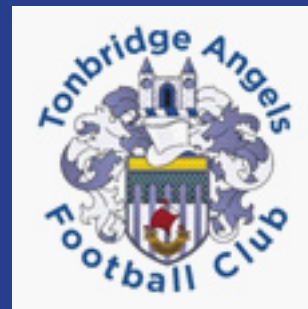


Up There Cazaly!

A historical look at Tonbridge Angels through the eyes of their supporters with original text by the late Brian Cheal. Part 12: Season 1962-63, and a promotion near miss



At the end of 1961/62, Kevin McCurley left to join Ramsgate and Jimmy Upton returned to Scotland as had Bobby Anderson earlier in the season. Micky Bull and Peter Munton were also released, the latter joining Guildford. Players retained were Paul Berry, Tommy Bickerstaff, Fred Crump, John Dennis, Austin Dunne, Bob Hailstones, Ray Kemp, Peter Lovell, Johnny Rainford, Gus Simmons, Ron Skyme and John Smith. The latter, surely the finest inside forward to play for Tonbridge since Johnny Jordan, was to play very little in the future and soon took over as first team trainer when Jimmy Constantine retired. It was a strange looking Angel Ground without "Connie" but at least "Smudger" had a similar hair style!

Bob McKenzie became the first graduate from the JACs to be signed on professional forms although David Aldridge, Tim Balsdon and Tony Burns were signed on amateur forms along with Micky Taylor and full back Dickie Clements who had been a regular member of the Metropolitan League side for the past two seasons.

The biggest capture had to be Joe Carolan from Brighton who was appointed club captain. A classical full back, probably the finest ever to wear the blue shirt, Joe had made 66 First Division appearances for Manchester United, 41 of them in the 1959-60 season when he won international caps for the Republic of Ireland against both Sweden and Chile. Brighton had paid £10,000 to take him down to the south coast. It was a signing for which Harry Haslam had to be patient, however. At that time the current England left back, Ray Wilson, then at Huddersfield Town, was subject of a possible transfer. If

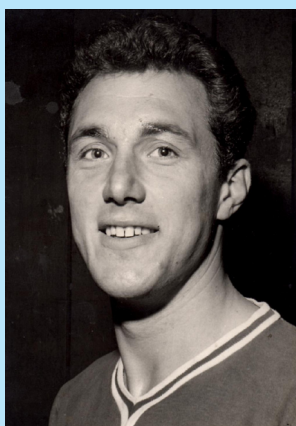
he left, Huddersfield had earmarked Joe Carolan as the replacement. In the event Wilson stayed at Huddersfield and Tonbridge got their man.

Another full back, John Kilford was signed from Notts County. He had previously been with Leeds United and two other former Leeds players were forwards, Alan Shackleton and Gerry Francis. Shackleton, a very experienced player, had also seen service with Burnley, Everton and Oldham whilst Francis had come to England with fellow South African, Albert Johanneson to join Leeds making 48 Football League appearances for them before spending a season with York City. He was soon to thrill the Tonbridge crowds with his amazing skills. Another delightful footballer was Ron White, a clever ball playing inside forward who had made 165 first team appearances for Charlton Athletic. Geoff Truett, a big, powerful, wing

half who had appeared in the 1957 Amateur Cup Final for Wycombe Wanderers, was signed from Crystal Palace whilst Billy Wright, a tall, long striding, outside left was obtained from Millwall. This much travelled player had also served Blackpool, Leicester City, Newcastle and Plymouth Argyle. Willie Hinshelwood, a wing half or inside forward, came south from Scottish League club Airdrieonians, Geoff Stanton, a promising young inside forward, was signed from St Neots Town having impressed with his displays against Tonbridge Reserves and Tommy Hinton was signed from Yiewsley. Hinton, a tall, powerfully built winger, started his career with Hastings before moving to Arsenal. He appeared on the Angel Ground several times with their Metropolitan League side.

These were the players gathered together to entertain us at the start

John Kilford



John Kilford was born in Derby on 8th November 1958 and signed for Notts County in July 1957, for whom he made 26 Football League appearances before transferring to Leeds United in February 1959 where he made 21 appearances.

He moved to Tonbridge in July 1962 and made his debut away at Burton Albion on 18th August 1962 as a full back where he received an injury that kept him out of the team for several weeks. When he returned it was at centre half in place of the injured Paul Berry. He did so well in his new position that, apart from a brief spell in the forward line, he held

the number five shirt unchallenged for over three years. In his last season at the club in 1966/67 he played in a variety of positions. He retired in the summer of 1967 to pursue a career in accountancy. Some time later he decided that his future lay in the church and he became the Reverend John Kilford at Frensham in Surrey. John died in 2012.

The 1962 Leeds United connection

In 1962, three legendary Tonbridge players joined the club with Leeds United connections



John Kilford (Fifth from right, back row with Jack Charlton to his right)

Leeds debut v Portsmouth (h) Division 2, 28th February 1959. Kilford was ordained into the church after his playing days ended. Educated at Stainsbury House School, Samlley, near Derby, he worked at a Burton Brewery and played for Derby Corinthians. He was signed by Notts County as an amateur, turning professional in July 1957. He joined Leeds in February 1959 and skippered the Reserves.

Leeds appearances: 23

Alan Shackleton (Second from right, front row)

Leeds debut v Manchester United (h) Division 1, 1st November 1958. Shackleton was spotted by Leeds playing for Burnley in a Lancashire Senior Cup tie against Accrington Stanley. He spent a year as an amateur on Bolton's books before joining Burnley in May 1954. He joined Leeds in October 1958 for a £8,000 fee and maintained a good scoring rate – including a hat-trick in his fourth game – before going to Everton in September 1959. His career then drifted as he joined Nelson in summer 1960 and returned to the Football League after a £1,200 move to Oldham in August 1961. He was released in June 1962.

Leeds appearances: 41 Goals: 17



Gerry Francis (Fourth from left, front row)

Gerry arrived in Leeds in 1957, to be signed by Raich Carter, having been spotted playing for Blackpool Coloured FC in Johannesburg, paying his own fare to England. He made his debut against Birmingham City but had to wait two years before he made a further appearance, scoring on his third outing against Everton. In all he made 50 appearances for Leeds, scoring nine goals before moving on to York City for a fee of £4,000.

Leeds appearances: 50 Goals: 9



Francis (back, far left) pictured with his Leeds team mates during a guest appearance at the cinema in 1956-57. Also in the picture are Jack Charlton (middle), manager Raich Carter (far right) and the great John Charles (third from right).



Albert Johanneson signs for Leeds watch by Gerry Francis and Don Revie



COMPATRIOTS: Albert Johanneson signs for Leeds watched by Gerry Francis and Don Revie.

of the 1962-63 season. Certainly these were exciting times at the Angel Ground. Ahead of us lay triumphs, some frustrations of course, but above all, entertainment. Great entertainment and attractive, stylish attacking football of which we had only dreamed. But it was not only an exciting time for Tonbridge. The abolition of the maximum Football League wage in 1961 was beginning to have its effect. Clubs responded by pruning their playing staffs with the result being that some very good players were now looking to pursue their careers in non-league football. There had been a smattering of big name players in the Southern League, but these were usually veterans eeking out their playing days. Now there were young men with years ahead of them. Many Southern League clubs, Tonbridge among them, responded by introducing some full time professionals. This together with the extra competitive edge encouraged by the introduction of promotion and relegation in 1959 helped bring about a general rise in standards. The Southern League was about to enter its post war peak.

Tonbridge started the season with eight full time professional players: Joe Carolan, Fred Crump, Gerry Francis, John Kilford, John Rainford, Alan Shackleton, Ron White and Billy Wright. The Board of Directors was also, at last, strengthened and the club was delighted to welcome back former director Captain Bernard Thorpe, a

local estate agent and a man of some substance. This season Tonbridge appointed their first ever programme editor, Ken Ridgeway, a long-standing supporter, who wrote about club news under the non-de-plume "Onlooker", together with an interesting article on the opposing team. He was to carry out this task for something like 10 years, an incredible feat of endurance as the author of this book would testify being among his successors along with Ron Groombridge, Chris Toulouse, Graham Pilcher and Kevin Martin.

In the public practice match the Reserves, most of last season's first team, showed their determination to fight for places by beating the first choice eleven, largely the newcomers, by 5-1. Two attractive friendlies with Gillingham followed, the first, at the Angel, resulted in a 6-4 win for the visitors. The return at Priestfield Stadium was a more serious affair. Both clubs played their expected first teams without the second half mass of substitutions, the Angels line-up being: Crump, Kilford, Carolan, Rainford, Berry, Truett, Hinton, Francis, Shackleton, White, Wright. It was good to see Paul Berry back in the side showing much of his old calm authority and the Tonbridge defence dealt capably with the Fourth Division's side's attack whilst the Angels moved smoothly when they came forward. A second half Gerry Francis header from Billy Wright's cross proved the only goal of the game which sent the Tonbridge supporters home full of optimism. At the final whistle, a Gillingham supporter asked us to leave our team behind and take the Gills players back to Tonbridge with us but brighter days were also ahead for Gillingham.

The 1962-63 season was divided by a terrible winter, into two parts but for Tonbridge the season was really divided into thirds.

After a Boxing Day defeat at Folkestone, Tonbridge stood in second place having been in a challenging position for most of the season despite a rather discouraging start. The season began with a goal glut at the Angel Ground, the Reserves, including

Peter Lovell after three seasons as a first team regular, beat Gravesend Reserves 8-1. As the sun beat down, Tommy Bickerstaff gazed downfield probably wishing he was at his beloved swimming pool but he resisted the temptation to take off his jersey.

At Burton-on-Trent it was just as hot but it was Tonbridge who found themselves on the wrong end of a 4-0 score. It was a poor all round performance and nothing went right. Poor John Kilford marked his Tonbridge debut by chipping a bone so this meant an early recall for Peter Lovell, who regained the number three shirt, held it for the rest of the season, and thus began a classical full back partnership with Joe Carolan that was to endure for a number of years and is still remembered fondly as probably the greatest in the club's history. Another change for the long trip to Barry saw Hinton left out with Francis moving to the wing and Willie Hinshelwood taking over at inside right. The game never reached great heights, but at least Tonbridge gained a point in a 1-1 draw. Unfortunately the injury bug struck again, this time the victim being Alan Shackleton who was a virtual passenger for most of the second half.

Ray Kemp came in at centre forward for the first home Southern League game against Tunbridge Wells, the first time these two local rivals had met in a league fixture. The Wells fought hard but Tonbridge's vastly superior skill gradually put them on top. Goals from Francis, Hinshelwood and Rainford gave the Angels a comfortable lead but relaxation almost proved fatal as the visitors score twice in the last five minutes.

Then came a week to remember. The first leg of the Southern League Cup tie with Bexleyheath and Welling was a great thriller, Tonbridge winning by the odd goal in seven at Park View Road. On the following Saturday the sun shone once again as a useful Kings Lynn side were well and truly roasted at the Angel to the tune of 5-1 with three goals from Hinshelwood and two from Kemp. The skill displayed by Tonbridge in this match had probably never been equalled at the Angel

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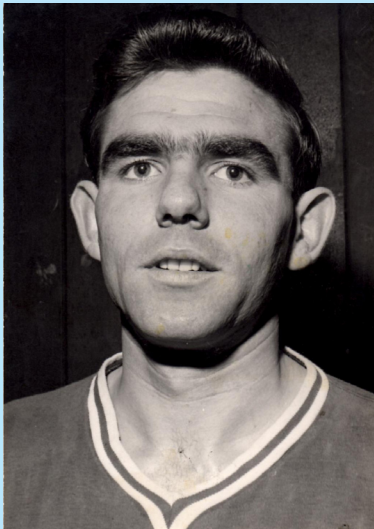
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Joe Carolan



Joe Carolan was born in Dublin on 8th September 1937. He started his career with Home Farm at youth level before moving to Manchester United on 15 February 1956, where he featured in their FA Youth Cup winning team. Joe broke into the first team nine months after the Munich air disaster, which had claimed the lives of eight United players – including his fellow countryman Bill Whelan and resulted in two other players being injured to such an extent that they never played again.

On 22 November 1958, Carolan made a winning senior debut as United beat Luton Town 2-1 in front of more than 42,000 fans.

That season Carolan went on to make a total of 23 League appearances as well as one appearance in the FA Cup. It wasn't until his 12th league (United with Carolan had lost the FA tie) appearance before Joe Carolan tasted defeat when Arsenal beat United 3-2 at Highbury. He began the 1960/61 season in the Manchester United team in the first two

matches against Blackburn and Everton.

Following two defeats, seven goals conceded and just one scored, manager Matt Busby decided to ring the changes. Carolan was dropped from the first team and never regained his place except for one League Cup match.

Joe Carolan played his last match for Manchester United on 26 October 1960 against Exeter City at Old Trafford. United won the tie 4-1 with fellow-Irishman John Giles scoring one of the goals.



When Matt Busby signed another Irish defender, Noel Cantwell from West Ham, the writing was on the wall for Carolan. In December 1960 Joe Carolan left Manchester United and signed for Brighton & Hove Albion.

He played 71 times for United between 1958 and 1960 and won two caps for the Republic of Ireland making his debut on 1st November 1959 in a 3-2 friendly win over Sweden at Dalymount Park.

Carolan's second and last appearance for the Republic of Ireland was once again in a friendly match at Dalymount with the Republic beating Chile 2-0. His Brighton stay lasted two years making 33 appearances before joining Tonbridge in 1962.

He stayed at the Angel Ground until 1968 making 424 appearances and scoring 50 goals before signing for Canterbury City in 1968. Joe returned to the club as manager in January 1970 succeeding John Smith who had ended his second spell in the hot seat.

Joe held the position for 14 months before being succeeded by Billy Newman in March 1971.

His two sons, Ian and Neil both represented the club with Ian making 123 appearances (five goals) and Neil 69 appearances (1 goal). Joe died on 26th September 2018, aged 81.

Picture right shows Joe on his wedding day when he married Maureen Whelan at Saint Wilfrid's Roman Catholic Church in Hulme.



Ground, certainly not for many years. Rainford and White kept their wingers supplied with the ball and in their contrasting styles they tormented the two visiting full backs. Wright, tall, with deceptive pace, skipped past his man almost at will and was unlucky not to get his name on the score sheet with a shot that crashed against the post. Gerry Francis, the first black man to play for Tonbridge, was becoming a great favourite with his spectacular skills but this was probably the match more than any other when he really captured the hearts of the Tonbridge fans. Well into the second half, with Kings Lynn already well beaten, the

ball was played up to him on the wing. He flicked the ball up onto his knee and then onto his head. With the ball bouncing gently on his head he danced past the bewildered full back before bringing the ball down and crossing it into the goalmouth.

This was a Southern League match! If the moment of skill was unforgettable so too was the look on the poor full back's face. Later Gerry Francis would show that he had failings, like any other human being, but a man who could do that, in a league match, well you had to forgive him almost anything.

Two days later Bexleyheath provided sterner opposition in the second leg of the Southern League cup tie, but a goal each from Hinshelwood and Kemp without reply saw Tonbridge safely through into the next round. Once again, skilful controlled football was the order of the day. Towards the end Carolan, Rainford and Francis engaged in a bout of triangular passing in front of the long stand. It was exhibition stuff designed to keep possession and demoralise the opposition but in 1962 this sort of thing had only been seen on television by most people, being done by foreign players. In dear old conservative England it was

Tuesday, 16th April 1963 – Southern League

Tonbridge (2) 3 (Hinshelwood Truett (pen) Shackleton) Hickley Athletic (1) 1 (Adams)

Attendance: 1,245

Tonbridge, it would seem, are thinking more about their league position than cup competitions. Only Monday they were bundled out of the Kent Senior Cup semi-final by Ashford, but on Tuesday team changes brought about a livelier side which wrested two Southern League points from Hinckley, second in the table.

There was much more fight in the team and more sense of urgency. Consequently there was football which had the crowd of 1,245 on its toes.

Two goals within a minute put Tonbridge on their successful way. In the 11th minute a shot hit a defender and rebounded to Hinshelwood who sent the ball into the net and immediately on the restart, Shackleton gained a fortunate penalty at the expense of Aston and Truett scored from the spot.

Hinckley reduced the arrears in the 35th minute when Wittey, deputising for Crump in goal, tried to keep a header from Adams from entering the net but only succeeded in helping the ball in. Yet he should not be blamed for this.

The winning goal came midway through the second half when, from a fine cross by Carolan, the ball went to Francis and thence to Shackleton who headed in.

The team changes, Kilford at centre half; Kemp, inside right and Hinshelwood, inside left certainly added a much needed sparkle to the side and Francis, the most forceful of the wingers was given plenty of room in which to manoeuvre.

Thursday, 18th November 1963 – Southern League

Hinckley Athletic (1) 3 (Round Mellor 2) Tonbridge (2) 4 (Wright Francis Shackleton 2)

Tonbridge shot right back into the reckoning for promotion in the Southern League on Thursday with their win against highly-placed Hinckley which was not as close as the score suggests.

They took their chances well and were always more dangerous than the home side, who had inside right Folian limping on the wing with a pulled muscle for most of the game.

Tonbridge left winger Wright opened the scoring after 25 minutes with a grand goal.

Five minutes later outside right Francis got the second after a Hinckley defensive tangle.

Hinckley's forward efforts were repeatedly cut short by Carolan, Lovell and Simmons and the only time they looked dangerous before the interval they scored. Outside left Edwards centred and right winger Round headed through.

The Athletic threw everything into attack but Tonbridge added to their lead after 57 minutes.

Shackleton snapped up a back pass which went astray and his shot rolled across the line as a defender tried to clear.

Hinckley centre forward Mellor made it 3-2 after 69 minutes, only for Shackleton to beat his man and score with a cracking shot to restore Tonbridge's advantage.

Mellor got Hinckley's third, but it was too late to make any difference.

still considered revolutionary. In the Southern League it was unheard of. The crowd roared each pass. Some of them laughed with sheer joy at seeing their team so much in command. Two regular supporters turned to each other. One of them spoke: "Well! he (meaning Haslam) said he would get us a top class team and he has".

He spoke for many. We now had a team to enjoy and a team of which we could be truly proud. But pride, oh pride. We all know what that comes before, especially when the next game is an FA Cup tie. It was such a nice day for a trip to the seaside and Eastbourne United's Oval looked in perfect condition for Tonbridge to treat us to a football exhibition. It all started well too with Geoff Truett, having taken the McCurley job, converting the first of so many successful penalties for the Blues. In fact Tonbridge took the lead three times only for Eastbourne to equalise each time and then score the fourth. Paul Berry, still being nursed along and still at times looking a little shaky, was left out with Gus Simmons taking over at centre half but the whole Tonbridge defence was very much at sea against the nippy home forwards. Ironically, a few weeks later, the Reserves went to Eastbourne for a Metropolitan League match and won by the same 4-3 score.

At least the response was positive with the next three league games all won to take the Angels into second place. Injuries to Hinshelwood and Wright meant first team recalls for Skyme and Dennis, the latter probably playing his most consistent football since joining Tonbridge, whilst Shackleton had regained the centre forward position. Francis continued to delight the supporters with his trickery and Ronnie White was proving a great ball playing schemer from the inside left position. Short, a little on the chubby side, he worked hard, had beautiful ball control, used the ball accurately and cleverly and was in the Jordan, Mulheron, Reid, Quinn and Smith tradition of outstanding inside forwards. Joe Carolan was another of the newcomers to make a great impression with his all round football ability. When he attacked as he often did, Carolan never looked

out of place showing all the skill of a natural forward. Lovell playing better than ever, was his trusty partner, with Crump behind them in goal. The skilful Rainford and the powerful Truett, always reliable and becoming outstanding as the grounds grew softer, continued at wing half but Berry broke down again at the end of September and would not return to first team duty before the new year. Fit again, full back John Kilford took over the number five shirt slotting in as though he had been wearing it for years and so he would after a short break.

The next round of the Southern League Cup brought an even more star studded than usual, Chelmsford City to the Angel Ground. Geoff Stanton scored on his first team debut and a fine game of football ended with four goals being shared. Chelmsford won the replay 2-0 but the match was marred when Ron Skyme and Len Phillips were sent off for fighting.

A tough Dover side, with former Angel Gordon Quinn supplying the finesse, steamrollered Tonbridge to a three goal defeat at the Crabble but in the return, a week later, goals from Rainford and White secured a fine victory. Dennis and Skyme were the scorers in a 2-1 win at Cheltenham and Tonbridge were honoured when Joe Carolan, Ron White and Gerry Francis were selected for a Southern League representative eleven to play Chelmsford with Harry Haslam in charge for the match. Disappointingly, home matches against fellow promotion candidates Hastings, Nuneaton and Margate all resulted in draws and the visit to Nuneaton, where Rodney Jones, a strapping young centre forward from Bristol City made his only first team appearance, proved fruitless. With the forwards finding goals difficult to come by, Peter Lovell cracked one in at Yiewsley where another score from Shackleton and some fine saves by Crump secured the points.

Willie Hinshelwood returned, in place of Skyme, at the beginning of December, and scored in a five goal thriller against Canterbury, the other two coming from Truett, one a penalty.

Unfortunately Hinshelwood soon picked up another injury and Stanton came into the side for the visit of Burton Albion. Wright returned on the left wing in place of Dennis with Kemp coming in at centre forward. Stanton, giving a promising performance, scored as did Wright and the victory margin would have been far greater but for a superb performance from the visiting goalkeeper, player-manager Peter Taylor. Our first visit to Tunbridge Wells' new ground Culverden Stadium, brought a comfortable 5-1 win with three goals from Ray Kemp and one each from Francis and White. Peter Peters was still on the right wing for the Wells and at outside left was our old friend Freddie Morris. A Boxing Day defeat at Folkestone by two goals to nil left Tonbridge in second position behind Margate with the following record P19 W11 D4 L4 F36 A24 Pts 26. Quite a handy position but Hastings, Corby and Nuneaton were packed tightly behind with Dover, Hinckley and Folkestone not far away. All three Kent Floodlight Cup matches had been won. The Reserves were just above halfway in the Metropolitan League with 17 points from 15 matches and with the JACs also well placed in the East Sussex League it had been a satisfactory first half to the season.

On Boxing Day evening, snow started to fall and when we awoke the following morning it was very deep, rather crisp and not particularly even. In the worst winter since 1947 there was hardly any football played in England throughout January and very little before the middle of February.

Though tempting it is idle to speculate on what might have happened if the break had not occurred but it certainly seemed to disrupt Tonbridge more severely than most other clubs. Our season restarted on 14th February with a Kent Floodlight Cup fixture against Maidstone. The day before the players had cleared the last of the snow from the pitch but Maidstone had been one of the few clubs to have been playing in the previous weeks and looked much sharper winning 3-1.

It was the first defeat in that competition for Tonbridge and the first defeat of the season, at the Angel

Ground in a competitive match. Of the next nine league matches only three were won, two drawn and four lost with a 21-20 goal aggregate. Tonbridge dropped from second to eighth position although the crowded fixture list from which all clubs were now suffering, caused by the break, general form was a little erratic and the Angels were never more than four points adrift of the promotion positions. The same two month period also saw Tonbridge knocked out of the Kent Senior Cup by Ashford, after beating Bromley and Maidstone and defeats at Maidstone and Gravesend finished our interest in the Kent Floodlight Cup.

It was not difficult to see the reason for Tonbridge's decline. John Kilford's move into attack certainly added punch to the forward line and the goalscoring record did improve slightly. In the 6-3 win over Folkestone, he and his great pal and fishing partner Alan Shackleton scored three apiece. Unfortunately Kilford was missed badly at centre half and the defence which had been so reliable before Christmas began to look very shaky, with three goals conceded in half of the 14 matches played during this time. Three-all draws at Ramsgate and Corby might have looked acceptable results but at Ramsgate, Tonbridge had built up a 3-1 lead whilst at Corby the Blues actually led 3-0 with ten minutes remaining. Fred Crump shouldered the bulk of the blame for the latter defeat but clearly, in front of him all was not well.

Paul Berry made another comeback attempt and it all went very sadly wrong. Before his injury, Berry had been a cool, commanding centre half. With his strange loping style he had never been particularly mobile but his skill, intelligence and strength in the air meant that he could usually be relied upon to cope with the best Southern League centre forwards. One admired tremendously his continuing determination to resume playing but he had never looked quite the same player since the injury and as each comeback attempt proved abortive it became more of a struggle. This time it was much worse. It was painful to watch such an accomplished player flounder and fumble and it must have

been agony for him. The wonder was that he lasted five matches each one steadily worse. The match against Yiewsley was a particularly frustrating one as Tonbridge had so much play but were only able to score once through Shackleton. With Berry all at sea, Yiewsley always looked dangerous and managed a couple of goals to take home the points. The crowd seeing the chance of promotion fade as their club slipped down the table vented their frustration on the struggling centre half booing and jeering him. Berry, hurt and angry, described them as a "bunch of country yokels" in the following week's press. Paul Berry never played again. It was a sad end for such a fine and courageous player. In 1966 Chelsea brought a strong side to the Angel Ground for a testimonial which although much delayed was well supported, but 10 years later, Paul Berry was killed in a car crash on his way home from a game of golf.

As one career was ending so another was beginning for in this same match a slight, fair haired young man, seemingly shy but with a glint of steel in his blue eyes, made his Southern League debut. His name was Tony Burns and he had progressed from the JAC's through the reserve team and much would be heard of him in the future.

Burns was playing because Crump was injured and Tommy Bickerstaff had been released after seven and a half seasons at the Angel. Equally well known at the municipal swimming baths, where he was attendant for many years, whether you saw him there, at the football ground or at the sports shop, where he worked during the winter, Tommy always had a smile and a cheerful word for everyone. As a goalkeeper he had his admirers and he had his critics but as a man he was impossible to dislike. He linked up with Tunbridge Wells for the rest of the season before beginning an association with Ramsgate, first as a player and later as secretary. Later he managed Cambridge City for several seasons. Tommy Hinton who had never found any form after an injury problem was also released and he joined Ashford.

The number five shirt was taken over by Gus Simmons but too many goals continued to be conceded. After just three games, Tony Burns was transferred to Arsenal for a four figure fee and Fred Crump returned to the first team. Corby, with Tommy Huckstepp at centre forward, snatched a 3-2 win in fast action packed game whilst the only goal at Hastings was scored by Simmons in his own net after a mix-up with Crump. After the shocker at Corby there were wins over Ashford and Trowbridge but then, following a spate of injuries, an odd looking side, with Truett at centre forward and veteran Bob Hailstones at left half, was well beaten in a gale force wind at Canterbury. The 2-1 Kent Senior Cup defeat at Ashford was the last straw. Against moderate opposition, who had been beaten on the same ground in a league fixture a couple of weeks previously, Tonbridge despite having everyone fit again, surrendered tamely with an abject display.

Changes clearly had to be made. Rainford and White were both dropped with Kemp and Hinshelwood taking over the inside forward positions. Wingers Francis and Wright and centre forward Shackleton kept their places but Kilford was at last restored to the centre half berth. Simmons moved over to right half and Truett remained on the left. The full backs Carolan and Lovell stayed the same but, for one match only, Crump was replaced by a burly young goalkeeper from Rainham, George Whittey.

The effect was dramatic. Only once in the 12 remaining matches would the Angels taste defeat and that in the Kent Senior Shield Semi-Final against Premier division Bexleyheath and Welling. The cultured Hinckley Athletic side was beaten twice in three days but not by pretty football. The skill was still there but it was boosted by a "bite" and directness that had been absent for some time whilst the defence regained its old calm authority.

In the home encounter, Tonbridge started confidently and raced into a two goal lead. Hinshelwood

opened the scoring after beating two defenders and then Shackleton was brought down after a brilliant 40 yard run, Truett converting the penalty. The visitors pulled one back before half time and played some impressive football but with Kilford dominating the middle and Simmons and Truett proving powerhouse wing halves Hinckley were never allowed to dominate. Tonbridge kept it simple and direct with Hinshelwood and Kemp adding thrust to the attack and Shackleton increased the lead on the hour with a splendid far post header after a good run and cross from Francis. At Hinckley, the Blues once again took a two goal lead, this time through Wright and Francis. Round reduced the arrears in the 35th minute and Tonbridge had to survive a lot of pressure in the second half. Hinshelwood latched onto a weak back pass to make it 3-1 but then Mellor scored for the hosts. In the 78th minute Shackleton restored the two goal advance with a fine individual effort and Mellor made 4-3 a minute from time.

There followed two games with Gloucester City who, despite their

lowly position, proved spirited opponents. Both games were won 2-0 but, at home we had to wait until the last quarter of an hour for another Truett penalty and an own goal. In the return Kemp scored both goals and the final whistle came with the Blues hanging on a little desperately.

The enforced winter break meant that we entered May with six league matches still to be played. Trowbridge came to the Angel, threw up a defensive blanket, and emerged with a goalless draw to end a run of four successive wins but two days later Shackleton and Kemp scored to bring home a 2-1 victory from Sittingbourne despite the efforts of former Angel John Kenny. Ron White took over the number 11 shirt from Billy Wright, who had injured an ankle, and he kept the position for the rest of the season. Tonbridge's good run of form had taken them right back into the thick of the promotion race. Hinckley had recovered from their double defeat against Tonbridge to regain the top spot but competition remained very intense.

1. Hinckley 35 64 37 49
2. Hastings 34 81 33 48

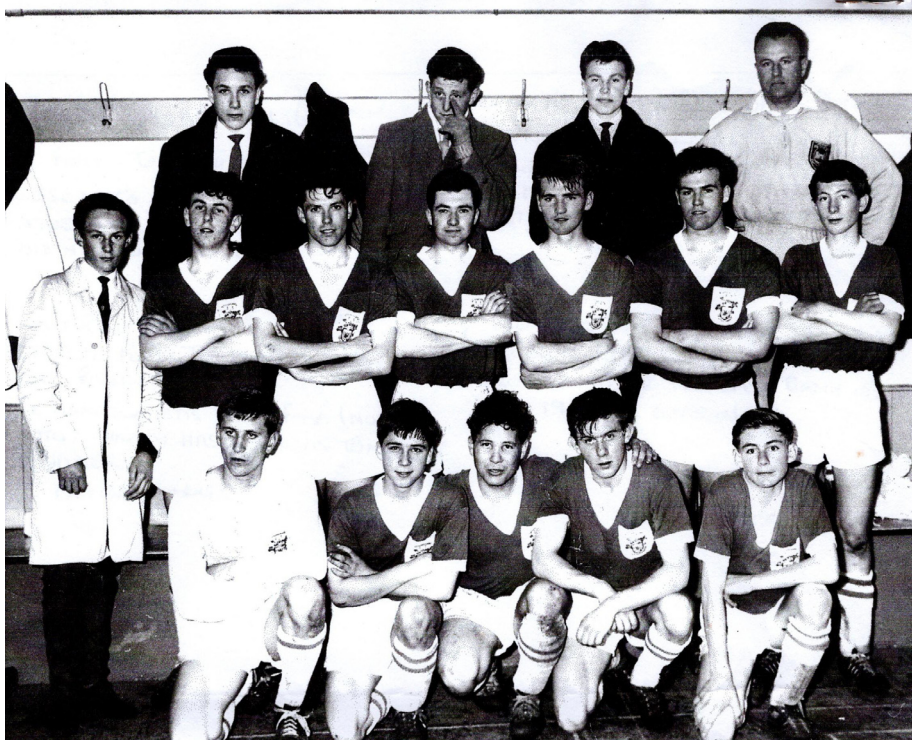
3. Nuneaton 34 69 37 45
4. Tonbridge 34 70 49 45
5. Margate 32 71 42 44
6. Cheltenham 35 82 48 42
7. Dover 32 60 49 42

A 7-0 win in the next home match against Barry Town considerably enhanced Tonbridge's poor goal average. Alan Shackleton, running into a rich vein of form despite a troublesome groin injury, scored four times, Kemp twice and Hinshelwood once, many chances being created by the superb play of Ron White on the left wing. This took Tonbridge into third place, one point above Margate who had two games in hand. Hinckley and Hastings by now virtually certain to go up. Then Nuneaton won two matches on the trot and Tonbridge gained an invaluable 1-0 victory at Kings Lynn. Two more goals from Shackleton brought victory in the last home game against a strong Cheltenham side that had now run out of games after a tremendous late surge and so the last game was played on Saturday, 25th May, with the situation now quite clear.

1. Margate 37 85 46 54
2. Hinckley 38 66 38 53
3. Hastings 38 86 36 52
4. Nuneaton 38 82 41 52
5. Tonbridge 37 80 50 51
6. Dover 37 76 54 50

Margate were definitely champions and they now entertained Tonbridge, who, because of their inferior goal average, had to win to gain promotion instead of Nuneaton. It was a stiff task as Margate had not lost at home for over a year and were from the outset clearly determined to preserve their proud record. Tonbridge fielded the side which had been performing so well of late: Crump; Carolan, Lovell; Simmons, Kilford, Truett; Francis, Kemp, Shackleton, Hinshelwood, White.

A crowd of 3,100 were absorbed as the Angels made the early running. In the sixth minute an over-eager Kemp shot hurriedly over the bar. After 27 minutes Shackleton headed over from a Francis centre and then, a minute later, found the net from a similar move but was penalised.



Tonbridge JAC's: Back Row: Ron Lewis, Barry Smith, Lyn Clifton, Maurice Ennels (Trainer); Middle Row: Ray Lockyer, Dave Aldridge; Ray Marks, Roy Evans, Tim Balsdon, Martin Hendy, Dave Crush; Front Row: Tony Burns, Peter Jeffrey, Peter Tully, Keith Barden,

Margate stepped up the pace after the interval and Crump had to be at his best to keep them out. The going got progressively tougher and Kemp had to receive treatment after a painful kick above the knee whilst Simmons sustained a swollen eye brow after another clash. After 68 minutes Margate took the lead following a free kick but five minutes later it was level once more. The forwards combined in a bout of inter passing which split the home defence and Francis equalised with a clinical shot past the advancing Hughes.

Encouraged by the goal and by a large following of supporters Tonbridge pressed forward driven on by their skipper Joe Carolan, an inspirational figure, but the Margate defence proved a very tough one indeed. With five minutes remaining home

goalkeeper, Brian Hughes, made a fine save from Truett's well struck free kick but then a minute later the referee, Mr. C. W. Northrop blew for full time with, seemingly, four minutes still to be played. As the players trooped off Mr. Northrop collapsed and had to be helped from the pitch suffering from stomach cramp which he later put down to a lack of both sleep and food in the previous 24 hours. It was hardly the ideal preparation for what was after all an extremely vital match. One can only wonder why he had not cried off.

The season ended therefore in controversy and disappointment. It had been a gallant performance and in the circumstances a 1-1 draw was a praiseworthy result but it was not good enough to achieve the desired aim. Clearly some of the

team had been feeling the strain of a hectic season, none more than Alan Shackleton who had played the last two games heavily bandaged, but they kept fighting right to the end. It had been an heroic effort but Tonbridge had missed promotion on goal average despite that tremendous late run which saw them win eight and draw two of their last 10 league fixtures. In those last 10 matches only seven goals were conceded, significantly with Kilford restored to centre half. Of the 81 league goals, Shackleton scored 19, Hinshelwood, Kemp and Truett 9 each, Francis 8, Kilford 7, Wright 6 and White 4.

The reserves finished halfway with 31 points from 32 matchers and the JAC's having supplied several players for the Metropolitan League side, also finished mid-table.

Southern League First Division

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GA	Pts
1	Margate	38	21	13	4	86	47	1.83	55
2	Hinckley Athletic	38	22	9	7	66	38	1.74	53
3	Hastings United	38	22	8	8	86	36	2.39	52
4	Nuneaton Borough	38	21	10	7	82	41	2	52
5	Tonbridge	38	22	8	8	81	51	1.59	52
6	Dover	38	22	7	9	78	56	1.39	51
7	Corby Town	38	19	8	11	79	50	1.58	46
8	King's Lynn	38	19	7	15	76	66	1.15	45
9	Cheltenham Town	38	18	7	13	83	52	1.6	43
10	Folkestone Town	38	15	10	13	79	57	1.39	40
11	Canterbury City	38	14	8	16	42	56	0.75	36
12	Yiewsley	38	11	10	17	63	71	0.89	32
13	Ramsgate Athletic	38	12	7	19	58	82	0.71	31
14	Trowbridge Town	38	11	9	18	50	81	0.62	31
15	Burton Albion	38	10	10	18	48	76	0.63	30
16	Gloucester City	38	9	11	18	42	78	0.54	29
17	Sittingbourne	38	12	3	23	56	75	0.75	27
18	Ashford Town	38	9	6	23	58	76	0.76	24
19	Barry Town	38	6	5	27	35	75	0.47	17
20	Tunbridge Wells United	38	6	2	30	43	118	0.36	14

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Date	Opponents	@	Comp	Res	Att	Pos	Goalscorers
Sat 18/08/1962	Burton Albion	a	SL	L 0 4			
Thu 23/08/1962	Barry Town	a	SL	D 1 1			Wright
Sat 25/08/1962	Tunbridge Wells United	H	SL	W 3 2	2969	8	Francis, Rainford, Hinshelwood
Mon 27/08/1962	Bexleyheath & Welling	a	SLC	Pre i W 4 3			Wright 2, White, Sharp og
Sat 01/09/1962	King's Lynn	H	SL	W 5 1	2146	5	Hinshelwood 3, Kemp 2
Mon 03/09/1962	Bexleyheath & Welling	H	SLC	Pre ii W 2 0	2255		Hinshelwood 2
Sat 08/09/1962	Eastbourne United	a	FAC	1Q L 3 4	1145	5	Truett pen, Francis, Hinshelwood
Wed 12/09/1962	Dover	H	KSS	QF D 1 1	1581		Shackleton
Sat 15/09/1962	Sittingbourne	H	SL	W 4 0	1969	3	Shackleton 2, Francis, Truett pen
Mon 24/09/1962	Bromley	H	KFC	W 3 1	1975		Truett pen, Shackleton 2
Sat 29/09/1962	Ramsgate Athletic	H	SL	W 2 0	2005	3	Truett pen, Skyme
Sat 13/10/1962	Ashford Town	a	SL	W 1 0	1151	2	Francis
Mon 15/10/1962	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	KFC	W 2 1	2009		Francis, Skyme
Mon 22/10/1962	Chelmsford City	H	SLC	1 D 2 2	2541		Stanton, Dennis
Sat 27/10/1962	Dover	a	SL	L 0 3	1838	6	
Tue 30/10/1962	Bromley	a	KFC	W 2 1			Francis 2
Sat 03/11/1962	Dover	H	SL	W 2 0	1188	4	Rainford, White
Mon 05/11/1962	Chelmsford City	a	SLC	1r L 0 2	2658		
Sat 10/11/1962	Cheltenham Town	a	SL	W 2 1	1906	3	Dennis, Skyme
Sat 17/11/1962	Hastings United	H	SL	D 2 2	2364	3	Shackleton, White
Sat 24/11/1962	Yiewsley	a	SL	W 2 1	1000	2	Shackleton, Lovell
Mon 26/11/1962	Nuneaton Borough	H	SL	D 0 0	2032	2	
Sat 01/12/1962	Canterbury City	H	SL	W 3 2	1849	1	Truett 2 (1 pen), Hinshelwood
Mon 03/12/1962	Margate	H	SL	D 2 2	2285	1	Dennis, Truett pen
Sat 08/12/1962	Nuneaton Borough	a	SL	L 0 1	1320	2	
Sat 15/12/1962	Burton Albion	H	SL	W 2 1	1543	2	Stanton, Wright
Sat 22/12/1962	Tunbridge Wells United	a	SL	W 5 1	2000	2	Kemp 2, Francis, Stanton, White
Wed 26/12/1962	Folkestone Town	a	SL	L 0 2		3	
Thu 14/02/1963	Maidstone United	H	KFC	L 1 3	717		Truett pen
Sat 16/02/1963	Ramsgate Athletic	a	SL	D 3 3	764	2	Wright, Kilford 2
Mon 18/02/1963	Sittingbourne	H	KFC	W 5 2	735		Francis 2, Shackleton, Truett pen, Wright
Sat 23/02/1963	Folkestone Town	H	SL	W 6 3	1528	2	Kilford 3, Shackleton 3
Mon 25/02/1963	Yiewsley	H	SL	L 1 2	1159		Shackleton
Sat 02/03/1963	Dover	a	KSS	QF r L 2 3	1521	2	Wright, Truett
Sat 09/03/1963	Bromley	H	KSC	2 W 3 2	903	2	Shackleton, Kilford, Norman og
Mon 11/03/1963	Sittingbourne	a	KFC	W 3 2	300		Kilford 3
Sat 16/03/1963	Maidstone United	H	KSC	W 2 1	2125	4	Kilford, Shackleton
Mon 18/03/1963	Corby Town	H	SL	L 2 3	1418	6	Wright 2
Sat 23/03/1963	Hastings United	a	SL	L 0 1	2599		
Mon 25/03/1963	Corby Town	a	SL	D 3 3			Truett, Francis, Kilford
Wed 27/03/1963	Maidstone United	a	KFC	L 1 3			White
Sat 30/03/1963	Ashford Town	H	SL	W 3 2	1180	6	Shackleton 2, Truett pen
Tue 02/04/1963	Trowbridge Town	a	SL	W 2 0			Kilford, Hinshelwood
Sat 06/04/1963	Canterbury city	a	SL	L 1 3	600	4	Wright
Mon 08/04/1963	Gravesend & Northfleet	a	KFC	L 0 2	801		
Mon 15/04/1963	Ashford Town	H	KSC	SF L 1 2	1840		Shackleton
Tue 16/04/1963	Hinckley Athletic	H	SL	W 3 1	1245		Hinshelwood, Truett pen, Shackleton
Thu 18/04/1963	Hinckley Athletic	a	SL	W 4 3			Wright, Francis, Hinshelwood, Shackleton
Sat 20/04/1963	Dover	H	KSS	QF r W 2 1	939	6	Francis, Shackleton
Mon 22/04/1963	Gloucester City	H	SL	W 2 0	1595		Truett pen, Palmer og
Tue 30/04/1963	Gloucester City	a	SL	W 2 0	500		Kemp 2
Sat 04/05/1963	Trowbridge Town	H	SL	D 0 0	1542	5	
Mon 06/05/1963	Sittingbourne	a	SL	W 2 1	672	4	Kemp, Shackleton
Sat 11/05/1963	Barry Town	H	SL	W 7 0	1311	4	Shackleton 4, Kemp 2, Hinshelwood
Mon 13/05/1963	Bexleyheath & Welling	H	KSS	SF L 1 3			Shackleton
Wed 15/05/1963	King's Lynn	a	SL	W 1 0	1416	4	Shackleton
Sat 18/05/1963	Cheltenham Town	H	SL	W 2 1	1578	4	Hinshelwood, Shackleton
Sat 25/05/1963	Margate	a	SL	D 1 1	3144	5	Francis

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Name	SL	FAC	SLC	KSC	KSS	KFC	Total	Goals	Career Apps	Career Goals
Berry, Paul	9		1		1	4	15		81	5
Burns, Tony	1				1	1	3		3	
Carolan, Joe	38	1	4	3	4	8	58		58	
Crump, Fred	36	1	4	3	3	6	53	(12)	82	
Dennis, John	11		2		1	3	17	3	124	18
Francis, Gerry	35	1	3	3	4	7	53	14	53	14
Hailstones, Bob	1						1		401	6
Hinshelwood, Willie	19	1	3		3	1	27	13	27	13
Hinton, Tommy	1						1		1	
Jones, Rodney	1						1		1	
Kemp, Ray	15	1	4		1	1	22	9	65	30
Kilford, John	34		2	3	3	7	49	12	49	12
Lovell, Peter	33	1	4	3	4	7	52	1	229	2
Rainford, Johnny	31	1	3	3	3	8	49	2	76	4
Shackleton, Alan	32		1	3	4	8	48	28	48	28
Simmons, Gus	16	1	1	3	3	3	27		111	3
Skyme, Ronnie	10		2		2	1	15	3	125	45
Stanton, Geoff	4		1				5	3	5	3
Truett, Geoff	38	1	4	3	4	8	58	14	58	14
White, Ron	33	1	3	3	3	7	50	5	50	5
Withey, George	1					1	2		2	
Wright, Billy	19	1	2	3	2	5	32	11	32	11

() = clean sheets

+3 own goals

Stats: Dan Couldridge