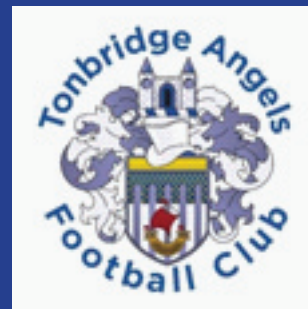


Up There Cazaly!

A historical look at Tonbridge Angels through the eyes of their supporters with original text by the late Brian Cheal. Part 14: Season 1964-65 featuring a first Kent Senior Cup success



Tonbridge made two new signings, both forwards, for the start of the 1964/65 season, Bobby Taylor and Allan Jones, coincidentally the men who had scored the goals against Tonbridge in the previous season's Kent Senior Shield and Kent Floodlight Cup Finals against Dartford and Dover respectively. Taylor, a clever, stockily built, inside forward and a good opportunist had spent three seasons at Dartford and Jones had a similar time at Dover, where his goalscoring feats had attracted the attention of several leading Southern League clubs and Harry Haslam had, in his own words, "quite a tussle to get Allan". Jones had previously been with Fulham where he had made seven First Division appearances, scoring three goals, alongside such exalted company as Johnny Haynes, Allan Mullery, George Cohen and Jim Langley. Taylor had a little Football League experience with Gillingham and Millwall.

Meanwhile, Austin Dunne had joined Deal Town and news of other "old Angels" was that Ronnie Skyme had gone to Dover and Albert Pounder had been appointed player-manager of Sheppey United. One of his first signings was Peter Peters. Ron Saunders was still at Portsmouth where he had by now scored over a 100 goals and had been leading scorer for five successive seasons. Tony Burns was one of 12 players who formed the Arsenal party on their recent tour whilst young David Waters had recently been to Highbury for a trial.

Back at the Angel, preparations were in progress for the return to the Premier Division and the first three fixtures against Cambridge City, Chelmsford and Guildford certainly

exuded the flavour of the "big time" and induced an air of excitement. The reserves would be competing in the Thames and Medway Combination, a new competition composed mostly of Southern League reserve teams. With only eight members it was proposed that the league fixtures would be completed during the first half of the season with the second half being given over to the League Cup tournament which was also to be played on a league basis.

The Kent Floodlight Cup competition had become the Kent Floodlight League with 12 of Kent's senior sides competing on a league basis. This was an idea of Harry Haslam's enthusiastically received by most of the other Kent clubs but, on reflection, even Harry might have agreed that

it was not one of his better ideas. Treated as a first team competition with first team admission prices it was also seen as an opportunity to blood one or two youngsters, a good enough idea, but some clubs reacted by cheating the public and fielding virtual reserve teams if it suited them.

More importantly, 22 fixtures were simply too many both for the players and the public who soon lost interest. A reasonable run in any of the knock out competitions meant that, on occasions, some clubs would be playing three times a week. This actually happened to Tonbridge more than once and with a small professional staff it only needed a run of injuries to cause real problems. Tonbridge finished fifth and, mercifully, the competition returned to a less



Kent Senior Cup Winners, Back Row: S. Morris (Staff), Bill May (Director), Peter Lovell, Gerry Francis, Fred Crump, John Kilford, John Smith (Trainer), Gus Simmonds. Front Row: Andy Bowman, Bobby Taylor, Joe Carolan (Captain), Harry Haslam (Manager), Allan Jones, Geoff Truett, Ray Kemp, Billy Wright

cumbersome format after just one season.

Once again Tonbridge won their way through to the Fourth Qualifying Round of the FA Cup only to taste defeat at the last tantalising hurdle. Two goals from Allan Jones and one from Bobby Taylor were enough to see the Angels through the first round at Culverden Stadium against Tunbridge Wells Rangers, as they were now called. The Wells, for whom Billy Griffiths grabbed a consolation, played some

neat football at times but with Geoff Truett and Andy Bowman strong at wing half and inside forwards Taylor and Danny O'Donnell also impressive, Tonbridge were generally in command. Athenian League Eastbourne Town were comfortably beaten 2-0 at the Angel and the third round brought another home tie, this time against our old rivals Hastings, a fixture which attracted nearly 3,500 spectators. They saw some attractive football but not much excitement. The visitors were never able to finish off their clever

approach work and the three goal margin, which included a penalty, Truett of course, and an own goal rather flattered Tonbridge.

We waited eagerly for the draw and then gasped when we heard Dartford away, a tough one indeed. A large contingent of Tonbridge supporters made their way north and proved themselves in good voice. On a bright mid-October afternoon, Watling Street seethed with cup tie atmosphere. The Blues gave a good account of themselves during a hard fought first half but two minutes from half time tragedy struck when Truett put one past his own goalkeeper. In the 54th minute Billy Wright equalised with a fine cross shot from the edge of the penalty area. Tonbridge had earned this goal and were having their best spell of the match. There was nothing in it when after 66 minutes some fireworks were thrown onto the pitch. The referee, mindful of the player's safety, took them from the field play and the game was held up for six minutes. Soon after the recommencement the Darts were awarded a free kick 35 yards from the Tonbridge goal. Les Burns, that giant of a centre half, hammered it past the stunned Fred Crump into the roof of the net. Crump took some criticism afterwards but it was a tremendous shot comparable with any Truett special. Tonbridge never recovered and Amato added a third before the end. Once again there would be no FA Cup glory for Tonbridge.

Cup glory there would be though, but this time in the Kent Senior Cup, a trophy which had so far eluded Tonbridge. It all started on 20th February with some revenge gained over Dartford. A month previously the Darts had been beaten 4-2 at the Angel in the Kent Floodlight League but the men from north Kent had gained a point on their Southern League visit and three encounters at Watling Street, League, Floodlight League and the FA Cup, had all ended in convincing wins for Dartford. Fortunately, on this occasion, Tonbridge were drawn at home and two goals from Allan Jones, with one each from Joe Carolan and Bobby Taylor, saw the Angels safely through

Andy Bowman



Andy Bowman was born on 7th March 1934 in Pittenweem, Fife, Scotland where he was educated and selected for the Scottish schoolboy international side in 1949 which brought him to the attention of Chelsea who signed him in 1951 on his 17th birthday. He played only one game in Chelsea's league team in 1953-54 season before moving back to Scotland with Heart of Midlothian in 1955 for a transfer fee of £1,000. Bowman won the Scottish League in 1957-58 and 1959-60 and the 1959 Scottish League Cup Final while with Hearts. He made 135 appearances, scoring eight goals.

He left Hearts for Newport County in 1961 where he made 69 appearances scoring seven goals.

His spell with Tonbridge began in July 1963 with his debut being against Trowbridge on the opening day of the 1963-64 season. In just two seasons he made an incredible 141 appearances as a tough tackling, defensive wing half forming a formidable partnership with Geoff Truett. During his time at the Angel Ground the club won the Kent Senior Shield, beating Dartford in the Final and the Kent Floodlight Cup over two legs against Dover. A year later he was a member of the first-ever Tonbridge Kent Senior Cup winning team.

Bowman left the Angels at the end of the 1964-65 season for a spell in the United States before returning to Scotland, playing for Hamilton Academical, Hawick Royal Albert and Stenhousemuir. After retiring from football he spent most of his working life with Scottish & Newcastle breweries.

His son David, born in Tunbridge Wells whilst Andy was at Tonbridge, followed him into professional football and also in his footsteps at Hearts where he made 116 appearances before moving south for two seasons with Coventry City. He returned to Scotland for a 13 year spell with Dundee United where he made 336 appearances.

Andy Bowman died on 2nd March 2009, following a heart attack, having suffered from Alzheimer's disease during his latter years. Hearts held a minute's silence in his honour before their game against Motherwell the evening after his passing.

to a fairly comfortable 4-2 win with Dartford failing to show their normal aggression.

The draw for the second round brought a return trip to the Angel Ground just five days after their 9-2 Floodlight Cup thrashing for Deal Town, where Austin Dunne had now been joined by Ronnie Skyme. They put up a much better show this time and were only 2-1 down with a quarter hour remaining. Then a couple of late Tonbridge goals gave the score a more convincing look. Once again Jones and Carolan found the net and there was a brace for Gerry Francis. The semi-final draw sent us east to Ramsgate on a lovely spring afternoon but a disappointingly small crowd of just over 800 saw little to excite them and goals from Taylor and Ray Kemp brought the Blues success by the odd goal in three. So after two unsuccessful finals, Tonbridge were back with a chance to make it third time lucky. Bexley United were to provide the opposition at Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, on Easter Monday.

The 1965 Kent Senior Cup Final is bound to be remembered as Gerry Francis's match but, whilst the South African wizard was at his brilliant best, it was much more than that. The only disappointments were the weather and the effect it had on the crowd of just 2,000. There had been rain storms throughout Kent during the morning and another just prior to the kick off made the playing surface wet and slippery and the centre circle a quagmire.

The Tonbridge supporters, many of whom had made the trip to Gillingham in a convoy of coaches and double decker buses, fretted for the first 10 minutes as the Angels were pinned in their own half but this was to be the only serious spell of Bexley pressure during the game and, significantly, during this period, Crump was not tested. After some recent hectic league activity, Crump was at last able to enjoy a restful afternoon. It did not take Tonbridge long to break the early stranglehold and they soon began to put together smooth, controlled, flowing football that made a mockery of the treacherous conditions.

Bobby Taylor



Bobby Taylor joined Tonbridge in July 1964 and stayed at the club for six seasons making 405 appearances and scoring 115 goals.

Taylor was born in Croydon on 16th March 1936 and was with Fulham as an amateur before signing for Crystal Palace in 1954, for whom he made two Football League appearances. In September 1956 he was transferred to Gillingham. Pictured alongside another ex-Tonbridge favourite, Ron Saunders, Taylor was described as a steady and

reliable half-back, he made 31 Football League appearances for the Gills with his last appearance being at Millwall, the club he was next to join in the summer of 1959. His season at the Den was unproductive, making just two appearances before slipping into non-league with Dartford. He stayed three seasons at Watling Street before arriving at the Angel Ground, the place that he really made home during his career. He made his debut on the opening game of the 1964/65 season against Cambridge City, opening his account with a goal in a 4-1 win and going on to score a total of 37 goals in his first season. During his time at the club, he was a member of the 1965 Kent Senior Cup winning side and also collected a winner's medal in the Kent Floodlight Cup of 1967. His time at Tonbridge turned full circle when he made his 400th appearance against Cambridge City before retiring at the end of the season to become a scout for Sheffield Wednesday.

At the Club's 40th anniversary celebration in 1988, Bobby Taylor is seventh from the left in the back row



The players seemed to throw off the cares of their league programme and relaxed to give their supporters the kind of skilful exhibition that we had scarcely seen since the promotion season. Skipper Carolan led the way with his usual shrewd prompting from the right back position. Bowman's controlled football was a prominent feature whilst Truett, at his most forceful, spent much of the game as a sixth forward although, for once, he had left his shooting boots at home. Jones led the line with verve and skill

and Francis, finding that the orchestra and chorus were hitting all the right notes, took over the centre stage to give a virtuoso performance.

The first goal arrived after 28 minutes. Carolan made an interception near the half-way line and ran down the right wing before sending a long, raking pass straight to Francis who drove a swerving shot into the net from 20 yards. Six minutes later Wright, after one of several good runs down the left, put over a beautifully judged

centre for Kemp to score with a skilful glancing header. After the interval Tonbridge continued to stroke the ball around at times toying with their demoralised opponents. Only some careless finishing and the acrobatic goalkeeping of Ray O'Dell kept the score respectable. It was quite astonishing, in view of Tonbridge's almost total command that we had to wait until three minutes from time for the third goal. It was however a goal that was worth waiting for, another Francis special. There did not appear to be any danger when he received the ball, on the edge of the penalty area surrounded by three defenders, but a couple of half swivels and a quick shuffle nullified the close attention of his opponents and his shot rocketed past the valiant O'Dell. It was the perfect end to a wonderful display of football from the entire Tonbridge team which was: Cump, Carolan, Lovell, Truett, Kilford, Bowman, Francis, Kemp, Jones, Taylor, Wright.

All that remained now was for Joe Carolan to collect the cup and for the celebrations to begin. No one was more delighted than our loyal and munificent chairman Stanley Berwick who said afterwards: "The whole team played very well. I am very pleased with their performance. It is our third time in the Final and we have succeeded at last."

The celebrations had to be brief, however, for Tonbridge were still engaged in a fight to stay in the Premier Division. Although the Angels had often looked equal to the better sides in the division, injuries, a crowded fixture list, a small squad, and the old fault of inconsistency had combined to make it a difficult season back in the higher echelon. In the end Tonbridge saved themselves, a little more comfortably than the two point margin over 19th placed Wisbech suggests, finishing 16th on 36 points from 42 games. One felt that there was such a small gap between being a struggling side and a solid mid-table one in what was a most competitive league. Of Tonbridge's 16 defeats, nine were by a single goal margin, disappointingly, only Hastings had fewer victories than the Angels 10. Tonbridge were the draw champions

with 16 of their league fixtures finishing all square but if too many points were dropped at home (W9 D7 L5) the away record with only one win in 21 attempts helped to keep the Blues in the lower half of the table.

It all started so promisingly with a confident 4-1 win over Cambridge City. Taylor and Jones managed a goal each on their respective debuts, with O'Donnell and Wright completing the scoring. Two days later the same team (Crump, Carolan, Lovell, Bowman, Kilford, Truett, Francis, Taylor, Jones, O'Donnell, Wright) travelled to Chelmsford and put up an even better performance to share four goals with the powerful Essex side in a game that was a superb advertisement for Southern League football. Several Tonbridge supporters were evident in the crowd of 3,800 and they saw Wesley Maughan round off a four man move to give the home side a 25th minute lead. Within 60 seconds Danny O'Donnell dribbled round two defenders to equalise. Just after the interval Tony Nicholas restored Chelmsford's lead but in the 56th minute Geoff Truett equalised from the penalty spot after Allan Jones, having another impressive game, had been brought down. A splendid match ended with the Angels pressing strongly and give good cause for an optimistic outlook on the season ahead.

The following Saturday a youthful group of Tonbridge supporters marched from Guildford Station to Joseph's Road, carrying banners, ringing bells and shaking rattles in a blue and white procession. Unfortunately the "Blue and Whites" on the field were somewhat lethargic until the last five minutes, when goals from Taylor and Carolan, sparked a late rally which caused some alarm in the home defence but it was not quite enough to cancel out the three goal deficit. Bexley United were easily disposed of in the Southern League Cup. Danny O'Donnell leading the way with three goals as they were crushed 6-1 at the Angel, a goalless draw in the away leg being quite sufficient, but they gained quick revenge with a 3-0 league victory at Welling. There was another goal feast when Ashford came

to the Angel Ground for a Kent Senior Shield match and were beaten by eight goals to three. This time Allan Jones scored three times and Billy Wright twice with one each from Taylor, Truett and Francis.

The return match with Chelmsford provided plenty of excitement without ever equalling the classic encounter at New Writtle Street. Jones opened the scoring in the ninth minute and after Brennan and Wilson had put the visitors ahead, Taylor converted Truett's cross to bring the scores level before half-time. The second half developed into a real roughhouse as Tonbridge continually pressed forward only to be foiled by Owen Medlock's fine goalkeeping, or else be brutally chopped down by the Chelmsford defenders. Weak refereeing led to retaliation and football gradually became a secondary consideration. Tommy Wilson broke away to score the winner in the 75th minute to complete a rather frustrating evening for Tonbridge.

A week later, 2,433, the best home attendance so far this season, saw another five goal thriller only this time two goals from Jones and one from Truett kept the points at home. Star attraction was the visitor's goalkeeper, Bert Trautmann who had come out of retirement to help Wellington whilst their keeper was on the injured list. The great German soon showed that he had lost none of his skill and capped a fine display by saving a Geoff Truett penalty. Unfortunately he blotted his copybook a few minutes before the end when he was sent off for arguing with the referee. 3-2 was reversed again at Wisbech where goals from Taylor and Jones were once again squandered. Goals were being conceded far too readily and two more were conceded, in the first half, at Kings Lynn. This time there was some excuse as Gerry Francis had to leave the field after only five minutes, with a pulled muscle, and a magnificent second half performance brought home a much needed point.

Four consecutive home league games produced two wins and two draws, considerably improving the Angels' league position. The injury to Francis

**Monday, 19th April 1965 – Kent Senior Cup Final – Attendance: 2,020
Tonbridge (2) 3 (Francis 26,87 Kemp 34) Bexley United (0) 0**

The Kent Senior Cup rests at Tonbridge for the first time in its long history. The Angels, playing delightful football on a slippery wet ground at Gillingham on Easter Monday used their experience to overcome the conditions and at the same time made Bexley United look like novices.

Apart from the first few minutes they dictated the style and speed of the game and held a well-deserved 2-0 lead at the interval, scoring the third goal three minutes from the end after a period in which they toyed with their opponents from North Kent.

Heavy storms during the morning – there was one just before the game started – made a treacherous playing surface with the centre inches deep in mud, yet Tonbridge, overcoming a bad beginning when they, like Bexley, booted the ball high and often, settled down to play skilfully and attractively to please their section of the 2,000 crowd. And Bexley supporters, albeit grudgingly, had to admit that the Angels showed the better football.

Striking the ball between themselves, the Tonbridge players almost strolled their way through the game, so confident and so much better than their opponents were they. They scored three goals – they should have had six.

Bexley started well, but to the chagrin of their fans, fell right away and rarely put in a constructive move. On a few occasions they reached the Tonbridge penalty area but had barely a shot between them.

Tonbridge opened the scoring in the 26th minute when Joe Carolan took the ball right up the field before putting it through the centre to Gerry Francis who confused the Bexley defence by his wanderings. From a range of 20 yards he drove a swerving shot into the Bexley net. Then, in the 34th minute, Billy Wright, who was always making useful runs down the left wing put across a perfect centre for Ray Kemp to glance the ball off his head into the net.

From then on it was obvious that the writing was on the wall for Bexley and there must have been occasions when their defence must have wondered how Allan Jones, Bobby Taylor and Gerry Francis missed other goals while acrobatic Ray O'Dell stopped other shots from hitting the net.

But he could not stop Francis from scoring the third three minutes from the end. The winger cleverly tricked three opponents on the edge of the penalty area before shooting and the ball flew into the goal like a rocket.

A delighted Stanley Berwick, chairman of the Tonbridge club, said after the game: "The whole team played very well; I am very pleased with their performance.

"It was our third time in the final and we have succeeded at last."

Said Mr Harry Haslam, the club manager: The lads played very well indeed, there was no doubt about it. It was a day when the tension was off and they could play in their own way.



"I don't think anybody can be disappointed at the result.'

The last time Tonbridge progressed to the final was in 1959/60 when they lost to Ashford 2-1. In 1956/57 they were beaten by Folkestone. Bexley United, as Bexleyheath and Welling, was in it for the first time in 1960.

As for the final attendance figure was concerned it was poor, only 2,070 spectators paying for admission, but the stormy weather probably had something to do with it.

There was champagne in the dressing room to fill the cup at the conclusion of the game; later the players had a quiet celebration at headquarters.

brought a first team recall for Ray Kemp and a mediocre Rugby were comfortably beaten by four goals to one. A 2-2 draw against Romford was a creditable performance as Allan Jones was no more than a passenger after injuring his knee in the 40th minute and four goals were also shared with Dartford when Joe Carolan made his 150th consecutive first team appearance.

Gus Simmons took over at outside right against Bath City and scored with a fine header as Tonbridge won by that favourite 3-2 score. Right back for Bath was Jimmy Upton, Gus's former rival for the number two shirt at Tonbridge.

In the meantime Tonbridge had been knocked out of the Southern League Cup by a very impressive Wimbledon, making their first ever visit to the Angel Ground. The 2-0 score was not a very true reflection of an exciting match but missed chances and a string of brilliant saves by the Dons young goalkeeper Mike Kelly proved crucial. On the subject of goalkeepers, during this month of October, Tony Burns made his Football League debut for Arsenal whilst Mick Gevaux, now happily recovered from last season's dreadful injury, made an impressive first team debut for Tonbridge in the Kent Floodlight League match at Sheppey. Another debutant in this game was full back Mick Cawley.

The month ended with an extraordinary match at Margate. The first 75 minutes were rather pedestrian as Margate built up a two goal lead and the home side appeared to be strolling to a fairly comfortable victory but suddenly the Angels sparked into life, goals from Jones and Wright bringing the scores level. Then, in the 88th minute, came the explosion with an amazing free-for-all in the Tonbridge penalty area after a home forward appeared to clash with Fred Crump. As the ensuing melee eventually cleared, Joe Carolan, who had seemed to be acting as peacemaker, was sent off together with Margate's Arthur Blackley. Seconds later they were followed into the dressing room by Andy Bowman and then Laurie Thomson, Margate's skilful inside forward, was

also dismissed for continuing to argue with the referee. There was much controversy over the referee's handling of the affair. He did not appear to note the names of the players that he dismissed and there were allegations of mistaken identity. After an FA inquiry into the incident both Carolan and Bowman were completely exonerated.

Having climbed into ninth position with 13 points from the same number of games, November saw the Angels drop six places with just one point from four league games. Incidentally from these first 13 games, Tonbridge had scored 30 goals, the highest total in the Premier Division, but only bottom placed Rugby had conceded more than Tonbridge's 28. Dismal November brought only four goals with another 11 being conceded. Gerry Francis returned to first team duty but both Wright and Jones missed matches with niggling injuries and Joe Carolan had a spell leading the attack, whilst O'Donnell was left out after a disappointing run. A very poor display at the Angel allowed Folkestone to take away both points, by the odd goal in three, whilst a 1-1 draw with Cambridge United was sandwiched between 4-1 defeats at Worcester and Cheltenham. A 5-1 win over Gravesend in the Kent Floodlight League and the Reserves 5-3 victory over league leaders Folkestone were the only bright spots of the month during which Alan Shackleton, sidelined for most of the season, had a cartilage removed.

With skipper Carolan joining the injury list, Ray Kemp returned to the forward line for the visit of Nuneaton who were convincingly beaten 3-0 on a very heavy pitch. Kemp, Jones and Taylor scored the goals and at last the defence kept a clean sheet in a league match. Kemp scored again the following week to win a point from a fine match at Cambridge City. On the same day the Reserves beat Canterbury 5-2 with two goals from Danny O'Donnell and one each from Gus Simmons, Mick Cawley and John Warplington. Outside left Warplington and Billy Burke, a strapping young wing half, made their first team debuts against Ramsgate in the Kent

Floodlight League, Burke scoring a spectacular goal in the 3-0 win. Taylor scored to earn a point from a rather dour game against Guildford. The match at Bedford on Boxing Day was anything but dour as both defences appeared to be in the festive mood. Gerry Francis scored twice for Tonbridge with Bedford's highly promising young goalkeeper Derek Bellotti at fault on both occasions. Unfortunately the Angels gave home centre forward Ray Bailey the freedom of Bedford on a couple of occasions but a draw was a fair result to an entertaining match. Two days later Tonbridge slithered to a 3-1 defeat at the Angel Ground where Bedford seemed to keep their feet much better on an icy pitch and Bellotti had a blinder.

Tonbridge finished 1964 in 14th position (P22 W5 D9 L8 F41 A45 Pts 19) four points clear of 19th placed Wisbech but having played one game more. January started with a creditable draw at Wellington and continued with a most unlucky 1-0 defeat after a spirited and skilful display at Yeovil.

A week later Bexley United visited the Angel Ground and the result was the same, a 1-0 defeat, but there the similarity ended for this was a woeful performance against mediocre opposition. This gave Bexley the double over Tonbridge and yet in three cup meetings the Blues gained two convincing victories and a draw. Burke and Warplington made their Southern League debuts at Dartford in a rather strange looking side with both Truett and Carolan in the forward line. Makeshift centre forward Truett gave the Angels a first minute lead but the "Darts" came back strongly for a comfortable 3-1 win. Tonbridge had sunk to 18th position in a table that looked like this.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
15th Bedford	26	8	7	11	36	51	23
16th Hastings	22	7	8	7	38	37	22
17th Folkestone	24	7	7	10	42	53	20
18th Tonbridge	26	5	10	11	43	51	20
19th Rugby	25	8	4	13	44	64	20
20th Wellington	25	5	7	13	37	49	17
21st Wisbech	25	7	3	15	46	64	17
22nd Bath	23	5	1	17	27	49	11

The position had become serious and with attendances falling, financial problems had once again begun to rear their ugly head, but, as so often happens, with fortunes appearing at their lowest ebb, the Angels bounced back with successive home wins. The first was a particularly stirring performance as revenge was gained against Yeovil after another fine match with the Somerset side. Both goals were scored by Carolan who continued in the forward line although Truett reverted to left half with Wright returning to outside left. The skipper put Tonbridge ahead after eight minutes hooking in a Francis corner but Hall equalised before the interval. In the 57th minute, Yeovil goalkeeper Jones could only push out Wright's fierce shot and it was Carolan again who was in the right place to score the winner. A week later Jones, Taylor and Wright were the scorers as Wisbech were beaten by the odd goal in five. Carolan and Jones scored a brace each as Dover were thrashed 5-0 in the Floodlight League and, after a disappointing 1-0 defeat at Rugby, February ended with a comfortable home win over Kings Lynn, Francis and Carolan scoring a goal each without reply.

During this month Stanley Berwick made a public appeal for financial help and the Tonbridge Urban Council turned down a bid for the Angel Ground from an unnamed development company.

The Reserves finished their league programme with a 5-0 win over Sheppey. David Crush scoring three and Ray Kemp two, consolidating their runners-up position. They made it 18 goals in three games with cup victories, at Sittingbourne 4-0, Kemp 2, O'Donnell and Crush and 9-3 at home to Ashford.

A hectic March began with a trip to Romford where, after a very fine game of football, the Angels were desperately unlucky not to break their duck in the Southern League away wins column. The experienced Jim Towers, who had nearly joined Tonbridge 18 months previously, put the home side ahead after 14 minutes but it was the "boys in

blue" who began to impress with their controlled flowing football. Billy Wright was extremely unlucky when his shot hit the inside of the far post and came out to be scrambled away whilst Allan Jones could hardly believe it when his first class effort hit the underside of the crossbar and bounced down and out. Bobby Taylor equalised in the 69th minute, and with both sides putting the emphasis on skill, the entertainment was first rate, but it was Joe Carolan who came nearest to scoring the winner when his shot clipped the outside of a post. Just as we prepared to settle for a point the good work was nearly undone when Andy Bowman, who had been in outstanding form of late, was penalised for handball in the last minute. Every Tonbridge supporter breathed a sigh of relief when Towers, such a reliable finisher, shot the penalty tamely at Crump. Tonbridge were now one of three clubs, Cheltenham and Rugby were the others, on 27 points, one point ahead of 19th placed Bexley, who had slipped down after a dreadful run but still had games in hand. Wellington were trailing by a further three points whilst Wisbech and Bath were now in deep trouble in the bottom two places. A point above Tonbridge stood Cambridge City and Hastings, who had now used up their games in hand without gaining any ground. On 29 points were Folkestone and Kings Lynn whilst Bedford, after a tremendous run had climbed into the top half of the table.

Three matches in 10 days against Deal, two of them in the Floodlight League, produced three wins for Tonbridge with a 20-8 goal aggregate. The first meeting at the Angel saw the Blues storm to a 9-2 victory with three goals from Francis, two each for Jones and Truett, a rare one from Bowman and another for Carolan. Then came the 4-1 Kent Senior Cup win and the return Floodlight League match at Deal brought an incredible 7-5 score after a rough, tough battle during which Joe Carolan sustained a badly bruised chest and Gerry Francis had his nose broken. Both players were forced to miss the vital league match at Folkestone two days later which meant first team recalls for Ray Kemp

and Danny O'Donnell, who was now on the transfer list at his own request. Wind, rain and mud were much in evidence but it did not seem to matter when Truett took Lovell's pass to put Tonbridge ahead in the 10th minute. Within a minute the team had to be further reshuffled when Gus Simmons had to go on the wing after being injured in a collision with Crump. Once again adversity brought out the best in the Angels and never was that old cliché "an all round team effort" more appropriate as everyone got down to the job in hand. Folkestone seldom looked likely to equalise and when Kemp made it 2-0 just before the close it was no more than the brave Blues deserved. So the first away Southern League win of the season had been achieved at last, on 20th March, in the most unpromising of circumstances, and against Folkestone, of all people, who had recorded six consecutive victories over Tonbridge. It was a fitting reward, however, for 90 minutes hard work and a fitting reward for three Tonbridge supporters, Trevor Long, Andy Guile and Graham Perry, who had run from Tonbridge to Folkestone in an attempt to raise money for the club. Trevor Long later became chairman of the Supporters Club. He certainly deserved a chair after that.

Despite a bruise on his back the size of a dinner plate, Gus Simmons took his place in the side to play Margate, two days later in the Floodlight League so the same 11 players lined up again although it took some believing as they crashed to a record 9-4 home defeat. Certainly conditions were even worse than those at Folkestone with a near gale force wind blowing straight down the pitch. With it behind them, Tonbridge raced to a 3-1 lead in the first half-hour but, after a floodlight failure which nearly caused an abandonment, Margate stormed through in the second half. With a driving wind and rain in their faces the Tonbridge defence could find little resistance and Margate centre forward John Ballagher scored four of their goals.

A star-studded Worcester side came to the Angel and without showing any of the attacking flair expected of

them ground out a dull 1-1 draw. On the same day the Reserves went to Folkestone and, against the Thames and Medway Combination champions secured a remarkable victory in the Kent Intermediate Cup with a goal from Derek Jones taking the young Angels through to the final. Back to the important task of gathering Southern League points and after a midweek trip to Cambridge United brought a 3-2 defeat, a goalless draw away to the league leaders Weymouth was a splendid result. A Geoff Truett penalty was enough to give the Angels victory at home to Cheltenham and the Easter programme began with the table looking like this.

	P	F	A	Pts
16th Tonbridge	36	58	61	33
17th Wellington	38	58	68	32
18th Rugby	37	62	84	31
19th Bexley	35	59	62	29
20th Hastings	35	49	67	29
21st Wisbech	36	61	82	25
22nd Bath	37	48	77	23

The sun shone on Good Friday for the visit of Hastings but this game never reached great heights, goals from Francis and Taylor giving Tonbridge a share off the spoils, but wind and rain returned for the trip to Nuneaton where the Angels were well beaten by four clear goals. Then came the Easter Monday Kent Senior Cup triumph. Tonbridge were still in 16th place with four games left and three points needed, at this stage, to be sure of avoiding relegation. The first of them was gained with goals from Jones and Taylor, at home to Weymouth, whose point was good enough to clinch the league championship. 2-1 defeats at Bath and at home to Margate kept us guessing but, in the event, a point at Hastings, once again Jones and Taylor scoring, proved sufficient to keep Premier Division football in Tonbridge.

Bobby Taylor and Allan Jones with 38 and 37 goals respectively came very near to breaking Kevin McCurley's scoring record. Geoff Truett capped another fine season with 20, Joe Carolan 18, Ray Kemp 15, Gerry Francis 14 and Billy Wright 10, being the other main contributors. Joe Carolan was voted Player of the Season by the supporters, a fitting reward for his

unstinting efforts. He had played in the forward line and at wing half as well as his usual right back position and had often turned out when less than fully fit. His partner Peter Lovell had another splendid season as did wing halves Andy Bowman and Geoff Truett.

Twelve of the club's 14 professionals were retained with just Alan Shackleton and Danny O'Donnell being released. "Shack", a great character, had scored several vital goals during his first two seasons at Tonbridge but injury had prevented him from playing any more than one reserve team game during the 1964/65 season, so Alan had to call it a day. O'Donnell made 108 first team appearances in his two seasons, scoring 24 goals and will be remembered for the part he played in the club's promotion season. An exciting player on his day, O'Donnell's skill was never in doubt but he lost form during the first half of the season and after being dropped, never looked the same player again.

Three players, Andy Bowman, Billy Wright and Gerry Francis, failed to agree terms and left the club. Bowman

returned north of the border and signed for Hamilton Academical, newly promoted to the Scottish First Division, where he was joined by Willie Hinshelwood. The "Accies" results were followed avidly by Tonbridge supporters throughout the next season but unfortunately the presence of these two "old Angels" was unable to prevent Hamilton from making a quick return to the Second Division. Wright joined Bexley United, who probably remembered the fine match that he had against them in the Kent Senior Cup Final.

There were rumours of a Millwall interest in Francis but nothing came of it and, incredibly, he never played serious professional football again. It was said, by some, that he had priced himself out of the game but whatever the truth it was a sad waste of talent and a tragic loss to football. Later he was reported to be working as a postman in London. Maybe Gerry had just grown tired of football. His three years with Tonbridge were dotted with magical moments from an unforgettable and uniquely exciting footballer.

Southern League First Division 1964/65

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GA	Pts
1	Weymouth	42	24	8	10	99	50	1.98	56
2	Guildford City	42	21	12	9	73	49	1.49	54
3	Worcester City	42	22	6	14	100	62	1.61	50
4	Yeovil Town	42	18	14	10	76	55	1.38	50
5	Chelmsford City	42	21	8	13	86	77	1.12	50
6	Margate	42	20	9	13	88	79	1.11	49
7	Dartford	42	17	11	14	74	64	1.16	45
8	Nuneaton Borough	42	19	7	16	57	55	1.04	45
9	Cambridge United	42	16	11	15	78	66	1.18	43
10	Bedford Town	42	17	9	16	66	70	0.94	43
11	Cambridge City	42	16	9	17	72	69	1.04	41
12	Cheltenham Town	42	15	11	16	72	78	0.92	41
13	Folkestone Town	42	17	7	18	72	79	0.91	41
14	Romford	42	17	7	18	61	70	0.87	41
15	King's Lynn	42	13	13	16	56	79	0.71	39
16	Tonbridge	42	10	16	16	66	75	0.88	36
17	Wellington Town	42	13	10	19	63	78	0.81	36
18	Rugby Town	42	15	6	21	71	98	0.72	36
19	Wisbech Town	42	14	6	22	75	91	0.82	34
20	Bexley United	42	14	5	23	67	74	0.91	33
21	Hastings United	42	9	14	19	58	86	0.67	32
22	Bath City	42	13	3	26	60	86	0.7	29

Southern League First Division 1963/64

Date	Opponents	@	Comp	Res	Att	Pos	Goalscorers
Sat 22/08/1964	Cambridge City	H	SL	W 4 1	2088	2	Taylor, O'Donnell, Jones, Wright
Mon 24/08/1964	Chelmsford City	a	SL	D 2 2	3825		O'Donnell, Truett pen
Sat 29/08/1964	Guildford City	H	SL	L 2 3	2781	9	Carolan, Taylor
Mon 31/08/1964	Bexley United	H	SLC	1i W 6 1	1739		Taylor, O'Donnell 2, McNeice og, Jones, Wright
Sat 05/09/1964	Tunbridge Wells Rangers	a	FAC	1Q W 3 1	2200	12	Jones 2, Taylor
Mon 07/09/1964	Bexley United	a	SLC	1ii D 0 0	1001		
Sat 12/09/1964	Bexley United	a	SL	L 0 3	1862	13	
Mon 14/09/1964	Ashford Town	H	KSS	QF W 8 3			Jones 4, Truett, Wright 2, Francis
Wed 16/09/1964	Chelmsford City	H	SL	L 2 3	2165		Jones, Taylor
Sat 19/09/1964	Eastbourne Town	H	FAC	2Q W 2 0	1872	20	Jones, Taylor
Wed 23/09/1964	Wellington Town	H	SL	W 3 2	2433		Jones 2, Truett
Sat 26/09/1964	Wisbech Town	a	SL	L 2 3	1339	17	Jones, Taylor
Wed 30/09/1964	King's Lynn	a	SL	D 2 2	1883		Taylor, Kemp
Sat 03/10/1964	Hastings United	H	FAC	3Q W 3 0	3484	18	Taylor, Truett pen, Brown og
Mon 05/10/1964	Rugby Town	H	SL	W 4 1	1926		Jones, Kemp 2, Truett pen
Wed 07/10/1964	Dartford	a	KFC	L 2 6	1208		Taylor, Kemp
Sat 10/10/1964	Romford	H	SL	D 2 2	1901	15	Taylor 2
Mon 12/10/1964	Wimbledon	H	SLC	2 L 0 2	1821		
Wed 14/10/1964	Sheppey United	a	KFC	L 1 2	600		Taylor
Sat 17/10/1964	Dartford	a	FAC	4Q L 1 3	2911	15	Wright
Thu 22/10/1964	Dartford	H	SL	D 2 2	1609		Jones, Taylor
Sat 24/10/1964	Bath City	H	SL	W 3 2	1668		Truett, Taylor, Simmons
Mon 26/10/1964	Ashford Town	H	KFC	D 2 2	1231		Truett, Jones
Sat 31/10/1964	Margate	a	SL	D 2 2	1827	9	Wright, Jones
Mon 02/11/1964	Hastings United	a	KFC	W 2 1			Kemp, Taylor
Sat 07/11/1964	Folkestone Town	H	SL	L 1 2	1756	11	Taylor
Mon 09/11/1964	Canterbury City	H	KFC	W 3 1			Truett, O'Donnell, Taylor
Sat 14/11/1964	Worcester City	a	SL	L 1 4	2516	12	Carolan
Mon 16/11/1964	Folkestone Town	H	KFC	L 0 1			
Sat 21/11/1964	Cambridge United	H	SL	D 1 1			Carolan
Mon 23/11/1964	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	KFC	W 5 1			Taylor 3, Carolan 2
Sat 28/11/1964	Cheltenham Town	a	SL	L 1 4	1218	15	Jones
Mon 30/11/1964	Ashford Town	a	KFC	W 4 2	327		Kemp 2, Wright, Jones
Sat 05/12/1964	Nuneaton Borough	H	SL	W 3 0	973	12	Jones, Kemp, Taylor
Mon 07/12/1964	Hastings United	H	KFC	L 0 1			
Sat 12/12/1964	Cambridge City	a	SL	D 1 1	2648	10	Kemp
Mon 14/12/1964	Ramsgate Athletic	H	KFC	W 3 0	557		Taylor, Burke, Kemp
Sat 19/12/1964	Guildford City	H	SL	D 1 1	1349	9	Taylor
Sat 26/12/1964	Bedford Town	a	SL	D 2 2	2268		Francis 2
Mon 28/12/1964	Bedford Town	H	SL	L 1 3			Jones
Sat 02/01/1965	Wellington Town	a	SL	D 1 1	1729	15	Jones
Mon 04/01/1965	Sheppey United	H	KFC	W 1 0	571		O'Donnell
Sat 09/01/1965	Yeovil Town	a	SL	L 0 1	2274	17	
Sat 16/01/1965	Bexley United	H	SL	L 0 1	1049	18	
Mon 18/01/1965	Dartford	H	KFC	W 4 2	850		Taylor, Carolan 3
Sat 23/01/1965	Dartford	a	SL	L 1 3	1642	18	Truett
Tue 26/01/1965	Gravesend & Northfleet	a	KFC	W 3 2			Truett, Francis, Taylor
Sat 30/01/1965	Yeovil Town	H	SL	W 2 1	976	16	Carolan 2
Tue 02/02/1965	Ramsgate Athletic	a	KFC	L 0 2	436		
Sat 06/02/1965	Wisbech Town	H	SL	W 3 2	1159	15	Wright, Carolan, Jones
Mon 08/02/1965	Dover	H	KFC	W 5 0	744		Carolan 3, Jones 2
Sat 13/02/1965	Rugby Town	a	SL	L 0 1	870	18	
Wed 17/02/1965	Folkestone Town	a	KFC	L 1 3			Taylor
Sat 20/02/1965	Dartford	H	KSC	2 W 4 2	890		Carolan, Jones 2, Taylor
Sat 27/02/1965	King's Lynn	H	SL	W 2 0	1165	17	Carolan, Francis
Mon 01/03/1965	Romford	a	SL	D 1 1			Taylor
Wed 03/03/1965	Dover	a	KFC	D 1 1	400		Jones
Mon 08/03/1965	Deal Town	H	KFC	W 9 2	560		Francis 3, Jones 2, Bowman, Carolan, Truett 2
Sat 13/03/1965	Deal Town	H	KSC	3 W 4 1		16	Jones 2, Francis 2
Thu 18/03/1965	Deal Town	a	KFC	W 7 5			Jones, Taylor 3, Truett 2, Bowman
Sat 20/03/1965	Folkestone Town	a	SL	W 2 0			Truett, Kemp
Mon 22/03/1965	Margate	H	KFC	L 4 9			Wright, Truett 2, Kemp
Sat 27/03/1965	Worcester City	H	SL	D 1 1	1179		Taylor
Mon 29/03/1965	Margate	a	KFC	L 1 4	1370		Jones
Wed 31/03/1965	Cambridge United	a	SL	L 2 3			Truett, Francis
Sat 03/04/1965	Ramsgate Athletic	a	KSC	SF W 2 1	871		Kilford, Taylor
Wed 07/04/1965	Weymouth	a	SL	D 0 0	2588		
Sat 10/04/1965	Cheltenham Town	H	SL	W 1 0	1221		Truett
Fri 16/04/1965	Hastings United	H	SL	D 2 2	1981		Francis, Kemp
Sat 17/04/1965	Nuneaton Borough	a	SL	L 0 4	1887	16	
Mon 19/04/1965	Bexley United	N	KSC	FINAL W 3 0	2020		Francis 2, Kemp
Sat 24/04/1965	Weymouth	H	SL	D 2 2	1583		Jones, Taylor
Mon 26/04/1965	Bath City	a	SL	L 1 2	886		Francis
Thu 29/04/1965	Margate	H	SL	L 1 2	1436		Taylor
Fri 30/04/1965	Canterbury City	a	KFC	W 2 1			Kilford 2
Sat 01/05/1965	Hastings United	a	SL	D 2 2	717		Jones, Kemp
Mon 03/05/1965	Folkestone Town	a	KSS	SF L 1 3			Truett pen

Southern League First Division

Name	SL	FAC	SLC	KSC	KSS	KFC	Total	Goals	Career Apps	Career Goals
Birrell,						1	1		1	
Bowman, Andy	41	4	3	4	2	21	75	2	141	3
Burke, Bill	2					3	5	1	5	1
Carolan, Joe	38	4	3	4	2	17	68	17	192	19
Cawley, Mick						1	1		1	
Crump, Fred	42	4	3	4	2	19	74	(11)	221	
Francis, Gerry	33	2	2	4	1	15	57	15	174	61
Gevaux, Pat						3	3	(1)	3	
Hailstones, Bob						1	1		402	6
Histed,						1	1		1	
Jones, Allan	40	3	2	4	2	18	69	36	69	36
Jones, Derek	1						1		1	
Kemp, Ray	20	2	1	2	1	12	38	15	155	79
Kilford, John	38	4	3	4	2	19	70	3	185	16
Lovell, Peter	42	4	3	4	2	20	75		369	
O'Donnell, Danny	20	4	3		1	10	38	6	104	26
Simmons, Gus	23	1	1	2	1	22	50	1	164	4
Taylor, Bobby	42	4	3	4	2	20	75	36	75	36
Truett, Geoff	42	4	3	4	2	19	74	20	197	59
Warplington, John	1					4	5		5	
Waters, Dave						1	1		2	
Wright, Billy	37	4	3	4	2	14	64	9	145	37

() = clean sheets

+2 own goals

