooke had the simplest of tasks.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 08-11-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Rawlings, Watts, Hopkin, Ashe, Bell, Atkinson, Murray, A. Carter.

Bath City: Parker, Gough, Thresher, Whitehouse, MacFarlane, G. Carter, Loftus, Docherty, Denton, Horton, Fordham.

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park for a Southern League Cup second round replay.

Without playing quite so badly as against Wimbledon on Saturday, Borough did very little to suggest that they are likely to get far away from the Southern League Premier Division relegation zone. They showed slight improvement in the first-half when they had far more of the game than Bath. But after the change of ends, even though they scored first, they gradually faded and City went on to win with a fair amount of ease.

Borough played right in to the hands of the opposition by persisting in putting the ball into the air, thus spoon-feeding the towering MacFarlane, upon whose head many home attacks came to grief. Borough were just not good enough to crack a compact Bath defence, and they constantly fell down through trying to play a too complicated style of football and through keeping the ball too close.

Alan Carter was about the only Borough forward who looked



capable of getting through to the Bath goal and even he often tried to beat one too many defenders. But he had the satisfaction of scoring Borough's only goal – from the penalty spot in the 58th minute, after Terry Bell had been brought down in the area.

That was the first goal of the game, but if Borough supporters imagined that it was the harbinger of better things, well they were doomed to disappointment.

Indeed, only seven minutes later Bath were on level terms, left-half Graham Carter driving the ball into the Borough net from a corner on the right. That goal was the beginning of the end for Borough. In the 72nd minute a Fordham-Horton move had the home defence all at sea and when the ball reached Denton he shot his side into a 2-1 lead. And in the last minute a mistake by Johnny Watts let in Denton to make it 3-1.

This defeat by lower-division Bath was another bitter pill for Borough supporters to swallow, and it must be perfectly obvious to everybody that unless there is a big improvement in Borough's form – unless the defence tightens up and the forwards can get on the goalscoring trail, attendances are bound to fall, especially when the novelty of the floodlight has worn off.

Mr Fred Badham: Directors' Statement

The following statement has been issued by the directors of Nuneaton Borough Football Club.

At a meeting of the directors of the Nuneaton Borough Association Football Club Limited it was decided that, in view of the success of the Treble Chance Pool and the potentialities of similar projects, added to the further prospects of the enlargement of the social club, the tremendous amount of work entailed necessitated the full attention of the general manager, Mr F. Badham.

The Board have, therefore, requested Mr Badham to take over full control of these activities and have decided to appoint a team manager whose sole duties will be to train, coach and select the team, and to undertake scouting either personally or by delegation.

It is hoped that suitable applicants will be interviewed very shortly and the new arrangement will take effect immediately an appointment is made.

Margate v Nuneaton Borough 13-11-1965

Borough: Wilson, Jones, Bettany, Parton, Brewerton, Allen, Ashe, Hails, Bell, D. Lewis, Carter.

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

Struggling Nuneaton can have no complaints about the result of this rather scrappy Southern League match at Hartsdown Park on Saturday. Although they took a shock lead through Carter on the hour, the defence then fell to pieces in the face of sustained Margate pressure.

Margate right-back Bracewell banged in two excellent opportunist goals in the 69th and 80th minutes to completely turn the face of the game and Thompson's third right on time was nothing more than a formality.

Borough looked a very moderate side. The rearguard was never totally reliable and the attack failed to move as a line. Inside-right Billy Hails was the pick of the team, but his promptings all came to nought, and in the second half he was less in the picture. Inside-left Lewis, a 16-year-old local product making his debut in the Nuneaton side, evidently needs several more matches in which to find his feet. He showed some neat touches at times, but the pace of the play seemed to catch him by surprise.

After the break Borough had a slight edge early on and Alan Carter took his chance well when put clear with a long Ashe centre from the right. Then Margate surprised their bleating fans by hitting back with a vengeance. Bracewell came upfield as Scott was about to take a corner, the ball was headed down to him by Harrop and he made no mistake from close range.

Shots rained in on Wilson from all angles and he was again beaten with 10 minutes to go. Bracewell thumping in a 20-yarder after Scott had given him the pass. Thompson's goal came after successive shots from Bracewell – seeking his hat-trick – and Ballagher had rebounded off harassed Nuneaton defenders.

On this display, neither side look destined for any honours this season. Too much of the football was on the careless side and it is easy to see why Nuneaton have scored only a handful of goals.

Nuneaton Borough v Guildford City 20-11-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Jones, Hopkin, Brewerton, Allen, Ashe, Hails, Fowkes, Bell, Carter.

Guildford: Vasper, Hunt, Watts, Massey, French, Porter, Lill, Cliss, Stevens, Piper, Vafiadis.

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

The visitors had a greater share of the proceedings in the first-half, but after Alan Carter had equalised from the penalty spot seconds after the break, it was a game that could have gone either way. As the minutes ticked away both goals had fantastic escapes, and in one exciting melee both Carter and Fowkes had shots headed off the line when a goal seemed certain.

For the game to have gone in favour of either one of the sides would have been an injustice to the other. Very few people who witnessed the encounter would dispute that a draw was a completely fair result.

Roger Brewerton was again at centre-half, with Alan Jones at left-back, Billy Hails at inside-right and 19-year-old Mick Fowkes at centre-forward. Fowkes can be well satisfied with his debut. Without looking spectacular, the young Borough leader constantly worried the City defence, and it must be

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remembered that visiting centre-half Bob French had a considerable height advantage. However, Fowkes settled down to his task and he was every-ready to have a go for goal. Fowkes must take second place to Alan Carter as the most impressive Borough forward. The outside-left gave full-back Hunt a very worrying afternoon indeed. Norman Ashe, Billy Hails and Terry Bell only showed occasional flashes of good form. So often it was a case of too much tip-tapping in front of goal that let them down.

After a period of early pressure the City went ahead in the 22nd minute with a goal from John Stevens. The bustling centre-forward headed home a cross from Mickey Lill. Seconds earlier the same player had missed a similar chance.

Borough's equaliser came in the first minute of the second-half when Alan Carter was brought down in the penalty area by David Hunt. Carter's low, hard spot-kick was in the net before the visiting goalkeeper could move.



Dudley Kernick Borough Team Manager

Dudley Kernick, the former Nuneaton Borough FC wing-half is to return to the club – as team manager.

“Obviously, I am happy to be back, but at the same time I don't consider it a piece of cake,” he said.

A native of Cornwall, in which county he was educated, Mr Kernick went straight from school into professional football with Torquay United, with whom he stayed for nine years. An inside-forward in those days, he topped their goalscoring for two seasons.

He then joined Northampton Town, but stayed only a couple of months before going to Birmingham City, playing first as an inside-forward, and then as a wing-half. After three years with the Blues, he joined Shrewsbury and was with them when they were elected to the Football League Division III North from the Midland League.

Subsequently, he skipped Kettering and also acted as player-coach. While at Nuneaton he took up coaching and later became a qualified PE teacher at Greenmore College, Birmingham, with the former Birmingham City goalkeeper, Gil Merrick.

At that time, Mr Kernick played part-time for Brierley Hill. He also carried out extensive coaching for the FA and in recent years was manager of Hinckley.

After leaving Hinckley, he opened a restaurant and coffee business in Birmingham and at the beginning of last season, He became a BBC Sportscaster.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 25-11-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Atkinson, Bell, Murray, Carter.

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

Borough were at full-strength with Johnny Watts at centre-half and Colin Bettany at left-back. Atkinson lined up at inside-right, and Bell and Murray completed the inside-forward trio.

Carter was the first player to carve out an opening, but his accurate overhead kick was intercepted quickly by Finch. Ashe was well wide seconds later as Borough pressed in the opening stages. Play switched to the other end and Wilson was forced to leave his line as Foscolo hared through the middle dangerously.

Bell did well to force in a shot with Baker in close attendance as play switched to the other end of the field. Goalkeeper Andy Smith saved the effort easily. Murray carved out an opening for the darting Norman Ashe. The winger's first-time shot zipped inches over the bar with Smith beaten.

With 25 minutes gone Bell missed a golden opportunity to put Borough in front after Carter had placed a perfect centre into the United goalmouth. From four yards out Bell headed well wide. The crowd gasped as Ashe sent a powerful drive inches the wrong side of the post, and second later a rocket from Atkinson hit Smith's foot and rebounded out of play.

Almost on the stroke of half-time Ashe fired over the top when put clean through by Carter. The winger fluffed an easy chance of giving Borough the lead.

The game developed into a dour defensive battle after the break, and both sides went close to scoring. In the 73rd minute Borough were desperately unlucky not to open their account as first Murray and then Carter hit the woodwork.

Three minutes later, however, Borough deservedly went in front. Terry Bell hammered home from close range after Smith had parried Murray's shot.

Nuneaton Borough v Poole Town 04-12-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Atkinson, Bell, Murray, Carter.

Poole: Higgins, McGhee, K. Brown, Goldie, I. Brown, Osmond, Pym, Bellett, Balsam, Pring, Henderson.

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

After Borough victories over Cambridge United and Poole Town, new team manager, Mr Dudley Kernick, may have felt that his task of steering them away from the relegation zone should not prove so difficult as he might have imagined at the time of his appointment.

As expected, Borough beat bottom of the table Poole Town

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on Saturday, but it was not until the second half that they really got into their stride. Until the break there was not a very great deal in it, Poole playing much better football than one expected from a team at the foot of the table.

Borough did more of the attacking in the first-half without being able to establish any real mastery. In fact Poole goalkeeper Higgins' two most anxious moments followed ill-directed back passes. Poole had taken an unexpected first-minute lead when a Henderson corner kick was deflected by Pring to an unmarked Bellett, who had little difficulty in beating Wilson from close range. Borough drew level four minutes later. Alan Carter broke through on the left and then swung the ball across goal to Norman Ashe who, in turn, pulled it back for Clive Hopkin to slam home a great 35-yard shot past a helpless Higgins.

It was in the second half that Borough produced their best form and once they had gone ahead there was never any doubt as to their superiority, though Poole never gave up trying.

It was in the 52nd minute that Bill Atkinson fastened on to a long through ball to race down the middle and beat Higgins with a shot just inside the post. In the 67th minute the same thing happened again. Atkinson took a long down the middle ball, ran through the spreadeagled Poole defence to shoot hard and low past Higgins. Poole had two strokes of bad luck, first Osmond and then Bellett hitting the woodwork. But in the last minute Borough, too, were unfortunate when Norman Ashe shot against the bar for Atkinson to miss the rebound.

Generally speaking it was not a bad game to watch considering the mud and the rain. The two home wins should help to make Mr Kernick's task of keeping the Manor Park side in the Premier Division less exacting.

Dartford v Nuneaton Borough 11-12-1965

Dartford: Bourne, Sitford, Mabey, Pyke, Burns, Stevens, Wheeler, Marshall, Stepney, Gill, Dennis.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Atkinson, Bell, Murray, Carter.

Borough made the journey to the Watling Street home of Dartford for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Playing their third match in eight days, Dartford failed to find their touch against Nuneaton, who were much the more impressive side up until the 64th minute, when they got their goal. From then on however, Dartford, stung by the award of a penalty, hit back in a storming finish to snatch a valuable point.

Nuneaton were the more impressive side and the crowd wondered why they should have such a lowly spot in the league table. They had more ideas in attack and their defence, with goalkeeper Wilson never putting a hand or foot wrong, easily held a scrappy home attack.

Outside left Alan Carter was the Borough danger man and his centres should have been taken more advantage of. Bell made a lively leader and he produced his side's best shot to

send goalkeeper Bourne diving to the post to make a fine save. Bettany's smart work in defence held up the Dartford forwards and a goalless scorecard at half-time was just about right.

Borough quickly stole the initiative after the interval and began to dictate the run of play. Bell all but put them ahead when he whisked the ball off one of the home defenders and sent it racing just wide of the far post.

Then came the incident that provided Nuneaton's goal and led on to the most exciting finish one could wish to see. Carter was racing through and had reached the penalty area when he was brought down by left back Mabey. The referee decided on a penalty, despite Dartford's protests that the foul was not worth a spot kick, Carter took the kick himself and beat Bourne with a powerful drive.

Dartford really came into the game after this and the Borough defence received a severe testing before centre-half Burns came up to take a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area and swept the ball past Wilson for the equaliser.

The home side began to get their touch for the first time, but Wilson performed well in the Nuneaton goal and the defence remained cool to defy Dartford's late bid to snatch victory.

Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green

13-12-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Rawlings (Hopkin), Lovatt, Allen (Preston), Ashe, Hails, Carter, Murray (Arnold), Goldsby.

Moor Green: Woods, Kernick, Kavanagh, Hunt, Ryder (Statham), Burton, Sheppard (Wootton), McGill, Masefield, Whitty, Roach.

Borough welcomed amateur side Moor Green to Manor Park for a friendly match.

In preparation for their Amateur Cup game with Crook Town, the visitors were put through their paces by Borough on Monday evening.

Seeing his side lose 5-0, the Worcestershire Combination club's manager, Mr Jack Badham, had ample opportunity to see where his players were slipping up; and the cup game being fixed for New Year's Day he has time to remedy the defects. The smallness of the visiting players was the first thing that caught the eye, but the Moors did not make the mistake of playing the ball high in the air. Instead the workmanlike visiting team kept the ball on the ground as much as possible.

Although not able to match the Borough for speed and skill, the visitors put everything they had into the game, and with a little more directness in front of goal could have scored at least a couple of goals.

The Borough team which included Rawlings at right-half, Lovatt at centre-half, Hails at inside right and Goldsby on the left wing, did not let up for a minute and they are to be praised for their non-stop efforts throughout the 90 minutes.

The greatest danger to the visitors' defence was Alan Carter, who lined up at centre forward. Carter netted twice and made another goal for Graham Goldsby, who showed promise in



Carter's usual position on the left wing. Billy Hails got the other two goals. John Lovatt, playing his first game since breaking his leg, was commanding at centre-half, and his dashes down the middle caused the visitors' defence one or two worrying moments. The visitors were a very fit side, and their fighting spirit was to be admired.

Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 18-12-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Atkinson, Bell, Murray, Carter.

Hereford: Isaac, Vale, Timms, McCall, Daniel, McIntosh, Punter, Rodgerson, Fogg, Derrick, Jones.

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

After picking up five points from their previous three matches and, in the process, hoisting themselves a few steps up the league ladder, Borough slipped up in the mud at Manor Park last Friday night and were beaten by Hereford United, championship chasers and conquerers of Millwall in the FA Cup.

Borough played fairly well in the first-half and generally matched Hereford, who were a trifle lucky to be leading by a goal scored by Fogg in the 36th minute. But after the change of ends Borough lost their earlier poise and rhythm, played too closely, and seldom looked like wiping out the deficit, although Atkinson was put through by Terry Bell early in the second half, but missed a great chance of levelling the score. Norman Ashe shot against a post, but by and large when Borough reached the area, their attacks broke down.

Hereford were helped considerably in the second period by the inaccurate passing of the Borough men. Pass after pass went astray, often going straight to an opponent. Hereford's ball distribution was far more accurate and they found each other with greater facility, and though not over-impressive in their marksmanship, it is a fact that but for the good work of Bill Wilson, Hereford would have won by a wider margin.

The only goal of the match came in the 36th minute when two Borough defenders hesitated in going for a ball and left Bill Wilson with no alternative but to rush out of goal in an attempt to clear, but Fogg got there first to pilot the ball into an empty net.

Nuneaton Borough v Chelmsford City 27-12-1965

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Hails, Bell, Murray, Carter.

Chelmsford: Medlock, Hopkins, Gladwin, Docherty, Eades, Smith, Duncan, Butcher, Houghton, Summersby, Imlach.

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

There wasn't much between the teams in this game, both being evenly matched on an ice-bound pitch, which made good football almost impossible. Because of the difficulty both teams had in controlling the ball on the frost-bitten pitch, which

sometimes made the ball skid away and on other occasions to bob about, it was a surprise to see both sides try to play close football instead of adopting the long-passing game.

The conditions made it difficult for defenders to turn, yet on this occasion the honours went to the respective defences, even though there were times when it was more by luck than good judgment that they saved their goal from falling.

Borough's goal apart, their best chance of scoring came from Johnny Watts, who skimmed the crossbar with a 25-yard shot. The home side's luckiest escape came in the 24th minute when Malcolm Allen tried to put the ball back to Wilson. The ill-directed pass was seized upon by Tony Butcher. Wilson had left his goal and it was only by moving backwards pretty smartly that he was able to push Butcher's shot over the bar.

It is to the credit of Johnny Watts and his fellow defenders that Chelmsford could not find the net. Borough may have had a bit of luck, as in the dying minutes when Houghton headed over when a goal seemed practically certain. But the visitors had their luck; twice in hectic scrambles in front of the Chelmsford goal the ball did almost everything but find its way into the net.

The only goal came in the 64th minute and was set up by Norman Ashe. The right winger took the ball along the wing and then moved inside before crossing the ball to Alan Carter, whose header Medlock got his hands to, but was unable to prevent going into the net.

Co-op Hall Tragedy

Observer readers, we know will wish to be associated with the expressions of deep sympathy which have been extended to the families of the four victims of the Nuneaton dance hall tragedy.

It was a very sad and sorrowful happening, all the more so because it occurred on New Year's Eve – at a time when dancers everywhere were joining in the revelry which marked the close of the old year and the dawn of a new one.

The closest investigation is being made into the events which led to the deaths of four young people, and if anything can be done to help prevent such a thing happening again, then it must be done.

Indeed the Committee of Management of Nuneaton and Atherstone District Co-operative Society has already indicated that it will "respect the observations and suggestions which may be put by the police or by the Coroner's office and will carry out any recommendations which are deemed advisable."

Meanwhile, pending the result of the investigations, we can but hope that the families of the four young people who died will be sustained in their hour of great sorrow by the knowledge that their grief is shared not only by Nuneaton people, but by people everywhere.



Cambridge United v Nuneaton Borough 01-01-1966

Cambridge: Slack, Finch, Poole, Scurr, Baker, Graham, Maughan, Amato, Turley, Barrett, Hobbs.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Hopkin, Lovatt, Watts, Ashe, Hails, Murray, Allen, Carter.

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

Things were not going too badly for Borough until two mistakes completely ruined their chances. United cashed in and a game which, up to that point looked like providing a close finish, suddenly developed into an easy win for the home side.

After Turley had given the home side the lead in the 13th minute, when he took a pass from Scarr and raced through the middle to slip the ball past Bill Wilson, Borough, though their attacks were infrequent, twice very nearly drew level. Only a brilliant save by Slack prevented Carter's fine header finding the net. Then, almost dead on half-time, Norman Ashe could have scored when a Carter cross left the winger in a splendid scoring position, but his shot was right off target.

Borough almost equalised early in the second half when they were awarded an indirect free-kick inside the penalty area. Billy Hails slipped the ball to Carter, who darted forward and then screwed the ball back in front of goal. The ball was pushed away to Murray, whose return header was brilliantly saved by Slack.

Then things began to happen. Turley headed wide when well placed and then Carter flashed a header just over the top of the United goal. But tragedy struck for Borough when in the 70th minute, Johnny Lovatt, making his first Southern League appearance of the season, erred to let in Amato, who, after moving across to the left, beat Wilson with a well-placed shot.

Two minutes later, a mis-directed Bettany back pass intended for Wilson enabled Turley to nip in and place the ball into the empty net. Thus in two minutes the whole complexion of the game had changed. And worse was to follow. After appeals for a penalty when Ashe went down in the penalty area had been ignored, United went straight to the other end, where Barrett forced his way through and slammed the ball into the net.

Just before the close Alan Carter, who earlier had a goal disallowed, raced through on his own to score Borough's solitary goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedford Town 08-01-1966

Borough: Wilson, Jones, Bettany, Allen, Lovatt, Watts, Ashe, Atkinson, Carter, Murray, Bell.

Bedford: Collier, Morgan, Skinn, Wright, Collins, Batley, Benning, Paton, Brown, Sturrock, Cooley.

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

A lot of real honest endeavour by Borough, who lacked the services of Roger Thompson, Clive Hopkin and Billy Hails,

all suffering from a throat infection, did not meet with the success it deserved because of the inability of the forwards to ally shooting power to quite useful approach work.

There was a lot to admire about their play. In midfield they used the ball with no little skill, and not nearly as many passes went astray as in some games this season. In fact they played much better than for some time without, however, being able to achieve the final breakthrough, except for once.

Not a great deal of fault could be found with the Borough defence, as was proved by the fact that they were able to hold the smartly moving Bedford forwards to a solitary goal. Only on a few occasions were they in dire trouble. There was an occasion when first Johnny Lovatt and then Jones cleared off the line with Wilson beaten.

Bedford took the lead in the 30th minute when Bailey started a move with a pass to Brown, who returned the ball to the Bedford leader, whose shot entered the Borough net off the far post. This goal was all against the run of play but Borough had their desserts a minute before half-time when from a free-kick for a foul on Carter the ball travelled via Jones and Bell to Alan Carter, who applied the finishing touch.

Borough had the chance to win the game when they were awarded a penalty with only six minutes to go, but Carter blotted his copybook by missing the spot kick, with a poorly placed effort that Collier saved without much trouble.

FA Fine Nuneaton Borough FC £500

Some Of The Directors 'Severely Censured'

Nuneaton Borough FC have been fined £500 by the Football Association following an investigation by an FA Commission into allegations made by Mr H. L. Broadhurst, ex hon. secretary of the club.

The Board of Directors in office during the period in question have been severely censured and warned as to their future conduct in this capacity. The charges that the club have not complied with FA rules and regulations were "fully investigated," says an FA statement. The directors' minute books covering the period August 1961 to September 1965 were also examined.

As a result of these investigations, and from the evidence submitted by the players, the Commission is satisfied that during the period November 1961 to August 1963 the club irregularly used the fund of the Improvement Association Daily Draw Scheme to make payments to players and others, for which payments no receipts were given.

Element Of Doubt

On a charge that a payment was made to a director of the club from the daily draw money, for which no proper account was submitted, the Commission felt there was "an element of doubt as to whether the amount in question was actually received by the director, and has decided to proceed no further in the matter."

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The Commission was also satisfied that “during the season 1963-64 signing on fees were paid to players R. Brown and J. Lovatt in excess of the amount permitted by the Southern Football League rules. It feels that these matters should be referred to the League for their attention.”

The FA statement continues: “The Commission is further satisfied that in contravention of FA Rule 25 (a) payments were made to R. Jones in March 1964 and J. Wootton in April 1964, these players at the time indicated being amateur players, and that there is evidence of other breaches of the rules having taken place including the fact that no proper forms of receipt were obtained for payment to amateur players. It feels that owing to the lack of time these additional cases would be exceedingly difficult to deal with, and in view of the assurances obtained from the club that the regulations are now being strictly adhered to, that no further action should be taken with these players.”

The Commission also found that in contravention of Rule 26 (b) the club had played A. R. Jones, a professional player, during the period April 4 1964 to May 1965, without ensuring that he was properly registered with the FA as a professional player.

No Full Observance Of FA Rules

In their summary the FA say that the Commission “is satisfied that there has been no full observance of FA rules and regulations, and that no proper control of the administration of the club’s affairs has taken place, for which the directors must be held solely responsible.”

The members of the FA Commission were: Mr E. A. Eden, MBE; Major H. Wilson Keys, MCTD; Mr W. S. G. Needham; Mr A. W. Peacock (FA Staff).

The Commission held meetings at Leamington Spa on May 7, August 19, November 5 and 25 last year.

The following appeared before the Commission: Nuneaton Borough FC: Mrssrs R. S. Bull (chairman), J. C. Brindley, G. H. Coe and A. C. Dawson (directors), R. Tromans (secretary), F. Badham (manager), J. F. Jee, CA, and E. W. Jackson (Thornton Baker and Co., auditors), E. Jones, C. Joyce, J. Lovatt, K. Satchwell, J. Wootton, Mr C. D. Jones (father of A. R. Jones) and Mr H. L. Broadhurst.

Club Will Carry On

In their reply to the report of the commission appointed by the Consultative Committee of the Football Association, the directors of the Nuneaton Borough FC stated that in view of the severity of the fine imposed by the FA, the possibility of the company going into voluntary liquidation had to be considered, but it had now been decided to make the necessary financial arrangements to pay the fine and the costs, although this would be a severe set-back to the club in its aspirations to improve the team and the facilities on the ground.

Nuneaton Borough v Alvechurch

13-01-1966

Borough: Potts (Wilson), Jones (Thompson), Bettany (Jones), Allen (Hopkin), Lovatt (Brewerton), Rawlings (Watts), Hails, Ashe, Atkinson, Murray (Arnold), Bell.

Alvechurch: Smith, Preece, Faye, Fletcher, Frame, Matthews, Nicholson, elder, Mason, Hayden, Pauling.

Borough welcomed Alvechurch to Manor Park for a friendly match on Thursday evening.

FA Amateur Cup heroes Alvechurch showed 649 Borough fans how they had earned their fine reputation in a game to prepare the Worcestershire Combination side for a tough match with Stowmarket.

During the first-half the visitors had looked the more impressive team despite the fact that Borough commanded a 2-1 lead. Borough opened the scoring in the fifth minute with a goal from Bill Atkinson. John Mason put Alvechurch on level terms three minutes later. Before Bob Murray shot Borough once again into the lead two minutes before the interval, Mason had seen a fierce drive kicked off the line by full-back Alan Jones and two headers narrowly go inches wide of the mark with goalkeeper Potts beaten.

With Wilson, Thompson, Hopkin, Brewerton, Watts and Arnold in the side after the break the pattern of the game switched in Borough’s favour and in the 62nd minute Norman Ashe hit home a powerful 20 yards rocket to put Nuneaton well in front.

However, Alvechurch were not to be so easily beaten and again it was Mason who found the net six minutes from time when Bill Wilson lost possession of the ball in his own penalty area. Mason had the simple task of walking the ball into an empty net.

Alvechurch are as good as they are reputed to be, and it will take a good amateur team to defeat them. Their skilful approach to the game was well worth watching.

Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough

15-01-1966

Cheltenham: Nicholls, Thorndale, Claypole, Ferns, Etheridge, Carson, Hurford, Hendrick, Horlick, Green, Belkus.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Jones, Hopkin, Lovatt, Watts, Ashe, Hails, Carter, Allen, Bell.

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

When with little more than two minutes to go, Cheltenham, with a 2-1 lead, were attacking hard, the outlook for Borough seemed bleak. Defeat was staring them straight in the face.

The Cheltenham attack was halted and the ball was swung upfield to Billy Hails, standing unmarked well out on the right wing near the half-way line. Hails wasted no time in collecting the ball, raced ahead and then pinpointed his centre to the onrushing Johnny Lovatt, and before the crowd hardly realised what was happening, the Borough centre-half had left Nicholls, the Cheltenham goalkeeper, stone cold with a great header.

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Thus Borough had salvaged a precious away point when all seemed lost. Earlier in the second half Lovatt had gone upfield to get his head to a Norman Ashe centre, and Nicholls had to move smartly to his left to save.

Horlick gave Cheltenham the lead almost dead on half-time following a corner and a shot by Ferns that hit the bar. Alan Carter got an equaliser for Borough in the 67th minute. Getting a pass just inside the Cheltenham half, he slipped one tackle, put the ball between the legs of Etheridge, as the centre-half advanced to meet him, ran round him, moved in on goal, and then slammed the ball past Nicholls into the net. It was a fine piece of opportunism.

In saving a corner kick in the 70th minute, Bill Wilson was sent flying into his own net. The Borough players appealed for a free-kick on the grounds that Wilson had been fouled, but their appeals were ignored and another corner kick was awarded. This time Wilson punched the ball away, but a return header by centre-forward Horlick found its way into the net.

While Borough must be given every credit for saving the game, it has to be said that on the run of play they were lucky to share the points. On the other hand, as goalscoring is not one of their strongest points, they deserve commendation for snatching two goals when they had so very few chances.

It was a game that proved once again Borough badly need forwards who can shoot. Apart from the two goals and that other header by Lovatt, Borough caused Nicholls little trouble. But Wilson was constantly in action; the home forwards were buzzing around the Borough goal for a good deal of the game. Two or three times they very nearly added to their goals tally.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester 29-01-1966

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Jones, Hopkins, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Lovatt, Carter, Bell, Hails.

Worcester: Black, Brack, Peck, Mullen, Madley, Bassett, Deeley, Clamp, McParland, Ward, Cutler.

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

Borough may have been lucky not to concede a goal in the early stages of the game, when Worcester threatened to over-run them, but in the long run it was Worcester who had to thank their lucky stars for managing to keep their goal intact.

On three occasions their right-back Brack, cleared off the line with goalkeeper Black beaten, and there were other occasions too, when the City goal escaped more by luck than judgment. But Borough's chances of snatching what would have been a merited winning goal vanished when, midway through the second half, Alan Carter was injured. Fifteen minutes from the end he left the field, to return five minutes later as little more than a passenger.

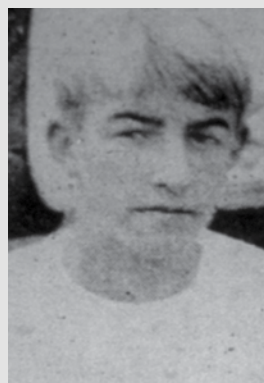
Up to that point, Carter, who wore the No. 9 shirt, but often popped up on the left wing and in other places as well, and

Norman Ashe were the forwards City most feared. It was a great pity that Carter should have sustained injury when Borough were striving desperately to grab a winner. Though the home side put in one or two spirited attacks afterwards, they concentrated, and rightly so, on getting one point.

Worcester had quite a good share of the game. They produced many well-executed moves, and their passing was often more accurate than that of the home side, but after that opening burst when they had Borough penned in their own goal area, they produced few shots worthy of a goal, though Hopkin once headed away from underneath the bar. When they were on target, Wilson was invariably in the right place at the right time.

Although Johnny Watts was often beaten in the air, it is to the credit of the Borough defence that they managed to contain players like Norman Deeley, Eddie Clamp, Peter McParland and Dai Ward, all ex-internationals.

A big talking point was whether Borough should have been awarded a penalty kick when a late tackle by Bassett sent Johnny Lovatt sprawling inside the area. It looked a good shout for a penalty, but the referee ruled otherwise and gave Borough an indirect free-kick.



Playing In Final England Soccer Trial

Local schoolboy, Robert Allen is playing in the final England under-15 schoolboy trial tomorrow.

The match is at Watford and will be played on a North versus South basis.

Robert will be representing the South of England at inside-left.

A pupil of Alderman Smith High School, he has played for Nuneaton and County under-15 representative sides.

Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 05-02-1966

Cambridge: Heath, Carroll, Dennis, Moyse, McGugan, McNally, Spears, Ward, Bailham, McVittie, Wall.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Jones, Hopkin, Watts, Allen, Ashe, Lovatt, Carter, Bell, Hails.

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

Borough opened well with some good attacks prompted by left-half Malcolm Allen. It was when the Borough half-backs joined the forwards for brief periods that the away side looked most dangerous. Carter, Bell and Hails were interchanging well and several times Carter received the ball unmarked on the left wing and cut in towards goal.

As the game wore on however, Borough fell away and

we were left with the spectacle of a lone Carter chasing speculative long passes from the men behind him.

Wall opened the scoring for Cambridge after 15 minutes with a shot that clipped the post as it went in. Before getting his shot in Wall slipped past three Borough defenders and came right across the front of the goal from the right wing. Wilson never had a chance. Borough responded with a series of fine moves, but lacked the final touch. However, Ashe and Allen worked the ball to Carter on the left wing and he spreadeagled the home defence with an excellent cross, but there was nobody to tap the ball in as it flashed across the goalmouth.

Another good chance of equalising came in the 33rd minute when Ashe eluded full back Dennis and sent a grand pass to the feet of Billy Hails, who trod on the ball and was quickly relieved of possession.

Borough faded rapidly in the second half and the forwards were given little opportunity to reach the City penalty area. Cambridge were not simply taking pot shots at the Borough goal, but maintained possession for 80 per cent of the second half. The period of the strongest City pressure and of greatest excitement came in the last 15 minutes when Wilson made excellent saves to thwart the home side's eager forwards.

With four minutes left for play and still a chance of Borough grabbing a late equaliser, Wall took a corner for the home team. Bailham darted in and headed the ball inside the near post, there being no defender quick enough to spot him. An example of why he is the top scorer in the Southern League.



Sir Stanley Matthews To Play At Manor Park?

Borough have a very attractive floodlit game on Monday at Manor Park when Port Vale are the visitors. The 14 players from whom the Port Vale side will be selected include Sir Stanley Matthews (general manager), Jackie Mudie (team manager and formerly of Blackpool), Tony Richards

(Birmingham and Walsall) and Brian Taylor (Birmingham and Walsall and other well-known players.

TV All Stars To Play Brentwich At Manor Park

The TV All Stars football team captained by Bernie Winters is to visit Nuneaton on Sunday, March 20. Their opponents at Manor Park will be the famous "Brentwich United" whose fortunes are followed by thousands of fans every Monday and Thursday on BBC television.

Some weeks ago Nuneaton Boys' Club were contacted by Mr Leslie Wise, manager of the TV All Stars team. Mr Wise offered to bring the All Stars to Nuneaton and stage a game in aid of the Boys' Club.

This was too good an opportunity to miss and created the immediate problem of where to play and who were to be the opposition. At the first approach the directors of Nuneaton Borough FC solved the question of the ground. This and their advice in ironing out the early snags got things off to a good start.

Various ideas were mooted regarding the opposing team and then Mr Dudley Kernick, of Nuneaton Borough FC, offered to try to obtain the services of the famous TV team of "Brentwich United." This has now been arranged and all that the Boys' Club require to ensure success is a fine afternoon.

The game will start at 3pm and the Mayor (Councillor R. A. Moore) will kick off. Admission will be by programme only, which will cost 2s. 6d.

It is hoped that Mick Kearns, of Coventry City will referee the game and that the line will be run by George Curtis, of Coventry City, and David Gibson, of Leicester City.

When the All Stars visited Nuneaton a few years ago a crowd of 8,000 turned out to see them play, and the money raised helped to build the gymnasium now owned by the Boys' Club.

Nuneaton Borough v Port Vale

28-02-1966

Borough welcomed Port Vale to Manor Park to play a Monday night floodlit friendly game.

There was a crowd of 3,219 to welcome Sir Stanley Matthews and the Port Vale players to Manor Park, when an entertaining game fittingly ended in a draw. Sir Stanley gave flashes of his old brilliance both when he kept to the wing and when he moved inside to pin-point passes to his colleagues.

Both sides put in some good work in the first half when there was no scoring, though Borough were twice fortunate when shots by Jackie Mudie and Collerton struck the woodwork. Just before half-time Jack Lovatt shot outside after getting clean through the Port Vale defence.

After the break Murray, Bell, Atkinson and Carter took the places of Hails, Fowkes, Lovatt and Allen in the Borough side and in the 55th minute the home side took the lead. Carter broke through on the left and crossed the ball to the far post for Ashe to head the ball into the middle to Goldsby who slammed it past McNalty.

At this point Sir Stanley, Mudie and two other Port Vale players left the field and four other players took their places. In the 68th minute Norman Ashe put Borough further ahead with a brilliant goal. He cut in from the wing, rounded a defender and then scored with an unstoppable shot.

After Carter had struck a post Port Vale hit back with a vengeance. Cullerton reduced the lead after getting clear in the 80th minute and not long afterwards Taylor cut in from the left to level the scores with a well placed shot.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable game, both teams doing their best to entertain the spectators.



Pictured above are Sir Stanley Matthews, Mr Dudley Kernick, Borough team manager (left), Mick Fowkes and Billy Hails.

Photo: Nuneaton Observer

Wellington Town v Nuneaton Borough 05-03-1966

Wellington: Richards, Whitehouse, Fuller, Salt, Clarke, Goodall, Bonar, Campbell, Bentley, Blackburn, Williams.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Bettany, Allen, Watts, Brewerton, Ashe, Hails, Fowkes, Lovatt, Carter,

Borough made the journey to the Buck's Head to take on Wellington Town in a Southern League Premier Division game. A goal by Mick Fowkes four minutes from time enabled Borough to collect both points at Wellington and to give their hopes of steering clear of relegation a further lift.

Defences had been so much on top that a goalless draw looked almost a certainty and quite a few spectators, finding the game lacking in excitement, had left the ground when Borough snapped up the winner. It was Jack Lovatt who started the move with a pass to Mick Fowkes who almost lost his balance when tackled by a defender, recovered, and then shot past the advancing goalkeeper, Richards, into the net.

This was a game which produced little to keep interest really alive, because there were so few good forward moves and little in the way of good marksmanship.

Wellington were on top for the first ten minutes when they launched attack after attack, and again for about five minutes after the restart when the Borough goal had two lucky escapes. First when Blackburn sent Bonar away and the winger's perfect cross found Bentley, whose header struck the angle of the goal and dropped down to be scrambled away. Two minutes later Campbell, after getting clean through, shot across goal and outside as Bill Wilson came out to meet him.

In the first-half Borough had twice come near to scoring. Once following good work by Ashe and Carter, Fowkes put in a shot which caught the keeper on the wrong foot, but somehow or other he managed to push the ball over the top. Shortly afterwards a Hails' free-kick was deflected and Richards did extremely well to reach the ball near the foot of a post and get it away for a corner.

Wellington could claim with some justification that they deserved a point. They did more attacking than Borough, but were let down by their finishing.

Chelmsford City v Nuneaton Borough 07-03-1966

Chelmsford: King, Hopkins, Gillott, Docherty, Eades, Costello, Duncan, Butcher, Houghton, Brennan, Buxton.

Borough: Wilson, Jones, Watts, Lovatt, Brewerton, Allen, Hails, Atkinson, Carter, Fowkes, Ashe.

Borough made the journey to New Writtle Street for a Southern League Premier Division game against Chelmsford City.

Borough earned another valuable point at Chelmsford on Monday night and further enhanced their chances of avoiding relegation. Well balanced and organised to a sound degree, Borough gave a spirited and energetic performance.

Team manager Dudley Kernick's version of the numbers game perplexed Chelmsford who were beaten 1-0 at Manor Park on Boxing Day. This Borough performance, however, carried even more merit than that win, and the side collectively and individually looked impressive both on and off the ball.

Borough's ability to withstand a fierce second half onslaught frustrated a 3,025 Chelmsford crowd hungry for a success which would have taken City to the top of the league table. But Nuneaton, who led 3-2 until 15 minutes from the end survived the pressure.

Norman Ashe, often a thorn in Chelmsford's side, forced full-back Olly Hopkins into an error after 13 minutes and squeezed the ball into the net between the keeper and a post, and although Tony Butcher gave Chelmsford the whip hand with goals after 18 and 21 minutes, Borough hit back once again.

In the 23rd minute Alan Carter seized a tragic back-pass by John Docherty and scored with ease. Five minutes later Ashe coolly clipped the ball over the head of George Duncan and rapped number three on the volley from 25 yards.

In the second half Borough had fewer chances, but all Chelmsford could make of the chances was a 75th minute equaliser gratefully accepted by left-half Lou Costello, who shot through a ruck of players and beat the courageous Wilson.

Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-03-1966

Corby Town: Alexander, Whittaker, Pollard, Riley, Parsons, Armour, Stenhouse, Goodall, Wiggin, Needham, McNameie.

Borough: Potts, Thompson, Brewerton, Watts, Bettany, Hails, Allen, Ashe, Carter, Lovatt, Goldsby.

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

Borough threw away two points on Saturday. For three-parts of the game they were so vastly superior to the home side that they should have won with the greatest of ease. But they ignored easy scoring chances – and paid the penalty.

Alan Carter in particular will wish to forget this match, for he

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ought to have won the game off his own bat. Twice he failed to score with only the goalkeeper to beat. Jack Lovatt also failed with a good opening. These misses came with the score at 1-1 and with the Borough so much on top, that defeat was the very last thing that was expected.

By midway through the second half the visitors should have been in an unassailable position; they ought to have been two or three goals ahead. But as so often happens in games where a side neglects their winning chances, the other side comes along with a goal right out of the blue.

Corby opened the scoring after just four minutes when Armour crossed the ball for Goodall to head into the Borough goal near the far post. Ten minutes later Borough were on level terms when Allen and Bettany paved the way for Jack Lovatt to move inside and drive the ball past the goalkeeper. And the score remained 1-1 until ten minutes from time.

Two or three wild shots by the home forwards were hopelessly off target. Then Mick Potts, making his Southern League debut, made a fine save from Alex Stenhouse before, with only ten minutes left, Stenhouse took a header from Needham and before anybody hardly realised what had happened, the ball was nestling in the back of the Borough net.

Corby were but a shadow of the side that won at Manor Park. On this occasion Borough were much the better tacticians. They played cool, calculated football and were on top for so much of the game that their eventual defeat came as a bitter disappointment to their supporters. Although they have been picking up points steadily in recent games, Borough even now can't afford to ignore points that are there for the taking.

Nuneaton Borough v Folkestone 14-03-1966

Borough: Potts, Thompson, Watts, Brewerton, Bettany, Hails, Allen, Ashe, Carter, Lovatt, Goldsby.

Folkestone: Hall, Russell, Bell, Campbell, Patrick, Catleugh, Ireland, Churms, Biggs, Ballagher, Legate.

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

About the only thing that had caused anything like a stir in the first-half was when Alan Carter laid on a perfect scoring chance for Norman Ashe, but with a yawning net in front of him, the outside right ballooned the ball high over the bar.

So far as Folkestone were concerned only right-winger Jeff Ireland had presented much of a threat to the Borough defence, though George Catleugh had done his best to get the forwards on the move.

It was in the 48th minute that things began to happen. In coming out of goal to check Norman Ashe, who was chasing a through ball, the Folkestone goalkeeper, Brian Hall, collided with the Borough player. Both went down. Ashe was able to resume after receiving attention, but Hall had to be carried off the field on a stretcher.

This was a sad blow for struggling Folkestone, not merely

because it meant they were a man short, but because their best forward, Ireland, had to take Hall's place in goal. In the 53rd minute, Alan Carter, when racing towards goal, was brought down by Patrick inside the penalty area. The centre-forward's spot kick was stopped by Ireland but he failed to hold it and the ball ran out to Norman Ashe, who promptly slammed it home. Four minutes later Borough were awarded a second penalty following a clash between Jack Lovatt and Patrick. This time the kick was taken by Lovatt, who left Ireland helpless to make the score 2-0.

In the 70th minute Billy Hails took a free kick out on the right wing. Ireland got to the ball, but dropped it and Alan Carter was on hand to make the score 3-0.

Folkestone's cup of woe was filled to overflowing in the 73rd minute when Bell, their left-back, was injured and had to leave the field, the visitors now having only nine men. In the 84th minute Borough were awarded a third penalty when Carter was once more brought down by Patrick – and Jack Lovatt again left Ireland standing with his spot kick.

After two minutes of injury time, Roger Thompson fastened on to an ill-placed back pass and crossed the ball in front of the Folkestone net for Alan Carter to round off the scoring.

The Case For Substitutes

What happened at Manor Park on Monday night must surely have convinced everybody that the sooner substitution for an injured player is permitted in football outside the English League the better.

Before substitution was agreed, it was argued in this column that it should be permitted in all classes of football and not confined to the English League, since the loss of a player or players was just as serious to a non-League side as a League side.

We stressed particularly the necessity of allowing a substitute for an injured goalkeeper whatever the class of football, because of the tremendous handicap it imposes on any side to lose their goalkeeper.

Just after half-time on Monday night, Folkestone, who are struggling to avoid relegation were deprived of the services of their goalkeeper. Up to that point neither side had scored – but Borough went on to win 5-0. It was bad enough for Folkestone to lose one player, but between the scoring of Borough's third and fourth goals, they lost a full-back as well, finishing up with nine players.

The loss of these two players imposed upon the Kent side an intolerable burden – one no team should be expected to shoulder. We hope, therefore, that next season substitution for an injured player will be allowed not only in League football, but in the Southern League and in all other classes of football.



Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 19-03-1966

Borough: Potts, Thompson, Watts, Brewerton, Bettany, Hails, Allen, N. Ashe, Carter, Fowkes, Goldsby.

Yeovil: Chilvers, Herrity, Harris, Albury, Lambden, Read, Pounder, Foley, Hirst, Muir, E. Ashe.

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

Yeovil called the tune for a major part of the game only to see Borough grab an unexpected winner 12 minutes from time. After a brisk opening in which Borough might so easily have run into a two-goal lead, the game became even for a time, and then Yeovil gained the upper hand.

Had Yeovil's finishing been as good as their approach work, Borough might have been in real trouble in the second-half when the Somerset side were on top. And when they did happen to get on target, Mick Potts was invariably in the right spot at the right time, though once or twice luck was on his side, especially when a shot from Muir struck his legs.

Generally speaking, however, Potts' display stamped him out as being a goalkeeper of more than ordinary promise. He has quickly settled down in the Southern League side – and looks like staying there.

This was not one of Borough's best displays. There was a general tendency to take the ball too close to an opponent, with the result that they were often caught in possession. In addition, many passes went astray. But, by and large, the Borough defence did well to prevent their visitors from scoring more than one goal, but the forwards never really got going.

After Alan Carter had missed an early chance and a Watts header had dropped on the Yeovil crossbar, Borough took the lead in the 25th minute through Carter, who nipped in after goalkeeper Chilvers had failed to hold a back pass, and shot the ball into the far corner of the net.

Yeovil drew level in the 65th minute when Albury took a pass from Foley and shot. The ball dipped late and Potts appeared to tip it against the bar, from where it went into the net. The score remained 1-1 until 12 minutes from time when, quite unexpectedly, Norman Ashe got the winner for Borough. Mick Fowkes had shot into a ruck of players and the ball ran out to Ashe, who, from an awkward angle, managed to turn the ball across goal and into the far corner of the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Wellington Town 24-03-1966

Borough: Potts, Thompson, Watts, Brewerton, Bettany, Hopkin, Allen, Ashe, Fowkes, Lovatt, Carter.

Wellington: Richards, Whitehouse, Fuller, Clarke, Hair, Goodall, Matthews, Campbell, Bentley, Birch, Borer.

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

Borough started sensationally when, with the game only one

minute old, 20-year-old Mick Fowkes gathered a through ball from Allen and sent a low drive past goalkeeper Richards. The game slowly swung on to a more even keel and the Wellington forwards, led by a lively Bentley, forced the home side back into their own half.

Clive Hopkin, making his return to the side after injury, was prompting his forwards impressively and often sent Carter away, but the left winger tended to hold the ball too long and was often caught in possession by Whitehouse.

Borough started the second half in similar fashion when Fowkes again burst through. The Wellington defence had hardly lined up when he beat the goalkeeper with a 30-yard drive that missed by inches. Good work by Ashe and Allen put Lovatt clear, but Richards managed to palm the ball away.

Borough's defence were commanding midfield play with Clive Hopkin in top form, but the number of testing shots was scarce. Norman Ashe hit two that landed in the crowd.

A minute from time Lovatt sealed the issue when he side-footed Alan Carter's corner home. Wellington's left-back, Fuller, attempted to clear the ball, but could only help it into the net.

Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 26-03-1966

Rugby Town: Smethurst, Bennett, Lawton, Walker, Scott, Wright, Morrow, Sweeney, Walsh, Denial, Senior.

Borough: Potts, Thompson, Watts, Brewerton, Bettany, Hopkin, Allen, Ashe, Fowkes, Lovatt, Carter.

Borough made the journey to Rugby Town for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

For some weeks now, Borough have been playing well. About that there can be no doubt. But they have never done better than they did at Rugby last Saturday. They just didn't give the home side a chance.

The only real criticism that could be levelled against Borough is that they should have won by a larger score. Early on they missed two or three reasonably good scoring chances after cutting through the Rugby defence, but once they did get on target the result was never in doubt.

The Rugby defence had no answer to the intelligent raiding of the visiting side, which had Don Scott and his co-defenders in a constant state of nervousness. In fact the defence was in complete panic when Norman Ashe scored a cheeky third goal for Borough.

Borough opened their account in the 26th minute. Malcolm Allen started the move with a pass to Clive Hopkin. The latter put the ball to Mick Fowkes, who had moved out on to the left, and he, in turn, crossed perfectly to Jack Lovatt, who, in an unmarked position, tucked the ball away into the Rugby net.

It was in the 55th minute that Borough went further ahead. Allen again started the move with a pass to Carter. The latter gave the ball to Bettany, who swung it right across goal to

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Norman Ashe and the winger headed through to make the score 2-0. Ten minutes from time, a move on the left saw the Rugby defence in a complete mix-up and Norman Ashe nipped in to push the ball into the far end of the net while two of the Rugby defenders were trying to make up their minds what to do.

Borough had not won at Oakfield since 1959, but there was no doubt about their superiority this time. Even though Rugby are a long way from being a good side, this must be ranked as one of Borough's best displays of the season – not because they won, but because of the manner of their performance. They played some delightful football. The result was a triumph for first-class teamwork.

Wimbledon v Nuneaton Borough 02-04-1966

Wimbledon: Smith, Cordjohn, Martin, Arderym, Law, Davies, Peters, Cooke, O'Rourke, Cartwright, Hodges.

Borough: Potts, Thompson, Watts, Brewerton, Bettany, Hopkin, Allen, Ashe, Fowkes, Lovatt, Carter.

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

Borough were never really in the hunt and once the Dons had taken the lead they strode on confidently, inexorably to a clear cut victory. The visitors were but a shadow of the side that whipped Rugby; not nearly so competent as in many other recent games, and the match had not been in progress long before it became apparent that there were no points here for Borough.

Wimbledon are a strong, alert, persistent side. Their defence gave the Borough forwards few scoring chances, while their forwards often had the Borough defence in a whirl.

Their chief agent of destruction was Ian Cooke, who scored Wimbledon's first, third and fourth goals. The inside-right was the home side's spearhead in attack, centre-forward George O'Rourke spending a good deal of time on the left wing, with Johnnie Cartwright the prompter from behind. Too often the Wimbledon forwards found a way through the Borough defence, which did not cover up nearly so well as usual. Mick Potts had a very busy afternoon in goal.

The Borough attack only very rarely got into stride and presented few problems to the Dons. Telling shots were few and far between. Once Jack Lovatt broke through to slam in a hard drive which Smith could only beat out, the shot being too hot to hold. Then late in the game a Clive Hopkin shot appeared to be slightly deflected and the goalkeeper had to dive across goal to keep the ball from crossing the line.

Wimbledon went ahead after 18 minutes when Ian Cooke took a pass from O'Rourke in what appeared to be an offside position. But getting no response from a linesman, the referee allowed Cooke to go on and slip the ball past Potts. The home side went further ahead after 33 minutes when Dave Peters swung the ball over to George O'Rourke, who

from a none-too-easy angle left Mick Potts standing with a great cross-shot, to make the half-time score 2-0.

At 68 minutes Brian Martin sent Ian Cooke through the middle. The inside-right dribbled round the advancing Mick Potts and hit the ball into the empty net. Four minutes from the end Cartwright put Ian Cooke through once again to shoot just inside the near post for Wimbledon's fourth and final goal.

Crewe Alexandra v Nuneaton Borough 04-04-1966

Borough welcomed Crewe Alexandra to Manor Park on Monday night for a friendly fixture.

It was not until midway through the second half that Borough really got into this floodlit game. Up to that point Crewe had matters so much their own way that the proceedings were becoming a little dull. With four goals already chalked up, Crewe looked to be heading for a big score. Then it was that Borough, for the first time, began to get together – to show signs of making a fight of it.

Crewe opened their account in the 9th minute when Bodell sent Wheatley away and the left-winger crossed perfectly for Glen Nicholas to head past Mick Potts. They increased their lead after 28 minutes when Roger Brewerton mis-kicked to allow Nicholas to beat Potts for the second time.

Bill Wilson took Potts' place in goal after the change of ends, but within five minutes of the restart he had twice picked the ball out of the Borough net – first when Nicholas headed through to complete his hat-trick and then when Peter Kane netted with a hard drive that the goalkeeper got his fingers to but could not stop.

Malcolm Allen scored Borough's first goal in the 62nd minute. One hard drive of his had been blocked but when the ball ran back to him, Allen rammed it home with his left foot to make the score 4-1. Twelve minutes later Allen started the move that led to Borough's second goal, but it was a clever piece of manoeuvring by Jack Lovatt and a pass bang in front of goal that enabled John Watts to make it 4-2 from close range.

Had a hard drive by Mick Fowkes, a few minutes later, been a couple of feet lower, the score might easily have been 4-3. As it was Crewe held their two-goal lead to the end.

King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 08-04-1966

Borough made the journey to King's Lynn for a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough paid a heavy penalty for not cashing in while the going was good at King's Lynn on Good Friday. They led 2-1 at half-time after having had much the better of the exchanges. Lovatt and Fowkes both missed chances of virtually settling the issue.

Then the shocks came thick and heavy. Two goals in a minute put the home side in the lead, and they went on to get three more quick goals, all five of them coming within a space of twenty minutes.



Nuneaton Borough v Dartford 09-04-1966

Borough: Potts, Thompson, Watts, Lovatt, Brewerton, Hopkin, Allen, Hails, Carter, Atkinson, Ashe.

Dartford: Bourne, Sitford, Mabey, Pyke, Burns, Stevens, Dennis, Humphries, Gill, Barraclough, Wheeler.

Borough welcomed Dartford to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

For most of the first-half of this game on Saturday, Borough played as though their confidence had been badly shaken following three consecutive defeats. But once they had managed to shrug off the ill-effects of those reverses, they began to settle down and a vastly improved second session brought them a clear-cut victory.

Until Borough really got into their stride there was precious little in it. Dartford being the equals of the home side in every respect. After the change of ends, however, Borough infused much more snap into their game and recaptured something approaching their best form, and a goal by Alan Carter to add to one he had scored in the first-half put them in a comfortable position.

In their three previous games Borough had conceded no fewer than 14 goals, and to give it more stability, Dudley Kernick withdrew Johnny Lovatt from the attack. The move put a stop to the free flow of goals. Back in defence Lovatt had a good match and often found time to come through with the ball to help launch attacks on the Dartford goal.

Borough opened the scoring in the 25th minute when Clive Hopkin fed Bill Atkinson, the latter put the ball through to Alan Carter who swept the ball past a helpless Bourne in the Dartford goal into the far corner of the net. The score remained 1-0 until the 52nd minute. Malcolm Allen beautifully rounded Pyke near the half-way line and after running on passed to Atkinson, whose cross was missed by Carter but ran on to Billy Hails, who shot against a post for Carter to put the rebound into the net.

Dartford reduced the lead in the 61st minute when Barraclough beat Mick Potts with a well-placed shot from the edge of the penalty area, but in the 75th minute Carter was upended in the penalty area when making a bee-line for goal, and from the inevitable penalty award, Johnny Lovatt banged home his third consecutive spot kick to put the issue beyond doubt.

Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 11-04-1966

Borough: Potts, Thompson, Watts, Lovatt, Brewerton, Hopkin, Allen, Hails, Carter, Atkinson, Ashe.

King's Lynn: Walls, Haskins, Sharpe, Brookes, Porter, Wright, Bacon, Davies, Lindsay, Laverick, Banson.

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

A shaky Borough defence conceded two goals in the last twelve minutes of this Easter Monday encounter, to enable

King's Lynn to save a point when Borough seemed to have the game all sewn up. Indeed, so nervous did the Borough defence become in the dying stages of the game that had the visitors converted a 3-1 deficit into victory nobody would have been surprised.

Borough were never happy after Johnny Lovatt had failed with a penalty kick in the 36th minute when Alan Carter had been brought down in the area by Porter – Lovatt's shot was beaten out by goalkeeper Walls. King's Lynn snapped up a goal just before half-time when Banson headed through a cross by Laverick.

But the second half had not been in progress long before Borough had established a 2-1 lead. First Bill Atkinson crossed the ball in front of goal for Billy Hails to touch it on to Dave Brookes, who turned the ball into his own net. Shortly afterwards Clive Hopkin sent in a high lob from the right. Goalkeeper Walls got his fingers to the ball which, however, dropped behind him into the net.

In the 70th minute Norman Ashe sent Alan Carter away and after sending Haskins the wrong way, Carter shot into the far corner of the net and it seemed Borough were coasting to victory. But then things began to change. In the 78th minute Clive Hopkin tried to put the ball back to his goalkeeper, and nipping in Ron Bacon put the ball into the Borough net.

Five minutes later from a Sharpe free-kick Mick Potts punched the ball out to Dave Brookes, whose return header landed in the Borough net to make the score three-all.

Few Borough players really shone in this game. One of the few who did was Malcolm Allen, whose persistence in playing good football was to be admired. His clever ball control was appreciated by the crowd who had little else to applaud except Alan Carter's second goal.

Guildford City v Nuneaton Borough 16-04-1966

Borough: Potts, Thompson, Watts, Brewerton, Lovatt, Hopkin, Allen, Hails, Atkinson, Carter, Ashe.

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

Another second-half fade-out cost Borough the points at Guildford on Saturday. The Surrey side, second from bottom in the league table, led 1-0 at half-time and then went on to score four more goals in the second half.

Once again Borough's shaky defence let them down – the same defence that played so well in Nuneaton's pre-Easter run. Three of the goals could have been prevented but City more than deserved their morale-boosting win. Left-half Terry Moore gave the home side the lead in the 12th minute. He hit the ball into the net via an upright after a pass from centre-forward Stevens.

Borough made a determined effort to get an equaliser. Home goalkeeper Vasper saved well from Hails and Norman Ashe, and Bill Atkinson shot wide with the goal at his mercy.

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



But Guildford ended Borough's hopes with three goals in 11 minutes. Stevens made it 2-0 in the 60th minute from a Cliss pass. Eight minutes later Cliss scored Guildford's third after Potts had pushed out a cross from right winger Colfar.

Borough went to pieces. Their passes went astray and they looked a poor side as the home side piled on the pressure. Right winger Colfar put Nuneaton further behind before Dudley Kernick's men staged a brief rally.

Alan Carter scored easily in the 72nd minute after home centre-half French had missed the ball. Then two minutes from the end Cliss hit the post for Guildford and Stevens followed up to score and give Guildford one of their biggest wins of the season.

Nuneaton Borough v Margate 18-04-1966

Borough: Wilson, Jones, Watts, Brewerton, Thompson, Hails, Allen, Ashe, Murray, Lovatt, Carter.

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

A goal by Norman Ashe six minutes from time on Monday night, gave Borough a victory their general performance scarcely merited. They made very hard work of what should have been a simple, straightforward job. Admittedly conditions were bad. Indeed, what with the mud, the slush and the rain, things could hardly have been worse.

But they were not the sole reason for Borough's very mediocre display against bottom-of-the-table Margate, who have not won an away league game this season. In most respects Margate were Borough's equals, and the seaisiders could be regarded as unfortunate not to have forced a draw.

Borough, who had Bill Wilson back in goal and Bob Murray back in the attack, just could not get into their stride. In fact lack of confidence following a lean patch was reflected in almost everything they did. Their defensive work was ragged and uncertain, their approach work sluggish. Indeed the number of really good moves they initiated could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

And good marksmanship was conspicuous by its absence in respect of both sides. The result was that neither Wilson nor Brian Hughes had many anxious moments in goal. In fact it took a defender, Roger Thompson, to put Borough on the goalscoring trail.

Margate shocked Borough by going ahead after only three minutes play. Right winger Wedge received the ball in an unmarked position, rounded Roger Thompson and then squared the ball in front of goal for Holder to beat Wilson from close range. Borough drew level after 32 minutes when, following a corner kick on the left, Norman Ashe pushed the ball back to Roger Thompson, who found the net with a fine long drive.

The score remained 1-1 until the 84th minute when Hughes

failed to hold the ball from an Alan Carter indirect free kick and nipping in Norman Ashe slammed the ball into the roof of the net.

Folkestone v Nuneaton Borough 20-04-1966

Borough: Wilson, Jones, Brewerton, Watts, Thompson, Hopkin, Allen, Hails, Ashe, Lovatt, Murray.

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

Borough spent most of their game at Folkestone on Wednesday night in desperate defence. They snatched a goal from a free-kick in the 13th minute and did not concede the equaliser until the 82nd minute.

While Folkestone stood wondering what was happening Billy Hails smacked the ball low into the net from just outside the area to give Borough the lead. Borough played attractive football in the opening ten minutes; their 4-2-4 system worked fluently as Allen and Hopkin sprayed passes through the home defence.

But Folkestone, spurred on by a serious threat of relegation, piled attack upon attack and Nuneaton were forced to pull all their strength back into defence in the second half. Goalkeeper Wilson was in great form and saved his team from defeat time and again. Watts and Thompson played a vital role in the back line.

The home fans wailed for an equaliser, but the Borough goal seemed to have a charmed life until eight minutes from time. Churms split the defence with a pass down the middle to Ballagher, who streaked through the gap, beat Wilson to the ball and shot into the net.

Folkestone threw everything into the last minutes to snatch a winner, but after such a gallant rearguard action it would have been unjust if Borough had not had a share of the spoils.

Poole Town v Nuneaton Borough 30-04-1966

Borough: Wilson, Jones, Watts, Brewerton, Thompson, Hopkin, Allen, Ashe, Hails, Lovatt, Carter.

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

Poole Town scored twice in five minutes before the interval to take both points from a tired Borough outfit in Dorset on Saturday. Borough, weary after the 180 mile trip, made an effort to pull the game round in the second half. But Poole fully deserved their comfortable win and two more points in their fight against relegation.

Norman Ashe had the ball in the net in the 72nd minute and for a split second it looked as if Borough would become the first side to score against Poole in four games. Referee Mr H. Bailey, of Bath, pointed to the centre circle at first, then he consulted a linesman and disallowed the goal.

Poole went ahead in the 30th minute through centre-forward

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Ron Ball. He outjumped Johnny Watts to a cross from full-back Tommy McGhee and beat Potts with a glancing header. The home side increased their lead five minutes later. Inside-left Tony France – their best forward – lofted the ball into the middle and right-half Peter Bellett headed past Potts from close range.

Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth 02-05-1966

Borough: Potts, Jones, Watts, Lovatt, Thompson, Hopkin, Allen, Hails, Carter, Ashe, Bell.

Weymouth: Donnelly, Gilliver, Sheppard, Barry, Hobson, Hall, Hannigan, Forrest, Dowsett, Gough, Horobin.

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

A slip by Roger Thompson after 52 minutes play led to Weymouth scoring the only goal of the match – a goal that gave them both points and boosted their chances of winning the championship.

During a Weymouth attack, Thompson, who never looked comfortable at left-back, had ample time to clear; he could have put the ball out of play or banged it upfield. But he tried to make a pass to a colleague and saw the ball run straight to Weymouth winger Hannigan. The latter strode away almost to the dead ball line and crossed the ball in front of goal. The ball was kicked away but ran straight back to Hannigan, who again put the ball in front of the Borough net for Dudley Barry to bang it home.

There could be no doubting the fact that Weymouth were the better footballers. Technically they were a very good side – a side capable of some very clever moves. Even so they were not over-impressive in front of goal. Indeed this was not a game conspicuous for good marksmanship.

Ten minutes after Weymouth's goal Norman Ashe had a great chance of equalising, but threw it away. A cross from the right found him in the open and quite unmarked. He had time to control the ball and if needs be, to take it right in and then pick his spot. But he preferred to take a swing at the ball which went sailing high over the bar into the crowd behind the Cock and Bear goal.

One of Borough's best scoring efforts came in the first-half when Billy Hails brought the best out of goalkeeper Andy Donnelly with a hard low drive which fetched the Weymouth man to his knees. Apart from an Alan Carter header towards the end of the game, there were few other occasions when a goal-shy Borough attack looked like getting a goal

Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 07-05-1966

Borough: Potts, Jones, Watts, Lovatt, Thompson, Hopkin, Allen, Ashe, Bell, Hails, Carter.

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

Weymouth made sure of the Southern League Premier Division Championship with this win. Although Weymouth

deserved their victory, Borough created and tossed away enough chances to have drastically altered the pattern of the game. Terry Bell shot wide with the Weymouth keeper out of position. Norman Ashe hit the side netting after Bell had headed against the woodwork and Alan Carter amazingly shot wide from almost on the goal-line after Malcolm Allen had hit the post.

This has been the pattern of Borough's play throughout the season and is one of the reasons why only one side in the Premier Division has scored fewer goals. Dudley Kernick now has to step up his search for players to add a much needed goal touch before the start of next season's campaign.

Weymouth went ahead in the 13th minute through Forrest who beat Watts and Potts to head the ball into the net. Then in the 33rd minute the ball hit John Lovatt on the shoulder in the penalty area and the referee pointed to the spot, from where Barry scored easily.

The home side were 3-0 up six minutes after the break when Horobin darted through the middle to beat Potts with a powerful drive. Ten minutes from time Potts raced out of his goal to stop Dowsett. He kicked the ball away and the Weymouth centre-forward fell over. The referee awarded another penalty despite strong protests from the Borough team and Barry netted from the spot.

Nuneaton Borough v Nottingham Forest 09-05-1966

Borough welcomed Nottingham Forest to Manor Park for an end-of-season friendly match.

Borough were completely overwhelmed in the first-half when Forest scored all of their five goals. Their speedy forwards simply tore through a bewildered and often spreadeagled Borough defence, and the wonder is that they did not score more than five goals in the first session.

Borough pulled themselves together after the change of ends and with the Forest probably easing off, the game became more even. The home side succeeded in preventing Forest adding to their score in the second half, but seldom looked like beating Williamson, a lively, alert goalkeeper.

The easiest scoring chance fell to Borough in the first-half when Alan Carter headed wide of a yawning net from a Norman Ashe cross. Late in the game Ashe had a shot pushed on to the bar, but generally speaking Borough seldom looked like making inroads into the Forest lead.

The visitors went ahead in the sixth minute when McArthur shot through from a pass by Hall. After 20 minutes, McArthur headed a second goal. Seven minutes later Clarke made it 3-0 after one shot had been blocked by Mick Potts, and less than a minute later McArthur added a fourth. Nearing half-time Hall got Forest's fifth goal.

After taking a real drubbing in the first half Borough saved face somewhat with an improved display after the change of ends, but never were they the equals of Forest.



Season Review 1965-66

Stronger Team Vital For Next Season

The floodlit friendly match played against Nottingham Forest at Manor Park on Monday night brought to a close yet another disappointing, unsuccessful season for Nuneaton Borough FC.

Long before the end of the season the main interest was the club's fight to avoid relegation – a fight which ended in success, thanks to one short but productive spell of eight games, ending with the victory at Rugby, which produced no fewer than 13 hard-earned points. That run of success, much the best of the season, virtually assured Borough retention of their Premier Division status.

The team was not a good one. Right from the start of the season weaknesses began to show both in defence and attack – especially in attack.

Indeed, when Mr Dudley Kernick took over as team manager in November, relegation was an issue which had to be faced fairly and squarely. And it is to the credit of Mr Kernick that he was able to steer the club clear of the danger zone without the help of new players, but largely with the 4-2-4 playing system which, although not everybody's cup of tea, brought about sufficient improvement to achieve a steady climb from near the foot of the table to a healthier-looking position in the chart.

But it is pretty obvious that if next season is to be better than the one just ended – indeed better than many we have experienced in the Southern League – considerable team strengthening has to be undertaken by Mr Kernick during the close season.

At least a couple of really good defenders are required, while the introduction of far more punch into the attack is absolutely essential. Goals were never easily come by during the campaign just ended – in fact, haven't been for some seasons now. Far too much reliance this season was placed on Alan Carter, who signed from Rugby Town and topped the goalscoring list. Norman Ashe, was easily the club's most consistent forward.

Mr Kernick has given an assurance that he will spare no effort during the close season to get together a successful side. And nothing short of a successful side is likely to bring back the thousand or two supporters lost to the club as a result of several lean seasons.

What is needed more than anything next season, to revive interest in the club's activities is a successful cup run. Can Dudley Kernick build up a side as good as the one that beat Watford – that very team of which he was a playing member?

Full Record

Borough's full record is as follows:

P56 W19 D13 L24 F85 A102

Goalscorers

Alan Carter	25
Norman Ashe.....	11
Terry Bell	10
John Lovatt	10
Billy Hails.....	6
Billy Atkinson	5
Bob Murray.....	3
Clive Hopkin	3
Mick Fowkes	2
John Watts	2
Kevin Cornwell.....	2
Malcolm Allen.....	1
Graham Goldsby	1
Roger Thompson	1
Own Goals	3
Total.....	85

Southern League Premier Division 1965-66

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Weymouth	42	22	13	7	70	35	57
Chelmsford City	42	21	12	9	74	50	54
Hereford United	42	21	10	11	81	49	52
Bedford Town	42	23	6	13	80	57	52
Wimbledon	42	20	10	12	80	47	50
Cambridge City	42	19	11	12	67	52	49
Romford	42	21	7	14	87	72	49
Worcester City	42	20	8	14	69	54	48
Yeovil Town	42	17	11	14	91	70	45
Cambridge United	42	18	9	15	72	64	45
King's Lynn	42	18	7	17	75	72	43
Corby Town	42	16	9	17	66	73	41
Wellington Town	42	13	13	16	65	70	39
Nuneaton Borough	42	15	8	19	60	74	38
Folkestone Town	42	14	9	19	53	75	37
Guildford City	42	14	8	20	70	84	36
Poole Town	42	14	7	21	61	75	35
Cheltenham Town	42	13	9	20	69	99	35
Dartford	42	13	7	22	62	69	33
Rugby Town	42	11	10	21	67	95	32
Tonbridge	42	11	6	25	63	101	28
Margate	42	8	10	24	66	111	26

Lockheed Leamington – 1st Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to meet Lockheed Leamington in a 1st Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Lockheed: Crosby, Lockton, Hancocks, Haines, Connolly, Jones, Ward, Davis, Holmes, Shorthose, Hall.

Borough: Wilson, Thompson, Brewerton, Rawlings, Watts, Allen, Hails, Hopkin, Bell, Murray, Carter.

Borough's hopes of a good run in the FA Cup came to an abrupt end at the Windmill Ground on Saturday when a powerful Lockheed side trounced Borough 3-1.

Borough were just not good enough for their Midland League opponents, and had Lockheed widened the margin there could have been no complaints. From the first whistle the home team set about the task in hand in a workmanlike manner and Borough soon had their backs to the wall.

Despite the fact that Barry Shorthose's fifth minute goal was equalised by Terry Bell seven minutes later from a Hails free-kick following a foul by Hancocks on the right winger, the visitors did not settle down to play the football expected of them. Urgency is a vital part of any game, but Borough's over-anxiousness cost them a passage into the next round. So often a hurried pass ruined what should have been a simple, yet clear-cut and direct move.

Borough also failed to appreciate the fact that any ball kicked above head height was virtually guaranteed to be won by the Lockheed defence. The tall home defenders towered above the Nuneaton attack, and it came as a surprise to all when the Borough defence continually drilled high balls into the home team's penalty area.

When Borough did score it was from a low cross by Billy Hails.

Thompson and Brewerton had a

lean time against Lockheed's tricky wingers, Ward and Sid Hall, who both had lots of room in which to work, and whenever Borough were in trouble it was either from the right or left flank.

Skipper Johnny Watts did a good job in the middle against the speedy Ray Holmes, and Malcolm Allen found it a full-time job containing Colin Davis.

The home team regained the lead in the 18th minute, when an accurate shot from Sid Hall beat Bill Wilson only to hit a post and rebound across the face of the goal. Holmes was on hand to snap up the chance.

Hall completed the scoring 11 minutes after the interval. The winger clipped a free-kick over a wall of Borough defenders and the unsuspecting Wilson stood no chance. The free-kick was awarded for a foul by Roger Thompson on Ward.

There can be no excuses for the defeat. Borough were outplayed by a better side.

Mr Kernick To Go After Goal Scoring Forwards

During the close season, Mr Dudley Kernick, Borough FC team Manager, will doubtless pay most attention to securing forwards who can get goals.

At the same time, he feels the team likely to win the championship next season, will be the team with the best defence. He quotes as an example the fact that Weymouth, favourites for this season's championship – having won the title during the season just ended – conceded only five goals at home during the league season.

There were no surprises when Mr Kernick announced the list of players he has offered terms for next season and those he has not retained.

Mr Kernick has offered terms to six defenders – Mick Potts,

Malcolm Allen, Clive Hopkin, Roger Thompson, Johnny Watts and Alan Jones – plus Johnny Lovatt, whom he has used both as a defender and a forward.

Forwards who have been offered terms are Norman Ashe, Alan Carter and Billy Hails.

From this it would seem that Mr Kernick feels fairly satisfied with the defence, though no doubt he will seek to strengthen it.

As there will be no reserve side next season, it is likely that the playing staff will number fifteen or sixteen, all with Southern League potential, which means that Mr Kernick will sign about half-a-dozen new players.

The players not retained are – Terry Bell, Bob Murray, Roger Brewerton, Tim Rawlings, Colin Bettany, Bill Atkinson and Bill Wilson.



Players offered terms for next season include (left to right): Alan Jones, Alan Carter, Malcolm Allen, Norman Ashe and Roger Thompson



Nuneaton Borough 1965-66

Back: Kevin Cornwell, Bill Jepson, Tony Lines, Michael Potts, Tim Rawlins, Roger Thompson.

Middle: Johnny Watts, Malcolm Allen, John Wootton, Alan Carter, Jack Lovatt, Bob Murray, Billy Hails.

Front: Norman Ashe, Clive Hopkin, Terry Bell, Roger Brewerton, Alan Jones.

Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1965-66

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	
08.14	Leicester City	H	F	1-6	Carter	
08.16	Aston Villa Reserves	H	F	2-1	Bell, Ashe	1,787
08.21	Worcester City	A	L	2-3	Murray, Cornwell	3,959
08.23	Tonbridge United	H	L	1-2	Cornwell	3,420
08.28	Cambridge City	H	L	0-1		2,731
08.30	Hereford United	A	SLC 1 1st Leg	3-3	Bell, Murray, Carter	3,200
09.04	Lockheed Leamington	A	FAC 1Q	1-3	Bell	1,611
09.06	Hereford United	H	SLC 1 2nd Leg	2-2	Carter, Ashe	2,233
09.11	Romford	A	L	2-1	Hopkins, Carter	2,571
09.15	Tonbridge	A	L	1-0	Ashe	1,665

Nuneaton Borough 1958-1970 – Part 1



Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1965-66

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Nuneaton Scores First
09.18	Corby Town	H	L	3-4	Carter (2), Hails	2,069
09.20	Hereford United	H	SLC 1 Replay	2-1	Hails, Bell	2,024
09.25	Yeovil Town	A	L	0-1		2,075
10.02	Rugby Town	H	L	5-1	Bell (2), Murray, Carter (pen), Thompson	2,370
10.09	Dudley Town	A	BSC 1	0-2		
10.23	Cheltenham Town	H	L	2-1	Atkinson, Bell	2,417
10.25	Leicester City	A	F	3-1	Atkinson, Bell (2)	6,250
10.27	Hereford United	A	L	0-3		3,178
10.30	Bedford Town	A	L	0-2		2,719
11.01	Nottingham Forest	A	F	0-0		3,429
11.03	Bath City	A	SLC 2	1-1	Watts	1,770
11.06	Wimbledon	H	L	0-3		2,454
11.08	Bath City	H	SLC 2 Replay	1-3	Carter (pen)	2,660
11.13	Margate	A	L	1-3	Carter (pen)	1,388
11.20	Guildford City	H	L	1-1	Carter	1,290
11.25	Cambridge United	H	L	1-0	Bell	1,293
12.04	Poole Town	H	L	3-1	Atkinson, Bell	2,417
12.11	Dartford	A	L	1-1	Carter (pen)	983
12.13	Moor Green	A	F	5-0	Carter (2), Hails (2), Lewis	900
12.18	Hereford United	H	L	0-1		1,726
12.27	Chelmsford City	H	L	1-0	Carter	2,920
01.01	Cambridge United	A	L	1-4	Carter	2,327
01.08	Bedford Town	H	L	1-1	Carter	2,188
01.13	Alvechurch	A	F	3-2	Atkinson, Murray, Ashe	680
01.15	Cheltenham Town	A	L	2.2	Carter, Lovatt	858
01.29	Worcester City	H	L	0-0		2,151
02.05	Cambridge City	A	L	0-2		2,609
02.26	Romford	H	L	3-2	Ashe, Hails, Lovatt	1,834
02.28	Port Vale	A	F	2-2	Goldsby, Atkinson	3,200
03.05	Wellington Town	A	L	1-0	Fowkes	1,587
03.07	Chelmsford City	A	L	3-3	Ashe (2), Carter	3,025
03.12	Corby Town	A	L	1-2	Lovatt	911
03.14	Folkestone	H	L	5-0	Ashe, Carter, Lovatt (2, 1pen)	2,785
03.19	Yeovil	H	L	2-1	Carter, Ashe	2,383
03.24	Wellington Town	H	L	2-0	Lovatt, Fowkes	1,631
03.26	Rugby Town	A	L	3-0	Lovatt, Ashe (2)	1,501
04.02	Wimbledon	A	L	0-4		2,293
04.04	Crewe Alexandra	A	F	2-4	Allen, Watts	
04.08	King's Lynn	A	L	2-6	Carter, Lovatt	
04.09	Dartford	H	L	3-1	Carter (2), Lovatt (pen)	1,389
04.11	King's Lynn	H	L	3-3	Carter, Hopkins, Brookes (o.g.)	2,119
04.16	Guildford City	A	L	1-5	Carter	1,257
04.18	Margate	H	L	2-1	Thompson, Ashe	1,446
04.20	Folkestone	A	L	1-1	Hails	1,084
04.30	Poole Town	A	L	0-2		1,067
05.02	Weymouth	H	L	0-1		1,981
05.07	Weymouth	A	L	0-4		2,426
05.09	Nottingham Forest	H	F	0-5		

KEY: L = Southern League Premier, FAC = F.A.Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, SLC = Southern League Cup, F = Friendly

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