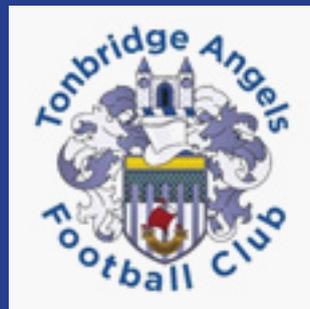


# Up There Cazaly!

A historical look at Tonbridge Angels through the eyes of their supporters with original text by Brian Cheal. Part 5: Season 1952-53, featuring the FA Cup First Round tie against Norwich City



In the summer of 1952 the Football Club announced its desire to purchase the Angel Ground but the Council said they had no intention of selling. The relationship between the two bodies remained prickly. Certain individual councillors had become incredibly hostile to the club. The fact that the club owed £300 in rent obviously did not help. There was and would remain a mutual lack of understanding. In January the club had been warned by the Metropolitan League about the standard of the pitch. It had been a wet winter and the centre of the pitch became a quagmire. Work needed to be done on it and this was completed in the summer.

The directors announced that there would be no increase in admission charges for the new season. Rumours that the club were trying to sign the former Arsenal star and England cricketer Denis Compton were ridiculed by Harry Curtis, who said: "We could never afford his wages."

The 1952-53 season was in many ways very similar to the previous one. Another exciting FA Cup run and inconsistent Southern League form which saw the club equal the previous season's 16th place with just three fewer points. The Reserves went one better with

a League and Cup double, but the whole season was overshadowed by the departure of manager Harry Curtis and captain Horace Woodward, two men who seemed the very cornerstone of the playing side and around whom any future success could have been built.

Woodward struggled in the early part of the season with boils and a back injury. His willingness to carry on playing seems to have rebounded against him as he was clearly below his best but Curtis obviously decided a half-fit Woodward was better than no Woodward and kept him in the team. Horace himself was anxious about his future and had written to the club asking if he could either be found a job or released so that he could join a league club. At first this was turned down but then he was released at the beginning of November. Woodward was now 28 but he did not find his league club until the following July when he joined Walsall. He failed to gain a regular place at Fellows Park and a year later became player-coach at Horsham.

Matters, if not the boils, had come to a head on 1st November. He had been picked to play against Kettering but the manager's

Mr W. H. Cripps, chairman of Tonbridge FC, revealed at the annual meeting of the Supporters' Club on Thursday of last week that his board of directors were prepared to buy the Angel Ground.

Manager Harry Curtis said better football for Tonbridge was unlikely with the existing tenancy. The ground could be bought with a loan from the Football Association and improvements made on the ground, but the Tonbridge UDC had said they had no intention of selling.

When the Club Secretary Mr W. May recalled that Tonbridge Football Club, since its formation, had lost an average of £2,000 per year and appealed for each member to increase the over-2,900 membership, a voice called: "If we get the football – you will get the support."

Countered Mr Curtis: "Tonbridge FC gave you some brilliant displays, but the total attendances at three home Southern League matches at the latter end of the season was 4,000 – for three games. A team can play a lot better if they have enthusiasm from the crowd."

Training, said Mr Curtis, had begun that night through the UDC's waiving the agreement that it should commence on 9 August.

"The pitch has had a tremendous amount of work done on it and looks in first class condition," added Mr Curtis. Explaining the difficulties of revealing the names of new players until their contracts with other clubs had definitely ended, the manager gave the two signings already published in the Free Press – Roy Butler and Derrick Dimmer, with a third, Jimmy Constantine, of Millwall fame.

More, including two full backs and two wing forwards should be on show at the public trial on 16 August, said Mr Curtis.



Back Row: Joe Feeney, Harold Fletcher, Brian Head, Charlie Rundle, Alan Smith, Norman Blackman. Front Row: Derek Dimmer, Cecil Rosier, Ron Anderson, Peter Sheldon, Fergie Lunn.

*Continued from Page 1*

Reporting a very successful year, Mr May said £2,020 had been handed over to the Football Club, making a total of £6,300 in four years. The club's Venetian Fete revealed had been an outstanding success, as had been their dances. Free tickets to Old Age Pensioners had been maintained but it was the "tote" competition which had exceeded all expectations and enabled the club to pay players' wages. They had a balance of £211.

Mr Cripps announced the directors' intention, when a man asked: "Can't the Supporters Club do something about buying the Angel Ground?"

"We hope efforts will be made," he said "to persuade the Urban Council to sell the ground. When that day comes, I can assure you that the board will buy.

"We are not in a position where we can make a lot of spectacular signings. We retained 14 players and have got to limit the wages bill," Mr Cripps said later.

He recalled a previous meeting when the supporters were "very defiant about wanting Southern League football rather than Kent League football. Well, we must have more support than we have had in the past," said Mr Cripps.

"Do your best to increase the gates, and the board will do everything to keep the flag flying. There has been a crisis but we are going on. Your "tote" scheme is going to help us tremendously. I promise you this, another season and we will give you an even better team that we hope to do this season."

When a questioner asked whether admission prices were to stay as they were, Mr Curtis told him: "For the first few months, at any rate, they will be the same as last year."

Lord de D'Isle and Dudley and Lord Hollenden are to be invited to become supporters club vice presidents. Mr Peter Burt will be asked to take his late father's place.

Mr A. Hull is again the club president. Other officers: Mr R. Kent (Chairman), Mr W. May (Secretary), Mr J. Werrin (Treasurer), Mr H. S. Werrin (Hon. Secretary). Committee: Messrs. V. Browning, A. Fermor, H. Fitzgerald, P. Hayward, D. Brown, S. Brown and L. Collip. Women's committee: Mesdames Orchard, Whenday, Holland, the Misses Fuller and H. Cudlip.

team was altered by the board who replaced him at centre half with Anderson. Curtis had obviously been undermined and his resignation was announced on 5th November although he would carry on working until the end of the year.

Curtis had been employing his son Gordon as his assistant. Reports in a national newspaper that the pair of them were paid a joint salary of £1,500 were described as "fantastic" by Harry Curtis, who said it was well below that figure. On his departure he said: "I wish Tonbridge every success but there must be a change of outlook by the board. My successor must be given a free hand. Team spirit was damaged when Woodward was allowed to go. He was the best constructive centre half in the Southern League. It was a great mistake by the club, with a more tactful approach the breach could have been healed. Since then interference on selection and other matters made my task difficult. I have been in football management over 30 years but this season has been the most worrying because I had to deal with people not conversant with football matters."

Fergie Lunn presented Harry Curtis with a petrol lighter and Gordon Curtis with a pen and pencil set from the players. They had the greatest regard and respect for Harry Curtis and regretted him leaving.

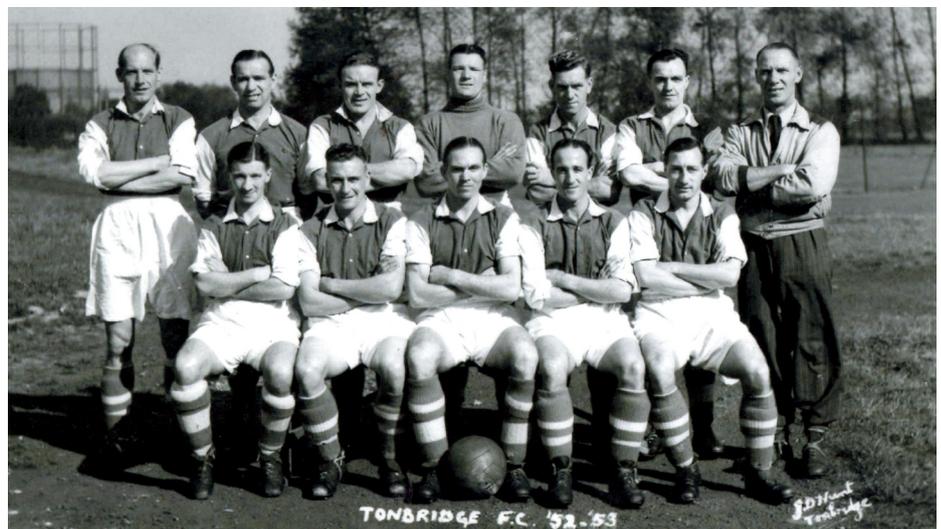
It had indeed been a sorry episode in the club's history. The board must take a major share of the blame although their sincerity and motives need not be questioned. They just go it wrong. Their stubbornness and at times bloody mindedness had been vital qualities in both establishing and maintaining professional football in Tonbridge, and would continue to be so. On this occasion the more sensitive qualities of tact and imagination, maybe even a little humility had been required. Unfortunately they had not been forthcoming.

As to the long term effect of the playing fortunes of Tonbridge Football Club we can, of course, only speculate but it did seem that Mr Curtis was in the process of building a really formidable playing outfit. There is obviously no guarantee that he would have succeeded but it does appear that this was one of those moments in the life of this club when it took the wrong direction when faced with a chance of success. As for the bloody mindedness, fortunately that is also a recurring theme and more than anything else is the reason for the club's continuing survival.

The new manager was Doug Hunt who began his duties at the beginning of January 1953. A goalscoring forward with Tottenham and Sheffield Wednesday he had been player-coach at Leyton Orient and managed Gloucester City. A charming, articulate man with a passion for attractive, sporting football he had a good pedigree but he also had a hard act to follow.

Back now to the previous summer. Harry Curtis had been busy strengthening his squad with signings of former Orient and Gillingham full back Mike Skivington from Brentford, left half Joe Feeney from Chester and two wingers Derek Dimmer from Portsmouth and Arthur Aldred from Cheltenham. Cornishman Charlie Rundle, the former Spurs forward, was signed from Crystal Palace and Roy Butler, a proven Southern League centre forward with Gravesend, Chelmsford and Dartford was signed from the latter club.

The big news, although no one realised quite the impact he would have, was the capture of centre forward Jimmy Constantine from Millwall. "Connie" as he quickly became known to everyone had won a second division championship medal with Manchester City and had a season with Bury before joining Millwall where he became idolised. In four seasons he made



*Back Row: Jimmy Constantine, Roy Butler, Monty Stevenson, Ted Hankey, Peter Mulheron, Arthur Aldred. Front Row: Tommy Dougal, Sid Bell, Harold Woodward, Johnny Jordan, Eddie Fleming*

# New Manager: DOUGLAS HUNT

*Taken from the Official Handbook of the Supporters Club 1957*



It has occurred to me that when new players are signed by Tonbridge FC, their playing history is published and creates great interest to our supporters, especially if they have played for famous League clubs.

It may not be generally known that our Manager, Douglas A. Hunt, has played for several famous clubs, and indeed for England and FA XIs both at home and abroad. He has also played in a Cup Final at Wembley. I think it would be of great interest to all readers of this annual if I can point out that the highlights of our Manager's career in the great game of Association Football.

Douglas Hunt was born at Shipton Bellinger (Hampshire) and, of course, played for the local side. Before very long Southampton FC saw the talent this tall, slim lad possessed, and at the early age of 15 years he signed amateur forms for them. Of course, at that age he was too young for the tough Football League, so joined Winchester City, in the Hampshire League, to gain experience. At the same time the Winchester City centre forward, none other than Ted Drake, joined Southampton.

Doug soon made his presence felt in the Hampshire League and in one game against Basingstoke he scored no fewer than seven goals and the senior clubs began to show interest in this young player.

On his 17th birthday he signed as a professional player for Tottenham Hotspur and was sent to Northfleet, who were Spurs' "nursery" at that time.

After a full season at Northfleet he moved up to White Hart Lane where he enjoyed a fair measure of success; in fact in his first game for the famous Spurs in the London Combination he scored five goals.

During season 1936-37, by this time a well-known League player, Barnsley were in danger of being relegated from the Second Division and thought that Doug Hunt was the man who might save them, so they paid Tottenham £4,500 for his transfer. The sum was a record for Barnsley and in those days really big money, but it was money well spent as Doug helped them to avoid relegation.

However, the following season, he was transferred to Sheffield Wednesday for £5,500, which was also a record for Barnsley. The next season, 1938-39, Wednesday made a great bid for promotion to the First Division, but were just pipped by their great rivals Sheffield United. Doug had a splendid season, scoring 29 League goals, including six in one game against Norwich City. This came as a celebration as his son, Geoffrey, was born only a few days before.

Then the War came and with it for the time, the end of organised football. Doug played a few war-time games for Wednesday and then joined the Army Physical Training Corps where he became in due course a Sergeant Major Instructor.

During the war years he guested for Brentford, Tottenham and Aldershot, but chiefly for Brentford. While assisting Brentford, he had the pleasure of playing for them at Wembley Stadium in the South Cup Final of 1942, when they beat Portsmouth 2-0.

Doug tells an interesting story of this game, or rather the events before the game. He was on a course at Richmond and was refused a pass to leave camp until 12.45 pm, and after waiting for transport that did not arrive he cycled to Wembley! Doug wonders if he is the only player who rode a bike to Wembley to play in a Cup Final!

He also played for the British Army on the continent and toured Italy and Greece with the FA XI and scored 19 goals in eight representative games. He also played for the FA in this country and for England versus Switzerland in Zurich in the Victory International of 1945. England lost the game 3-1 but Doug had the satisfaction of scoring the only goal.

On demobilisation he did not wish to move back up north and signed for Leyton Orient as player-coach under Mr Charles Hewitt.

The season 1947-48 saw the last of Douglas Hunt as a Football League player, for it was then that he joined Gloucester City as player-manager and later took over as Secretary-Manager. During his stay at Gloucester they reached the First Round Proper of the FA Cup in two successive seasons, being defeated by Norwich City and Mansfield Town respectively.

Doug joined Tonbridge FC in January 1953 as Secretary-Manager succeeding Mr Harry Curtis.

But for the War, he may well have had a career in County Cricket, as he was playing for Hampshire Club and Ground Staff when the War was declared.

After the War, however, he decided that he was too old to start serious cricket again. Doug had a few games during the War including the pleasure of playing for London District. He well remembers that awful long way back to the pavilion at Lords after having been bowled neck and crop first ball!

The Manager of every club is the first to be blamed when things go wrong - the centre forward shoots high over the bar, the cry from some is "Sack the Manager". We at Tonbridge are fortunate in having as Manager one who has been through all stages of the game and knows it inside out.

141 Football League appearances scoring 75 goals. When the club decided to raise some money by putting him on the transfer list their fans protested vigorously. Sunderland, then one of the top teams in the country, expressed their interest. Their big spending activities had them labelled the Bank of England club but even they declined to pay

£5,000, then quite a big fee, for a 32 year old. It was very much Tonbridge's gain and soon this balding veteran through his bravery, spectacular heading ability and irrepressible sense of fun, had become a great favourite.

Hankey, Bell, Ross, Woodward, Fleming, Anderson, Rosier, Lunn, Gawler, Dougal,

Jordan, Mulheron, Sheldon and Smith remained from the previous season, although Alan Smith and Ron Gawler had both broken legs in the latter part of the season and it was not known when they would be fit to resume playing. In the event, Smith was ready for the first game of the season, a trip to Llanelly and was named in the following

# CHARLIE RUNDLE

*In July 1997, the club received the following obituary from Tottenham Hotspur following the death of Charlie Rundle, this was published in Spurs Monthly and in the Tottenham match day programme.*



We were sorry to learn of the death of Charlie Rundle who passed away at Bodmin, Cornwall on 28 June, aged 74. A centre or inside forward, he spent five seasons at White Hart Lane immediately after the last war, netting a dozen goals in 32 senior outings, including one on his Football League debut. He remained in the Tottenham district for much of his life, residing until last year at Palmers Green.

It was whilst he was playing for The Navy Representative XI that he came to our attention in February 1946. Signed as an amateur he was added to our full time staff within a matter of weeks.

Born at the St. Blazey district of Cornwall on 17 January, 1923, Charles Rodney Rundle worked as a clerk on the railway at Fowey prior to the war and played for the St. Blazey club. He served in the Navy during the war and it was during a naval representative game that he was spotted by a Spurs scout and offered to sign amateur terms. He did so on 16 February 1946 and featured in our "A" team on a couple of occasions prior to signing as a full professional at the end of February.

His first taste of senior action was in a friendly match versus Chelsea on 2 March and by the end of the month he had appeared in the Football League South – the temporary competition formed for the transitional 1945-46 campaign.

On 9 September, 1946 Charlie made his Second Division debut, scoring one of our goals in a 2-1 home win over Southampton. He scored a further nine goals in 17 games that season, mainly from centre forward, but found opportunities limited over the next couple of years and made the last of his 28 Football League appearances for Spurs on 12 March, 1949 against Queens Park Rangers. He also featured in one FA Cup match plus three wartime fixtures. According to the 1949-50 handbook, Charlie stood five feet, ten and half inches in his stockinged feet and weighed in at nine stone, 13 pounds. He spent the remainder of his time at Tottenham in their Reserve and "A" teams, netting 22 goals in 80 games for our second and third XI's.

Charlie moved on to Crystal Palace in June 1950 and during his two years there made 38 appearances in their Division Three South team, scoring two goals. In August 1952 he joined Southern League club Tonbridge and later that season faced his former Spurs colleagues in the Metropolitan & District League Professional Clubs Cup Final. Tonbridge won the game 3-0 on 18 April, 1953, against a Spurs XI featuring Johnnie Hollowbread and George Ludford. Amongst the teammates during his time at Tonbridge were several ex-Spurs including Harry Robshaw, Johnny Jordan, Les Stevens and Johnny Woodward.

Charlie took on the role of player/manager at the Betteshanger Colliery Welfare club, near Deal, Kent in February 1955, a post which he held for two or three years. On retiring from football he worked as a sports secretary to Ford's of Dagenham and later served in a similar capacity to Thorn EMI. Having lost both his wife Joyce, and daughter, Wendy, in recent years, Charlie's health deteriorated towards the end of last year and he was admitted to hospital in his native Cornwall. His two surviving brothers, George and Vernon visited him daily until his passing. George, in fact, played for our "A" team during his spell of National Service in 1947. A fourth brother, Sidney, also carved out a playing career with Plymouth Argyle.

side: Hankey, Fleming, Bell, Ross, Woodward, Feeney, Dougal, Jordan, Constantine, Mulheron, Smith. Debutees Feeney and Constantine impressed, Woodward was as good as ever but the rest of the defence was out of sorts and were on the wrong end of a 5-2 score. Dougal and Mulheron scored for Tonbridge. Just over 4,000 were present for the first home game but they witnessed a 3-0 defeat against Weymouth. A Jordan goal was enough to defeat Guildford in the Southern League Cup but a 2-0 defeat in the second leg ended interest in that competition. Gravesend and Ashford, both after replays, sent us packing in the first round of the two Kent trophies.

Another full back Monty Stevenson was signed from Rhyl and pointless after three matches the Angels travelled west to meet the League Champions Merthyr with the following side: Hankey, Bell, Stevenson, Fleming, Woodward, Mulheron, Dougal, Jordan, Butler, Constantine, Aldred. This time it was Tonbridge who played like champions. Woodward and Stevenson were dominant

in defence, Dougal was in fine form on the wing whilst Jordan and Constantine took the Welsh defence apart with their brilliance. It was these two who combined for Connie to give Tonbridge the lead after 19 minutes with a decisive finish. Just before the interval Constantine was denied a second by a linesman's flag which amazed even the home supporters and he was denied again when another great effort appeared to be over the line when it was cleared.

Three minutes after the break Jordan doubled the lead from an Aldred centre. Reynolds brought Merthyr back in the game with a 62nd minute goal and now the champions having been second best for most of the game began to show their worth but they were denied by some strong defending and by the brilliance and bravery of Ted Hankey.

The FA Cup exploits of the two previous seasons had earned Tonbridge exemption until the Fourth Qualifying Round when they were drawn to visit Folkestone. The

home side forced six corners in the last five minutes of the first half and Dougal hit the post in the last minute but neither goal was breached. Nor were they in the replay until two minutes before the break when Pritchard put the visitors ahead from the penalty spot after Anderson had handled. Immediately Mulheron equalised with a tremendous 40 yard shot.

Three minutes into the second half Rundle was brought down and Jordan converted the penalty, but then goals from Bostock and Himsworth put Folkestone ahead and Tonbridge appeared to be heading out of the competition against what had become their bogey side. Then, with a minute to play, Mulheron hit a log shot. Cripps pushed it against the post, it bounced out and spun back into the goal.

Tonbridge dominated the first period of extra time without being able to score. Two minutes after the change round, Day headed Folkestone back into the lead. Constantine had been injured and was now limping on

the wing but it was Connie who managed to get his left foot to Fleming's free kick to equalise 4-4.

There were nearly 3,000 at Gillingham for the second replay on Monday, 17th November. Five days later the winners would be at home to Third Division Norwich City.

Hankey, Jordan and Constantine were all injured. Norman Jones, signed in September from Worcester, was in goal. Rundle came into the attack and with Ross back in the side, Mulheron was restored to the forward line. Dimmer and Smith were on the wings. Dimmer and Mulheron constantly troubled the Folkestone defence. It was the latter who gave Tonbridge a first half lead after Dimmer's shot had rolled past the keeper. Dimmer intercepted a back pass to score the second. Four minutes from time, Stevenson fouled Bostock but Pritchard put his penalty

past the post. Tonbridge had, at last, beaten Folkestone at the tenth attempt. They had shown great will to win on a muddy pitch with Bell and Anderson outstanding in defence.

After the game Norwich officials approached the Tonbridge chairman, Mr Cripps, offering him the chance to switch the match to Norwich. The reply was an emphatic "No". "We are thinking of our supporters", said the chairman.

Norwich were expected to provide a sterner test than Aldershot. They stood second in the Third Division South just behind Bristol Rovers whilst Tonbridge were now just one place off the foot of the Southern League having won only three of their 12 games. The biggest disappointment was the attendance. It was expected that a crowd in the region of 10,000 would create a new record but rain,

sleet and then a blinding snow storm kept it down to just 5,657. They were rewarded with a magnificent cup tie.

The team, the same which had beaten Folkestone, was: Jones, Bell, Stevenson, Ross, Anderson, Fleming, Dimmer, Rundle, Butler, Mulheron, Smith. The first half was goalless with Norwich having slightly more of the play but Tonbridge coming nearest to taking the lead when Rundle headed against the bar. Ten minutes after the break Alf Ackerman put the visitors ahead but four minutes later Peter Mulheron, who had an outstanding match, took a pass from Rundle and drove it in via the post. It was all Tonbridge now, but after 63 minutes, the Canaries broke away and Ackerman held off Anderson's challenge to restore their advantage. He was injured in scoring and had to leave the field before the end of the match and missed the replay which was earned



On Monday, after Tonbridge had beaten Folkestone at Gillingham, Norwich City officials offered Tonbridge chairman Mr W. H. Cripps the chance to switch the FA Cup First Round match to Norwich. The reply was an emphatic "No!" "We were thinking of our supporters", Mr Cripps told the Free Press. "We would not let them down. They were the first people we thought of. Financial considerations came last".

Mr Cripps then mentioned the talk there had been recently of there being no Southern League football in Tonbridge shortly. He dismissed this: "Whatever happens, the club will go on," he said.

The team to play Norwich will be unchanged. "It would be unfair to take one of the winning team out," said Mr Cripps. "There was not a weak link. I think each of them was playing with the incentive of playing against the City. I would not want to rob them of that opportunity," he said.

Tonbridge's ground record, 8,200 against Aldershot last season, is almost certain to be broken. A 10,000 gate is expected. "We appeal to everyone

to come early," said Mr Cripps. "We are doing everything possible to ensure the safety and comfort of spectators.

Norwich think they will win, but fear an early Tonbridge goal, which they consider would "make things pretty hard".

The City are at the moment second in the League behind Bristol Rovers. They have always been a good side and were in the Second Division before the War. Last season they finished third and the season before, second.

They are also Cup fighters. Last year they lost in the Third Round at home to Arsenal 5-0. The previous season they beat cup finalists Liverpool 3-1 before going out in the Fifth Round 3-1 at Sunderland.

In 1949-50 they held Portsmouth to a 1-1 draw at Fratton Park before losing the replay at home 2-0.

Their goal tally is 44-18 and they have the best defensive record in the Third Division (South).

The team will be selected from the following players:

Nethercott: reckoned one of the best goalkeepers in Third Division (South). Arsenal are watching him with close interest.

Right back Morgan: A Welshman, his strong point is his speed of recovery when beaten. Left back Lewis: Cost £9,000 from Blackpool four seasons ago. Right half will be either Kinsey or Dutton. Kinsey is a Welsh international and has been playing extremely well. He was injured when City won at Shrewsbury 8-1 and his deputy Dutton has been playing so well that it is an awkward decision whom to include. Centre half is Foulkes, captain, and former Walsall player. He has been showing a return to form lately. Left half Ashman, also playing extremely well. He was picked for the London Combination team to play Brussels but was injured.

Outside right Johnny Gavin, capped three times for Eire. Played for Eire when they drew 1-1 with France in Dublin. Inside right Johnston, close season signing from Oldham for £500 and reckoned the club's biggest bargain. He scored 10 goals in 10 matches as centre forward, but when injured Ackerman took his place. Johnston returned at inside forward and scored twice more. Ackerman, South African, is another £9,000 player from Hull City. Only recently has he shown the form he is capable of. He has scored nine goals. Yet another £9,000 player is Peter Rattray, who was with Plymouth Argyle's promotion-winning side last year. He scored 18 goals for them and so far has netted four for City. Outside left will either be Docherty, who has played in recent matches or the player he replaced when injured, Summers.

Excursions tickets on the railway and bus trips mean that about 1,000 Norwich supporters will make the trip.

## Saturday, 22nd November 1952 – FA Cup First Round

**Tonbridge (0) 2 (Mulheron 59, Butler 75) Norwich City (0) 2 (Ackerman 55,63)**

**Attendance: 5,657**



By holding Norwich City to a 2-2 draw in the FA Cup on Saturday, Tonbridge put up their best-ever performance. Norwich City are second in the Third Division (South) table and are tipped to win promotion to the Second Division this season. Yet Tonbridge are languishing at the foot of the Southern League table. On Saturday's showing, it does not make sense.

A blinding snow storm and the threat of rain, plus the fear of there being so many at the ground it would be impossible to see, must have kept the gate down. A meagre 5,657 watched the match. It was expected that 10,000 would beat the previous record of 8,200 against Aldershot.

Rarely have Tonbridge been cheered so much. The Angels' score could almost have been reckoned at the farthest end of the town, so loud were the shouts for each goal.

Norwich City have the best defensive record in their division. Yet Tonbridge twice pierced it, and they might have had more, with luck. What would have happened if Rundle had scored instead of hitting the bar in the first half must always remain conjecture. But those inches might have been vital.

Tonbridge showed a wonderful fighting spirit. To fight back and level twice against such a strong side was a magnificent effort.

Anderson could not be blamed for the two goals Ackerman got. After all, he is one of the best centre forwards in the Third Division. Bell and Stevenson played the game of their lives. And Bell capped a first rate display when he saved his team a few minutes from the end by heading off the line.

It would have been an injustice if Johnston's header had gone in. Johnston himself seemed to think so when in the last minute he shot against the post with only Jones to beat.

Norwich soon showed their paces. They attacked and were awarded a free kick outside the area. Summers shot beautifully across the goal but there was no-one there.

Then, at the other end, Nethercott slipped when trying to save a free kick from Stevenson, but the ball was cleared. Shortly afterwards he had to receive attention when injured, but recovered to punch clear a shot from Smith.

After Mulheron had centred for Rundle to head against the bar, the ball was scrambled away and Tonbridge forced a corner. Butler shot and Nethercott saved well.

Before half-time Butler had to receive attention when he was hurt but he remained and resumed again, though limping.

### **Half-time: Tonbridge 0 Norwich City 0**

When Rundle ran half the length of the field, the attack fizzled out but at the other end Jones had to dive at Johnston's feet to save well.

Ten minutes after half-time, Norwich went ahead. Dutton passed through to Ackerman and the centre forward shot into the corner of the net past Jones.

Things looked bad for Tonbridge now; what they had not wanted to happen, had happened and the crowd were stunned by this unexpected reverse.

But the Tonbridge team were not downhearted. From a Ross throw-in, Rundle gathered the ball and passed to Mulheron. The inside-left shot and the ball went in off the corner of the post. How the crowd roared!

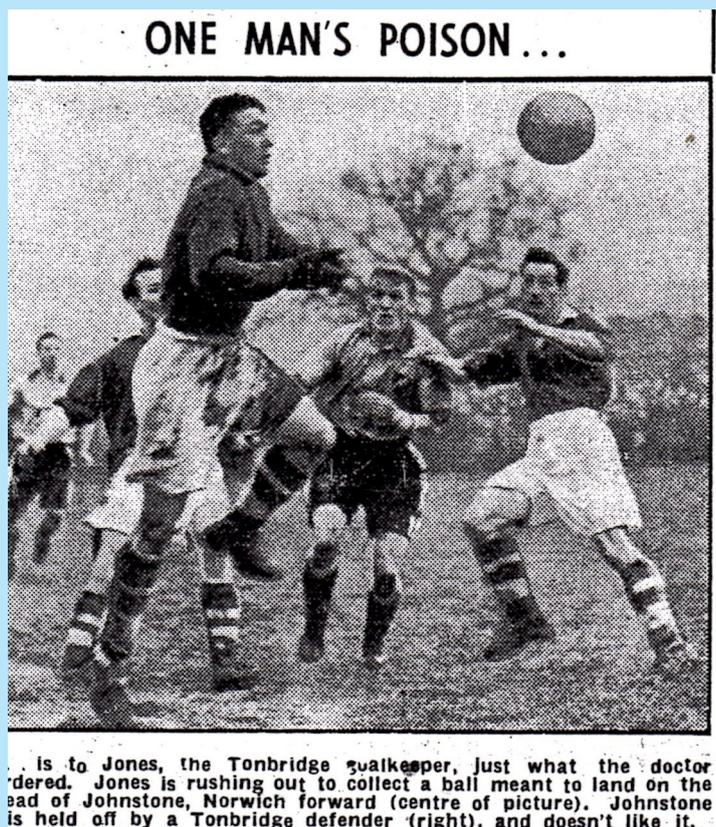
Four minutes later though, Norwich regained the lead. Ackerman gathered a loose ball and tore towards goal. Though challenged by Anderson, he booted the ball home. And Tonbridge had to start all over again.

Rundle raised everyone's hopes when he beat three men. He pushed the ball too far in front of him and could only hit the side netting.

Ackerman, who had been off the field injured since scoring the goal, came back on to the wing. He finally had to leave the field 12 minutes from time.

Then Tonbridge equalised again. After 74 minutes Bell took a free kick. From the edge of the penalty area, Butler lashed a fierce lob over Nethercott's head. It was the best goal of the match.

It looked like a repeat performance shortly afterwards when Butler broke through. This time Nethercott made a good save.



... is to Jones, the Tonbridge goalkeeper, just what the doctor ordered. Jones is rushing out to collect a ball meant to land on the head of Johnstone, Norwich forward (centre of picture). Johnstone is held off by a Tonbridge defender (right), and doesn't like it.

With four minutes to go, Bell headed off the line and then, in the final minute, Johnston hit the post.

Mulheron was the star of an attack in which each player played well. Butler worried Foulkes a lot and Dimmer was an awkward handful for Norwich's £9,000 back, Lewis.

Rundle played well and had some bad luck while Smith, as usual, put all he had into his play.

Ross and Fleming could hardly be faulted and Jones was competent in goal.

Norwich were a polished side. They were big-built and strong. At times their defence showed signs remarkably near to panic. They always looked thankful to scramble the ball away. Perhaps they were too confident. If they were they should never be so again. They were given a huge shock.

*Tonbridge: Jones; Bell, Stevenson; Ross, Anderson, Fleming; Dimmer, Rundle, Butler, Mulheron, Smith.*

*Norwich: Nethercott; Morgan, Lewis; Dutton, Foulkes, Ashman; Gavin, Johnston, Ackerman, Rattray, Summers.*

## Thursday, 27th November 1952 – FA Cup First Round Replay

**Norwich City (0) 1 (Summers 89) Tonbridge (0) 0**

**Attendance: 9,663**



A disputed goal 90 seconds from the end gave Third Division Norwich City an undeserved victory over Tonbridge, second from bottom of the Southern League. In my opinion Summers, the scorer, was offside.

Before the winger received the ball from Johnston, a linesman had flagged for offside. This was the basis of a strong Tonbridge protest.

After the match, Mr. Norman Low, the Norwich manager and Reg Foulkes, the captain, went into the losers' dressing room to congratulate them on their display and sympathise over the winning goal.

Later, Mr. Low told me: "I thought it was an offside goal. That is my opinion, Tonbridge fully deserved to take us into extra time." Other Norwich officials agreed.

Mr. Harry Curtis, the Tonbridge manager said: "as an old League referee, I contend that the authorities appoint three officials to work together as a team to control a match. We object that the referee did not consult the linesman who flagged for offside."

And Tonbridge right back, Sid Bell added: "As soon as I saw the linesman's flag go up, I stopped and let the forward go on."

The referee, Mr. M. A. L. Mackay (Fulham) refused all appeals by the Tonbridge players to verify his decision with his linesman, Mr. A. E. Moore.

He told Eddie Fleming, captain of Tonbridge, "I am the referee and I have made my decision."

Mr. Mackay gave me this version of the incident: "I was well up with the play, and in my opinion, when the pass was made, the outside left was in an onside position. Therefore, I had no need to consult my linesman."

Tonbridge were the unluckiest of sides to lose in this unsatisfactory way, for they more than held their own. If only they had been able to find a finishing punch they must have won.

Constantine, former Millwall centre forward, short of match practice after injury, was too slow to take advantage of the brilliance of the rest of the line. Tonbridge had three chances to Norwich's one.

Seldom have I seen two inside forwards do so much effective work as Mulheron and Rundle. The nippy right winger, Dimmer, invariably beat Lewis and Smith was equally successful on the other wing. Wing halves Ross and Fleming were well ahead of Dutton and Docherty, both in tackling and distribution.

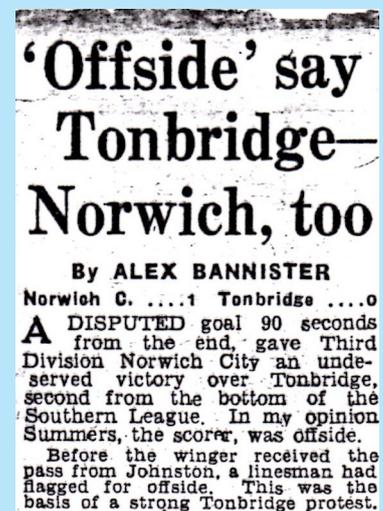
The only Norwich forward of note was Johnston, and against him Anderson played the game of his life.

Norwich's passing was invariably too strong and Summer and Gavin were smothered by the quick tackling of Bell and Stevenson.

Though Norwich won, the non-league team from Kent earned all the laurels.

*Norwich: Nethercott; Duffy, Lewis; Dutton, Foulkes, Docherty; Gavin, Kinsey, Johnston, Rattray, Summers.*

*Tonbridge: Jones; Bell, Stevenson; Ross, Anderson, Fleming; Dimmer, Rundle, Constantine, Mulheron, Smith*



when a limping Butler lobbed the ball over Nethercott, the Norwich goalkeeper, from the edge of the penalty area.

Sixteen minutes remained and Tonbridge began to tire but Butler broke through forcing a fine save from Nethercott. In the last five minutes Syd Bell headed a Johnston shot off the line and Johnston hit a post as the Blues held on for a well deserved replay after an excellent all round performance.

In the replay Tonbridge played even better and made headlines on the sports pages of the national newspapers. Not just for their performance which was widely praised but for the controversial nature of the goal which ensured their defeat. The goal which everyone in the ground thought should have been disallowed for offside. Everyone that is except the referee, Mr. Leslie Mackay of Fulham.

Roy Butler, injured in the first match, was not fit to play and Jimmy Constantine returned from injury to take his place.

The rest of the team were unchanged and how well they played. Bell and Stevenson kept a tight hold on the Norwich wingers whilst Ron Anderson had the game of his life against the Canaries danger man Tommy Johnston. Alex Ross and Eddie Fleming were dominant whilst Charlie Rundle and Peter Mulheron were most hard working as an effective pair of inside forwards. On the wings Derek Dimmer and Alan Smith were constantly dangerous but in the middle Constantine, having been rushed back into the side after a lengthy lay off, was not quite match fit and unable to take advantage of his colleague's brilliance.

In the second half Tonbridge really took control and as the game wore on it was the home side who were hanging on. Then, with just 90 seconds remaining, another Tonbridge attack was broken up and the ball booted up towards the centre circle where Johnston was waiting. The linesman's flag was raised as he passed the ball to the outside left Johnny Summers who ran through and scored sparking off strong Tonbridge protests as the referee refused even to consult the linesman Mr. A. E. Moore telling the Tonbridge captain Eddie Fleming "I am the referee and I have made my decision."

Later Mr Mackay was quoted in the national press as saying: "I was well up with play and in my opinion when the pass was made the outside left was in an onside position. Therefore I had no need to consult the linesman."

Harry Curtis said: "As an old referee I contend that the authorities appoint three officials to work together as a team. We object that the referee did not consult the linesman who flagged for offside."

After the game the Norwich manager Norman Low and the captain Reg Foulkes went into the Tonbridge dressing room to congratulate them on their display and sympathise over the goal. Norman Low said: "I thought it was offside. Tonbridge fully deserved to take us into extra time." Other Norwich officials agreed.

Many years later the Tonbridge programme editor Tom Spence managed to track down the referee, now aged 77, who replied with a frank and informative letter dated 4th June 1989 from which I now quote.

"At this moment in time I am quite happy to give you my thoughts on something which although it took place 47 years ago is still very fresh in my mind. May I explain that my pre-match instructions to my linesmen were that for offsidess they should raise their flag and stop running down the touchline. When the ball was knocked up field by a Norwich defender, I was naturally just outside the Norwich penalty area and I was not in a position to do anything other than look at the linesman. When I looked across to him his flag was not raised and he was continuing to run down the line and when the ball finished in the back of the net he ran back to the halfway line. Therefore I saw no reason to consult him despite the Tonbridge player's vigorous protests. When we retired to the dressing room I asked the linesman to confirm that it was a good goal when to my astonishment he said not, it was offside. When I asked him why he had not stopped running and raised his flag he said that I had waved his flag down, something that I would never have done because I was in no position to overrule him."

Human error or human misunderstanding, the linesman went on to become a successful Football League referee. Tonbridge were out of the FA Cup.

League form improved a little in December although a double Christmas defeat by Hastings halted progress. Football League scouts had been watching Tonbridge and for the visit of Gloucester, Harry Curtis knew that Wolves were watching Derek Dimmer. Shrewdly prompted by the brilliant Jordan, Dimmer had been playing well. A skilful player, the slightly built winger was not particularly strong and sometimes, particularly on heavy grounds, struggled to get his crosses into the goalmouth. Curtis took the match ball shortly before kick off and pumped just a little more air into it. Just enough to make it a bit lighter.

Rundle and Jordan scored twice each and Smith once as Gloucester were crushed 5-2 but it was Dimmer who took everyone's eye with his dazzling runs, superb footwork and perfect centres. The Wolves scouts left at half-time saying that they had seen enough. Three days later, Dimmer was sold to Wolves for a fee described as over £3,000.

At the turn of the year only Exeter and Dartford kept Tonbridge off the bottom. On 10th January, Ray Jefferies, formerly of Dartford, Worcester and Headington, made his debut and two goals from Butler were enough to beat Guildford, but only one point was gained from the next four games. Then an unexpected 2-1 win at Bath ended the home side's championship challenge.

Four days later Tunbridge Wells visited the Angel to take us on in the Courier Cup to raise money for flood relief. Tonbridge had the better of the first half but had to wait until the 52nd minute when Butler put them ahead with a spectacular effort. Twenty minutes later promising young winger Norman Hooper equalised after a fine run and it remained all square.

Five successive draws saw Tonbridge climb to 18th and Constantine was now fit again after a knee injury. Easter brought successive home wins by 3-1 against Dartford and Gravesend. Jordan scoring all three against the Darts. A two goal win at Weymouth was followed by draws against Llanelly and Dartford after which Tonbridge travelled to Yeovil for the final match of the season. Ross and Fleming soon took command in midfield and with Jordan and Mulheron also playing well, Tonbridge dominated the game, Jordan giving them a two goal lead. Midway through the second half Jones injured himself trying to save a penalty. Constantine went in goal and had to perform heroics to prevent an equaliser as the home side at last put on the pressure.

The last eight matches had brought five wins and two draws to ensure a comfortable mid-table finish. Jordan had enjoyed a brilliant season finishing as leading scorer as well as being the leading goal maker. His innate skill and football brain enabled him to make the game look easy. Off the field he liked to smoke a pipe. It would have been no surprise to have seen him puffing on his pipe as he calmly sauntered through a defence to score a goal or set up a colleague. The skilful, hardworking hard shooting Mulheron had also been outstanding. Constantine's season had been interrupted by a knee injury. He was not helped by some eccentric team selection when the best header of a ball in the club, if not the league, was picked on the wing for a few games but Connie always gave of his best and was already established as a great favourite.

The reserves were simply magnificent. Their first game against Tottenham's third string attracted a crowd of over 3,000. Roy Butler scored twice and Charlie Rundle once but the young Spurs hit five to secure the points. League newcomers Newbury Town were among the early pace setters and stood proudly on top of the league when they made their first visit to the Angel Ground on 13th September.

Tonbridge lined up: Head, Blackman, Fletcher, Rosier, Anderson, Lunn, Dimmer, Sheldon, Rundle, Feeney, Smith and went straight on to the attack. After eight minutes constant pressure on the visitor's goal Smith worked his way in from the wing and Sheldon cheekily back heeled his low pass over the line. Five minutes later and Newbury were level through their promising young forward John Taylor who would be a Tonbridge player before the season was out. Rundle and Smith both went close as the blues built up the pressure but they had to wait until just before the interval to be rewarded when Dimmer scored from Feeney's pass.

Taylor equalised within five minutes of the restart as the visitors stepped up a gear but the home defence remained firm. Gradually Tonbridge regained the ascendancy. Feeney and Dimmer were particularly impressive as the forwards began to find their rhythm with some sparkling football. It was from Feeney's free kick that Dimmer scored the winner in the 88th minute. The Angels were now a point behind the leaders with two games in hand.

Spurs took over as leaders and they visited the Angel again. Sometimes the league club's third string would play both of their games away. Goals from Rundle and Butler without reply saw Tonbridge going top on goal average from Spurs with Newbury a point away in third. A trip to Windsor brought a rare defeat but Lunn scored twice in a 4-1 win at West Ham.

The League Cup brought Tottenham for their third visit of the season and they were met by the Reserves best performance so far. Butler, Rundle and Blackman scored the goals to round off a brilliant exhibition. Spurs were unable to reply and only their goalkeeper Johnny Hollowbread kept the score down. Butler scored three, Dimmer two and Rundle one in a 6-0 win at Callenders and Butler bagged another three as Headington were beaten 5-2 at the Angel.

At Christmas an exciting 3-3 draw at Hastings and a 3-1 win over Dunstable left Tonbridge top, three points clear of Newbury and four ahead of Hastings, who had played a game more. Spurs who had a game in hand were now six points behind. One point behind them were Windsor who had played four games less.

In January 2,049 were present for the visit of Horsham who had not lost away from home. Ninety minutes later they had by 4-2, Joe Feeney scoring twice, Butler and Sheldon once each. In the Professional Cup Feeney and Sheldon scored the goals at Headington and back in the league Vickers were outclassed 4-1 but then a trip to Brighton found the home side without a second team match. Consequently the third team was strengthened to give some of them a game. It was an excellent match but Tonbridge were unable to pierce the strong Brighton defence and lost 2-0.

Tonbridge remained top but Windsor had been catching up. They were three points behind with three games in hand when they came to the Angel in mid February, 1,850 spectators witnessed a fine, hard fought game on a snow covered pitch. The game opened with a terrific scramble in the Tonbridge goal after Hankey had been unable to hold Chandler's fierce shot but after seven minutes the Blues were ahead when Aldred cleverly chipped in Irvine's low cross. Four minutes later Rosier headed in from Aldred's corner but 10 minutes from the break it was 2-1 when Pierce's shot deflected off Skivington past the wrong-footed Hankey.

Straight from the restart Tonbridge attacked. Rosier's fierce shot was brilliantly saved by Bell who could not hold the ball. This resulted in an incredible goalmouth melee which saw five shots blocked before the ball was eventually cleared. Then Windsor broke away, Chandler shot against the bar and scrambled in the rebound. Butler was booked and Hankey needed treatment as play became intensely competitive. With a quarter of an hour remaining Butler regained the lead when he bundled in Irvine's corner and it was Butler's glancing header from Aldred's centre that wrapped up a vital win for the following side: Hankey, Skivington, Fletcher, Lunn, Gawler, Rosier, Aldred, Sheldon, Butler, Jefferies, Irvine.

Roy Butler, a tough, game centre forward was proving a prolific goalscorer and netted both when West Ham were beaten 2-1. He also scored in the 4-0 win over Luton but was rather overshadowed as Constantine on his return from injury scored three. Alan Smith had a brilliant game on the left wing creating three of the goals and a young, local lad called Dennis Relf, still in his teens, made his first appearance in a Tonbridge shirt.

The top of the table now looked like this:

Tonbridge	played 24	points 37
Spurs	played 25	points 35
Newbury	played 25	points 35
Windsor	played 21	points 32

In the Professional Cup Semi Final Constantine's head gave the Angels the lead after 10 minutes against West Ham. The young Hammers were most impressive playing some excellent football but with Ron Gawler outstanding at centre half, Tonbridge held on. Feeney's late goal easing the tension. The same stage of the League Challenge Cup had also been reached but this time Windsor triumphed by 2-0.

At Easter Windsor could only manage three points from three games whilst Tonbridge won at Dunstable (2-1) and 3-0 at home to Twickenham. The latter was Tonbridge's seventh successive win. The following Saturday a 2-0 win over Luton, goals from Ken Brown and Alan Smith, clinched the championship but the season was not yet over. There were two league games left

## TONBRIDGE F.C. RESERVES 1952-53 WINNERS: METROPOLITAN LEAGUE & PROFESSIONAL CUP



*Relf Edwards, Roy Butler, Peter Sheldon, Ted Hankey, Ron Gawler, Harold Fletcher, Michael Skivington, Osbourne Jones*

*Fergie Lunn, Jimmie Irvine, Cecil Rosier, Charlie Rundle, Joe Feeney, Alan Smith*

and in the last bottom club Calendars were beaten 9-2, Butler scoring four times, Rundle three, Brown and Smith once each.

There was also the Professional Cup Final trophy of which Tonbridge were holders. Tottenham were the visitors and there were 3,458 spectators at the Angel to cheer out the following team: Hankey, Skivington, Fletcher, Sheldon, Gawler, Rosier, Irvine, Rundle, Butler, Feeney, Smith.

Tottenham had brought a strong side and had the edge for the first 20 minutes but then Tonbridge scored their first goal and subsequently took command. The goal came after Smith had been fouled. He took the free kick and found Butler who scored from close range. Eighteen minutes later Butler bundled goalkeeper and ball into the back of the net, quite legal in those days, for number two. Hollowbread recovered to make many fine saves, only he and the woodwork kept the score respectable. Butler was always dangerous and Feeney had a fine game but the man of the match was Alan Smith who was in dazzling form. The third goal came in the final minute from Cecil Rosier who gave his usual hard working performance.

In the end Tonbridge Reserves had finished three points ahead of second placed Windsor with Spurs another five points behind in third. The league record was played 30,

won 22, drawn 3, lost 5, goals scored 88, conceded 42, points 47. Only Newbury and Windsor scored more, whilst the defensive record was the best in the league.

It was particularly pleasing to see a tangible reward for second team stalwarts like Harold Fletcher, Fergie Lunn, Cecil Rosier and Peter Sheldon. Fletcher and Mike Skivington had been a solid pair of full backs giving little away. At centre half Ron Anderson or Ron Gawler had, in their contrasting styles, been excellent whilst Lunn and Rosier, who had been the wing halves for most of the season, both maintained tremendous consistency. In attack Sheldon, Smith and Feeney all had fine seasons.

Butler when spared first team duty proved a forceful and prolific leader whilst Rundle, Dimmer, Dougal and Irvine had all made valuable contributions as had goalkeepers Brian Head, Brian Bowness and particularly Ted Hankey.

The season ended with a richly deserved joint benefit match for founder members Ron Anderson and Eddie Fleming. Roy Butler and Jimmy Constantine scored the goals that beat an all star eleven which included Irish International Bill Walsh of Manchester City, Brian Jackson (Liverpool) and Ralph Hunt (Portsmouth), but it was young Dartford winger Peter Peters who stole the show.

Small, neat, dark haired and very pacey he was to become the first of Doug Hunt's summer signings.

Eddie Fleming was moving away from the area and would no longer be available for the Angels. In five seasons he had hardly missed a first team match and would be sorely missed. Mostly at wing half sometimes at full back there were no frills to his football, he just got on with the job and did it in exemplary fashion week after week, season after season. Hard working, firm in the tackle, he would win the ball and pass it to a colleague and was always available when needed. A wonderfully reliable team man he joined Salisbury City, then in the Western League.

Ron Anderson remained at the Angel for one more season and must be one of the best all round footballer's in the club's history. For the first two seasons his accurate and thoughtful passing was the major constructive force of the side either from inside forward or wing half. Then he became a successful captain of the club's reserve team before being recalled to the first team in his new position of centre half. His performances in the FA Cup ties against Folkestone and Norwich were of the highest order.

Southern League		P	W	D	L	F	A	GA	Pts
1	Merthyr Tydfil	42	27	6	9	128	60	2.13	60
2	Weymouth	42	22	13	7	81	42	1.93	57
3	Kidderminster Harriers	42	22	10	10	70	40	1.75	54
4	Guildford City	42	18	16	8	66	47	1.4	52
5	Hereford United	42	21	9	12	80	59	1.36	51
6	Worcester City	42	23	4	15	86	73	1.18	50
7	Kettering Town	42	18	10	14	83	56	1.48	46
8	Lovells Athletic	42	18	10	14	87	68	1.28	46
9	Gloucester City	42	19	8	15	68	55	1.24	46
10	Bath City	42	19	6	17	75	67	1.12	44
11	Headington United	42	16	11	15	55	53	1.04	43
12	Bedford Town	42	16	10	16	75	64	1.17	42
13	Barry Town	42	18	6	18	84	89	0.94	42
14	Chelmsford City	42	15	10	17	67	80	0.84	40
15	Dartford	42	15	9	18	63	65	0.97	39
<b>16</b>	<b>Tonbridge</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>36</b>
17	Yeovil Town	42	12	11	19	56	76	0.74	35
18	Cheltenham Town	42	15	4	23	59	85	0.69	34
19	Exeter City Reserves	42	13	7	22	76	106	0.72	33
20	Llanelly	42	13	6	23	70	111	0.63	32
21	Gravesend & Northfleet	42	12	7	23	68	88	0.77	31
22	Hastings United	42	3	5	34	41	131	0.31	11

Date	Opponents		Comp		Res		Att	Pos	Goalscorers	
Sat 23/08/1952	Llanelly	a	SL		L	2	5		Dougal, Mulheron	
Sat 30/08/1952	Weymouth	H	SL		L	0	3	4004	22	
Wed 03/09/1952	Guildford City	H	SLC	Pre i	W	1	0		Jordan	
Sat 06/09/1952	Worcester City	a	SL		L	1	2		Jordan	
Wed 10/09/1952	Guildford City	a	SLC	Pre ii	L	0	2			
Sat 13/09/1952	Merthyr Tydfil	a	SL		W	2	1	3500	Constantine, Jordan	
Wed 17/09/1952	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	KSS	1	D	0	0	3438		
Sat 20/09/1952	Kidderminster Harriers	H	SL		L	2	4	3585	20	Jordan, Mulheron
Thu 25/09/1952	Hereford United	a	SL		L	0	3	3375		
Sat 27/09/1952	Yeovil Town	H	SL		W	3	1	3087	19	Constantine, Feeney, Ryland og
Sat 04/10/1952	Exeter City Res	H	SL		W	5	2	3253	17	Jordan 2, Constantine 2, Dimmer
Sat 11/10/1952	Chelmsford City	H	SL		L	2	3	3844	18	Constantine, Jordan
Sat 18/10/1952	Bedford Town	a	SL		L	1	4	5419		Constantine
Sat 01/11/1952	Kettering Town	H	SL		L	2	4		21	Jordan, Constantine
Sat 08/11/1952	Folkestone Town	a	FAC	4Q	D	0	0			
Wed 12/11/1952	Folkestone Town	H	FAC	4Qr	D	4	4			Mulheron 2, Jordan pen, Constantine
Sat 15/11/1952	Gloucester City	a	SL		L	1	2		21	Butler
Mon 17/11/1952	Folkestone Town	N	FAC	4Qrr	W	2	0	3000		Mulheron, Dimmer
Sat 22/11/1952	Norwich City	H	FAC	1	D	2	2	5657		Mulheron, Butler
Thu 27/11/1952	Norwich City	a	FAC	1r	L	0	1	9633	20	
Sat 29/11/1952	Barry Town	H	SL		L	2	5	2687	21	Mulheron 2
Sat 06/12/1952	Guildford City	a	SL		W	4	2		20	Mulheron, Smith, Dimmer 2
Sat 13/12/1952	Cheltenham Town	H	SL		D	2	2	2507	21	Smith, Rundle
Sat 20/12/1952	Gloucester City	H	SL		W	5	3	2108	20	Smith, Jordan 2, Rundle 2
Thu 25/12/1952	Hastings United	a	SL		L	1	4		20	Smith
Fri 26/12/1952	Hastings United	H	SL		L	0	2	2875	20	
Tue 06/01/1953	Cheltenham Town	a	SL		L	0	1		20	
Sat 10/01/1953	Guildford City	H	SL		W	2	1		20	Butler 2
Sat 17/01/1953	Exeter City Res	a	SL		L	1	3		20	Mulheron
Wed 21/01/1953	Gravesend & Northfleet	a	SL		L	1	3		20	Butler
Sat 24/01/1953	Lovells Athletic	H	SL		D	1	1	2365	20	Butler
Sat 31/01/1953	Ashford Town	H	KSC	1	D	0	0		20	
Wed 04/02/1953	Ashford Town	a	KSC	1r	L	0	2		20	
Sat 07/02/1953	Headington United	H	SL		L	0	1	2000	21	
Sat 14/02/1953	Kettering Town	a	SL		L	0	3		21	
Sat 21/02/1953	Bath City	a	SL		W	2	1		21	Mulheron, Jordan
Sat 28/02/1953	Bedford Town	H	SL		D	1	1	3200	20	Taylor
Mon 02/03/1953	Lovells Athletic	a	SL		D	1	1		19	Jordan
Wed 04/03/1953	Gravesend & Northfleet	a	KSS	1r	L	0	3		19	
Sat 07/03/1953	Chelmsford City	a	SL		D	0	0	3000	19	
Wed 11/03/1953	Bath City	H	SL		D	1	1	1791	18	Constantine
Sat 14/03/1953	Hereford United	H	SL		D	1	1	2750		Fleming
Sat 21/03/1953	Kidderminster Harriers	a	SL		L	1	2			Aldred
Thu 26/03/1953	Headington United	a	SL		L	1	3		20	Constantine
Sat 28/03/1953	Merthyr Tydfil	H	SL		L	0	3	2664	20	
Fri 03/04/1953	Dartford	H	SL		W	3	1	2800		Jordan 3
Sat 04/04/1953	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	SL		W	3	1		18	Jordan 2, Mulheron
Sat 11/04/1953	Worcester City	H	SL		W	1	0	3000		Jordan
Mon 13/04/1953	Barry Town	a	SL		L	0	4		18	
Sat 18/04/1953	Weymouth	a	SL		W	2	0	2056		Jordan, Taylor
Sat 25/04/1953	Llanelly	H	SL		D	1	1	2851	18	Jordan
Mon 27/04/1953	Dartford	a	SL		D	2	2		18	Mulheron, Butler
Sat 02/05/1953	Yeovil Town	a	SL		W	2	1		16	Jordan 2

Name	SL	FAC	SLC	KSC	KSS	Total	Goals	Career Apps	Career Goals
Aldred, Arthur	7				1	8	1	8	1
Anderson, Ron	26	5		1	1	33		158	7
Bell, Sid	41	5	2	2	2	52		222	
Bowness, Brian	1					1		1	
Butler, Roy	15	2	1	2	2	22	7	22	7
Constantine, Jimmy	22	3	2		1	27	10	27	10
Dimmer, Derek	8	3	2			13	4	13	4
Dougal, Tommy	11	2	2	1	1	17	1	56	4
Feeney, Joe	12	1		2		15	1	15	1
Fleming, Eddie	36	5	2	1	1	45	1	236	7
Gawler, Ron	4					4		37	2
Hankey, Ted	10		2		1	13	(2)	110	
Jefferies, Ray	12			2	1	15		15	
Jones, Norman	31	5		2	1	39	(6)	39	
Jones, Selwyn	12				1	13		13	
Jordan, Johnny	38	2	2	2	2	46	23	87	45
Lunn, Fergie	3					3		120	4
Mulheron, Peter	40	5	1	2	2	50	13	155	52
Newman, ????	1					1		1	
Rosier, Cecil	2					2		4	
Ross, Alec	33	3	1	2	1	40		86	3
Rundle, Charlie	10	5			1	16	3	16	3
Skivington, Michael	1					1		1	
Smith, Alan	27	5		1		33	4	68	9
Stevenson, Monty	40	5	2	2	2	51		51	
Taylor, John	11					11	2	11	2
Woodward, Horace	10		2		1	13		70	2
( ) = clean sheets									

Stats: Courtesy of Dan Couldridge