

# Up There Cazaly!

A historical look at Tonbridge Angels through the eyes of their supporters with original text from Brian Cheal. Part 4: Season 1951-52, featuring the FA Cup First Round tie against Aldershot



During the summer of 1951, full back Reg Swinfen, now 36, was released and joined Kent League Dover, A sound defender he had also been a most reliable penalty taker. Other departures were Walter McMillen and John Dryden. McMillen, a year older than Swinfen, was replaced by the legendary Horace Woodward still remembered by many as the finest centre half to play for Tonbridge. A junior with Tottenham he went on to make 63 Football League appearances for Spurs before being sold to Queens Park Rangers for £10,000. After making 57 appearances in two seasons he refused terms and was placed on the transfer list at £5,000. In those days a player on the transfer list could join a non-league club for free although the fee would remain on his head should he wish to rejoin a Football League club.

Three players were signed from Crystal Palace, wing half Alex Ross, inside forward Len Saward and winger Les Stevens. Saward, the brother of Irish international Pat Saward, had been wanted by Notts County but

declined. Like Ross, he was listed at £2,500 and Southend wanted the same for the tall, blond half back Ron Gawler, but he too joined Tonbridge. Former Brentford winger Tommy Dougall was signed from Sunderland whilst Syd Ellis, a stylist young left back, was the latest long-term loan signing from Charlton.

Off the field Sir Henry D'Avigdor-Goldsmid, a bullion broker and land owner was elected president.

It was to prove a memorable season although league form was disappointing as the team's erratic performances saw them slip to sixteenth. A late Mulheron goal proved the winner in the first match against Guildford after Saward had celebrated his debut by notching the opener. The team was: Hankey; Linton, Bell; Ross, Woodward, Fleming; Dougall, Saward, Higgins, Mulheron, Stevens.

After a 3-2 defeat at Bath, 4,257 braved torrential rain at the Angel and were rewarded with a splendid 5-2 victory over

Gravesend. There were two goals each for Higgins and Saward whilst Ross gave Tonbridge supporters the first sight of his shooting power with a long range effort for the fifth. In September outside left Kent Suttle, better known as a Sussex cricketer, was signed from Chelmsford and his former club were beaten 4-3 at the Angel with Higgins bagging three.

In October another Tonbridge great was signed when inside forward Johnny Jordan arrived from Sheffield Wednesday. When Tottenham sold him to Juventus in the summer of 1948 he became the first Englishman to be bought by an Italian club. Jordan scored five times in 20 appearances for Juve before returning to England with Birmingham City. Wednesday had valued him at £8,000.

In the Southern League Cup the first round was played on a home and away basis. Drawn against Hastings, Tonbridge scored 11 goals in the two games, Higgins managing two in each. Higgins scored again as Chelmsford were beaten 2-1 away in the second round, the other one coming from Suttle. In the third round a trip to Hereford produced a seven goal thriller but Tonbridge lost by the odd goal, Jordan scoring twice and Stevens once.

It was the FA Cup, however, which again provided the main excitement. It started with a trip to the south coast to take on the amateurs of Littlehampton. After some early pressure the Angels ran out comfortable 7-1 winners, Mulheron scoring three, Higgins and Stevens twice each. Another day at the seaside saw Bexhill beaten when Higgins scored twice, Ross and Stevens one apiece without reply.

Then Sussex came to Kent and probably wished that they had not. Worthing were visitors and 11-1 remaining the record Tonbridge victory. Higgins scored five times, there were two each for Jordan and Mulheron, the others coming from Stevens and Anderson.

A trip to Ashford proved more demanding, Higgins scoring in a 1-1 draw. The speedy centre forward was on target again in the replay despite missing a penalty. Mulheron



Back Row: Jim Taylor (Trainer), Alec Ross, Horace Woodward, Eddy Fleming, Ted Hankey, Sid Bell, Ron Gawler, Harry Curtis (Manager). Front Row: Ron Stevens, Johnny Jordan, Ron Higgins, Peter Mulheron, Ken Suttle.

## Horace Woodward



*Horace Woodward was considered by many, with memories of those times, to have been among the best central defenders that the club has ever had.*

*Horace was born in Islington on 16th January 1924 and signed as an amateur for Tottenham Hotspur in 1939. In 1941 he made his senior debut in the London Wartime League. During World War II he served as a gunner in the Merchant Navy. On his return from duty Spurs offered him a professional contract in May 1946. The*

*central defender made his Football League debut against Newport County in September 1946 when he replaced the injured Bill Nicholson. Woodward played a total of 67 matches in all competitions and scored one goal for Tottenham between 1946-49. Queens Park Rangers paid £10,500 for his services in 1949. He made 57 appearances for the Hoops. After leaving Loftus Road he joined Tonbridge in 1951 and went on to have brief spells at Snowdown Colliery Welfare, Stourbridge and Walsall where made five appearances in 1953.*

*During his two season spell at the Angel Ground, he made 70 appearances scoring on two occasions.*

*Woodward became player/manager at Horsham before taking charge at Willesden & Kingsbury a post he held to 1971. He later went on to occasionally manager the Maccabi club of London.*

*He continued to play football throughout the 1960's and regularly turned out for the Ex-Spurs XI while employed by Schweppes and then the British Oxygen Company. Woodward retired in 1988 before settling in Willesden. After a long illness he died in a Cricklewood nursing home on 8 August 2002.*

scored twice and Jordan once to clinch a 4-0 win.

In the final qualifying round Wealdstone brought over 2,000 supporters to the Angel swelling the crowd to 7,600, the biggest yet.



### BALL BOYS 1951-52

**Back Row: Alfred Ware,  
Terry Bridges, David Reed,  
David Barker**

**Front Row: Alan Cobill,  
Anthony Boorman, Colin Pitson**

After 10 minutes Jordan latched on to Bell's long pass to open the scoring. Wealdstone's goalkeeper Danny Wiltshire made several fine saves as Tonbridge dominated the rest of the first half. It was more even after the break but Wiltshire continued to be a busy man. Five minutes from time Suttle's curling shot was deflected off a defender to wrap things up. The team was: Hankey; Fleming, Bell; Ross, Woodward, Gawler; Stevens, Jordan, Higgins, Mulheron, Suttle.

On Monday, Tonbridge supporters huddled around radio sets for the draw for the First Round Proper. Tonbridge were drawn at home to Third Division Aldershot. The first time a Football League side had visited the Angel for a competitive match and it drew a club record attendance of 8,200. The team was the same as that which beat Wealdstone. High wind, rain and mud made good football very difficult – Aldershot, with the wind at their backs had more of the first half. Only Higgins found the back of the net but the linesman's flag stilled the roar in the throats of the Tonbridge supporters. The Shots dominated the early stages of the second half but gradually Tonbridge came more into it and the visiting goalkeeper Houston made the best save of the game from Mulheron's powerful drive.

The Angels forced two successive corners and Higgins went close with a header. When Aldershot broke away Woodward saved the

day on a couple of occasions and the game ended goalless,

The same eleven were on duty for the replay whilst Aldershot brought in Norman Menzies who would join Tonbridge nearly seven years later. Tonbridge attacked from the kick-off with Houston saving well from Higgins but after 12 minutes centre forward Raine raced through to give the home side the lead. There were chances at both ends but no further scoring before half-time. Flint should have increased the lead on the resumption, shooting over from close range whilst Houston made a desperate save to deny Mulheron.

After 57 minutes, Tonbridge were level when Jordan's shot was deflected wide of the grounded Houston, but four minutes later, the home team were awarded a penalty when Durkin was pulled down on the edge of the area. Billington blasted it into the roof of the net but Tonbridge hit back with great spirit. Mulheron and Jordan both had shots blocked and then Suttle equalised following a goalmouth scramble.

As both sides went all out Houston saved well from Suttle and Mulheron's shot was deflected wide. Then Hankey saved brilliantly from Flint and we moved into extra time. Hankey made another fine save this time from Menzies but, at the end of the first period, Flint scored with a superb header. The Angels refused to lay down as Suttle brought another save from Houston and, right at the end, Mulheron hit the bar with a terrific drive from 25 yards. A defiant last effort.

It was a tremendous performance if ultimately unsuccessful and Tonbridge had acquitted themselves well in two games that had brought the town alive. It would also have helped the club's precarious financial position. The loss for season 1950-51 was £1,680, over £200 more than the previous year. Gate receipts were down by over £800 to £9,906. It was announced in December that the Southern League management committee would recommend clubs to introduce a maximum wage slightly under the Football League fixture of £14 per week. I don't think that anything came of this idea but it would not have affected Tonbridge as no player was earning that amount.

At the start of 1952 Higgins was sold to Brighton for what was described as a modest four figure fee. Something in the region of £1,000 would seem a reasonable guess. He went straight into the Brighton first team but did not hold his place for long. Around this time it was announced that the club would be prepared to consider offers for any of its players, not an unusual position at that time. At a public appearance manager Harry Curtis took the opportunity to explain that this was not quite the situation and only one or two players would be sold if suitable offers were





**Saturday, 10th November 1951 - FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round**

**Tonbridge 2 (Jordan, Suttle) Wealdstone 0**

**Attendance: 7,462**

Hearts in mouths throughout 85 minutes' play, Tonbridge supporters among the record-breaking 7,462 crowd had to wait till the final thrill-packed minutes before Suttle consolidated Jordan's early lead. In between, the dauntless work by Wealdstone 'keeper Wiltshire denied the Angels more - and most of the time, the amateurs' industry combined to keep the pace hot.

Cool Tonbridge interceptions put paid to several initial raids launched by Wealdstone from the kick-off. Bell, then Hankey and Ross were called on for clearances before Tonbridge settled down to answering back. A free-kick from Woodward went begging but was swiftly followed by a sparkling Mulheron-Suttle move. The winger first-timed a centre and Higgins' running header sped just wide of Wiltshire's net.

The tenth minute Tonbridge goal was a fast one. Bell sent a long pass forward and Jordan fastened on to it. Coolly working in, he baffled Wiltshire and drove a ground shot past the prone keeper.

Mulheron and Higgins switched in a fast goal-getting raid, but Wealdstone's Ward broke it up. The amateurs hit back with a left wing attack but danger man Benningfield was too eager and was given offside.

Benningfield once more outstripped his line and although alone, was doing nicely in the midst of Fleming, Ross and Woodward before the Angels' skipper cleared in masterly fashion.

Only centre half Edmonds' desperate header saved the Wealdstone goal when Higgins tried a strong drive. Minutes later, Higgins tricked the pivot and slammed in a second shot, but this time Wiltshire anticipated his powerful drive and gathered it.

There was a roar from the crowd when Ross sent in a stinging shot over player's heads. It was going fast for the top of Wiltshire's net but his last-minute leap with outstretched fingers made sure it was no goal.

Attacking from the whistle, Wealdstone looked as though someone had given them a "you're-only-one-goal-down" pep talk. Hankey tipped over a first minute shot and Woodward had to concede another corner to clear the first. The third was coolly taken and pushed downfield by Gawler. Mulheron gave it to Suttle who ran down his wing. Wiltshire advanced as if to intercept a centre. Instead, he had to make a backward dive as Suttle sent in a narrow-angled shot at goal.

A crowd of maroon-shirted Angels blanketed Wealdstone's indirect free kick - and Tonbridge were again on the offensive. A springing leap by Higgins at a Stevens high centre was foiled as lanky Wiltshire followed him up - and took it from the centre forward's head. Rain began to fall but few of the crowd could drag themselves away as both teams maintained the pace, with about ten minutes to go.

Forgotten was the weather as a Ross 25-yarder was going all the way to the top of the Wealdstone net. It might have hit the bar - but nobody will ever know, for the cat-like Wiltshire's leap and upstretched hand tipped the fast-moving ball over his bar.

Five minutes from time, overwhelming Tonbridge pressure took its toll - if in fortunate manner. Suttle sent a curling shot towards the goalmouth. Wiltshire had it covered but Edmonds' foot deflected the ball inside a post.

Tonbridge: Hankey; Fleming, Bell; Ross, Woodward, Gawler; Stevens, Jordan, Higgins, Mulheron, Suttle.

forthcoming. When he sat down that great joker Harold Fletcher held up a poster which said:

**SALE  
SPRING CLEARANCE**  
All professionals on the books  
Including today's bargain  
**TOMMY DOUGALL**

When Fergie Lunn returned to work at a local printing works, after the story appeared he found a note pinned to his machine saying he was on sale for five shillings!

Only two Southern League matches were played in November, both resulting in victories. Yeovil 2-1 and Gloucester 1-0. December began with a 4-1 win over Cheltenham but this was followed by four successive defeats. The next win was not until 9th February when Llanelly were beaten 5-0 at the Angel. Jordan switched to centre forward, led the line well and scored as did Jock Irvine on his first team debut. A local policeman, Irvine had previously played for Scottish club Queens Park. Another forward to join at this time was Ron Johnston from Hastings.

Other highlights in an erratic league season were a 4-1 home victory over Kettering. Goals from Jordan (2), Mulheron and Gawler all came in the first half as the visitors were taken apart with a grand display of attacking football. At Kidderminster, Les Stevens scored the only goal of the game and gave an outstanding all round performance.

Tommy Linton and the ever reliable Eddie Fleming were dominant at wing half. After sharing four goals at Llanelly, Jordan scoring twice, Tonbridge were described by home officials as the best footballing side they had seen there all season. Some comfort perhaps but what a journey to have to make for a Tuesday evening match. They had left Tonbridge at 6.30 that morning and arrived back at 6.50 on Wednesday morning.

The Reserves had joined the Metropolitan League and what a season they had. After losing their first two away games at Windsor and Cranleigh, they only lost one other game all season, on Boxing Day when Skyways, from Cranleigh surprisingly completed a double. Thirty-nine points from 26 matches was an impressive return but Horsham pipped them to the championship by one point. No one came near to matching Tonbridge's scoring record of 90 goals.

2,577 came to the Angel for their first home game when Callenders Athletic were beaten 3-0 with two goals from Alan Parkes and one from Norman Blackman. On 15th September, Tottenham 'A' team included first team stars Harry Clarke and Eddie Bailey. The Tonbridge team was: Blowers; Pounder, Fletcher; Lunn, Gawler, Littlejohn; Blackman, Sheldon, Parkes, Lucas, Suttle. The two teams served up a delightful game

F.A. Cup, 1st Round Proper

# ANGELS HOLD LEAGUE TEAM BEFORE A RECORD 8,200 CROWD

TONBRIDGE 0    ALDERSHOT 0

MUD, rain, and a high wind combined to make good football difficult in this first-round F.A. Cup-tie. But the record crowd of 8,200 did not seem to mind in the least. They had got what they wanted—a chance to see their team play a Football League side. Aldershot had not a proud record, but on occasions Tonbridge looked as if they might surprise the critics and win.

Tonbridge League Div. I

## Sports & Social 7th Game Without Defeat

Southborough ..... 1  
Sports and Social ..... 1

Tonbridge Sports and Social maintained their run of seven games without defeat. This makes Sports' fifth drawn game in a row—unusual for

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### TONBRIDGE v. ALDERSHOT

(F.A. Cup, 1st Round Proper)

Saturday, 24th November, 1951

#### CLUB CHATTER

THE weather on Saturday last was very unkind, and in consequence our attendance v. Gloucester City F.C. suffered, and only 3,415 braved the conditions. The result was a win for our boys by one goal to nil, the goal being registered by Peter Mulheron during the second half. It was an interesting game; but the chief feature was the splendid exhibition given by the visitors' goalkeeper, Jepson. He was just great and was solely responsible for the fact that only one goal was scored. In addition, he saved a penalty-kick taken by Johnny Jordan and gave one of the finest displays seen on the Angel Ground. Jepson, by the way, plays for Nottingham County Cricket Club, and is a good bowler. Ken Suttle recalled that in the final County match of last season, when he was playing for Somerset C.C. against Nottingham C.C., it was Jepson who clean bowled him. No doubt it gave Ken added pleasure on Saturday last when he saw Peter Mulheron convert his well-placed centre, to register the only goal of the game. It was also pleasing to note the display of Ken Gawler, who appears to be settling down in his new position at wing-half.

The Metropolitan League side picked up a valuable point at Dapentable in an evenly contested game which resulted in a draw, each side scoring twice. Both our goals were scored by Alvin Parson.

Today we take great pride in extending a very hearty welcome to our visitors, Aldershot F.C., members of the Football League (Southern Section), and we feel confident that their visit will result in a good sporting game being witnessed. We fully appreciate that we have our

24th November 1951 – FA Cup First Round Proper

Tonbridge 0

Aldershot 0

Attendance: 8,500

Mud, rain and a high wind combined to make good football difficult in this First Round FA Cup tie. But the record crowd of 8,500 did not seem to mind in the least. They had got what they wanted – a chance to see their team play a Football League side. Aldershot had not a proud record, but on occasions Tonbridge looked as if they might surprise the critics and win.

Aldershot took advantage of the strong wind when they won the toss, and soon the red and blue of their shirts was much in evidence in the Angels’ goalmouth. They forced a corner after only three minutes, and centre half White, with a long shot carried by the wind, was just wide.

After a few minutes half of the crowd roars and half hoped when Higgins put the ball in the net. But the roar of delight was stifled when they realised that Higgins had been whistled offside. After this near setback Aldershot raced to the other end. Raine’s shot went the wrong side (for Aldershot) of the bar and Bonner dallied too long when he should have centred.

Taggart just failed to connect with his head when a centre whizzed in from the wing and, to relieve pressure, Ross passed hard to Hankey, who cleared. Then Raine had a go from an oblique angle, but Higgins and Suttle raised the siege when they got away. Suttle’s final shot was blocked.

Stevens rounded Jefferson, but he hit the ball too far in front of him, and Houston cleared. Inside left Durkin nearly scored but Hankey saved.

All eyes were glued on Suttle as the winger was clear on the left, but the ball landed just over the top of the bar – a matter of feet, that was all. Mulheron, who seized on a chance when Houston dropped the ball had a shot blocked, and Woodward intercepted Macauley’s attempt. After a collision between Gawler and Taggart, the inside forward received treatment. If Angels’ forward line had been up when Higgins centred brilliantly, Aldershot would probably have been in arrears. Before half-time Higgins shot weakly and Houston saved easily.

During the first half, the feeling had been that if Tonbridge kept the visitors out, they would probably score at least one in the second, when playing with the wind.

Early events indicated that this was not so likely. Hankey saved easily through the generosity of Bonnar, who dallied too long after receiving a pass from Raine and Woodward headed away a dangerous centre.

Bonnar shot wildly instead of steadying himself and Woodward stopped an awkward looking situation by wresting the ball from Raine’s feet. Inside left Durkin tried a centre, but the ball landed on top of the rigging.

Everyone got that first half feeling again, when Houston brought off the best save of the match, from a Mulheron drive.

Tonbridge forced two corners and Higgins with a header, was near enough to bring agonised “oh’s” from the crowd.

Woodward saved the situation minutes later when he took the ball from Taggart’s toes; then Suttle forced a corner, and a Gawler shot was blocked.

Woodward twice saved Tonbridge. He first pulled up Flint when the winger tried a sole attack and tackled Raine desperately when he was in a dangerous position.

So the match was over, and the crowd melted away to fireside reminiscences and a discussion on the team’s prospects for the replay on Wednesday.

Tonbridge: Hankey; Fleming, Bell; Ross, Woodward, Gawler; Stevens, Jordan, Higgins, Mulheron, Suttle.

Aldershot: Houston; Laird, Jefferson; Gormley, White, Macauley; Bonnar, Taggart, Raine, Durkin, Flint.

## TONBRIDGE

(BLUE & WHITE)

Hankey

Goal

Fleming

2 (Right-back)

Bell

3 (Left-back)

Ross

4 (Right-half)

Woodward

5 (Centre-half)

Gawler

6 (Left-half)

Stevens

7 (Outside-right)

Jordan

8 (Inside-right)

Higgins

9 (Centre-forward)

Mulheron

10 (Inside-left)

Suttle

11 (Outside-left)

Referee: Mr. W. Dellow (Croydon).    Linesmen: L/Bdr. W. Lancaster and Mr. S. Lewis

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Flint

11 (Outside-left)

Durkin

10 (Inside-left)

Raine

9 (Centre-forward)

Taggart

8 (Inside-right)

Bonner

7 (Outside-right)

Macauley

6 (Left-half)

White

5 (Centre-half)

Gormley

4 (Right-half)

Jefferson

3 (Left-back)

Laird

2 (Right-back)

Houston

Goal

## ALDERSHOT

(RED & BLUE)



**Wednesday, 28th November 1951 - FA Cup First Round Replay**  
**Aldershot 3 (Raine, Billington (pen), Flint) Tonbridge 2 (Jordan, Suttle)**  
**(After Extra-Time, score at 90 minutes 2-2)**  
**Attendance: 5,013**



For the second successive year, Tonbridge went out of the FA Cup in the First Round, after extra time. Hitting back from a goal down at half-time, Angels equalised, conceded a penalty, equalised again and then lost through a brilliantly headed goal scored on the stroke of the first period of the extra half-hour. Angels were unlucky when five minutes from the end of the match, Mulheron with a terrific drive from 25 yards which hit the bar and the ball went over.

From the kick-off Angels pressed and Higgins only just failed to get hold of a through pass from Jordan, but Aldershot counter-attacked

and Flint instead of shooting, passed weakly. Houston saved well from Higgins and then, after a foul on centre forward Raine, Mortimore's shot was blocked.

The first corner went to Aldershot, but Hankey cleared, catching the ball well.

Aldershot took the lead after 12 minutes, when centre forward Raine cleared the Tonbridge defence. Hankey came out but Raine hit the ball high past him and it found the corner of the net. It appeared as if Raine had only intended to get the ball past Hankey and then follow it up to score.

A twenty-yarder from Mulheron was wide when Angels hit back, but it was not until the 30th minute that Tonbridge forced their first corner. This was cleared and then Raine, receiving a perfect centre from Mortimore blazed wildly over the bar.

Suttle centred, Houston dived to attempt to gather the ball; it went out of his hands, but fortunately for Aldershot, a defender managed to clear. Higgins was only a foot or two the wrong side of the ball.

In a goalmouth scramble first Raine and then Mortimore tried to score, but Hankey gathered safely.

Stevens ran half the length of the pitch but his centre was well cleared and then Durkin shot over with a good drive and Stevens, again, shot inches past the post.

After Hankey had dived to save a shot from Menzies, Houston, at the other end just beat Higgins to the ball after a good Jordan-Suttle move.

Flint missed an easy chance on the resumption, shooting over the bar from close in and then Mulheron shot, the ball slipped from Houston's hands, but he recovered just in time.

Angels were level after 12 minutes. Jordan on the right shot, the ball hit Macauley and was deflected into the corner of the net with Houston on the ground.

Four minutes later came tragedy for Tonbridge. Durkin was pulled down on the edge of the penalty area when in an unlikely scoring position and centre half Billington scored from the spot with a terrific shot into the top of the net.

Spurred by this set-back Tonbridge really let fly at Aldershot, and in a goalmouth scramble shots from Mulheron and Jordan were blocked, both luckily, by defenders.

Raine cleverly back-heeled the ball, but Hankey confidently saved Flint's shot. Then Tonbridge got their reward for their efforts, when Suttle netted in a goalmouth scramble.

Houston saved a shot from Suttle and then Mulheron's hot effort was deflected just past the post.

A free kick was awarded after Hankey had saved a shot well from Menzies and was charged by the same player. Then Hankey brilliantly tipped a fierce shot from Flint over the bar.

In the first period of extra-time Hankey saved a shot from Menzies at the expense of a corner, but Suttle was prevented from centring by Billington and Mulheron centred behind.

Awarded a free kick, Macauley shot and Flint got a glorious goal, running onto the ball and heading it into the net.

Durkin shot inches over during the second period of extra time. Mulheron hit the bar and Houston saved well from Suttle.

But Tonbridge could not get the all-important third goal and so lost, narrowly, by the odd goal in five.

Full points to the Angels for a good second half display. They were undaunted although a goal behind and if they had not conceded that penalty, well ...

Aldershot: Houston; White, Jefferson; Gormley, Billington, Macauley; C. Mortimore, Menzies, Raine, Durkin, Flint.

Tonbridge: Hankey; Fleming, Bell; Ross, Woodward, Gawler; Stevens, Jordan, Higgins, Mulheron, Suttle.

**A FA Cup Second Qualifying Round tie on 27th September 1997 against Worthing, brought the following programme Question and Answer with Tom Spence asking the questions of Ken Suttle by post!**



**Tom:** I know you played football for Worthing, Chelsea, Chelmsford and Tonbridge. Could you please list all the clubs you played for and, furthermore, did you play in the Football League for Chelsea?

**Ken:** Well Tom, apart from the teams you mentioned above, I also played for Brighton & Hove Albion, Betteshanger Colliery in the old Kent League and had five years as player-manager at Arundel Town in the Sussex League, winning the title twice and runner-up once. I only played in the Chelsea reserve side but did play some games for Brighton in the Third Division in those days of the Football League. I played twice for the British Army when doing my National Service in the Parachute Regiment.

**Tom:** Would you please share any memories of your time at the Angel Ground with Tonbridge. Other players, manager's, whatever.

**Ken:** I enjoyed playing at Tonbridge and had a very good inside left to me in Peter Mulheron and Ron Higgins as centre forward. The goalkeeper was Joe Crozier, a very good goalkeeper who played for Scotland. The pitch was very good in my day and I remember the manager, Mr Curtis telling me when I got the ball to tear down the wing to the bye-line and hammer it across the middle, Ron Higgins used to nod them in. I reckon I had two attributes: a good left foot, and pretty quick and kept injury free.

**Tom:** Also what do you recall of that 11-1 FA Cup defeat of Worthing, then, of course, of the old Corinthian League?

**Ken:** Quite honesty, I can recall very little of this match as it seems a mental block to me!

**Tom:** Would you like to tell me of any funny moments that may have occurred in your football career, not just at Tonbridge.

**Ken:** My first game for Chelsea Reserves was at Highbury against the Arsenal and Tommy Lawton, the England centre forward, was playing for us testing out an injury and we had a 25,000 crowd watching and he scored one goal and me the other in a 2-2 draw. Arsenal had Bryn Jones also testing an injury and was then the costliest player ever, he also scored. I remember a funny happening in a reserve game for Chelsea against West Ham. I cut in from the wing and let fly with my trusty left foot. The ball hammered against the crossbar, shot back into my face and flew into the net! I had scored but was covered in blood.

**Tom:** Tactfully I am trying to be. I believe you are about 66 now! When were you born?

**Ken:** Not quite right Tom. I am 69, born in Hammersmith, London on 25th August 1928.

**Tom:** Cricket is not my strongest forte, nor is spelling, but I do recall, I believe E. W. Swanton describing you, along the lines of being perhaps very unlucky not to have been capped by England. So could you pander to my ignorance and give me details of your first class cricket career.

**Ken:** I enjoyed playing for Sussex from 1949 until 1972, scoring 31,000 runs and toured the West Indies under Len Hutton in 1953/54 for the MCC. I was 12th man in each of the Test Matches and possibly unlucky to not to have played in at least two of them. Incidentally, my top score was against Kent in 1962 or '63 at Tunbridge Wells of 204 not out. I was lucky enough to play 427 consecutive matches (18 years) without missing a match, evidently a world record.

**Tom:** Is it possible you could tell me of any honours won at football and cricket?

**Ken:** As I mentioned, being 12th man for England five times. I won three man of the match gold medals in the Gillette Cup and was in four cup finals for Sussex at Lords, being on the winning side twice and losing twice under Ted Dexter, our captain. Funnily enough, I scored the first century in Gillette Cup matches ever played and it was against Kent at Tunbridge Wells in 1963. I always enjoyed playing against Kent as they seemed to be one of my sides!

**Tom:** Please tell me what you do these days and add any further comments which I can share with the programme readers.

**Ken:** I still coach cricket part-time at Christ Hospital School and went with them to Cape Town and Durban in South Africa in March and umpired all the First XI matches. It was a wonderful trip. It is a great school and the pupils are very lucky. I am playing on Saturday, 27th September 1997 for Alex Badser in a County Cricket Golfing Society match at West Hill Golf Club so I will not be able to attend the match against Worthing. I don't know who I would support in the match as I still live only four miles from Worthing at Shoreham-by-Sea

of football. Sheldon opened the scoring with an 18th minute penalty, nine minutes later Flannery equalised. Just after the hour Sheldon put the Angels ahead once more but four minutes from time the visitors again levelled. A week later Tonbridge went top after beating Dunstable 6-0 with a Norman Blackman hat-trick, two from Ken Suttle and one from Parkes.

Brighton were beaten 4-0 with a brace from Fergie Lunn and Len Seward bagged a pair in the 3-0 win at Vickers. Parkes scored three when Callenders were beaten 6-0 in the league cup and was on the mark again when Twickenham were beaten 3-2. This match was marred by a bad spinal injury to Freddie Blowers.

To replace him Brian Head was signed from Leytonstone and he was soon in action in his debut against Luton 'A' at the Angel, making three fine saves before Parkes put the Blues ahead on five minutes. The visitors scored twice, Sheldon equalised. Luton regained the lead and Parkes made it 3-3 just before half time. Tonbridge scored three times in the





**Tonbridge Football Club has been given permission by Tonbridge Urban District Council to carry out improvements, at an estimated cost of £2,300, to the Angel Ground.**

**Proposed improvements are: the alteration of south terraces between the Pavilion and seating stand, with covered accommodation for about 2,000 spectators; the formation of about five or six terraces on the north side of the ground, between the pitch boundary fence and the wire mesh fence forming the river boundary; construction of a concrete boundary wall on the boundary line of the pitch the length of the south terraces and on the line of the pitch fence.**

A letter on behalf of the Football Club was received by the Parks Committee of the Tonbridge UDC. The proposals were set out in the letter. At Tuesday's meeting the Council decided to suspend their previous resolution to undertake all works upon the Angel Ground themselves.

The gave consent for the club to carry out the work, provided they gained planning permission and showed Ministry of Works permits to the surveyor before beginning.

The Parks Committee had discussed the proposals, and, after agreeing the Council should keep to resolution of carrying out work itself, passed the problem to the finance committee, who suggested the resolution should be suspended.

At the Council meeting Cr. V. Hedley Jones, finance committee chairman said: "This was brought to my committee by the parks committee chairman. It was previously discussed by them.

"This is a measure, I think, of the concern which this Council and its committees have for the well-being of the Angel Ground that, having second thoughts about their meeting, they should then bring the matter to the finance committee for further discussion."

He felt it was necessary to bear three things in mind. One that they were in a sense the custodians of the usage of the ground; two, they were the custodians of ratepayers' money and must protect their interests; three, they were extremely keen that the Football Club should be a success.

"I think it is true to say," he continued, "that some of us have not the time to stand on the Angel Ground and some, perhaps, have not the inclination to follow the successes of the only angels some of us, at least, may have contact with; but I am sure all of us are anxious that anything that can be done shall be done for the success of the Football Club."

He emphasised that his committee recommended the Council's resolution should be suspended "in this instance" as it was a matter of urgency.

This was commented on by Cr. Leslie Le May, parks committee chairman, who said: "I believe the Council would undertake this work given time. We appreciate the necessity of this covered stand and that the terraced part of the ground would be helpful to spectators, but by the nature of things we cannot do this job."

Cr. Le May added that by the time formalities had been completed the work might not have started until April. Therefore, he considered it right the Club should carry on if it wanted the work done quickly.



second half, through Parkes, Pounder and Dougal, without reply but Head still had to be on top of his form to deny the lively visiting forwards. During the second half a white ball was used, the first time this had happened at the Angel Ground.

Ron Johnston scored on his debut when Horsham were beaten 3-2 at the Angel, Sheldon and a Linton penalty completed

the scoring but Horsham were now top with Tonbridge second. The Angels returned to the top at the end of January after beating Vickers 9-0 with three goals each for Seward and Parkes, two from Blackman and one from Irvine. In February, Peter Sheldon and Ken Suttle were chosen to represent the Metropolitan League against the West London League. Blackman, Linton, Pounder and Parkes were on target when Spurs were

beaten 4-2 away and Parkes claimed another hat-trick in the 5-0 win at Callenders. He did it again when Millwall 'A' were beaten 9-2. Irvine and Blackman each scored twice and there were goals for Pounder and Linton, but Tonbridge had only led 2-1 after a poor first half. Six goals were scored in the last 25 minutes, four of them in a seven minute spell.

After beating Hastings 4-0 on 22nd March, Tonbridge were five points clear at the top but Horsham had three games in hand and took full advantage. Tonbridge had to win their last match at Headington to clinch the championship but despite the presence of Hankey, Ross and Jordan could only manage a 2-2 draw with goals from Johnston and Jordan.

Some consolation was gained in the League Professional Cup. In the Semi-Final a brilliant second half performance was too much for Brighton, Seward scoring twice in a 5-0 win.

Millwall were the opponents in the Final and the Tonbridge team was: Head; Linton, Fletcher; Rosier, Anderson, Lunn; Pounder, Jordan, Johnston, Mulheron, Irvine. As Tonbridge were beginning to take command Mulheron opened the scoring with a tremendous 30 yard shot after 17 minutes. The Angels continued to have the better of things but after 56 minutes Thrippleton, a future Tonbridge player, headed the equaliser. In the dying seconds of the game Irvine played the ball inside to Mulheron who found Jordan. Jordan's powerful 15 yard drive was somehow stopped by goalkeeper Rouse but Johnston followed up to thump the ball into the back of the net. There was hardly time to restart the match before the referee blew the final whistle. The crowd then surged onto the pitch and gathered in front of the stand to see the film star Kieron Moore



present the cup to skipper Ron Anderson. This was not the only cup final at the Angel Ground this season. Tonbridge had been invited to enter the Kent Senior Shield. Canterbury were beaten 4-1 with Higgins scoring three but when the Semi-Final against Sittingbourne had to be postponed because of torrential rain it caused a headache. The match was rearranged for Saturday, 19th April when Tonbridge already had a Southern League match at Chelmsford. With an already crowded fixture list both matches had to be played on the same day. A reserve team was sent to Chelmsford which although losing performed most creditably holding the hosts to just one goal until being reduced to ten men when Parkes was injured and conceding three goals in the closing 15 minutes. At the Angel, Sittingbourne were beaten 5-0 with goals from Johnston (2),

Ross, Jordan and Woodward. So the season would end with a visit from Gravesend in the Final.

The team was: Hankey; Bell, Ellis; Ross, Woodward, Fleming; Pounder, Jordan, Johnston, Mulheron, Dougal. Wakeham missed a great chance to put the visitors ahead in the first minute but Tonbridge quickly took control. Jordan scored with an unstoppable shot in the seventh minute after Pounder and Mulheron had cleverly worked the opening. Ten minutes later Wakeham equalised but within a minute the Blues were ahead once more through Johnston's opportunism. Tonbridge continued to look the better side and only the brilliance of Gould, the Gravesend goalkeeper, kept the score down. When he was eventually beaten, after an hour by Johnston, a defender turned goalkeeper to keep the ball out. Jordan duly converted the penalty. Towards the end Tonbridge seemed to tire and the Fleet began to threaten but the splendid Hankey was equal to their best efforts and it was Woodward who was presented with the cup.

It was a pleasing end to an eventful and encouraging season. Ted Hankey had another fine season in goal. A big, burly man with a ready smile and a big heart, he was described once as a good all round goalkeeper, the writer adding no pun intended. Syd Bell was as reliable as ever in defence with young Ellis proving an accomplished partner. Johnny Jordan was a class act whose skill and intelligence had brought a new dimension to the attack. He and Peter Mulheron were a fine pair of inside forwards but the greatest strength of this side was the half back line. Individually they were fine players,

together they complimented each other. Ross, a forceful attacking player thrilled the crowd with his powerful shooting, Fleming unassuming and unspectacular, was always on hand when needed, hard working, tenacious and so consistent.

Above all there was Woodward. Horace had everything. Powerful in the air, strong in the tackle, fast, competitive, constructive, he could read the game, and had a streak of ruthlessness. Surely the best centre half in the Southern League at this time.

Phone: Tonbridge 3417

**TONBRIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.**  
(Members of Kent County F.A., Southern League, Metropolitan League)  
President: Sir Harry A'Arvidge (Goldsmith). Treasurer: W. H. Cripps (Chairman). Registered Office: CENTRAL CHAMBERS 47 HIGH STREET TONBRIDGE Kent

Ground: ANGEL GROUND  
Tonbridge Colours: W. H. Cripps (Chairman) B. Thorpe (Vice-Chairman) H. F. West W. M. Yalton  
Blue Shirts, White Collars S. F. Wood F. W. Markwick  
S. Cuffs, White Kickers. H. J. Platoral  
Honorary Physiotherapist: A. Hicks, N.S.F., M.S.L.M. Sec.-Manager: Harry C. Curtis

**TONBRIDGE v. MILLWALL**  
(Metropolitan League Professional Cup—Final)  
Saturday, 3rd May, 1952

**CLUB CHATTER**  
THE METROPOLITAN LEAGUE PROFESSIONAL CUP

The Metropolitan and District Football League extends its congratulations to both the Tonbridge and Millwall F.C.s on their appearance to-day in the Final of the League Professional Cup.

Formed three years ago, the Metropolitan League, which takes justified pride in its record of not having had any of its players sent off the field, has only recently included teams from the following Football League clubs: 'Spurs, Luton Town, Brighton & Hove Albion, and Millwall. By general consent, their inclusion in the League has been one of great benefit to those clubs by which means they have been able to give more regular playing opportunities to their promising amateurs and young professionals to play against similar opposition, and against that of Senior Amateur clubs. Included in the latter are Windsor & Eton (the only club in the country which held the patronage of H.M. the late King), Dunstable Town, Victoria Armstrong, and Twickenham, whilst more recently other attractive clubs such as Horsham (of vivid recollection who met Notts County F.C. in a memorable F.A. Cup-tie in 1948), Haywards Heath (who next season open their new 25,000 ground), Southwick, and Newbury Town, have joined the League, which is completed by the reserve sides of Headington United, Tonbridge, and Hastings United. So that the reason for the title "Metropolitan" becomes apparent, even if in a rather wide term!

Being competed for this afternoon, the imposing League Professional Cup will be on view in front of the stand. It was donated by a well-known football benefactor, and, it is hoped, will be presented to the winners by Kieran Moore, the well-known and popular Film Star, who has promised to endeavour to be present, but on Thursday last he was not in a position to give a definite decision owing to business commitments. We thank him for kindly considering the invitation to present the Cup and in anticipation of his presence we extend to him a very hearty welcome and thanks. All professional clubs enter for this competition on a knock-out basis, and Tonbridge and Millwall, by dint of good and attractive football, have rightly earned their appearance in the Final, in which extra time will be played if necessary. In addition, inscribed medals will be presented to the winners and finalists, at the League's Dinner on May 6th next in London.

Good luck and congratulations to the match officials, and may all present have a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

LAWRENCE BROWN, Hon. Secretary.

\* Continued under Club Notes.

## TONBRIDGE F.C. 1951-52 WINNERS: KENT SENIOR SHIELD



Johnson, Ross, Ellis, Hankey, Fleming, Bell, Mulheron  
Dougall, Woodward, Jordon, Pounder



## Results

Date	Opponents	@	Comp		Res		Att	Pos	Goalscorers
Sat 18/08/1951	Guildford City	H	SL		W	2 1	5318		Saward, Mulheron
Sat 25/08/1951	Bath City	a	SL		L	2 3	5000		Mulheron 2
Wed 29/08/1951	Hastings United	a	SLC	Pre i	W	6 1	4519		Saward 2, Mulheron, Stevens, Higgins, Fleming
Sat 01/09/1951	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	SL		W	5 2	4257		Higgins 2, Saward 2, Ross
Wed 05/09/1951	Hastings United	H	SLC	Pre ii	W	5 0	4400		Higgins 2, Mulheron, Stevens, Saward
Sat 08/09/1951	Lovells Athletic	H	SL		L	0 1	4737		
Wed 12/09/1951	Chelmsford City	H	SL		W	4 2	4000		Higgins 3 (1 pen), Mulheron
Sat 15/09/1951	Littlehampton Town	a	FAC	Pre	W	7 1	1042		Mulheron 3, Higgins 2, Stevens 2
Wed 19/09/1951	Canterbury City	H	KSS	QF	W	4 1	3060		Higgins 3, Mulheron
Sat 22/09/1951	Gravesend & Northfleet	a	SL		L	0 4	2782	18	
Wed 26/09/1951	Merthyr Tydfil	H	SL		L	0 4			
Sat 29/09/1951	Bexhill Town	a	FAC	1Q	W	4 0	2032		Ross, Higgins 2, Stevens
Wed 03/10/1951	Exeter City Res	a	SL		L	1 2			Mulheron
Sat 06/10/1951	Hereford United	H	SL		W	2 0	4710		Mulheron, Suttle
Wed 10/10/1951	Chelmsford City	a	SLC	1	W	2 1	1369		Higgins, Suttle
Sat 13/10/1951	Worthing	H	FAC	2Q	W	11 1	4512		Higgins 5, Jordan 2, Mulheron 2, Stevens, Anderson
Sat 20/10/1951	Kidderminster Harriers	H	SL		D	2 2	4463		Higgins, Stevens
Sat 27/10/1951	Ashford Town	a	FAC	3Q	D	1 1	4240	17	Higgins
Wed 31/10/1951	Ashford Town	H	FAC	3Qr	W	4 0	2656		Jordan, Mulheron 2, Higgins
Sat 03/11/1951	Yeovil Town	H	SL		W	2 1	4406	15	Suttle, Stevens
Sat 10/11/1951	Wealdstone	H	FAC	4Q	W	2 0	7462	17	Jordan, Suttle
Sat 17/11/1951	Gloucester City	H	SL		W	1 0	3415	15	Mulheron
Sat 24/11/1951	Aldershot	H	FAC	1	D	0 0	8236	15	
Wed 28/11/1951	Aldershot	a	FAC	1r	L	2 3	5013		Jordan, Suttle
Sat 01/12/1951	Cheltenham Town	H	SL		W	4 1	3835	13	Woodward, Stevens, Mulheron, Jordan
Sat 08/12/1951	Hereford United	a	SL		L	2 6	2325	16	Higgins, Stevens
Sat 22/12/1951	Worcester City	a	SL		L	2 4			Jordan pen, Higgins
Tue 25/12/1951	Dartford	H	SL		L	0 3	2607		
Wed 26/12/1951	Dartford	a	SL		L	2 4			Jordan, Higgins
Sat 29/12/1951	Exeter City Res	H	SL		D	1 1	2320		Stevens
Sat 05/01/1952	Gloucester City	a	SL		D	0 0			
Sat 12/01/1952	Hereford United	a	SLC	2	L	3 4	3792	19	Jordan 2, Stevens
Sat 19/01/1952	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	KSC	1	D	0 0	2929	19	
Wed 23/01/1952	Gravesend & Northfleet	a	KSC	1r	L	1 2	1400		Parkes
Sat 26/01/1952	Headington United	a	SL		L	0 2	3000	19	
Sat 02/02/1952	Yeovil Town	a	SL		L	0 2		20	
Sat 09/02/1952	Llanelly	H	SL		W	5 0	3098	20	Dougal 2, Irvine, Jordan, Saward
Thu 14/02/1952	Lovells Athletic	a	SL		L	0 1			
Sat 16/02/1952	Merthyr Tydfil	a	SL		L	1 4		20	Dougal
Sat 23/02/1952	Worcester City	H	SL		W	1 0	3191	19	Johnston
Sat 01/03/1952	Barry Town	H	SL		D	1 1	3036	19	Saward
Sat 08/03/1952	Barry Town	a	SL		L	1 3	3000	19	Jordan
Wed 12/03/1952	Headington United	H	SL		L	0 4			
Sat 15/03/1952	Bath City	H	SL		W	2 0	2016	19	Linton, Parkes
Wed 19/03/1952	Kettering Town	H	SL		W	4 1	1118	19	Mulheron, Jordan 2, Gawler
Sat 22/03/1952	Kidderminster Harriers	a	SL		W	1 0	3180	18	Stevens
Tue 01/04/1952	Llanelly	a	SL		D	2 2	3000	18	Jordan 2 (1 pen)
Sat 05/04/1952	Kettering Town	a	SL		L	0 4	2000		
Fri 11/04/1952	Hastings United	a	SL		W	2 0			Jordan, Gawler
Sat 12/04/1952	Guildford City	a	SL		L	0 2	3790		
Mon 14/04/1952	Hastings United	H	SL		W	3 1	2778		Irvine, Jordan, Parkes
Wed 16/04/1952	Weymouth	a	SL		L	0 2	2783		
Sat 19/04/1952	Chelmsford City	a	SL		L	0 4	3000		
Sat 19/04/1952	Sittingbourne	H	KSS	SF	W	5 0	3179		Ross, Jordan, Johnston 2, Woodward
Wed 23/04/1952	Weymouth	H	SL		D	1 1	2255		Stevens
Sat 26/04/1952	Bedford Town	H	SL		W	4 1			Mulheron 3, Jordan
Thu 01/05/1952	Bedford Town	a	SL		L	1 5	3925		Pounder
Sat 03/05/1952	Cheltenham Town	a	SL		L	2 3		16	Saward, Blackman
Sat 10/05/1952	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	KSS	FINAL	W	3 1		16	Jordan 2 (1 pen), Johnston

# 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
16	<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



