

# Up There Cazaly!

A historical look at Tonbridge Angels through the eyes of their supporters with original text by the late Brian Cheal. Part 8: Season's 1957-59, featuring the 1959 race to the Premier Division



## 1957/58

At the end of the 1957/58 season the Third Divisions of the Football League were being de-regionalised with the top 12 in each of the North and South Divisions to form the Third Division and the rest becoming the new Fourth Division. The desperation of the clubs to avoid being demoted meant that they were keener to hang on to their players therefore there were less players than usual leaving the Football League making 1957 the most difficult summer since the war for signing new players. It was also the summer of lost opportunity for Tonbridge. After the near misses of the previous season it seemed that a slight strengthening plus better luck with injuries could see the club attain real success but it was not to be. A most frustrating season lay ahead.

New signings included full backs Alan Wicks from Reading and Reg Fox from Hastings United, centre half Peter Lomas from Southport and forwards John Cameron from Bradford, John McCorkindale from Kilmarnock, John Walsh from Sligo Rovers

and Peter Longland from Southampton. Norman Golding having completed his National Service signed professional forms.

Fox, previously with Brighton and Fulham, did an excellent job as second team captain and proved a capable deputy for Bob Hailstones when called upon. McCorkindale, a tall, rangy player with exciting skills made an instant impression but was transferred to Gillingham in October for a nominal fee. Only Walsh and Golding played regular first team football and, of the eight new signings, only Walsh was retained at the end of the season.

After rumours of pre-season injuries Duggie Reid made the first match but did not have a happy game missing three early chances and then a penalty. The big man's first team days were nearly over and it was the turn of the second team to benefit from his experience. In December he returned to Portsmouth to take up a job with their youth side.

The home record (P21, W12, D4 L5 Goals 62-32, Pts 28) was good enough and the non-travelling supporters were puzzled as to why only one away victory was obtained

all season and that in the final match at Bath. Sixty goals in 21 home matches is an excellent tally, but why could the same forwards, who produced so much attractive football at the Angel, only manage 17 goals on their travels? Above all, how could the same defence which had performed so well the previous season concede 68 goals in 21 trips? An early season ankle injury to Vic Felton seemed to start the rot. Although he did not miss many first team matches it appeared to affect his confidence and Vic was never quite the same commanding figure as he had been throughout the previous season. This uncertainty quickly spread to his colleagues.

Kidderminster Harriers were the first visitors and they met the following side: Kirk, Walton, Hailstones, Leonard, Felton, Ball, Golding, Reid, Payton, Lusted, McCorkindale. The defence looked adequate against mediocre opposition although the Harriers took a 28th minute lead. Of the forwards only McCorkindale looked dangerous. His unorthodox roving style seemed to confuse his colleagues but "Corky" became the hero when he headed in a late equaliser from



*Standing: Mr S. Berwick (Director), J. Constantine (Trainer), R. Fox, R. Hailstones, P. Leonard, C. Payton, R. Walton, A. Wicks, T. Bickerstaff, V. Felton, J. Kirk, P. Longland, D. Campbell, D. Relf, J. Cameron, H. Fletcher (Assistant Trainer), J. McCorkindale, D. Reid, N. Hooper, Mr D. Hunt (Manager) Mr. Cripps (Chairman) Mr. Wood (Director)*  
*Seated, Back Row: N. Golding, P. Lomas, D. Smith, J. Kenny, A. Dunne, F. Morris. Kneeling: A. Roberts*  
*Seated, Front Row: T. Dougan, J. Ball, J. Walsh*

# THE DUGGIE REID STORY

*Reproduced from the Tonbridge Football Supporters' Club Annual 1957/58*

Our popular Captain and Coach, Duggie Reid, played for Portsmouth for 10 seasons during which time he appeared at centre forward, inside forward, wing half, centre half and as an emergency goalkeeper. There is no doubt he was one of the most wholehearted and popular players ever to play in the Portsmouth colours. Our supporters will well remember how badly his team mates missed his thoughtful and skilful play during his absence from the team following his two severe injuries last season.

Big Duggie played for his school team in the village of Mauchline, in Ayrshire. His first position was centre half, but he managed to score goals even from the pivotal position.

It was while playing for Mauchline School that he had probably his biggest disappointment. He had been playing well enough to catch the eye of the Schools International Selectors and had already played in two trial games and was assured by his schoolmaster that he was as good as in the Scottish Schoolboys' team.

Came the great day and the third and final trial, when this boy of 13 left his village and saw Glasgow for the first time. On his return home, however, he fell seriously ill and was rushed to hospital with appendicitis. This illness cost him his schoolboy cap. The master who had looked after him in schoolboy football wanted him to stay at school for another year just to get the cap, but it was not to be.

Duggie had a married sister living in Manchester and her husband said he could get him a job as an apprentice plumber. As there was no future in the village of Mauchline, he jumped at the chance and that was goodbye to Scotland.

As a 15-year-old in Manchester he was soon invited to play for the amateur club Heaton Chapel, in the centre forward position.

Before long he was introduced to an official of Stockport County and after a visit to Edgeley Park signed amateur forms and was offered a game in the "A" team. As an amateur he received travelling expenses of 2/6 to 5/- a game, big money to young Duggie in those days. He was soon promoted to a part-time professional and given a job on the ground staff.

At Stockport Duggie played at wing half, full back, centre forward and both inside forward positions – he didn't mind where he played, so long as he played.

He was in the first team for two or three seasons before the war and week after week the papers reported that Arsenal, Aston Villa, Birmingham, Spurs and Hearts were all bidding for his services. Duggie believes that Stockport were asking £7,000, but the biggest offer they received was £6,000, headline news in those days.

However, war was declared and Duggie soon found himself at an Army interview, where an officer asked him if he had any preference. "Yes", said Duggie, "The Scots Guards." The officer said he would attend to it. On 18th January 1940, he was called up and posted to the R.A.M.C. Field Ambulance. So much for preference in the Army!

His first two years in the Army were spent in England and he guested for Manchester City, Middlesbrough, Bradford City and Millwall, as well as his own club, Stockport County.

In due course Duggie's unit were sent to Leeds for fitting out, prior to going overseas. They were presented with tropical kit, including topees and thought they were going to India or Burma. After two days, however, the tropical kit had to be handed in again and in a matter of hours they were on a train travelling north and eventually arrived at the Scottish port of Gourock on the Clyde coast. They were bound for the North Africa landings. Their unit left Gourock on a ship called The Batory and Duggie says he will never forget that nightmare invasion voyage from the Clyde port.

After North Africa, it was Italy for Duggie, where, as in North Africa, there was no time for football. In due course he got leave in the United Kingdom, played in two games for Stockport and scored six goals.

He did not return to Italy but was posted to Greece, where he played plenty of football for Land Forces, Greece XI. In three matches at the Athens Stadium he scored 15 goals, five in each game.

After five years in the Army, Duggie at last handed in his kit at Woking and arrived back at Stockport on 28th February 1946. He played for County the next Saturday. A week later, on 6th March, he was visited at his home by the Stockport manager, Mr. Bobby Marshall, a director and a man who was a complete stranger. The Stockport boss said: "This is Mr. Jock Tinn, of Portsmouth Football Club. He wants to sign you. What about it?" Well, we all know the result of that interview. Duggie signed for Portsmouth and went straight into the first team.

Portsmouth were having a bad run at this time and after Boxing Day were bottom of the First Division with 11 points.



January, however, saw a great change in their fortunes, as they only lost one more game to the end of the season, finishing halfway in the table.

Duggie won two Championship medals with Portsmouth, in seasons 1948/49 and 1949/50. He also had several overseas tours. The one honour which eluded him was a Scottish cap, but a casting vote rejection was the nearest he came to it.

Another Reid, young David, although only 10 years old, seems as if he will follow in the footsteps of his famous father. When only seven he scored no fewer than 11 goals for his school team in one game.

Plenty of professional players say they would never let their sons play the game for a living, but Duggie was not one of them. A second string to his bow is a must for young David before he takes up the game as a career; in fact, that is his advice to all young players.

Duggie says he owes a lot to his wife. She really lives for football, but he is not so keen on her particular hobby. She is a skilled ballet and tap dancer and Duggie can't dance a step!

So ends the Duggie Reid story.

I'm sure all our supporters wish him the best of luck and trust that he will have completely recovered from his knee injury for the start of the new season.

#### **Saturday, 28th December 1957 – Southern League**

**Tonbridge (1) 5 (Walsh 36,52,66,76 Golding 89) Yeovil Town (0) 3 (McKay 57, Tarrance 58, Alexander)**

**Attendance: 2,200**

After watching John Walsh's cracking quartet of goals at the Angel on Saturday, and seeing how the front line carved holes in a much-boosted Yeovil defence, I'll wager Fulham are glad that Yeovil and not Tonbridge visit Craven Cottage on Saturday.

Tonbridge were terrific. Yeovil brought out the best football in the side and it was far more than the Cup-chasing visitors could muster. Tonbridge played a wonderful team game, each man doing his share and the way they split the Yeovil defence was nobody's business.

This was a great game from start to finish and both sides put everything they had into the battle for supremacy. It took a long time for Tonbridge to emerge on top, but it was fitting that they should do so on the merits of their combined and smooth-working strategy.



John Walsh was cheered loudly by the 2,200 fans as he crammed in his four wonderful goals and surely the Fulham scouts must have taken some interesting "griff" back to the Cottage about the little, dark-haired forward with the great heart.

John put the Angels ahead after 36 minutes, driving home from Golding's well-placed cross. Until this goal there was little between the sides and Tommy Bickerstaff had to work hard to keep out shots from spearhead Travis.

It was Norman Golding's pass that gave Tonbridge the lead, but his little boot failed him two minutes later when he sent a penalty kick skidding by the post after a defender handled a goalscoring shot from goal-hungry Walsh.

Walsh got his second six minutes after the restart in grand style although he rather tantalised the goalkeeper. Lawrence advanced to narrow the shooting angle and then attempted to pick up the running ball. Walsh evaded him, waltzed round his prostrate body and gently guided the ball into the goal.

Five minutes later Yeovil danger man, outside left McKay, reduced the arrears with a shot that whipped across the goalmouth and into the side-netting. Bickerstaff could not get to

it. Inspired by the goal, Yeovil swung into the attack, the wing halves pushing forward to test Bickerstaff's mettle. Within a minute they were on terms, inside left Tarrance, who replaced Gemill, nodding home from a right-wing cross.

This was the one point which either side could have become victors. I thought that perhaps Yeovil had been conserving their efforts for a second-half battle. John Walsh had other ideas. Well backed by his teammates, John put the Angels ahead again in the 66th minute when he rammed the ball through a goalmouth melee from Norman Hooper's pass. The fans cheered John's hat trick.

Ten minutes later he smashed home his fourth. Joe Ball drew the backs out and made the opening. That looked like the end of the scoring. Yeovil fought like demons to catch up, but the Tonbridge defence were like lions and John Kenny's brilliance back in the side shone like the north star.

Then suddenly, out of the blue, Yeovil banged in a snap goal. There were some half-hearted exchanges in front of the home goal and then inside right Alexander stuck out a foot and the ball was in the rigging.

But Tonbridge were still the masters. They forced through the Yeovil defence and the agile Lawrence was hard put to save the shots. In fact, he performed almost incredible feats between the posts.

However, he failed to stop Norman Golding's final goal in the 89th minute from point-blank range and Tonbridge had earned two more points.

This was Tonbridge's best performance this season. They played the sort of football that inspires a crowd to cheer ... and increase the attendance next week. It was clever, clean and fast and Yeovil played well with them.

*Tonbridge: Bickerstaff, Walton, Hailstones, Leonard, Felton, Kenny, Ball, Golding, Payton, Walsh, Hooper.*

*Yeovil: Lawrence, Robshaw, Elder, Tiddington, Topping, Elliott, Riseborough, Alexander, Travis, Tarrance, McKay.*

Leonard's cross.

After heavy defeats at Headington and Yeovil, Hastings were removed from the Southern League Cup by two 2-1 victories. Jimmy Constantine was brought back to lead the attack and had two fine games. He should not have played in the second as he had carbuncles on his back but kept this hidden from Doug Hunt. During the second match he received a kick on the leg and finished the game limping on the wing. Afterwards it was discovered that he had fractured the fibula in his right leg.

In between these games a last minute goal at Bexleyheath ended Tonbridge's interest in the FA Cup. Among the league highlights were victories over Hereford and Guildford in the space of five days in September. Tonbridge were actually bottom of the Southern League before the visit of Hereford but the football reached a very high standard and provided great entertainment for the 2,119 spectators. Ball scoring twice and Golding once to earn a 3-1 victory. If anything Tonbridge played even better the following Wednesday when Guildford were beaten 4-0 with two goals from Cliff Payton with Walsh and a Lusted penalty completing the scoring.

In December Ball, Hooper, Payton, Golding and Walsh scored the goals to beat Dartford 5-3 after trailing 1-3 at the interval. The last Saturday of 1957 brought Yeovil Town to the Angel Ground but the match was a personal triumph for John Walsh who scored four goals in the 5-3 win. The fuzzy haired little inside forward was a tricky customer who had been playing with great verve. Tonbridge finished the year in 16th

place with 19 points from 24 games.

On 21st February, the former Carlisle and Grimsby left half Alex McCue was signed from Shrewsbury. He had spent most of 1956 playing in America and was still on Shrewsbury's transfer list at £3,000. Short, stocky and balding, McCue was a fiery character but there was no doubting his skill or football brain. He had an influential match in the 4-1 victory of Bath when Hooper scored twice, Walsh and Leonard one apiece. After heavy defeats at Poole and Gravesend, Constantine scored four as Merthyr were beaten 8-1, Walsh two, Hooper and Douglas one each.

Excellent wins against championship contenders Cheltenham and Weymouth pulled Tonbridge clear of the re-election area. 4-0 was Cheltenham's heaviest defeat of the season, the goals coming from Hooper, Walsh, Ball and a McCue penalty. Connie, Walsh and Kenny each scored twice as Weymouth were beaten 6-1 and Tonbridge finished their League programme by recording their first away win by 3-0 at Bath. Constantine, Kenny and McCue were the scorers and it was so comfortable that one could only wonder why it had taken so long. Seven points from the last five games had lifted the Angels to 18th place. Although failing to win a trophy the Reserves had once again performed nobly finishing second in the Metropolitan League, nine points behind Chelsea but six points ahead of third placed Hastings. 21 of their 34 league games were won with eight draws and only five defeats. Only Chelsea scored more than Tonbridge's 102 goals whilst 58 conceded

was the third best defensive record. Peter Longland contributed 22 goals whilst Freddie Morris scored 15. After defeat on the opening day of the season they did not lose again until the last day of November. In between 15 matches were played of which 12 were won.

League newcomers Fulham "A" were beaten 5-1 on their first visit to the Angel Ground, Cliff Payton scored twice and there were goals from Campbell, Dougan and Morris. Two members of the young Fulham side were Alan Mullery and Allen Jones.

During the dreadful influenza epidemic which hit the country at the end of the autumn three players were borrowed for the visit of Hastings. One of them, David Laphorne, scored twice in an exciting 4-3 win, the other goals coming from Reid and Longland. The barracks at Aldershot had proved a useful source of players over the years but in November a piece of pure gold arrived. He made his debut at outside left on 16th November 1957 and scored in the 2-0 win at Eastbourne and his name was Peter Lovell. Another soldier boy to join the Angels at this time was a skilful inside forward called Dicky Roberts.

Luton, always a useful side, were beaten 5-1 in both encounters and the reserves season ended with a 5-0 win over Windsor and Eton, Roberts scoring twice.

A 7-3 aggregate win over Headington put Tonbridge into the semi-final of the Professional Cup where they were drawn against Chelsea. Both legs were played at the Angel and the first match was undoubtedly one of the finest of the season in any competition. Chelsea included Ian McFarlane, John Sillett, Mel Scott, John Compton and Micky Harrison who had already made first team appearances. The Tonbridge team was: Kirk, Wicks, Fox, Campbell, Felton, Ball, Hooper, Payton, Longland, Roberts, Cameron. Norman Hooper sparked off early Tonbridge pressure shooting hard against the side netting and it was Hooper who provided the cross for John Cameron to head the opening goal. Hooper missed a penalty and Ken Shellito equalised just before the interval.

The second half was full of excitement and good football for the 1,500 spectators as both sides strove for the advantage but the only goal came when Sillett beat his own goalkeeper to give Tonbridge a narrow lead. For the return Tonbridge replaced Ball, Longland and Cameron with Lusted, Dougan and Lovell but this time Chelsea with Barry Bridges leading the attack and Paul Berry at centre half, were undeniably superior winning 4-1.

At least the first team did manage to put some silverware in the boardroom by winning the Kent Senior Shield. The first round took the Angels to Eridge Road and



**Gordon Quinn**



**John Walsh**



**John Dougan**



**Norman Golding**



## Results 1957/58

Date	Opponents		Comp	Res		Att	Pos	Goalscorers
Sat 24/08/1957	Kidderminster Harriers	H	SL	D	1 1		12	McCorkindale
Wed 28/08/1957	Headington United	a	SL	L	2 5			Golding, Walton
Sat 31/08/1957	Yeovil Town	a	SL	L	0 5		19	
Wed 04/09/1957	Hastings United	H	SLC	W	2 1	1799		Ball, Constantine
Sat 07/09/1957	Bexleyheath & Welling	a	FAC	L	0 1	2560	19	
Mon 09/09/1957	Hastings United	a	SLC	W	2 1			Hooper, Reid pen
Wed 11/09/1957	Tunbridge Wells United	a	KSS	W	4 1			Walsh, McCorkindale, Reid, Golding
Sat 14/09/1957	Cheltenham Town	a	SL	L	1 6		22	Golding
Wed 18/09/1957	Headington United	H	SL	L	1 3	1689	22	Lusted
Sat 21/09/1957	Hereford United	H	SL	W	3 1	2119	19	Ball 2, Golding
Wed 25/09/1957	Guildford City	H	SL	W	4 0			Payton 2, Walsh, Lusted pen
Sat 28/09/1957	Barry Town	a	SL	L	2 4			Ball, Walsh
Thu 03/10/1957	Bedford Town	a	SL	D	1 1	3157		Payton
Sat 05/10/1957	Hastings United	H	SL	D	2 2	2585	13	Hooper, Ball
Sat 12/10/1957	Hastings United	a	SL	D	1 1	3098	14	Campbell
Sat 19/10/1957	Kettering Town	H	SL	W	3 2	2500	14	Walsh 2, Ball
Sat 26/10/1957	Gloucester City	a	SL	L	0 3			
Sat 02/11/1957	Lovells Athletic	H	SL	W	2 1		14	Payton, Walsh
Sat 09/11/1957	Worcester City	a	SL	L	0 4			
Sat 16/11/1957	Poole Town	H	SL	L	3 4		15	Payton 2, Hailstones pen
Sat 23/11/1957	Guildford City	a	SL	L	1 2		17	Payton
Sat 30/11/1957	Bedford Town	H	SL	L	1 2	2213	17	Walsh
Sat 07/12/1957	Exeter City Res	a	SL	L	0 3		19	
Sat 14/12/1957	Dartford	H	SL	W	5 3			Ball, Hooper, Payton, Golding, Walsh
Sat 21/12/1957	Kidderminster Harriers	a	SL	L	0 2			
Wed 25/12/1957	Chelmsford City	a	SL	D	2 2	2244		Walsh, Constantine
Thu 26/12/1957	Chelmsford City	H	SL	W	3 2			Payton 2, Golding
Sat 28/12/1957	Yeovil Town	H	SL	W	5 3	2000	16	Walsh 4, Golding
Sat 04/01/1958	Weymouth	a	SL	L	0 2	2188	17	
Sat 11/01/1958	Merthyr Tydfil	a	SL	L	2 3		18	Constantine 2
Sat 18/01/1958	Dover	a	KSC2	W	4 0	2117	18	Golding, Constantine, Ball, Walsh
Wed 22/01/1958	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	SLC1	L	0 2			
Sat 01/02/1958	Hereford United	a	SL	L	0 2	3408	19	
Sat 08/02/1958	Barry Town	H	SL	W	4 2	1460	18	Dougan 3, Constantine
Sat 15/02/1958	Dartford	a	KSC	L	0 1	2000	18	
Sat 01/03/1958	Kettering Town	a	SL	L	1 4		21	Dougan
Sat 08/03/1958	Gloucester City	H	SL	L	0 1	1200	21	
Sat 15/03/1958	Lovells Athletic	a	SL	L	0 3		21	
Sat 22/03/1958	Worcester City	H	SL	D	0 0	1300	21	
Wed 26/03/1958	Bath City	H	SL	W	4 1			Walsh, Leonard, Hooper 2
Sat 29/03/1958	Poole Town	a	SL	L	0 4		21	
Fri 04/04/1958	Gravesend & Northfleet	a	SL	L	1 5	3279	21	Walsh
Sat 05/04/1958	Merthyr Tydfil	H	SL	W	8 1	900	21	Walsh 2, Constantine 4, Hooper, Dougan
Mon 07/04/1958	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	SL	L	0 1		21	
Sat 12/04/1958	Exeter City Res	H	SL	D	1 1		21	Leonard
Mon 14/04/1958	Cheltenham Town	H	SL	W	4 0		20	Hooper, Walsh, Ball, McCue pen
Sat 19/04/1958	Sittingbourne	H	KSS SF	W	3 1		21	Constantine, Dougan 2
Wed 23/04/1958	Weymouth	H	SL	W	6 1			Walsh 2, Constantine 2, Kenny 2
Sat 26/04/1958	Dartford	a	SL	L	0 7		19	
Thu 01/05/1958	Bath City	a	SL	W	3 0		18	Kenny, Constantine, McCue
Sat 10/05/1958	Folkestone Town	H	KSS F	W	3 1	3000		Constantine 2, Hooper



## 1958/59

Tonbridge began the 1958/59 season with a new manager and several new players but it was a time of change for the Southern League as a whole. Eighteen new clubs were accepted and it was decided to form two regional divisions, North West and South East, of 20 clubs each. The top 11 in each division would constitute the Premier Division for the 1959/60 season with the remainder in the First Division and a promotion/relegation of four teams per season.

Unfortunately five clubs were in trouble for leaving the Kent League after the official date for resignations and faced the prospect of heavy fines unless they put off their departure for another 12 months. They opted for the latter leaving the league with only 35 clubs for its two divisions.

The new man in charge at the Angel was Jack Tresadern, a man in his mid sixties, small of stature but with a big personality and a wealth of experience. He had played for West Ham in the famous 1923 FA Cup Final when the Hammers were beaten by Bolton in the first Wembley final. In the same season he won his two England caps. He managed Northampton, Crystal Palace, Tottenham, Plymouth, Chelmsford and Hastings and no doubt it was his five years work at the latter, whom he left much richer than he found them after rebuilding their team, that persuaded the directors to offer him the job.

Mr Tresadern quickly got to work strengthening his squad with the accent very much on experience. Full back Charlie Marks, a big, tough, but very genial man had his own unofficial fan club at the Priestfield Stadium. He had made 265 Football League appearances for the Gills. Centre forward Ron Blackman had scored 166 goals in 240 first team appearances for Reading, still a career record for that club.

Ron Shaw, a short, stubby, bald-headed winger, had made 412 first team appearances

scoring 106 goals for Torquay United. Chunky forward Norman Menzies had scored 95 goals in 221 appearances for Aldershot.

Gordon Quinn, an immensely skilful inside forward, had played for Queens Park Rangers and Plymouth; wing halves Reuben Cook and Fred Lillicrap came from Leyton Orient and Deal Town respectively, whilst Albert "Dusty" Rhodes, a tough, stocky full back was signed from Queens Park Rangers.

2,800 people turned up for the first game against Cambridge United, who included former Charlton full backs Campbell and Lock. Only Joey Ball from last season's forward line retained his place. Charlie Marks filled the centre half berth and there were six new signings in the side led out by skipper Paddy Leonard: Bickerstaff, Rhodes, Hailstones, Leonard, Marks, Dunne, Shaw, Quinn, Blackman, Menzies, Ball. Gordon Quinn enjoyed a marvellous debut scoring twice and helping to create one for Menzies. Ball looking as dangerous as ever scored the other in a comfortable 4-1 win. In the following week's programme Jack Tresadern, who had quickly made an impression with his sincerere, but humorous style, thanked the supporters for their vocal support. It was to prove a favourite theme.

Despite the encouragement of such a good start the Angels played another five matches before recording another victory. The FA Cup campaign began at Bexleyheath where a brilliant late equaliser from Johnny Dougan ensured a replay at the Angel Ground on Wednesday, 24th September, kick off 5 pm. Unfortunately Dougan was unable to get away from work for the match, a match which turned out to be the most incredible in the history of Tonbridge Football Club.

The teams lined up thus: Tonbridge: Bickerstaff, Rhodes, Hailstones, Kenny, Marks, Campbell, Hooper, Menzies, Payton, Roberts, Ball. Bexleyheath: Fry, Crapper, Taylor, Saunders, Percival, Murchison, Morgan, Gill, Vaughan, Johnson, Elms.

Menzies gave Tonbridge a sixth minute lead but Vaughan, Elms and Gill combined to destroy the uncertain Tonbridge defence, the latter scoring three times to give the visitors a comfortable half-time lead.

Whatever Jack Tresadern said at half-time certainly had a dramatic impact. Cliff Payton's header a minute after the restart made it 2-3 and now Tonbridge began to look the force to be reckoned with. Ball and Roberts had looked dangerous on the left flank in the first half, now the two Norman's on the right began to assert themselves and Payton, benefiting from the improved service, looked a real threat. It soon became clear that the Bexleyheath defence was equally unsafe under pressure as the home side.

Fry made three fine saves, but in the 76th minute he was unable to hold a shot from Ball and Payton equalised. The effort seemed to have been in vain when Rhodes made a terrible hash of a back pass to present Gill with his fourth but, in the last minute, Hooper raced through to make it 4-4 and we pinched ourselves. It was Hooper who provided the pass from which Payton scored his third after six minutes of extra time but Gill scored again to make it 5-5 with eight minutes remaining.

Hearts pumping, eyes straining to see through the fading light as both sides fought frantically for the winner. Into the last minute, Bexleyheath on the attack looking dangerous. The shot goes goalwards, Bickerstaff was beaten and there is a thousand "oohs" as the ball hits the post. We breathe again and Joey Ball has picked up the clearance and is racing through the middle. He shoots, it's a goal and Tonbridge had won with just five, yes five seconds remaining. An incredible victory, but we had to spare a thought for Terry Gill who scored five goals and finished on the losing side.

In the following match programme, the Supporters Club committee surely set a new record for English understatement with its comment: "We congratulate the team on



winning against Bexleyheath on Wednesday after a few shocks”.

Unfortunately there was no further FA Cup excitement as in the next round a tame performance saw the Angels defeated 2-0 by Sittingbourne. Other cup competitions proved more successful however. The finals of both the Kent Senior Cup and the Kent Senior Shield were reached as was the semi-final of the Southern League Cup. The Reserves reached the semi-final of the Metropolitan League Professional Cup when they were beaten 4-3 in a real thriller by the powerful Chelsea “A” team.

The seconds made a valiant effort for the Metropolitan League championship eventually finishing third behind Chelsea and the champions Arsenal. They never tasted defeat until the tenth game of the season on 11th October against the Gunners third string. At the end of March they stood second, three points ahead of Chelsea, who had played three games more and 10 points behind Arsenal with nine games in hand. But, nine games in April, including one spell of five games in 10 days, combined with injuries, first team calls and some players unable to get time off work for mid-week matches proved too much. Having only lost one league game during the rest of the season, five were lost in that last month.

It was still a magnificent effort against opponents with almost unlimited resources who often fielded virtual Football Combination strength sides for important matches. Highlights included a 5-2 win at Windsor where Freddie Morris scored four times from the centre forward position. A week later he switched back to his more familiar left wing role and scored twice in the 7-2 drubbing of Headington with Norman Menzies, who had taken over the number nine shirt, bagging three.

Newbury, who finished sixth, were beaten 9-2 and Guildford 5-0, but the Reserves finest hour came on Easter Sunday when Chelsea were thrashed 6-3. Dickie Roberts scored twice and a superb performance was masterminded by Ron Shaw from the inside right position. Playing left back for Chelsea was John Compton who went on to win a Football League Championship medal with Ipswich Town three years later. The Tonbridge team of heroes was: Bickerstaff, Marks, Lovell, Campbell, Miles, Bennetton, Hooper, Shaw, Blackman, Roberts, Morris.

The Zonal Cup did not bring much joy to the Angels but it did bring one of the most exciting games of the season to the Angel when Hastings were the visitors on 25th October. Tonbridge had more of the play in the first half but tended to over-elaborate and crowd themselves out. Hastings, by contrast, kept it simple, used the wings and deserved their 3-1 interval lead. Alec McCue was, as usual, a thorn in the flesh of his former colleagues scoring once and helping

## The Manager: Jack Tresadern



John “Jack” Tresadern was born on 26th September 1890 in Leytonstone.

He began his career with non-league Wanstead before moving on to Southend United and then Barking Town and into the Football League joining West Ham United in July 1913. He was part of the West Ham side elected to the Football League in 1919 and became a regular in their side. Tresadern made his England debut in April 1923, in the 2–2 Home International draw with Scotland, although he was not pleased with his performance. “I was the best player Scotland had on the field”, he said. He was part of the West Ham side that lost to Bolton Wanderers in the first ever FA Cup final to be held at Wembley famous for the white horse.

After just two minutes Tresadern became entangled

in the massive crowd after taking a throw-in and was unable to return to the pitch immediately. This gave Bolton’s David Jack the opportunity to shoot for goal, his shot beat West Ham goalkeeper Ted Hufton to give Bolton the lead and hit a spectator who was standing pressed against the goal net, knocking him unconscious.

His second cap was just one month later, when England met Sweden in a friendly in Stockholm. This was the first time the two countries had met, and England won 4-2.

In October 1924, after 279 league games for the Hammers, Tresadern moved to Burnley. He played 22 league games for Burnley before joining Northampton Town as player-manager in May 1925.

Tresadern retired from playing in December 1926 after breaking his leg. He continued as manager of Northampton until October 1930 when he became manager of Crystal Palace. In June 1935 he left Palace to manage Tottenham Hotspur, but had little success at White Hart Lane, resigning to take over at Plymouth Argyle in April 1938 rather than wait to be sacked. Tresadern led the club through one full season, 1938/39, in which the Pilgrims finished 15th in Division Two. He then oversaw the three League matches which were completed before the outbreak of war.

In November 1939 it came as little surprise when Tresadern, who had reached the rank of Captain in his earlier Army career, was called up to serve in an Anti-Aircraft Battery, so acting secretary Rollo Jack was appointed acting manager. Eight months later the war forced the club close. In September 1944, after years of devastation in the city and at Home Park, Argyle’s board decided to take immediate steps to re-form the club and establish a team on the pitch at the earliest opportunity. Although seven months were still to pass before the end of the war in Europe, the chairman announced that Jack Tresadern, by then 54, had been reappointed as manager.

The Football League confirmed that 1945-46 was to be treated as a transitional season, and Tresadern was forced to cobble together a team of veterans, youngsters and guest players who won just three of their 42 matches. The following year, League football proper restarted and Argyle finished 19th in the Second Division. The board of directors made their displeasure known in no uncertain terms.

In the first few weeks of the 1947-48 season, Argyle won just five points out of a possible 18, and Tresadern departed from Home Park. It is not clear whether he was dismissed or whether he chose to resign; however, the brevity of the statement put out by Plymouth when he left points to him having been sacked.

The following year he became a scout for Aston Villa before becoming manager of Chelmsford City in June 1949. He left Chelmsford in November 1950 and in December 1951 became manager of Hastings United. When he took over at Hastings the club were in serious financial trouble. He turned things round, and Hastings quickly gained a reputation as FA Cup giants, twice reaching the Third Round.

His success at Hastings had not escaped the attention of the board at the Angel Ground and he became manager of Tonbridge in April 1958 and remained in post until his death in December 1959 at the age of 69.

to lay on a couple for veteran outside right George Taylor. Jack Tresadern had words during the break and it was a completely different Tonbridge

in the second half. Crisp, confident passing spreading the game out and bringing the wingers Dougan and Ball into the game. These two quickly began to tear apart the

**Wednesday, 24th September 1958 – FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round Replay  
Tonbridge (1) 6 (Menzies, Payton 3, Hooper, Ball) Bexleyheath (3) 5 (Gill 5)**

Football par excellence from two magnificent sides sent nearly 2,000 fans away from the Angel Ground on Wednesday full of praise for two hours of exciting soccer.

Tonbridge and Bexleyheath & Welling, who drew in their FA Cup tie on Saturday, met in the replay and from the beginning to end the excitement was intense as neither side gave nor expected quarter.

Terry Gill scored all five of the “Heathens” goals in this glorious game, while clever Cliff Payton netted a superb hat-trick for the Angels.

Time and again Tonbridge had to fight back against sustained pressure from the eager Heathens forwards, thrustfully spearheaded by the great-hearted Gill at inside-right.



After a six minute lead from Menzies’ well-taken volley, Tonbridge lost their bite and the visitors crammed on the pressure. Gill equalised after 20 minutes, booting through a melee of players from Vaughan’s opening.

Then came tragedy. The nervous Tommy Bickerstaff lost his head when a minute later Gill took a 35-yard free kick. The ball whistled over the goalkeeper’s head and he made hardly a move.

Gill put his side two goals ahead at the interval when he sidestepped Bickerstaff’s late advance and planted the ball in the net.

Payton almost cut the difference just before half-time with a drive that was diverted by a defender and Joe Ball’s return went into the side-netting.

Into the game – his greatest game for the club – came dark-haired Norman Hooper to loft over a beautiful centre for Payton to head the first of his great trio after 46 minutes.

Time and again great chances had been wasted in the first half and still were in the second. But after 73 action packed minutes, Payton made it equal by crashing home Ball’s centre.

Still the Heathens fought back and Gill took advantage of a bad back pass by Rhodes to net again and put his side ahead.

At this stage it seemed all up with Tonbridge. The powerful Kent Leaguers cut holes in the tight Angels’ defence but failed to get right through. Gradually the Angels, fighting like tigers, took the initiative again and with only a minute to go mighty Norman Menzies made the opening for Hooper to again equalise.

It took only six minutes of extra time to score again, sending the ball home on the volley from Hooper’s spot-placed cross.

The dangerous Roy Johnson was held on a tight rein by Don Campbell, but nevertheless managed to come close on several occasions.

After 23 minutes of extra time the impossible happened again. Gill cracked home yet another equaliser when Bickerstaff attempted to drop onto a viciously constructive through ball.

With both sides still all out after nearly two hours of gruelling action-packed soccer, Menzies swooped on to a ball and Joe Ball cannoned it home with a minute to go.

And there it was. Hoarse-throated fans mobbed the players as they trooped wearily into the dressing room and Cliff Payton was smiling happily to well-earned applause.

*Tonbridge: Bickerstaff, Rhodes, Hailstones, Kenny, Marks, Campbell, Hooper, Menzies, Payton, Roberts, Ball.  
Bexleyheath: Fry, Crapper, Taylor, Saunders, Percival, Murchison, Morgan, Gill, Vaughan, Johnson, Elmes.*

visitor’s defence. Ron Blackman, benefiting from their service, scored twice as the Angels rattled in four second half goals without reply and it could well have been more. The other scorers were Leonard, Dougan and Quinn.

Of course it was the Southern League that was the most important particularly this season and having started with so many cup ties, Tonbridge faced an uphill battle to finish in the top 11 thus qualifying for the Premier Division next season. With Jimmy Kirk’s injured thumb, at Bexleyheath, eventually found to be broken and Tommy Bickerstaff badly out of form, Henry Sinclair, a powerfully built goalkeeper was signed from Bristol Rovers.

Formerly with Fulham, he made his Southern League debut at home to Clacton on 11th October, a match which was won 2-1 with goals from Blackman and Dougan. Meanwhile Peter Wood, an amateur inside forward from Kingstonian, who played a few

reserve games and Fred Lillicrap, who scored five goals for the Reserves and made just one first team appearance, were both released.

The second half revival against Hastings seemed to act as a spur. The next three matches, at Cambridge City and at home to Kings Lynn and Ramsgate were all won and this little spell produced some of the best football played all season. Austin Dunne had taken over at centre half with Charlie Marks moving to right back where he immediately looked happier. Ben Cook and Paddy Leonard were now the wing halves with Johnny Dougan and Cliff Payton forming the right wing partnership. Blackman and Quinn were restored to centre forward and inside left respectively whilst those two old favourites Bob Hailstones and Joey Ball retained their places at left back and outside left. The Angels were applauded off the pitch by many of the 4,500 spectators after their 2-1 win, in what was surely their finest performance of the season, at Cambridge, who had won

three and drawn two of their previous home games. In a superb footballing display, Gordon Quinn was absolutely brilliant, scoring the first goal with a tremendous 30 yard drive and rattling the crossbar with a stunning volley. Ron Blackman, now beginning to look a class player scored one of his typical headers and when City were able to attack the defence stood firm with Sinclair, Dunne and Hailstones outstanding.

Jack Tresadern met a former West Ham and England colleague Vic Watson after the game, who told him that Tonbridge were the best side that he had seen at Milton Road this season. Incidentally, the Cambridge City player-manager at the time was Jack White, formerly of Bristol City, who many years later was to do a great deal for football in Tonbridge with his fine work at the Teen and Twenty Youth Club.

Kings Lynn and Ramsgate both proved rather rugged opponents but the Angels kept their

# They beat a path to the Gills

Following Ron Saunders' transfer to Priestfield Stadium, two more trod the same path



**Cliff Payton**

Cliff Payton originally began his career with Brighton schoolboys, being spotted by Plymouth when playing in a striking role. He did his National Service whilst with Accrington Stanley and when he left the Army, he moved south again to join Tonbridge. On transfer deadline day in March 1959, Gillingham secured his services. He found his first team outings restricted at Priestfield due to the fine form of Pat Terry, John Edgar and Bill Albury, which forced him to move to near neighbours Dartford. After leaving the game, he joined the Metropolitan Police Force in April 1965 and reached the rank of Detective Sergeant before leaving the service in January 1977.

**John McCorkindale**

Signed from Southern League Tonbridge after impressing in a friendly against Gillingham, John McCorkindale made his league debut within days from joining the club (Brentford (a) 12th October 1957). He was very good in the air – which was understandable, as he was probably one of the tallest wingers ever to play for the club. He later joined the Leicester Constabulary and by the early 1970s had risen to the rank of detective constable.



*But a Gillingham legend came in the opposite direction*



**Charlie Marks**

Despite appearing as centre forward during his early years, Charlie Marks won an award for scoring 40 goals in a season from a centre half position. He went on to become a permanent member of Gillingham's side for nearly 15 years in the right back berth and, as well as league appearances, he also appeared in 187 games during the club's non-league days. Renowned for powerful shooting with his right foot, he once burst the net when scoring with a penalty against Northampton Town in February 1955. After leaving the game he worked as stock controller in a paper mill.

*Pen pictures from Roger Triggs' book: Gillingham FC The League Years*

heads, kept playing football and won both encounters. The men from Norfolk had an experienced line-up including goalkeeper Bernard Streeten, an English international from Luton and centre-half Reg Foulke, from Norwich, but despite having Bob Hailstones limping on the left wing for most of the second half, Tonbridge triumphed 2-1 with fine goals from Ball and Blackman. Ramsgate included former Angels, Alec Hamilton and John Cameron, as well as a future one in Danny Durston, but goals from Dougan, Payton, Blackman and Quinn against a lone reply saw the boys in blue through to the semi-finals of the Kent Senior Shield. Left half for Ramsgate was Allen Batsford, later

to become such a successful manager at Wimbledon.

It was hard to believe that it was the same team in action the following Saturday when the score was again 4-1 but this time against Tonbridge. Poole Town, although only one place above Tonbridge, looked a very good side. Inspired by England international Stan Rickaby and Len Phillips they tore the Tonbridge defence to shreds and their outside right Charlie Kerr and centre forward Billy Gillett both proved too hot to handle. Fortunately, the Angels bounced back quickly by beating Guildford 4-2 in the Southern League Cup. Shaw returned for this match in

place of the bronchitis stricken Dougan and provided the centre for Blackman to score the first goal. Cliff Payton scored two fine goals, one from a magnificent through pass from Ball, the other from a headed flick by Ron Blackman. Blackman's heading ability was becoming a feature of the side. He was a real artist in the air, seeming able to place the ball wherever he wished with the merest flick from the side of the forehead. This match was particularly significant as it saw Peter Lovell come in at left back to allow Bob Hailstones to rest a troublesome ankle injury.

Peter had been playing left back for the reserves since early in the season but this was the first time that he wore the number three shirt in a first team fixture. He did so well that he kept it for the league trip to Dartford. Hailstones returned for this match but played left half, another move with long term significance, Leonard being demoted. A thrilling game was lost by the odd goal in seven with both Lovell and Hailstones having fine matches.

Tonbridge entered December in 14th position having won four and lost five of their nine league games, but with matches in hand over all but one of the sides above them. The month saw the resignation of the chairman, Mr W. H. Cripps, on health grounds and his fellow director Mr Sydney Wood. Both of them had been involved with the club since its inception and Mr Cripps had served since 1950 as chairman. His calm, unflappable nature helping the Angels over many a problem and was also a vice-president of the Metropolitan League. Stanley Berwick was elected chairman of what was now a four man board, only Fred Markwick, the popular butcher, Stanley Edwards and Bill May remaining.

Bill May is a constant thread running through this story and we shall return to him in due course, whilst Fred Markwick is another who was instrumental in bringing professional football to the town. Stanley Edwards, the Castle Street newsagent, was invited by the then manager Harry Curtis in 1951, to travel as supervisor with the reserve team and in 1954 his efforts were recognised with an invitation to join the board of directors. Our Metropolitan League record during that time is one of which to be proud and is in no small way due to the enthusiasm and devotion of Stanley Edwards.

On the playing side a strong Chelmsford team proved too good at the Angel winning 2-0 and Cambridge United gained revenge for the opening day drubbing with a 3-0 victory. In between these two convincing defeats, the Angels won 4-2 at Clacton where Joe Ball had another splendid match scoring twice. His second was a spectacular effort running on at speed to drive a glorious long through pass from Payton. Dougan made a successful return to the right wing and inside forwards Payton and Quinn were also in fine

form, but they were the only points gained in December and the Cambridge United defeat was the last appearance in the blue shirt of Gordon Quinn.

On Christmas Eve he was transferred to Cambridge United for what was described as a substantial fee. No figure was announced but it was apparently more than that received from Gillingham for Ron Saunders two years previously. As Jack Tresadern said afterwards: "They made us an offer we couldn't refuse." It was a good and necessary piece of business for the club but it was also sad that a player of Quinn's obvious class had to leave after such a short stay and when he appeared to be settling down to some consistency. A splendid first match was followed by some indifferent performances and a painful injury and it was November before he really hit form again and many supporters felt that he had much to offer. A tall, slim comical Londoner with sloping shoulders and a slightly absent-minded gait he sometimes appeared a little sleepy and might not have been every manager's "cup of team". On one occasion his team mates were reduced to fits of laughter when stripping for the game he was shown to be still wearing his pyjamas! But Quinn's skill and football brain could never be in doubt. The instant control, the inch perfect pass into the space which he had created, the swivel of the shoulders to send a defender the wrong way often followed by a chuckle, these were the pleasures of watching Gordon Quinn play the game. In future, Angels supporters would have to watch him parade his repertoire for someone else.

Christmas, as so often, brought no cheer to Tonbridge as Bedford Town duly completed the double, scoring six times without reply in two days. Cliff Payton strained a groin at Bedford, where Peter Lovell again earned praise for his performance in the four goal defeat and Tonbridge closed the year in 14th position with 10 points from 14 games, three points behind Exeter, who laid in that vital 11th place with a game in hand.

Yeovil Town were the first visitors of 1959. They came with Doug Hunt as trainer/coach and Harry Robshaw at right back. Leonard and Hailstones filled the inside forward positions with Bennetton at left half but the men from Somersel proved far too good, winning 3-1.

Substantial changes brought six consecutive wins although only two of them were league matches. Both full backs were replaced bringing a long awaited recall for Dick Walton, on the right, with Rhodes coming in for Lovell, who had shown great promise during his first team run, the experience of which would surely stand him in good stead. Hailstones returned to left half; Hooper came in at outside right with the recovered Payton as his partner and Leonard moved across to take the number ten shirt. Blackman, who had been most ineffective for a number of

## Bob Hailstones



*Pen picture from Tonbridge FC Yearbook 1959-60*

Bob Hailstones, the veteran of the Angels, in that he holds the club record for appearances. A great favourite with the crowd. Bob took a well-earned benefit this year (1958). Played his 300th game on March 15th. Many thought he would be finished when after a career as a full back, he was moved to wing half by Jack Tresadern 18 months ago - but Bob improved as time went by! Now completed six seasons with the club, a former Blackburn Rovers player.

Tonbridge FC Career Statistics: Appearances 403; Goals: 6

matches, was replaced by Menzies who had been scoring regularly in the second team.

Only Sinclair, Cook, Dunne and Ball had kept their positions but, with Hooper, Leonard and particularly Menzies providing much additional punch, Exeter were beaten 5-1 and then Yiewsley 3-1 in the Southern League Cup. Norman Menzies was enjoying a purple patch. He played quite brilliantly to inspire in a 6-3 Kent Senior Cup win at Maidstone where he scored three times as well as creating a goal for Ball and sending Dougan away to cross for Payton's opener. The Angels were two up inside 10 minutes and led 4-0 on 27 minutes. The only non-Menzies goal coming when Kenny converted a Hailstones cross.

Menzies struck again with another hat-trick when Guildford were beaten 3-2 in a league match at the Angel.

These successes were followed by two fine victories in four days against our powerful north Kent rivals. First Dartford were beaten 3-1, under floodlights at Gravesend in the Southern League Cup and then league leaders and reigning champions Gravesend came to the Angel for a Kent Senior Cup Quarter Final. Jimmy Kirk had regained his place in goal and Dougan was back on the right wing. Playing some of their best football, the Blues dominated the first half, racing into a 4-1 lead. An exciting game ended with an understandably tired Tonbridge team hanging on to win 4-3. There may have been some reaction from these two hard games when, the following Wednesday, the match at Exeter was lost in the last three minutes but a league double over Hastings on successive Saturdays was most pleasing. John Miles, a tall centre half from the Sevenoaks area, who had been playing consistently well for the Reserves, was brought in for the home match and made a promising Southern League debut.

Austin Dunne was able to return for the Kent Senior Cup Semi-Final a week later when Snowdown Colliery visited the Angel. Having played so well and with such spirit for the past two months, the Tonbridge performance in this match came as something of a shock. It can only be described as appalling and when Dusty Rhodes hit the side wall of the

old seating stand from the penalty spot several of the 2,226 crowd decided that they could stand no more and made for the exit. Snowdown deservedly led 2-0 and seemed set for the Final but they reckoned without Norman Menzies. For the first 81 minutes Menzies had been a virtual spectator, showing nothing of his recent splendid form, but then, with three minutes remaining Cliff Payton, playing his last match in the shirt of the Angels, raced down the left, pulled the ball back and Menzies rose at the near post to steer in a header. Sensing just a chance of a replay, Tonbridge threw themselves forward desperately. The "others" seemed to have hung on but Ball fired in a low cross that for once the visitors defence failed to clear. Menzies swung a boot, miskicked and with the goalkeeper anticipating a point blank save, the ball went in an opposite direction and gently crossed the line with just 10 seconds left to play.

Menzies, who scored twice, was largely instrumental in destroying the Snowdown defence as Tonbridge won the replay 4-1 with surprising ease. On Saturday, 14th March, Kings Lynn were destroyed by a brilliant display of attacking football which saw the Angels take a 4-0 lead by half-time. Kings Lynn was never an easy place to pick up points and within 10 minutes of the restart Kirk, Dunne and Menzies were all limping, but although the Linnets scored twice, a brave performance from Kirk helped Tonbridge hold on for two points which took them into 12th position with 20 points from 21 games. Kings Lynn and Poole were both ahead on goal average, Poole having played 22 games and Kings Lynn 19.

Two days later the club's coffers gained a few hundred pounds when Cliff Payton was transferred to Gillingham for a small fee. A stylish player who scored goals consistently in the Reserves, Payton had often disappointed when promoted, appearing to lack confidence and aggression, but this season had seen him really blossom and began to realise his potential. Whilst providing necessary funds his departure would leave something of a hole in the playing resources as the Angels faced a tough programme.

The semi-final of the Southern League Cup brought a mid-week trip to Hereford, the

eventual champions of the North West sector, where a stirring late rally was not quite enough to prevent losing an exciting match by the odd goal in seven. This was followed by a dull goalless draw at home to Weymouth, who included Monty Stevenson and Marcel Gaillard and the final game in the Zonal Cup brought a 4-0 home defeat by Gravesend. An already hectic March ended with an Easter weekend which brought a 3-0 win at Yiewsley on Good Friday and a 3-1 defeat at Poole. Easter Monday meant a trip to Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium for the Kent Senior Cup Final against Ashford.



A disappointing performance saw the Kent League side victorious by 2-1 and if the Angels did not really to themselves justice it was their 10th match in 27 days, not exactly ideal preparation for a cup final. A crowd of 5,061 saw Tonbridge quickly on the offensive forcing three successive corners but then Ashford took control for the rest of the first half. Cook and Hailstones had to work hard in defence as Austin Dunne had his hands full with Ashford's lively centre forward Ron Vigar while Walton and Rhodes were given a hard time by wingers Collins and Burden. The latter made the opening for the first goal in the 34th minute when his centre was met by Jenkins whose shot ran along the goal line for Vigar to tap in. A few minutes later Vigar almost scored again when he beat Sinclair to a Collins corner but Dunne somehow managed to head the ball over the crossbar for another corner.

Tonbridge showed a lot more fight in the second half. Ashford were without their regular full back, former Angel Johnny Bainbridge, and wingers Dougan and Ball took advantage with the former hitting the crossbar with a fine shot, but it was Ashford who scored next, midway through the half, when Vigar ran on to Rossiter's pass. With 11



minutes remaining it seemed that the Angels second half pressure would be rewarded when Ball was brought down in the penalty area but Dunne's shot hit the upright and was scrambled away. A minute later Walsh reduced the arrears after Dougan's shot had been blocked. The remaining 10 minutes were rather scrappy as a heavy pitch took its toll and although Tonbridge continued to press they were unable to force an equaliser. The team was: Sinclair, Walton, Rhodes, Cook, Dunne, Hailstones, Dougan, Walsh, Menzies, Leonard and Ball.

Mad March gave away to April with Tonbridge still in 12th place with eight league matches to be played plus a Kent Senior Shield semi-final. The month started with two particularly tough fixtures at home to Dartford and away to Gravesend in the space of three days. Austin Dunne missed both matches as he was away getting married, so young John Miles faced the prospect of marking two of the Southern League's most feared centre forwards, the powerful Johnny Huckstepp, who had already scored 50 goals in the season and the dashing Jimmy Scarth. He did much better against the latter although it would be churlish to blame him for the two goals that Huckstepp scored in the Darts 3-0 win as the rest of the side did not exactly cover themselves in glory. John Walsh regained his first team place after a long absence whilst, against Dartford, Freddie Morris made a rare first team appearance deputising for the injured Ball. It was a much better performance, in appalling conditions, at Gravesend, where Miles played particularly well, but a goal in each half kept the points at Stonebridge Road. A most valuable and creditable point was gained at Chelmsford and the Kent Senior Shield final was reached with a comfortable 3-1 win at Bexleyheath with two goals from Walsh and one from Menzies.

As well as a crowded fixture list Tonbridge were having to contend with a run of injuries. For the home match against

Cambridge City, John Kenny had to appear in the unaccustomed role of outside right but his partner was none other than goalkeeper Tommy Bickerstaff. The popular Scot's grin was broader than usual at the final whistle for it was the erstwhile inside right who scored Tonbridge's goal in the rather dour 1-1 draw. He kept his place as the Angels with games in hand over the teams above, chased the points still needed to ensure a place in next season's Premier Division.

At Guildford incessant rain failed to dampen the Angels spirits as two goals from Joe Ball helped Tonbridge to a 2-1 victory, a wonderful start to the final week of league fixtures which entailed four games in seven days with the qualifying position still extremely complicated. This included two games with Trowbridge, another of the teams involved. John Kenny scored the only goal of the game at the Angel on the Monday, but two days later in Wiltshire, score was reversed.

By the time Yiewsley came to the Angel on Friday evening the position had become crystallised. It was now a race between Tonbridge and Cambridge United, who were playing at Chelmsford, for that vital 11th place. If Tonbridge won then Cambridge would need a cricket score to take the spot. Remembering that we had already beaten our opponents by three clear goals on their own ground as well as gaining a 3-1 victory over them in the League Cup there was every reason for confidence, especially as Yiewsley were firmly rooted at the bottom. But the Angels had been looking understandably jaded and there was also the danger of nerves in such a vital match. Don Campbell had taken over the right back position in recent weeks and John Kenny remained on the right wing. Paddy Leonard took over from Bickerstaff at inside right; Menzies moved to inside left with Charlie Marks, the surprise choice at centre forward after a good game in that position for the Reserves.

It proved to be an inspired choice as big Charlie led the line powerfully and intelligently. Kenny gave Tonbridge a half-time lead with a hard, driven shot from 20 yards and Marks increased it after the interval with a splendid solo effort running through from near the halfway line. Then, disaster struck. Yiewsley, under no pressure, began to play attractive and relaxed attacking football. The Tonbridge defence had a terrible attack of the jitters and conceded three goals in 10 minutes whilst Paddy Leonard was carried off with an ankle injury. Supporters hearts were in their mouths but then Kenny forced an equaliser and the ever-popular Marks became the hero of the hour with two late goals to give Tonbridge a 5-3 win and ensure a place in next season's Premier Division.

Now the players had a full week's rest before the final drama, the Kent Senior Shield Final against the strong Sittingbourne side who had knocked Tonbridge out of the FA Cup. The Brickies had won the Kent League championship by nine points, losing only two of their league matches.

The only change in the Angels side from the one which had beaten Yiewsley was at inside right where Walsh came in for the injured Leonard, lining up as follows: Kirk, Campbell, Rhodes, Cook, Dunne, Hailstones, Kenny, Walsh, Marks, Menzies, Ball.

The game was played at the Angel Ground on a warm, sticky afternoon and a goalless first half gave the 3,077 spectators little hint of the excitement to come. After 49 minutes Tony Amura, the tiny Scottish right winger who had played one match for Tonbridge Reserves two seasons previously, put the visitors ahead with a curling left foot shot. When centre forward Charles beat Dunne the half way line and ran through to make it 2-0 the game looked over.

The Sittingbourne defence had looked so solid despite the dash of Ball and the non-stop effort of Marks but, in the 68th minute, their experienced centre half and skipper Ernie Bateman made a weak back pass. Marks who had harried him all afternoon, ran on to it and coolly lobbed the ball over the advancing goalkeeper. This was the spur that the Blues had desperately needed and they dredged up from deep within themselves one more effort. The visitors hung on desperately as the crowd roared the Angels forward. With five minutes remaining Ball beat his man and produced the perfect cross for Menzies to head the equaliser.

Both sides appeared to draw breath and soon we were into extra time. One or two gaps began to appear and chances were missed at both ends but the first period failed to produce a goal. Then, with four minutes remaining, Ball rounded off his own superb season by cracking in the winner through the crowded penalty area to allow Austin Dunne

to receive the trophy and send the majority of the attendance home happy. The average attendance at first team games and league cup matches had been 1,596.



Jack Tresadern's first season as manager had ended with a trophy, added to which there had been a runner-up in the Kent Senior Cup and semi-finalist in the Southern League Cup but, above all, a place in the Premier Division had been secured with 11th place gaining 31 points from 30 games. It had certainly been an exciting season with some tremendous matches and some superb football interspersed with periods of mediocrity, but consistency had not been the strong point with numerous injuries and a crowded fixture list playing their part.

With Quinn and Payton being sold to balance the books one has to say that the playing record represented a pretty good effort. Kirk, Bickerstaff, Hailstones, Lovell, Marks, Dunne, Campbell, Leonard, Kenny, Shea and Ball were retained with amateurs Miles and Morris expected to continue in that capacity. It was farewell to Dick Walton and Norman Hooper after three seasons each at the Angel Ground. Walton, surely one of the classiest full backs to have played for Tonbridge, signed for our old rivals Sittingbourne whilst Hooper returned to Canterbury who had

been elected to the Metropolitan League. Johnny Dougan moved to Dartford after four seasons with the Blues whilst inside forwards John Walsh and Dicky Roberts were on their way after two seasons each. Walsh, who had not quite recaptured his sparkle of the previous season, returned to Sligo Rovers, whilst Roberts who never managed to establish himself in the first team despite some fine Metropolitan League displays, decided to sample the sea air at Margate.

Other players to leave were Harry Sinclair, Dusty Rhodes, who made the short journey to Tunbridge Wells, Dave Bennetton, who had a splendid season for the Reserves but had been unable to gain a regular first team place and Ben Cook who had been a steady performer in the number four shirt for most of the season.

Also released were Ron Blackman and Norman Menzies, both of whom had arrived at the start of the season with good reputations. Blackman played superbly during the month of November and was obviously a class player but age was catching up with him. He had lost his pace and aggression and after celebrating his 35th birthday in April he retired from the game. Menzies had spent most of the first half of the season in the Reserves where he gradually found his form. Returning to the first team in January, he played some fine games and scored goals consistently but he was no longer a young man.

Ron Saunders, who had been sold by Gillingham, to Portsmouth early in the season had been unable to prevent Pompey from being relegated. He finished the season with 24 goals, however, which included 19 from 34 First Division appearances, a most creditable return for his first full season of top flight football in a struggling side.

Southern League South-Eastern Zone 1958-59

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GA	Pts
1	Bedford Town	32	21	6	5	90	41	2.2	48
2	Gravesend & Northfleet	32	21	2	9	79	54	1.46	44
3	Dartford	32	20	3	9	77	41	1.88	43
4	Yeovil Town	32	17	8	7	60	41	1.46	42
5	Weymouth	32	13	11	8	61	43	1.42	37
6	Chelmsford City	32	12	12	8	74	53	1.4	36
7	King's Lynn	32	14	5	13	70	63	1.11	33
8	Poole Town	32	12	8	12	60	65	0.92	32
9	Cambridge City	32	12	7	13	61	54	1.13	31
10	Hastings United	32	13	5	14	60	59	1.02	31
<b>11</b>	<b>Tonbridge</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>31</b>
12	Cambridge United	32	11	8	13	55	77	0.71	30
13	Trowbridge Town	32	12	4	16	53	75	0.71	28
14	Exeter City Reserves	32	7	12	13	47	71	0.66	26
15	Guildford City	32	7	6	19	45	67	0.67	20
16	Clacton Town	32	6	7	19	44	81	0.54	19
17	Yiewsley	32	3	7	22	36	78	0.46	13

## Results 1958-59

Date	Opponents		Comp		Res		Att	Pos	Goalscorers
Sat 23/08/1958	Cambridge United	H	SL		W	4 1	2802		Ball, Quinn 2, Menzies
Sat 30/08/1958	Yeovil Town	a	SL		L	0 3			
Wed 03/09/1958	Hastings United	a	SLC	Pre i	D	1 1			Menzies
Wed 10/09/1958	Hastings United	H	SLC	Pre ii	L	1 2	1900		Blackman
Sat 13/09/1958	Guildford City	H	SLZC		D	1 1	2000		Dougan
Sat 20/09/1958	Bexleyheath & Welling	a	FAC	1Q	D	1 1			Walsh
Wed 24/09/1958	Bexleyheath & Welling	H	FAC	1Qr	W	6 5			Menzies, Payton 3, Hooper, Ball
Sat 27/09/1958	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	SL		L	2 3	2784		Payton, Ball
Wed 01/10/1958	Guildford City	a	SLZC		W	3 2			Blackman 2, Morris
Sat 04/10/1958	Sittingbourne	H	FAC	2Q	L	0 2	3000	16	
Wed 08/10/1958	Headington United	H	SLZC		L	3 4	620		Cook, Campbell, Blackman
Sat 11/10/1958	Clacton Town	H	SL		W	2 1		13	Dougan, Payton
Wed 15/10/1958	Hastings United	a	SLZC		L	2 4			Blackman, Quinn
Sat 18/10/1958	Weymouth	a	SL		L	0 2	2613	14	
Sat 25/10/1958	Hastings United	H	SLZC		W	5 3	1961		Quinn, Dougan, Blackman 2, Leonard
Sat 01/11/1958	Cambridge City	a	SL		W	2 1		13	Quinn, Blackman
Sat 08/11/1958	King's Lynn	H	SL		W	2 1		10	Ball, Blackman
Sat 15/11/1958	Ramsgate Athletic	H	KSS		W	4 1	2019	12	Dougan, Payton, Quinn, Blackman
Sat 22/11/1958	Poole Town	H	SL		L	1 4		12	Dougan
Wed 26/11/1958	Guildford City	H	SLC	1	W	4 2	250		Blackman, Ball, Payton 2
Sat 29/11/1958	Dartford	a	SL		L	3 4	1263		Quinn, Ball 2
Sat 06/12/1958	Chelmsford City	H	SL		L	0 2	1682	14	
Sat 13/12/1958	Clacton Town	a	SL		W	4 2		14	Quinn, Ball 2, Payton
Sat 20/12/1958	Cambridge United	a	SL		L	0 3			
Fri 26/12/1958	Bedford Town	H	SL		L	0 2	1973	14	
Sat 27/12/1958	Bedford Town	a	SL		L	0 4	5714	14	
Sat 03/01/1959	Yeovil Town	H	SL		L	1 3	1500	16	Leonard
Sat 10/01/1959	Exeter City Res	H	SL		W	5 1	1000	13	Payton, Menzies 2, Ball, Dougan
Wed 14/01/1959	Yiewsley	H	SLC	2	W	3 1			Menzies, Hooper, Leonard
Sat 31/01/1959	Maidstone United	a	KSC		W	6 3	2400	13	Payton, Ball, Menzies 3, Kenny
Sat 07/02/1959	Guildford City	H	SL		W	3 2	1343	13	Menzies 3
Wed 11/02/1959	Dartford	a	SLC	QF	W	3 1	1777		Leonard, Payton, Ball
Sat 14/02/1959	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	KSC	QF	W	4 3	2300	13	Walsh, Ball, Leonard 2
Wed 18/02/1959	Exeter City Res	a	SL		L	1 2			Payton
Sat 21/02/1959	Hastings United	a	SL		W	1 0	1500	13	Payton
Wed 25/02/1959	Gravesend & Northfleet	a	SLZC		L	1 2	1791		Walsh
Sat 28/02/1959	Hastings United	H	SL		W	2 1	1700	13	Menzies, Leonard
Wed 04/03/1959	Headington United	a	SLZC		L	1 3			Payton
Sat 07/03/1959	Snowdown Colliery Welfare	H	KSC	SF	D	2 2	2226	13	Menzies 2
Wed 11/03/1959	Snowdown Colliery Welfare	a	KSC	SFr	W	4 1			Payton 2, Ball, Cook
Sat 14/03/1959	King's Lynn	a	SL		W	4 2	1566	12	Henderson og, Payton 2, Dougan
Wed 18/03/1959	Hereford United	a	SLC	SF	L	3 4	3030		Blackman, Menzies, Ball
Sat 21/03/1959	Weymouth	H	SL		D	0 0			
Mon 23/03/1959	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	SLZC		L	0 4			
Fri 27/03/1959	Yiewsley	a	SL		W	3 0			Walsh, Menzies, Leonard
Sat 28/03/1959	Poole Town	a	SL		L	1 3			Ball
Mon 30/03/1959	Ashford Town	N	KSC	FINAL	L	1 2	5061		Walsh
Sat 04/04/1959	Dartford	H	SL		L	0 3		12	
Mon 06/04/1959	Gravesend & Northfleet	a	SL		L	0 2			
Sat 11/04/1959	Chelmsford City	a	SL		D	1 1	1962		Walsh
Sat 18/04/1959	Bexleyheath & Welling	a	KSS	SF	W	3 1			Walsh, Taylor og, Menzies
Wed 22/04/1959	Cambridge City	H	SL		D	1 1			Bickerstaff
Sat 25/04/1959	Guildford City	a	SL		W	2 1			Ball, Bickerstaff
Mon 27/04/1959	Trowbridge Town	H	SL		W	1 0			Kenny
Wed 29/04/1959	Trowbridge Town	a	SL		L	0 1			
Fri 01/05/1959	Yiewsley	H	SL		W	5 3	990	11	Kenny 2, Marks 3
Sat 09/05/1959	Sittingbourne	H	KSS	FINAL	W	3 2	3077		Marks, Menzies, Ball

Players Statistics 1958-59

Name	SL	FAC	SLC	SLZC	KSC	KSS	Total	Goals	Career	Goals
Ball, Joe	29	3	6	5	5	3	51	18	129	33
Bennetton, David	1	1	2	1			5		5	
Bickerstaff, Tommy	7	2	1	1		1	12	2	137	2
Blackman, Ron	14		4	5		1	24	12	24	12
Campbell, Don	8			4		2	14	1	22	2
Cook, Reuben	29	1	4	6	5	3	48	2	48	2
Dougan, John	19	1	1	5	4	1	31	7	73	18
Dunne, Austen	28		4	6	5	3	46		87	1
Hailstones, Bob	32	3	5	6	5	3	54		255	1
Hooper, Norman	3	2	1	1	1		8	2	94	21
Kenny, John	8	2		2	1	2	15	4	80	10
Kirk, Jim	15	1	3	4	3	2	28	(4)	61	
Leonard, Paddy	16	1	5	4	3	1	30	8	173	21
Lillicrap, Fred		1		1			2		2	
Lovell, Peter	6		1	3			10		13	
Marks, Charlie	16	3	3	4		2	28	4	28	4
Menzies, Norman	19	2	5	2	4	2	34	19	34	19
Miles, John	3			1			4		4	
Morris, Freddy	3		1	2			6	1	15	4
Payton, Cliff	18	3	3	5	4	1	34	19	71	31
Quinn, Gordon	11		3	4		1	19	8	19	8
Rhodes, Albert	20	3	5	3	5	2	38		38	
Roberts, Dicky	2	2					4		8	
Shaw, Ron	6	1	3	3			13		13	
Sinclair, Harry	15		2	3	2	1	23		23	
Walsh, John	13	1	1	6	3	2	26	7	72	28
Walton, Dick	11		3	1	5		20		108	1
() = clean sheets								+ 2 own goals		

Stats: Dan Couldridge