

... potential to be a great club

# GILLS START TO RE-BUILD

FRANCE

... people still deeply interested



GILLINGHAM Manager Mr. Basil Hayward travelled north on a signing mission this week when he hoped to pick up his first player to boost the team for next season.

The man he went to see late on Wednesday was the player who came to Priestfield Stadium a couple of weeks ago to talk terms. He is a defender and, although Mr. Hayward could not disclose his name, he is understood to be in Second Division football, is 21 and has been watched closely by the Gills' boss for some time.

Other clubs have shown an interest in the player and this is

probably the cause of the delay in Mr. Hayward signing him. But the fact that the manager took the trouble to go north this week is optimistic.

If Mr. Hayward is successful — the result of his trip was not due until last night (Thursday) — it will be the first of three signings he hopes to make before the start of the season.

Gillingham Football Club with a gala event—probably at the stadium—before the beginning of the season.

The exact form it will take has not yet been decided, but a meeting to thrash out details is being held within the next few days. It could be a big all-day family fete or, if there is no time to arrange it, the club will play host for a big

thing the club needs.

"Gillingham has the potential to be a really great club," he added, "and this sort of enthusiasm could be the answer to our problems."

## BIG FUTURE

"A club in Kent will become very big in the near future," must happen. And Gillingham is, up to now, ahead of the rest," commented Mr. Hayward. "If support can be found like this not only in the stadium but outside it, I am sure Gillingham has a very good chance. It's surprising how even the smallest fund-raising scheme can make all the difference."

Work is also going ahead on the proposed bar and social facilities under the main stand. Mr. Arthur Denness, of the Blue and Whites, is doing the conversion work and the club is optimistic about it being opened for the season.

One idea the club has in mind is to fit the bar out comfortably so that it can be used as a vice-presidents club and linked with a season-ticket scheme to give holders the social facilities for before and after the match, a seat in the stand and their own reserved car parking space.

The Blue and Whites will be holding their annual meeting at the Beacon Court, Gillingham, on 8 July.

## Anniversary gala should boost support

He is looking for a striker and the gap left by the surprise sacking of Bill Brown — his key provider last term — will mean searching for a creator of goals who can emulate Brown's midfield artistry.

Plans were laid this week to celebrate the 75th anniversary of

gala evening. Whichever event is decided upon, it will be linked with an attractive football match.

Permission has been granted by the club to the Blue and Whites supporting organization and on Tuesday evening club chairman, Dr. C. S. Grossmark, and manager, Mr. Basil Hayward, went to a meeting where they heard the plans.

If the all-day fete is possible, it will probably take the form of a family afternoon with sideshows and other attractions for parents and children on the large hard-based car park, plus a limited number of events in the stadium itself. The use of the pitch will naturally have to be restricted because of the forthcoming season, but seating accommodation can be used for big-scale bingo sessions.

The early part of the evening will then be taken up with the match and this will be followed by an open-air barbecue and dance on the car park.

Failing this, the Blue and Whites will arrange an evening dance and social event either in the open or at a local hotel to follow a match.

## THE PROSPECTS

"We would very much like to go for the bigger event as this would be more appropriate to mark the anniversary," said Blue and White chairman Mr. Harold France this week.

"If we can make a go of this we will have the foundations for really doing something for the club. It could be the start of a much wider social life around the club and, if we have the support it deserves, there is no telling where it might lead us."

"Gates at the stadium over the past season may have dropped but we are convinced there are a lot of people still deeply interested in the club."

"It has had a comparatively successful season and I am sure there are people who realize that out of the 92 clubs in the league there are really only eight winners. The rest are also-rans and supporters must be prepared to accept this," said Mr. France.

Later, Mr. Hayward commented on the enthusiasm the organizers had shown over the plans.

"They seemed very willing to get on with the job and, of course, I and the players will give them the fullest support," he said.

"This could be just the sort of



## Blue and Whites expand

ALTHOUGH the Blue and Whites had a disappointing 1967-68 season, members of the Gillingham F.C. supporting organization were told at their annual meeting on Monday that plans were well in hand to give activities a boost in the coming weeks.

Biggest task at the moment was the organizing of the Gala Day at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday, 3 August. Chairman Mr. Harold France said: "We desperately need people who are willing to help run the stalls. I am sure that there are many around who would genuinely like to help the club and we hope they will contact us as soon as possible."

A great deal of equipment has been offered by Gillingham Church, Wakeley Road School and other organizations and the only problem now is the manning of the stalls.

Attractions already being lined up are a sheepdog demonstration, all-in wrestling and fire-fighting.

Anyone interested in helping can contact Mr. France at his home, 6 Elham Close, Twydall, or Blue and Whites' Secretary Mr. Eddie Dodge, of 171 Trevor Drive, Allington Park, Maidstone.

Another scheme in the planning stage is the recruiting of girls to attend social functions and join the six Mini girls who have proved to be a popular attraction with the John Simpson Testimonial Season—"We need about six more to make up the squad," said Mr. France.

The meeting, which was attended by Manager Mr. Basil Hayward and Club Chairman Dr. C. S. Grossmark, was also told of progress in forming sub-committees around the Towns.

Mr. Bill Williams said he had already formed a branch of the Blue and Whites in the Hoo Peninsula area, and now there are hopes of moving into Sittingbourne, the Isle of Sheppey and Maidstone.

## GILLS' FANS WILL VOTE FOR 'PLAYER OF THE YEAR'

GILLINGHAM F.C. fans will be able to vote for their favourite player at the end of the season. The Supporters' Association has decided to provide a trophy for the Gills' Player of the Year.

The Supporters' Association's revised Daily Draw and Instant Jackpot tickets will be on sale from 3 August, and will include 120 I.O.U.'s at 10s. each.

Total prize money payable per week will be £375, the maximum possible for the competition.

A team will compete in the Minor Division of the Medway Area Sunday League next season. Pitch is at Beechings Green, Gillingham, and games will be played on Sunday mornings.

Profit from the Supporters' Association's Derby Draw has now been finalised at just over £100. This sum has been transferred to the Pools Fund, which maintains a regular weekly donation of £100 or more to the Football Club.

Clearance work continues in the area of the Association's headquarters at the Stadium. Arrangements have been made for the area from the front of the premises to the Gordon Road terrace banking to be concreted.



# GILLS SIGN WALSHALL WING HALF

## GILLS' FIXTURES

PLANS to strengthen Gillingham for the opening of the season were given another boost this week when manager Basil Hayward signed attacking wing-half Terry Simpson from Walsall to add to his first newcomer of the closed season Mike Green, who he signed from Second Division Carlisle on Saturday.

Mr. Hayward, who left for a short holiday just after the Walsall player came to Priestfield Stadium on Wednesday, was not available for comment. But he is bound to be feeling more optimistic about the coming season which will have a tough opening.

Though naturally his exact line-up will depend on how the two

day on Saturday, 3 August, at the Stadium and the Supporters' Association disclosed that they—like the Blue and Whites—intend to build their own social club.

The new Supporters' headquarters will contain a bar—for members only—a committee room, store and offices.

Work should begin "fairly, shortly" and be completed within a year, said the association's publicity officer, Mr. J. T. O'Neill, this week.

Naturally, the venture calls for a great deal of cash and a development fund was envisaged, went on Mr. O'Neill.

The clubhouse, added the publicity officer, is likely to be placed at the Station end of the stadium close to the main entrance in Priestfield Road.

Next season, the Association, which has a membership of some 750, though contributions to the parent club have dropped drastically in recent months, plans to produce its own handbook.



TERRY SIMPSON. — S.29

players fit into his plans during pre-season warm-up matches, they should both give him the scope to plug gaps in defence and attack.

Green, 21-year-old six-footer, has been interesting Mr. Hayward for some time and, incidentally, his signing on Saturday afternoon came after weeks of discussion, during which time it is understood the player was approached by a number of clubs.

Twenty-eight-year-old father of four, Simpson could also provide the manager with the freedom to convert players from the defence into attack.

He is a highly-experienced player, having made more than 50 performances for Walsall. Before joining the tough Midlands club, he was with West Bromwich Albion from 1963 to 1965, during which time he made more than 70 first-team appearances.

Jimmy Hagan, in fact, took Simpson with him from Peterborough where the player went after



MIKE GREEN. — S.28

spending four years of his early footballing days at Southampton.

He is said to be very much in the same mould as Gillingham's quick-thinking and fast-moving skipper Gordon Riddick, and is an old team-mate of Bill Williams.

In fact, supporters can look out for some interesting permutations between Simpson and Green and Mr. Hayward's other versatile defenders, Ray Bailey, Mel Machin and, of course, Riddick.

Two announcements also came this week that should go a long way towards enhancing the club's social activities and fund-raising hopes. The Blue and Whites are

THE 1968-69 soccer season is now only eight weeks away—and Gillingham face a tough opening month.

They kick-off on August 10 with an away game against Tranmere Rovers and the first home game is on August 17—7.30 p.m. start—when the visitors to Priestfield will be The Orient. Away games at Barnsley and Rotherham follow before the Gills entertain Luton Town.

The full fixture list is as follows:

### AUGUST

- 10—Tranmere Rovers (A)
- 14—League Cup (1)
- 17—The Orient (H)
- 24—Barnsley (A)
- 27—Rotherham Utd. (A)
- 31—Luton Town (H)

### SEPTEMBER

- 4—League Cup (2)
- 7—Torquay Utd. (A)
- 14—Brighton (H)
- 16 or 17—Barrow (A)
- 20—Southport (A)
- 25—League Cup (3)
- 28—Mansfield (H)

### OCTOBER

- 5—Reading (A)
- 9—Rotherham Utd. (H)
- 12—Stockport County (H)
- 16—League Cup (4)
- 19—Bristol Rovers (A)
- 26—Plymouth Argyle (H)
- 30—League Cup (5)

### NOVEMBER

- 2—Watford (A)
- 5—Northampton Tn. (A)
- 9—Walsall (H)
- 16—F.A. Cup (1)
- 20—League Cup semi-final
- 23—Shrewsbury Tn. (H)
- 30—Bournemouth (A)

### DECEMBER

- 4—League Cup semi-final
- 7—F.A. Cup (2)
- 13—Stockport County (A)
- 21—Bristol Rovers (H)
- 26—Reading (H)
- 28—Plymouth Argyle (A)

### JANUARY

- 4—Swindon Town (A)
- 11—Watford (H)
- 18—Walsall (A)
- 25—Northampton Tn. (H)

### FEBRUARY

- 1—Hartlepool Utd.
- 8—Shrewsbury Tow
- 15—Bournemouth
- 22—Crewe Alexandra

### MARCH

- 1—Tranmere Rovers
- 5—Swindon Town
- 8—The Orient
- 10—Hartlepool Utd.
- 14—Barnsley
- 19—Crewe Alexandra
- 22—Luton Town
- 29—Torquay Utd.

### APRIL

- 4—Oldham Athletic
  - 5—Mansfield Town
  - 7—Barrow
  - 12—Southport
  - 16—Oldham Athletic
  - 19—Brighton
- Copyright—The Football League.

## Gills sign two new players

GILLINGHAM have signed on two new players during the past week—Michael Green from Carlisle United and Terry Simpson from Walsall. Both are defenders.

No fees were involved. Green signed for Gillingham at the weekend. Gills' manager Mr. Basil Hayward made the trip north on Friday to clinch the deal.

He has been hoping to sign Green since the player visited Priestfield Stadium some weeks ago.

Green, a utility defender, has been with Carlisle since an apprentice. A number of clubs were reported to be interested in the 21-year-old player.

He is just over six feet tall and weighs 12 stone.

### WEST BROM.

Wing-half Simpson became a Gillingham player

on Wednesday afternoon. Aged 28, he has had considerable First Division experience with West Bromwich Albion, being a regular member of the team from 1963 to 1965.

### VERSATILE

He joined Walsall in March, 1967, and made more than 50 appearances for the club.

He was with Southampton as a youth and then joined Peterborough before moving to W.B.A.

He is close on six feet tall, strongly built and is described as a versatile attacking player.

Now Mr. Hayward will be turning his attention to the forward line—but with little money in the kitty the chances of his acquiring a really good goalscorer forward are slim.

Gillingham have still not received any offers for their transfer-listed striker Brian Gibbs, who has scored more than 100 goals for the club.

Gibbs went on the transfer list at his own request because he was not satisfied with the terms of his contract.

Gillingham's chairman, Dr. C. S. Grossmark, has been elected chairman of the Football League's Liaison Committee which deals with matters in the Third and Fourth Divisions.



MICHAEL GREEN, one of Gillingham's new signings. A utility defender, he comes from Carlisle United.



# PACKED PRE-SEASON PROGRAMME ARRANGED

GILLINGHAM F.C.'s rebuilding plans were given another boost this week when Manager Basil Hayward signed 19-year-old Barry Simmons from West Ham. The young full-back reported for the season along with the rest of the team yesterday (Thursday) morning.

The Gills' boss has still to find a powerful striking forward, but the Simmons' acquisition—he agreed terms on Tuesday—plus the two

other recent signings, 28-year-old Terry Simpson and 21-year-old Mike Green, could have completed his search for the time being.

And judging by the mixture of speed and experience Mr. Hayward now has on his books, it looks as though he could have a "new look" Gillingham for the supporters in the coming season.

The gap left by the departure of Billy Brown who, incidentally, now stands a good chance of making Portsmouth's first team since Bobby Kellard left for Bristol City, will be hard to plug. But Simpson seems to have the know-how to provide a flexible link in midfield.

He will be in the company of the tall Green, versatile Gordon Riddick and Mel Machin, who proved himself to be one of the cleverest players at Priestfield Stadium last term, and Ray Bailey who is now fully fit.

Bill Williams will provide the solid anchor in the back rank and he will be alongside Tony Weston who is also in good shape now.

Simmons could fill the other back rank berth, but almost certain to be making a strong bid for recognition this season is David Quirke, who provided the drive in so many second string matches last year, besides showing up well in his occasional first-team outings.

Derek Bellotti will also be pushing hard for a chance in John Simpson's role.

## FRONT RUNNERS

Speculation is, however, likely to revolve most around the front runners. Brian Gibbs is still on the transfer list, and Mr. Hayward will in the coming weeks lay a lot of emphasis on the potential of Tony Thear, Carl Gilbert and Brian Yeo as goal-getters while Derek Woodley and John Meredith are expected to take up the flanks.

All the players—and the second squad—will have ample chance to make their bids, however, before the season opens as the manager has lined up a packed programme of pre-season matches.

Home and away matches are being arranged with First Division

Ipswich, which are expected to be private events.

Still, Mr. Hayward has six matches lined up so far—all of them to date away from home. They are at Bexley on 27 July (3 p.m.), Gravesend (28) and Romford (31), both 7.30 kick-offs, Brentwood 3 August (3 p.m.) and Chelmsford and Erith and Belvedere, 5 and 6 August (both 7.30 p.m.).

It is understood that full-back Ralph Miller, one of six players not retained by the club, will sign for Bournemouth. Bob Moffat has been linked with Southern League club Margate.

Gillingham supporters are reminded that season tickets are now available from the Secretary, at Priestfield Stadium.

Prices are: Main Stand, Block "B" £9. 10s.; Main Stand, Blocks "A" and "C," £9; Gordon Road Stand, £9.



Having their pre-season injections from club chairman and medical adviser, Dr. C. S. Grossmark, are Gillingham F.C.'s three new signings who reported along with the rest of the Gillingham squad yesterday (Thursday) morning. Dr. Grossmark is on the extreme right and the players are, left to right, Barry Simmons, Mike Green and Terry Simpson. P.3118

## European fans ask for Gills' badge

THE Gillingham Football Club Supporters Association "rosette" badge has been in great demand during the close season. Orders received include a surprising number from the Continent, in particular from Czechoslovakia.

Other league clubs are showing increasing interest in the exchange of badges and programmes. Proof of the popularity of the badge is that it was placed third in a survey of supporters' club badges conducted by a national sports publication last week.

Negotiations are at the moment taking place with a firm of publishers for production of a new larger series of the association magazine, the popular "Priestfield Press," this season. The new publication will include 32 pages devoted to news and views of Gillingham F.C. and its supporters.

Delivery of the association handbook (priced 1s.) for the 1968/69 season is expected during August. This is the first handbook produced for the "Gills" since the 1966/67 season and there is a wealth of information in its pages.

The association's Sunday Minor League team will compete under the name of Gillingham Supporters' F.C. Any lad aged under 18 on September 1 1968 who wishes to play should contact Paul Dixon, 61, Toronto Road, Gillingham.

Tenders are now being invited from local and national brewers for the installation of bar facilities in the association's social club house, which is to be erected during next close season.

The present association building, which houses the main tea bar, will be used to extend the sales shop. The Pools office will be housed in the new premises, which will also include a refreshment counter serving all popular catering items, including hot soup.

A column to keep you informed of all the latest news and views of the Medway sporting scene

## Supporters will get a better deal

REFLECTING the views of an alarmingly large number of people, this column has frequently criticized those who run Gillingham Football Club for complacently sifting back and expecting supporters to pour into Priestfield Stadium with nothing apart from a once-or-twice a week match, in return.

But at last they seem to have awakened to the fact that the fan—no matter how much he might like the game—wants that little bit extra out of his local club.

This new broad-minded outlook on football and the part it can play in the social life of a community may have been partly prompted by the drastic slump in gates over the years—a slump that had started even before manager Basil Hayward took office.

Still, new features, which should be operating within the next few weeks, show a marked change in the attitude of the administrators.

While there is still no sign of the much-needed and long-overdue amalgamation of the club's two supporting organizations, the Blue and Whites and the Supporters, the parent club has at least given them both their heads to see if, individually, they can show what they can do.

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY

And tomorrow (Saturday) will see the first of all these projects they have in mind when the Blue and Whites will lay on the first-ever fete to be held at the Stadium to mark the club's 75th anniversary.

Countless hours of hard work have been put in by the re-formed Blue and Whites committee pre-

paring for the event and this week Mr. Hayward praised them for their efforts.

He told me: "I have sat in on one or two of the meetings they have had recently and they seem to be doing marvellously. They have certainly shown me that, given the chance, they are prepared to work tremendously hard and I have no doubt the event will provide everyone with an excellent day out."

"This could be the start of a lot more ventures at the Stadium," he

added. "I have always believed that a club like Gillingham should do more of this sort of thing."

Pointing out that the work by the committee and the help given by organizations in the Towns would make certain of it being a "first rate" event, Mr. Hayward commented: "If the people support us, the fete could provide the foundations for a great many things we have in mind."

Though they have been working on the idea only a few weeks, the Committee has a whole variety of displays and sideshows lined up, including a hovercraft ride for children and displays by the Kent Fire Brigade, a shepherd with his dogs to control ducks, guard dogs, all-in wrestling and a number of other displays.

The evening will be rounded off with a beat dance on the car park. Another scheme the Blue and Whites have a hand in is the presidents' club, which Denness is now decorating. I am told even more exciting acts are in the offing—in a new start being made on and W offices plus extra facilities.

## CLUB HOUSE

The Supporters' Club are alive to the need for a club house at the Stadium and tend now being invited through, and national brewers for the installation of bar facilities club house which will be during the next close season.

The present Association ing, which houses the main bar, will be used to extend the Sales Shop. The Pools office will be housed in the new premises which will also include a refreshment counter to serve all catering items, including hot soup.

Negotiations are at the moment taking place with a firm of publishers for production of a new larger series of the Supporters' Association's magazine—the popular "Priestfield Press"—this season.

The new publication will include 32 pages solely devoted to news and views of Gillingham F.C. and its supporters.

## SPORTS DIARY



# EX-GILLS FORWARD WEDS



Former Gillingham forward Billy Brown, now with Portsmouth, of South Ockendon, Essex, and his bride, Miss Christine Peters, of Jeffery Street, Gillingham, who were married at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, Rainham, on Saturday.



FORMER Gillingham footballer, Billy Brown, of South Ockendon, Essex, and his bride, Miss Christine Peters, of Jeffery Street, Gillingham, outside St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, Rainham, where they were married on Saturday.

(8/423/20/68)



# SEARCH FOR A STRIKER CONTINUES

THERE are not likely to be any pre-season warm-up matches with visiting teams at Priestfield Stadium this year. Six away games have already been arranged with non-league clubs but, with the season only three weeks away, no more are expected to be lined up.

This was disclosed at the week-end following the announcement last week about the six matches. If it is the case, it will be one of the rare occasions when the Gillingham fans have not been given a preview of the team before the full programme gets under way.

But the alternatives open to the club were to either play non-league clubs at the stadium, which would not be big crowd pullers, or try to bring an attractive League club to Gillingham and risk the chances of gates not being high enough to offset the cost involved.

Still, judging by the line-up of established and new players who reported for the season last week, the next few months should prove to be as exciting and intriguing as any in recent years.

The absence of a striker could be solved by the conversion of one of the players or the introduction of a youngster.

Manager Basil Hayward said at the week-end that he had so far been unsuccessful in finding one in the close-season free transfer market.

"There is just not one around who could fit in to our pattern," he said. "The only way we are going to get one is to buy."

Transfer-listed Brian Gibbs is bound to fight even harder to secure the role and, if he clicks in the early stages, he could be back to his old forceful self of two seasons ago.

But the striking job—like virtually every other position this year—will be under strong challenge from at least two players. And this could be the centre of some of the most interesting speculations seen at the Stadium in recent years.

## FLEXIBLE SPEED

The three close-season signings has meant an even bigger emphasis on defence with strength at the back and flexible speed in midfield. But each of the half-backs is capable of switching to attack—and Mr. Hayward has at least seven first class players to pick from.

Augmented this year by up-and-coming David Quirke, the midfield unit will be chosen from Gordon Riddick, Mel Machin, Ray Bailey, Terry Simpson, Mike Green and John Meredith.

Mr. Hayward's defensive tactics will centre on Bill Williams, Tony Weston, Barry Simmons and possibly others. And this year, Derek Bellotti, who has been interesting a number of other clubs, will be making a much stronger bid for John Simpson's goalkeeping job.

Up front the manager will be looking to Gibbs plus Carl Gilbert,

Tony Thear and Brian Yeo—besides anyone he might convert from midfield. But a player who will be out of the reckoning for some time will be Peter Hall.

He reported on Friday with his knee still patched up with plaster and he told me that he had seen a specialist on Thursday who had told him his recovery would be a longer-than-expected process.

"I have been told that it will take some time and that I will have to go back to very light training and exercising," said Hall.

Apart from Hall, however, the rest of the players will be using the tough training programme which started yesterday (Monday) to stake their claim for a place.

"They all look very fit and enthusiastic and, although we don't know yet what the set-up will be, could be in for a great season," said skipper Gordon Riddick.

## ARNOTT STAYS AT STADIUM AS ASSISTANT TRAINER

JOHN ARNOTT, Gillingham's veteran half-back who was put on the free transfer list at the end of last season, is to stay with the Gills. He is coming back on the staff as an assistant trainer.

He will play a big part in the players' pre-season training programme which started this week, but one of his main jobs will be to look after the youth team.

Since coming to Gillingham,

manager Basil Hayward has laid a big emphasis on a youth policy. He feels this will be the club's long term answer to providing players for the first team.

Arnott, an intelligent fast-moving defender, has been with the Gills for about five seasons, and was part of the squad which won the Fourth Division championship. His first team appearances dropped in recent years, but last season he stood in several times for centre-half Bill Williams when he was on the injury list.

His biggest asset to Gillingham, however, will be his knowledge of the game. An all-round sportsman, he is one of the few fully qualified F.A. coaches in the area.

Mr. Hayward still has to decide on details of the line-up for the season, but it seems almost certain that he will be without his much-needed striker.

After searching throughout the closed season, he said this week he could not find anyone who could fit in with the Gills' style.

"There is just no one about," he commented. "If we want a good striker we shall have to buy."

Transfer-listed Brian Gibbs will be working hard to recover his old goal-getting form. But a player who will be out of the reckoning in the forward line will be Peter Hall.

On the injured list for several months, winger Hall saw a specialist last week who told him that his return to fitness will be a longer-than-expected job.

His injured knee, which is still plastered, has to be allowed to knit properly with a series of light exercises.



JOHN ARNOTT

H.5664

# Gills social club under way

## SEASON TICKET

Full membership of this club will be £13 10s. a season, but this will entitle the holder to not only access to the bar, but also a season ticket with a guaranteed seat in the stand and a reserved parking space in the car park.

There will also be ordinary membership of four guineas which will give the holder a reserved parking space and entry to the club—but not a stand seat.

Membership for the club only will be two guineas. Double membership for a man and wife or relations is £25, £6 and £2 respectively.

Gillingham manager Basil Hayward referred to the move as "a very worthwhile project."

"It is something I have wanted at the club for some time as I feel we should do more to look after the supporters," he added.

Those interested in joining can contact the manager or Mr. Harold France, chairman of the Blue and Whites.

FOR the first time ever, Gillingham F.C. Supporters will this season be able to meet socially for a chat and a drink at the ground before, during and after home matches.

At the outset, those who want these facilities will have to become members of the recently inaugurated vice-presidents' club, but other plans are in hand and details should be made known in the coming weeks.

The vice-presidents' club is, however, well under way and Mr. Arthur Denness of the Blue and Whites is spending virtually every spare minute he has working on building it so that it will be ready for the season.

It has meant tearing out the old tea and Press room underneath the main stand, but in its place will be a large, comfortably furnished bar where members can meet on match days or, if the demand is big enough, any evening of the week.

## ANNIVERSARY GALA

Three dog events, all-in wrestling and a fire brigade display are just some of the attractions lined up for Gillingham F.C.'s 75th anniversary gala day at the Stadium on Saturday, 3 August.

"Everyone involved has worked very hard, and I'm sure it will be a success," said Mr. Hayward this week.

The finishing touches are now being put to arrangements, and Mr. Harold France, chairman of the Blue and Whites Association, which is organizing the fete, said that a surprising number of local organizations had come forward with offers of help.

"We have had to order some of the stalls and sideshows from firms who deal in this sort of thing, but people in and around Gillingham have been most helpful and generous in offering us some of their equipment."

"Gillingham Church and Wakeley Road School, Rainham, seem particularly interested in giving us a hand," he added.

So far, he and his colleagues have had promises of displays from the Kent Fire Brigade, the police and some of their dogs, the army, who will give a demonstration with some of their guard dogs, and a local "expert" sheep farmer, who will show how his dogs can look after and control a flock of ducks.

All-in wrestling will also be on hand—probably in front of the main stand.





GILLINGHAM F.C.'s 20 full-time professionals and four apprentices reported for the 1968-69 season on Thursday.

They are, back row (left to right): Terry Simpson (ex-Walsall), Gordon Riddick, Bill Williams, Ray Bailey, Carl Gilbert, Barry Simmons (ex-West Ham United), and trainer Jim Boswell.

Middle Row: Brian Gibbs, Tony Thear, Mike Green (ex-Carlisle), John Simpson, Derek Bellotti, David Quirke, Peter Hall, Bobby Folds and manager Basil Hayward. Sitting: Derek Woodley, Mel Machin, Brian Yeo, John Meredith, Ken Osborn, Tony Weston.

Front row: John Ribbins, Dick Tydeman, Geoff Bray and David Peach.

## FOLLOW THE GILLS

RAIL arrangements made by Gillingham Supporters' Association for the party rate trip to Tranmere on Saturday 10 August are:

Depart Gillingham 08.53, arrive Charing Cross 10.05; Depart Euston 11.00, arrive Liverpool (Lime Street) 13.40.

There is a frequent service between Liverpool Central (Low Level) and Birkenhead Central. Depart Liverpool (Lime Street) 1.30; arrive Euston 21.25; Depart Charing Cross 21.55, arrive Gillingham 23.16.

Fare for juveniles (under 18) is 36s. 9d and those wishing to travel should meet John Leeds outside Gillingham station at 8.30 a.m.

The adult fare is 73s. 9d. (party rate).

Kick-off time for the Tranmere Rovers match is 3 p.m.

Gillingham visit Southern League's Bexley United in the first of a series of pre-season friendlies tomorrow.

Three dog events, all-in wrestling and a fire brigade display are some of the attractions which have been arranged for the Gillingham F.C.'s 75th anniversary gala day at Priestfield Stadium on

## EVENING SOCCER AT GILLINGHAM

GILLINGHAM will stage eight evening games at Priestfield Stadium next season in an attempt to bring back the missing fans in the Medway Towns.

Manager Basil Hayward said yesterday: "We have to consider every means to increase our gates and obviously there is a potential public for evening games in Saturday afternoons, footballers and shopping wives."

Evening games are as follows: Wednesday August 14, Orient (League Cup, first round); Saturday August 17, Orient; Wednesday October 9, Rotherham; Wednesday March 5, Swindon; Friday March 14, Barnsley; Wednesday March 19, Crewe; Saturday March 29, Torquay; Saturday April 16, Oldham.

Mr. Hayward said Luton and Brighton had turned down requests for evening kick-offs at Gillingham.

Gillingham Reserves are grouped with Tottenham, Ipswich, Fulham, Norwich and Crystal Palace in the Football Combination Cup and matches will be played on a home and away basis.

The first match will be against Tottenham at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday August 10 and Northampton will be the visitors in the first Combination League game on October 5.

Gillingham half-back John Arnott who was put on the free transfer list at the end of last season has rejoined the staff as assistant trainer, with a special responsibility for the Stadium youth side.

Arnott has been with the Gills for five seasons and was a member of the team who won the Fourth Division championship. He is one of the few fully qualified F.A. coaches in the Medway Towns.

Last season Arnott lost a regular place in the first team when Bill Williams was signed from Mansfield.

## Brown scores

GILLINGHAM'S give-away centre-forward Billy Brown, scored the equalising goal in Portsmouth's 2-2 draw with Ards, in a pre-season friendly game in Ireland on Tuesday. Brown joined Portsmouth on a free transfer during the close season.

## Supporters' drive to increase membership

MEMBERSHIP of Gillingham Football Club Supporters' Association last season was 811, comprising 735 full members, five O.A.P.s and 71 juniors.

Now the association is to make an all-out drive to increase these figures and at present the Executive Committee is considering additional benefits and services for members.

Concreting of the ground in the area of the association's headquarters and main tea bar is now almost completed.

The declared policy of the Supporters' Association is: "To promote the general welfare of Gillingham F.C. to create and develop interest in the Club, to promote measures calculated to benefit the Club and to offer strenuous opposition to anything that might lead to its detriment."

Sales shop organizer, Mr. Sid Walter, reports that there will be a stock of 20,000 programmes in hand at the start of the season. Two thousand handbooks have been ordered and several advance orders have already been received.

### NEW CLUB HOUSE

Attractive prizes, including one of £100, are being offered in the Supporters' Association's Development Fund Draw in aid of the new Club House at the Stadium, which is due for completion during the next close season.

Anyone wishing to donate a prize to this draw should contact the Supporters' Association office, Priestfield Stadium—Gordon Road entrance.

It is hoped to encourage more supporters to travel to away games this season. British Rail are being asked to provide the party facilities that were so successfully inaugurated towards the end of last season.



# 'FIRST TEAM COMPETITION WILL BE STRONGER'

## Injury problem as big kick-off nears

WITH the 1968-69 season only 15 days away and a series of pre-season matches due to start tomorrow (Saturday) at Bexley, Gillingham suffered a shock set-back this week when Mel Machin injured his knee during a training session.

Machin, who had a long spell out of the first team last year with an ankle injury, could hardly walk on Saturday. But after resting his knee over the week-end he told me on Tuesday that the pain had eased considerably.

"I was a bit worried about it at first but it could clear up in a few days when I hope I can get back into training for the beginning of the season," he said.

He is still having treatment but so far it has been impossible to tell the extent of the damage.

"We are hoping it will be back to normal in a few days," said manager Basil Hayward.

The Gills' boss has been putting the players through a tougher-than-usual training programme since they reported two weeks ago. And, although the finishing

great a menace with his lightning wing bursts.

But the player with the biggest potential for really making the crowd sit up and take notice is Tony Thear.

Though he was always good enough last year to be nudging for a first team place, he seems to have improved immensely since then.

His off-the-mark speed could be a great asset to the defence and he seems to have acquired not only more bulk and strength but also a neat touch to lay the ball off for his striking partner.

At one point in Tuesday's game, young Thear split the defence in two by running into the box and climbing well above the heads of everyone else to turn the cross into a goal.

The choice of striker should revolve around Thear and Gibbs plus Brian Yeo and Carl Gilbert who were in the opposing side on Tuesday.

Yeo, who has been showing great form lately, likes to stay slightly deeper and move in from behind. But he and Gilbert were frequently a real threat to Bill Williams and Co. If anything, Gilbert seems to have increased his appetite for hustling around the goal mouth.

The front running section will not be the only one where players will be pushing hard for selection. And this could be a major feature of the coming months.

Almost every position on the field is being challenged by young players in the Reserves, such as Derek Bellotti, David Quirke and David Peach plus others—all of whom are mature and capable enough to take over.

"Some of the young players have made wonderful progress and competition for the first team will certainly be stronger this year," said Mr. Hayward.

His views were echoed by John Arnott, who will be largely responsible for the second string and should be playing again this year.

"They are all coming along fine and we should have an even better reserve team this year," he said.

M.H.



MEL MACHIN

touches still have to be put to tactics and the general pattern of the line-up, it looks as though his methods will pay off with the team making quite an impression on the Third Division this year.

Virtually every minute of the day-to-day sessions have been packed with all-action exercise and gruelling matches. Stiffness, built up over the close season, is naturally still with the players but already they are beginning to shape up.

Even though Machin's presence is for the start at least, there should be few worries in defence where Mr. Hayward could field one of the strongest back-ranks in the Division.

During a match on Tuesday, ex-Carlisle defender Mike Green looked more than capable of filling the vacant Dennis Hunt berth. And with him, Ray Bailey and Bill Williams, all over six feet, there should be quite a force to be reckoned with for opposing forwards—especially as one of the club's most tenacious fullbacks in recent years, Tony Weston, is fit and raring to go.

The midfield link should also have all the strength and flexibility to adopt Mr. Hayward's tactics of quick raids from the back.

Former Walsall player, Terry Simpson, certainly showed he has the know-how to use the ball intelligently with long raking passes upfield or "two pronged" upfield moves with his midfield partners, skipper Gordon Riddick and John Meredith.

All three have the speed to funnel back rapidly and the understanding with each other to break away quickly when the time is right.

But my bet is that the front runners could provide the biggest surprises of the season.

Brian Gibbs has not lost any of his old talent for foraging and working for the ball while Derek Wendley showed he will be just as

ONE week to the big kick-off and Gillingham manager

Basil Hayward has five key men on the injured list.

Ray Bailey (knee), Tony Weston (ankle), Mel Machin (knee), Brian Gibbs (strain) and John Meredith (back), are the men fighting to get fit by August 10.

"I am hopeful that they will all be fit," Gills' boss Basil Hayward said yesterday.

On Saturday Gillingham began a strenuous series of warm-up games against Southern League opponents.

With four more to play they have so far earned draws against Bexley (1-1), Gravesend (2-2), and Chelmsford (3-3).

Scorers have been young Carl Gilbert, who has snatched three, Tony Thear, who netted two against Chelmsford, and new signing Terry Simpson.

"They have been good workouts. Remember Southern League sides will always give you a good game and our lads have been getting the stiffness out of them following a really hard programme of training this season," said Mr. Hayward.

"I am not so concerned about the results at the moment. We are experimenting with mixed sides and trying to iron out the mistakes we are making," he added.

Gillingham have four more friendlies, against Brentwood (Saturday), Chelmsford (Monday), Brith and Belvedere (Tuesday) and Hastings (Wednesday), before their opening Third Division game of the season away to Tranmere next Saturday, 3 p.m. kick-off.

Gillingham Supporters' Association has made arrangements with British Rail for party rate travel to the Tranmere match.

The train leaves Gillingham at 8.53 a.m. and the train home arrives back at 11.16 p.m.

Fare for juveniles (under 18s) at 36s. 9d., inclusive of Underground, and lads wishing to travel should meet John Leeds outside Gillingham station at 8.30 a.m. on the 10th. The adult fare is 73s. 9d. and anyone wishing to travel on the adult ticket should contact the Supporters' Association office during the day. John Leeds at the Stadium main entrance between six and eight in the evening, or Mark Agate at 2, Silcock's Hill, Chatham.

The last £500 free draw will be held at the Gillingham v. Orient match on Wednesday August 14.

The "new look" daily draw and instant jackpot ticket scheme run by the Supporters' Association started this week with the inclusion of 120 I.O.U.s at 10s. each included in the tickets. Since the announcement of the scheme several new agents have come forward, but there is always room for more! Full details on how to become an agent can be obtained from pool organiser Denis Williams at the Supporters' Association office, Gordon Road entrance at Priestfield Stadium.

The Blue and Whites' Grand Gala Day, to celebrate Gillingham's 75th anniversary, is at Priestfield Stadium tomorrow afternoon. Start 2 p.m.



GILLINGHAM winger David Peach receives attention from trainer Jimmy Boswell after colliding with a post during the second half of Monday's friendly with Gravesend at Stonebridge Road, which ended in a 2-2 draw. (3/170/31 68)



# GOAL POWER QUEST . . .



GILLINGHAM players line up for a pre-season picture before a training session at Maidstone Road ground this week. (6/442/29/68)

## And Gills chase the all-Kent crowds

GILLINGHAM cannot afford to neglect the vast potential soccer public waiting to support a successful League club in Kent, commented Priestfield manager Basil Hayward in a pre-season interview this week.

Mr. Hayward, a self-confessed optimist, is pledged to improve the status of Gillingham, whose promotion drive last season was blunted by lack of scoring power.

"Make no mistake about it — success is coming," the Gills' chief told the "People may scoff but a progressive club in Gillingham can move into the top ranks of the Football League."

Mr. Hayward continued: "I have always considered we have no superiors in the Third Division. Our main aim next season must be to play it tighter at the back and convert those vital chances which went begging last season."

### Goal power

The Gills' chief is determined to stamp out the malady of missed chances. "I hope we may find the necessary goal power from within our present ranks, but you can be certain we will go into the market for a goal-scorer, if there is no improvement."

The departure of Bill Brown, soccer stylist and provider of so many of those unaccepted chances, clearly presents manager Hayward with his major problem. Skipper Gordon Riddick could take over the role, and Tony Thear, transfer-listed Brian Gibbs, Derek Woodley and Carl Gilbert are marksmen candidates.

In defence, Tony Weston, who is now fully fit again after missing most of last season, will probably team up with newly-signed Barry Simmons at full-back.

Young David Quirke, who staked a strong claim for first team recognition last season, joins Ray Bailey, John Meredith, Mike Green and Terry Simpson in the challenge for midfield places.

### Bexley friendly

Former Bedford winger Peter Hall is still receiving treatment for a persistent knee injury, but Gillingham's manager is professionals engaged in intensive training for the new season.

Gillingham have arranged seven pre-season practice games, all away from home. The opening friendly is against Southern League Bexley United on Saturday July 27, and other games will be played against Gravesend, Romford, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Erith and Belvedere, and Hastings.

Priestfield fans will see the Gills in action for the first time in a Football League Cup first round game against Orient on Wednesday August 14 (kick-off 7.30 p.m.). Gillingham meet the Orient in a League game at Priestfield Stadium on the following Saturday (kick-off 7.30 p.m.).

### ALAN HILL PREVIEWS GILLINGHAM

ing Saturday (kick-off 7.30 p.m.).

Newly-promoted Barnsley, Rotherham and Luton and Torquay and Brighton will provide stern opposition in the opening weeks of the season.

Mr. Hayward said: "Our fixtures over the first two months couldn't be more difficult. But I am always optimistic and expect to pick up the points."

As I left the stadium, Mr. Hayward warned: "I am not interested in triers. I want football skills — this is the only formula for success and promotion."

Wing-half Bob Moffatt has joined Margate, and full-back Ralph Miller, also released by Gillingham, is reported to have signed for Bournemouth.



## GILLS' PLAYER PROFILE

### GORDON RIDDICK

AGED 24, 6ft. 11in., 12st. 4lb. appointed Gillingham skipper shortly after his signing from Luton in March, 1967. Gordon, who equally at home in either the wing-half or inside-forward positions, started his soccer career with Watford and signed professional forms for Luton at the age of 17.

He occupied one of the midfield link positions for the Gills last season, but may now step up into a striker role with the departure of Bill Brown for Portsmouth.

The Gills' captain is an all-round sportsman. He plays club cricket in Bedfordshire during the summer and is also a keen golfer.

Gordon is also a proficient guitarist and often entertains his team colleagues on long away trips.

## At last . . . a turn for the better

GILLINGHAM manager Basil Hayward had his happiest morning today since the pre-season training spell started — for he is gradually winning the battle against the club's injury bug.

Hayward has had five key players injured — Brian Gibbs (leg), Ray Bailey (knee), John Meredith (back), Mel Machin (ankle) and Tony Weston (ankle).

Today, with four days to go before the big kick-off, the manager was delighted that Gibbs, playing his first pre-season friendly, and Bailey had come through the game at Chelmsford last night satisfactorily.

Two other players with slight injuries — Tony Thear (knee) and reserve goalkeeper Derek Bellotti (shoulder).

Tonight Mr. Hayward calls up 19-year-old goalkeeper Brian Ede, an amateur with Gillingham, who plays for Canterbury when not required by the Priestfield club.

The Gillingham boss commented: "Ede had a week's training with us recently, and tonight's game will give us a chance of seeing how he is progressing."

Tonight, the manager gives a chance to some of his younger players. Team: Ede; Weston, Chapman; Ribbens, Arnold, Peach; (from) Osborne, Harrison, Bray, Thear, Tydeman, Meredith.



TONY WESTON.

In the friendly away to Erith and Belvedere tonight, Basil plays Weston and hopes that Meredith, who had injections yesterday, will also be able to have a run out.

### AMATEUR

The manager said: "It is a great relief to know that Gibbs and Bailey look like being really fit again and I hope the others will soon be ready."

Machin may be fit enough to play at Hastings tomorrow, and there are no worries about



# GILLS' INJURY LIST GROWS TO FIVE

FIVE of Gillingham's first team squad are now on the injured list. This was the shock news from Priestfield Stadium this week as the club prepares for the now imminent 1968-69 season.

Apart from Mel Machin, who went down last week with a knee injury, Ray Bailey had to come off the field on Saturday against Bexley when he felt twinges of the knee injury that saw him out of the game for some time last season.

And this week manager-Basil Hayward disclosed that Tony Weston was having trouble with his ankle — not the one that was fractured at the beginning of last season and has kept him out of football since.

Also, striker-in-chief Brian Gibbs has a strain and John Meredith is suffering slightly with his old back trouble.

Even so-Gillingham managed to pull off a 3-3 draw against Romford on Wednesday — the third tie in three games — when up-and-coming Tony Thear grabbed two and newcomer Terry Simpson

sent in a 25-yard shot to make it three.

## ENCOURAGED

Though Mr. Hayward agreed the game showed there are still problems to be sorted out, he was encouraged by the progress so far made by Carl Gilbert and Thear.

The two youngsters have been responsible for five of the six goals scored to date, with Carl Gilbert picking up one in the 1-1 draw with Bexley and two in the 2-2 tie with Gravesend on Monday.

The Gills' boss is not, however, too worried at the moment about the injuries to his key players and hopes to have them ready for the away match with Chelmsford on Monday — the last of the warm-ups before the season opens.

"If the injuries persist into the middle of next week then I'll begin to worry," he commented. "We have had a very tough training programme and at the moment it is difficult to judge how bad the injuries are."

Tomorrow (Saturday) the Gills will be travelling to Brentwood and a chance to again show how well he has come on will almost certainly be given to Graham Chapman.

The young Chatham fullback figured well in the Reserve squad last year — even though illness put him in hospital for a while — and Mr. Hayward said this week that he is very impressed with the form he is showing lately.

## Chairman re-elected

DR. CLIFFORD GROSSMARK, chairman of Gillingham Football Club since February 1961, was re-elected chairman at a meeting of the club's six-man board of directors last night.

A member of the board since 1957 and club doctor since 1953, Dr. Grossmark was earlier this year — the club's 75th anniversary — honoured by his election as chairman of the Third and Fourth Divisions liaison committee.

For the last five years Dr. Grossmark has been a member of this committee.

# Gills lose, but Basil smiles

## CHELMSFORD 2, GILLINGHAM 1

BEFORE the start of last night's friendly at Chelmsford against the Southern League champions, Basil Hayward, Gillingham manager, said his biggest pre-season headache was the fact that his side had not been scoring goals.

Against the non-league side Gillingham could only manage one goal, but the manager was looking considerably happier at the end of the game.

He was pleased in fact that inside-right Brian Gibbs and left-half Ray Bailey, both of whom have been out of action with early injuries, played well and came through without further trouble.

## Penalty

Gibbs in fact scored the only goal, but what pleased the manager most was Gillingham creating at least four good scoring chances in the first half.

"We played it quite well in the first half, there was plenty of movement and good scoring chances created. But for the long grass, I think we could have taken more

than one of them," said Mr. Hayward.

The fact that Gillingham conceded two goals will not unduly worry them. Both were rather lucky affairs as far as Chelmsford were concerned — a penalty after 11 minutes when left-winger Gordon Pulley, a former Gillingham player, tumbled in fine style to win himself a penalty from which Shreeves scored.

Gibbs equalised after 22 minutes, rounding off good approach work by Quirke and Riddick.

The winning goal came after 85 minutes. As Moy went up for a pass from West, the ball glanced off his head into the net.

# Deserved Victory Foiled By Late Penalty

TWO goals — one in each half — poached by striker Carl Gilbert looked like giving Gillingham a deserved win against Southern League Gravesend on Monday in a pre-season friendly encounter.

But a handling offence by David Quirke a minute from time gave the home side a penalty and HALL sent Bellotti the wrong way to give Gravesend the equalizer.

From the time when Gravesend took an early lead, Gillingham's confidence and composure grew until Gilbert, who scored Gillingham's goal in a 1-1 draw at Bexley on Saturday, put them level ten minutes before half-time.

## Gravesend 2, Gillingham 2

Throughout the second half Gillingham were superior in defence and attack but failed to make full use of this advantage until Gilbert grabbed his second with six minutes left.

It was Gilbert who went nearest to scoring during the first few minutes when Gillingham supplied all the pressure. He saw more than one header flash wide and then headed straight at McAlpine in the Gravesend goal.

But after seven minutes the Gillingham defence lapsed at the first sign of pressure and left winger KEATS scored from a pass by Crudace.

For a short time the home side were on top and they almost added a second goal after 14 minutes. Following a tussle mid-way through the Gillingham half, pivot



CARL GILBERT — the Gills forward followed up his goal on Saturday at Bexley by snatching two at Gravesend on Monday. P. 3235

Bill Williams was penalized for a foul. From the free-kick, taken by Crudace, the long, lean Gravesend forward, HALL, out-jumped 'the' Gillingham defence to head just wide.

Minutes later the Gills' back line was split again by a sharp move by Soutar. But his final pass to Hall ran just behind his forward partner and the move was spoiled.

But from this point on it was Gillingham's match. The tackling, covering and hustling was better, passes far more accurate and the approach work was good — sometimes outstanding.

Bellotti, in the Gillingham goal, was rarely troubled. For the full backs, Chapman's tackling was, to say the least, effective, and penetrative attacks down the other flank were so infrequent that Green was left for much of the time to follow play into the Gravesend half.

Attacking moves were concentrated down the wings and both Derek Woodley and David Peach got through a lot of work, providing crosses for hard-running front-runners Gilbert and Yeo.

Centre-forward-cum-half-back, Gordon Riddick seemed to have the remarkable ability to be in defence when the ball was up front and in attack when the ball was at the back.

Hard work and persistence paid off after 35 minutes when GILBERT poached his first goal in a goalmouth tussle.

Six minutes later a fine cross from Peach was brought down in front of goal by Yeo but as the ball hit the ground with Yeo positioned to shoot, Carey raced through to whip the ball away.

Some adventurous play by Green got Peach on the move again and the winger's final cross was headed just high and wide by Gilbert.

Half-time saw changes in both teams. Bob Folds substituted for Gordon Riddick and Glenister and Moore came on for Simmons and Harber in the home team.

Gillingham were in trouble with the first move of the half. Bellotti dived for a cross from Keats but fumbled the ball, which ran straight to Moore. Luckily for Gillingham, but rather unluckily for Bill Williams, Moore crashed his shot at the centre-half.

But again it was mainly Gillingham and Derek Woodley, in particular, really came into his own.

From a pass out of defence the winger crossed to Gilbert who headed the ball down right at Yeo's feet in front of goal only for the inside forward to slice the ball wide.

## STARTLING RUN

Woodley split the Gravesend defence open two minutes later with a startling run. But his final pass, intended for Yeo, went astray.

A goal-kick from McAlpine went off course — almost as far as Folds' immediate return shot.

But it was Folds who started the next move which was the nearest Gillingham had yet been to scoring. A fine run by the young substitute ended with a pass to Woodley who crossed the ball right to Gilbert's head.

The striker, only two feet from the line, was unfortunate to see his header hit the 'keeper. The rebound was hooked away for a corner.

The third excellent goal chance of this half was wasted by Peach who collided with a post while missing a cross from Woodley.

After 84 minutes Gillingham at last grabbed their deserved second goal. Chapman took a free-kick just inside the Gravesend half and shot straight for goal. Folds headed down onto the goal-line for GILBERT to tap the ball home.

Gravesend: McAlpine; Crudace, Conex; Hake, Simmons; Glenister; Carey; Harber; Moore; Newton; Hall; Soutar; Keats.

Gillingham: Bellotti; Chapman; Green; Quirke; Williams; Simpson; Woodley; Yeo; Riddick; Folds; Gilbert; Peach.

Attendance: 682.



## CHAIRMAN IS RE-ELECTED

DR. C.S. Grossmark was re-elected chairman of Gillingham Football Club at a meeting of the board of directors on Tuesday evening.

Club medical advisor since 1954, Dr. Grossmark joined the board in 1957 and has been chairman since February 1961.

He is chairman of the liaison committee which represents Division 3 and 4 clubs at Football League meetings.

## V.I.P. BOOST AT GILLINGHAM

PRESTIGE membership of the Blue and Whites Vice-Presidents' Club is the latest attraction at Priestfield Stadium.

Work has been proceeding during the close season on the conversion of the former press and players' two-room and it is hoped the club would be ready in time for the opening home game against Orient next week.

The room has been redecorated and equipped with new seating and bar facilities.

Membership to the club comes in three categories, depending on the facilities required, costing £13 10s, four guineas and two guineas.

## Stadium spotlight



STARTING this week a regular feature for Gills' fans will be Spotlight on the Stadium in which the Chatham News' sports reporters will be giving readers a full run down on the men who make up the county's only full league club. Appropriately we start this week with manager Basil Hayward.

Relatively speaking, Basil Hayward is the most successful man-about-football to be connected with Gillingham Football Club in recent years. During his two and a half years with the Gills he has sold a player for a record fee of £17,500 and has seen a near all-time record number of people come to see the club when the season before last the team faced Arsenal in the Football League Cup.

A firm believer in fast, open football, he has achieved a lot of success on the field and last season was only a few points short of gaining promotion into the Second Division. He has, however, had spells of failure and agrees there are still a lot of problems to be solved with the club.

But his qualifications as a manager of a progressive club could not be better.

As a player, he was one of the foremost of his era. Captain of the R.A.F. football team, he joined Port Vale in 1946 and was skipper and centre half at 19.

At the time he was making such an impact on the game that a number of other clubs tried to

gain his signature. One offer reached as high as £15,000 which, for the time, was something of a record.

He stayed with Port Vale for about 12 years, during which time the club gained promotion from the Third to the Second Division and was probably the first club in the country to adopt the "all defensive" tactics which are now accepted as fairly commonplace.

During that time he was in the company of players like Ronnie Allen and Bill McGarry.

On leaving Port Vale in 1958, he went to Portsmouth and stayed with them in the First Division for two seasons — still retaining his reputation of being one of the finest centre-halves in the league with the ability to strike or defend whenever the situation arose.

Approaching the age of 30, he decided to take up management and was brought in to take charge of Southern League Yeovil. They were to become one of the most notable "giant killers" in recent history — consistently having F.A. Cup runs.

From there he moved to Bedford and again proved he had the touch of a successful manager by steering the club through cup runs.

# Mel Machin now the only serious injury doubt

GILLINGHAM, previously without a win in their pre-season games, broke the ice last night with a 3-1 victory over Athenian Leaguers Erith and Belvedere at Erith.

Tony Weston and John Meredith had their first outings of the season after recovery from injuries and they are included in the team to meet Hastings in the final practice game at Hastings tonight.

Gillingham manager, Basil Hayward, today reported an easing of the injury position. The only serious doubt for Saturday's opening league game at Tranmere concerns wing-half Mel Machin, who is suffering from a knee injury.

## Own goal

Meredith was one of the stars of a Gills' welcome win at Erith. He combined with right-winger Ken Osborn in a series of dangerous attacks and the Gills took the lead following an Osborn run in the 10th minute.

Osborn beat three defenders to cross on the right and Erith right-back Nelson put the ball past his own keeper in attempting to clear.

Gillingham kept up the pressure and Erith's attack offered little threat. The visitors' keeper, Brian Ede, was forced to make only one save in the first half, from a close-range shot by Johnson.

Two minutes after the interval, Geoff Bray fluffed an easy chance for Gillingham, but seconds later David Peach netted with a low drive.

Gillingham relaxed and Erith were allowed to fight back. The home side reduced their arrears

through Johnson, who scored after a 20-yard run. In the 75th minute Bob Harrison added a third goal for the Gills.

Dick Tydeman substituted for Graham Chapman

shortly before the end of the game.

Gillingham: Ede; Weston, Chapman; Ribbens, Arnott, Peach; Osborn, Harrison, Thear, Bray, Meredith. Sub: Tydeman.

## Defence the strongpoint at Hastings

HASTINGS 0, GILLINGHAM 2

GILLINGHAM fielded a useful-looking side against Southern Leaguers Hastings United in last night's friendly at Hastings Stadium, but they were flattered by the victory margin. Hastings missed three sitters and were denied a penalty.

Gillingham's strength lay in their quick-tackling defence which covered well. Hastings gave them a good work-out with inside-forward Wedge and winger Clarke in fine form, but centre-forward Hymas was well marked by John Arnott.

Ken Osborn posed plenty of problems for the Hastings defence, with Bob Harrison and Tony Thear challenging for the many centres he crossed.

Gillingham might have been more effective if they had

occasionally switched pressure to the left, where Dick Tydeman lurked in vain for a through ball.

## Fluent

There was little to choose between the teams in an exciting first half with plenty of fluent moves, but sustained pressure gave Gillingham a goal after 32 minutes. Osborn fastened on to a poor clearance and chipped a pass into the goalmouth for Tydeman to head in.

Hymas missed badly for Hastings and keeper Derek Bellotti had to save brilliantly from Wedge and Price. In the 65th minute David Peach moved upfield and his low centre struck right-back Warner and streaked into the net before Cowan could move. Shortly after, the goalkeeper dived to hold Harrison's shot at the second attempt.

Clarke and Hymas again squandered easy chances at the other end, and Hastings suffered a worse blow when centre-half Brady went off to hospital with an arm injury.

## Tranmere team v. Gillingham

CLOSE - season signings, John Rowland and Frank Gill, are in Tranmere Rovers' team to meet Gillingham on Saturday.

Team: Cumbe; S. Skorton, Robertson, Casey, Smith (capt.), Mathies; Rowland, Sinclair, Yardley, Hudson. Gill, Sub: McNamee.



Gills' boss Basil Hayward puts injured players Tony Weston (knee), John Meredith (back) and Mel Machin (knee) through a training stint at the Stadium this week.



# BELLOTTI INTERESTS

## 3 CLUBS

ENCOURAGING news from Priestfield Stadium this week is that virtually all the players have come through their tough training sessions and are raring to go.

"I am thoroughly impressed with the way we have progressed this week," declared manager Basil Hayward. "My outlook has changed from optimism to enthusiasm over the coming season and, now that things look like working extremely well, I am confident we will make an impact on the league."

Reason behind the manager's confidence is that Mel Machin looks like being very much in the reckoning for the Tranmere game tomorrow, as he played at Hastings on Wednesday and came through extremely well. Gillingham won 2-1.

"He asked me if he could play and he seems to be having very little trouble with his knee," said the manager.

Tony Weston still has a bit of work to put in on his injured ankle but he too could be pressing for selection.

And Mr. Hayward is very encouraged with the way Tony Thear and Carl Gilbert have fitted in to his plans. They have been taking extra training sessions and have given Mr. Hayward every reason to think they will make the grade. The same applies to David Quirke who will be pushing hard for first team recognition.

Another player working hard

for a place is Derek Bellotti and this week Mr. Hayward disclosed that three clubs have already shown a definite interest in him. The clubs, one of which is understood to be in the First Division, will be keeping a close eye on the goalkeeper for the next month.

But the man with the greatest potential is Brian Yeo who has been proving recently that he could be one of the finest players on the books.

He is capable of doing anything the tactics demand of him if he can only sustain his current enthusiastic attitude to the game.

"Everyone in the first and second squad has come through so well that I now have no worries at all about the coming weeks," said Mr. Hayward.

Tomorrow's line-up is still to be decided upon, due to the pressure for a place from all quarters. But it is likely to be chosen from—John Simpson, Graham Chapman, Mike Green, Tony Weston, David Quirke, Bill Williams, Terry Simpson, Ray Bailey, Mel Machin, Derek Woodley, Brian Gibbs, Tony Thear, Carl Gilbert, Brian Yeo, John Meredith.

The Reserves will meet Tottenham Hotspur at the Stadium, kick-off 3 p.m., in a Football Combination Cup fixture.

# Money shock for Gills F.C.

WITH THE 1968-69 season due to start tomorrow (Saturday), Gillingham Football Club is going through one of its worst financial crises in recent history. Figures for the previous season show that attendances have slumped to almost half of what they were four years ago, financial help from its supporting organizations has been drastically curtailed and running costs are soaring.

Plans to re-vitalize interest in the club and promote new fund-raising schemes are being introduced. But until they are working properly, Gillingham will have to make do on an income hardly enough to keep a Southern League Club going.

Running costs alone are expected this year to be in the region of £50,000 and with outside fund raising pathetically low lately, the club will need gates in excess of 15,000 a match to meet them.

The chances of being viable in this direction will depend almost entirely on the next six weeks.

"We have got to be in the top two of the league before we can expect to bring the crowds in," said manager Basil Hayward this week—as he and the team were

preparing for one of the toughest opening spells to a season they have had to encounter in recent years.

Mr. Hayward will have the task of improving on last season's average gate of about 5,771. In the 1964-65 season it was 11,307 and the following year it had dropped to 7,492. This was one of the biggest headaches facing the manager when he took over.

The club's main contributors over the years have been the Supporters Association and the Blue and Whites. Both have failed to maintain financial support.

Just before the Blue and Whites were formed a few years ago, the Supporters raised—through daily and weekly competitions—£23,000. Last season the figure was £10,000 an average of around £100 a week.

After a lucrative but brief career, the Blue and Whites donated only 19 shillings to the parent club during the whole of the 1966-7 season. Since then it has been vir-

tually defunct—though it managed to give the club £50 a few months ago. A new committee has been re-formed and on Saturday it organised the club's first fete at the Stadium but only managed to break even. New schemes are, however, being discussed.

Since he came to Gillingham about 2½ years ago, Mr. Hayward has tried to introduce ideas. But he and the club have been dogged by setbacks—one of the biggest being the financial squeeze which "froze" the club's banking flexibility.

He is convinced, though, that the difference between the present situation and success is minimal.

"Everyone has got to put the club first and forget personal differences. If we can achieve this then I am convinced Gillingham has a great future."



## YOUNG GILLS

Gillingham Youths, who kick-off their South East Counties League programme at Tottenham tomorrow (Saturday) with a preliminary round League Cup match, receive a home first round tie against Millwall in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup.



Boys of Temple Secondary School, Strood, gave a display on the Trampoline at the Gillingham Football Club Fete at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday.



# New poser—who can he drop?

IN 48 hours Gillingham manager Basil Hayward has seen his position at Priestfield Stadium transformed from a problem of who to put in because of a long list of casualties — to one of who to leave out.

Today, the Gillingham boss could report that Mel Machin, previously rated almost certain to miss the opening game at Tranmere because of an ankle injury, had come through the friendly game at Hastings last night with flying colours.

He and John Meredith are fully fit again and Tony Weston has a good chance of being available.

The only question mark now is over 18-year-old amateur right-back Graham Chapman, a Chatham Dockyard worker, who has a leg injury.

The selection headache confronting Hayward is one the manager welcomes. He said today: "I would far rather worry about who to leave out than have to scratch around, worrying who fills the gap."

While Hayward wrestles with his team selection — it may not be resolved until tomorrow — he named wing-half Gordon Riddick to continue as captain.

One certain absentee from the Gillingham side on Saturday — 19-year-old forward Barry Summons, signed in the summer from West Ham. He started a seven-day suspension arising out of an incident when he was with the London club, which keeps him out of action until Monday.

Gillingham Supporters' Association have arranged a rail excursion to Tranmere for the opening League game at Prenton Park on Saturday.

The party will leave Gillingham station at 8.53 a.m. and supporters wishing to travel should meet John Leeds of the Blue and Whites Association on the station forecourt at 8.30 a.m.

Adult fare is 73s. 9d. and cost for juveniles (under 18 years) is 36s. 9d., inclusive of London underground tickets.

The return train will arrive back in Gillingham at 11.16 p.m.



## Player profile

### JOHN MEREDITH

JOHN MEREDITH (born Doncaster; age: 27; height: 5ft. 8in.; weight: 10st. 12lb.) — John was signed by Freddie Cox from Chesterfield for a then club record fee of £6,000 in March 1964.

John was a member of the Gillingham side which gained promotion to the Third Division that season.

Back home in Yorkshire, John represented Doncaster Schools and the Yorkshire Boys before signing for Doncaster Rovers as an amateur. He turned professional in 1958 and stayed with Rovers for over two years, playing 90 league games for them.

He first hit the headlines in February 1961 when he was transferred to Sheffield Wednesday for a fee of £4,000 plus the exchange of John Ballagher, who was later to become a Gills' player.

John made only one appearance in Wednesday's first team against Wolves before a crowd of 50,000. He played most of his soccer in the second team and was a member of the side which won the Central League championship.

John soon became dissatisfied with reserve team football and he accepted a move to Chesterfield in 1962.

At Gillingham John has been mainly employed in a defensive role and he admits to a preference for the inside-forward position.

John and his wife, Ann, who is a secretary, live in a club house at Rainham. Hobbies include dancing and collecting records.

# MEDWAY SOCCER APATHY

By Alan Hill

"SOCCER apathy in the Medway Towns is the worst in my 30 years' association with the Gillingham club," declared Blue and Whites Association chairman Harold France today.

Mr. France said the deplorable support for the 75th anniversary gala at Priestfield Stadium was yet another indication of the decline.

"We provided two hours of top-class entertainment and expected a crowd of between three and four thousand. Instead we got a paltry 800 people and lost £70 on the venture."

At a meeting of the Blue and White Association last night members decided to continue their support for the parent club. Earlier there had been fears that the association might be disbanded.

Mr. France said: "Our main concern is to provide a club with financial help. Naturally we want the team to do well."

but what the manager does in raising ventures."

He added: "True supporters will follow the club win or lose. The end product of enthusiastic support is success, and in its wake would come prosperity for the towns."

## Lowest

Mr. France referred to the continuing survival of clubs like Workington and Hartlepool, both of whom were faced with long-distance travel to most away games.

"Workington last season existed on average gates of 1,500. They couldn't have done this without their fund-

Out of the 92 football league clubs, said Mr. France, contributions from Gillingham's two supporters' associations were the lowest in the country. Even lowly Southern League club Hastings were able to donate £150 each week to the parent club.

In a bid to attract more fans to Priestfield Mr. France is negotiating to hire coaches for supporters in outlying areas.

"People at Grain and Hoo have complained that it is impossible to get to the ground by public transport. They say that buses are filled by Saturday afternoon shoppers."

"Our plan is to provide transport to and from games."

## New style programme for fans

A NEWLY-DESIGNED programme produced by Gillingham Supporters' Association will be on sale (price 6d.) at the Gills' Football League Cup match against Orient at Priestfield Stadium tonight.

The front cover by committee member Andy Bradley features an action photograph of winger Ken Osborn, and the eight-page programme includes a Blues editorial by Gillingham club chairman, Dr. C. S. Grossmark.

## PROFILES

The first in a series of profiles spotlights close season signing from Walsall, Terry Simpson. A re-styled goal chart will indicate goals scored at both ends of the ground, and aggregate goals and appearances will also be shown.

Fixtures and results of all three teams are included in the programme and the teams on the back cover will be supplemented by career details of opponents.



JOE LEECH, Albert Weller and Sidney Martin are devoted soccer fans. And Gillingham is the club to which each has given a large slice of his life. Between them these three long-serving directors have a total of 80 years in the boardroom. Joe (left) former club chairman, followed his father, who served for 20 years, on to the board. This month he completes 30 years; and in November Albert (centre) and Sidney each complete 25 years' service.



No.1

H.T. 0-1

Attend: 6,926

## Soccer scoop

FIVE Midway Towns soccer fans this week shared a £500 windfall in the Gillingham F.C. Supporters' Association free draw competition open to the holders of 10 daily draw tickets.

The winners, who receive £100 each, are: Mrs. N. Perch, Beresford Avenue, Rochester; Mr. A. Wiley, Olive Road, Rochester; Mrs. B. Pankhurst, Broadway, Gillingham; Mrs. Larkin, Gordon Road, Gillingham; and R. Ballard, Woodlands Road, Gillingham.

# GIFT GOALS SINK GILLS

Tranmere Rovers 2, Gillingham 0

ALTHOUGH they made several strong rallies after the interval, when they looked like drawing level, goal-shy Gillingham made a disappointing start to the new season at Prenton Park, Birkenhead, on Saturday.

Rovers, who took three points from the Kent club last season, cashed in on careless defensive slips to win in comfortable style and repeat last season's home success when they beat Gillingham 2-1.

The game never produced any real excitement or reached expectations in the heatwave temperature of 75 degrees. Both teams were obviously affected by the conditions, a lively ball and hard ground but there was no question that

Tranmere fully merited their victory on the general run of the exchanges.

Gillingham's defence was Rovers' heavy attacks. Although Bill Williams and his backs held out magnificently for long periods the increasing strain resulted in some bad mistakes and poor covering.

Tranmere's first goal after 42 minutes was a gift for George Yardley, Rovers' Scottish centre-forward. John Simpson made a hasty short clearance and the ball dropped just outside the penalty area. It fell between the feet of Williams, Green and Yardley, who promptly rounded Williams, moved forward, and as Simpson rushed out to retrieve a near hopeless situation, rounded the goalkeeper and flicked the ball into the net.

Rovers' second goal after 65 minutes followed a reckless foul on Frank Gill, the club's newly-signed outside-left from Manchester United.

Gill took the free-kick himself and cleverly lobbed the ball into the goalmouth, where Gerry Casey, rushing in, out-jumped Williams and Machin to glide it into the far corner of the net.

## Efforts

The visiting defence was taken completely by surprise and Simpson dived sideways to grab the ball, but it spun out of his grasp as he fell beside the netting.

Between times the Gillingham attack made strenuous efforts to wipe out the Rovers' slender lead and skipper Gordon Riddick, Brian Gibbs and Carl Gilbert went extremely close on several occasions.

Gillingham might easily have taken the lead after 20 minutes when Gibbs forced

Jimmy Cumbes to make a brilliant full-length save.

David Quirke crossed to Gibbs, smartly side-stepped Pointon and fired for the far corner of the net. Cumbes, however, dived across the goal face and turned the ball with his finger-tips round the post.

Gillingham held several spells on the offensive and Riddick, Gilbert and Gibbs worked tremendously hard to find the slightest loophole in Tranmere's stubborn defence.

Shortly after the interval, Gilbert, with a breathtaking leaping header, almost deflected Meredith's centre beyond the sprawling Cumbes.

## Injury

The ball ran across the goal face to the oncoming Woodley, whose first-time drive was charged down by Pointon.

Cumbes was again in action dealing with another smart header from Gilbert and at this juncture Gillingham caused more anxiety to Cumbes and his backs than at any other period of the game. They maintained steady pressure on the Rovers' goal with Riddick, Gibbs and Woodley combining most effectively, but without gaining any tangible reward.

Unfortunately, Tranmere broke away to score their second goal and settle the issue. Gilbert later went off limping, apparently with an ankle injury, and substitute Terry Simpson came on to watch Mike Green race upfield to drive high over the bar from a 30 yards free-kick.

During the closing minutes Tranmere caused further alarm in the visiting goalmouth when Rowland hit the bar with a fierce cross-drive and Gibbs and Cumbes were then temporarily knocked out

in a head-on collision in the goalmouth.

Riddick and his fellow forwards certainly finished the game in fighting mood, but they never played with the same fiery rhythm and method as Tranmere.

For individual skill and determination no one could underestimate Riddick, Gibbs and Gilbert, but the general all-round finishing was much below standard.

The forwards were too hasty and erratic with their passes, instead of pursuing cool and purposeful teamwork.

Woodley deserved better support, but on the other flank Meredith got few chances to shine against the hard tackling Storton.

Once again Bill Williams stood out in the defence with his clean tackling, sound covering and effective distribution.

## Difficult

Simpson was obviously upset by his unhappy slip which provided Tranmere with their opening goal, but otherwise showed amazing courage and daring in defying the Tranmere forwards.

Green, the club's new left-back, from Carlisle, had a difficult task against John Rowland, but he gradually gained control of the tricky winger.

**Tranmere:** Cumbes; Storton, Pointon; Casey, Smith, Mathias; Rowland, Sinclair, Yardley, Hudson, Gill. Subs: McNaney.

**Gillingham:** Simpson (I.); Machin, Green; Quirke, Williams, Bailey, Woodley, Gibbs, Riddick, Gilbert, Meredith. Subs: Simpson (T.).

Referee: W. S. Castle (Worcester).

Attendance: 6,926.



Gillingham and Eastcourt United players got together in March but not to play football. They played a darts match as part of the John Simpson Testimonial Fund. In the picture is Mr. Harold France, chairman of the Blue and Whites' Association.



# Gills choice



GILLINGHAM F.C. Supporters' Association have elected Mr. Norman Collins as a vice-president of the association. Mr. Collins (43), who lives at Pluckley Close, Gillingham, has been a member of the association since 1958.

Mr. Collins, one of the senior members of the association committee, has a special responsibility for the daily draw competitions and catering at the Stadium.

He has spent all his life in the area and he has a ready reply when asked to name his favourite player at Gillingham. "He is the man who is prepared to play his heart out for the Gills for the whole 90 minutes."

Mr. Collins, who replaces Mr. Frank Cobb as vice-president, is employed in the stores at Chatham Dockyard.

## Player profile



RAY BAILEY (height 6 ft. 1½ in., weight 22 st. 4 lb.—born at St. Neots) the Gills' wing-half was signed from Bedford Town in May 1966. Ray is a professional cricketer with Northants. Appearances curtailed last season by cartilage injury and the absence of this fine defensive player was a severe blow to Gillingham's promotion hopes.

# Brighter image is the aim at Priestfield

IMPROVING the status and prestige of Gillingham is the long-term aim of Priestfield manager Basil Hayward, writes ALAN HILL.

The first objective must be to dispel the music-hall tag and the attitude which prompted one correspondent last season to say that supporters no longer took the team seriously and now sought refuge in laughter.

Mr. Hayward inherited a policy of defensive and rugged soccer — some people described it as negative and dull to a point of boredom — but he is at pains to point out that it brought promotion to the Third Division and the end product justifies the means for many fans.

The Gills' chief has searched for a brighter attacking blueprint, but the impatience and apathy of the Medway Towns fans has frustrated this self-confessed optimist.

I applaud his visionary outlook and agree with his claim that there is a vast potential army of supporters waiting to support a successful league club in Kent.

On the other hand, there has been a lack of dedication — bluntly character and

## SLINGS AND ARROWS

heart — in the way in which the Gills have accepted adversity and plunged into the doldrums in recent times.

More enthusiastic support and an increase in the decibel count — the churchyard atmosphere at the stadium is not calculated to inspire any player — would work wonders.

In his drive for promotion this season, Mr. Hayward is seeking more power in attack and his major task is to ensure that those vital chances are taken and not squandered as was the case on countless occasions last season.

Like other managers, even those with greater financial resources, he is plagued by the scarcity of goal-scoring forwards. "Where do you find a player who will score 20 goals in a season for you?" he asks.

Bales talk in soccer circles nowadays includes the all-important contract. And one of Mr. Hayward's hopes for the future is to be able to agree cash terms in tempting players to the Medway Towns.

On the subject of skulduggery in modern soccer Mr. Hayward does not condone going over the borderline in physical combat.

## Explosive

The former Port Vale centre-half explains, with a wry look back at his own apprentice days: "I was brought up in a hard school as a young player in the Potteries."

"You learn how to cheat a little and give and take the knocks. And you had to learn your lessons quickly if you were to make a career in the game."

Explosive incidents often leading to hooliganism on the terraces are an unwelcome feature of today's game and the petulant antics of players are better suited to the stage than the soccer field.

Finger-waving referees too often contribute to the anger when a quiet and stern word could — halt — a vendetta. Yesterday's giants were just as tough and unyielding as present-day players, but they had respect for officials in a more disciplined age.

At Gillingham a "for sporting" charge could be levelled at the team and been played have often been unwilling or unable to adapt in a crisis. Striking the right balance between hard and fair play must be the goal of the Gills seek their share of

# 'We made mistakes and paid for them'

AFTER watching his team go down disappointingly through two costly mistakes at Tranmere, Gillingham's manager Basil Hayward could be well thinking of changes for tomorrow evening's (Wednesday) Football League Cup clash with much-changed Orient at Priestfield Stadium.

But yesterday (Monday) he told the Chatham Standard: "It is too early yet to panic. We made mistakes and we paid for them, but it is no good making major changes on just one game."

Training sessions today and tomorrow will decide the final line-up but the Gills' boss hasn't very much to choose from when it comes to striking power up front.

Tony Thear could come in after being left out of the squad that travelled north and a player with the talent to swing a game in Gills' favour is Brian Yeo, who missed the week-end game because of an ankle injury.

## RESTRICTED

But, other than these two, Mr. Hayward is restricted when it comes to front runners.

Still, he was not too depressed with the forwards' performances on Saturday as they seemed to work well against a sound Tranmere defence and could have changed the whole pattern of the game had luck been in their favour.

Brian Gibbs, Gordon Riddick and Carl Gilbert were all unlucky, not to see their efforts rewarded.

Mobility in midfield could be solved if the players manage to click early on and here Terry Simpson could play a big part. He was substitute at Tranmere, but came in for Gilbert towards the end and acquitted himself quite well.

Defensively, Mr. Hayward still has the strength and experience to hand. The Londoners tomorrow but again it will depend on the

form of the men he selects.

This department will, in fact, provide most of the speculation for the fans. Apart from the mistake, John Simpson had a fair game on Saturday, but reserve Derek Bellotti put in a brilliant performance in the Gills' second string game with Tottenham.

Tony Weston too seems to be fit enough to come back in the reckoning and Mr. Hayward has always had a lot of faith in the strength and tenacity he shows to boost the defensive tactics.

Orient provide attractive opposition for the Football League opener at the Stadium.

They met Rotherham at Brisbane Road on Saturday and picked up a point in a 3-3 draw. But it was not until the last eight minutes that Tommy Docherty's Yorkshire lads snapped up two goals through Scottish international and former Fulham and Birmingham winger—Graham Leggatt.

## RAIDING WINGERS

Orient's strength in this match lay in their two fast raiding wingers—Malcolm Slater and close-season signing from West Ham United, Peter Brabrook.

Orient will select their team tomorrow from:—

Ray Goddard, goalkeeper, London-born, started as an apprentice professional with Fulham. Signed for the Orient in Feb-

ruary, 1967.

Mick Jones, right-back, born in Berkhamstead and previously with Fulham and Chelsea. Followed Dave Sexton to the Orient in February, 1966; Bert Howe, left-back, another Londoner, has played for Faversham and Crystal Palace, before signing in January, 1967.

Brian Wood, centre-half, six seasons with Crystal Palace after leaving West Bromwich. Signed in December, 1966; Terry Mancini, centre-half, started with Watford and then moved to South African football. Signed in November, 1967; Dave Harper, wing-half, Peckham-born, played with Millwall, Ipswich and Swindon before signing in October, 1967.

Peter Brabrook, outside-right, a Londoner. Started his career with Chelsea in 1954, moved to West Ham and signed for the Orient this month; Jimmy Bloomfield, inside-forward, player-manager, has played for Brentford, Arsenal, Birmingham, West Ham and Plymouth before joining the Orient in March.

Roy Massey, centre-forward, Yorkshire-born, signed from Rotherham last September; Vic Halom, inside-forward, another Londoner, left Charlton on a temporary transfer in August, 1967; Malcolm Slater, winger, a Scot, signed from Southend in January, 1967; Peter Allen, wing half, signed for Orient in the summer of 1965.



## Stadium spotlight

THE influence Gordon Riddick has on the Gills' pattern and players can be seen in the fact that a few weeks after joining the club in March 1967 he was made skipper. And his role was sustained this season when manager Basil Hayward decided to keep him in the job.

Almost immediately after coming to Priestfield Stadium from Luton, 24-year-old Gordon was stamping his authority on the game. Not since the old Alex Farrell days have the fans seen a player with such an insatiable attitude towards football.

Always on hand to set up attacks or fall back, he could be described as the "spark plug" of the Gillingham tactics.

Immensely fit, he is one of the fastest men in the squad and, although he likes the midfield role where he can marshal the moves of the game, he is equally dangerous when streaking up with the attack.

One of the cleanest and most open players in the game, he is supremely confident about Gillingham's ability and chances in the Third Division.

"All the lads are enthusiastic and I am sure we have a chance of making good this year," he said during the pre-season training programme recently.

Married and living in Rainham, Gordon is a keen golfer.



and plays cricket for a club in Bedfordshire. His latest hobby, however, revolves around his pet Labrador puppy.

When he is not training at the Stadium he can often be seen exercising himself and his dog around the Rainham parks.

His easy-going-with-outlook on life has made him a firm favourite of the Gillingham fans and a great friend of the Gills' players. One of the things his colleagues look for is a spot of entertainment on long away trips with his guitar.

# Meet the Gills



GILLINGHAM'S 1968-69 playing staff, pictured by Evening Post staffman John Wardley, at Priestfield Stadium. BACK ROW: Carl Gifford, Derek Bellotti, John Simpson, Ray Bailey, SECONDO ROW: Terry Simpson, Tony Thean, Barry Simmons, Peter Ball, John Arnold, Bobbie, Miller, J. Brown, Tony Weston, Brian Gilho, FRONT ROW: Derek Wardley, Ken Osborn, Bill Williams, Mel Machin, Gordon Riddick, David Quirk, Brian J. Brown, Tony Weston, Brian Gilho, FRONT ROW: John Riddick, David Peaches, Geoff Bines, Tony Weston, Brian Gilho, FRONT ROW: John Riddick, David Peaches, Geoff Bines, Tony Weston, Brian Gilho.



## Replay date

GILLINGHAM will replay their Football League Cup first round tie against Orient at Brisbane Road next Tuesday (kick-off 7.30). The Gills also met the Londoners in a league game at Priestfield stadium on Saturday (kick-off 7.30) to complete a series of three meetings with the Orient in seven days.

Manager Basil Hayward today congratulated his team on their fight back to a 2-2 draw last night.

"It was a fine game for the spectators. Orient played some good soccer in the first half but we were just as good after the interval," he said.

Gills' skipper Gordon Riddick sustained cuts on his forehead and above an eye in last night's match, and it is not yet known whether he will be fit in time for Saturday's game.

# Carol puts right foot forward and follows the Gills

THERE must be many football clubs up and down the country which could use the support of such a keen follower as 18-year-old Carol Cook, of 49, Walderslade Road, Chatham.

Carol has been an ardent supporter of Gillingham football since she was nine.

For eight years she watched every home match and most of their away ones, too.

Last year she had to go to college in Erith and missed a few games, but now she's back she's determined never to let the side down again.

## Favourite

How did it all start?

Carol explains: "It was on Boxing Day when I was nine. My father was going to watch the Gills and because I had nothing better to do I went along as well. It was terrific and I just went again and again."

Johnny Simpson, who she says was the finest goalkeeper she has seen, and Johnny Meredith were her favourite players.

She was vice-president of the Johnny Simpson testimonial fund and as a money raising stunt tried to organise a girls' team to play the Gills, but her efforts were thwarted when the F.A. put its foot down.

# GILLS CAN DO IT

## AGAIN Hayward steps up search for striker

By Alan Hill

GILLINGHAM manager Basil Hayward is intensifying his search for a striker-cum-provider to guard against a repeat of last season's spate of missed chances.

Mr. Hayward said today: "There is no panic. I still think we have the players to do the job, but we must be prepared to meet the contingency if it arises."

The Gills' chief was at last night's Football League Cup match between Bournemouth and Southampton at Dean Court. Today he admitted to an interest in two Southend forwards.

## Double

"Whether Southend will part or not is another matter," said Mr. Hayward. "They tried hard for promotion without success last season, and will probably want to keep their key players to make another challenge this term."

Gillingham will be chasing a double as they step out on the Football League Cup trail against Orient at Priestfield Stadium tonight (kick-off 7.30).

They gained a 3-1 win over the Londoners in the first round tie at Brisbane Road last season.

Mr. Hayward is delaying his team selection until shortly before the kick-off, but he has added the names of Terry Simpson (substitute on Saturday), Tony Thear and Tony Weston to the team which lost 2-0 at Trannmere.

Weston came through a try-out with the Combination side against Spurs on Saturday without ill effects, but there is a slight doubt involving Mel Machin, who suffered an ankle injury at a game at Trannmere.

Team (from): Simpson (G); Green, Machin, Weston; Quirke, Williams, Bailey; Woodley, Gibbs, Riddick, Thear, Gilbert, Meredith, Simpson (T).

Revelation-bound Orient, who are managed by former Arsenal and England Under 23 star Jimmy Bloomfield, have adopted a new approach of set-out attack since their relegation crisis days last season.

Player-manager Bloomfield was signed from Plymouth last March — 24 hours before struggling Orient gained their first away win of the season at Gillingham.

## Dividends

Bloomfield's attacking policy paid handsome dividends from the start. The O's averaged a point a game till the end of the season and this was enough to steer them to safety.

Orient's only close season signing has been the former Chelsea and England international, 30-year-old Peter Brabrook. He was signed from West Ham for a reported fee of £10,000.

Brabrook's clever footwork and ball control were in evidence in Orient's 3-3 draw with Rotherham on Saturday. He crowned his debut with a well-taken goal.

Two of Orient's teenager signings last season — 16-year-old Tommy Taylor and year-old Rafe, aged 17 — will be pressing hard for first team recognition this term. Wins — half Taylor will probably line up against Gillingham tonight.

Centre-half John Amott conceded two own goals in Orient's 3-2 win at Priestfield last season, but the Gills avenged this defeat with a resounding 4-0 victory at Brisbane Road.

Probable Orient team (4-2-4 line-up): Steve Bowtell; Mick Jones, Bert Howe, Terry Machin, Tommy Taylor; David Harper, Jimmy Bloomfield; Malcolm Slater, Peter Brabrook, Roy Mason, Vic Hinton.

## LEAGUE CUP DRAW Gillingham home to Fulham if—

IF Gillingham beat Orient in Tuesday night's League Cup replay they will play Fulham at Priestfield Stadium in the second round—a game that could be a good crowd puller.

Last season Fulham were relegated to the Second Division.

Leeds United, the cup holders, look to have an easy task as they start the defence of the trophy they won at Wembley in March. They have drawn second division Charlton Athletic in the second round of the cup at Elland Road and so continue their remarkable cup draw luck.

Last year Leeds were drawn at home in the League Cup three times out of four, and in the F.A. Cup they had four successive home ties before being beaten by Everton in the semi-final.

## Attractive

Arsenal, runners-up at Wembley last year, have drawn Sunderland in one of the most attractive looking ties in the round. Arsenal have started the season in good form with two successive wins and Sunderland had a good win over newly promoted Ipswich last night.

Notts Forest meet F.A. Cup holders West Bromwich Albion in the only other clash between first division teams.

The tie between Birmingham City and Chelsea recalls last season's F.A. Cup sixth round meeting when Birmingham surprised their first division opponents 1-0.

The full draw for the second round is: Liverpool v Sheffield United, Leeds United v Charlton Athletic, Everton v Chester or Tranmere Rovers, Arsenal v Sunderland.

Nottingham Forest v West Bromwich Albion.  
West Ham United v Bolton Wanderers.  
Southampton v Northampton Town or Crew Alexandra.  
Wolverhampton Wanderers v Southend United.  
Coventry City v Portsmouth.  
Ipswich Town v Norwich City.  
Birmingham City v Chelsea.  
Southport or Barrow v Newcastle United.  
Wrexham v Blackpool.  
Walsall v Swansea Town.  
Bristol City v Middlesbrough.  
Plymouth Argyle or Exeter City v Sheffield Wednesday.  
Blackburn Rovers v Stoke City.  
Cardiff United v Cardiff City.  
Crystal Palace v Preston North End or Oldham Athletic.  
Huddersfield Town v Manchester City.  
Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur.  
Barnsley v Millwall.  
Bradford City v Swindon Town.  
Darlington v Leicester City.  
Grimsby Town or Notts County v Burnley.  
Doncaster Rovers or Peterborough United v Queen's Park Rangers.  
Scunthorpe United v Lincoln City.  
Derby County v Bury or Stockport County.  
Brentford v Hull City.  
Brighton and Hove Albion v Luton Town.  
Gillingham or Orient v Fulham.  
Colchester United v Workington.



# Fantastic fightback brings

## Gills a replay

GILLINGHAM 2, ORIENT 2

GILLINGHAM bounced back in tremendous fashion at Priestfield Stadium on Wednesday night against Orient to wipe out a 2-0 deficit and deservedly earn a Football League Cup (1st Rd.) replay at Brisbane Road next Tuesday - a replay that certainly did not look on the cards when the Gills trailed off at the interval... writes TERRY OWEN.

Gillingham were at their most miserable worst in the first half when they allowed Orient to take complete control of midfield play.

Player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield, due to slack marking, had the freedom of the Stadium and he made full use of it to exploit a slow home defence and feed an incessant supply of accurate passes to fast raiding wingers, Peter Brabrook and Mal Slater.

There was only one team in it as Gillingham struggled to find their feet. When they did apply

pressure on the Orient defence in counter-attacks by the "O's" often caught the home defence square.

Gills' back four, Mel Machin, Bill Williams, Ray Bailey and Mike Green, were continually under pressure as Gordon Riddick and young David Quirke failed to pick up the Orient midfield men.

### DIFFERENT TALE

But the second half proved a different tale and Gillingham's tremendous fightback stemmed from the 57th minute when newcomer Terry Simpson replaced Riddick who left the pitch with a head injury.

Simpson gave Gillingham a much tighter grip in midfield. Bloomfield was effectively shadowed and the Orient attack faded as quickly as it had become an explosive force in the initial half.

Such was Gillingham's dominance that goalkeeper John Simpson had to deal with only one direct shot at goal after the interval - a free-kick from right half Dave Harper midway through the half.

Two brilliantly-taken goals from David Quirke had supporters wildly applauding. They came in a four minute spell and were the young wing-half's first senior goals.

After a confident Orient had indulged in some micky-taking they were set right back on their heels in the 66th minute with Gillingham goal that came right out of the blue.

QUIRKE, just outside the penalty box, mis-kicked with his right foot when trying to connect with a low left wing cross but crashed the ball inches above the ground with

his left foot towards the corner of the net.

Goalkeeper Goddard threw himself to his right and although he managed to get his fingers to the ball he could not prevent it entering the net.

For the first time in the match Orient's defence was rattled - it was also the first time Gills' fans had had anything to shout about.

### WIDE OPEN

Four minutes later the game was wide open. Again it was young QUIRKE who found himself unmarked for a Derek Woodley throw-in and this time he fired first time for the ball to enter the net off an upright.

Nothing was seen of the Orient attack as Gillingham took the initiative for the first time and mounted an Orient defence that back-pedalled with alarming regularity.

Twenty minutes remained as Gillingham threw everything at the Orient goal in a bid to forge ahead for the first time.

Terry Simpson was in the thick of things and struck up a good understanding with Woodley. The pair combined well for Woodley to set up an opportunity for Simpson who fired wide of the goal.

Then the ex-Walsall man was just beaten in a chase for a Meredith through ball by 'keeper Goddard.

Orient were given a breather when referee Mr. R.B. Kirkpatrick (Leicester) had to receive attention for cramp from trainer Jimmy Boswell but there was no respite for their harassed defence when play resumed.

Williams went up to win a high ball and glance down to Gibbs. The inside-forward flicked a great through ball and again Simpson was just beaten by Goddard in a chase.

Gibbs tried a shot from 35 yards that went well wide and the final minute saw a corner comfortably cleared by the Orient defence.

### REOUNDING DEFEAT

It was a wonderful fightback by Gillingham who, at half-time, seemed headed for a resounding defeat.

The first half belonged to Orient who were skilful in their approach work, dominant in defence and much too quick on the ball for a ragged Gillingham team that lacked cohesion.

In their first real attack in the sixth minute they snatched a shock goal - a goal that should have been prevented.

Right winger Slater flicked the ball over his head and with 'keeper Simpson rooted to his line inside-left VIC HALOM rose high above defenders to head in to the corner of the net.

Slater and Brabrook, always positioning themselves well with plenty of room to work in, carved opportunities and provided a constant supply of high balls for the dangerous twin spearhead of Halom and Roy Massey.

Encouraged by an early success, Brabrook volleyed only inches wide of the goal and then cut in on a fine through ball from Harper to shoot just outside the upright.

But in the 31st minute Orient went two up with a tremendous goal from Halom. Bloomfield found the inside-left 25 yards from the goal. Halom shaped to pass and then fooled everyone by lashing the ball high into the corner of the net - it was a perfect goal. Three minutes from the half-time whistle

Orient missed a great chance to snatch a third goal when Slater ran on to perfect pass from Halom and fired wide with the Gills defence at sixes and sevens.

The half-time pep talk from manager Basil Hayward must have shaken the Gills for they had a glorious second half after an initial period that was best forgotten.

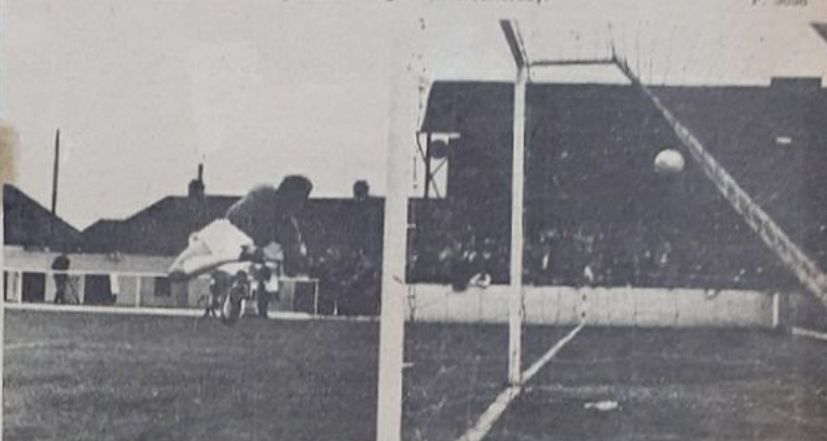
**GILLINGHAM:** Simpson (J); Machin, Green, Quirke, Williams, Bailey, Woodley, Gibbs, Riddick (Simpson T), Thear, Meredith.

**ORIENT:** Goddard, Jones, Howe, Harper, Mancini, Taylor, Slater, Massey, Bloomfield, Halom, Brabrook.

Attendance: 5,996



Orient right-back Mick Jones can only stand and watch as David Quirke's crashing drive rockets into the net for Gillingham's first goal on Wednesday.



A despairing attempt by John Simpson to prevent Orient's second goal on Wednesday which was netted by Vic Halom.



Vic Halom, scorer of Orient's two goals, rises for a cross but found himself in an off-side position. Gillingham players are Bill Williams and Mel Machin.

### Fulham at home if..

Big incentive for Gillingham to do well at Orient on Tuesday is that the winners receive a home League Cup second round match against Fulham.

### Gills boss pleased

GILLS manager Basil Hayward said yesterday (Thursday) that he was very pleased with the way his team pulled through to draw level with Orient on Wednesday night.

"Both teams played good open football and the supporters had a good game to watch," he said.

The Gills' boss travelled to Bournemouth on Tuesday to have a look at two Southend forwards he is interested in and said, "I watched them just in case Southend are prepared to let one of them go."

For the visit of Orient tomorrow, Mr. Hayward is not likely to make many changes although yesterday he was not decided on his line-up.

A check today will tell whether skipper Gordon Riddick - cut on the forehead in the first-half and above the eye in the second period - will be fit to play.

No.2  
H.T. 0-2  
attend. 5,998



## Dream becomes a reality

FOR THE first time ever, Gillingham Football Club is to have its own club where supporters can meet socially over a drink before, and after and during a match or in the week.

An idea of the Blue and Whites supporting organization, it will be called the Vice-presidents Club and will have a capacity for about 50 people. Blue and Whites chairman Mr. Harold France is dealing with applications for membership and here his colleague Mr. Arthur Denness, (pictured below), is putting the finishing touches to the decorations. Mr. Denness, who

has been working on the club in his spare-time, should have it completed for the Gills' next home match.

P.3757.



## Stadium spotlight

WHAT has endeared the Gillingham crowd to Tony Weston so much is his absolute determination to get on with the whistle-blowing from the first whistle.

Totally oblivious to what ever faint might be in, he around him might be in, he widens in wholeheartedly and

by his sheer unflappable tenacity often comes out as the last ditch hero of the Gills defence by robbing a particularly dangerous striker with his ferocious persistence. This week, however, he heard that the broken ankle he sustained last autumn has



still not mended properly which means that, unless something happens in the near future, he will have been out of the first team for over a year.

He has turned out for the reserves and so regular fans have had a taste of the broad of football that has made him one of the cornerstones of the Gills' lineup.

A tremendously mild-mannered and easy-going player, 22-year-old Tony is married with a three-month-old child and lives in Featherby Road, Gillingham.

A friend and former colleague of English international and Manchester United player David Sayer, Tony was signed from Maidstone by Fred Cox about five seasons ago.

The Gills' present manager, Basil Hayward is equally impressed by his football and just before the season opened he made particular mention of the way Tony was progressing.

"He is a great lad with a wonderful heart for football before he is back in the thick of things," said Mr. Hayward.

CROWDS gather round the Evening Post van to buy copies of the special edition with a half-time report of the Gillingham v. Orient match at Priestfield Stadium last night. The game was drawn two-all.







First-half action in the Orient penalty area on Wednesday night. Gordon Riddick and Brian Gibbs challenge Orient's Dave Harper for a left-wing cross. P. 3656

## No change in League clash

Gillingham and Orient field unchanged teams for their second clash in four days at Priestfield Stadium tomorrow night (7.30).

On Wednesday they fought out an exciting 2-2 League Cup draw.

Tomorrow they return to the quest for Third Division points.

The only doubt in the Gills' line-up concerns skipper Gordon Riddick, who went off during Wednesday's game with cuts on his forehead and above an eye.

### Obstacle

The teams will meet again on Tuesday night at Brisbane Road for the League Cup replay.

The winners will meet Second Division Fulham in the Second Round.

"I hope they will be playing at Priestfield. It's an attractive draw — but let's get over the Orient obstacle first," manager Basil Hayward said yesterday.

**Gillingham** — Simpson (J.), Machin, Green, Quirke, Williams, Bailey, (from) Woodley, Gibbs, Riddick, Thear, Simpson (T), Meredith, Taylor, Goddard, Jones.

**Orient** — Howe, Mancini, Harper, Bloomfield, Slater, Massey, Halom, Brabrook. Gillingham Reserves are away to Ipswich in the Combination Cup. Team: Bellotti, Weston, Chapman, Gough, Arnott, Folds, Harrison, Yeo, Simpson, Gilbert, Peach, Sub: O'Brien.

## Lack of support causing 'grave concern'

TWO body blows to Gillingham's hopes of support came this week when the Blue and Whites announced that both its current projects—the gala recently and the almost-completed vice-presidents club—are causing "grave concern".

The gala day, laid on at the Stadium to mark the club's 75th anniversary, made a loss of about £70. And so far there has been only one inquiry about the vice-presidents club, being built underneath the stand in Redfern Avenue.

The setbacks prompted Blue and Whites chairman, Mr. Harold France, to resign. But an emergency meeting of the committee running the B. and W. persuaded him to change his mind this week.

"It is, however, pretty demoralizing to see the tremendous efforts of this committee so badly wasted. I have never known anything like it in the 30 years I have been supporting the Gills," said Mr. France this week.

"Undoubtedly, the lack of support for both our projects is causing us grave concern," he added. "But the committee has a lot of fight left in it and they are prepared to persevere."

"We still have one or two ideas in hand which we hope to introduce in the coming weeks," he added. "Our aim is and always will be to support the parent club as much as we can."

"Naturally we want them to do well but the manager's idea on selection and signing is his business," said Mr. France.

Referring, however, to the sur-

prising turn of events recently, the chairman pointed out that Gillingham's income from its two supporting organizations was the lowest of the 92 league clubs in Britain.

"Even lowly Hastings' supporters were able to give £150 to their club each week," he commented.

The extent of the enthusiasm the B. and W.'s have can be

gauged from the fact that they are already planning to draw support from outside the Towns.

Sub-committees are likely to be set up in Sittingbourne, Maidstone and other areas and it is hoped to lay on special coaches to bring people to the Stadium.

Another big money-spinner is also on the stocks—though details cannot yet be released.



GILLINGHAM 'keeper John Simpson goes up full stretch as an Orient attack is beaten off in last night's League Cup tie at Priestfield Stadium, which ended in a 2-2 draw.

## Social club for Gills

GILLINGHAM F.C. Supporters' Association are now preparing final plans for the proposed social club at Priestfield Stadium, and these will be submitted to the local council for planning permission in the near future.

Arrangements have been made with a firm of brewers to provide bar facilities.

The new social club is expected to be completed next season and be ready in time for the opening games of the 1969-70 season.





GILLINGHAM forwards well marked by Orient backs on attack during the first-half of Football League Cup first round.

## SPORTS MAILBOX

### 'I could pick a better team'

AN appeal for first team recognition for the club's younger players is made by Priestfield critic, Mr. R. Burden, of 15, Staplehurst Road, Gillingham.

Mr. Burden alleges that the Evening Post accepts the words and theories of Gillingham manager Basil Hayward as gospel.

Mr. Burden alleges that the Evening Post accepts the words and theories of Gillingham manager Basil Hayward as gospel.

He writes: "I have been watching the Gills for many years, and last season's games and the two Orient games this season are just about the worst I have seen."

"Last season the bad play was blamed on Bill Brown, but the play has not improved now that he has left the club."

Mr. Burden alleges that old, slow and disinterested players are the cause of the trouble at Priestfield and contends that some of the young, enthusiastic players should be given an extended run in the team.

Our correspondent challenges Mr. Hayward's assertion that the soccer played so far this season is first-rate. He thinks he could pick a side which would fare better than the teams selected to date.

This is Mr. Burden's team: Bellotti; Weston, Machin, Williams, Green; Riddick, Gilrke, Meredith; Harrison, Gilbert, Woodley.

● Footnote: Mr. Burden is way off target when he says that the Post always agrees with Mr. Hayward's announcements. We aim to present a fair opinion, and I hold fast to my conclusion that the spirit and fight of the Gills in the second game against Orient was a revelation. The Gills fell from grace in the League Cup replay at Leyton, but it would be an injustice to write off the team after one bad game. — Alan Hill

## Player profile



**BRIAN GIBBS** — Born Gillingham, Dorset. Ht. 5ft. 10in. Wt. 11st. 7lbs. Brian, who formerly worked as a coppersmith at Fareham (Hants), was signed from Bournemouth in November 1962. He was previously on Portsmouth's books as an amateur.

Brian has been a prolific goalgetter at Gillingham, scoring 109 goals in 282 games. His best season was in 1965-66, when he scored 23 league goals in 45 appearances for the Gills.

Last season was a lean period for the Priestfield striker, but he still emerged as leading scorer with 16 League and League Cup goals.

Brian, now aged 28, is married with two children and lives at Upchurch. He was placed on the transfer list at his own request before the start of the new season.



TYPICAL of the thrills which kept the crowd on their toes at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday night was this Gillingham attack on the Orient goal early in the second half.



Three goals in seven minutes

# SKILFUL GILLS POSE HAYWARD CUP REPLAY PROBLEM

## Gillingham 2, Orient 2

AFTER watching this remarkable performance in the start-to-finish downpour on Saturday evening Gills' manager Basil Hayward can have only one problem - should he or shouldn't he drop skipper Gordon Riddick for tonight's (Tuesday) third in-a-row clash with Orient... writes MARTIN HITCHINGS

For although Riddick (so often the powerhouse of Gillingham's tactics) was substitute on Saturday, the team laid on one of the finest displays of crisp, open football seen at the Stadium in along time.

They and Orient set such a cracking pace from beginning to end that no-one in the pitifully small crowd could have looked upon the scoreline as anything more than incidental.

Orient had the individuals who were able to pull them back for a point. But Gillingham's overall strength, skill and uniform mobility was far and above anything the London club could offer. And the fact that they had to be content with a draw was due to downright hard luck.

Such was Gills' supremacy in virtually every aspect of the game, that it was impossible to single out any one player for theman-of-the-match tag.

Derek Woodley's flair for slicing the defence in shreds with his lightning footwork was perhaps the most eye-catching thing to watch and delight in. But his talent, outstanding as it was, complemented rather than stood out from the whole pattern of controlled, clean football his colleagues built up around him.

No-one worked harder to set this pattern than Brian Gibbs and many a tactician would argue that it was his continual badgering of the Orient defence that gave Woodley the freedom to break as often as he did.

Once again the Gills' veteran striker was out of the scorers but if his fantastic zest for working up front and at the back is anything to go by, it won't be long before he will be among the marksmen.

One is bound to wonder, however, just how effective these would have been without Terry Simpson who, in his first full game, showed he has all the know-how necessary to keep the pace of the game just as he likes it.

With partners John Meredith and David Quirke keeping a tight rein on anything Orient had in mind in midfield, Simpson was able to apply a brand of controlled, calculating football that must have had the fans asking if he will provide the solution to Mr. Hayward's "provider" problems.

He showed his knack for coming on to the offensive just at the right time when he gave Gillingham the lead in the 55th minute. Picking up a low pass from Woodley, he slammed the ball first time from the edge of the box to give 'keeper Goddard no chance - though the ball seemed to glance off a defender in flight.

The goal (the best of the match) followed the most electrifying bout of the game when Gillingham found themselves trailing and in the lead in the space of seven minutes.

For most of the first half Gillingham's back four, well marshalled by Bill Williams, had been flawless. But then three minutes after the change-round the always menacing PETER BRABROOK struck when he raced in to a Massey cross and completely unmarked headed past a dumfounded John Simpson.

But then in 53rd minute WOODLEY'S persistence saw him pull Gillingham level when he picked up a bad clearance from his corner and put in a ground-level cracker. Mancini seemed to lunge for it and, as Goddard dived to get his fingers to it, the ball ricocheted into the net.

The game had hardly restarted when a now rattled Orient saw SIMPSON make it 2-1.

The three-goal barrage from the 48th to the 55th minute was obviously the highlight of the game. But the crowd was given plenty to cheer over.

Take the very first move of the match when Quirke touched the ball to Woodley for him to set off on a jinking run that put him well out of Orient's reach. Gibbs was on hand to race through but the slippery, rain-soaked surface beat him.

Orient hit vack hard through Brabrook and Bloomfield but within seconds Woodley was off on another of his devastating runs. This time he found Gibbs' head with the cross and the ball went down to oncoming Simpson who hit it first time only to see it blocked and cleared.

Brabrook then saw his point blank shot from the edge of the box scrape the cross-bar. But after a brief spell of indecision Gillingham were back in the reckoning.

A brilliant interception by John Meredith saw him streak goal wards and chip the ball to Gibbs who found Goddard good enough to hold his 20 yard shot.

By now Gibbs was in tremendous form and his headed down pass sparked one of the finest moves of the evening. Yet again Derek Woodley waltzed through the Orient defence and this time he found Simpson who simply glided the ball on to Quirke to push onto Thear.

The young striker seemed set for a goal but he just failed to connect properly and the ball went wide.

The early change-round period saw Gillingham a little shaky but after the three goal burst they were back on the rampage.

### SECOND ATTEMPT

Woodley followed up Simpson's goal with another great run and shot just over the top. And then Gibbs picked up a quick pass from Meredith to send in a low shot.

Then came probably the best individual effort of the evening when Gibbs broke from defence and hit the ball 50 yards from his own box. Tony Thear was on the left of the field but he ran more than 30 yards to rob Taylor with a sliding tackle.

After dominating so much of the game, Gillingham made one more mistake and it proved to be the one that gave Orient the point.

Halom again fluffed a goal-scoring chance but in the 81st minute BLOOMFIELD moved in close to a cross from the right and prodded the ball home. Again, unfortunately John Simpson seemed unable to come out.



With goalkeeper Goddard grounded Orient pivot Mancini can only watch as Derek Woodley's shot flashes into the net for Gillingham's equalizer on Saturday. P.3705



Orient goalkeeper Goddard comes smartly out of his goal to collect—right wing across. The only Gills forward with Orient defenders Mancini, Harper, Howe and Taylor, is inside-right Brian Gibbs.

## Hayward's one fear

### D I S APPOINTMENT

mingled with some satisfaction was the reaction of Gillingham manager, Basil Hayward today, after the brace of drawn games with Orient.

"In view of the tough away games coming up against Barnsley and Rotherham, I would have liked two points against Orient on Saturday," said the Gills' chief.

"It was a pity that the weather kept the crowd down on Saturday night. But those who came were treated to an entertaining game by two teams who placed the emphasis on attack."

Mr. Hayward has one fear amid the congratulations which have greeted a fine start to a new season. "People, even at this stage in the season, look at the league table and decide whether they will support you or not."

The Gillingham manager hopes for a successful outcome in the League Cup replay against Orient at Brisbane Road tomorrow night. The reward is a second round tie against Second Division Fulham at Gillingham.

Mr. Hayward will announce the team for the replay tomorrow. Skipper Gordon Riddick is making a good recovery from the head injuries sustained in the first cup game against Orient last



Gillingham's Tony Thear climbs high above Orient's Taylor for a cross but is foiled by 'keeper Goddard. P.3704

GILLINGHAM: Simpson, Machin, Green, Quirke, Williams, Bailey, Woodley, Gibbs, Simpson, Thear and Meredith.

ORIENT: Goddard, Jones, Howe, Harper, Mancini, Taylor, Slater, Massey, Bloomfield, Halom, Brabrook.

Attendance 5,524

No. 3

H.T. 0-0

altend: 5,524



## 'Difficult but we can win'

Gillingham and Orient make it a hat-trick of clashes in seven days when they meet in their Football League Cup first round replay at Brisbane Road tonight (Tuesday) and the incentive to win is an attractive home tie against Second Division Fulham.

The clubs have drawn their two matches today by the same score, 2-2, and of tonight's clash manager Basil Hayward said yesterday "It is going to be difficult but it is a match we can win".

Mr. Hayward will not decide on his replay line-up until sometime today but with no serious injuries at the Stadium, one or two suffered slight knockson Saturday, the manager cannot be thinking of many changes.

Gillingham fans have had plenty to shout about after the season's two openers against Orient. Both matches were real cliffhangers that kept fans at the Stadium until the final whistle and the games showed a definite improvement in the Gills play.

Commenting on Saturday's encounter the Gills boss said "I was very pleased with the game. There are certain things that we must tighten up but if we can continue to play as well as we have in our two home matches then we will be in for a good season".

"Spectators have been given two matches that produced football well above average in a so-called lower grade of soccer", he added.

An announcement in Saturday's programme concerning a Gillingham player was that Peter Hall, who joined the club from Bedford Town last term and has been out of football for many weeks with knee injury, is not making progress and he is thinking of returning to his native Potteries to start in other employment after a lifetime spent in professional football.

Visitors to the Stadium tomorrow (Wednesday) for a Football Combination Cup tie will be Ipswich Reserves who defeated the Gills' second string 3-2 on Saturday.

But Gillingham face a tough Football League programme when they make two trips to Yorkshires in four days, starting Saturday.

The Gills are at Barnsley, promoted from Division Four, on Saturday and then travel to Rotherham, managed by Tommy Docherty, on Tuesday.

# No change Gills try again

GILLINGHAM are expected to be unchanged for the Football League Cup first round replay against Orient at Brisbane Road tonight (kick-off 7.30).

Powerful Terry Simpson, signed in the close season from Walsall, starred in the Third Division game against Orient on Saturday and proved a more than adequate deputy for Gills' injured skipper, Gordon Riddick.

Riddick is now fully fit again after suffering head injuries in the first cup game against the Londoners last Wednesday. He was included in the Gills party travelling to London this afternoon.

Manager Basil Hayward said today that there was a silent doubt involving full-back Mel Machin, who was

nursing a leg strain yesterday.

Team: J. Simpson; Mochlin; Green; Quirke, Williams, Bailey; (from) Woodley, Gibbs, T. Simpson, Riddick, Thear, Meredith.

BY  
ALAN HILL

Gillingham will need to guard against the menace of former England, Chelsea and West Ham winger Peter Brabrook and the mid-field

scheming of player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield.

The stylish Brabrook showed on Saturday that he is still a potential matchwinner and quite capable of resistance by opposing defenders.

Mr. Hayward, however, can equally point to the speed and craft of right-winger Derek Woodley, and a reputation of Saturday's power play can earn Gillingham a home draw against Second Division Fulham in the second round of the competition.

"We know we have a tough task at Brisbane Road tonight," said the Gills chief. "But we are hoping for our first win of the season."

Gillingham supporters travelling by car to tonight's game are recommended to travel along the A11 (South-end-London Road) then turn right at Prince Regent Lane - A112 (the turning after the North Circular Road), and on to Angel Lane and High Road, Leyton.

The Orient ground is on the left in Brisbane Road.

Gillingham Reserves meet Ipswich in a return Combination Cup game at Priestfield Stadium tomorrow night (kick-off 7.30).

Gills' winger Peter Hall, who was signed from Bedford last season, is still troubled by a persistent knee injury. He is now thinking of retiring from the game and returning to his native Potteries.

## GREAT CUP GAMES OF THE PAST

GILLINGHAM'S finest hour in the Football League Cup came in the 1966-67 season when they held the mighty Arsenal to a 1-1 draw in the second round at Highbury.

The Gills again fought a 1-1 draw in the replay at Priestfield before Arsenal's greater experience gave them a 5-0 win in the second replay.

Gillingham's best run in

the competition was in the 1963-4 season when they reached the fourth round. They were drawn away to Leicester City and lost 3-1 to their First Division opponents at Filbert Street.

The Gills' Cup progress in the 1963-4 season was as follows: First Round: Bristol City (H) 4-2. Second Round: Bury (H) 3-0. Third Round: Bristol Rovers (A) 1-1; replay 3-1. Fourth Round: Leicester City (A) 1-3.

### Records

Other League Cup record details: 1960-1—First Round: bye. Second Round: Preston N.E. (H) 1-1; replay: 0-3. 1961-2—First Round: Nottingham Forest (A) 1-4.

1962-3—First Round: Newport County (A) 1-2. 1964-5—First Round: Exeter City (A) 0-2. 1965-6—First Round: Bye. Second Round: Blackpool (A) 2-5.

1966-7—First Round: Southend United (A) 0-0; replay: 2-0. Second Round: Arsenal (A) 1-1; replay 1-1; replay: 0-3.

1967-8—First Round: Orient (A) 3-1. Second Round: Torquay United (H) 2-2; replay: 0-2.

## Player profile



DAVID QUIRKE—III, 5 ft. 9½ in. Wt. 11 st. 7 lb. Gillingham's young man of the moment, and already a firm favourite with Priestfield fans after an inspired second-half display in the Football League Cup first round game against Orient last week.

David celebrated his 21st birthday in January and made his first team debut as substitute against Reading at Elm Park in the following month. His first senior appearance at Priestfield was against Shrewsbury last May.

Winghalf David is a product of Bedford amateur football and signed as a professional for Gillingham in the summer of 1966.



BRIAN GIBBS just fails to make contact with the ball during the first half of the Gills League Cup replay at Brisbane Road last night, which Orient won 3-0.



# Gift goals bring League Cup k-o

ORIENT 3, GILLINGHAM 0

GILLINGHAM'S Football League Cup aspirations were reduced to a shambling confusion at Brisbane Road on Tuesday night and the rot was sparked off as early as the ninth minute when Orient grabbed a lead goal that arose from a stupendous error by Gills' newcomer, Mike Green...writes TERRY OWEN.

It was an amazing situation that led to Orient opening the scoring from a most improbable position when Gillingham were awarded a free-kick just outside their own penalty area.

Intimidated by Orient's chirpy Vic Halom - scorer of the two goals in the 2-2 draw at Priestfield Stadium six days earlier - Mike Green need not have taken the kick until the Orient forward had moved the required 10 yards from the ball.

But a confused Green crashed the ball against Halom and it rebounded to the line. Green tried a pass to John Simpson right along the line but the 'keeper failed to gather and the ball ran against the base of the upright.

Mel Machin broke sharply across the goal and the ball came back off the upright to deceive him and HALOM, who had never given up, was able to flick it in to the empty net.

It was a disappointed Gills boss Basil Hayward who said later "In the first place Green should not have taken the kick with Halom in that position and secondly the referee should not have allowed Halom to have been there." "Unfortunately intimidation has crept back into the game now - Halom was a frequent offender - but we paid the price of carelessness."

"Up until that time Orient were not playing well and we were seen in flashes. But the tragedy was that Orient still did not create a real scoring chance until we presented them with the second goal in the 64th minute," added the Gillingham boss.

Four minutes after his mistake Green nearly presented Orient with a second goal. A Harper - Halom - Slater move carved the defence apart and when Slater fired hard into the penalty area Green,

in attempting to head to safety, saw the ball crash against an upright.

Orient's second goal was as amazing as the first and it was netted in glorious fashion by a Gillingham defender.

With substitute Gordon Riddick limbering up on the touchline waiting to replace Tony Thear, Orient were awarded a free-kick. The ball was whipped high into the penalty area and RAY BAILLEY, who was facing his own goal and not under pressure, attempted to head clear but only succeeded in sending a bullet-like header to the top right hand corner of the net.

## ISOLATED RAIDS

While it was true to say that Gillingham never really recovered from their ninth minute set-back the second goal shattered any resistance the Kent club had and with the exception of isolated raids, play was mainly confined to midfield.

The third and final goal came seconds into injury time and it was a brilliantly-taken affair. Peter Brabrook, who had been poached out of the game by the polished Mel Machin, had switched to midfield after substitute John Key had replaced the hobbling Roy Massey in the 85th minute.

Brabrook picked up the ball on the right flank and a brilliant run took him past two Gills' defenders. A pin-point 40-yard crossfield pass found Slater unmarked and the winger's cross was nodded down by Harper for the ever-waiting HALOM to flick into the corner of the net.

After the two encouraging home displays against Orient, Gillingham, with the added incentive of a second round home tie against Fulham, were expected to do well. But this match showed they must display more aggressiveness at the back where only Mel Machin and Bill Williams came through with untarnished reputations.

The front runners rarely received a service. Woodley had to go looking for the ball and the goal attempts were generally individual efforts from Gibbs and Woodley.

Tony Thear could never escape the tight clutches of Terry Mancini and John Meredith found the close attention of Harper and Jones always too much for him.

And it was with little wonder that Mr. Hayward said later "I lost quite a lot of pride at this match. In our last two matches we shaped up well but we certainly let ourselves down in this replay."

"Now we have to pick ourselves back up from the floor and regain our self respect"

## UNDERSTANDING

An Orient win was always on the cards. Without player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield, out with a leg injury, the O's had an adequate replacement in Peter Allen who controlled the midfield play and struck up a perfect understanding with Halom and the dangerous Slater.

Faster on the ball, more accurate in their passing and more determined in their approach work, Orient were rarely troubled by a Gillingham attack that lacked penetration and always relied on the individual efforts of Woodley and Gibbs.

Gillingham's only real attacking spell came midway through the first half and in the 22nd minute a chance was created for Terry Simpson to put the teams on level terms.

A Gibbs - Meredith move saw the left winger flick the ball inside the area only for a slow Simpson to be robbed by Taylor.

This first real raid by Gillingham acted as a spur and in a three-minute spell Goddard punched a Gibbs header clear, a Woodley power drive was headed over his own bar by centre-forward Allen and then Quirke took a Terry Simpson flick on the edge of the box to fire over.

In the 32nd minute Gillingham carved a good opening. Again Meredith combined well and a fine overlap by Green ended with the full-back firing into the side netting.

Orient came back in the closing stages of the half and in the 41st minute Simpson earned applause for a brilliant save from a Massey shot that had goal written all over it.

The Gillingham goal was under pressure in the early stages of the second half. Halom crashed the ball against Bailey, Slater wasted a great chance from inside the box, Machin cleared a dangerous situation after Williams had let Massey through and then Simpson prevented a certain goal when he saved at Halom's feet.

It was not until the 71st minute that Gillingham created their first real attempt of the second half and then Gibbs saw his downward header smartly saved by Goddard.

The introduction of Riddick produced a shade more bite into Gillingham's attacking play and he went close with a header from a Woodley corner.



Gillingham inside-left Tony Thear rises high above goalkeeper Goddard for a left wing cross in the crowded Orient penalty area on Tuesday.

P.3760



Orient goalkeeper Ray Goddard collects a pass back watched by Gillingham's Tony Thear and Orient's Bert Howe. Also in the picture are Brian Gibbs and Orient wing half, Dave Harper.

P3701



The start of Gillingham's League Cup k-o. Mel Machin hangs on to an upright after failing to clear a disastrous mistake by Mike Green and John Simpson to let Vic Halom in for the first goal.

P.3758



## PLAYER PROFILE

**MEL MACHIN** Ht. 5ft. 10in. Wt. 11st. Born at Newcastle - under - Lyme. Penalty king Machin—he took over the job when Charlie Crickmore was transferred to Rotherham last season—was signed from Port Vale in the summer of 1966.

Mel made only four first team appearances in his first season at Priestfield but his stylish and constructive play earned him a regular place in the team last term. The versatile Mel is currently occupying the right-back spot in the Gills' team but he would probably serve his side best in a midfield role.

Mel, now aged 23, was successful with four penalty attempts when he replaced Crickmore as the spot-kick marksman last season.

Gillingham's only other opportunity of the half came in the 81st minute. Woodley had a clever run and his inside pass to Riddick was flicked on into the box only for the ball to run narrowly wide of Terry Simpson.

**ORIENT:** Goddard; Jones, Howe; Harper, Mancini, Taylor; Slater, Massey (Key), Allen, Halom, Brabrook.

**GILLINGHAM:** Simpson (J); Machin, Green, Quirke, Williams, Bailey; Woodley, Gibbs, Simpson (T), Thear (Riddick), Meredith.

Attendance: 7,289.

Na 4

H.T.O-1

attend: 7,289





The ball flashes past a grounded John Simpson and just wide of the Gills goal in a first half raid at Orient on Tuesday night. Orient forward Roy Massey rushes in and lone Gills defender is Mel Machin. P.3759

## Keeper Simpson out

GILLINGHAM manager Basil Hayward springs a surprise today by dropping regular goalkeeper John Simpson for the Third Division clash at Barnsley tomorrow.

Simpson, who has played over 450 games for the club, gives way to Derek Bellotti who has his first league outing of the season.

Bellotti has been making a strong challenge for first team recognition with some fine displays for the reserves.

Terry Simpson is switched from the forward line to full-back in place of Mike Green, who had a nightmare game against Orient in the League Cup replay defeat on Tuesday. Skipper Gordon Riddick will lead the attack where Brian Yeo is recalled at inside-left.

Team: Bellotti; Simpson (T.); Machin; Quirke, Williams, Bailey; Woodley, Gibbs, Riddick, Yeo and Meredith.

The reserves are at home to Fulham in the Football Combination Cup 1 p.m. kick-off.

## Yorkshire visits a stiff test

DESPITE only one point from two league matches and a League Cup replay k-o at Orient on Tuesday, Gillingham manager Basil Hayward feels that his players have the ability and know-how to do well in Division Three this term.

But he readily admitted yesterday (Thursday): "Our pride took a great knock at Orient after two good displays against them at the Stadium. We have now got to fight back and be more vigorous and aggressive."

The Gills boss, who will select his side for the stiff match at Barnsley tomorrow this morning after a training session, added: "The cup defeat means we must work even harder on our league programme."

Promoted Barnsley provide a tough test and another visit to Yorkshire on Tuesday evening will see Gillingham face up to Tommy Docherty's young Rotherham team who were relegated at the end of last term.

"Both teams have reputations for being very difficult to beat on their own ground and to meet both teams in just four days will be a hard task," said Mr. Hayward. There is no serious injury problem at the Stadium, although Mel Machin has a slight strain.

Barnsley, whose team contains a number of local players who have come up through Barnsley Schoolboys, have lost 3-2 at home to Barrow, drawn at Oldham and gained a 4-3 League Cup victory at York City.

But the Yorkshire club has an injury problem and are unlikely to have much-wanted pivot, Eric Winstanley, and full-back Bobby Parker in their line-up to meet the Gills.

"Winstanley has an ankle injury and has not played this season," said manager, Mr. Steele, yesterday.

### Cup match

Gillingham Reserves are at the Stadium tomorrow for a Football Combination Cup match with Norwich City, kick-off 3 p.m. The Gills have only picked up one cup point from three outings against Ipswich (twice) and Tottenham Hotspur.

The return Cup match with Norwich will be played on Wednesday evening.

Gillingham Youth will visit Colchester tomorrow for a South East Counties League match.

## GILLS' ROLL CALL

Here are Gillingham's first and second team appearances and goalscorers:

Third Division and Football League Cup appearances: Simpson (J) 4, Mel Machin 4, Mike Green 4, David Quirke 4, Bill Williams 4, Ray Bailey 4, Derek Woodley 4, Brian Gibbs 4, Gordon Riddick 3 (once as substitute), Terry Simpson 3 (once as substitute), Carl Gilbert 1 (League), Tony Thear 3, John Meredith 4.

Goalscorers: Quirke (2), Woodley, Simpson (7).

Football Combination Cup appearances: Derek Bellotti 3, Tony Weston 3, Graham Chapman 1, Tony Gough 2, John Arnott 3, David Peach 2, John Ribbins 1, Bobby Folds 3, Bob Harrison 2, Geoff Bray 1, Brian Yeo 2, Tony Thear 2, Carl Gilbert 2, Dick Tydemann 1, Barry Simmonds 1, Gordon Riddick 1, Mike Green 1, Ray Bailey 1, John Meredith 1.

Goalscorers: Bray 1, Gilbert 2.

## Gills run soccer specials

GILLINGHAM F.C. Supporters' Association have arranged rail excursions to the away games at Barnsley tomorrow and Rotherham next Tuesday.

The train for Barnsley leaves Gillingham at 7.41 a.m., arriving at 2.07 p.m. The return train leaves Barnsley at 5.38 and arrives back in Gillingham at 12.34 a.m. on Sunday.

Tickets priced at 93s. 9d. for adults and 46s. 11d. for juveniles can be obtained on the Gillingham station forecourt tomorrow morning or from the association headquarters at Priestfield Stadium tonight.

The Rotherham excursion departs from Gillingham at 12.33 p.m. on Tuesday and arrives at Rotherham at 6.19. The Millmoor ground is just round the corner from the station.

The return train leaves at 11.24 p.m. and arrives back in Gillingham at 7.04 on Wednesday morning. The fare for this excursion is 81s. (adults) and 40s. 6d. (juveniles).

Supporters wishing to travel to Rotherham should leave their name at the Supporters' Association or Blue and Whites headquarters on Saturday or with the party organiser on the Barnsley excursion.

## Five are 'relegated'

GILLINGHAM manager Basil Hayward last night "relegated" five first team players to the reserves in a bid to solve tactical problems arising from the League Cup defeat by Orient at Brisbane Road on Tuesday.

Skipper Gordon Riddick, Mike Green, Ray Bailey, Tony Thear and John Meredith were the players selected to try to work out a remedy in the Football Combination Cup game against Ipswich at Priestfield Stadium—but Ipswich won 2-0.

Mr. Hayward was "bitterly disappointed" at the manner of the Gills' League Cup dismissal, which followed a brace of fine games against the Londoners.

### RIGHT BRAND

"I was just beginning to think that we had achieved the right brand of soccer to bring back the fans," said the Gills' chief.

He condemned the gamesmanship which produced the first Orient goal on Tuesday.

"Of course, the kick should have been re-taken, but we can have no excuses. This was only one instance of Orient gamesmanship during the game and we fell for it every time."

Mr. Hayward added: "I hope we have learned our lesson. Now we must pick up the pieces and look for success in the League."

### DIFFICULT HURDLE

Gillingham face two difficult hurdles in Yorkshire during the next few days.

On Saturday they meet newly-promoted Barnsley at Oakwell, and on Tuesday travel to neighbouring Millmoor for what promises to be a tough assignment against Tommy Docherty's Rotherham, who are strongly tipped to make a quick return to the Second Division.



ORIENT keeper Ray Goddard dashes out to meet a Gillingham attack. For the first time in three meetings, the Gills failed to find a way past him.



# BRILLIANT BELLOTTI SAVES KEEP

## BARNSELEY AT BAY

Barnsley 0, Gillingham 1

IF marksman Brian Gibbs was the hero of Gillingham's first win of the season then 20-year-old goalkeeper Derek Bellotti, who replaced veteran John Simpson, was undoubtedly the star at Oakwell on Saturday.

Playing his first senior game of the season young Bellotti baffled Barnsley with a series of brilliant saves which even had the partisan home fans applauding.

He was first in action in the fifth minute, positioning himself perfectly to collect a header from centre forward Peter Graham, and from then on he never had a moment of respite.

Yet so magnificently did he and his fellow defenders play that Barnsley were denied even one goal. And that, taking into account the fact that the home team did about 90 per cent of the attacking, was almost unbelievable.

With centre-half Bill Williams and left-half Ray Bailey playing stirring supporting roles to star man Bellotti and reinforced by all but two of the forwards for most of the time, the Gillingham defence formed an impenetrable barrier.

Towards the end of the game Mel Machin, who had had an outstanding game, had to leave the field after colliding with a player. It was feared at first that he may have broken his arm but later it was discovered he had a badly strained wrist.

He was replaced by young Bob Folds.

Barnsley, was opened in very lively fashion, gradually became more and more frustrated as they failed to find a way through. In a five minute spell on the resumption it seemed they must score and only great work by Bellotti, coupled with some bad luck, prevented their doing so.

Bailey came to the rescue when he diverted a dangerous Jimmy Robson cross for a corner. Bob Earnshaw rattled the crossbar with a powerful volley, Bellotti dived to turn a shot from Johnny Evans round the post and then the 'keeper brought off the save of the match from Graham.

George Hamstead sent over a well flighted centre, Graham rose majestically above the Gillingham defenders to meet the ball fairly and squarely but Bellotti changed direction to pounce tigerishly on the fine header.

So Gillingham survived. And it was the beginning of the end for newly-promoted Barnsley's hopes of recording their first win on their return to Division Three.

Gradually the home team became more and more desperate just as Gillingham became more and more confident that they could hold out.

In the 60th minute Dick Hewitt came on as substitute for Hamstead but if manager Johnny Steele hoped this move would put more punch into the attack he was doomed to disappointment.

Hewitt was unable to adapt himself to the pace of the game and full-back Terry Simpson kept him bottled up just as safely as he had looked after Hamstead.

Barnsley should have scored in the 73rd minute when Evans found himself with only Bellotti to beat. However, the inside forward failed to control the ball quickly enough. Bellotti advanced well from his goal and narrowed the angle sufficiently to bring off a fine save.



Derek Bellotti

But even that was not the end of the match. Gillingham inside-left Brian Yeo was guilty of that two minutes before the interval.

A quick raid resulted in David Quirke putting Yeo clear. The latter's first shot was saved by the advancing Ironside and then, with the 'keeper on the ground, and the goal at his mercy, Yeo hit the rebound wide of the upright.

However, no doubt the luckless Yeo felt a good deal better when BRIAN GIBBS snapped up the unexpected winner four minutes from the end.

For most of the game Barnsley 'keeper Ironside was a spectator. His activities were confined mainly to fielding the ball as the Gillingham defence over-kicked the two-man attack.

Perhaps that is why his reflexes were too slow when centre-forward Gordon Riddick slipped a perfect pass through to the unmarked, on-side Gibbs. With the Barnsley players caught napping by the quick break Gibbs found himself with only Ironside to beat.

The 'keeper began to advance, hesitated, and was lost in a no-man's land. The split second indecision allowed Gibbs the time he needed to pick his spot and slip the ball neatly into the corner of the net.

Barnsley: Ironside; Murphy, Booth; Bradbury, Howard, Brookes; Earnshaw, Evans, Graham, Robson, Hamstead (Hewitt). Gillingham: Bellotti; Simpson, Machin; Quirke, Williams, Bailey; Woodley, Gibbs, Riddick, Yeo, Meredith.

## BELLOTTI'S A WANTED MAN

CAN Gillingham afford to part with their talented young goalkeeper Derek Bellotti? This is the daunting question facing Priestfield manager Basil Hayward as the 21-year-old Bellotti becomes the magnet for the big clubs in the early days of the season.

BY ALAN HILL

Bellotti was signed from Southern Leaguers Bedford in the summer of 1966 and had made only occasional first team appearances until he displaced Gillingham's veteran 'keeper John Simpson against Barnsley at Oakwell last Saturday.

He was watched by Sheffield United's general manager, John Harris, in the Football Combination Cup game against Ipswich at Priestfield Stadium last week.

Bellotti, tagged by many critics as "too spectacular," gave notice with a series of superb reflex saves and assured handling against Spurs on the first Saturday of the season that he was intent on making a strong challenge for Simpson's place.

The popular Simpson will be 35 in October and is clearly nearing the end of a distinguished career. The departure of Bellotti would present the Gills with a major goalkeeping problem, for their only other 'keeper is the inexperienced Mursion amateur Brian Ede.

Gillingham might be tempted to part with Bellotti for a substantial fee but in these days of inflationary transfer deals there is no reason to suppose that they would be able to buy an adequate replacement.

placement. Left-back Mike Green returns to the Gillingham team after missing one game for tonight's match at Rotherham (kick-off 7.15). He replaces Mel Machin, who sustained a badly sprained wrist at Oakwell on Saturday.

Team: Bellotti; T. Simpson, Green; Quirke, Williams, Bailey; Woodley, Gibbs, Riddick, Yeo, Meredith. Sub: Folds.

Tommy Docherty's Rotherham, who are strongly tipped to make a quick return to the Second Division, have made an indifferent start to the season.

### Tough

"We expect a tough game," said Gillingham chairman Dr. C. S. Grossmark today. "Yorkshire clubs are always hard to beat and particularly so when they are fighting their way out of a rough patch."

Gillingham full-back Tony Weston, who broke an ankle against Oxford last season, has been ordered to rest for a few days by manager Basil Hayward.

Mr. Hayward said today: "Tony twisted his other ankle in pre-season training and I have excused him from training in hope that rest will do the trick."

The Gills' chief said the timely win at Barnsley had put the club in good heart after their disappointment of the Football League Cup defeat at Leyton last week.

"We fought very well under strong pressure from Barnsley. The match-winning goal was splendidly worked and Brian Gibbs took his chance well."

Gillingham Reserves are away to Norwich in a Football Combination Cup game tomorrow night.

## GREEN RETURNS AT LEFT BACK

A delighted Gillingham manager Basil Hayward told the Chatham Standard yesterday (Monday) "We were very pleased to come away with both points from Barnsley on Saturday—it was a good win for us."

Today (Tuesday), the Gills make their second journey to Yorkshire in four days when they meet Tommy Docherty's Rotherham and the only change in the Stadium line-up will be at full back.

Mel Machin left the field during the second half at Barnsley with a badly strained wrist and recalled to take over the left back berth is Mike Green, who was dropped after the crushing 3-0 League Cup defeat at Orient last Tuesday.

The Gillingham line-up will be: Bellotti, Simpson, (T) Green, Quirke, Williams, Bailey, Woodley, Gibbs, Riddick, Yeo and Meredith.

Commenting on Saturday's points-winning Barnsley visit Mr. Hayward said, "The boys played with more vigour and I was well pleased with them. They ran more willingly and they got what they deserved."

Rotherham, managed by ex-Chelsea boss Tommy Docherty and relegated from Division Two at the end of last term, crashed 3-1 at Luton on Saturday. They have a team which has a mixture of youth and experience, with four well-known names in their line-up who have joined the club since Docherty took over the reins. They are former Sheffield Wednesday star, Johnny Quinn, Scottish international goal scoring winger, Graham Leggett, previously with Aberdeen, Fulham and Birmingham.

## Weston may play

Full-back Tony Weston, who was excused training to rest his injured ankle this week, may be available for selection for Gillingham's home Third Division game against Luton on Saturday.

Gills' manager, Basil Hayward, was present at last night's game at Luton when the narrowly-promoted Bedfordshire club went to the top of the division with a 5-1 win over Barnsley.

"They're obviously a fine side and are keeping up the momentum of their promotion drive to the Third Division."

Centre-forward is former Huddersfield and Blackburn leader—Alan Gulliver, while at inside forward is Jim Storrle who was previously with Leeds United and Aberdeen.

Tomorrow (Wednesday), Gillingham Reserves will visit Norwich City for a Football Combination Cup match.

Attractive visitors to the Stadium on Saturday will be promoted Luton Town, managed by Scottish international Allan Brown, who have started their Division Three programme in great style.

The Reserves will visit Fulham for a Football Combination Cup match and the Youth team will travel to Charlton for a South East Counties fixture.



# SOCCER

## VERDICT

### TEAM NEWS

# 'Keeper fouled, claim Gills

# Gills gain a keen fan

## RATTLE REPAINTED

THE Gills have gained a new supporter — for when it comes to football fans, they don't come any more enthusiastic than 13-year-old Spencer Moore, whose bedroom walls are covered with rosettes, pennants and badges.

These emblems represent football teams all over the country, in every division, and a number of souvenirs of international matches.

He has nearly 100 in his collection and whenever a friend goes to one of the big matches, Spencer puts in an order for another rosette.

Some have been given to him by his 21-year-old brother, Howard, a professional, who now plays for Southend, but formerly played for the Gills.

Spencer, who only moved with his parents to Kennington Close, Twydall Estate, Gillingham, a short while ago, has already started following the home team.

Before that he followed Canterbury City, and played for the school team at his old school.

### Blue and white

When he came to the Towns, his mother knitted him a cap and scarf in blue and white and he repainted his rattle to the local team's colours.

When Spencer is not watching football, or playing it, he reads about it.

Although he is fairly impartial when it comes to a favourite team or player, he has to admit that he has a soft spot for Manchester United.

"But I really don't mind what team it is," he said. "I just like football as a sport."



## First Division move for 'keeper?

The chances of Derek Bellotti leaving Priestfield and possibly moving to a First Division club increased at the weekend. Sheffield United jointed the growing list of clubs interested in him.

Gillingham manager, Mr. Basil Hayward, confirmed this morning that several club representatives were looking at him at Barnsley. After the great game Bellotti played there, Mr. Hayward expected other clubs to be represented tomorrow at Rotherham.

Of his 21-year-old goalkeeper, Mr. Hayward said: "He is a talented boy." Ipswich and Sunderland are other clubs said to fancy Bellotti.



"GILLS" fan Spencer Moore

### FIRST GAME

Dr. Grossmark said that Mel Machin, David Peach and Peter Hall were all injured and they had literally to field their only available team. Barry Simmonds, signed from West Ham in the close season, makes his first appearance for the Gills after suspension.

Team: J. Simpson; Chapman, Simmonds; Robbins, Arnett, Gough; Osborn, Harrison, Gilbert, Bray, Tydemann. Sub: Weston.

As reported by the EVENING POST late yesterday, Gills inside-forward Tony Thear has signed for Southern League, Bedford.

Thear joined the Gills in February 1967 from Luton where he was on trial after leaving the Arsenal. He made eight first team appearances including three games this season, in his 18 months at Priestfield.

Gillingham manager Basil Hayward will be attending the Luton-Barnsley match at Luton tonight. Newly-promoted Luton, who visit Gillingham on Saturday, have made a good start to the season. They are second in the table with five points from three games.

## Player profile



DEREK WOODLEY —

Height 5 ft. 8½ in. Weight 11 st. Aged 25. Born at Isleworth (Middlesex). Derek was signed in an exchange deal involving Gillingham winger Howard Moore from Southend last season. He had several seasons at West Ham before moving to the Essex club.

In the summer of 1967 he signed for Charlton but stayed there for only one month before returning to Southend. Derek has quickly established a reputation for fast and direct wing-play at Gillingham.

He made 19 first team appearances and scored one goal for the Gills last season.

Derek lives at Leigh-on-Sea (Essex) and travels to Gillingham each day for training sessions.

A.H.

## In new colours



FULL-BACK Dennis Hunt was with Gillingham for so long he seemed to be part of Priestfield Stadium. But now he's with Fourth Division Brentford and our picture shows his sporting the Londoner's red-and-white stripes.



DAVID QUIRKE booked last night



# Gills desperately unlucky not to salvage a point

Rotherham 1, Gillingham 0

**SPEAKING** from a Sheffield hotel on Wednesday morning where the team had stayed over-night after their match with Rotherham on Tuesday, Gillingham manager Basil Hayward said every member of the team worked well during the match and fully deserved to come away with at least a share of the spoils.

Mr. Hayward was full of praise for Rotherham goalkeeper Alan Hill who made several excellent saves in the closing stages to deny the Gills a point-saver.

And the Gills boss was encouraged by another outstanding display from 21-year-old Derek Bellotti, which followed his superb performance in the 1-0 victory at Barnsley only three days earlier.

Make no mistake the Gills were desperately unlucky not to come away from Millmoor with at least a point. The forwards went near on several occasions - Brian Yeo seeing a header just shave an upright and goal attempts by Brian Gibbs, Gordon Riddick and David Quirke being blocked.

Had Gillingham come away from Rotherham with a share of the spoils it would have been as much as they deserved. For after their defensive tactics of the first half, and much of the second, had restricted Tommy Docherty's boys to only one goal they launched an all out offensive on the Rotherham goal.

It was only the acrobatic work of 'keeper Hill that prevented the Kent side from scoring.

After an early five minute burst of attacking, Gillingham were content to sit back and let Rotherham do the work. And when JIM STORRIE put the home team in front after 14 minutes when the defence failed to clear an inswinging corner from Dave Bentley, the home fans rightly thought this signalled the start of a goal rush.

However, they could not have been further from the truth. For after their one mistake the Gillingham defence gave little away.

Firm tackling and strong clearances kept their goal intact for the remainder of the game, apart from one effort from Graham Watson which was correctly ruled off-side.

Twice only fine work by Derek Bellotti in the Gillingham goal prevented Rotherham from increasing their lead when he saved magnificently right under the crossbar efforts from Watson and Graham Leggett.

Gillingham's only real scoring chance of the first half came just after the half hour when Brian Gibbs won a duel with 'keeper Hill in the Rotherham goal for a high centre and the ball fell right to Brian Yeo's feet.

However, two Rotherham defenders were quick to block Yeo's shot and the danger was averted.

In the early stages of the second half, too, Gillingham were under almost constant pressure. The tempers of defenders started to fray and with the game almost 60 minutes old David Quirke's name went into the referee's book for a foul on Watson.

Then the Gillingham offensive started and it was the Rotherham defence that came under heavy pressure for the first time in the match.

Gillingham switched from their defensive formation to a 4-2-4 set-up that caused Rotherham more than a few problems.

The wing play of Derek Woodley and John Meredith, in particular, was a feature of Gillingham's onslaught and their accurate centres brought several scoring chances that should have been converted with a little more steadiness in front of goal.

With only 10 minutes remaining Quirke brought a fine save from Hill and minutes later Hill was again in action to tip Riddick's header over the bar.

This was one of the few occasions that Riddick moved upfield with the forwards, the tall leader generally occupying a largely mid-field role.

Had Gillingham adopted an attacking game earlier they would probably have cracked a Rotherham defence that was without regular centre-half David Watson who was out through injury.

Although transfer-listed deputy, John Haselden proved a capable substitute he did not quite match the command of the injured Watson.

Rotherham's closest scoring attempt of the second half came in the 75th minute when Quint's power drive beat Bellotti and Terry Simpson, standing on the line cleared the danger.

Rotherham: Hill, Swift, Hague; Quinn; Haselden; Tiler; Leggett; Storrie; Downes; Watson (G); Bentley.

GILLINGHAM: Bellotti; Simpson (T); Green; Quirke; Williams; Bailey; Woodley; Gibbs; Riddick; Yeo; Meredith.

Referee: Mr. F. Cowan (Oldham).

Attendance: 10,472

## TONY THEAR SIGNS

Tony Thear, Gillingham's 21-year-old striker, signed for Southern League Bedford last night.

The young player was brought to Priestfield Stadium during the close season last year and since then he has staked several claims for a place in the first team.

Frequently turning out at 12th man for the Gills last season, he had one or two first team outings and this year his pace and strength saw him become first-choice striker for the opening games. He was, however, left out of the team for the away trip to Barnsley.

Thear was on loan to the Mr. Hayward's old club at the end of last season, no fee was involved in the transfer.



Gillingham's Derek Bellotti, covered by right-back Terry Simpson, moves sharply across his goal for a power drive from Rotherham's Johnny Quinn.

S.72

## Hurrah for the computer

FOR the first time in living memory the Football League had no official complaint from clubs about their fixtures.

The League says this puts into true perspective the niggles of unofficial critics about the programme prepared for us for the first time by the KDP 9 computer.

With a League of 92 clubs which require 2,028 matches in a season it is absolutely impossible to avoid some anomalies, it is explained.

League secretary Alan Hardaker stressed that the human factor is still the most vital facet of the operation.

"The computer produces a draft fixture list in minutes compared to the weeks it used to take. This gives us more room to manoeuvre, more time for both the clubs and ourselves to polish up the final list. It is still the information which is fed into the computer by the League office which is the key."

In previous seasons, the League admit, there have always been a number of official complaints. These were recorded in order to ensure that the same club would not need to make the same complaint again.

Says League secretary Alan Hardaker: "We are not trying to suggest that all our clubs are 100 per cent satisfied, nor is that desirable state of affairs ever likely to be reached because of the complex problem of pairing arrangements which have to be made."

"What we try to do, and what the computer has made it more feasible to try to do, is to provide a set of fixtures to suit the greatest number of clubs, and to try to give everyone at least a fair proportion of its stated requirements."



Another magnificent Bellotti save at Rotherham on Tuesday, as he turns a Jim Storrie shot over.

S.73

## MOST UNFORTUNATE

A disappointed Gillingham manager told the Evening Mail today: "We were most unfortunate not to at least have picked up a point."

"We played well with everyone in the team working tremendously hard," he added.

The defence too, excelled

themselves and said the manager: "We did everything to give us a point and, if we continue like this, we just cannot fail to do well."

Derek Bellotti again had an outstanding match and said Mr. Hayward: "If he goes on like this it won't be long before something happens."



# LEADERS AT THE STADIUM

**EVEN** though his team had to come off second best at Rotherham on Tuesday night, manager Basil Hayward is not likely to make any changes for the tough clash with top-of-the-table Luton at the Stadium tomorrow (Saturday).

Barnsley, defeated 1-0 by Gillingham last Saturday, crashed 5-1 at Luton on Wednesday night — a match watched by the Gills boss who will have a tough task to hold a forward line that has hit 12 home league goals in three matches and have taken seven points from their opening four matches.

But Mr. Hayward was so impressed with the way his team all worked at Rotherham — "We should have at least taken a point," he said — that he is convinced the form they are showing of late will pay off.

Luton are cock-a-hoop over their sensational graduation from Division Four and will undoubtedly provide the hardest and possibly most entertaining match Gillingham could hope for.

But Mr. Hayward is confident his team has the talent to topple Luton off their perch and is likely to stick to the line up of: Derek Bellotti; Terry Simpson, Mike Green; David Quirke, Bill Williams, Ray Bailey; Derek Woodley, Brian Gibbs, Gordon Riddick, Brian Yeo and John Meredith.

Although Luton hammered five goals past Barnsley on Wednesday, manager Allan Brown, former Scotland and Blackpool forward, was quick to point out: "Barnsley could have been two up before we started playing."

## TOP MARKSMAN

Big attraction in the Luton side is inside forward Bruce Rioch, one of the most "wanted" men in football. Numerous offers have been made for Rioch — top marksman last term with 24 goals — by top clubs, which have been strongly resisted by Mr. Brown.

Three newcomers in the Luton team this season are experienced forwards — Brian Lewis, formerly with Coventry, Portsmouth and Crystal Palace; Laurie Sheffield, ex-Guildham, and Mike Harrison, previously with Plymouth.

One change is likely in the Luton team after Wednesday's crushing win. Left-back Fred Jardine sustained a bad strain and replacement will be Billy McDermott.

Mr. Brown said yesterday (Thursday) his team was likely to be: Tony Read (ex-Peterborough), Max Dougan (ex-Leicester City), Billy McDermott (ex-Leicester), Keith Allen (ex-Stockport County), Terry Branton (ex-Northampton), Allan Slough (local boy).

Graham French (Youth international, ex-Wellington Town and Shrewsbury), Brian Lewis, Laurie Sheffield, Bruce Rioch and Mike Harrison.

Gillingham Reserves, who have picked up only one point in their four Football Combination Cup matches to date, visit Fulham at Craven Cottage for a cup tie. The Youth team have a South-East Counties League match at Charlton.

Big question Gillingham fans are asking themselves is how long manager Basil Hayward will be able to hold on to 21-year-old Derek Bellotti, who turned in outstanding displays at Barnsley and Rotherham.

Ipswich Town and Sheffield United have both shown interest in the young keeper, and this week Mr. Hayward said: "If he goes on like this, it won't be long before something happens."

Player who left Priestfield Stadium this week was 21-year-old striker, Tony Thear, who signed for Southern League Bedford Town — Mr. Hayward's old club.



The goal that sent Gillingham to a 1-0 defeat at Rotherham on Tuesday. Bellotti and Rotherham skipper Tiler are grounded after going for a Bentley corner and Jim Storrie lashes the ball into the net past Bill Williams and Mike Green. S.71



TONY THEAR

## Hunt for striker moves to Midlands

Gillingham's desperate search for a striker switched at the week-end to the Midlands where Hungarian-born Bobby Svarc has been catching the eye of Gills' boss Basil Hayward.

The forceful young front runner has been interesting Mr. Hayward for some time and he has been watching him in games for Leicester second string.

Svarc had five first team outings in the First Division last season but, even though he has now been confined to the Reserve squad, Leicester is reported to want about £5,000 for him—which could be a little too high during these tight economy days.

However, Mr. Hayward said at the week-end, "I am impressed with the way he plays and he could fit in well with our style."

## Stadium spotlight

**WHAT** makes Mel Machin so interesting to watch on the field is that he can switch from one kind of player to another with almost casual ease.

Though he is now primarily a fullback in the Gills' back rank, he refuses to allow it to turn him into the kind of block-buster stopper one sees in the game so often.

Instead, he insists on playing football. And this—at any given moment in the game—can mean him taking on the role of a schemer in a counter-attack move.

The essence of a utility player, Mel can also come in the reckoning as a "providing" or striking forward if tactics, at any point in the game, demand a change-round in the line-up.

One might argue that he is better suited to a midfield role. But the whole pattern of football has changed so much these days that many of the moves that result in attacks are created from the back. And this is just where Machin's value comes in.

Any opposing winger worth his salt can by-pass a stopper but he can soon be thrown out of his stride if the fullback picking him up can beat him with pace, speed and strength, plus an equal talent for knowing how best a winger can move.

This talent is what struck manager Basil Hayward who signed Mel from Port Vale in July, 1966.

"He can play anywhere and not let you down," said Mr. Hayward this week.

Unfortunately Mel, who is married and lives in Rainham, has been accident prone over the last year.

Last season, an ankle injury kept him out of the game for several weeks and during the pre-season matches this term he was struck on the knee and had to stay out of the line-up for the opening matches.

Then at Barnsley at the week-end, 22-year-old Mel was in collision with a player and came off the field with a badly sprained wrist.



All his injuries have, in fact, been complicated ones when it has been difficult to judge how well and quickly they will knit.

And this week Mr. Hayward's comment about the wrist was, "We just cannot say how long he will be out of the game. It might be only a short while but, on the other hand, it could take a couple of weeks to mend."

## Victory would be booster for Gills

GILLINGHAM still strive for the successful combination which will hoist them among the Third Division pacemakers and they can resolve many of their doubts by stopping barnstorming Luton in their tracks in the crowd-puller attraction at Priestfield tomorrow write ALAN HILL.

This will be a vital test for the Gills and a resounding win over the Hatters could provide a breakthrough and a boost to their promotion hopes.

Manager Basil Hayward is in no way dismayed by the fact that his team has gained only one win—at Barnsley League games so far this season.

The message flashed to Priestfield fans in the two opening games against Orient clearly indicated that the Gills are capable of playing an attacking, non-stop brand of soccer which could demolish the best defences in the division.

Gillingham full-back, Mel Machin, who sustained a badly sprained wrist at Barnsley last Saturday and missed the Rotherham game, is fit again and is one of 12 players named for tomorrow's game.

**Team (from):** Bellotti, Machin, Green, T. Simpson, Quirke, Williams, Bailey, Woodley, Gibbs, Riddick, Yeo, Meredith.

Full-back Tony Weston, who was excused training to rest his injured ankle earlier this week will also be back in action for Gillingham Reserves in their Football Combination Cup game at Fulham tomorrow. Bobby Folds comes in at left-half for the injured Tony Gough.

**Team:** J. Simpson, Weston, Chapman, Ribbins, Arnott, Folds, Osborn, Harrison, Gilbert, Bray, Tydeman, Sub. Simmons.

Gillingham's youth side are away to Charlton in a South-East Counties League game.

**Gillingham's** in-form goalkeeper Derek Bellotti continues to bring in the offers and both Sheffield United and Rotherham made five figure bids for him at the week-end.

Tempted by current financial problems, Gillingham's manager Basil Hayward has, however, turned both of them down.

"At the moment we are not selling though naturally money must tell in the end," was the cryptic comment from the Gills boss.

Bellotti, although he saw three goals go by him from Luton on Saturday (none of which was his fault), could be the target for even bigger offers as he has now attracted the interest of a number of other clubs—including West Brom, Ipswich and Sunderland.





## Basil Hayward's Own Column

Gillingham chief writes  
exclusively for Mail

# My first day at Priestfield

In being asked to write this series of articles, it is only best to start with my appointment as Manager of Gillingham Football Club.

My acceptance of the post was with mixed feelings as I was taking over a club that had enjoyed two to three years success but was definitely on the wane having lost the momentum gained in its promotion achievement from the Fourth Division. Also the attraction of recently acquired floodlights was wearing thin.

My first day at the club was none too encouraging. I had to interview a number of players who considered they had contractual difficulties with the club and some of them, I must admit, had valid grievances.

Therefore my first move was to give new contracts to the players who I thought would give good service.

At the same time I was hoping to gain an added spur to promotion prospects in the final stages of the season. It is now well known that we just failed and finished sixth in the division.

The job of getting to know the playing staff was an easy one. I had already known most of them when I was at Portsmouth and Yeovil and by having a very close link with the

then Bournemouth manager, Bill McGarry.

The quest for promotion is almost the foremost priority in the mind of the manager. This of course, must be coupled with attendances. And it was to this end that I opened out the style of play.

Unfortunately, we still failed to get the extra goals necessary to succeed in attracting more spectators through the turnstiles.

The need for extra support is vital. For, without this it is very difficult for the club to expand

along the lines of more prominent clubs.

At the moment, my main problem is to blend the present staff into a hard working, successful side so that we might recapture the fervent following which would help us towards the Second Division.

I would like to add that my players are always willing to talk to interested supporters and I would emphasise that we will do our utmost for their consideration. But, while we welcome constructive criticism, we bitterly resent stupid abuse.

WHAT  
THE  
MAIL  
SAYS

SPORTS  
GLOOM  
AND JOY

Gillingham Football Club's start to the season has been bleak. And you can be sure that the prophets of woe — and a good number of them seem to congregate on Football terraces — will soon be having a whale of a time.

Football fans are nature's own masochists. Gillingham had won their first few matches, it would only have been seen as a flash in the pan. On the other hand, to start off the season badly, is regarded as a sure sign of a relegation struggle.

Few realists expected Gillingham to open the season on the crest of a wave. A number of players have been released — for financial reasons as much as anything else.

Manager, Mr. Basil Hayward's job now is one of rebuilding. And without the budget of an Arsenal or Everton, it is a daunting one.

He needs the goodwill of supporters at this time. Not ill-informed criticism.

## Gay colours get fade out

FOOTBALL League club colours have undergone a dramatic change in recent years, an article in the latest issue of the Football League Review points out.

Two-thirds of the 92 clubs in the League now turn out in a standardised blue, white or red strip compared to gaily coloured strips of pre-war clubs.

Main reason for the change? ... finance.

Clubs find it costly to have striped shirts or flamboyant colours, made in modern, lightweight man-made fibres.

colours have undergone a dramatic change in recent years, an article in the latest issue of the Football League Review points out.

ted, Stoke City, Tottenham Hotspur and West Bromwich Albion.

● League club officials have been chartering planes and special cars to rush transfer forms to Football League headquarters at Lytham St. Annes in recent weeks ... to beat the 48-hour Registration.

And the public is wondering why.

Regulation 47 of The League provides the answer. It states: "The appropriate (transfer) forms must be in the Registered Office of The League at least 48 hours before the player is deemed to be a bona-fide player registered and eligible to play in a League match."

The rule was changed by an overwhelming majority at the Annual Meeting in June. It was done mainly because contracts and documents continue to get more complicated.

It is essential that The League Office has sufficient time to study the documents in order to be certain there is nothing there which is not strictly in accordance with the Rules and Regulations.

★ ★ ★

A European League has suddenly become unfashionable, the editorial view in the latest issue of The Football League Review states.

Leading figures in the game and the Press are now "back pedalling" on the arguments for such a League in the wake of last season's misadventures in Europe.

### Important

The Football League realises that European competitions have become an important part of the domestic scene but the editorial quotes Manchester United manager Sir Matt Busby: "Last season showed us a few of the snags that would be accentuated if we had a European League."

These include, says League View, different interpretation of laws, a language barrier, attendance differentials and provocative opponents.

## STADIUM SPOTLIGHT

DEREK Woodley had a tough job in front of him when he came to Priestfield Stadium from Southend last season. For he had to effectively replace young Howard Moore, the teenage winger, who was beginning to become something of an idol

Some may argue that he should be used more indecise but, as Mr. Hayward points out, this would be pointless. He is essentially an attacking winger and has to be in the right place at the right time for counter moves.

If a striker is expected throughout the 90 minutes to be running up and down the field, his finishing power must be diminished.

Watching the way he frequently wrongfoots a defence by his sweeping raids, one is often tempted to wonder just how forceful Gillingham would be if Charlie Crickmore was still in the line-up.

Born in Middlesex, Derek spent several seasons with West Ham before moving to Southend where he left and returned after a short spell with Charlton. He still lives in Essex.



among the Gillingham fans. Moore—though he was far from the perfect outside right—was getting enough of the ball to race down the wing and give the people in the terraces something to cheer at.

But by sheer ability, 25-year-old Derek has shown that manager Basil Hayward had the best part of the bargain when he gave Moore to Southend in the exchange deal.

A classic winger in the traditional style, he is at his best when he can pick up a through ball, turn quickly and race towards the opposing line. Making his way to the corner flag or cutting inside, he can just as effectively crumble a defence with his amazing burst of speed and control.

## ★ FOOTBALL LEAGUE GOSSIP ★

There are other reasons, Sheffield Wednesday's General Manager, Eric Taylor, points out that his club adopted a more modest strip because a plain shirt stands out better on television and is easily identified under floodlights, compared to Wednesday's old-style blue and white stripes.

Don Revie's reason for changing Leeds United's blue and gold colours to all white was more basic.

"We were in the doldrums at the time," he says, "so I told the players to think in terms of Real Madrid and introduced their all white strip to match."

The article lists the clubs who have the same registered colours today as they had 50 years ago.

Arsenal, Aston Villa, Barnsley, Burnley, Derby County, Everton, Leicester City (then Posse), Manchester City, Manchester United, Middlesbrough, Newcastle United, Notts County, Nottingham Forest, Preston, Sheffield Uni-





Gillingham's Brian Gibbs climbs high with Luton goalkeeper John Read for a right wing cross. Waiting for a loose ball is Brian Yeo. P 3939



Luton goalkeeper John Read leaps high to fingertip a power drive to safety, watched by Gibbs, as Luton find themselves under pressure early in the second half.



## What went wrong: Hayward's verdict

LUTON looked good at first sight in Saturday's game against Gillingham at Priestfield Stadium but as the game wore on it became apparent the Third Division leaders had weaknesses and were beatable.

Gills' manager Basil Hayward said this morning: "I did not think an awful lot of them. I told the lads before the match that they could beat them if they took their chances but that if they were not careful and gave Luton chances they would probably lose."

"Basically what went wrong was the fact we created chances which we did not take and gave away two silly goals right out of character with the players concerned."

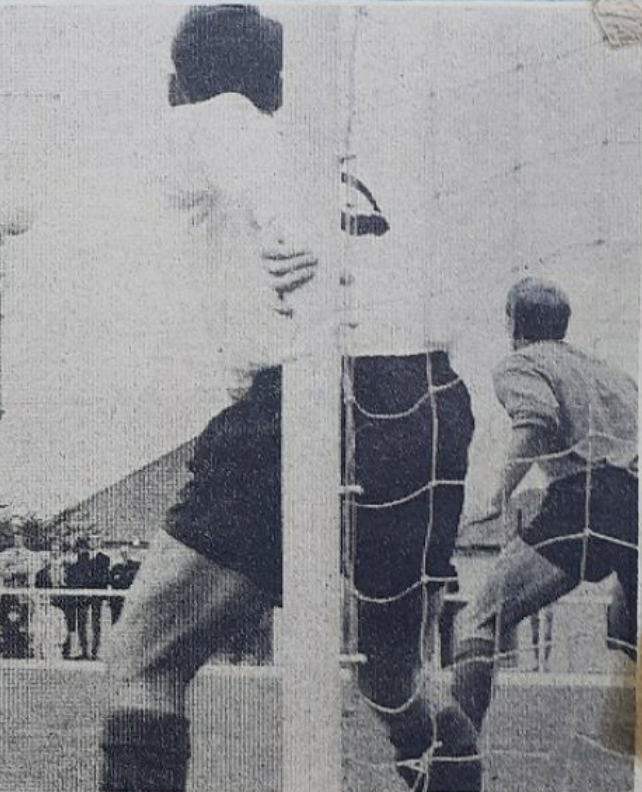
"As a game I thought it was good. I still think we have a good outfit really. But we have got to start getting the ball in the net more often. If the boys cannot do this then we will have to get someone who can."

"We won't get just anyone if this happens. He will have to be better than anyone we have at the moment."

Gillingham Reserves went down 2-1 in their Football Combination Cup match against Fulham at Craven Cottage on Saturday.



LONE Gillingham raider Brian Gibbs gets in a header which Luton 'keeper John Read tipped over the bar.



# GENEREROUS GILLINGHAM

GILLINGHAM 1,  
LUTON 3

GILLINGHAM could—and should—have won this match against high flying Luton but they appeared to play with a huge inferiority complex and gave away two of the easiest goals the Hatters are likely to score all season.

Obviously a defence which concedes goals like this gives cause for concern, but even more disconcerting was the general approach attitude of the Gills.

Instead of taking this game as it came they regarded Luton with awe. It was difficult at times to realise which

team were at home.

Often the Gills had 10 men back in defence with only the lonely figure of Brian Yeo in the other half.

This was inexplicable. A team who cannot win at home are in trouble, yet the Gills played for much of the time as though they were after a draw.

Much has been said in the past about Gillingham and their defence. But there is a big difference between a tight defence and a packed defence.

The Gills packed their defence from the start, but a team who can do this and not give away goals have got to be exceptionally good.

The pity of it was that when Gillingham did start attacking in the second half they exposed Luton for what they are—a Third Division team who have made a good start to the season but who have weaknesses that will have to be ironed out if they are to stay at the top.

But it was too late. They were 2-1 down and just as it

## Saturday's match report by Steve Bishop

looked as if they might equalise Luton broke away and were handed a gift goal to seal the issue.

Luton had opened the scoring in the fifth minute after Bruce Rioch had spreadeagled the defence. He brushed aside a tackle from Mel Machin before slipping a precision pass to Brian Lewis, who was left with the easy task of bending Derek Bellotti from close range.

Bill Williams and Ray Bailey pounced when they left a loose ball for each other to deal with and Laurie Sheffield was allowed a present which he gratefully accepted. This was in the 30th minute. But three minutes later Gillingham pulled a goal back

when Williams bundled the ball into the net after a corner.

Luton scored their third goal when Ray Bailey went the wrong way for a through ball and left Lewis a clear path through to goal.

Both teams had justified penalty appeals. Luton's was turned down after Green had brought Lewis down. Gillingham's was upheld when Alan Slough and Terry Simpson tangled in the area. John Read brilliantly saved Machin's spot-kick.

No—this was not a game to remember for Gillingham. But although they have made a bad start to the season they have shown they have the ability to play good football if they put their minds to it.

Gillingham: Bellotti; T. Simpson, Green; Machin, Williams, Bailey; Woodie, Gibbs, Riddick, Yeo, Meredith.  
Luton: Read; Dougan, McDermott; Allen, Branson (Moore), Slough; Ryan, Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, French.  
Attendance: 8,227.

No. 7

H.T. 1-2

at home: 8,227



# Hayward questions that spot kick save

GILLINGHAM manager Basil Hayward is convinced that Luton goalkeeper John Read did not genuinely save Mel Machin's attempt on Saturday when a goal would have brought the Gills level.

"The referee should have had it taken again," he declared after the match. "No 'keeper could have moved that quickly."

Mr. Hayward, annoyed by the 'injustice' of the game, also made a point of the incident when Brian Gibbs was brought down in the first half as he raced through the Luton defence in to the box.

"This too should have been a penalty for Gillingham," he said.

The Gills' striker also later confirmed to the Chatham News that he was brought down inside the area. "I was definitely over the line when the defender stuck his leg out," he said.

## INCENSED

The 8,227 crowd — the biggest this season — was incensed over a number of decisions taken by referee Mr. R. L. Johnson of Lowestoft. But Mr. Hayward was just as angry about the way his team threw away what should have been a certain home win.

"We made three mistakes and we paid for them. Luton made a lot more but we weren't able to take our chances."

"I told the players before the match that we were quite capable of beating Luton. After watching them against Barnsley and at Priestfield Stadium, I am convinced they are not an exceptionally good side."

"But I also warned our lads that we were most likely to come unstuck when we were putting Luton under pressure."

"And this is exactly what happened," he said.

"When Lewis made it 1-3, at that point in the game we were completely outplaying them. Something was bound to happen. We were certain to see the tremendous pressure we were putting on pay off."

"Then I'm sure we would have drawn level and, having pulled back from behind, we would have had the confidence to possibly win."

"Still, it was a good game to watch and no-one leaving Priestfield Stadium could have said they did not have a good afternoon's sport," said Mr. Hayward.

Writing in the Chatham News' evening paper, The Evening Mail, the manager confirmed that he is looking to buy a player.

"But it is no good rushing out and buying, and the player we want must be better than what we have already," he commented.

A deal could be on the cards by the end of the month. But Mr. Hayward pointed out that it was unlikely anything would happen for the next few weeks as heavily committed clubs were reluctant to let players go when they needed them to cover for the batch of mid-week games still in hand.



Gillingham's miss of the match against Luton on Saturday and a great chance wasted to get on level terms with "The Hatters."

Top, goalkeeper, John Read, moves to the left to save Mel Machin's second half spot kick.

Below, the incident that led to the penalty. Luton left half, Alan Slough, pulls down Terry Simpson in the box after the Gills' full-back had carried the ball from inside his own half in a dazzling run that took him past several defenders. P.3936, P.3937



# GILLS' GOAL MAN IS TRANSFERRED

GILLINGHAM'S leading goalscorer Brian Gibbs was transferred to Colchester yesterday for £6,000 — a move that leaves manager Basil Hayward with a king-size forward-line headache, writes ALAN COOPER.

"I have no idea who I will put in his place at the moment," the Gills' boss said yesterday.

Most likely candidate is young Carl Gilbert, a regular marksman in the reserves this season.

## Move

The need to inject punch into the attack, acute before Gibbs' transfer, must now be regarded as urgent if Gillingham are to present any form of promotion challenge this season.

Mr. Hayward may

move quickly into the market for a goal-scorer, especially now he has a little more money to play with.

Gibbs (28) was put on the transfer list at his own request at the end of last season because he was not satisfied with the terms offered by the club. He is a married man with two children.

With the earlier departure of the stylish Billy Brown to Portsmouth, Gillingham have now lost two men who between them scored half of the side's League total of 59 goals last season.

Gibbs joined Gillingham from Bournemouth in 1962 and in nearly 300 appearances for the club scored 110 goals. This season he has scored only once in five games.



The same applied largely to Gillingham as well even though Derek Bellotti is catching the eye lately and has already been the subject of two five-figure bids from Rotherham and Sheffield United.

Mr. Hayward has turned both offers down but he said: "Naturally money must tell in the end."

The Gills' search for a striker switched to the Midlands this week where Mr. Hayward has taken an interest in Leicester's Bobby Svarc.

The Hungarian-born forward had five first team outings for the First Division club last season and, although he has been confined to the Reserves so far this year, Leicester are reported to be looking about £5,000 for him.



# Violence at Priestfield

This young Luton supporter, with blood pouring from his head, was taken to hospital after a scuffle behind a goal during the second half of Gillingham's match at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday.

The incident immediately followed a great save by Read from a penalty kick by Mel Machin.

Several policemen jumped the barrier behind the Luton goal and the situation was soon under control.

Picture by Roger Johnson



## STADIUM SPOTLIGHT

IT'S an odds-on bet that, if a list of the more stylish players in the Gillingham squad were to be drawn up John Meredith would hardly come in the ratings. But, when it comes to consistency, hard work and honesty, there are none better.

Probably the most prolifically



"in form" man in the line-up John has the talent for grafting his way through a game to such an extent that even his harshest critic finds it difficult to fault him over a

period.

And it is this regularity and temperament that has seen him one of the longest serving players on Gillingham's books. Only John Simpson (with the club twice as long as "Merro") and Brian Gibbs can claim a longer record.

In fact, such is the respect he has from managers that, until his injury last season, he had played in almost every possible game for no less than six seasons.

This is his fifth season with Gillingham but before coming to Priestfield Stadium when Fred Cox signed him, he turned out without fail for Chesterfield for two terms.

And, apart from his early days with West Brom, one doubts whether 27-year-old John has ever been actually dropped in his professional career.

A far cry from the goal-scoring kind of forward one expects from someone who wears the no. 11 jersey, John has perhaps retained his place so well because of his ability and professionalism in adapting to any sort of system - and one which currently requires him to act as a "link-man" for the men in front besides helping out in defence and waiting for the chance to join a counter-attack.

A reveller in the more strength-sapping kind of game that demands a high work rate and the will to pull back from behind, John said this week: "As long as I can play, I will play anywhere the manager tells me to."

John is married and lives with his attractive wife Anne in Tunstall Road, Rainham.



# £5,000 takes Gibbs to Colchester

GILLINGHAM'S chief striker and one of the club's longest serving players, Brian Gibbs, signed for Colchester on Wednesday for a fee reported to be around £5,000.

The 28-year-old front runner who for several seasons has been the club's top scorer, has been unhappy at Priestfield Stadium lately and at the beginning of the season asked to be put on the transfer list.

Gibbs had been linked for some time with Bournemouth and Weymouth but this week Gills' manager Basil Hayward saw his Colchester counterpart Dick Graham and they drew up the deal.

Signed from Bournemouth by Fred Cox six seasons ago, Gibbs is the second striker to leave Gillingham recently. Tony Thear went to Redford at the beginning of last

week.

But Mr. Hayward told the Chat-ham News soon after the transfer deal went through that a new player will not be on the Gills' books for their away match with Torquay tomorrow (Saturday).

The £5,000 could, however, be used for a new striker in the near future and two players. Mr. Hayward has shown a keen interest in Bobby Svarc of Leicester and David Simmons of Arsenal.

In the meantime, however, the Torquay clash will either mean a re-shuffle or the introduction of Carl Gilbert.

Brian Gibbs, who has turned out more than 280 times for the Gills, had his best period during 1965-66 when he scored 23 goals in 45 games. Though retaining his top scorer tag, his striking power waned last season when he picked up only 16 goals.

Previously an amateur with Portsmouth, he has scored over 100 goals in his stay with Gillingham.

Recently he sat his General Certificate of Education Examinations as part of his studies to become a teacher when he leaves football.



## Youth injured as violence flares at Priestfield

**VIOLENCE** came to Priestfield Stadium on Saturday. It erupted at the packed Rainham end of the ground shortly after a controversial incident in the match between Gillingham and Luton. The crowd scattered as a group of youngsters clashed.

Police rushed into the stand and were able to stop the trouble. But not before a 20-year-old Luton fan, Peter Kearney of Conway Road, Luton, was hit to the ground.

With blood streaming down his face and clothing from a gash in his head, he was helped out from the melee of supporters who surrounded him. And the shocked crowd watched as he was escorted around the edge of the pitch into the main stand.

First-aid men managed to stop the bleeding partially, but the youth was taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, where he received treatment before being allowed to go home.

Police were unable to find the boy's assailants and later a spokesman said that no charges would be preferred.

It was the first time in recent years that anyone at Priestfield Stadium had had to have hospital treatment after such an incident.

But emotions ran high on Saturday when Gillingham were

awarded a penalty after fullback Terry Simpson had run through the Luton defence only to be brought down in the Luton penalty area.

Mel Machin took the kick from the penalty spot but, amazingly, Luton's goalkeeper John Read saved it.



**BLOOD** streaming from his head, Peter Kearney, of Luton, is led from Priestfield Stadium. He was knocked to the ground and kicked in a fracas in the stand behind the Luton goal. It happened during the second half of the Gillingham v. Luton match.

The match continued despite the violent behaviour of the crowd.

Kearney—his attacker was not found—was taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, where his head was stitched.

Steve Bishop's report of the match—back page.



# Plainmoor 'bogey' again

## hits Gills

Torquay 2, Gillingham 0

PLAINMOOR holds no happy memories for Gillingham goalkeeper Derek Bellotti. When he last played there two years ago he let through two gift goals which gave Torquay a comfortable 4-1 victory. And on Saturday night it was a Bellotti boob which allowed the Devon club to get a firm hold on this game.

The departure of Brian Gibbs to Colchester for £6,000 in mid-week gave Carl Gilbert his first senior outing of the season, while David Quirke replaced Ray Bailey at wing-half.

After the match manager Basil Hayward told the Chatham Star:

"The boys played hard but slackness cost us the goals. Both Gilbert and Yeo went near to scoring and we were disappointed not to come away from Torquay with a point."

United, a goal up after 12 minutes when Jimmy Dunne headed home a Tony Scott corner, were generally on top but were finding it difficult to consolidate their lead.

Then, three minutes before the interval, winger **RON BARNES**, who had created havoc all evening with his fast, direct runs, picked up an error by Bill Williams who failed to clear from John Rowlands.

Bellotti, expecting a long cross, had to scamper across to the far post for a tame shot, but could only help the ball into his own net for the goal Torquay needed.

Shaky in defence, Gillingham had been overwhelmed in the early stages and hesitancy in clearing loose balls had given Torquay a number of chances which they failed to take.

The Devon men scored their inevitable goal after Bellotti had been forced to tip a long cross from Scott over his crossbar. From the corner an unmarked **DUNNE** flicked a well-timed header wide of the Gillingham keeper.

After this Gillingham at last began to make some impact on the game but Carl Gilbert and Brian Yeo were too often left to struggle unsupported up front.

They tried enthusiastically to create chances but found Torquay skipper John Bond in immaculate form 'sweeping' behind his defence.

A dominating midfield man would have made all the difference to this game which was usually un-interesting and uneventful.

Both sides lacked such a person and the teams were locked in dull deadlock in the centre of the pitch for lengthy spells interrupted only by the countless petty fouls which did nothing for the game's entertainment value.

Torquay, however, looked far the more dangerous side when they broke from midfield with wingers Scott and Barnes interchanging and doing all the damage.

But thanks to pivot Bill Williams, who shadowed Torquay's hefty striker John Rowlands so efficiently, the home side lacked any real threat where it really mattered—inside the penalty area.

Torquay's struggle for the second goal seemed to be in vain until Bellotti's error.

Gillingham came out fighting after the interval and Derek Woodley, really in the picture, made a good run on the right and finished it off with a fierce low centre.

Brian Yeo moved forward but the ball skidded off his outstretched foot and a real scoring chance was gone.

Gilbert, Gillingham's most persistent forward, managed one good shot but Andy Donnelly gathered confidently on his line.

Apart from these two early bursts Gillingham had very little to offer in the way of attacking power in this half.

They fell back wearily on defence and allowed Torquay to make all the running. They did defend more alertly and aggressively than they had done in the past and at least succeeded in keeping the score down.

**TORQUAY:** Donnelly; Bond, Kitchener; Benson, Smith, Dunne; Barnes, Morrissey, Rowlands, Cave, Scott. Sub: Binney.

**GILLINGHAM:** Bellotti; Simpson (T); Green; Machin, Williams, Quirke; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Gilbert, Meredith. Sub: Bailey.

Attendance: 8,148.

### BILL BROWN HITS A DEBUT GOAL

ON target for Portsmouth in their 2-1 defeat at Charlton on Saturday was Bill Brown who left Priestfield Stadium for the Second Division club on a free transfer during the close season.

It was Brown's League debut for the club after playing in a Football League Cup-tie at Coventry in midweek.

Gillingham Reserves will visit Tottenham tomorrow (Wednesday) evening for a Football Combination Cup fixture.

### HAYWARD'S VERDICT: Unfair to blame Bellotti

Manager Basil Hayward said this morning about the Gills' reverse at Torquay: "We followed our usual pattern. We gave away a goal in the first 10 minutes after a corner. A defender should have cleared the ball but he didn't get up to it."

Derek Bellotti was blamed for the second goal but this was not really fair. The goal stemmed from a mistake in the corner. Instead of playing a ball into touch a defender decided to try and keep it in play and lost it. Bellotti went for the shot but ended up in the goal with the ball.

We could have salvaged a point towards the end when we had several good efforts. But the point is you cannot expect to win, especially away, if you give goals away.

"Carl Gilbert tried hard and so did the rest of the lads."

Mr. Hayward said he still had a couple of players in mind for the role of striker but he was not signing until he was sure they were better than anyone on the staff already.

"Some of the lads here have got to be given a chance. We don't want to be too hasty and find out too late we had a good player all the time without realising it."

### 'WHEN YOU HIT ONE OF THESE SPELLS' — BASIL HAYWARD

Speaking from a Torquay hotel yesterday morning, Gillingham boss, Basil Hayward, told the Evening Mail: "The players worked hard and played hard but early slackness cost us goals that should not have been scored."

"Unfortunately, we are in one of those phases where we are taking a chance, which one usually gets away with, but we are suffering. When you hit these spells you have to be very careful."

The departure of Brian Gibbs to Colchester in mid-week signalled the return to first team football of Carl Gilbert who, together with Brian Yeo, went close to adding the Gills' name to the score card. David Quirke replaced Roy Bailey, who was substitute, at wing half.

#### Soon behind

"Again we found ourselves a goal down early in the game and away from home it is even more difficult to pull back."

"We were disappointed not to pick up a point and now we have to pick ourselves up and work hard to make things go against Brighton next Saturday," said Mr. Hayward.

Quirke received an ear injury late in the game but otherwise there were no injury problems for Gillingham from their Devon visit.

It now seems likely that Rotherham have lost interest in Derek Bellotti after signing Jim Furnell from Arsenal towards the end of last week.

#### New winger

At the week-end Gillingham's name was linked with Millwall winger - Dave Armstrong - but Mr. Hayward commented 'I know nothing about it unless someone else is making the deal for us'.

Point-wise this has been Gillingham's worst start for several seasons. After six league matches the Gills find themselves near the foot of the table with only three points and seven points separate them from leaders Luton.

The Stadium club now face a stiff programme with three matches in just seven days. Brighton visit the Stadium on Saturday and this will be followed by trips north to Barrow (Monday) and Southport (Friday).

#### For Spurs

The Reserves continue their Football Combination Cup programme on Wednesday evening with a visit to White Hart Lane to meet Tottenham Reserves.

Remaining Reserve matches in this competition are home and away games with Crystal Palace.

EXCLUSIVE souvenir picture of the Gillingham team taken in sparkling full colour by Evening Post Chief Photographer David E. Curling. Left to right: John Ribbons, Tony Gough, David Peach, Dick Tydeman, Jeff Bray. Second row: Carl Gilbert, Brian Yeo, David Quirke, Basil Hayward (manager), Ken Osborne, Mel Machin, Tony Weston, John Meredith. Third row: Jimmy Boswell, Derek Bellotti, Mike Green, Barry Simmons, Terry Simpson, John Arnott (coach). Back row: Brian Gibbs, Bill Williams, Ray Bailey, Bobby Folds, Derek Woodley.

No. 8  
H.T. 2-0  
attend. 8,148



# Injuries hold up the Gills

GILLINGHAM remain in doubt about their line-up against Brighton at Priestfield Stadium tomorrow because of three injury problems, but they hope that these will be solved by the morning.

Skipper Gordon Riddick injured a big toe at Torquay last week and it turned septic. Although not serious, it is still troublesome in a soccer boot.

The other two still on the casualty list are Mel Machin, who has a thigh injury sustained in training this week and Derek Woodley, who strained the back of his leg at Torquay.

Every effort is being made to bring all three players back to peak fitness.

As for tactics against the South Coasters, manager Basil Hayward is looking to his men to adapt to the way in which the game develops. No believer in great half-time "pep talks," he takes the view that his job is to try to train his men to be able to meet what comes and adjust by using their own initiative as circumstances demand.

## Pressure

"The main thing is for us to try to get one or two of the goals we are so far short of," he said. "The pressure is on us at present and we are not yet playing with the rhythm we should. If we can get a goal or two it could make all the difference."

Hayward thinks that tomorrow's game should be interesting.

"Brighton have always been a fair side," he said. "I think things have been running a little kindly for them this season and it means it will be a hard game for us."

"They always try to keep the game open and this means a reasonable and interesting game with them both for us and the crowd."

Team from: Bellotti; Simpson, Green; Machin, Quirke, Williams, Bailey; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Gibbs, Meredith, Folds.



KIT NAPIER

THREE points from their first six League matches. That is Gillingham's record in the Third Division and yesterday (Thursday) news from Priestfield Stadium was that a fight was on to get three players fit for tomorrow's home clash with Brighton.

The players—all recognized first team men—are Gordon Riddick, Mel Machin and Derek Woodley, who all reported back to the ground yesterday afternoon

for further treatment.

Riddick has a septic toe, Mel Machin, who has only recently recovered from an injury that caused him to miss some games, has a strain and Woodley has a strain at the back of the leg. Manager Basil Hayward told me, "I am hoping they will come through and be fit to face Brighton. After a poor start we are now fighting to get a win which will help us to settle down."

"At the moment the lads are playing under pressure. They need all the encouragement they can get in the next few weeks," said the Gills' boss.

Gillingham, who have played only two of their League games at home, face a stiff task tomorrow when they meet a team that has lost only one of their six games and picked up three points from two matches away from home.

The Gillingham boss has not given up in his search for a striker. Enquiries have been made with various clubs about certain players but to no avail and Mr. Hayward added, "We definitely want a livewire in an around the penalty box."

Admitting that the club could not have wished for a more tough start to the season the Gills' boss said, "Two points from

## ROLL CALL

Date	Opponents	Score	Gate	Scorers
August 10	Tranmere	0-2		
14	ORIENT	2-2	5,998	Quirke 2
17	ORIENT	2-2	5,524	Woodley, T. Simpson
20	Orient	0-3		
24	Barnsley	1-0		Gibbs
27	Rotherham	0-1		
31	LUTON	1-3	8,227	Yeo
Sept. 7	Torquay	0-2		
14	BRIGHTON			
16	Barrow			
20	Southport			

\* Football League Cup.

Appearances to date: Bailey 7, Bellotti 4, Folds 1 as sub., Gibbs 7, Gilbert 2, Green 7, Machin 7, Meredith 8, Quirke 7, Riddick 7 (1 as sub.), J. Simpson 7 (1 as sub.), T. Simpson 4, Thear 3, Williams 8, Woodley 8, Yeo 4.

Record: P 8, W 1, D 2, L 5, F 6, A 15.

# FIGHT FOR FITNESS AT STADIUM



NOBBY LAWTON

Brighton will give the players the encouragement needed and if we can get two points from our away games next week at Barrow and Southport then they will have done well."

The Gillingham playing staff has been trimmed down by the departure of Brian Gibbs to Colchester and Tony Thear to Bedford during the last fortnight and Mr. Hayward said, "Room has been made for a new forward and now it is urgent that a replacement is found."

"We have got to get another man to support the forwards and establish more urgency and determination from midfield," he said.

Brighton, who lost 4-2 at Luton on Wednesday night in a Football League cup-tie, have made two close season signings in Bobby Smith from Grimsby and Mike Everitt from Plymouth.

But Everitt has an injury and is not likely to be in the Brighton team tomorrow afternoon.

The line-up is likely to be chosen from: Tony Burns, goal, born at Tonbridge and previously with Arsenal; Stewart Henderson, right-back, a Scot and former Chelsea amateur; Norman Gall, left back, recruited from his native Gateshead.

John Templeman, half back, no previous club and born at Yaptin: John Napier, previously with Bolton Wanderers; Dave Turner, another product of the North-East, previously with Newcastle United; Nobby Lawton, half back, previously with Preston North End.

Howard Wilkinson, outside-right, signed during the 1966 close season from Sheffield Wednesday; Kit Napier, centre-forward, the club's leading goalscorer and who saw service with Blackpool, Workington and Newcastle.

Charlie Livesey inside forward previously with Northampton; Paul Flood, winger, joined the club from Irish club—Bohemians; Bobby Smith, a new signing from Grimsby.

Tomorrow, Gillingham Reserves, who crashed 3-0 at Tottenham Hotspur on Wednesday night, visit Crystal Palace for a Football Combination cup-tie. The return match will be played at Priestfield Stadium the following week.

Twenty-four hours after the

Brighton match Gillingham will travel north for Monday night's match at Barrow.

Barrow are experiencing the same problem as Gillingham—chances are being created but they too, suffer from a shortage of goals.

In a bid to overcome this the club signed George McLean from Workington but the big centre-forward has yet to settle at Holker Street.

Player-manager Colin Appleton, who will be a non-starter because of injury, has signed former Leicester City team-mate, Howard Riley.

Riley played in Leicester's two F.A. Cup Finals but left the club to join Welsh international Phil Woosnam and former Gillingham player—Ronnie Newman—with Atlanta in the new American Soccer League, from where he was signed by Appleton.

BARROW will select from: Fred Else, goal, England "B" international and formerly with Blackburn and Preston; Jim Mallon, right back, signed from Morton; Malcolm Edwards, Wales Under-23 international, previously with Wrexham, Chester and Tranmere. Eric Harrison, ex-Hartlepool; Brian Arrowsmith, centre-half, a local player who has made more than 250 appearances; Mick Hartland, signed from Oxford United; Roy Ellison, signed last season from Newcastle.

Roy McCarthy, right wing, ex-Barnsley; George McLean, ex-Workington; Jim Mulholland, previously with Morton; David Storf, left wing, a £7,000 signing last season from Rochdale; Peter Bebbington, defender, formerly with Leicester City.

## YOUTHS HAVE FIRST POINTS



The Gillingham Youth team that picked up their first South East Counties League points with a 2-1 home victory against Brighton on Saturday.



# Brighton destroyed as

## Gills find goal power

Gillingham 5, Brighton 0

A TOP gear Gillingham ruthlessly exposed a slow and ragged Brighton defence with a scintillating all-action performance on the greasy Priestfield Stadium pitch on Saturday to collect their first home winning points of the season, writes **TERRY OWEN**.

The kick-off was greeted by torrential rain but while Brighton dallied in midfield with pretty to watch short passing the Gills took the direct route to goal with long, accurate passes to either wing and penetrative balls down the middle.

The policy paid a huge dividend—five golden goals that resulted from slick conversion of superb movements created from the Gillingham half.

Gillingham manager, Basil Hayward said after the match "We played as well against Orient and Luton but this time we were rewarded with goals. We got in behind their defence and it made all the difference."

There were no weak links in the Gillingham armour and while it might be unfair to name individuals one cannot help but comment on the superb performances given by Mel Machin, Derek Woodley and keeper Derek Bellotti.

Machin was the master mind

in midfield and man behind the Gillingham raids. He strode through the 90 minutes to take the game by the scruff of the neck and spray passes galore with unbelievable accuracy to either wing.

### BEST PERFORMANCE

Right winger Woodley tormented the Brighton defence to give his best performance since joining the club from Southend. He had a hand in the first four goals and was unlucky not to get his name on the scorecard nor the third goal when his goal-bound shot was deflected into the net by pivot John Napier.

A slip in the opening minutes when he dropped a left wing cross in the goal area was Bellotti's only mistake. When Brighton hit back midway through the second half the young goalkeeper pulled off a string of brilliant saves to deny the "Seaside's" goals.

It was this period of the game that prompted manager, Basil Hayward to say later, "We allowed Brighton to come back when we should have been right on top—they could so easily have got on level terms."

Brighton trailed by an only goal at the interval whistle but they owed this narrow margin to the fine goalkeeping of Tony Burns, who was in continual action, and some wasted chances by Gillingham.

The early stages belonged to Brighton who pushed the Gills back with clever forward play prompted by Nobby Lawton and Kit Napier.

But in the ninth minute the first opportunity fell to Gillingham. Woodley broke on the right, sent a great ball inside for Machin to burst through and fire straight at the advancing Burns.

Gillingham pressure was then rewarded by a 22nd minute lead goal. A 30-yard precision pass from Machin found Woodley who cut in from the wing, drew Burns from his goal and squared the ball across the face of the goal for BRIAN YEO to slide it home.



Derek Woodley, the toast of Priestfield Stadium.

This signalled continual Gillingham attacks for the remainder of the half. Riddick's header was taken on the line by Burns, Gilbert rose high for a Woodley cross and saw a header saved at full length by the keeper and then the tall inside forward lobbed the ball over the bar from a good scoring position.

It was not until late in the half that Brighton threatened the home goal and it was left-back Everitt who flashed a 30-yard low drive narrowly wide.

It was in the first five minutes of the second half that Brighton, who had substituted Howard Wilkinson for the injured Paul Flood, were destroyed—but not before they had nearly levelled the scores.

A first minute power drive from Brian Tawse left Bellotti helpless but the ball clipped the outer edge of the upright.

From the goal-kick Mel Machin gained possession and a perfect pass sent Woodley away on the right. The winger made ground before squaring the ball into the area for CARL GILBERT to chip it high over Burns' head into the net.

Three minutes later the Gills had established a 3-0 lead. Again it was Woodley who was the instigator when he darted into the area, shaped to pass, fired goalwards and saw the ball deflected by pivot JOHN NAPIER into his own net.

Gillingham then allowed slackness to creep into their play and for the first time Brighton began to look an attacking force.

In the 66th minute Bellotti produced the first of his outstanding saves. Kit Napier crossed to the far post and a full-blooded drive by Tawse had goal written all over it before Bellotti brilliantly parried the winger's effort.

Three minutes later a Napier shot was headed out and the rebound went to Lawton who saw his lob hit the top of the crossbar.

But in the 77th minute Gillingham netted their best goal of the match. Terry Simpson, who has settled down in the right back position and is turning in fine performances, robbed Tawse inside the Gills' penalty area with a clever back heel.

### HELPLESS BURNS

The full-back turned, moved forward and sent Gilbert away. Woodley then took the inside left's pass and squared the ball low into the area for GILBERT to slide foot past a helpless Burns.

Again Gillingham relaxed and Bellotti was called upon to make fine saves to keep his goal intact.

Bailey and Simpson found

themselves in a rare mix-up in the 88th minute. Right winger Armstrong saw his shot parried by Bellotti and the ball came out to Wilkinson whose flick was taken by the keeper at full length.

A minute later Riddick and Bailey failed to pick up Napier. The centre-forward's cross was pulled down by Tawse who flicked it forward to Wilkinson only for Bellotti to make another great save from the substitute's power drive.

After Bellotti had made a flying save from Napier's free-kick, Gillingham broke away to snatch their goal.

The Brighton defence had moved up when BRIAN YEO found himself a shade on-side. The inside forward streaked goalwards unchallenged and placed the ball perfectly past the advancing Burns into the corner of the net.

Gillingham: Bellotti, Simpson (T), Green, Machin, Williams, Bailey, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Gilbert, Meredith. Sub: Folds.

Brighton: Burns, Henderson, Everitt, Templeman, Napier, (J), Turner, Armstrong, Lawton, Napier (K), Flood (Wilkinson), Tawse.

Attendance: 4,445

No. 9

H.T. 1-0

attend 4,445

### GILLS' BOSS PLEASED AND ANNOYED

IT WAS A CONFIDENT Gillingham squad that left Priestfield Stadium on Sunday afternoon for the long trip to Lancashire for last night's match at Barrow.

The five goal thrashing of high-flying Brighton—it was the "Seaside's" first away defeat was a tremendous flipp for the Gills who took Saturday's line-up and young David Quirk to Barrow.

The Gills have another Lancashire date on Friday when they meet Southport in an evening kick-off.

Shortly before Saturday's Brighton game manager, Basil Hayward said, "If we can beat Brighton and take two points from the matches at Barrow and Southport in midweek then we will have done well."

At the time of writing the Gills boss was halfway to his target but when I spoke to him immediately after the 5-0 Brighton success he was quietly confident that he would reach his target.

It was the first time Gillingham had hit five league goals since the 5-2 trouncing of Mansfield at the Stadium in April, 1967.

Mr. Hayward commented, "It was very pleasing to hit five goals at home in front of our supporters. Now that we have done it I hope we will be able to score the two and three more often."

### ANNOYED

But while Mr. Hayward was full of praise for his team's outstanding finishing he was also annoyed with the way Brighton were allowed to come back midway through the second half.

"We were leading 3-0 and then we let Brighton hit back. We could so very easily have found ourselves on level terms," he said.

It was unfortunate that one of the best team efforts seen at the Stadium for many months should have been played in front of the season's lowest gate of 4,445.

Mr. Hayward was quick to point out that the team played as well in the matches against Orient and Luton and said, "This time we played with more accuracy. We kept going forward and turned the chances into goals."

Visitors to the Stadium on Saturday will be Crystal Palace who will play the return Football Combination Cup-tie with the Reserves.

It will be the Reserves last Combination Cup-tie and the following week they open their league programme with a home game against Northampton.

## Highly delighted and annoyed says Hayward

While Gillingham manager Basil Hayward was highly delighted with his team's superb performance in the 5-0 destruction of high-flying Brighton at the Stadium on Saturday he was also annoyed at the way Gillingham relaxed midway through when they were holding a 3-0 lead.

"Let's face it. We were leading by three clear goals and right on top. Suddenly we fell back and let Brighton get on top. We could have found ourselves on level terms."

But even this could not hide the obvious pleasure Mr. Hayward relished from his team who hit five league goals for the first time since the 5-2 caning of Mansfield Town at the Stadium on 29 April 1967.

Before that it was Middlesbrough on the first day of October 1966 who had conceded five goals at the Stadium.

The Gillingham boss said "We played as well against Orient and Luton but on Saturday the goals went for us. We got in behind the Brighton defenders and it

made all the difference.

"Naturally it is very pleasing to be able to hit five goals in front of our supporters. It has given the players confidence and now we must bang in the twos and threes more often."

"In other matches this season we threatened often but just failed to provide the final finishing touch — against Brighton we did just that," said Mr. Hayward.

"We played more accurately going forward, had more thrust in the middle and on the wings and finally achieved what we have been aiming for," the Gills' boss added.

Yesterday, Mr. Hayward and the Gillingham players left for Barrow who they will meet tonight in an evening kick-off.

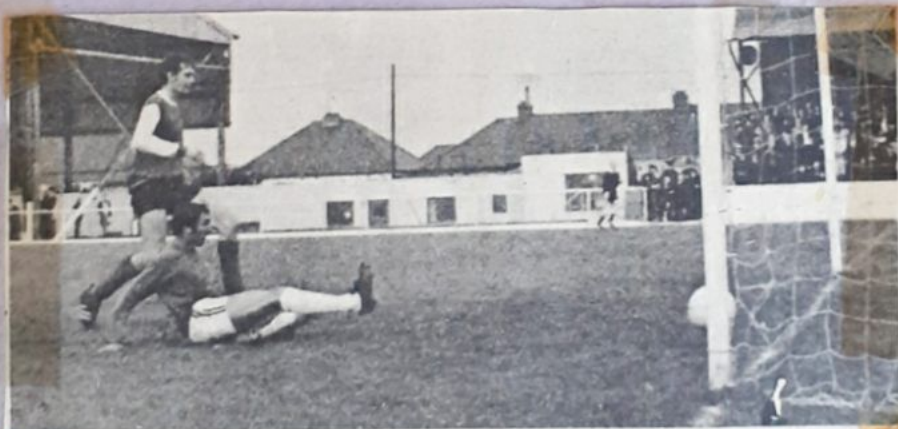
With no injury problem from the Brighton match the Gillingham party that travelled to Lancashire was Saturday's team, together with David Quirk.

The party will not return to Gillingham but will remain at Southport and prepare for Friday night's match at Southport.





Gilbert—who scored twice—runs to congratulate Brian Yeo for making it 5-0. Walking towards the happy pair is John Meredith.



The start of Gillingham's five goal win at Priestfield Stadium. Shadowed by Brighton pivot John Napier, Brian Yeo slides a Derek Woodley pass home for a 22nd minute lead goal. P.4115



Carl Gilbert (No. 10) turns away in triumph after sweeping the ball into the Brighton net for his second goal and Gillingham's fourth.





CARL GILBERT leaps to stab home goal number four in Saturday's 5-0 defeat of Brighton.

Carl Gilbert (out of picture) chips the ball over the head of Brighton 'keeper Tony Burns for Gillingham's second goal in the 47th minute of their five-goal thrashing on Saturday. Gilbert's shot from just inside the area, came from a pass from winger Derek Woodley second left.



# UM SPOTLIGHT

THOUGH he may be out of the limelight these days, Gillingham's veteran goalkeeper John Simpson is still one of the most popular players at Priestfield Stadium.

After an amazing career with the Gills he is now second-choice 'keeper to up and coming Derek Bellotti. But, even though he may at the moment be the victim of new thinking, John is still one of the finest 'keepers outside the first division.

And there is no doubt that, when he comes back into the senior squad, which could be at any time, there will be no suggestion of it being by default.

The line between John and Derek is such that either could be chosen at any given time in a season. In fact, one is tempted to wonder if any other club in the League has such a bitter-sweet situation.

Perhaps the only difference between the players is that Derek has the young enthusiasm while John has years of experience and the expertise to be the strong man of any Gillingham defence.

If any proof were needed of this one only has to look over the remarkable contribution he has already given to football.

Now in his 11th season with the club, he has been automatic first-choice under four different managers. And the public themselves showed how much they thought of him when he was given tremendous support for his Testimonial Season.

Since his full time professional career began, John has made nearly 500 league appearances, a near record in British football—apart from the countless



F.A. and Football League matches during the past 12 years. In that time he has saved Gillingham time and again and cannot even remember the countless penalties he has stopped going into the net.

Many a fan would also even argue that John was largely responsible for Gillingham winning the Fourth Division Championship—purely by the fact that he was the stalwart of what was then all an essentially defensive squad which relied more on not conceding goals rather than earning them.



# Barrow survive an inspired Gills rally

BARROW 2, GILLINGHAM 1

AFTER crashing five goals against Brighton on Saturday, Gillingham went down by the odd goal in three at Barrow on Monday night. But again the Gills put up a fighting performance and only some slack finishing prevented them from taking at least a share of the spoils.

After the match manager Basil Hayward told the Chatham News: "We played exceptionally well again but, unlike Saturday, we missed the chances."

"If we had taken only a percentage of the chances that were created then we would have taken the points."

After having rather the better of play territorially Gillingham went down fighting to a Barrow side which had an inspired spell for half an hour in the first half, but fell away after the interval.

Gillingham started off as if they meant to carry straight on from their five-goal scoring feat against Brighton. They were all over Barrow in the first 15 minutes and in all their raids Woodley was prominent.

The Gillingham passing was so precise that it had Barrow floundering and Riddick headed wide to finish off a good movement.

Then from a Woodley corner, Riddick went nearer with another header. Goalkeeper Else kicked off Riddick's foot when the lively centre-forward broke through and just afterwards he saved splendidly from Yeo.

## SIZZLING SPEED

Everything seemed to be going Gillingham's way when there was a sudden transformation. Barrow hit back, and playing at sizzling speed forced two corner kicks which led to melees in the goal mouth.

Following one of these, full-back Mallon returned the ball across goal for opportunist inside forward MULVANEY to race between Simpson and Williams and crack in an unstoppable shot. Bellotti got his fingertips to the ball but could not prevent it entering the net.

Barrow were now playing well and Mulholland once shot with such power that Bellotti was knocked off his feet, but managed to scramble the ball clear.

In the 39th minute RILEY headed Barrow's second goal. Bellotti seemed rather slow to get up to the ball but was possibly unsighted by Simpson.

Although Gillingham trailed 2-0 at the interval they were not let down. Barrow have it all their own way. Shots by Meredith and Riddick brought the best out of Else, while one from Woodley scraped the post.

Simpson and Machin spurred Gillingham on after the interval, with Woodley still the most penetrative forward.

Woodley took a fine corner kick from which Else was almost bundled into the net by Riddick.

It was a fitting reward for courageous counter attacks when YEO turned another corner from Woodley into the net to reduce the arrears in the 65th minute.

From then on Gillingham did everything but score. An inspired rally saw them play cool, calculating football which drove Barrow right back on defence.

But the Furness men covered up well and Gillingham were forced to try long shots. The best of these, from Simpson, was just tipped over the bar by the leaping Else who had proved a real stumbling block to Gillingham.

## GREAT RELIEF

Barrow had to resort to desperate kicking into touch in the closing stages to retain their lead and the final whistle came as a great relief to home supporters.

Gillingham had the consolation of knowing that the Barrow fans considered them the best footballing side to visit the Holker Street ground this season.

Not only did Gillingham show never-say-die fighting spirit, but they played clean, constructive football throughout.

They will go down in Barrow's books as the "gifted gentlemen of Gillingham."

Simpson was a great worker, not only in defence, but in many forward forays and Machin was a powerful architect of attacks.

Williams kept a tight hold on lively Barrow leader Mulholland. Most of Gillingham's forward menace came from the right wing with Woodley too fast for the opposing defenders and Yeo always looking for an opening.

Yes, Gillingham lost, but they looked at least worthy of a draw and with a little more luck and steadiness in front of goal might well have won.

Attendance 5,513.

BARROW: Else; Mallon, Edwards; Harrison, Arrowsmith, Bebbington; McCarthy, Ellison, Mulholland, Mulvaney, Riley. Sub. Hartland.

GILLINGHAM: Bellotti; Simpson, Green; Machin, Williams, Bailey; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Gilbert, Meredith. Sub. Quirk.

Referee Mr. D. Laing (Preston). Aff. 5,513.



A determined Carl Gilbert bursts into the Barrow penalty area on Monday night only to see his power drive just miss the target.

## 'BREAK HAS DONE US A LOT OF GOOD,' HAYWARD

GILLINGHAM are fully fit and morale is high—this was yesterday's (Thursday) encouraging report from manager Basil Hayward as the team prepared for the clash with Southport tonight.

"Everyone is fine and the break has done us all a lot of good", said Mr. Hayward after a few days in which some of the training sessions have been on the Southport sea front.

Fears yesterday morning that John Meredith might not be fit through a heavy cold were quashed.

"He is now back in trim and training hard with the lads", said the Gills' boss.

The line-up is likely to be the same as played at Barrow on Monday with David Quirk as substitute.

It was a disappointed Basil Hayward who commented on the narrow 2-1 defeat at Barrow on Monday night after he had seen his team crush Brighton by five clear goals only two days earlier.

"If we could only snap up a percentage of the chances we create we would win. It is difficult enough to make chances but it is very frustrating when they are wasted."

"It is bad luck to a certain extent but the main let down is a lack of ability in the penalty area," said the Gills' boss.

The Gills had a rough trip travelling north to their overnight stop at Stockport on Sunday. The party left the Stadium by coach at 3-15 p.m. but because of flooding it was nearly midnight when they arrived at their Stockport hotel.

Southport have had an uneventful start to the season, winning two matches against Oldham and Barrow, drawing one and losing against Mansfield, Tranmere Rovers, Brighton and Torquay United.

## GILLS GET FLOODS



WHEN Gillingham manager Basil Hayward reported to Priestfield Stadium at 10 a.m. on Sunday he was confronted by three inches of water in the administration offices and dressing rooms under the main stand.

When the Chatham News telephoned him on Sunday morning he was busy trying to keep the flood water down and

was assisted by apprentice professionals, Geoff Bray and David Peach.

Later, club chairman Dr. C. S. Grossmark said "There was damage to carpets and linoleum."

Our picture shows director Mr. Charles Cox enjoying a drink—under water—with Bray and Peach.



BRIAN YEO

No. 10  
HT. 2-0-  
attend. 5,513



# Mickey Durling looks at the Gillingham staff starting with the defenders . . .



GORDON RIDDICK  
Gillingham



MIKE GREEN



TERRY SIMPSON



MEL MACHIN



BILL WILLIAMS



RAY BAILEY



DEREK BELLOTTI

# SATURDAY RAIN STORM SWAMPS SOCCER GAMES

A FANTASTIC downpour forced play to be held up for nearly a quarter of an hour during Gillingham Reserves' home cup clash with Crystal Palace Reserves at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

Starting just before kick-off, desperately trying to keep track around the pitch quickly time, the thunderstorm greeted their feet on what soon became a quagmire and 14 minutes after the start referee Mr. D.A.J. Ling of Westcliffe called the game to a halt.

As the soaked and mud-splattered players raced for the dressing rooms, the running and the area around the manager's office and the directors' quarters. But, just as it looked as though Priestfield Stadium was in for the same trouble as last Sunday - when the week-end torrents brought flooding throughout the ground floor of the stand - the rain stopped. Eighteen minutes after Mr. Ling had called a halt, the game resumed. Gillingham Reserves won 1-0.

# Meredith O.K. for tonight

GILLINGHAM, who went down 2-1 at Barrow on Monday night after a hard fight, have since been training on the sands at Southport in preparation for tonight's Third Division match on the Lancashire club's Haig Avenue ground.

Inside-forward John Meredith has had to spend two days in bed with a heavy cold, but he was out with the rest of the party yesterday and reported fit for the game. Manager Basil Hayward will choose the team from the same 12 players who were available for the Barrow match.

Team: Bellotti; Green, T. Simpson, Machin, Williams, Bailey, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Gilbert, Meredith, Osborn, Harrison, Folds, Braithwaite, Chapman.

## ROLL CALL

Date	Opponents	Score	Gate	Scorers
Aug 10	Trameters	0-2		
14	ORIENT	3-2	5,998	Quire 2
17	ORIENT	3-2	5,534	Woodley, T. Simpson
20	Barrow	0-3		Gibbs
24	Barrow	0-1		
27	Barrow	0-1		
31	Barrow	0-1		
31	Barrow	0-1		
Sept. 14	BRIGHTON	5-0	8,227	Yeo
16	Barrow	5-0	4,445	Gilbert 2, Yeo 2, 0.5
20	Southport	1-2		
28	MANCHESTER	1-2		

Appearances to date: Bailey 9, Bellotti 6, Folds 1 as sub, Gibbs 7, Gilbert 4, Green 9, Machin 9, Meredith 10, Quire 2, Riddick 9 (1 as sub), T. Simpson 9 (1 as sub), J. Simpson 4, Thear 3, Williams 10, Woodley 10, Yeo 6.

Record: P 10, W 2, D 2, L 6, F 12, A 17.



# GILLS HOPING FOR QUICK CLIMB

GILLINGHAM, beaten 4-2 at Southport on Friday evening, have slumped to third from the bottom of Division 3 and the alarm signals are beginning to flash.

But their plight may not be as desperate as it seems. They have played no fewer than six away fixtures compared to only three at home and next Saturday's clash with Mansfield at Priestfield Stadium could go some way towards retrieving the situation.

Club form is still topsy-turvy and one result on Saturday which must have encouraged Gillingham and their followers was Brighton's defeat of the leaders Luton Town.

Only the week before, Brighton had been crushed 5-0 at Priestfield, so Gillingham plunge into their forthcoming home fixtures with a fair degree of confidence.

It was rather ironical that Gillingham, who had scored only twice in away games this season, should double that total at Southport on Friday and yet still be beaten.

While they obviously showed better marksmanship than of late, they still lacked finishing power. Southport, on the other hand, scored four goals for the third successive game against Gillingham.

## PRASEWORTHY

Friday night everyone on the field deserved the utmost praise for the high standard of entertainment they served up under appalling conditions.

Gillingham cannot, is believed to be in the region most dispensable player of the first team, purely and solely because his replacement would not in any way diminish the playing power of the team.

Belotti continues to sustain the brilliant form he showed a few weeks ago when he ousted John Simpson. Since then, all-pion showed that he has not played too well, Belotti has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.

On Saturday veteran Simpson showed that he has not lost any of his old skill and, possibly Belotti, will be sufficient to solve this big problem.



From this goalmouth scramble which looks like a score from an all-in wrestling match, Gillingham's new first goal scorer, Woodley, got a foot to Woodley's cross which spun in aided by the wind.

## ROLL CALL

Date	Opponents	Score	Gate	Scorers
Aug. 10	Tranmere	A 0-2		Quirke (2)
14	ORIENT*	H 2-2	5,998	Woodley
17	ORIENT*	H 2-3	5,524	T. Simpson
20	Orient*	A 0-3		Gibbs
24	Barnsley	A 0-0		
27	Rotherham	A 1-3	8,227	Yeo
31	LUTON	H 0-2		
Sept. 4	Tranmere	A 5-0	4,445	Gilbert, (2), Yeo (2), o.g.
16	Barnsley	A 1-2		Yeo
20	Southport	A 2-4		Yeo
23	MANSFIELD	H 1-1	4,630	Woodley
Oct. 4	Reading	A		Woodley
9	ROTHERHAM	H		
12	STOCKPORT	H		
19	Bristol Rovers	A		

\* Football League Cup

Appearances to date: Bailey 11, Bellotti 8, Folds 1 as sub., Gibbs 7, Gilbert 6, Green 11, Machin 11, Meredith 12, Quirke 7, Riddick 11 (one as sub.), T. Simpson 11 (one as sub.), J. Simpson 4, Thear 3, Williams 12, Woodley 12, Yeo 8.

Record, including League Cup: P12, W2, D3, L7, F15, A22.



# Shoot on sight tactics paid off for Southport

**SOUTHPORT** are proving to be a bogey side to Gillingham in the Third Division. When the teams met in Division 4, Gillingham had much the better of the exchanges winning seven and drawing four of the twelve meetings. But since Southport stepped up things have been very much different and on Friday night they obtained their third successive win at the expense of Gills by scoring four goals.

Southport obtained their hat-trick because they had the better marksmen. The conditions were right against good football, the game being played in the worst storm the Lancashire seaside resort has had for many months—throughout there was heavy rain and swirling winds.

It was Southport who had the advantage of the elements in the first half and they used them to the utmost although it was by no means one-way traffic.

The game was only nine minutes old when the home-side took the lead and no doubt the conditions had much to do with a couple of visiting defenders and two home forwards missing a cross from the left. The ball went to Shaw coming in from the right and the winger's first-time shot gave Bellotti no chance.

## POWER DRIVE

Then in the 26th minute, Bellotti could only stand and stare as centre-half Alty, receiving a tapped free kick from Pete, unleashed a thirty yard drive which whistled past the keeper.

Gillingham quickly pulled themselves together and reduced the arrears three minutes later. Outside-right Woodley beat Curwen as he did quite frequently during the game and pulled back a low centre from the by-line. The ball was met by Yeo, the main source of danger to the home rear-guard, and he forced it into the net despite a desperate effort from Clarke to keep it out.

For a short time it looked as though Gillingham would take command and it needed a daring save on the part of Reeves who flung himself at the feet of Yeo to prevent the inside man from gaining the equalizer.

## WOODLEY'S GOAL

But by adopting the right tactics of shooting at every opportunity, Southport regained the upper hand and Williams and co. had some anxious moments although the Gillingham middle line frequently proved a hard nut for Southport to crack.

However a minute before the interval the Gillingham goal feeble. Shaw took a corner on the left and the in-swinging cross, Redrobe by the near post ducked, obviously putting the visiting defence off their guard, and the ball entered the net although Green did his best to keep it out.

Early in the second-half it looked as though Gillingham had taken a leaf out of Southport's book. Both full-backs hit first-time drives which were only just off the mark but the attack did not take the lesson to heart until the 59th minute when Gillingham were awarded a free-kick about 30 yards out. Woodley took it and he hit a screaming drive which left Reeves helpless.

The hopes of the small contingent of Gillingham fans that their favourites would now take command were soon dashed when three minutes later, rr, n, n, Harkin, Southport's Irish International centre-forward picked up a pass from Shaw, beat Williams and sent a left-foot shot wide of the advancing Bellotti for Southport's fourth goal.

**Southport 4. Gillingham 2.**

## Sports Profile

**JOHN** Arnott has become such an integral part of Gillingham Football Club that one tends to take his presence for granted. Yet he plays a vital role in the make-up of the club.

For he not only has to keep himself as fit and capable of playing as the others on the books but lately he has taken on the role of one of Mr. Hay-



ward's assistant "advisers" to the up and coming youngsters in the club.

Responsible - along with Bill Collins and Bob Green - for the running of the Youth Team, 33-year-old John is also skipper of the Reserves squad and, anyone who has seen him playing lately, will vouch that he has not lost any of the talent that has made him one of the anchor men of the Gillingham defence.

An astute "reader" of the game, he is always on hand to steady the young reserves under pressure and knows enough about the technique of football to boost any possible waning of confidence on the part of his younger colleagues to keep the morale and the outlook of the team intact.

Off the field he loves talking about football and has spent countless hours arguing and reasoning with amateurs or referees in the area.

One of the oldest players in the club, he has been with Gillingham for six seasons and was in the championship line-up that saw Gillingham come out of the Fourth Division. He was signed by Fred Cox from Bournemouth and before that was with West Ham.

Though, like most professional footballers, he has lived in a number of different places, he seems to have made the Medway Towns his home. He lives in his own house at Hommoaks, Rainham, and is married with two daughters, Hayley and Paula.

Most of his spare time is taken up with coaching - he is one of the few full qualified F.A. football coaches and cricket coaches in the Towns. But whenever he gets time he lives working on his garden where he has a fine show of roses.



## OSBORN IN CAR CRASH

**GILLINGHAM'S** Reserve outside-right Ken Osborn missed Saturday's home game with Crystal Palace when he was rushed to hospital following a car crash. The accident came as he was travelling to Priestfield Stadium and, just before kick-off time, Osborn's father rang the ground to say he had been taken to a Bexley hospital for treatment to a leg injury.

For the game Bobby Harrison had to move from inside-forward to outside-right with Graham Chapman taking over Harrison's role.

## Peace? Not at any price

ONE consolation for football clubs moaning about small attendances is that usually there are not enough fans to cause any trouble. But now in some cases even this can't be taken for granted any more.

Seems that if you get three people watching, one of 'em wants to make life awkward for the others.

It all started a few years back when kids used to run on the field every time their favourites scored a big Cup-tie. Then all the lavatory paper throwing came into it, the chants - mostly obscene - the bottles, fights and all the rest of it.

BY SPORTS EDITOR JOHN EVANS

Now of course the hooligans are not content with letting off steam inside the grounds where you have the opportunity of avoiding them. They wreck trains, smash up shops and cars and generally terrorise large sections of the community every Saturday afternoon.

The clubs won't take the blame. And probably they're quite right, though that's no excuse for saintly offerings from people like Sir Matt Busby who ought to know better than to say he will not accept them as proper supporters of his club.

## Disease

They're supporters all right, or all wrong, I suppose we will have to put up with it like every other social disease of this tolerant society. All the time our leaders - bless 'em - are more concerned with the protection of the wrongdoer than the wronged we have no choice.

Like me you may have decided that you probably would be seen dead on the terraces of the big grounds with violence erupting all round and consequently watch the proper stuff only on the box.

But now you can't even find peace and quiet on any ground. At Maidstone on Saturday they had a crowd of 1,000 for the first time for goodness know's how long.

And with banner-waving, few did chanting, young gentlemen from Ashford waiting to take on the somewhat reluctant natives. There were isolated complaints of bottles being chucked about and spectators molested.

It wasn't really serious, at least what I saw of it. But suppose the little afternoon exercise had got out of hand? What chance would one copper have had?

## Assured

I mean, if your team's losing or you don't like the referee, why not rush out and attack someone on the field. The game would be at worst held up, at best abandoned and your lot might do better next time.

Rest assured, you would only get a suspended probation sentence of about a fortnight.

After all, when it's not safe to set foot on any ground we can all spend Saturday afternoons watching that non-commercial variety of football they play with a funny ball. There at least they have the excuse of decency to confine the shuggery to the pitch.

## ROLL CALL

Date	Opponents	Score	Gate	Scorers
August 10	Tranmere	A 0-2		
16	ORIENT*	H 2-2	5,998	Quirke (2)
17	ORIENT*	H 2-2	5,524	Woodley, T. Simpson
20	Orient*	A 0-3		
24	Barnsley	A 1-0		Gibbs
27	Rotherham	A 0-1		
31	LUTON	H 1-3	8,227	Yeo
7	Torquay	A 0-2		
Sept. 14	BRIGHTON	H 5-0	4,445	Gilbert (2), Yeo (2), o.g. Yeo, Woodley
16	Barrow	A 1-2		
20	Southport	A 2-4		
28	MANSFIELD	H		
Oct. 4	Reading	H		
9	ROTHERHAM	H		
12	STOCKPORT	H		

\* Football League Cup.

Appearances to date: Bailey 10, Bellotti 7, Folds 1 as sub, Gibbs 7, Gilbert 5, Green 10, Machin 10, Meredith 11, Quirke 7, Riddick 10 (one as sub.), T. Simpson (10 (1 as sub.)), J. Simpson 4, Thear 3, Williams 11, Woodley 11, Yeo 7.

Record, including League Cup: P 11, W 2, D 2, L 7, F 14, A 21.

No. 11  
H.T. 3-1  
Attend: 2,5

## Chance to meet the players

**GILLINGHAM** Supporters' Association will be staging a "Meet the Players" dance at Chatham Town Hall on Saturday night starting at 7.45. Music will be provided by Lee Harmer's Popcorn and the four-piece line-up the Viceroy's. Tickets for the dance will be on sale at the supporters' association office during Saturday's match at Priestfield against Mansfield, and on the door in the evening.

Gillingham brought on Quirke for Gilbert after 65 minutes and although the visitors did most of the pressing after this, they never really looked as dangerous as Southport had done. Yeo, however, was definitely unlucky a couple of minutes from the end when he had Reeves well beaten with a first-time drive only to see the ball hit a post.

Teams: Southport: Reeves; Russel (M), Curwen; Pete, Alty, Clarke; Shaw, Russel (A), Harkin, Andrews, Redrobe. sub: Pearson.

Gillingham: Bellotti; Simpson, Green; Machin, Williams, Bailey, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Gilbert, Meredith. sub: Quirke.







# Third from bottom but 4-2-4 will pay off — confident Hayward

**STILL** convinced that his attacking style will pay off, Gillingham's manager Basil Hayward has told his players to go all out for goals against Mansfield at Priestfield Stadium tomorrow.

The only upset could be if Derek Woodley is not fit. He had a throat infection in the middle of the week and Mr. Hayward was waiting yesterday (Thursday) afternoon to see if he will be all right for Saturday.

Though the team will not be chosen until later today, (Friday) another possibility the Gills' boss has in mind is the inclusion of Bobby Folds, the young inside-forward who has been nudging for a first team spot for some time and who staked another claim on Saturday by grabbing the only goal in Gills' Reserves' 1-0 win over Crystal Palace.

Folds name is likely to be added to the 12 who went to Southport.

Speculation is still rife about Derek Bellotti and a hint about his possible future came from Mr. Hayward yesterday when he confirmed that another bid had been made for the goalkeeper.

## MOVE SOON

The 21-year-old 'keeper could be on the move soon but, although no confirmation was given by Gillingham, it is understood that Sheffield United and Rotherham have already made concrete offers for him.

Mr. Hayward said he would rather not comment about the situation but both clubs are believed to have put five figures on Bellotti. Rotherham are almost certain to be out of the race as they have recently signed Arsenal's Furnell.

Now third from the bottom of the Division, Gillingham will be looking to tomorrow to get themselves out of trouble. The situation, however, may not be as grim as it looks on the face of things.

Gillingham have played a total of five games away from home — and most of them have meant long journeys against tough opponents — with only three at home.

Morale and overall form are obviously pretty mixed-up lately but one encouraging sign of the weekend was seeing Brighton beat high-flying Luton 1-0 only a week after taking a 5-0 caning from the Gills.

Gillingham's attacking emphasis will have a strong test in Mansfield as their 20-year-old centre-half Stuart Boam is in great form lately. The club has gone down by four goals twice so far this season with away defeats at Luton and Barrow. But Boam is good enough to be the target for a lot of hits.

## Another offer for Bellotti

Mansfield have only 14 full-time professionals on their books and so will not be choosing the team until nearer the kick-off. But all 14 players are expected to be travelling to Kent.

The team will be chosen from Dave Hollings, Sandy Pate, Mick Hopkinson, John Quigley, Stuart Boam, Phil Waller, David Jones, Roger Frude, Ray Keeley, Bob Ledger, Dudley Roberts, Nick Sharkey, Jim Goodfellow and Partridge.

# WILL GILLS GET THEIR MAN?

GILLINGHAM manager Basil Hayward may be on the brink of signing the striker he has been looking for to bolster the Gills' attack.

He said this morning: "I have been watching a couple of players and I

am waiting to hear today if we can go ahead with the signing of a forward.

It is understood that the player concerned is Barrow inside-forward Jim Mulvaney. Hayward is also reported to be interested in Leicester City forward Bobby Svaro.

After the 1-1 home draw against Mansfield on Saturday Gillingham certainly need a striker.

Basil commented: "We are not getting enough shots in. The chances are there but there is no one to put the finishing touch to the moves.

"If we were getting a little more resolution from a couple of the players we would not be in our present position. Some of the players have lost a bit of confidence."

One man could make all the difference to the Gills, who have shown they have got the basic football ability. It just is not being channelled in the right direction.



There is no truth in the rumour that these six gorgeous girls will be playing in Gillingham's next home match, but the girls known as the Blue and White Mini Girls, will be there coaxing the fans into buying raffle tickets.

They are from left to right; Allison Gilham, 16, Sharon Filmer, 16, Josie Markham, 21, Barbara Kelly, 16, Janice Bushell, 16, and Brenda Dennis, 17.



Striker problem is underlined

# GLARING FLAWS MUST BE PLUGGED

Gillingham 1, Mansfield 1

by Martin Hitchings

INSTEAD of taking this golden chance to drag themselves up off their knees, Gillingham allowed a disjointed Mansfield to take the lead and hold on for the draw their play just did not justify.

Once again, it was due mainly to the void up front but, just as in previous games, Gillingham handed Mansfield their goal on a plate through a defensive blunder. And mistakes at the back have been so marked recently that one must ask if all the blame for Gillingham now being second from the bottom should be put down to the lack of a striker.

Obviously, someone is needed to make the goals out of the chances created and on Saturday again there were enough of these for the problem to be underlined.

But, with a tough away clash at Reading in the offing on Friday and the prospect of hitting rock bottom that much more real, one is forced to ask if something is going to be done about filling up the holes that showed themselves so

glaringly at the week-end.

In the first half particularly, Mansfield found their way through the gaps and, with a decent sharp-shooter, could easily have taken both points. As it was, their 34th minute goal did not really come as a great surprise.

Gillingham had been dithering when breaking from the back and Derek Bellotti had to help out far too often for comfort.

## PERSISTENCE

So, after surviving a David Jones shot that went just over the top, a cross that Ray Bailey had to fling himself at to clear and a Ray

Keeley cracker that cannoned off the bar, it was perhaps only reasonable to expect Mansfield's persistence to pay off.

And, unfortunately for the soon-to-be-disillusioned Gillingham fans, the goal came in an embarrassing fashion.

Both Bill Williams and Ray Bailey failed to connect with a high bouncing ball - and yet even with both of them beaten, Mike Green should have cleared the ball easily. But, instead of seeing the danger, he seemed to move far too casually and NICK SHARKEY was quick to move in and push it past oncoming Bellotti.

Mansfield's first half emphasis

on attack left them wide open at the rear. But an example of Gillingham's failure to cash in on this and come out quickly from their own back ranks came just before the 34th minute.

Mel Machin, who had otherwise taken a firm hand in midfield, came away with the ball to find himself confronted with only two Mansfield players way downfield. They were easily outnumbered by Gillingham's forwards but, instead of sending the ball straight to them, Machin pushed it across the pitch to give Mansfield just the time they needed to get back and hold.

Still, Gillingham occasionally tested 'keeper Dave Hollins though the only players able to make any real dent in the Mansfield defence were Derek Woodley and Brian Yeo.

## DEFENSIVE SHELL

After the change round Mansfield surprisingly went into a defensive shell and cut their game down to half pace.

The switch in attitude gave Gillingham the chance to hit back and within minutes Yeo almost brought them level. A Woodley corner found Bill Williams' head for the ball to be galloped out to the Gills' striker who hit it first time but fullback Sandy Pate miraculously got back to kick the ball off the line.

Gillingham's territorial edge gave them the scope to push hard in the Mansfield area and once or twice Bailey came into the attack. He was unlucky to see his shot go just wide after he had worked his way through into striking distance.

Terry Simpson also frequently instilled his talent for working with the ball into the midfield build-up moves and he, Machin and Bailey teamed up for a slick move that saw Bailey again go just to the wrong side of the post with his shot.

But, with all the midfield supremacy Gillingham held, they could not get the ball in the net and it was a full hour before they managed to come to terms.

## NEAT CHIP

Mansfield, looking for the break, were caught out of position with a long raking pass across field to Yeo. As the visitors raced back to cover, Yeo put in a neat chip that floated right across the goalmouth and out of Hollins' reach. Carl Gilbert and Woodley came charging in and it was WOODLEY who slammed the ball in from close range.

The outside-right followed this up with a shot that went just wide and then sent one across the goalmouth only to see it go astray. Gilbert was too slow to pick up a long ball into the box and so Hollins was given the room to move out and block his subsequent turning shot.

An inconspicuous Bob Ledger was replaced by Malcolm Partridge but still Mansfield failed to inject any urgency in their attack.

By this time Bailey was coming more into the reckoning up front though he was over the top after a Woodley cross and then saw his edge-of-the-box effort well held by Hollins.

Mansfield tried a brief attack which was easily cleared but, as the game came to a close, Gillingham too seemed content to leave things as they were.

**GILLINGHAM:** Bellotti, Simpson, Green, Machin, Williams, Bailey, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Gilbert, Meredith.

**MANSFIELD:** Hollins, Pate, Hopkinson, Roberts, Beam, Waller, Keeley, Sharkey, Ledger, Quigley, Jones, (Partridge).

Attendance 4,630.

They're thugs but...

LARGE sections of the national Press and - particularly - television authorities seem to be under the impression that almost everyone interested in football in this country is a sort of honorary member of Manchester United's fan club.

Matt Busby's boys command a high level of sentimental support from people otherwise uncommitted to clubs outside their own area but I'm hanged if I can see why all normal reasons should be cast aside whenever their name is mentioned.

United's televised victory in the European Cup Final was accompanied by a form of mass hysteria that became positively nauseating the longer the commentary went on. Kenneth Wolstenholme had run out of his strictly limited vocabulary of superlatives long before half-time and when it was all over, the admittedly ultra-professional David Coleman almost frothed at the mouth in his enthusiasm to greet United's players.

BY SPORTS EDITOR JOHN EVANS

As soon as United had won that game the chat started about what a fierce battle the subsequent clash for the World Championship would be. Over here, almost without exception, the critics said that the South Americans - whoever they were - could be relied on to play brutally, tough, viciously and so on... they produced the evidence of last year's Celtic fiasco to prove it.

Well, we knew in advance what it was going to be like. But I understand that there is rather a lot of money to be made out of the matches - organised by the clubs concerned in the first place - and there seemed to be no reluctance on Manchester's part to subject themselves to the dangers involved.

Apparently we could say beforehand that it was going to be a dirty game and that was all right, but when the other lot questioned the general conduct of players like Nobbi Stiles, oh dear, then it was all wrong.

O.K. So the game was pretty dreadful from what we could see on television. O.K. So there was a lot of dirty work going on that we couldn't see because the cameras were following the ball.

But was it really that bad? Is it always that bad when Manchester United are playing? Are all the Manchester United players little angels?

Frankly, if our teams don't like what happens in South America they should stop at home. Not carry out a pre-match excuse campaign and then moan when they're beaten.

Don't get me wrong. I think these South American teams are a load of unmitigated rogues, but I question for instance whether any team could have been worse than Celtic in last year's World final, whatever the provocation... Its United to win by two goals next time then. Let's all hope for that... but let's not expect the Argentines to surrender without a fight just because our commentators want to get excited.



Referee Mr. K. Markham had to halt play at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday so that toilet rolls thrown onto the pitch could be picked up. On litter duty are Mansfield keeper Dave Hollins full-back Michael Hopkinson and Gillingham's Carl Gilbert. P4408



Gillingham's Carl Gilbert challenges Mansfield keeper Hollins during the 1-1 draw at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday. P. 4408

Portsmouth manager George Smith was sitting in the stand watching Saturday's match at Priestfield Stadium. Object of his attention was Mansfield's young centre-half Stuart Boam, who since being converted from a forward has drawn offers from several clubs.

Manager Smith must have been impressed. Strong man Boam effectively blocked the middle and his display was chiefly responsible for the Gills' attack looking so impotent.

## Curran's lead

Norwich City striker Hugh Curran has opened up a useful lead in the Football league scoring race.

In League and League Cup games he has notched 17 goals, five more than his nearest challenger, Jimmy Greaves of Spurs.

No 12.  
H.T. - 0-1  
Attends 4,630



# TUESDAY COMMENT



Mansfield full back Sandy Pate clears his shot from Gillingham's Brian Yeo off the Mansfield line as goalkeeper Dave Hollins flings himself despairingly across the goalmouth. E.M.439



Gills inside left Carl Gilbert has this ball punched from his head by Mansfield keeper Hollins, during the game at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday. E.M.441



Gillingham's Gordon Riddick flies high for this cross from John Meredith. Looking on are Gills' Carl Gilbert and Mansfields' Stuart Boam and Phil Waller. P4400

## Third Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	10	7	2	1	23	7	16
Barrow	10	6	2	2	17	9	14
Nottingham	10	5	4	1	15	10	14
Bournemouth	10	5	1	2	16	7	12
Torquay	11	8	1	2	19	12	17
Reading	10	4	4	2	20	12	12
Plymouth	10	5	2	3	13	11	12
Swindon	9	4	2	3	9	4	11
Walsford	10	4	3	3	8	11	11
Oxford	9	3	3	3	14	13	10
Northampton	9	3	4	2	10	9	10
Mansfield	10	4	2	4	15	14	10
Tranmere	10	4	3	3	11	14	10
Stockport	10	3	4	3	16	14	10
Brighton	9	3	3	3	15	17	9
Bristol City	10	3	3	4	16	22	9
Crews	10	2	4	4	17	18	8
Harrogate	11	2	4	5	14	19	8
Walsall	11	1	6	4	10	10	7
Shrewsbury	10	3	3	4	10	17	7
Southport	10	3	3	4	12	19	7
Blackpool	9	1	3	5	4	12	7
Gillingham	10	2	2	6	13	27	6
Oldham	10	1	2	7	8	25	4

## FOLLOW THE GILLS

GILLINGHAM Supporters' Association have made special travel arrangements for tonight's (Friday) match at Reading. Train departs Chatham at 4.12 p.m. and arrives at Reading at 7.41 p.m. Last train from Reading via Waterloo leaves at 9.59 p.m. and arrives at Chatham at 12.54 a.m. Party fare: Adults 25s., juveniles 12s. 6d.

IT'S easy enough to say rather glibly that what we all want to see at Priestfield Stadium is a successful Gillingham... that no area with a resident population of about a quarter-of-a-million ought to be saddled with at best Third Division football and what might very well be at present rate of progress a rapid return to the Fourth.

It's not much good demanding an improved Gillingham as though we have some divine right just because they happen to be the nearest Football League club and we would like to go and see some decent football every other week. Gillingham have to face the hard realities of life in the lower order of the league. The obvious lack of cash, the ever diminishing support, the inevitable need to part with their few outstanding players to achieve a bread and butter level of survival. But at the same time, the club does have a duty to provide more imaginative fare than at present. We know they don't want to slide out of the Third Division, but we can ask for more positive proof of that intention.

It may be only October, but the Gills can't stand many more slips and maintain a realistic chance of avoiding the dreaded drop.

★ ★ ★

Regular supporters—and ones who consider their football seriously—point to a steady falling off in the general performance level of many of the first teamers over the last few weeks. Even manager Basil Haywood himself has admitted that the work rate has not been satisfactory in some games. I have no doubt that Gillingham must find it almost impossible to operate in the present transfer market. Many clubs would pay as much for one reserve as Gillingham forked out for their entire staff.

## BY SPORTS EDITOR JOHN EVANS

Yet other clubs do manage it somehow and they include some with far less potential than Gillingham. This is not a thunder cry for changes at the top, a criticism of the club officialdom, simply because results have been disappointing. But please, give us action to spark interest, to get lost fans at least talking about the club again. Reported rumours about the possible signing of an unheard-of attack from a Fourth Division club will not serve to raise gates above the dismal 4,000 mark. And such a newcomer, if he does materialise, will not provide enough in himself to revitalise other players whose endeavour has been blunted by anxiety.

★ ★ ★

The present staff is not nearly as bad as many people make out—most of them don't go to Priestfield nowadays anyway. Last season the side were almost as good as those who went up to the Second Division, for there were no consistently outstanding outfits. Now with a relatively small but so vital percentage decrease in performance has come a descent that must cause alarm. Obviously it wouldn't take a host of stars to bring about a revival. One or two new men can do the trick. Gillingham may not be able to afford them. Certainly they cannot afford to ignore the evidence of the league table much longer. Gentlemen, our headlines are waiting...



# Out-of-luck finds fees too high

GILLS' manager Basil Hayward had no luck in his search for a striker this week and so the team is not likely to have many changes for tonight's (Friday) crucial match at Reading.

Mr. Hayward stepped up his interest in three players, Jimmy Mulvaney of Barrow, Bobby Svarc of Leicester and David Simmons of Arsenal — at the week-end. But, although he travelled over 700 miles in two days over Monday and Tuesday in a bid to secure at least one of them, he came back empty handed.

All three players have been in the manager's sights for some time but now, it is understood, the fees for them have gone up beyond Gillingham's reach. Simmons, for instance, could have been bought for about £5,000 a few months ago but this week this went up to about £15,000.

With a trimmed down playing

staff there is room for two of three players to be brought in and Mr. Hayward will continue his search at the week-end. But, in the meantime, he has to make do with the problem that must make the Gills outsiders against highly-placed Reading.

The Elm Park club has a lot of strength up front and obviously Gillingham's training this week has revolved largely around making things tighter at the back.

Mr. Hayward will not be choosing the side until later today but it is perhaps significant that 13 players are in the reckoning. Rapidly improving Bobby Folds — 12th man against Mansfield — could be brought into the front runners while David Quirke could be called upon to strengthen the rearguard.

With no fitness problems, however, Mr. Hayward is expected to draw the nucleus of the team from Derek Bellotti, Terry Simpson, Mike Green, Mel Machin, Bill Williams, Ray Bailey, David Quirke, Derek Woodley, Brian Yeo, Gordon Riddick, Carl Gilbert, Bobby Folds, John Meredith.

## NEWCOMER

Managed by former Chelsea and England Roy Bentley, Reading occupy fourth place in the league table and provide formidable opposition to Gills' bid to escape from the lower region.

A newcomer in the line-up is goalkeeper Roy Brown, who joined the club during the close season after several years with Tottenham Hotspur.

The line-up will be selected from: Brown; Full-backs: Colin Meldrum, David Bacuzzi, formerly with Manchester City; Half-backs: John Chapman, ex-Workington; Ray Dean, Alan Hitchcock, Richard Spiers, Rodney Thornhill, who have had no previous clubs, and Ernie Yard, born at Stranraer and previously with Crystal Palace.

Forwards: Dennis Allen, ex-Charlton; John Collins, ex-Oldham; John Docherty, ex-Brentford; George Harris, ex-Watford; John Sainty, ex-Tottenham and Peter Silvester. A doubtful starter is Roger Smees, formerly with Chelsea, who is injured.

On Wednesday evening, an attraction for Gills' fans will be the visit of Tommy Docherty's Rotherham, 1-0 winners against the Gills in August.

Tomorrow (Saturday), the Reserves meet Northampton at the Stadium in a Football Combination fixture and the Youths entertain Millwall at the Garrison Ground, kick-off 11 a.m.

# Hayward

# FOLDS DEBUT?

FORMER Bedford youngster Bobby Folds makes his first team debut for Gillingham at Reading tonight.

Folds, whose previous experience has been confined to coming on once as a substitute, nearly played last week in the home game against Mansfield. Now manager Basil Hayward has decided he should have his chance.

This is likely to be the only change in the Gillingham side, with another ex-Bedford boy David Quirke taking over as substitute.

Once the game at Reading is over, manager Hayward expects to have a busy weekend.

He will be watching a game on Saturday afternoon probably another on Saturday night, and stands by on Sunday to travel again if negotiations for a new player look like being finalised.

A new name was added to the Gillingham manager's list of potential recruits this week — that of Jimmy Blain, inside-forward with Exeter, whom Hayward watched in action in mid-week.

Blain was fancied by Gillingham a few seasons ago when he was with Southampton.

The reserves have a home game with Northampton town tomorrow and if Quirke is not involved in the match at Reading to-

night he will play in this

one. Team at Reading — Bellotti; T. Simpson, Green; Machin, Williams, Bailey; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick; Folds, Meredith, Sub.

Quirke. Reserves: from — J. Simpson; Weston, Simmons, Ribbins, Quirke, Arnott, Gough, Osbourne, Peach, Harrison, Gilbert, Tydeman.

# Reading after that bonus

GILLINGHAM face tough resolute opposition at Reading tonight.

Because Reading have been offered a bonus of £10,000 if they win promotion this year.

The board of directors made this offer because they and the supporters are fed up with Third Division football. Reading have not moved up or down since 1931 and only one team — Bournemouth — has been there longer.

Last season they were just an average side. But this cash offer has transformed them. There is no other explanation for their only close season signing was ex-Spurs' keeper Roy Brown.

About the only other big change is the introduction of home-grown teenager Peter Silvester, who has already scored six goals.

Reading had the same sort of fixture list as the Gills playing six of their first nine games away from home — but they still managed to climb to fifth place, and now they are in a run of three home games.

No Gillingham really have a tough one tonight.



Gillingham goalkeeper Derek Bellotti flies high to cut off danger from a Reading attack in Friday's clash. E.M. 573



Reading goalkeeper Brown is well beaten by this cross shot but it was yet another near miss by Gillingham in Friday's encounter.



# MORE TROUBLES FOR GILLINGHAM

## Williams off, Bailey hurt

What an amazing game this was! Gillingham, playing some of their finest football for months, completely demoralised Reading to take the lead twice on Friday. And even when Reading surprisingly drew level the Gills still looked quite capable of cruising home.

But then everything fell apart at the seams. Ray Bailey was taken off with a badly gashed mouth, Bill Williams was sent off and Reading squeezed home winners to make Gillingham the victims of one of the harshest strokes of bad luck I have seen.

Even when it was 2-3, Gillingham could have drawn level with what seemed certain to be a penalty when Mel Machin was viciously chopped down in the box with a blow in the back of his neck two minutes from the end.

But referee Mr. P. R. Walters (Bridgwater) ignored the incident and, in doing so, completed a catalogue of strange decisions that only aggravated Gillingham's trouble-packed evening.

The Williams incident, for instance, was most puzzling.

True, the Gillingham centre half was totally wrong to charge goalkeeper Roy Brown after following through his lob over the advancing Reading defence. But for this he was only booked. It wasn't until Williams had almost reached the halfway line and a knot of incensed Reading players, egged on by the chanting crowd, had gathered round him, did Mr. Walters act.

Though Williams did not appear to say anything he was ordered off the field.

### NO GOAL

Even more strange, however, was the decision that gave Reading their 48th minute second goal. The ball looked well clear of the line when Mike Green stopped Allen's hook shot. And, what is more important perhaps, there was no linesman on hand as Mr. I. J. Miller of Swindon, the one who should have seen it, was well up the line.

Still, even though there were

at least four players between him and the ball, Mr. Walters awarded the goal.

Then there was Reading's third goal in the closing stages. A justifiable indirect free kick was given after Machin had brought down Harris. But then Mr. Walters made an inexplicable move.

The "defensive wall" had formed and Reading were just about to take the kick when suddenly the referee ran in and moved the ball two yards to the side. John Collins was quick to see it and ran in almost before Mr. Walters had let the ball go and lifted it straight into the net.

All this, plus Mr. Miller's persistent offside flagging of Brian Yeo in the first half was enough to put any team off but still Gillingham outplayed, outran and outmanoeuvred Reading.

### PRESSURE

Even when Reading almost picked up a shock early lead with two dangerous raids, Gillingham refused to fall back on negative football.

Everyone from Mike Green and Terry Simpson at the back to Brian Yeo up front, ran and schemed so well that Reading soon found themselves scrambling desperately to stave off the raids that came knifing through. The pressure and frantic pace brought mistakes from keeper Brown but unfortunately Bobby Folds, making his full debut, did not have the experience to seize on them and so at least three chances went astray.

It took Gillingham, however, just 18 minutes to cash in on the monopoly they held. Derek Woodley put in a dazzling run to completely wrong-foot Reading and so give Yeo the room to

### NEW STRIP

FOR the second time this season, Gillingham on Friday turned out in their new second strip — tangerine shirts and socks with white shorts. They wore the same colours at Tranmere in the first match of the season.

### READING 3

### GILLINGHAM 2

dash in and turn the ball into the net for the first goal.

A minute later, however, Reading came back when Harris worked his way past Simpson and from just outside the box he put in a 25-yard rising shot that gave Derek Bellotti no chance.

Gillingham hit back hard, never letting up on the pace. And this paid off in the 39th minute when Gordon Riddick laid off a perfect pass for Woodley to pick up. Another defence-splitting run-one of many through the game — ended with — the Gills winger setting up a cross for Yeo to move in again and put it in the net.

Yeo had the ball in the net yet again with a fine header but was adjudged offside.

With a half time 2-1 lead tucked away, a win for Gillingham seemed likely with them so much in command, but then a minute after the change round came Allen's disputed goal from a corner.

Gillingham continued to make the running and went close several times but then came the fateful Bailey injury which cost him a tooth in a badly gashed mouth with a second tooth loosened.

Substitute David Quirke did not lessen Gillingham's overall domination but mistakes up front cost Gillingham a further lead, and so possibly the game.

Teams, Reading: Brown; Bacuzzi, Spiers; Thornhill, Mel drum, Allen; Chapman, Collins, Sainty, Sylvester, Harris.

Gillingham: Bellotti; Simpson, Green; Machin, Williams, Bailey; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Folds, Meredith, Sub, Quirke.

## Hayward travels in bid for striker

"NEVER in my association with Gillingham Football Club have I seen the team play so well." This was yesterday's (Monday) comment from club chairman, Dr. C. S. Grossmark, on the Gills' luckless meeting with Reading on Friday.

He and co-director Mr. Charles Cox travelled with the team to Elm Park and, after the remarkable game, both were flabbergasted that the result should have gone against Gillingham.

The need for a striker was, however, still apparent and only hours after returning to Gillingham on Saturday morning, manager Basil Hayward and the chairman travelled to the Midlands to step up their search.

It is understood they took another look at Leicester's Bobby Svara in a combination game.

Mr. Hayward left Priestfield Sta-

dium again yesterday (Monday) morning and is believed to have travelled to Barrow to see if his bid for Jimmy Mulvaney is successful.

As far as tomorrow's Rotherham clash is concerned, however, the operative time was 7.15 last night, just before Barrow were due to kick-off in their home game with Oldham.

For that was the latest time a signing could be made if the player should turn out for Gillingham on Wednesday.

The chances of things being tied up in time were, however, very much in the air as financial details have to be sorted out.

Even so, Gillingham still have the potential to win and, after seeing the tremendous performance they put up at Reading, one cannot do anything but make them favourites for both points.

The team will not be chosen until later but a lot will depend on the fitness of Ray Bailey.

Yesterday's news was that he had lost the second front tooth which was loosened when he lost one at Reading. But his lip and gums are still badly cut.

Gillingham, incidentally, must have created a lot of interest from the several managers who went to Elm Park for the game.

Apart from Bournemouth's boss Fred Cox, there were Ted Bates of Southampton, Alan Dicks of Bristol City, Bert Head of Crystal Palace, Jimmy Bloomfield of Orient, Arthur Rowley of Sheffield United and a number of others.

### HOTLY DISPUTED

ROTHERHAM will make no change from the team that lost 1-0 at Northampton on Saturday — a defeat that Tommy Docherty's boys suffered in the last two minutes through a hotly disputed goal.

Still injured are forwards Graham Leggett, the Scottish international winger who was previously with Fulham, and Alan Gilliver (ex-Blackburn).

Mr. Docherty, who took over the Rotherham reins towards the end of last season, has a team which contains a mixture of youth and experience — five players coming up through the club's junior ranks.

The Yorkshire club's latest acquisition was goalkeeper Jim Funnell from Arsenal, who signed last month.

The selected side to meet Gillingham tomorrow is: Funnell; Barry Mealand, joined the club from Fulham shortly before the arrival of Funnell; Neil Hague, product of the junior teams.

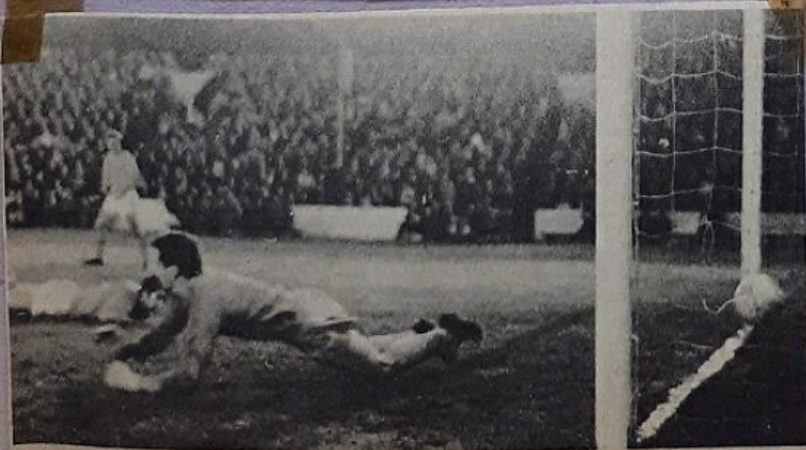
Johnny Quinn, experienced player who was previously with Sheffield Wednesday; Dave Watson, a much sought after centre-half and formerly with Notts County; Trevor Swift, juniors.

Lee Brogden, juniors; Jim Storrie, a regular goalscorer with Leeds United and Aberdeen; Steven Downes, juniors; Brian Tiler, a Rotherham player for many seasons and with the club all his playing days; Ian Marshall, signed from a Scottish non-league club three months ago, Substitute: Bobby Todd, obtained on a free transfer from Liverpool.

*'What a game' says Martin Hitchings*



Gillingham centre-half Bill Williams, who was the victim of a baffling decision at Reading on Friday evening that resulted in his receiving marching orders from referee, Mr. P. R. Walters of Bridgwater.



Gillingham's disallowed goal at Reading on Friday. Goalkeeper Brown dives the wrong way as Brian Yeo's diving header finds the net.

No. 13  
H.T. 1-2  
Attend: 10,477



# TONIGHT AT PRIESTFIELD STADIUM

# GILLS v

## Bailey doubt delays team selection

Gillingham's up and coming youngsters, Carl Gilbert and David Quirke, must come back into the reckoning for tonight's crucial match with Rotherham, writes **MARTIN HITCHINGS**.

Quirke, who replaced Bailey in the second half at Reading, did well in the mid-field role he took over from Mel Machin when he dropped back for Bailey. But the question is — will Quirke be the destroyer or the creative mid-field.

Early this morning, Ray Bailey was still waiting for a decision on whether or not to risk his injured mouth tonight.

Up front, Gillingham are almost certain to have second thoughts about Gilbert who was dropped on Friday. Gilbert, who has chalked up seven goals in the reserves and three in the first team, is bound to come

pace and ideas must pay off sometime, and it could be tonight.

Gillingham will select from: Derek Bellotti, Terry Simpson, Mike Green, Mel Machin, Bill Williams, Ray Bailey, Derek Woodley, Brian Yeo, Gordon Riddick, Carl Gilbert, John Meredith, Dave Quirke and Bobby Fold.

# ROTHERHAM

## Docherty keeps unchanged line-up

Rotherham's manager Tommy Docherty is hoping his team can pick up at least a point tonight and he is relying on the team who were beaten 1-0 at Northampton on Saturday.

Rotherham are still feeling sore about that result for they looked certain to snatch a draw when Northampton scored two minutes from the end, and it was a hotly disputed goal at that.

Rotherham come to Gillingham still without regular first team players Graham Leggat, the former Fulham star and Scottish international attacker, and midfielder man David Bentley.

Both are recovering from injuries.

Docherty, therefore, continues to rely on 18-year-old wingers Lee Brogden and Iain Marshall.

### SECOND GAME

Brogden will be playing his fourth full game for the Yorkshire team and Marshall only his second.

The Rotherham team will be: Furnell; Mealand, Hague; Quinn, D. Watson, Swift; Brogden, Storrie, Downes, Tiler, Marshall, Sub. Todd.

Medway Towns soccer fans will probably recall goalkeeper Jim Furnell playing for Arsenal and other "name" players in the Rotherham line-up are, of course, Johnny Quinn, who played at inside forward for Sheffield Wednesday in their last F.A. Cup final and former Leeds United forward Jim Storrie.



JOHN QUINN.



JIM STORRIE.



JIM FURNELL



CARL GILBERT

back in the reckoning in view of the chances that were created and missed at Elm Park.

With these two possible changes, Gillingham must have the confidence to take both points, even though Rotherham are riding high in the league.

Gillingham showed on Friday that, even without a first class striker, they can still turn in football to match the best Division Three, and if things slot into place tonight this could be an excellent game.

Experienced and tough Rotherham could provide a big test but Gillingham's potential in



Gillingham's Derek Bellotti flings himself across the goalmouth but is too late to stop a 25-yard drive from George Harris entering the net to bring Reading level at 1-1.

(DIVISION 3)

P W D L F A Pts

Luton Tn	11	7	2	2	23	8	10
Bournemouth	11	7	1	3	18	7	15
Torquay	12	7	1	4	21	13	15
Reading	11	5	4	2	23	15	14
Rotherham	11	5	4	2	16	11	14
Barrow	11	6	2	3	18	13	14
Swindon	10	5	3	2	10	4	13
Watford	11	5	3	3	10	8	13
Stockport	11	4	4	3	18	15	12
Northampton	10	4	4	2	11	9	12
Plymouth	11	5	2	4	14	13	12
Tranmere	11	5	2	4	14	16	12
Mansfield	11	4	3	4	16	15	11
Bristol R.	11	4	3	4	17	22	11
Orient	10	2	6	2	14	13	10
Walsall	12	2	5	5	13	15	9
Brighton	10	3	3	4	15	19	9
Barnsley	12	2	5	5	14	19	9
Crewe	11	2	4	5	19	21	8
Shrewsbury	11	2	4	5	10	17	8
Hartlepool	10	1	6	3	5	13	8
Southport	11	3	1	7	13	22	7
Gillingham	11	2	1	8	5	24	4



JOHN GAMBLE

took the shots

MARTIN HITCHINGS

netted the story



AT LAST The bliss of a warm bath after being put through their pace most of the morning. Taking a dip are (left to right) Brian Yeo, Mel Machin, Bobby Folds, Mike Green, Terry Simpson (a little camera shy here) and Gordon Riddick (E.M. 54877)

# MORALE IS HIGH

LOW IN LEAGUE BUT —

GILLINGHAM may currently be among the also-rans in Division Three but there is still a strong thread of confidence running through the team.

The players are convinced the breaks must come to put them back among the leaders and not even the most hard-bitten sceptic could deny that they have the basic talent to do it.

The big bustling defence, lead by Bill Williams, is one of the tallest in the league and has been strengthened by the introduction of Terry Simpson and Mike Green — both former halfbacks but successfully converted to the back rank where they are able to use their speed to switch quickly into attack.

And the front runners have one of the most dangerous men in his class, Derek Woodley, who is in tremendous form lately and has created havoc

with some of the Gills' opponents this term.

Co-architects of Gillingham's 4-2-4 attacking style are Mel Machin and Gordon Riddick.

This belief that one day soon their ability will

pay off has kept morale high and, when Mailpic walked in at the Stadium they were all hard at it in one of the several training sessions they have each week.

The intrinsic monotony of exercising can be

one of the biggest drawbacks to being a footballer but manager Basil Hayward and his chief coach Jimmy Boswell try to apply as much variety as possible in order to make the sessions as interesting as they can.







**THERE'S NO JUMPING FOR JOY HERE.** This is part of a tough morning session at Priestfield Stadium. Climbing to a ball can be all important for either Carl Gilbert (left) who has to get them in the net or Bill Williams (right) who has to stop them.

(EM 549)



**A NAGGING** muscle ache that must have cropped up for Brian Yeo during training is seen to by coach Jimmy Boswell.

(EM 552)



**GILL'S MANAGER** Basil Hayward is in touch with all parts of the country every day of the week when friends and colleagues in the game ring up to see how things are. Taking pride of place in his office is a picture of his wife. This particular photograph of Mrs. Hayward was taken when she was interviewed by the **EVENING MAIL** "She Mail" editor, Helen Williamson.

(EM 550)



**TACTICS** and approach are thrashed out in team talks after training sessions. Manager Basil Hayward (centre) is seen here with Ray Bailey (sitting) Carl Gilbert looking on.

(EM 551)





Face to face are John Meredith (left) and Brian Yeo who both have to be experts at swerving past a defender when going for a ball. (EM 553)



(Above:) READY for take-off! That's Mike Green one of Gillingham's latest acquisitions, from Carlisle in the close season — and showing signs of being successfully converted from a half back to a full back. (EM 507)



ONE of the most tenacious wingmen in the business, John Meredith — now in his sixth season with Gillingham — has been having a spot of trouble with his back lately. But he is certainly putting himself through it these days with these kind of exercises. (EM 508)

Right: WHERE'S the step? — asks Gillingham's flamboyant young striker Carl Gilbert. (EM 527)



"COME BACK!" yells Carl Gilbert as Mel Machin nips past him in the training session. (EM 506)



"AND NOW for my next trick I will do a backward somersault —" Almost making it is Bill Williams as he leaps high to reach an incoming cross. (EM 547)



## STADIUM SPOTLIGHT

SOME idea of the calibre of Bill Williams can be gauged by the fact that so far in his career he has been responsible for a total of £30,000 worth of transfer deals.

And Gills' manager Basil Hayward is convinced he obtained Williams at a bargain from Mansfield last season when he paid the Midlands club £8,000 for him.

Coming to Priestfield Stadium on the eve of the club's away match with Torquay last September, he filled a vital role in the defensive set-up. But after making quite an impact early on, his game slipped and he had difficulty in settling down because of a nagging knee injury. Eventually, the injury became worse until he was forced to have a spell out of the first team.

One of the more notable traits of this rangy pivot, however, is the amount of effort he puts into a game and his dogmatic near-obsession with getting back into football quickly saw him return to the senior squad.

There, even though more goals are being conceded than is comfortable, he is again earning the reputation of being Gills' "iron man" of the defence which is one of the biggest in the Third Division.

Mr. Hayward has a lot of faith in Bill's ability and this stems from the days when he was with Portsmouth. He came across Bill when he was picked up by Pompey as a youth player in Surrey's county team and played at left back for the club.

After a two year spell there, Williams moved to Queen's Park Rangers and then on to West



Brom. where he began to evolve as a centre-half.

Two years later he left West Bromwich Albion for Mansfield where he was for about 18 months before being signed by Mr. Hayward.

Like most big men, 26-year-old Bill is a modest easy-come-easy-go individual with a flair for getting on with people. He lives at Holmoaks with his wife Jill and children, Nicholas (4) and Claire (2).

A supreme optimist, he spoke this week of the fortunes of Gillingham lately.

"Apart from the fact that there is a great bunch of lads at Gillingham, I'm convinced we are too good a team to be as low as we are for long," he said. "There is a lot of talent here and it must pay off soon."

# Bailey reports fit?

GILLINGHAM'S team for the Third Division match against Rotherham tonight at Priestfield Stadium (kick-off 7.30) will be chosen from the same 13 who made the losing trip to Reading on Friday.

Announcing this today, manager Basil Hayward said he was very hopeful that key defence man Ray Bailey, who got a bad mouth injury at Reading and lost two teeth, would be fit.

The 13 are: Bellotti; T. Simpson, Green; Machin, Williams, Bailey; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Folds, Meredith, Quirke, Gilbert.

Gillingham were unlucky to lose 1-0 to Rotherham at Millmoor on August 27 and will be all out tonight to avenge the defeat.

# Gills transfer moves pending

THERE may well be some transfer activity at Priestfield Stadium this week with the likelihood of a striker joining the squad and Gillingham's goalkeeper Derek Bellotti still attracting strong interest from other clubs, writes MARTIN HITCHINGS.

Bellotti was obviously the target for many of the managers who went to Elm Park on Friday to watch Gillingham play Reading and, although manager Basil Hayward did not sign Barrow's Jimmy Mulvaney last night, the club still have until teatime on Thursday to pick up a striker in readiness for the home clash with Stockport on Saturday.

Hopes of a new player coming to the team for tomorrow's home meeting with Rotherham went at 7.15 last night. That was the deadline for the name to be with the Football League if a player were to be eligible for selection.

But, while the striker problem at Priestfield Stadium is an obvious one, it might be interesting to note that Gillingham have picked up five goals in their last three away matches — a tally that would normally

have put them way up the league.

### A SURPRISE

And a comparison of the present situation with the same period last year makes for pretty surprising reading.

For, after 11 games in the 1967-68 season, Gillingham had picked up 12 points and were well in the top half of the division. Then, however, six of the matches were at home whereas so far this season Gillingham have had seven tough away matches.

But, even though Gillingham were predominantly at home, they picked up only one more goal than so far this year with their 11 opening games. Then, however, only 16 goals were conceded against this year's 20.

Brian Yeo, incidentally, is Gillingham's current top scorer. Last year top scorer was Brian Gibbs and for the whole of the season he only chipped up 16 goals. My bet is that, given the right partner, Yeo will have beaten this by Christmas.

### BIG TEST

Which brings us to the more immediate problem of tomorrow's visit by Rotherham, who have a strong blend of experience and youth and could provide quite a test for Gillingham.



BRIAN YEO

Gillingham's team selection will not be made until later but Ray Bailey could be a doubtful starter. His mouth is still badly gashed and, although gum wounds have a tendency to heal quickly, he has lost the front tooth which was dislodged from its roots when the other front one was knocked out on Friday.

Another big worry at Priestfield Stadium is the temporary future of pivot Bill Williams — sent off on Friday. The club should know of the report by referee Mr. P. R. Walters of Bridgwater, Somerset, later this week and then a decision will be reached whether or not the centre half should have a personal hearing. If he does not, he could soon be suspended from football for as long as a month — and this would bring Gillingham right into the start of the F. A. Cup, and the club badly need to do well in this competition, to attract bigger crowds.

## Penalty and own goal

GILLINGHAM Reserves found themselves under almost continual pressure at White Hart Lane in their Football Combination match with Tottenham but it was a penalty and an own goal which finally gave Spurs the points — in a 2-0 win.

The Gills defence gave a splendid performance but they conceded a penalty just before the interval whistle to trail 1-0.

The second goal came 15 minutes into the second half when a bad pass was run into the net by centre-half John Arnott.

Gillingham: Simpson; Weston, Simmons; Ribbins, Arnott, Gough; Osborn, Harrison, Bray, Peach, Tydeman.

### DISAPPOINTED

Gillingham manager Basil Hayward said yesterday (Monday) that he was disappointed with Saturday's Stockport game after the fine performance shown against Rotherham in midweek.

"I think the game indicated that evening football, either in midweek or on a Saturday, is the answer for clubs like Gillingham," he said.

Commenting on Saturday's goalless draw Mr. Hayward said "We created several chances against a team that was content to defend but we just could not get the ball in the net."

On Saturday, Gillingham will visit Bristol Rovers and the Reserves have a Football Combination fixture at the Stadium against Crystal Palace.

Local boy Graham Knight is to leave the club's fifth apprentice professional. The club's oldest apprentice, David Peach will be 18 — the age of becoming a full professional — in January, and the others, Geoff Bray, Dick Tydeman and John Ribbins, will be 18 next May.



DEREK BELLOTTI



RAY BAILEY



# Woodley torments and leaves

## Rotherham gasping

GILLINGHAM 2, ROTHERHAM 0

Despite two remarkable saves by Jim Furnell, plus twice seeing the ball beat him only to bounce out from the upright and crossbar, Gillingham still managed to cruise home to a great win at Priestfield Stadium on Wednesday.

And once again the man who dazzled the opposition into submission was Derek Woodley who, even though Rotherham relied almost entirely on defence, completely bemused and bewildered the rearguard to give Gillingham almost monotonous control throughout.

The occasions Gills' keeper, Derek Bellotti, touched the ball could be counted on the fingers of one hand and then it was either to send away a weak cross or gather a back pass. Only occasionally did he actually come under pressure.

Thanks for this though, are to Bill Williams and his colleagues at the back. Though the threat of suspension following his sending off at Reading hangs over his head, Gillingham's centre half used his all-round know-how of the mid-field to keep a cool and flawless — if not spectacular — check on anything Rotherham had in mind up front.

David Quirke too did nothing to detract from Gillingham's strength at the back even though he replaced Ray Bailey whose lip and gums were still too badly injured from the Reading clash.

### CHASED AND WORKED

Singling out individuals from this glorious evening would, however, be wrong as each one of the Gillingham squad planned, chased and worked to pin Rotherham back on their heels.

A hint of Gillingham's supremacy to come showed itself in the opening stages when Furnell had to bring out all his expertise to cut off a high John Meredith cross under pressure. Later he snatched a similar inswinger from the Gills' left winger out of the air.

But Gillingham really came into their own when Williams set up one of the best moves of the

evening with a long through ball to Brian Yeo. A quick flick from him found Carl Gilbert who played it on neatly to Woodley only to see him race in and have the ball turned round.

The subsequent corner, however, brought Furnell at full stretch when he flung himself brilliantly at a low flying header from Gordon Riddick to palm the ball to safety.

Bellotti had to deal with two brief attacks by Rotherham but Gillingham were soon back on the rampage with crisp, direct passing right through the line.

Woodley was inches wide with a shot after Mike Green laid it on with a raking cross-field pass and then the Gills' fullback teamed up again with Woodley who was unlucky to see his piledriver go screaming across the goalmouth.

Furnell's second fantastic save came after a high cross was met by Riddick and Gilbert. The young striker connected and his header seemed certain to go into the net.

But again Rotherham's veteran keeper showed why manager Tommy Docherty paid £10,000 for him from Arsenal when he sprang like a cat to tip the ball round. Minutes later Yeo put in a tremendous hook that cannoned off the bar.

### REINFORCED DEFENCE

With tension mounting and the Gillingham fans warning to the way Gillingham were pounding away at Rotherham's re-inforced defence, everyone knew the pressure would have to pay off soon.

And, after surviving an interval 0-0 scoreline, Rotherham began to crumble. Woodley by now was almost waltzing through the barriers Rotherham mounted and, soon after the change-round, he almost picked a goal up for himself.

But yet again Furnell was on hand to turn over his point-blank shot. Then, Terry Simpson beat Furnell with a hard rising shot only to see it come off the post.

Mike Green, — one of the finest place kickers in the game, put paid to Rotherham's hopes of a point in the 60th minute when he sent in a pin-point cross from a left flank free-kick. CARL GILBERT saw the gap as it floated across and, racing in, turned the ball, home perfectly with a high-flying back header.

And it took Gillingham only 10 minutes more to do it again. This time Woodley showed how unselfish he is with the ball when again he carved up the defence and put across a low pass to Riddick. The Gills' skipper saw his shot half deflected but BRIAN YEO was on hand to pounce and slam the ball into the net.

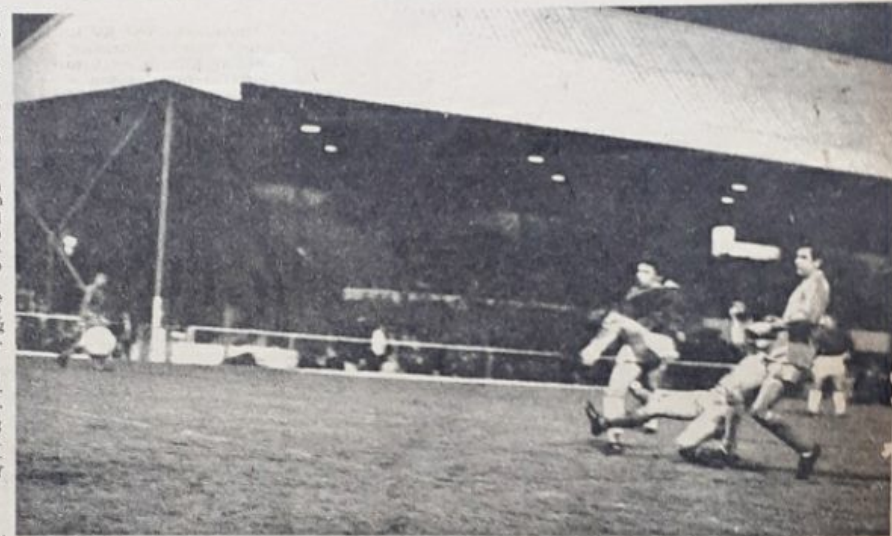
Gillingham: Bellotti, Simpson, Green, Machin, Williams, Quirke, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Gilbert and Meredith.

Rotherham: Furnell, Mealand, Hague, Quinn, Watson, Swift, Brogden, Storr, Downes, Tiller, Marshall (Todd).

Attendance 5,525



Carl Gilbert leaps high above the Rotherham defenders to glide a back header into the far corner and give Gillingham their 60th minute lead. P.4586



Brian Yeo crashes through a knot of Rotherham defenders to slam the ball into the net to make it 2-0, ten minutes after Gillingham had opened the scoring. P.4587



THE ball flies towards the Rotherham goalmouth from the blond head of Gills' Carl Gilbert (No. 14)

### NO LUCK

Thieves attempted to break into the Supporters' Association hut at Gillingham Football Ground during Friday night, but failed.

### Hall farewell to the Gills

GILLINGHAM Football Club and their unlucky winger Peter Hall are due to part company at the end of the month.

Hall, signed from Bedford last October, has been out of action for several months after sustaining a knee injury during a practice session.

The 28-year-old winger has kept hoping that the trouble will clear up, but the injury has baffled specialists and now it looks as though he has reached the end of the road as far as soccer is concerned.

Hall, who is married with two children, marked his first team debut for Gillingham with a goal at Bury and he held his place for eight weeks. But then came that injury and the frustrating months of inactivity.

No 14

H.T. 0-0

Attend. 5,525



# Mickey Durling continues his personal view of the Gillingham Football Club staff



TONY WESTON



JOHN SIMPSON



JIMMY BOSWELL



DAVE PEACH



JOHN ARNOTT



DICK TYDEMAN



GEOFF BRAY

# Frustrating Gills lack thrust

Gillingham O.  
Stockport O

THE trouble with Gillingham on Saturday was that they lacked the discipline not only to knock Stockport out of their stride but also to overcome the weaknesses in their own ranks...writes MARTIN HITCHINGS.

Stockport were by no means a good team. Anyone can put up to ten men in their own penalty box and hold on. But Gillingham, although they had their scoring chances, failed frequently to put any real precision and pace in their methods and so they and the fans had to make do with a frustrating and often tedious afternoon.

The tremendous drain on stamina of the Reading and Rotherham matches may have created touches of staleness up front but there were certainly quite a few flaws among the midfield men and the forwards.

Build up moves all too often lacked thrust and frequently Brian Yeo had to fall back, with the result that his real strength in striking waned. He still came out as one of Gillingham's best men on the day but invariably he was forced into doing too much.

## SUBDUED

Carl Gilbert, for instance, was virtually blotted out of the game and hardly put in a scoring effort all day. And John Meredith, though he started well when Stockport were not so dogmatically pre-occupied with defence, became somewhat subdued against the phalanx of Stockport defenders he often ran into.

Derek Woodley too found it hard going to penetrate the Stockport defence though he did manage one or two breaks and almost saw his work pay off when he hit the post after beating goalkeeper Brian Lloyd.

But, try as they did, Gillingham just could not shake Stockport out of stolid, negative attitude they adopted, especially in the second half.

Hardly justifying their position in the league, Stockport only went through the motions of attacking after the change-round and, even though they were predominantly in their own half for most of the game, they rarely showed enough know-how to get away with a draw. It was in the main Lloyd who saved them time and again.

Both teams were terribly slow to start and neither seemed to be able to put any rhythm into their play.

Machin, who had the miss of the match later on, tried to instil some urgency into the attack with a neat move between him and Yeo but they were robbed by Lloyd as they came within striking distance.

## EASIEST CHANCE

The game was only just over ten minutes old, however, when Stockport found themselves with the easiest chance of the day. A free-kick found inside right Bill Atkins only a foot or so from the line. But, with the goal yawning at him, he fiddled around too much and saw his weak effort hit the post and trickle over.

A few minutes later, however, Yeo showed his remarkable reflexes when he pounced on a low cross from Mike Green. His snap shot seemed certain to crash into the net but Lloyd flung himself at the ball and held it.

Derek Bellotti came in for applause when he did well to hold a shot by Jim Fryatt after Atkins had put the leader through.

Token attacks were put up by both sides but, apart from abortive flashes at goal, neither seemed to want to put any bite into their game.

The change-round saw Gillingham trying to bring something into the game and Gordon Riddick was unlucky to find Lloyd in form when he ran out to cheat the Gills' skipper of the ball as he closed in.

Woodley fighting an uphill battle against the massed defence, broke away a good run eight minutes after half-time but this shot hit the upright with Lloyd beaten. And a minute later he laid the ball off perfectly for Gilbert to move in but the young striker seemed to be bogged down.

## OFF-SIDE

Machin found the net in the 57th minute after Terry Simpson had put him through but he was ruled off-side and then Yeo climbed high to a cross only to see his glancing header go just wide of the far post.

He followed this up with a great run after Bill Williams had put him through but again found Lloyd quick to see the danger when he ran out and robbed Yeo as he was squaring for a shot.

By now Gillingham were trying everything up front and Machin

frequently found himself in the box in an effort to nudge home the advantage.

The 72nd minute found him the victim of his own impetuosity, however, when he had a gaping net in front of him but spooned the ball wide of the far post from only a few yards.

Gillingham were in command so much by this time that Stockport looked certain to crack.

But luck stayed with them — even up to one of the last desperate raids mounted by the Gills when Yeo came thundering in to a Riddick pass and hit it first time only to see the ball blocked.

Still, although Gillingham had enough chances to take both points, the "old trouble" of the void up front is still with them.

GILLINGHAM: Bellotti; Simpson, Green; Machin, Williams, Quirke; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Gilbert and Meredith.

STOCKPORT: Lloyd; Haydock, Hartle; Goodwin, Milner, Low; Alchurch, Atkins, Fryatt, Harley, Price (Morrin).

Attendance 5,314.

NEWS  
HT 0-0  
attend. 5,314



Stockport goalkeeper, Brian Lloyd, receiving attention after colliding with the goalpost during the second half.



# Basil happier now!

## Confident Gills can have few worries

### BUT SEARCH FOR STRIKER GOES ON

GILLINGHAM are almost certain to be unchanged for their home game with Stockport County tomorrow.

Manager Basil Hayward names the 13 players from whom final selection will be made, obviously wanting to have a late check on the fitness of Ray Bailey, but he will probably rely on the team which swept Rotherham off their feet on Wednesday evening.

Hayward was delighted with his team's performance — so must have been all Gillingham supporters. He said today: "We have achieved this brand of attacking football before without getting results. On Wednesday we gained our reward and we can only hope for repeat performances."

Meanwhile, Gillingham's search for a new forward goes on.

Hayward was making plans to be at a game to-night and his choice of targets may well be a second look at Exeter and ex-Southport inside-forward Jimmy Blain, currently employed in a midfield role.

Hayward is also awaiting the final outcome of his negotiations with Barrow for their striker Jim Mulvaney. The Gillingham boss has put in his club's bid but Barrow have insisted that it is not high enough.

Said Hayward: "At the moment we are sticking to our bid. If we are asked to go higher it could be that we should need to investigate whether a better player could be secured for the higher price."

Hayward has also been in touch with Arsenal about their reserve centre-forward David Simmons but the fee quoted for this player is much too high for the stadium club.

### Interest

On the other side of the fence slight interest has been displayed by Nottingham Forest in Gillingham goalkeeper Derek Bellotti and on Wednesday night Ipswich manager Bill McGarry was present to have another look at the young keeper.

Commented Hayward: "I should not think McGarry was able to form much of a judgement on the player because he had so little to do."

First team from Bellotti; Simpson, Green; Machin, Williams, Bailey, Quirke; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Folds, Gilbert, Meredith.

Reserves (away to Spurs): Simpson; Weston, Simmons, Ribbens, Arnott, Gough, Osbourne, Harrison, Bray, Peach, Tyde-man.

RAY BAILEY was back in training this week though it is not yet known if his gashed mouth will be healed enough for him to come in for selection tomorrow (Saturday) against visiting Stockport County.

And so manager Basil Hayward is sticking to the same 13 players he has persevered with in recent matches. Despite talk of a striker coming to Priestfield Stadium, there will be no new faces for the Stockport match.

Mr. Hayward has travelled several hundred miles in his bid for a front runner this week. He and club chairman Dr. C. S. Grossmark watched Leicester's Bobby Svarc on Saturday — only hours after the team came back from Reading — and then the Gills' boss made the round trip to Barrow on Monday evening to take another look at Jimmy Mulvaney.

He arrived back just before dawn on Tuesday and within a short while was making his way to Swindon.

Still, even though Mr. Hayward is also likely to be taking another trip today, there will be nothing new happening at the Stadium in the way of transfers this week-end.

But, after their tremendous performance against high-flying Rotherham, Gillingham can't have many worries about tomorrow.

Hardly a player could be faulted and the two cracking goals — plus the near misses — must give the Gills the confidence to put up another fine performance against sturdy Stockport.

Another great win for the Gills must be on the cards and no doubt, Stockport, already with an



Barrow striker Jimmy Mulvaney who was watched on Monday by Gills' manager, Basil Hayward.

with Huddersfield. The "sweeper" of the side.

Len Allchurch, outside right, Welsh international and brother of Ivor Allchurch. Joined the club from Sheffield United after previously being with Swansea Town. Bill Atkins, inside-right, 6ft. 2ins., joined County from Halifax. Goalscorer on Monday against Northampton.

Jim Fryatt, formerly with Bradford and Torquay. Albert Harley, inside left, previously with Crewe; John Price, outside-left, a young player who joined County from Burnley. Substitute: Tony Morrin. County is his first club.

Gillingham Reserves will visit Tottenham Hotspur tomorrow (Saturday) for a Football Combination fixture.

eye of promotion, will bring the best out of them.

### DANGER MAN

Stockport manager Jimmy Meadows, the former Manchester City star, announced yesterday (Friday) that his line-up will be unchanged for the seventh successive match.

Danger man to the Gills' defence will be sought-after centre-forward Jim Fryatt, the former Torquay leader, who has been a consistent goalscorer for several seasons and forms a scoring spearhead with Bill Atkins — top marksman last term with 17 goals.

While Mr. Meadows has been disappointed with some of his home results this season he said: "We have been playing quite well on opponents' grounds."

STOCKPORT, who defeated Northampton 1-0 on Monday, will field: Brian Lloyd, goal, Wales Under 23 international who joined the club from Cheshire League Rhyd; Bill Haydock, right back, previously with Grimsby Town; Barry Hartle, left back, last season signing from Carlisle. Started out as a winger with County but switched to full back.

Fred Goodwin, right half, formerly with Wolves; Mike Milner, centre-half, a close season signing from Hull City and the strong man of the defence; Gordon Low, left half, another close season signing from Bristol City and previously

## ROLL CALL

Date	Opponents	Score	Gate	Scorers
Aug. 10	Tranmere	A	0-2	
14	ORIENT*	H	2-2 5,998	Quirke (2)
17	ORIENT	H	2-2 5,524	Woodley, T. Simpson
20	Orient*	A	0-3	
24	Barnsley	A	1-0	Gibbs
27	Rotherham	A	0-1	
31	LUTON	H	1-3 8,227	Yeo
Sept. 7	Torquay	A	0-2	
14	BRIGHTON	H	5-0 4,445	Gilbert (2), Yeo (2), G. Yeo
16	Barrow	A	1-2	Yeo
20	Southport	A	2-4	Yeo, Woodley
28	MANSFIELD	H	1-1 4,630	Woodley
Oct. 4	Reading	A	3-2	Yeo (2)
9	ROTHERHAM	H	2-0 5,525	Gilbert, Yeo
12	STOCKPORT	H		
19	Bristol Rovers	A		
26	PLYMOUTH	H		

\* Football League Cup.  
Appearances to date: Bailey 12, Bellotti 10, Folds 1 as sub., Gibbs 7, Gilbert 7, Green 13, Machin 13, Meredith 14, Quirke 9 (1 as sub.), Riddick 13 (1 as sub.), 2. Simpson 11 (1 as sub.), J. Simpson 4, Theop 3, Williams 14, Woodley 14, Yeo 10.

Record, including League Cup: P14, W3, D3, L8, F19, A23.

## Gills' fans move off to Highbury

QUITE a few Gillingham supporters will go to Highbury, home of Arsenal, in a few weeks time, if all goes according to plan.

Mind you, they are not deserting the Gills. The supporters' association is arranging a trip to show members the behind-the-scenes running of a big club.

This follows an invitation from the Gunners and will take place on November 28. Details are available from assistant secretary Sid Walter at the sales shop at Priestfield Stadium or at his home, 5, Eastern Road, Gillingham.

## Look around Highbury

BJG day out for Gillingham supporters is Sunday, 28 November, when a party will visit Highbury Stadium.

Arsenal F.C. have extended an invitation to the Supporters' Association to have a look behind the scenes of the famous "Gunners" home. Details are available from assistant secretary, Sid Walter at the Sales Shop or at 5 Eastern Road, Gillingham.

### South East Counties League

G	7	6	1	0	25	6	13
h	7	6	1	0	30	12	13
od	7	5	2	0	30	14	12
OL	7	5	0	3	25	19	10
h	7	3	3	1	14	8	9
rr	7	3	3	2	10	9	8
ham	6	3	1	2	16	5	7
A	5	3	1	1	14	8	7
it	7	3	1	3	16	15	7
ster	7	3	0	4	12	18	6
re	7	2	1	4	16	21	5
gn	9	1	3	5	7	32	5
W	7	2	0	5	10	10	4
WGHAM	7	0	0	5	8	16	4
U	6	1	0	4	6	12	4
m	8	0	1	7	4	36	1



# Improving Gills can rock the Rovers



STOCKPORT'S Lloyd goes down to save a ground shot. The visiting 'keeper, to the frustration of the Priestfield fans, saved everything which came his way in fact. Carl Gilbert is the home forward in our picture.

## Mike and June get set for their big day



P.4688

**GILLINGHAM** full-back Mike O'Brien's big day is getting nearer. No, he's not winning an England soccer cap or helping Gillingham to the Third Division title.

Not yet at any rate. His big day is, in fact, his wedding day — Monday 18 November when he marries June Miller at St. John's Church, Carlisle.

Our picture shows the couple hard at work re-decorating their future home, one of the club's houses in Tufton Road, Rainham, previously occupied by Mike's first team colleague, Brian Yeo.

They have just finished selecting the wallpaper and painting. "June actually chose it," said Mike. "I just pay for it."

The couple are getting married in Carlisle — their home town. June, a 21-year-old sales assistant from Harold Street, Carlisle, will be travelling back north a week before the wedding.

### CUP MATCH

Mike, however, who comes from Lightfoot Drive, Harrowby, Carlisle, will not be going home until the Saturday before the wedding after Gillingham's first round match in the F.A. Cup. And should

that match result in a draw, the replay would probably be the following Wednesday — and that would cut short their honeymoon.

Mike came to Gillingham this summer after six years with Carlisle. He started with them as an apprentice professional after leaving school.

It was at a dance in Carlisle that he met June and soon converted her to a soccer fan. They have been engaged for just over a year.



Local boy Graham Knight, who is to become Gillingham's fifth apprentice professional. The club's oldest apprentice, David Peach, will be 18 — the age of becoming a full professional — in January and the others, Geoff Bray, Dick Tydeman and John Ribbins, will be 18 in May.

P.4715

**GILLINGHAM**, currently showing signs of climbing out of danger with three points from the last two games, have all the ingredients to bring off a win against Bristol Rovers tomorrow and so haul themselves nearer the top half of Division Three.

But, although Gills boss Basil Hayward has just come through another "nomadic" week, travelling hundreds of miles in search of a player, there will be nothing drastically new in the line-up.

Still, even though the striker problem is still with the team, their aggressive attacking attitude to the game lately should see them coming away with at least one point and, if the breaks come, possibly two.

The void up front showed itself again on Saturday when Gillingham sliced their way through the massed and stolid Stockport defence several times only to see a number of "gilt edged" scoring chances thrown away through the lack of bite at the crucial moment.

Since then, manager Hayward has stepped up his search for a front runner but yesterday (Thursday) he said that so far he had been out of luck.

### VITAL TALENT

Saturday did, however, reveal one important factor about the Gills' tactics — they have the talent to carve up any defence, even one with such depth and unyielding stubbornness as Stockport. And, in front of their own crowd, Rovers are certain to come out on attack — which will give Gillingham the gaps to hit back.

The line-up for tomorrow will not be decided until later but a doubtful starter already is Ray Bailey.

Although he has fully recovered from the gashed mouth he sustained at Reading and which kept him out of the Rotherham and Stockport matches, he twisted his ankle in training this week.

A fitness report on him is expected later today but David Quirke, who came in for him in the last two matches, is almost certain to be travelling to Eastville.

Mr Hayward has still not made up his mind about the front runners and selection will be a toss-up

between Carl Gilbert and Bobby Folds.

Other than this, however, the team is not likely to have any changes from the one who drew 0-0 with Stockport.

### SLIPPED UP

Bristol Rovers have been making slow progress this season and they have slipped up in the last two matches.

They went down narrowly at Shrewsbury last week, and on Saturday were ripped 3-2 by Rotherham, whom Gillingham beat 2-0 a few days previously.

Rovers did quite well at Rotherham considering the fact that they found themselves a goal down when teenage winger Lee Brogden hit the net inside fifty seconds.

Rovers have an adventurous attack but their defence has been breached fairly regularly and Gillingham's strikers, Brian Yeo and Carl Gilbert, may have opportunities to further bolster their confidence.

The Rovers transferred young centre forward Dick Plumb to Southern League club Yeovil yesterday but Plumb was not a regular performer.

He deputised for team captain Bobby Jones at Rotherham last Saturday but Jones has now recovered from injury and takes his usual place in the team to face the Gills.

### THE LEADERS

A point of interest is that both sides will be skippered by players in the No. 9 shirt. Gordon Riddick leads the Gills and Jones captains the Rovers.

The return of Jones is the only change in the line-up and manager Bert Tann is confident that his men will return to the victory trail on Saturday.

But he realises that Gillingham have been showing some improvement and he will not be underestimating them.

Exeter-born Laurie Taylor, the goalkeeper, is one of two Taylors in the Bristol line-up. The other is No. 4 Stuart Taylor, a Bristol product.

There are also two Jones boys in the team, for in addition to Bobby the captain, there is midfield man Wayne Jones.

Manager Tann has been concentrating on developing home grown talent and he has been so successful that Saturday's line-up includes no fewer than eight players from Bristol itself. The odd men out are Welshman Wayne Jones, Londoner Johnny Petts and goalkeeper Taylor from Exeter.

The team is: Taylor (L), Parsons, Stanton; Taylor (S), Lloyd, Petts; Graydon, Williams, Jones (M), Jones (W), Jarman.

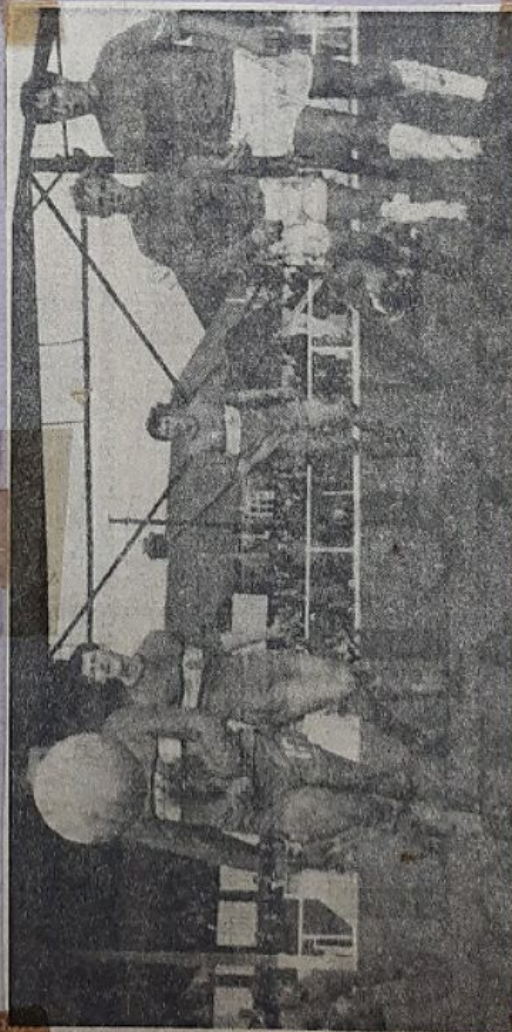


A second half incident near the Stockport goal as Gordon Riddick beats a Stockport defender only to see his shot go wide.





All fall down.....with Stockport goalkeeper, Lloyd, and Gillingham's Gordon Riddick on the deck. Brian Yeo tries hard to net the ball but without success.  
P. 4633



ALL eyes on the ball as it zooms in the direction of the Stockport goal. The effort went wide however.

# Sad reflection of our soccer times

HOOLIGANISM and other troubles at football matches are a sad reflection of the troubled times in which we live and are just one of the by-products of modern society.

They are, however, being "accepted" as something which happens

and cannot be stopped.

Little publicity is given to the more serious hooliganism in newspapers. They are no longer treated as news by the national Press because they have ceased to be unusual and are everyday occurrences.

At Gillingham we have been extremely lucky in the past and the crowd, has in the main, been intent only

on enjoying the match and not causing any trouble.

But recently a few of the dinner speculators seem to have decided they ought to compete with the hooligan element of other towns and cause trouble.

A young lad was taken to hospital during the Gillingham v. Mansfield match. The lad was taken to hospital to be stopped while the paper was removed from one of the goals.

Crowds and coins were thrown on to the pitch during the fine game against Rotherham and on Saturday and, after the Stockport match, a fight broke out in a toilet and there were ugly scenes round a Stockport coach parked near the ground.

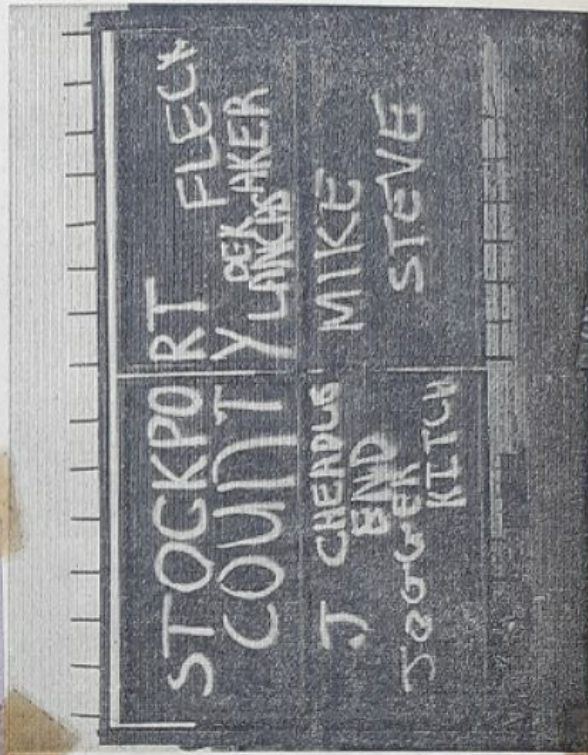
It is only a very few who are causing this trouble but they are causing it and for every boy who could badly injure somebody before long and bring Gillingham a bad name.

It is about time this matter was aired and not ignored in the hope it will disappear. If no action is taken the trouble will spread just as it has done at other grounds.

Gillingham should show by prosecuting they will not tolerate hooliganism.

Only then will the small but dangerous realists who cannot get away with violence.

Our picture shows soccer art on gates at Priestfield Stadium. Note the liberal use of white, and the harsh strokes, suggesting central Lancashire influence. A more harmless form of soccer's present day face and often amusing except for the man has to clean it off!





# Gills' new handbook

GILLINGHAM Football Club Supporters' Association's new handbook, which is now on sale, is the first the club have had for 13 seasons and coincides with their 75th anniversary.

Very good it is, too. But besides this the association hopes to publish Priestfield Press again this season.

This is a newsletter full of facts and figures, and will probably be issued early next year to keep fans up to date with what is happening on the stadium scene.

# MORE CHEERS -FEWER JEERS PLEASE

## Basil Hayward's Own Column



## BIG SUPPORT FOR GILLS IN THE OUTLYING AREAS

FIRST of all, I would like to say that I welcome this chance of writing a series of articles for the Chatham News and coming into closer contact with the majority of people in the Medway Towns. I hope to be able to bring home to as many people as possible some of the problems we have at Priestfield Stadium as well as our ambitions which, incidentally, are quite high and in which our supporters can be very much involved.

My views on how we can achieve our ambitions have at times upset one or two people in the three years I have been at Gillingham. But let me emphasize at the outset that I have no axe to grind and I am convinced that, unless we all speak frankly and honestly, we are not going to get anywhere.

My bluntness is trying to get over my views has perhaps caused this upset but, from the time I came to Gillingham, I have done my utmost to be completely honest with people. This, to me, is the only way to go about things.

Now that you know how I stand, let me say that I hope this column will interest you enough for you to come forward with your own views, and I shall try to answer anyone's questions on the club. The team and I despise stupid abuse but we always welcome constructive criticism.

## SUGGESTION

This brings me to the recent suggestion by a section of the supporters for setting up sub-committees in and around the Medway Towns area.

Obviously this can do nothing but good and is just the sort of thing I have been advocating at Gillingham since I came here. I am convinced that, apart from people in Gillingham, Chatham and Rochester who come to see us, there is a big support for the club from the outlying areas.

Here, I feel, we as a club can do a lot to encourage people to support us and, of course, the idea of the sub-committees has the full backing of myself and the team.

Should anyone want to do this sort of thing then we would be only too pleased to visit their headquarters, clubhouse, or hotel to meet people and chat about the club.

Naturally our playing commitments will mean that we will have to have some notice before we can accept invitations.

Above all, however, I would like to say that we are always keen to

help people who show an interest in helping the club.

Once we can re-establish a closer link with the public then I am sure we can start building up support which, in recent years, has always shown promise but has just fallen short when we have needed it most.

This is perhaps due to the lack of knowledge of the club and information about its activities and so, each week, I hope to tell you more about some of the things we have in mind.

## POTENTIAL

Most of all though we want to succeed and, even though we may at the moment be in the lower region of the Division, I am convinced we have the potential to really make our mark in the league.

We could make it this year and, if not, then in the very near future. But again I must stress we must have the support to do it.

As probably everyone is aware, we are looking for one or two players to strengthen our staff. We have trimmed down the staff so that we can take in new players and I have spent a great deal of time — besides travelling something over 2,000 miles in the past two weeks or so — in search of the right kind of player.

Although the wrong time to buy is when there appears to be pressure on the team, we have to find at least one player.

Basically, we are a very good team and even now we are playing better football than most teams we have met so far. But one new player could see us through — although two would give us that much better chance of coming back.

Finally, as anyone who has seen us play this season will agree, we have done our best not only to win but to entertain. Confidence and morale is still high and I am sure that, given the breaks and the support, our faster, more open style of football will pay off.

I FEEL I must write this letter in defence of the "Gills," especially as they have struck a bad patch and I would like to ask the people and so-called supporters of Gillingham Football Club to think hard before they so readily find fault with the players, the directors and the manager.

As is well known, any football club depends for success, financial gain and profit — indeed, its very existence — on its supporters. If a club is well-supported when they play their home matches, irrespective of whether they win, lose or draw, then the club has no real worries or problems, as success is bound to come in time.

A good home crowd cheering the team on will give the players greater incentive to give of their best the whole time. Of course it is very well known that a lot of people only prefer to watch a winning team. When a team strikes a rough bad patch as the "Gills" have at the present time, then these people just drift away.

This attitude is entirely wrong. When things are going wrong for a club, when a club is struggling and is up against it, that is when a club looks to its supporters for comfort, cheer, support, and — most important of all — financial support. I would just like to give a little friendly advice to the Gilling-

ham players themselves. Although you have struck a bad patch and things are not going right for you at the present time, and I expect no doubt that this state of affairs is beginning to play on your nerves and influence your play, please continue to play the game cleanly, fairly and properly.

Playing rough and dirty and fouling opponents will not in the long run win or even draw games for you. You also lose the respect of the crowds. I would however hasten to point out that if your opponents start playing dirty and rough and also begin to start fouling you, great patience and restraint will be needed if you are to resist the temptation to retaliate.

To all those people who say the club needs new players I say it is easier said than done. For a football team manager these days to dive into the transfer market requires a fat bank account and new players are hard to come by for various reasons. Professional football these days is no longer a sport in the recognized sense but an industry with the emphasis on big money. Any footballer with talent will naturally want to play with a first or second division club where he knows he will get fairly big money.

Until Gillingham Football club gets bigger gates for their home games somewhere in the region of between 12,000 and 19,000, they will not be able to afford to sign any player of class, so please don't knock the Gillingham manager, Mr. Basil Hayward, for not trying to get better players. To conclude here are words of encouragement for the Gillingham players.

## TAKE HEART

Although you have made a disastrous start to the present season there is no reason for unnecessary despondency, gloom, or pessimism and all this talk of a return to the fourth division is just a load of rot. Other teams and clubs in the Football League have also made disastrous starts to the new season.

So take heart lads of Gillingham you are not the only ones in trouble, not by a long chalk. Even if the "Gills" do not make the second division next season they are still good enough to hold their own in the third division.

GILLS SUPPORTER  
(Name and address supplied)

## WHERE THE GILLS ARE

Division 111

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton Tn.	13	8	2	3	27	11	18
Torquay	13	8	2	4	24	14	18
Barrow	13	8	2	3	22	15	18
Swindon	12	7	3	2	14	5	17
Bournemouth	13	8	1	4	21	10	17
Watford	13	6	4	3	13	8	16
Rotherham	13	6	4	3	19	15	16
Tranmere	14	7	2	5	19	19	16
Stockport	13	5	5	3	19	15	15
Plymouth	14	6	3	5	18	16	15
Reading	13	5	4	4	18	14	14
Mansfield	13	5	3	5	21	19	13
Northampton	11	4	4	3	11	10	12
Barnsley	14	3	6	5	17	20	12
Brighton	13	4	4	5	19	23	12
Walsall	14	2	7	5	13	15	11
Spelthorpe	10	5	2	7	23	18	12
Hristol R.	13	3	6	19	26	11	11
Orient	11	2	6	3	14	16	10
Shrewsbury	13	3	4	6	12	19	10
Gillingham	13	3	3	7	17	20	9
Hartlepool	13	1	7	5	6	20	9
Crawley	13	2	4	7	19	25	6
Oldham A.	13	1	2	10	6	29	4

Football Combination Cup  
(Group "C", Final Table)

Tottenham H.	10	6	3	1	28	8	15
Norwich	10	6	1	3	18	15	13
Southampton	10	5	2	3	23	18	12
Crystal P.	10	3	2	5	17	25	8
Fulham	10	3	1	6	12	23	7
Gillingham	10	2	1	7	10	19	5

South East Counties League

Ipswich	7	6	1	0	29	6	13
Millwall	7	6	1	0	30	12	12
Orient	7	5	2	0	30	14	12
Crystal P.	8	5	3	3	25	19	10
Q.P.R.	7	3	3	1	14	8	9
West Ham	7	3	2	2	10	9	8
Charlton	6	3	1	2	16	5	7
Chelsea	7	3	1	3	16	15	7
Colchester	7	3	0	4	12	16	6
Luton	7	2	1	4	16	21	5
Reading	9	1	3	5	7	32	5
Brighton	7	2	0	5	10	15	4
Fulham	7	2	0	5	8	16	4
Gillingham	6	2	0	4	6	12	3
Wadford	8	1	1	4	7	21	3
Oxford U.	8	0	1	7	4	22	1

It's your  
money  
they're  
after

IF YOU don't want to be reminded that Christmas is coming round again in the near future, read no further.

But it is and just as surely as Christmas comes once a year so do the raffles, competitions and draws.

Both Gillingham and Chatham Football Clubs are making their preparations.



Gillingham Supporters' Association have one with a top prize of £100, second £25, and about 50 prizes which they hope supporters, firms and businesses will donate.

Organising the Chatham competition is Julie Britton, wife of the president, Gus Britton, of the Cannon public house. She will welcome donations of prizes there and all donors will get a mention after Christmas.

All profits go to furthering the football cause.



# STADIUM SPOTLIGHT

BRIAN YEO is the kind of player who always seems to attract a lot of comment. At times he has been the target of some of the most venomous derision from the terraces but, more often than not—like recently for instance—he shows himself to have the talent to make people sit up and take notice.

And this remarkable range of emotions he has brought out of the footballing public stems back to his teenager days when, soon after leaving school, he joined Portsmouth, then under manager Fred Cox. Though essentially a youth team player, he made his mark in the first team and, before long, he was playing the kind of football that earned him the tag of being the "boy wonder" of the league. While observers looked on him as a future international, top clubs in the country clamoured for his signature.

Then, just over five years ago, Mr. Cox came to Priestfield Stadium and brought with him this slightly-built striker along with a handful of others.

Yeo became a key man in the new manager's system at Gillingham but then, after playing a major part in the Gills' successful championship bid, he seemed to fade out of the limelight.

## TOUGH TIME

Three years ago, the manager left and was replaced by Basil Hayward. And, until this season, Yeo had a tough time coming back into the reckoning.

Last year, for instance, he turned out only 18 times for the senior squad. He scored four goals and was well down the list of scorers for the Reserves.

But then, as this year's close season finished and all the players began vying for the first team again, things began to happen to him. Whether it was the ball running right, the breaks coming just at the right time or his own potential talent, Yeo found himself in the throes of a comeback.

An ankle injury kept him out for the first four games but he came back for the away match with Barnsley when Brian Gibbs gave Gillingham a win.

Opening his tally with the



Gills' only goal in that fateful 1-3 defeat at home to Luton. Yeo has now leapt into the top scorer bracket with seven goals—and all scored in the space of 11 matches.

## UNDERSTANDING

The partnership he has struck up with Derek Woodley has seen him devastating defences and turning home some of the finest goals seen at the Stadium in recent years. One of the quickest men off the mark in the League, Yeo—though smaller than most—has shown that he could again be the key to Gillingham's tactics which should push them back up the division before long.

When he is in form there are few players who can match him for pace and tenacity when going for a ball in the box. And such is the grasp he is showing for the game lately that one is tempted to bet that he could top Brian Gibbs' 16 goals performance for the whole of last season by the time this one is half over.

A married man, Brian lives in his own home at Lower Halstow near Upchurch and is a neighbour of Gillingham's former fullback Dennis Hunt. He and his wife Jennie have a daughter Nicola and Jennie is expecting a second child.



Bobby Williams gets in a shot under pressure at Eastville.



Mabbutt's shot is saved by Bellotti, Gillingham's goalkeeper, at Eastville today.



Gordon Riddick scores Gillingham's only goal at Bristol on Saturday from a free-kick taken by Derek Woodley. P.4770

## Winning volume from Gills

I HAVE had a preview of Gillingham Football Club Supporters' Association's new handbook and it is a must for all supporters.

At a shilling a time, it is certainly good value for money. It is packed with Gillingham's history, pen pictures of the players, officials, tables and pictures.

The 60-page book should be on sale for the first time at Saturday's home game against Stockport.



A shot from Bristol Rovers' Larry Lloyd had Bellotti diving around the post to concede a corner in the closing minutes of the match. P.4773



# HAYWARD HAS KING-SIZED BACK RANK HEADACHE

Bristol Rvs. 5, Gillingham 1

SHEER thoughtlessness and a pathetic lack of fight brought Gillingham their worst drubbing in over 100 games at Eastville on Saturday. And frankly they consider themselves lucky to get off so lightly.

Bristol, with almost contemptuous ease, gave Gillingham's young 'keeper Derek Bellotti his busiest afternoon in League football and one had the sneaky suspicions they could have doubled their score but for their own eventual complacency and Bellotti's refusal to go the same way as his colleagues.

But the most demoralizing and awful thing about this game was that Gillingham had it all sewn up when they took the lead in the 33rd minute. But then, for some inexplicable reason, they fell apart to give Rovers all the room they needed to hit back seven minutes later.

It was so reminiscent of Reading — when admittedly the Gills played their hearts out — that one cannot help but put the whole blame on the defence. Just like Reading were allowed to hit back hard and fast, so were Bristol and, although manager, Basil Hayward may have a striker problem, this showed beyond doubt that he has a king-sized headache in the back rank.

## GREAT PITY

In fact, now that promotion is so remote, one must wonder if he will switch his priorities and go for the kind of football that will keep Gillingham in the Third rather than making a mark in it.

If a change in outlook should come, it will be a great pity but Saturday certainly underlined just how weak Gillingham can be at the back.

Virtually all the Bristol's goals came from silly and inexcusable mistakes on Gillingham's part.

And, to add to the frustration, while Gillingham fumbled most on their right flank one time regular right fullback Tony Weston sat on the trainer's bench as substitute man for the whole of the match.

Almost every one of Bristol's goals came from their left flank where Harold Jarman was given far too much freedom and centre forward Ray Mabbutt, usually a fullback, was allowed to play havoc around the box.

## MORE RAGGED

Both players continually knifed their way through the Gillingham defence which, apart from failing to grasp what Bristol had in mind, just didn't give their forwards the service they needed. As the game wore on, passing became more ragged and consequently Bristol had it all their own way.

Attacking-wise Gillingham just didn't have a chance.

Gordon Riddick worked hard in the middle and John Meredith showed up well in the early stages. But why Gillingham should have persisted with long, high balls up the middle is a mystery.

Centre half Larry Lloyd and partner Stuart Taylor must be two of the biggest men in the league and, with Carl Gilbert hardly showing apart from when he fell back, Brian Yeo just didn't have a prayer when it came to fighting it out with these two half-backs who towered above him.

Derek Woodley was played out of the game — though he too lacked the so badly needed support.

He made one or two runs and laid on the ball for GORDON RIDDICK to head home Gillingham's only goal with an edge of the box free-kick. But otherwise Woodley hardly in the match at all.

Gillingham looked set to follow up their recent improvement early on and Gilbert was unlucky to get just under a cross from Mike Green and see it go over the top.

Riddick followed this up with a fine run over the halfway line to set it up for Woodley. But the Gills' winger soon ran into trouble when Stanton put in a sliding tackle to clear.

The first of Bristol's left flank raids came when fullback Stanton worked his way out to the wing and put in a cross only to see Terry Simpson block and head clear. Then Mabbutt eluded David Quirke but saw his angle shot easily held by a well-positioned Bellotti.

With Lloyd and Taylor — a frequent visitor to the Gillingham box — dominating in the air, Bristol soon found their feet and Bob Williams had the ball in the net. A goal was disallowed through Taylor being offside.

Woodley followed this with one of his rare crosses that Riddick raced in to head but the ball went just wide.

Then the ineptitude of the Gillingham defenders stood out like a sore thumb when outside right Ray Graydon was allowed to run the whole length of the field direct from a throw-out by 'keeper Laurie Taylor. His cross was, however, well held by Bellotti.

Though he found it pointless trying to outjump the Bristol defence, Brian Yeo showed that he

## writes Martin Hitchings

could by-pass them on the ground when he out-flanked Lloyd to put in a left-foot drive from the edge of the box that the 'keeper had to move quickly to hold.

This brief bout of pressure soon told and Gillingham took the lead in the 33rd minute. But within seconds Jarman had cut loose on his wing and Williams was unlucky to see a header go over.

Bellotti had to make a fantastic save on his knees when a terrible mix-up by Gillingham gave Wayne Jones a scoring chance and then in the 40th minute bustling half back Stuart Taylor seemed to completely ignore the efforts of Simpson and Riddick to hold him when he simply nodded the ball from just wide of the goalpost to lay it on for BOBBY WILLIAMS to head home from close range.

Three minutes later Jarman, again totally unhindered, sent in a rising shot for Bellotti to fling himself at and pull off a brilliant save. But the young 'keeper just couldn't hold the ball and GRAYDON ran in to prod it into the net.

Almost immediately after the change-round Bellotti was at it again — this time to hold a Mabbutt hook shot.

Then Bellotti made his worst mistake of day, which wasn't unexpected after so much pressure, when he failed to hold a Green back pass and, as the ball bounced away from his hands, MABBUTT had no trouble in running in and pushing it into the open net.



Derek Bellotti dives at the feet of Bristol Rovers' outside-left Harold Jarman, with Gills' Bill Williams coming in from the right.



Gillingham striker Carl Gilbert in a mid-air duel with a Rovers defender.

## HIGH AND WIDE

Gillingham hit back but Riddick was high and wide with his edge-of-the-box shot and Stanton did well to run back and clear with 'keeper Taylor beaten.

The most remarkable effort of the day came from Yeo when somehow he arched himself backwards to get his head to a Woodley cross but, although it went goalwards, the ball had little power behind it.

Gillingham's defence was hopelessly wrongfooted by Bristol's forwards shortly afterwards. With Bellotti desperately trying to clear, Riddick had to run back and clear the ball off his own line.

By now, JARMAN was coming through with monotonous regularity and he was responsible for making it 4-1 in the 85th minute when he ran through an attempted offside move by Gillingham and hooked the ball home.

Gillingham were completely bemused and dejected and it took Bristol only three minutes to end off the scoring when Quirke and Bill Williams looked on as Graydon ran in to team up with MABBUTT who just smacked the ball between the posts from a yard out.

From then on, apart from a Riddick header that hit the 'keeper, Bristol laid into Gillingham, as casually and disdainfully as if they were teaching an amateur side the rudiments of the game.

Luckily for Gillingham, Bellotti put everything into the game and so stopped what could have been an even worse rout.

Bristol: Laurie Taylor; Parsons, Stanton; Stuart Taylor, Larry Lloyd Petts; Graydon, Williams, Mabbutt, Jones, Jarman.

Gillingham: Bellotti; Simpson, Green; Machin, Williams, Quirke, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Gilbert and Meredith.

## Hayward waits for Smillie

GILLINGHAM are poised to sign Southend's inside-forward Andy Smillie for a sum reputed to be around the five figure mark. Manager Basil Hayward has watched Smillie and rates him a good all-round footballer, effective as both a schemer and striker.

The clubs have agreed terms and Smillie is now considering the move. He will let Hayward know his decision either today or tomorrow. The 26-year-old player has been with Southend for five years and lives at Basildon.

Even if Smillie signs the manager will still be looking for another player to strengthen the side, which has won only three games this season.

If Smillie comes to Priestfield he will team up again with Derek Woodley, who was secured from the Essex club in exchange for Howard Moore.

No. 16  
H.T. 2-1  
attends



## GILLS CHASE SMILLIE

GILLINGHAM manager Basil Hayward said yesterday (Monday) that he hoped to complete the signing of Southend United forward Andy Smillie within the next couple of days.

The Gills, fighting to climb clear of the Third Division danger zone, face two tough matches in four days. On Saturday they visit Vicarage Road to play Watford, now second in the table, and on Tuesday they travel to Northampton.

Gillingham failed to capture Smillie in time for last Saturday's match with Plymouth and now, if he is to help them at Watford, he must be registered with the Gills on Thursday.

Stocky Smillie has been with Southend five seasons and was previously with West Ham, Crystal Palace and Scunthorpe. He is a goalmaker and goalscorer, and in 33 appearances last season he snapped up eight goals for United.

# GILLS BOSS BIDS FOR SOUTHEND FORWARD

## Rumour of Gills' signing is denied

GILLINGHAM manager, Basil Hayward, today denied that he had signed Andy Smillie, 26-year-old Southend inside-forward who was rumoured to have joined the Gills at a fee reputed to be about £5,000.

"This is the first I've heard about it," he said. "He is definitely not signing for us. I don't know anything about it."

## Basil Hayward's Own Column

### We have ability to climb out of danger area

WITH results going so badly for us lately, I am finding it difficult to come up with anything encouraging to write about. While the majority of our games so far have brought extremely good performances from the team the game at Bristol was the poorest display of the team this season.

For the first 40 minutes the game was ours for the taking. But then, by slackening our work rate, we failed to take the kind of lead one would have expected after we had achieved such a dominant hold on the game. Consequently, we allowed Bristol to come back from behind and they managed to get in two quick goals within five minutes just before the interval.

This proved to be the kind of spur Bristol needed for the second half and, after taking another gift goal, they were full of running and so finished the match by picking up two well taken goals.

Now, however, I hope this sort of play is behind us and that the team has settled down enough for us to start bringing in the results again.

Our League position at the moment is the lowest it has been for a number of years and is certainly the lowest I personally have experienced since coming into the managerial side of the game.

But now it is up to the players and myself and I am still convinced we are equal to anyone else in the Division and have the ability to pull ourselves off the bottom of the league.

It is, of course, at times like these that gates tend to drop but it seems a great pity that support for the game as a whole should take

this course when things appear to be going wrong. This applies particularly with a club such as ours where a good following will, I am sure, make us one of the better Second Division prospects.

There is no doubt that for a number of people, the excuse for not coming to Priestfield Stadium is that we should go out and buy. All I can say to this is that we are making the most strenuous efforts to bring a new player to the club but we are meeting with financial difficulties — and, of course, these stem from our gates plus the general situation with our subsidiary funds.

This in no way reflects on anyone in particular. We are going through a bad phase in the club but all I would ask is for people to accept it until the team manages to come into a more successful period.

One way of raising money quickly is possibly to sell a player. But looked at in the long term, this would be totally wrong unless the offer were too good for a club in our position to refuse.

It is hard enough getting good players who are right for the club Quirke, Ray Bailey, Derek Wood and can help it to do well. And Lley, Brian Yeo, Gordon Riddick, for one would far sooner hold on to Bobby Folds, Carl Gilbert, and to this type of player rather than let us become a breeding ground for the richer clubs.

GILLINGHAM'S search for a forward may be over. Terms have been agreed with Southend United for Andy Smillie and it is now up to the player to decide whether or not he will come to Priestfield Stadium.

But, as Smillie wants more time to think about the move, he will not be in the Gills' line-up for tomorrow's tough home clash with Plymouth Argyle.

Manager Basil Hayward said yesterday (Thursday) that the 26-year-old forward came to Priestfield Stadium on Wednesday afternoon and it was hoped that a decision from him will come by the beginning of next week.

Smillie, who scored eight goals in 33 appearances for Southend last season and has been a regular first team player this term, has interested the Gills' boss for some time. A substantial fee is believed to be involved with the deal.

A stocky, 5ft 6ins player weighing nearly 11 stone, Smillie was born in Ilford and has played for West Ham, Crystal Palace and Scunthorpe before moving to Southend.

#### EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH

Should he join Gillingham, it will be the culmination of an exhaustive search by Mr. Hayward who has spent a large part of the last fortnight travelling the country looking at players. Last week alone, Mr. Hayward travelled some 2,000 miles.

Despite this possible boost to the Gills' squad, the manager still has the problem of putting out a strong team against Plymouth tomorrow.

He will not be making a final selection until later but one worry could be Mel Machin who strained his leg in training. A full fitness report will decide tomorrow whether or not he can turn out on Saturday.

Ray Bailey has, however, made a lot of progress in his efforts to regain fitness and the injured ankle he twisted last week should be mended enough for him to come up for selection this week.

Bailey has been out of the first team since the game with Reading four matches ago when he had to leave the field with a badly gashed mouth and gums and when he lost two of his front teeth. Then he suffered a further setback when the ankle injury kept him out of the clash at Bristol.

Tony Weston too is back in the reckoning and, following last week when he was substitute at Bristol, he will be part of the squad to be chosen from today.

The team will then be picked from Derek Bellotti, Terry Simpson, Miue Green, Tony Weston, Mel Machin, Bill Williams, David Quirke, Ray Bailey, Derek Wood and can help it to do well. And Lley, Brian Yeo, Gordon Riddick, for one would far sooner hold on to Bobby Folds, Carl Gilbert, and to this type of player rather than let us become a breeding ground for the richer clubs.

## New Gills handbook "a must"

THE FIRST Official Handbook produced by Gillingham Supporters Association since season 1955-56 was issued this week and is a "must" for Gills fans and souvenir hunters.

Following close on the success of last season's "Priestfield Press" the 76-page booklet, a handy size and priced at a modest one shilling, sets out to give Gillingham supporters and soccer enthusiasts in general a comprehensive round-up of the club's achievements over the years.

Articles of particular interest are those by the football club chairman, Dr. C.S. Grossmark, who comments that success in Division Three has gone to enterprising clubs; a review of the 1967-68 season; how Gillingham reached the Wembley final of the national five-a-side competition last season; pen pictures of the players; a Division Three directory of clubs and a flashback to the Archie Clark era.

Interesting facts emerge from the club. Did you know that Bill Hales scored a hat-trick in his first team debut at Port Vale on 31, March 1951; that the club's highest goalscorers in a league game is F. Chesebrough who netted six against Merthyr Tydfil in 1929-30; although Hughie Russell, present reserve team trainer, hit nine out of 12 in a post-war Southern League game with Gloucester City?

Did you know that Freddie Fox is the only player to be capped for his country while with Gillingham? He kept goal for England in a 3-2 victory over France at Paris in 1925.

Did you know that Jimmy Scarth holds the Football League record for the fastest hat-trick when he netted three times for Gillingham in two minutes against Leyton Orient in 1952.

And the last time Gillingham scored six goals in a League match was against Aldershot in August, 1966.

So, it's all in the supporters' edition new handbook — definitely a worthy buy for Gills fans.

## Bad effort says Gills' manager

THOROUGHLY disappointed Gills' manager Basil Hayward yesterday (Monday) referred to Saturday's game as a "bad effort" on the part of the Gillingham players.

"It was a match that could have been won at the beginning," he commented. "The players showed up well in the early stages but did not do enough."

"We could have taken the match but then Bristol came out to win at half-time and we were not able to hold them," he added.

Gillingham are now back to bottom but one of the table and they have a tough home clash with Plymouth Argyle on Saturday.

Plymouth, looking to go back into Division Two which they left at the end of last season, will be out for points and so a lot of tightening up will have to be done in the Gills' ranks by then.

Mr. Hayward is not yet committing himself to any drastic changes this week though he did hint that one definite replacement will be made for Saturday.

Just what plan the Gills will adopt against Plymouth will be decided later, but obviously top priority must now be given to morale which must have taken a beating against Bristol where Gillingham picked up their seventh away defeat out of a possible eight.

Goal averages are now well shown and although Gillingham and Rotherham recently, the inconclusive way they dealt with Stockport in only holding them to a draw at home plus the Bristol hiding must mean they will have to bring off a major transformation in form and attitude to be in with a chance this week-end. Gillingham Reserves will visit Winton for a Football Association fixture and the youth team are at Reading.

## Playing Record Up to And inc. 19th Oct.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos
14	3	3	8	18	25	9	23rd.

### Average Attendance

home - 5,690

away - 7,380

### Leading Goalscorers

Yeo - 7 goals



## STADIUM SPOTLIGHT

WHATEVER criticism one might level at Gillingham's manager Basil Hayward, one cannot honestly deny him the fact that he has a rare talent for judging a player's potential. Like every other manager in the League, he has had to buy players to build the kind of team he wants at Priestfield Stadium.

But, besides spending less money than most of his counterparts, he has also used his foresight in preparing a future for the club and bringing in young players for next to nothing.

This in itself has more than balanced his account at Gillingham and a player who perhaps reflects it most is young David Quirke.

At 21, he ranks alongside Derek Bellotti — another Hayward bargain, incidentally — as one of the finest young prospects the club has had in recent history. And, if ever one could say the manager had a protégé, Quirke would come closest to qualifying for this distinction.

Now in his third season with the club, he first caught Mr. Hayward's eye when he was a teenager and was with him for a season at Bedford before they both came to Priestfields. Before that David, who was born in Balina, Co. Mayo, was a prominent schoolboy footballer and later a wing half-cum-inside forward with Metropolitan League team St. Neot's Town.

David has his own individual footballing ability but, although it may be unfair to draw comparisons, it is almost uncanny how alike he and the manager are in their approach to the game. Just like Mr. Hayward did in his younger playing days, so David has developed his style to become a fast defensive player, capable of providing strength at the back while at the same time just as much at home foraging in midfield.

And, during his past two years with the Reserves, his bulk and pace have grown perhaps more than any other player on the books.

His consistency, too, has helped him into the reckoning for a regular first team place and, since



making his debut at Reading last year when he replaced the injured Bill Williams at half time, he has had 10 first team games and been substitute twice in the 16 games the club have had so far.

His strength has meant that he has adopted a purely defensive role for Gillingham so far but he has also displayed his knack of switching into attack by picking up two fine goals earlier this season. And last year he was considered quick enough to be one of the small squad of players who made up the five-a-side team that won the South East Championships before losing narrowly to Charlton in the national finals later.

A ruthlessly powerful and hard tackling young man on the field, he is one of the quietest people you could meet outside.

During his St. Neot's Secondary Schooldays, for instance, he joined the school cricket as well as football teams and in his first year they flattened all their opposition, winning the inter-schools' league and three cups for both sports.

A devastatingly quick and active wicket keeper, he now plays for Huntingdonshire in the Minor Counties League and has turned out regularly for the Gills cricket team when they have wiped the board with local clubs.

## SMILLIE DEAL IS 'ON' AGAIN

SOUTHEND inside-forward Andy Smillie has agreed to a move to Gillingham if the terms are right. Gills manager, Basil Hayward, expects to know whether the deal will go through sometime tomorrow.

The transfer fee is reputed to be around the five figure mark. If the deal does go through tomorrow and Hayward can get the forms to the Football League headquarters at Lytham St. Annes the following day, Smillie could be playing in Gillingham's colours against Watford on Saturday.

## Mini-girls make census

THINGS are beginning to take shape at Priestfield Stadium with the Blue and Whites and the Supporters Association both making plans for the near future.

The finishing touches are now being put to the bar under the main stand and Blue and White members have been completing the interior decoration work. There are high hopes of it being ready within the next few weeks when a club membership drive will be launched.

This will be the first club of its kind at the Stadium and the Blue and Whites are confident it will be a big success with the public.

Another move towards setting up sub-committees around the Medway Towns' area is also in progress and the Blue and Whites mini girls have been carrying out a census among the crowd to see if a better idea can be gained of where people who

come to support the Gills live.

The Supporters' Association too is making a lot of headway. Membership is up on last year and recently a new sub-committee, made up of Mark Agate, Dave Lindsay and former Blue and White member Alec Bristow, was formed to line up more dances for the coming months.

Top priority at the moment is the Association's Christmas Draw when they hope to give a big first prize and are looking for donations for consolation prizes.

But also on the books is a proposed trip to Arsenal Football Club on 24 November when the Association has been promised a guided tour of the Gunners' plush stadium.

Another project high in the minds of the Association's committee is a way of increasing the sale of tickets. New ideas are being considered but, although there has not yet been liaison between

them and the Blue and Whites, the Association may take a leaf out of the B and W book and try recruiting girls to help out with sales.

### MINOR MYSTERY

A further idea the Association has in mind, however, created something of a minor mystery at the ground.

The Supporters are asking the public to suggest a theme for the Gills to form the focal point of the scheme they have in mind for "Radio Big G" — a record session at the Stadium when requests will be played.

When asked what had happened to the old Bing Crosby recording "Blue and Whites," which has been the theme song for some time but not heard in recent weeks, a spokesman for the supporters said it appeared to have been lost.

Mr. France also says that he has not seen it, although it belongs to his group.



GORDON RIDDICK gets up to a cross from Tony Weston and Gillingham are in the lead after 55 minutes.



# Do-it-yourself bar at Priestfield

GILLS' supporters will soon have a splendid new bar available to them at Priestfield Stadium.

Supporters are helping to put the finishing



touches to the bar which is underneath the main stand. They are busy decorating and it is hoped to have it open in the near future when a big club membership

drive will be launched. Other developments on the supporters' side of things include a census of where the fans live, being carried out by the Blue and White Mini Girls.

And the supporters' association, where membership is above that of the same time last year, is anxious to find more fans who will sell tickets.

The association donates £100 a week to the parent club at the moment, but committee member Mark Agate is not happy with this figure.

"With a population of 250,000 it should be far more than this, and we urgently need more ticket sellers, if we are going to give the help to the football club that we should be giving."

## Division 3

Swindon	14	9	3	2	19	8	21
Watford	15	8	4	3	18	8	20
Luton	15	9	2	4	29	14	30
Bournemouth	15	9	2	4	24	12	20
Torquay	16	9	2	5	27	16	20
Barrow	15	9	2	4	24	19	20
Tranmere	16	8	2	6	22	22	18
Plymouth	16	7	3	6	20	17	17
Rotherham	15	6	5	4	20	17	17
Stockport	15	6	5	4	24	22	17
Reading	15	6	4	5	25	19	16
Northampton	13	5	4	4	14	13	14
Mansfield	15	5	4	6	22	21	14
Bristol R.	15	5	4	6	24	27	14
Barnsley	16	4	6	6	19	22	14
Southport	15	6	1	8	24	26	13
Walsall	16	3	7	6	16	18	13
Hartlepool	15	3	7	5	9	21	13
Orient	14	3	6	5	19	24	12
Brighton	16	4	4	8	21	28	12
Shrewsbury	15	4	4	7	13	21	12
Gillingham	15	4	3	8	19	25	11
Crewe	15	3	4	8	21	28	10
Oldham	15	1	2	12	9	34	4

# £7,000 Smillie signs on—Saturday debut

AFTER many rumours and nearly a week of "will he, won't he?" Southend inside-forward Andy Smillie signed for Gillingham yesterday for £7,000 and should make his debut at Watford on Saturday.

As soon as the forms were signed Gills manager Basil Hayward left the stadium to drive to the Football League headquarters at Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire, to register the transfer.



ANDY SMILLIE after signing for the Gills.

As long as there are no hitches and the League has the papers 48 hours before the kick-off Smillie, aged 27, will be playing on Saturday.

The move means that for the third time in his career he will team up with Derek Woodley — they both played as 15-year-olds for West Ham.

At 21 Smillie moved to Crystal Palace and from there to Scunthorpe. Then he linked up with Woodley again at Southend four years ago.

Smillie said after signing: "I am very happy with the move and am looking forward to playing with Derek again."

"We are good friends and know how each other plays and how we think."

Of his position in the forward line he said: "At Southend I played up front

in the No. 9 position. The ball was knocked in front of me and we took it from there."

Smillie lives at Basildon in Essex with his wife and five-month-old son and will commute to Gillingham — a journey of about 45 minutes.

So far this season he has scored half-a-dozen goals.



A disallowed Gillingham goal. Top, Brian Yeo flicks goalwards a Riddick header with his hand. Below, Yeo crashes to the ground and the ball slips just inside the post, but the referee has spotted the incident.

P.4898, P.4899



Plymouth 'keeper Pat Dunne punches the ball away from the head of Gordon Riddick.

P.4900

