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NEXT HOME MATCHES

Sat. Sept. 8th—FOLKESTONE TOWN RES. (KL)

K.O. 3.15 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10th-ASHFORD TOWN (KL Cup-1st

Round-2nd leg) K.O. 5.30 p.m.

Weds. Sept. 12th—CHATHAM TOWN (KL)

K.O. 5.45 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 15th—BOURNEMOUTH

K.O. 3.15 p.m.

... a word from the SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

EMBERSHIP renewals are still very slow this season, why not make a point of calling at our Headquarters this evening? If you are unable to call, make a note of this address; Mr. L. Marmara, 79 Palmerston Road, Chatham, and post your subscription to him without delay. Our Free Accident Insurance is still in operation, therefore it is in your own interest to make sure your subscription is up to date. For the benefit of new members, the subscription is only 1/per year. Why not let us all pull together and make this a record membership year?

We have quite a good stock of scarves in the club colours, at 8/- they are very good quality. Ties at a

reduced price of 2/6 are still in great demand, badges, pens and a host of other Club lines are available at our headquarters. It is worth paying us a visit, any of our lines will make a good present for someone, if not for yourself.

The time is drawing near when our first Handbook will be on sale, if you wish to make sure of your copy you may order it now. Priced at only ninepence. We are sure you will consider it exceptionally good value. It contains all the details of new players, last season's facts and figures, details of Who's Who at the Stadium and a money prize quiz, besides articles of interest about the Supporters' Club. As I mentioned in my last notes the number of copies on sale will be limited, so make sure of yours early.

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Secretary : E. W. FLETCHER

WO successive home wins have placed our League side in a comfortable position in the table, but whilst most club followers were well satisfied after last Wednesday's 6-2 victory over Aldershot the team's display in Saturday's 2-1 win against Walsall was disappointing to say the least. It is hard to criticise a winning team but there it is . . . the brand of play provided by Gillingham and Walsall in that one game is hardly of the type that will bring back some of soccer's missing millions. It is to be hoped that this evening's visit of Swindon Town will provide better entertainment. Incidentally, the victory over Aldershot was the biggest since Exeter City were defeated 9-4 in January 1951 and Gordon Brasted's hat-trick was the first for the club since Ernie Morgan performed the feat in December 1954 when we won at Bristol City, in their promotion season, 4-1.

MEANWHILE our Reserves remain undeafeated in the Kent League and Cup. Last Wednesday, they drew 1-1 at Ashford in the First Round of the Kent League Cup (first leg), Irvine Gray scoring the equaliser near the end. The second leg of this tie will be played on this ground on Monday next, kick-off 5.30 p.m. had extra time will be played if necessary. Last Saturday, the Reserves drew 1-1 at Betteshanger Colliery Welfare, the equaliser this time coming from Paul Lucas.

At home to Snowdown Colliery Welfare Reserves our 'A' team went down by 4 goals to 2. Snowdown's

strong side included several very experienced players, among them Billy Collins, and our youngsters were far from disgraced. Mike Ackland and Johnny Warsap were the scorers. Our Junior "B" team (formerly the Minors) began their Rochester and District League (Div. IV) programme in grand style by a resounding away win over United Services (Rainham) Reserves. David Taylor 4, Brian Godfrey 2, Keith Leigh 1 and Brian Grundy 1 were the scorers in an 8-2 victory. This team included six former members of the Medway Schools side. Our New Brompton and District League side-the Juniorswere without a game on Saturday.

THE wonderful start to the season made by our Kent League side can, if it is continued in such a successful vein, do a power of good in more directions than one. Attendances for Kent League games at the Stadium should certainly improve on the miserable three figure gates of last season. In fact after the last home game-against Margate-many were of the opinion that if the Reserves continued the form shown in that game they would soon be attracting as many, if not more to the Stadium as the first team. Shades of the past in fact. Remember our Eastern Counties League Championship winning side? They often drew gates upwards of 6,000!

The Reserves too should draw larger crowds to the grounds of their opponents-an event that would give considerable pleasure to worried Kent League club committees and managements. Their standard of football should and probably will go a long way towards raising the standard of other clubs and, in fact, all in all they can do a wonderful job for soccer in the County generally.

JOHN MENZIES

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A SWINDON SALUTATORY

ROM the great railway centre in Wiltshire this evening come old, old friends and rivals, Swindon Town and to the officials, players and supporters of this famous old club we extend our usual warm Kentish welcome.

LAST season was one of the poorest in Swindon's long history. They finished last in the League table and their resultant application for re-election was only the second time that they had had to do so. Their average home gate was only 7,378 but away from home they attracted an average of 9,274. In 46 League games, Swindon only managed to find the net 34 times and as Maurice Owen (13) and Edwards (11) scored 24 of these between them it is obvious where their biggest weakness existed. They called upon 24 players during the season and only six of them found the net - two of them once each only. Six players appeared in forty games or more last season, viz: Edwards and Hudson each 46, Burton 45, Hunt and Owen each 44 and Gibson 42. Burton's only non-appearance was when Swindon visited the Stadium - Gill deputising on that one occasion.

IN the corresponding game last season, played on 12th November, Gillingham had their best win of the season (4-0) and the teams were:

GILLINGHAM: Kingshott; Parry, Crombie; Boswell, Niblett, Riggs; Crossan, Baxter, Sowden, Morgan, Millar.

SWINDON: Gill; Hunt, Fox; Cross, Hudson, McShane; Gibson, Micklewright, Owen Edwards, Williams.

WITH the first team (at Ipswich) and reserves (at Faversham) away from home on Saturday, the opportunity has arisen for our 'A' team to show themselves to Stadium fans. Folkestone Reserves, always an attractive side, provide the opposition in a Kent League (Div. II) game, so be sure to make this a must for Saturday at 3.15 p.m.

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John's Jottings

HOSE arch-critics the club who delighted in "taking the mickey" because of our first team's home defeat by Watford must have had quite a shock when they saw that the Hertfordshire club had slammed the hitherto all-conquering Brentford by 5-1 at Griffen Park on Saturday last. Messrs. Marden, Graham and Cook, who notched one apiece here also shared the five which "stung the Bees."

WATFORD have lost but one game to date - at home to-night's visitors Swindon Town! Yet the Railwaymen have lost all three of their home games to date, but such is form. No wonder that £75,000 dividend is as elusive as "that darned Scarlet Pimpernel"!

AS a friend of mine left the Stadium on Saturday he was confronted by three spectators that he knew. These three declared that after the game they had just seen they had decided to "support Charlton in future." Waving an evening paper at them my friend enquired whether they had heard the results, and as they hadn't he informed them that Charlton had lost 8-1 at Sunderland! Their only comment as they departed was, "Eight! Blimey see you here next Wednesday!"

IT is well known that Berwick Rangers is the only English Club in the Scottish League - geographically of course. Not quite so well known is the fact that Accrington Stanley is almost the only "Scottish" club in the English League! In this case, not for geographical reasons but simply because prior to Paddy Sowden joining them last week the Stanley had only one Englishman on their books. Everybody else including Manager Walter Galbraith and Billy Millar are Scotsmen! Billy has already scored 4 for his new club. Good luck to him and Paddy!

LAST week Bob Taylor the promising young forward from Bromley signed professional forms for the club.

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Football League-Div. III (South)

Up to and including September 1st, 1956

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Ps.
Torquay	5	3	2	0	8	2	8
Norwich	5	3	2	0	4	1	8
Coventry	5	3	2	0	7	3	8
Newport	5	3	2	0	13	8	8
Brentford	5	4	0	1	14	8	8
Southampton	5	3	1	1	12	3	7
Reading	5.	3	1	1	10	5	7
Shrewsbury	5	3	1	1	8	5	7
Watford	5	3	1	1	15	13	7
Q. P. Rangers	5	2	2	1	7	4	6
Colchester	5	2	2	1	11.	9	6
Gillingham	5	2	1	2	8	7	5
Millwall	5	-2	1	2	6	6	5
Northampton	5	2	1	2	6	6	5
Brighton	5	2	1	2	12	12	. 5
Bournemouth	5	2	1	2	- 5	7	5
Aldershot	5	1	1	3	5	11	3
Southend	5	0	2	3	6	10	2
Swindon	5	1	0	4	8	14	2
C. Palace	5	0	2	3	5	8	2
Walsall	5	1	0	4	4	8	2
Ipswich	5	1	0	4	4	10	2
Exeter	5	0	2	3	1	7	2
Plymouth	5	0	0	5	3	19	0

Kent League-Division I

Up to and including September 1st, 1956

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Ps.
Tun'dge W. Utd.	3	3	0	0	10	2	6
Bett'hanger C.W.	3	2	1	0	10	2	5
Gillingham Res.	3	2	1	0	7	3	5
Ramsgate Ath.	2	2	0	0	9	2	4
Sittingbourne	3	2	0	1	6	4	4
Whitstable	3	2	0	1	7	8	4
Snowdown C. W.	2	1	0	1	6	2	2
Ashford Town	3	1	0	2	6	6	2
Folkestone Town	3	1	0	2	7	7	2
Margate	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
Deal Town	3	0	2	1	5	7	2
Dover	2	1	0	1	4	6	2
Chatham Town	3	1	0	2	2	8	2
Canterbury City	3	1	0	2	3	11	2
Faversham Town	2	0	1	1	4	8	1
Sheppey Utd	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Bexley'th & Well.	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

1956-57 FACTS and FIGURES

GOALSCORERS

Football League: Brasted 3; Morgan 2; Clark, Simpson and Opponents each 1.

Kent League (Div. I) and Cup: Simpson 3; Brasted, Gray and Jim Taylor each 2; Grant Lucas and Smith

Kent League (Div. II) and Cup: M. Ackland 4; Hazel 2; Warsap 1.

New Brompton and District League: R. Kemp 3; M. Unwin and M. Woolfe each 1.

Roch. and Dist. League (Div. IV): David Taylor 4; B. Godfrey 2; B. Grundy and K. Leigh each 1.

WHEN Errol Crossan was left out of the team that met Aldershot last week a run of 57 consecutive matches was brought to an end. Since Errol joined the club just before the start of last season he had played in every first team game and Wednesday's match would, in fact have been his 50th consecutive League game.

ERROL had, in the first three games of this season, failed to find the form that delighted the fans throughout last season. He is too good a player to be off form for long, however, and will no doubt be back on first team duty before many matches are passed.

WHEN Johnny (Taffy) Evans said "Cheerio" to his "A" team colleagues after last Saturday's game, he didn't know how long it might be before he would see them again. Johnny had to report back to his Army unit on Sunday morning and was expecting an overseas posting but didn't know where or when. This quiet, shy but likeable lad from the Rhondda Valley has taken over the centre-half position in the "A" team and has turned in some great performances.

ONLY three of the present playing staff have made more than 100 appearances for the club. They are Jimmy Boswell (265), Charlie Marks (228) and Ernie Morgan (133). If Jimmy can steer clear of injuries and maintain the wonderful form which has meant so much to the club for the past twelve years he should make his 300th appearance on 6th April when Reading visit us. Postponements and cup ties may of course alter the sequence but supporters and club alike will keep their fingers crossed and hope that the "300th" will be at home.

IT will be remembered that Jimmy's 200th was an away game with Swindon Town. Les Riggs needs 15 more games to reach his 100 whilst Ted West (78) is not far behind. Errol Crossan (49), Bill Parry (46) and Larry Baxter (29) are all chasing their "50."

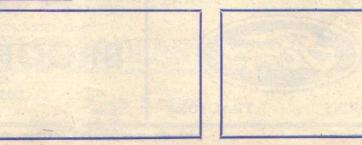
FORMER "Hoppers" among the goals last week included Billy Evans (Grimsby) 2, Billy Millar (Accrington) 2 and Les McGuire (Ramsgate) 3.

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GILLINGHAM F.C. FIXTURES 1956-57

FOOTBALL LEAGUE (Div. III.) South Sec. AUG., 1956 18 WATFORD	POOTE	ALL LEAGUE (Dir. III.) South S.	
18 WATFORD			
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MAY 4 (Final)		Queen's Park Rangers	
Figures in parentheses denote F.A. Cup Rounds		4 (Final)	Contract of the last
	Figur	es in parentheses denote F.A. Cup Round	

AUG.,	KENT LEAGUE—Div. I.		F	
18		. A	3	
22	DEAL TOWN (KL Cup)		4	
25	DEAL TOWN (EL Cup) MARGATE	. H	3	
29	Ashford Tn. (KL Cup, 1st leg) A	1	
SEPT.			10	
1	Betteshanger C.W	. A	1	
8	Faversham Town	. A	100	
10	ASHFORD TN. (K.L.C., 2nd le	eg) H	1	
12	CHATHAM TOWN	. н	15	
15	CHATHAM TOWN Ramsgate Athletic	. A		
19	Chatham Town	. A		
22	WHITSTABLE	. H	133	
29	Deal Town	. A	10	
OCT.			160	
6	Dover	. A	130	
13	SITTINGBOURNE	. H	1	
20	Canterbury City	. A		
27	Canterbury City ASHFORD TOWN	6.8	120	
NOV.	Season of the se		100	
3				
10	SNOWDOWN C. W	. H	100	I
17	Sheppey United SHEPPEY UNITED	. A	19.3	
24	SHEPPEY UNITED	. H	13	
DEC.			100	
1	Bexleyheath & W		500	
8				
15			153	
22	Margate	. A		
25	Tunbridge Wells			
26	TUNBRIDGE WELLS	4.4		
29	FOLKESTONE TOWN	77		
[AN.,]	1957		100	
5	BETTESHANGER C. W	. H	130	
12	Ashford Town		10	
19			13	
26	Whitstable	. A		
FEB.			100	
2	And the Control of th	1000		
9	DEAL TOWN		150	
16	RAMSGATE ATHLETIC	. н		
23			1	
MARCI		A MEN	1	
2	DOVER	. н		
9	Sittingbourne	, A	100	
16	CANTERBURY CITY	. H	10	
23			100	
30			138	
APRIL			130	
6	BEIMBOURIS BOUNT	-		
13	FAVERSHAM TOWN	. н	133	
19			100	
20	Snowdown C. W	. A		
22	A LONG TO THE RESERVE		150	
27		Transfer of	1	
MAY	WHILE SELECTION IS NOT IN THE	**		
1	BEXLEYHEATH & W	. H	1985	

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