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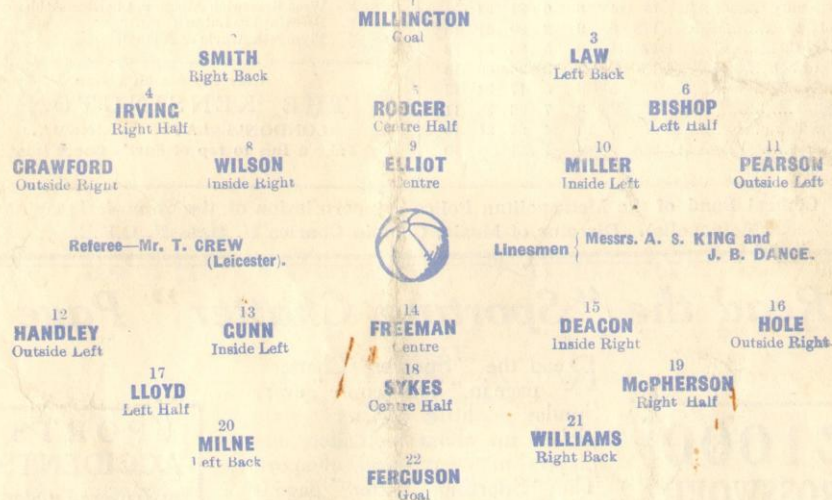
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CHELSEA v SWANSEA.

Saturday, 7th December, 1929.

Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

CHELSEA (Blue)



SWANSEA (White).

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The CHELSEA

F.C. Chronicle

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MEMBERS OF THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (Second Division).

The London Football Combination.

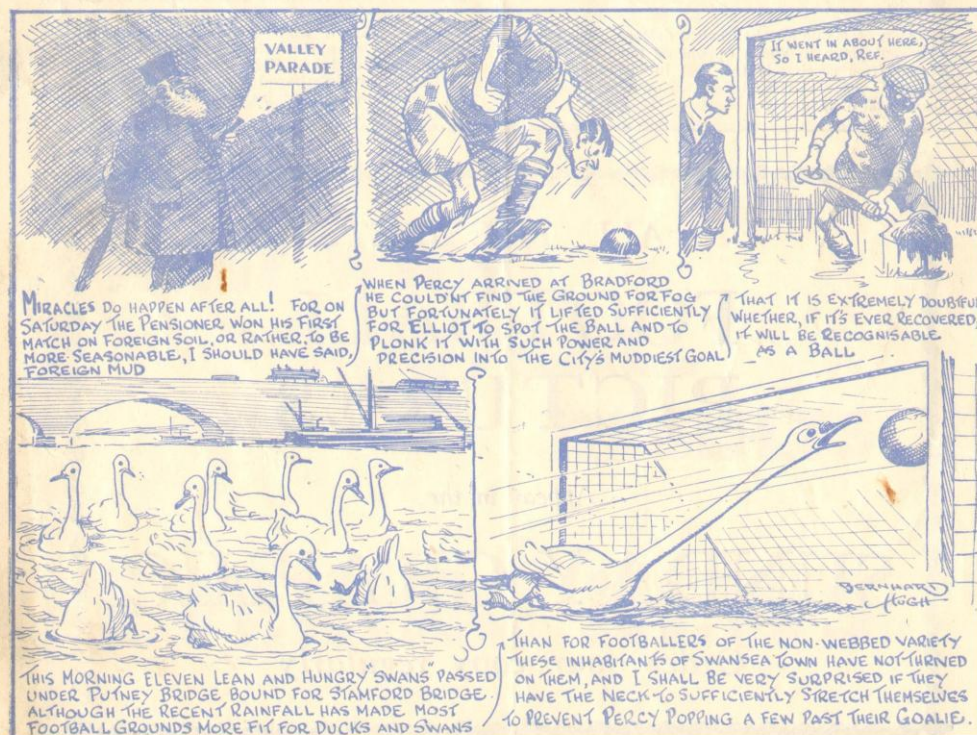
Runners-up—FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP 1914-1915.

Vol. XXV. No. 25.

Saturday, 7th December, 1929.

TWO PENCE.
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A GRAND PARADE. By Bernhard Hugh.



Now that Percy's broken the ice by bringing back Victory points from abroad, we hope his promotion to the rank of League leader is only a question of a few weeks.

DAISY CUTTERS.

"GOOD EGG," that from the Bradford Bantams.

Not a "soft" one, by any means—although the ground was all that—and more than one of Tennyson's Brooks seemed to have trickled down the Parade Valley.

How the trick was done: "Crawford centred for Elliot to score with a fine volley," said *The People*. In other words—Valley, Volley, Voila!

"WETTEST month on record." Maybe. Anyhow, the Chelsea Pensioner never once went "dry" all through November.

No sun, no sky, no togs e'er dry,
No such month can man remember,
No snug retreat, but, no defeat—November!

ALONE among Second Division clubs, Chelsea got through the five games in dreary, dank November without losing one. Hit that drum! we don't often bang it.

AND a little one for the Chelsea defence. The total of seven games in which opponents have been prevented from scoring is the best in either First or Second Division at the moment. Now to resume our usual habit of modesty.

MEN love a failure—or so a *Sunday Graphic* headline declared. Most of the male supporters at Chelsea seem to prefer a success.

HORATIUS, Macaulay's "keeper of the gate," was a good custodian, but by all accounts he had nothing on Keizer, the keeper of Margate, at Gillingham on Saturday. Margate supporters are reviving the obsolete slogan of "Hoch! der Keizer."

THERE's been a lot about "Thames in Flood" in the papers, but thousands of witnesses are prepared to swear to a rapid fall in the Thames at Craven Cottage about 4 p.m. on Saturday.

A NUMBER of football lights of other days are included in the ranks of the Thames F.C. If their supporters are desirous of changing the club name to something more inspiring perhaps "Old Man River" might be worth considering.

ANOTHER popular favourite of bygone days, Tommy Clay, is said to have played a great game in the Cup-tie on Saturday at Plough Lane. One can well believe it, for Clay would have been quite in his "element."

THE INTER-VARSITY SOCCER MATCH.

The Fifty-second Association Football Match between Oxford and Cambridge Universities will be played at Stamford Bridge on Thursday next, the 12th inst., Kick-off at 2.30 p.m.

Tickets for Numbered and Reserved seats in the Centre Stands can be obtained at the Chelsea F. C. Offices, Price 5s.

SIDNEY ELLIOT, our centre-forward, is usually invested with an extra "t" in the newspapers, although there should be one only. Most Pressmen are golfers, when they have time to spare, but they want to learn to hit off the second T.

CHELSEA, Blackpool and the Spurs all won by the smallest possible margin on Saturday, but Cardiff City beat the leaders, Oldham, by Miles (3); a whole league, in fact. Watch your step next Saturday, Chelsea!

CHELSEA CHATTER.

FIRST "AWAY."—The Press forecasters who predicted a Chelsea win at Valley Parade, Bradford—and most of them seemed to go to that length—certainly scored. Those of our many followers who remembered how often we had come empty away from what used to be reckoned our biggest bogey ground of all were hopeful rather than confident. Too often the Valley ground had proved a Valley of despair to Chelsea hopes. True we won there on the occasion of our last visit, in 1926, but only just, and that was the season the City could do nothing right and went down to Division III. with a loud thud. Prior to that win we had only scored one solitary victory over the Bantams on their own ground. All the more gratifying that the first away win of the season was gained upon rather unpromising soil.

BETTER THAN OF OLD.—In a way Saturday's game was reminiscent of experiences in our earliest days; first, a postponement through fog, followed by a game played under terrible conditions—for the Valley ground in bad weather can be very bad indeed. That time, in 1906-7, not merely were the penalty lines obliterated, but practically all others, and when the ball was re-spotted on the centre mark it had to be pressed firmly into the mud to prevent it from floating away before it could be kicked! On Saturday, matters were not quite so bad either as regards fog or mud, although the former was sufficient to make a start doubtful until half an hour or so before the time fixed and to make a "play on!" order necessary in place of the usual interval for rest and refreshment. All's well that—and two points was a long sight better than a fruitless journey and postponement.

GETTING BACK.—The usual injury from the previous game necessitated the weekly alteration in the team, Irving this time being the victim. With Sid. Bishop ready to step into the breach there was fortunately no question of labouring under a handicap on this occasion. That is the advantage of having so many men capable of filling the blanks. When all do so well it means that a player once absent through injury generally has to wait until a similar vacancy occurs before he can get back into the team. Satisfactory enough in a way to all except the player immediately concerned, although it is the unchanged team that usually makes the greater headway. Shirlaw, the City's reserve goalkeeper, is making the most of

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THE EVENING NEWS

(LONDON)

his chance, and Dennington may find it as hard as many others to regain a place in the team after being temporarily absent. This is one of the chief worries in the strenuous life of a League footballer.

* * *

ONE UP ON "BOGEY."—There is no need to re-hash the story of the game. You have all read it, most of you perhaps several different accounts. All agree that with the sole exception that more goals "might" have been scored by Chelsea there was no weak spot anywhere. Only once previously had the City failed to score at home this season, and in bringing both points away we did better than the Wolves, West Bromwich, Charlton, Notts County and Bristol City had fared at the same venue. Not so bad for our "bogy" ground of old.

* * *

A RECORD WRECKED.—At home our Reserves carried on the good work and completed a "perfect" day for Chelsea by laying another bogey, for it has been one of Pompey's boasts that neither their first or reserve team had been beaten at Chelsea. It is true we won two out of our three games at Fratton for League points without winning one of the three at Stamford Bridge, but until Saturday our "Swifts" had not once beaten Portsmouth Reserves in the London Combination, either home or away. In the days of the old South Eastern League it was quite another story. That, however, is comparatively ancient history. Saturday's 3-1 win over the Portsmouth Reserves may make Pompey a little more respectful when speaking of Chelsea. Biswell, Thain

and Nickalls, our three inside forwards, each scored. Following their mid-week draw at Cardiff our Swifts had a good week. With no particularly difficult game this month it is quite possible our Reserves may be in one of the leading positions at the New Year.

* * *

FEATHER-PULLING.—Swansea Town are paying their fifth visit to Chelsea this afternoon. The earliest game of the series, in late November, four years ago, was memorable by reason that in winning by three goals to one the Swans inflicted our initial defeat of the season, either at home or away. This time our visitors come at a period when they are having a rather lean time. So far they have scored but a single point in away games. It was a good one, too, for it was gained at Cardiff. At home their chief successes have been in defeating Preston 4-0, Bradford City 5-0, and Millwall 3-1. Their away record is poor enough, but that is no reason for underrating them. That way danger lies. They desperately need the points, and desperate Swans are proverbially dangerous to tackle. The Pensioner plucked the Bantams' feathers all right last week, but pulling the Swans' down may present greater difficulties.

* * *

THE LITTLE CHERUB.—If someone could compile a list of players scoring vital goals on their first appearance in new colours it would make astonishing reading. Many instances of strikingly successful debuts in matches for or against Chelsea can be recalled. The same no doubt with other clubs.

Beginners' luck in League football is really wonderful, and Highbury supporters would be the latest to subscribe to that view. Twice within four days they saw instances on their own ground, Edward Muttitt, a local of Middlesbrough, and then Sam Weaver, the half-back newly transferred from Hull City to Newcastle, each scoring one goal, and each playing his initial game in First Division football. There must be a sweet little cherub who sits up aloft and directs the aim of these first-timers. The moral is obvious: sign on a couple of new forwards each week—and win all your matches. It's easy!

* * *

UP AND DOWN.—The meeting of the London Combination to consider the proposed formation of a Second Division, with relegation and promotion, takes place on Thursday. There can be little if any doubt the same vital principle which "made" the Football League, viz., the yearly struggle for promotion or relegation, is the one to attract the very necessary support of the general public.

OUR VISITORS:

Swansea Town.

In 1912 the first brood of "Swans" sailed upon the bosom of League waters as members of the Southern League's second division. Little progress was made during the three seasons prior to the intervention of the big war, but the resumption brought a marked change in the fortunes of Swansea Town.

These were the happenings: West Ham were applying for admission to the Football League, Croydon Common were going "out" altogether; the champions of the S.L. second division, Stoke, also successfully applied to the Football League for admission. Thus, with the S.L. increasing their numbers from 20 to 22, there were many vacancies to fill, and Swansea went up although only fourth in Division II. They were only just in time, for at the end of that season the whole twenty-two were incorporated into the Football League as the Third Division. Promotion came to the Swans in the spring of 1925, with 57 points, one point better than Plymouth Argyle. In Division II Swansea's best position so far is fifth. That was in their first season after promotion. Co-jointly with that performance the Swans were making their one big dash in the F.A. Cup, reaching the semi-finals before being knocked out by the ultimate winners, Bolton Wanderers.

With the present position of the Swans in the tables, frequent changes in the make-up of the team are more or less inevitable, and there may be variations from the following:—

ALEXANDER FERGUSON is by no means a "Little Sandy," for he stands an inch over six feet and weighs 13½ st. Hailing from Glasgow, he had turns with Wigan Borough and Gillingham before going to Swansea in February, 1927.

B. WILLIAMS played for Wales at Chelsea last month—he was rather severely injured in that game,

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the fourth he had played for Wales. This is his sixth season in the Swansea ranks.

W. MILNE has been even longer at Vetch Field. A Tynesider, he was secured from the Walker "Celtic," and the fact that he was good enough to supplant the Welsh international back, Morley—who went to Clapton Orient from Swansea—speaks for itself.

ALBERT FREEMAN is a newcomer, and was last season with Burnley—who obtained him from a junior club, Layland.

"JOE" SYKES, the resourceful pivot and team captain, is a Sheffielder, and played for the Wednesday before going to Swansea five years ago.

JAMES COLLINS, of Dundee, was recruited from a Scottish junior club, Lochce, while Swansea were still in the Southern League.

WILLIAM HOLE is the Swansea "Brer Rabbit"; born and bred in the local briar patch, and as wily and difficult to out-manoeuvre as the original friend of our nursery tale. He has been nine times capped by Wales.

HENRY DEACON, a Sheffielder, played for Birmingham before going to Swansea, for whom he was top scorer last season.

KENNETH GUNN, another recruit from Scottish football—he came from Glasgow—is in his third season at Swansea.

LACHLAN MACPHERSON is a name rightly suggestive of the land o' cakes. He was born near the bonnie banks o' Clyde, but played for Notts County prior to signing for Swansea four seasons ago.

CHARLES HANDLEY was discovered by the Spurs playing for his local club at Edmonton, and signed as pro immediately after a very satisfactory trial. That was seven seasons ago. Swansea secured his transfer this past summer.

Last season's results:—

At Chelsea—Chelsea, 4 (Elliot, Crawford, Pearson, Biswell); Swansea Town, 0.

At Swansea—Chelsea, 1 (Thompson); Swansea Town, 0.

The Chelsea Fixture List:—

FIRST TEAM—FOOTBALL LEAGUE, DIVISION II.

Saturday, December 14th v. Cardiff City (away).

Saturday, December 21st v. PRESTON NORTH END (home). Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25th v. Blackpool (away).

Thursday, December 26th v. BLACKPOOL (home). Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

Saturday, December 28th v. Nottingham Forest (away).

CHELSEA RESERVES—LONDON COMBINATION.

Saturday, December 14th v. CRYSTAL PALACE (home). Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

Saturday, December 21st v. Reading (away).

Wednesday, December 25th v. COVENTRY CITY (home). Kick-off 11.30 a.m.

Thursday, December 26th v. Coventry City (away).

Saturday, December 28th v. BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION (home). Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

DIVISION II.

(Positions to date.)

Goals.

| | P. | W. | L. | D. | F. | A. | Pts. |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Blackpool | 16 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 50 | 28 | 26 |
| Oldham Athletic | 16 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 38 | 19 | 25 |
| Wolverhampton | 18 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 36 | 30 | 22 |
| Cardiff City | 18 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 23 | 21 |
| Bradford | 17 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 34 | 30 | 21 |
| Chelsea | 16 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 30 | 20 | 20 |
| Bury | 16 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 32 | 26 | 20 |
| W. Bromwich Albion | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 43 | 27 | 19 |
| Charlton Athletic | 17 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 28 | 27 | 18 |
| Southampton | 17 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 38 | 36 | 18 |
| Hull City | 17 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 31 | 27 | 17 |
| Stoke City | 18 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 34 | 33 | 16 |
| Tottenham H. | 17 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 23 | 29 | 16 |
| Reading | 17 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 22 | 25 | 15 |
| Notts County | 18 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 24 | 32 | 14 |
| Bristol City | 17 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 30 | 41 | 14 |
| Bradford C. | 17 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 25 | 32 | 13 |
| Preston N. E. | 17 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 28 | 36 | 13 |
| Notts Forest | 17 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 17 | 34 | 13 |
| Millwall | 17 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 26 | 38 | 11 |
| Swansea Town | 17 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 24 | 31 | 10 |
| Barnsley | 16 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 21 | 28 | 10 |

Half-time Scores Indicator.

| | |
|---|--|
| A | Charlton Reserves v. Chelsea Reserves. |
| B | Birmingham v. Manchester City. |
| C | Blackburn Rovers v. Leeds United. |
| D | Grimsby Town v. Everton. |
| E | Huddersfield Town v. Portsmouth. |
| F | Leicester City v. Derby County. |
| G | Liverpool v. Burnley. |
| H | Manchester United v. Bolton Wanderers. |
| J | Middlesbrough v. Sheffield Wednesday. |
| K | Newcastle United v. Aston Villa. |
| L | Sheffield United v. Arsenal. |
| M | West Ham United v. Sunderland. |
| N | Barnsley v. Stoke City. |
| O | Blackpool v. Wolverhampton Wanderers. |
| P | Bradford v. Hull City. |
| R | Bury v. Bradford City. |
| S | Millwall v. Bristol City. |
| T | Nottingham Forest v. Cardiff City. |
| U | Oldham Athletic v. Preston North End. |
| V | Southampton v. Notts County. |
| W | Tottenham Hotspur v. Reading. |
| X | West Bromwich Albion v. Charlton Athletic. |
| Y | Brentford v. Luton Town. |
| Z | Plymouth Argyle v. Fulham. |

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