

'Shrewd performer' says ex-boss

# Smillie signs and plays at Watford

GILLINGHAM went into the market for the first time in over 12 months this week when they bought Southend inside-forward Andy Smillie for about £7,000 on Wednesday. This, coupled with the fees asked by Luton for Gordon Riddick and Mansfield for Bill Williams, is one of the highest prices paid by the Gills for a player in recent years.

Like Williams, who was the last player to come to Priestfield on a money-transfer just before the away match with Torquay last season, 27-year-old Smillie will be making his debut for the Gills away from home.

And, although Watford will be tough to beat, manager Basil Hayward is hoping that Smillie will give the front runners the freedom to see their fast, open play pay off.

Smaller than the average front runner, Smillie was referred to by his former boss Ernie Shepherd as a "very shrewd performer" and this week Smillie told the Chatham News: "I hope I can do a good job for Gillingham."

"I have seen the players once or twice this week and I only hope I can add to the talent there is here," he added.

Andy, who is married and has a five-month-old son Sean, certainly

Their last defeat was at Hartlepool on 16 September; last Saturday they won at Brighton and in their last home match Watford beat Barrow 4-0.

This Watford record contrasts starkly with Gillingham's recent performances. They have gone six games without an away win and 13 games without an away draw.

## TEAMWORK

Watford have developed excellent understanding and teamwork under the leadership of former Barrow half back Keith Eddy.

The only newcomer to their ranks since the end of last season is Welsh under-23 goalkeeper Mike Walker, who joined them from York City at the beginning of September.

None of their players cost Watford a particularly big fee and just about the most expensive member of their squad is former Welsh under-23 skipper Tom Walley, who was signed from Arsenal.

Watford are expecting to be unchanged for the fifth match running and the only slight doubt hanging over their team concerns attacker Brian Owen, who has a leg injury.

They have a tough, uncompromising defence and an attack that is getting just enough goals to sustain a strong promotion challenge.

They are anticipating a crowd of over 12,000 at their Vicarage Road ground tomorrow and Gillingham are hoping that a good number of their own supporters will make the trip to give them much-needed encouragement.

A win at Watford would give the Gills a tremendous confidence-boost and they will be flat out to pick up two points.

The Watford line-up will be: Mike Walker, Duncan Welbourne, John Williams, Keith Eddy, Brian Garvey, Tom Walley, Stuart Scullion, Dixie Hale, Terry Garbett, Barry Dyson, Brian Owen. Sub, not yet named.

WHETHER by design or out of necessity, Gillingham's manager Basil Hayward has laid a lot of emphasis on converting players from their original roles on the field.

On times the experiment has failed but, in the main, he has been able to find the kind of player who can adapt.

Skipper Gordon Riddick, for instance, is showing signs of becoming a worthwhile striker — even though for years he has been looked upon as a midfield man. Mike Green, too, has fitted in well to his

A regular member of Southend's senior squad in his four seasons with the club, Smillie started his career with West Ham in the late fifties and, in fact, his move to Priestfield Stadium will renew old acquaintances with his close friend, Derek Woodley.

This will actually be the third club the two players have lined up together for in their careers. Andy and Derek were with West Ham together — Derek being on their books for about four years and Andy about six.

In the early 60's, Andy moved to Crystal Palace and then Scunthorpe before transferring to Southend where he met up again with the outside-right before he came to Priestfield Stadium.

"Gillingham has good name in the League and Derek himself told me how happy he is there," said Andy.

Manager Hayward left for Lytham St. Annes — the Football League headquarters — shortly after the deal was clinched Wednesday lunchtime.

## SLIGHT DOUBT

He will not be making a final could be out of the reckoning for the Watford clash.

Gillingham, fresh from their competent win over Plymouth and boosted by the introduction of Smillie, will, however, be travelling north with a lot of confidence.

And, if their style develops as it should, the Gills could bring off a shock result at Vicarage Road.

## CHASING SWINDON

Watford are sailing along on the crest of a wave this season and they are only one point behind Swindon at the top of the Third Division.

They have gone seven matches without defeat and, to make Gillingham's task look even more formidable, they have scored eight goals and conceded only one in winning four, drawing two and losing one in the home programme.

And that one blot on their home record was a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Stockport County, way back at the end of August.

## STADIUM SPOTLIGHT



back rank job although, before he came to Priestfield Stadium, he was considered to be an attacking wing half.

But perhaps the most successful example of this policy is reflected in Terry Simpson who, although he is one of the newest players on the books, is rapidly becoming a firm favourite among the supporters.

He is not a spectacular player and one would be hard put to if asked to remember when he brought a big roar from the crowd.

## WELL RESPECTED

But, by doing his job competently and without fuss, he has earned the quiet respect of the fans. Like everyone else, he has made mistakes on the field but, more often than not, you know something positive is going to happen whenever he gains possession of the ball.

An expert "reader" of the game, 28-year-old Terry is just as much at home in the back rank as he is foraging around the penalty

box with the front runners. In his first game for the Gills he had a No. 10 shirt on and since then he has taken up a full-back role — though on Saturday against Plymouth he was again up with the forwards.

A key figure in the club's attacking style of football, Simpson has shown that, given the right basic material and talent, a club manager can give a player an entirely new job and draw the best out of him.



ANDY SMILLIE

has the experience to give the Gills the boost they need.

Skipper Gordon Riddick showed against Plymouth on Saturday that he can be a first-class striker and Smillie is the kind of player who likes working in the box, letting the ball come at him so that he can lay it off for the man coming through or waiting to strike.



**Skipper Riddick heads only goal**

# BRILLIANT WILLIAMS INSPIRES GILLS TO VITAL WIN

**GILLINGHAM 1, PLYMOUTH 0**

GILLINGHAM took a decisive, if unspectacular step towards the long, long haul back to respectability by grabbing two vitally needed points on Saturday.

It was a satisfying rather than inspiring win and, while Gillingham had the definite all-round edge tactically, the raw edges of tension certainly showed themselves.

With so much tremendous pressure on them, the Gills, quite naturally, took a more tentative approach to the game. And, consequently, a lot of their flair for direct, imaginative running was lost with the result that a number of mistakes were made—particularly up front where the strikers missed a handful of certain goals.

Still, led by the brilliant example set by Bill Williams, Gillingham kept cool under the bouts of pressure Plymouth mounted and generally did enough to deserve the win.

Right from the beginning, it was the big centre half who, perhaps more than most, refused to show any worry over the fact that this was Gillingham's most crucial game of the season.

And as the match wore on, it was Williams who came out as the "iron man" and kept everything intact with, not only one of his best personal games of the season, but also a fine display of marshalling.

## ENOUGH SCOPE

Frequently barking encouragement to his colleagues, he and his back rank partners reduced the Plymouth forwards to mediocrity and gave themselves enough scope to lay on a constant service to the men up front.

Like the others, he was guilty of the odd mistake but his overall hold on the game was such that he—perhaps more than any other single player in the team—was responsible for making Plymouth look nothing like the kind of team one would have expected from a club relegated from the Second Division and said to be making a strong bid for a return.

Admittedly they managed to cut through and only bad luck plus some good 'keeping by Derek Bellotti kept them from scoring. But generally Gillingham had a much more workmanlike attitude to the game.

And this was eventually reflected when they took the lead in the 57th minute.

After "sitters" had been squandered in the first half, Gillingham came back after the change-round and it took them just over ten minutes to clinch the game with one of the neatest goals seen at the Stadium this season.

Derek Woodley set it up with a short passing movement to Tony Weston—playing in his first league game since he broke his ankle last autumn.

Full-back Weston came over the half-way line and, with Plymouth funnelling back, found himself with the room to send over a head high cross. **GORDON RIDDICK** saw the gap, nipped in, and with Plymouth flat-footed, he simply had to bob up and turn the ball into the net past keeper Pat Dunne, who seemed rooted to the ground with the speed of the move.

This gave Gillingham the heart to come back harder, but they just failed to pull off the second all-important goal. Plymouth desperately tried to come to terms but, even though they replaced Steve Davey with Hore, they couldn't penetrate the now confident Gills' defence.

But, if Gillingham showed a refreshing self-assurance after the goal, they lacked it early on.

## WORST BUFFETING

Terry Simpson, switched from full-back to a more positive role upfield, looked as though he might fill the "provider" void up front. But as events developed he, like the rest of the front runners, became victims of some of the worst buffeting a visiting team to Gillingham has put up in some time.

Time and again they hacked the Gills players, particularly Gordon Riddick, and one would have thought referee Mr. J. H. Yates, of Redditch would have taken a tougher line rather than plumping for diplomacy.

Wing-half Saxton was one of the

worst offenders and persistently niggled Brian Yeo off the ball.

Mr. Yates spoke to him once or twice but then, after a surprising incident in the closing stages, Saxton got away when a booking at least would have been justified. As John Meredith took the ball along the left flank, Saxton deliberately and viciously ran straight into him and sent him flying along the touchline. But, amazingly, all he got from the referee was a ticking off.

Despite this, Gillingham found their way through and should have taken at least three goals in the opening stages. But, once again, there was the old, old prob-

## writes Martin Hitchings

em of having someone with the confidence to get the ball in the net.

Simpson, Woodley and Meredith set up chances time after time, but again the whole thing went sour in the box.

First to flounder was Yeo who did well to break through an off-side move only to slam the ball wide. This followed two near misses by the Gills, when Simpson found Riddick lying in the path of his shot and Plymouth managed to head round the post with Simpson and Riddick threatening in the box.

Riddick was the first victim of Plymouth's hustling tactics when he was floored in the box and then Simpson pulled off the second big miss of the game when, with the goal yawning just three yards from him, he hit the ball with his knee to give Dunne no trouble.

A moment of worry for Gillingham came when Williams, seemingly not having a call from Bellotti, got into a mix-up with the young 'keeper and gave Plymouth a scoring chance.

Mike Bickle saw the chance but he dithered far too long and, when he eventually managed a shot, the Gills' defenders were on the line and David Quirke cleared with Bellotti helplessly out of his goal.

## OVER THE BAR

It may have been the lack of thrust up front which prompted Simpson to send a high-flying lob up from the half-way line but, as the crowd prepared itself to decry the effort, the ball amazingly bounced high in the box and just floated over the bar.

As half-time approached, Meredith tried to instil some urgency up front with an edge of the box shot that went just wide.

Me! Machin came more into his own after the interval and Gillingham managed to hit Plymouth hard enough for them to crack in the 57th minute.

But then Argyle came back and Bellotti had to move sharply to snatch a header by Bickle out of the air.

Again Yeo missed a chance when he was put through and muffed it with only the 'keeper to beat.

But he put in a remarkable backward effort—akin to the now famous "Fosbury Flick"—to make amends a minute later only to see the ball go astray. Later Riddick and Simpson forced Saxton to head the ball round. This was followed by yet another "dubious" move in the box which again saw Riddick on the losing end.

Yeo again fell foul to his own temperament when he handled a Riddick headed attempt in the box and then Trainor followed this up by hitting the ball straight at Bellotti with the Gillingham defence wrong-footed.

Riddick got in Yeo's way when going for a ball that was too high for him, and then Mr. Yates capped a most confusing game with a curious decision after Riddick was scythed down in the area.

For, although he spoke to the linesman and to centre-half Molyneux, he surprisingly waved play on when a penalty seemed certain.

**GILLINGHAM:** Bellotti; Weston, Green; Machin, Williams, Quirke; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Simpson, Meredith.

**PLYMOUTH ARGYLE:** Dunne; Reeves, Neale; Saxton, Molyneux, Piper; Davey (Hore), Bickle, Trainor, Burnside and Maher.

Attendance 5,170

## FELL DOWN STAIRS

Jimmy Mulvaney, the Barrow inside forward Gillingham were hoping to sign a short while ago, fell downstairs and broke his collar bone this week.

Mulvaney, one of the divisions leading scorers, was watched by Gills manager Basil Hayward earlier this season. What a blow it would have been to struggling Gillingham if he had been signed and then knocked out of action by a slip in the home.

Visitors to the Stadium tomorrow for a football Combination fixture are Norwich City. The youths have a home South East Counties League game with Chelsea.

On Tuesday, Gillingham will visit Northampton Town.

Do 17  
HT. 0-0  
attend.  
5,170



# Basil Hayward's Own Column

## FOOTBALL COMBINATION

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Tottenham	5	5	0	0	17	1
Arsenal	6	4	1	1	17	4
Bristol R.	5	4	1	0	14	7
Fulham	5	4	0	1	14	5
Q.P.R.	5	3	2	0	13	6
Oxford	5	3	1	1	11	7
West Ham	5	1	4	1	11	5
Crystal P.	4	3	0	1	7	5
Birmingham	6	3	0	3	13	10
Cardiff	3	2	1	0	4	2
Ipswich	5	1	3	1	12	11
Gillingham	5	2	1	2	5	5
Peterborough	5	1	3	2	6	9
Swansea	6	1	3	2	9	15
Southampton	5	2	0	3	7	5
Bristol C.	3	2	0	1	5	5
Leicester	5	2	0	3	6	12
Northampton	5	2	0	3	5	10
Chelsea	5	1	1	3	11	11
Reading	4	1	1	2	5	13
Norwich	4	0	2	2	6	8
Walsall	5	1	0	4	12	18
Bolton	4	0	1	3	3	10
Plymouth	4	0	1	3	2	7
Swindon	4	0	0	4	2	9
Luton	5	0	0	5	4	21



## Riddick can shine as a striker

THE MATCH against Plymouth on Saturday provided us with more physical contact than we have had with any other opponents at Priestfield Stadium in previous games.

But the lads put in a tremendous amount of hard work and concentration to keep us in command so that we could come through with a fine win, which, I hope, will help us start to climb out of the danger zone and on to an extended successful run which could still put us among the leaders at the close of the season.

It was really a first class performance from the team as a whole. But I felt that Gordon Riddick, in particular, did a wonderful job for us with his ability in the air and strength in running.

This, coupled with his determination when going for the ball in the opponents' penalty area will, I am sure, make him one of the most dangerous players in the game.

He has frankly, always preferred a midfield role, but now that he has had a taste of what I consider to be the most exciting position in football, I am sure he has the ability and approach to the game to accept the challenge.

Strikers of the calibre needed are so hard to come by these days and, not having the resources to buy the big strong player everyone is looking for, I have given Gordon the job and turned my attention to one of three players with less height but the ability to create chances with control and sharpness.

We have, of course, two extremely tough games in front of us with our visit to Watford tomorrow—where the team presents us with one of the strongest challenges in the Third Division—and Northampton on Tuesday where, like Watford, it is not an easy ground for visitors.

The Plymouth result could, however, give us just that edge in confidence to do well and I am certain the team can carry through the approach they showed on Saturday.

## Another trip to Leyton Stadium

CUP luck was not with Gillingham when the F. A. Cup first round pairings were made yesterday (Monday). Another trip to Leyton Stadium faces the Gills on 16 November and it will be the fourth ORIENT v Gillingham clash since the season's start.

But the Orient ground has been reasonably kind to the Gills during recent seasons.

In 1966-67 the Gills won 1-0 at Leyton Stadium. The following season they won a League Cup tie 3-1 and followed it up with a 4-0 League success. This season they crashed 3-0 in the League Cup after sharing four goals at home.

In the home League fixture against Orient this term the score was 2-2.

Since 1947 the clubs have met twice in the F. A. Cup and both matches were played at Priestfield Stadium. In 1947 Gillingham were successful but Orient won a third round cup tie in 1960-62.

Heartening news for the Gills is that Orient forward Vic Halom, who was on the mark several times in this season's three matches, was transferred to Fulham last week for a reported £30,000.

Gillingham manager Basil Hayward is obviously content with the performance on Saturday at Watford as he has made no change in the team for tonight's equally tough match at Northampton.

It will be the Gills tenth away

League match of the season and the line-up will be: Bellotti; Weston, Green; Simpson, Williams, Machin; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie and Meredith.

So far the Gills have lost eight of their away League matches and the only points were picked up in a 1-0 success at Barnsley.

Northampton, with former England and Wolves wing half Ron Flowers as player-manager, have newcomers this season in 'keeper Gordon Morritt, an £8,000 buy from Doncaster; Ray Fairfax, from West Ham; and former Bolton Wanderers, centre-forward Bob Hatton, who cost the club £13,000.

On Saturday, Gillingham have a home match with Walsall and the Reserves visit Bournemouth.

## FOLLOWING THE GILLS?

GILLINGHAM supporters keen to see the team in action at Northampton tonight can catch the 3-16 p.m. Victoria train and the 5-05 p.m. train from Euston to Northampton.

This will get them to Northampton at 6-22 p.m. and on the return journey they leave Northampton on the 9-26 p.m. Euston train and then leave Charing Cross at 11-44 p.m. The fare, including underground, is 35s. 8d. and party rate for juveniles is 16s. 10d.

## BIG THREAT

Gordon showed on Saturday what a tremendous threat he can be to the opposition and, in doing so, took a great deal of work from the rest of the team. And this is where I feel he can do the most good for the club.

## ROLL CALL

Date	Opponents	A	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), o.g. Yeo
16	Barrow	A	1-2		Yeo, Woodley
20	Southport	A	1-2		Woodley
28	MANSFIELD	H	1-1	4,630	Yeo (2)
Oct. 4	Reading	A	3-2		Gilbert, Yeo
9	ROTHERHAM	H	2-0	5,525	
12	STOCKPORT	H	0-0	5,314	Riddick
19	Bristol Rovers	A	1-5		Riddick
26	PLYMOUTH	H	1-0	5,170	
Nov. 2	Watford	A			
5	Northampton	A			

\* Football League Cup.

Appearances to date, including League Cup: Bailey 12, Bellotti 13, Folds 1 and 1 as sub., Gibbs 7, Gilbert 9, Green 16, Machin 16, Meredith 17, Quirke 11 and 2 as sub., Riddick 15 and 1 as sub., J. Simpson 4, T. Simpson 15 and 2 as sub., Thear 3, Weston 1, Williams 17, Woodley 17, Yeo 13.

Goalscorers: Yeo 7, Gilbert 3, Woodley 3, Quirke 2, Riddick 2, T. Simpson 1, Williams 1, Gibbs 1, o.g.

Record, including League Cup: P 17, W 4, D 4, L 9, F 21, A 30.



More concentration tonight and...

# GILLS CAN SNATCH A POINT

Watford 2, Gillingham 1

GILLINGHAM can come away from Northampton tonight (Tuesday) with at least a point if they adopt the same attitude as they did against Watford — and sharpen up their concentration, writes **MARTIN HITCHINGS.**

For it was their momentary lapses in this that cost them a point on Saturday.

It would be totally inappropriate and by-now monotonous to say they had hard luck. But they were certainly not lacking in determination and ability.

Watford, admittedly, pressured the Gills far too much for comfort but Gillingham managed to take all that was thrown at them until the 57th minute. Then, they summoned enough strength to hit back hard but, just as a justified draw seemed inevitable, they allowed their own tenacity to wane and let Watford clinch it five minutes from time.

Bill Williams and his colleagues, augmented soundly by new-signing Andy Smillie, held out against the imaginative Watford attack. And three times in the first-half Gillingham came within an ace of taking the lead.

Gordon Riddick and Brian Yeo chased and schemed so well that they created one of the most effective striking partnerships seen from the team for a long time and both were unlucky not to break Watford's hold with snap goals.

## MENACING

Derek Woodley again provided the menace — though he faded when Gillingham fell back. Twice in the first five minutes he had Watford reeling with his flank bursts and it was he who laid on the first threat to their goal. Picking up a raking pass from Terry Simpson — who had neatly intercepted a Watford mix-up — he sent it high into the box only to see Brian Yeo head it just inches wide after out-jumping Watford's tall defenders.

Smillie, whose indisputable midfield artistry did a lot to destroy Watford's build-up plans, then laid the ball on for Simpson — playing a more attacking role at No. 4. He, however, saw his long shot blocked.

All this time, however, Watford kept up a constant barrage on the Gillingham penalty area and, when they managed to break through, could have snatched up a handful of goals

with a striker good enough to round off the in-balls from danger man Scullion and his colleagues.

Simpson and John Meredith had a tendency to be loose when coming in for the breaks but one counter that gave Watford another shock when Woodley and Tony Weston teamed up well for the fullback to send over a perfectly controlled chip into the area. Riddick came racing in and hit it with his head but saw it just scrape the wrong side of the crossbar.

Once again the amazingly quick reflexes of both Yeo and Riddick had Watford completely flat-footed in a move that stemmed from Mel Machin. He slipped it on to Smillie who turned and, shaking off a grappling Watford challenge, sent the ball way down field to Yeo. A glancing back heel glided the ball right to the incoming Riddick who seemed certain to score but found himself baulked as he squared to shoot.

## MISTAKES

Still, Watford's tremendous pressure brought flaws in Gillingham's defensive structure and the back rank of Williams, Weston, Machin and Mike Green found themselves taking the strain through mistakes by the men in front of them.

Even so, Gillingham continued to look threatening when breaking from the back and just before half-time Riddick was victim of the most excruciating slice of hard luck of the match.

Positioning himself brilliantly for a long ball, he used his pace and rare brand of courage to fight his way through Watford's rearguard. As the goal loomed up in front of him he sent in a perfect on-the-run shot but Walker showed why he has the tag of being one of the best 'keepers in the Division by putting in a tremendous effort to tip it over the top.

Watford were back at it again after the change-round, however, and for a full 15 minutes they pounded away at the Gillingham goal. Everything and virtually everyone came

pouring into the penalty area until it was only a matter of time before Gillingham cracked.

Skipper Keith Eddy moved up from wing-half and sent in a sizzler that Derek Bellotti brilliantly tipped round.

But then a minute later — the 57th — **EDDY** latched on to a desperate Gillingham clearance and hit it low and hard from the edge of the box. At least four Gillingham players were between him and the goal but the ball hit one of them and, completely unsighted, Bellotti could only lunge at it half-heartedly before it bounced into the corner of the net.

## TORN APART

Gillingham, however, refused to lie down and 12 minutes later they tore Watford apart with a perfectly timed break. Riddick took the brunt of the move by being chopped down in the penalty box but, before Gillingham had time to appeal, **SIMPSON** had moved up and, taking Woodley's pass just outside the area, he hit it first time past Walker's flailing hands.

Gillingham continued to chase everything that came their way and Yeo saw an effort of his almost pay off when he worried Watford into passing back and then followed through to force Walker to come out of his area and fly-kick clear.

By now Gillingham looked like having things their own way but 10 minutes from the end referee Mr. J.R. Osborne, of Ipswich — who otherwise had a good day — made a most curious move.

Gillingham had brought the pace of the game right down and could possibly have been accused of wasting time. But no-one seemed to have been spoken to before Mel Machin was surprisingly booked as he was about to take a throw-in.

Then suddenly — as the game looked like petering out to a draw — Watford came back on the offensive and, after dropping one cross under pressure, Bellotti failed to hold a high ball in the 85th minute. **EDDY** saw his chance and pushed the ball home.

Gillingham: Bellotti; Weston, Green; Simpson, Williams, Machin; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie, Meredith.

Watford: Walker; Welbourne, Williams; Eddy, Garvey, Walley; Scullion, Hale, Garbett, Dyson, Owen.



Mel Machin — booked for time wasting. P.3342

## DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	15	10	3	2	24	9	23
Bournemouth	16	10	2	4	27	12	22
Watford	16	9	4	3	20	9	22
Barrow	16	10	2	4	28	20	22
Torquay	17	9	3	5	28	17	21
Luton	15	9	2	4	29	14	20
Tranmere	17	9	2	6	24	22	20
Stockport	16	7	5	4	27	23	19
Reading	16	7	4	5	27	20	18
Rotherham	16	6	6	4	20	17	18
Plymouth	17	7	4	6	21	18	18
Northampton	14	5	5	4	15	14	15
Mansfield	16	5	4	7	23	23	14
Walsall	17	3	8	6	16	18	14
Bristol R.	16	5	4	7	24	29	14
Barnsley	17	4	6	7	19	25	14
Shrewsbury	16	5	4	7	14	21	14
Southport	16	6	1	9	25	31	13
Hartlepool	16	3	7	6	10	25	13
Orient	15	3	6	6	19	25	12
Brighton	17	4	4	9	22	31	12
Gillingham	16	4	3	9	20	27	11
Crewe	15	3	4	8	21	28	10
Oldham A.	16	1	3	12	10	35	5

## OPERATION FOR GIBBS

BRIAN Gibbs, the former Gillingham striker, is to go into hospital in Colchester next week for a minor operation on his cheekbone.

He was hurt playing for Colchester last Saturday but the injury is not regarded as a serious one and he is expected to be playing again soon.

Gibbs joined Colchester from Gillingham earlier this season.



# Recognise your old heroes?



HERE'S a memory test for all you older Gillingham supporters. How many of your old favourites do you recognise from this picture taken before the start of a match at Priestfield Stadium—and when? I'll supply the answers next week.

## Fans can vote for player of the year

GILLINGHAM Football Club Supporters' Association are to award a trophy to the club's player of the year.

The player will be elected by the fans in a ballot but only members of the association can vote. Full details of the competition are expected shortly.

The Gillingham handbook has been selling well — 600 copies were distributed at the home match with Plymouth — and it is hoped to produce another issue early in the new year. Handbooks are on sale at most newsagents in the Medway Towns.

The Gills are receiving £100 a week from the association's Fools Committee who control the Daily Draw and Instant Jackpot competitions.

Gillingham soccer supporters are being invited to compose a non-vocal theme tune for the Gills.

Reader of the best entry will receive a long-playing record of his or her own choice. All

tries should be sent to Radio Big G, Gillingham F.C. Supporters Association, Gordon Road, Gillingham as soon as possible.

Gillingham chairman Dr. C. S. Grossmark has given Radio Big G his blessing and it will run with the assistance of Mr. Ray Wade. It is hoped that pre-match entertainment will include record requests to celebrate anniversaries, birthdays and other special occasions. Records can be lent or donated and requests should go to Radio Big G at Gordon Road.

## HOW THEY STAND

	—HOME—					—AWAY—				
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F
London T. ....	15	7	1	0	16	2	3	2	2	8
Plymouth ....	16	8	0	1	17	2	2	2	3	10
Reading ....	17	5	2	2	11	4	4	2	2	10
Southport ....	17	6	2	0	15	5	4	0	5	15
Walsall ....	17	7	1	0	20	5	2	2	5	8
Wolverhampton ....	17	7	2	1	28	16	1	3	3	2
Doncaster ....	16	8	0	0	25	6	1	2	5	4
Tranmere ....	17	6	0	3	13	9	3	2	3	11
Reading ....	16	6	0	2	16	6	1	4	3	11
Rotherham ....	17	5	2	0	13	5	1	4	6	8
Plymouth ....	17	5	3	2	16	8	2	1	4	5
Walsall ....	18	3	5	1	12	7	1	3	5	6
Bristol R. ....	17	6	1	2	19	12	0	3	5	0
Barnsley ....	18	4	2	2	14	8	1	4	5	7
Northampton ....	15	3	4	2	10	9	2	1	3	6
Marinefield ....	16	4	2	1	13	6	1	2	6	10
Sheffsburry ....	17	4	3	2	8	6	1	1	6	6
Gillingham ....	17	3	3	1	12	6	2	0	8	9
Southport ....	16	5	1	1	19	9	1	0	8	6
Hartlepool ....	16	2	6	1	8	9	1	1	5	2
Oxford ....	15	3	3	1	10	6	0	3	5	9
Grimsby ....	17	2	2	3	12	9	2	2	6	10
Grimsby A. ....	15	3	1	4	16	14	0	3	4	5
Oxford ....	17	1	2	5	7	12	1	1	7	4

## Gills rely on same team?

GILLINGHAM will probably field the side that lost 2-1 to Watford on Saturday for tonight's Third Division game at Northampton.

This means that Weston retains the right-back position for the third game in succession with Terry Simpson moving up to the half-back line. Andy Smillie, the £7,000 signing from Southend, should be wearing the No. 10 shirt.

Gillingham were the first side to score a goal at Watford since late August and to lose by only one goal to the Third Division pace-setters augers well for tonight's match.

While Northampton have lost only four games this season they have only managed to win five—one more than Gillingham. Half-way up the table, they drew 1-1



at home on Saturday to Torquay.

GILLINGHAM: Be lotti; Weston, Green, Simpson, Williams, Ma chin; Woodley, Yeo, Rick, Smillie, Meredith.



# Brian Yeo's goal did the trick

NORTHAMPTON 0  
GILLINGHAM 1

Gillingham's victory at the County Ground on Tuesday — their second away success of the season — should give them great encouragement.

They played with tremendous determination and Northampton were made to look a struggling outfit in front of their smallest crowd for eight years.

Gillingham had only three scoring chances in the match, but came close to taking advantage of all of them and this was

more than Northampton were able to throw at goalkeeper Derek Bellotti.

In fact, centre forward Ray Bailey, who plays cricket for Northamptonshire in the summer, must still be wondering how he failed to round off the match with another goal for Gillingham in the closing minutes.

Yeo made a sizzling run down the right wing and, keeping control of the ball despite a foul tackle, cut in along the goalline and squared the ball back to winger Derek Woodley. He deceived the Northampton defence with a neat flick across the goal mouth to Bailey who had only to tap the ball into an open goal from five yards out. Incredibly he lifted his head and blazed his shot high over the bar.

## NO MISTAKE

There was no mistake about the expert counter attack after 23 minutes which produced Gillingham's winning goal. Wing half Terry Simpson made a fine interception and broke smartly before piercing the Northampton defence with a superb through pass.

Woodley raced away and squared the ball inside to YEO who pivoted quickly to hook it into the roof of the net.

Gillingham owed much of their success in containing Northampton's second half effort to the way in which Andy Smillie and Simpson controlled the midfield play, while Woodley and left winger John Meredith were always quick to seize the chance of a breakaway.

Centre half Bill Williams also had a storming match completely dominating the Gilling-

ham penalty area, and Mel Machin gave him sound support.

Full backs Tony Weston and Mike Green tried hard to keep a tight rein on Northampton's speedy wingers and both stuck to their task well.

## SMART SAVES

Goalkeeper Bellotti was in excellent form and made a couple of smart saves, but was mainly called upon to deal with centres from the wings rather than direct shots from the Northampton strikers.

Referee Mr. R.A. Payne made some peculiar decisions affecting both teams and must take some of the responsibility for the unnecessary amount of ill feeling which crept into the game in the last half hour.

This was a workmanlike and thoroughly professional display by the Gillingham team which certainly belied their previously poor away record this season.

**Northampton Town:** Morrish; Faulkes, Fairfax; Roberts, Rankmore, Flowers; Weaver,

Lines, Hatton, Fairbrother, Felton, Sub. Mackin.

**Gillingham:** Bellotti; Weston, Green; Simpson, Williams, Machin; Woodley, Yeo, Bailey, Smillie, Meredith. Sub., Quirke.

Referee: Mr. R.A. Payne (Hounslow). Att. 5,545.

## Hayward's verdict

GILLINGHAM manager Basil Hayward was pleased with his team's performance, which took them to seventh from bottom in the Third Division table.

"They played very well indeed in a hard-fought game.

"Andy Smillie is settling in well in mid-field — a role which suits both him and Gillingham.

"Playing alongside, Terry Simpson has moved up from full-back to his natural position of wing-half.

"The form of the last two games is not due only to Smillie. We have been playing well for some time and he has just reinforced our position."

• Although a couple of the players received knocks the team should remain unchanged for Saturday's home game against Walsall.

• The Blue and Whites have arranged special coaches for the F.A. Cup-tie at Orient, which is likely to have a 2.30 kick-off. Tickets will be 6s. 6d. and can be obtained at the ground tomorrow (Saturday) or between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Stadium next week.

A limited number of stand seats are also available until Wednesday.



BRIAN YEO made the most of the one real chance that came his way.



Derek Bellotti safely holds a cross. In the picture are Bill Williams and Northampton's former England international, Ron Flowers.

No 19  
H.T.O.-1  
Attend.  
5,545





answers  
the Post

## Smillie — and the Cup draw

THE fans pay their money to watch 90 minutes' football, but they want to do more than just watch.

They want to know who the players are, what is going on behind the scenes and what is being done about this and that.

Gillingham manager Basil Hayward realises this and tries to keep supporters informed.

THE EVENING POST will help to bridge the gap between manager and supporters by asking Basil the questions YOU want answered—provided they are reasonable, of course.

**Q** Why, when all the talk has been of looking for a striker, did you pay £27,000 for Andy Smillie from Southend and immediately give him a midfield role?

**A** "I had been trying to buy three players since the beginning of the season. Smillie being one of them. I had watched him for a number of seasons and always been impressed by his play.

"Andy suits me either way. At Bristol, the week before we bought him, things were very unsatisfactory. Ray Bailey should have been up front but he wasn't quite right, so I stuck Gordon Riddick up there.

"He is good in the air and he did well the following week, so when Andy arrived I put him in midfield.

"The thing is, I think we needed two players—one in the middle and one up front. But when Gordon fitted in up front, Andy, who was suitable for both roles, went in midfield.

"Gordon is prepared to take the buffeting and to get in the danger spots.

"I am still looking for players, but it is a case of e.g.d.



It needs a few more thousand on the gates to put it right, plus a little bit more organisation on the pools side.

"I think the fans have been very good so far this season, apart from the gates. They have been very fair to me and waited with patience."

**Q** How do you feel about the F.A. Cup draw away to Orient?

**A** "I wasn't very pleased about it for obvious reason. We drew them in the League Cup and we have played them in the League. Even apart from that, it was a disappointment.

"But we stand as good a chance there as we do anywhere else. The F.A. Cup is one of those things. If you are going to have a good run it does not matter who you are drawn against.

"If things go with us and we have a reasonable amount of luck and determination we should do all right."

## WORK RATE UP, NOW WE CAN GO PLACES

THE WEEK's events brought us a very encouraging average in points from two difficult away matches — although, unfortunately, we could not make it a total of three when we did enough to pick up a point on Saturday only to find ourselves of the losing end of a break by Watford in the last four minutes.

Still, the games at Watford and Northampton plus the previous home match with Plymouth have, I feel, shown that the lads have continued to increase their work output and their willingness to accept the more physical side of the game has given us a greater chance of settling down to a winning run.

Tuesday morning, however, brought what I thought was another example of our bad luck this season when Gordon Riddick had to be withdrawn from the team through an attack of flu which, needless to say, laid him up in bed.

But without any hesitation Ray Bailey was willing to take over the job and, as it turned out, he did it in a very workmanlike manner with a most encouraging performance.

### CONFIDENCE

Apart from bringing a much-needed lift for the club, the two points we took at Northampton were also very pleasing for the sake of the lads in the team themselves. For them it was an overdue reward for the amount of effort they have put into the

games this season and into the fact, even though we have been through a most unfortunate period, they still have the spirit, confidence and ability to come through and win against very tough opponents.

They have all shown a great deal of courage these past few weeks and the Northampton result could be just the boost they need to carry them over the next three vital matches.

We have two hard games at home to Walsall and Shrewsbury in the cup league. But, in between, comes the first round of the F.A. Cup at Orient and I hope this can be our year.

A good run in the cup has both Tony and Andy will prove to be big assets to the club, but, as history has shown, everyone gets his chance in this exciting and unpredictable competition. We have been

waiting for our chance for so long now that I am sure we must be coming to the front of the queue for our turn to have a taste of the glory that goes with it.

As I have said before, Gillingham has the potential to be a great club and I couldn't have had better confirmation of this

belief when Tony Weston came back into the team and we went to the market recently to secure the transfer of Andy Smillie from Southend.

Tony — always a firm favourite of the fans — has settled down well now that he has come back into the first team since his unfortunate accident last season. And already he is showing what tremendous courage he has on the field.

Andy, like Tony, has also added a lot of strength to the team and he too I am sure will be a very popular player with the crowd. He has a great deal of ability and has given us a lot of midfield confidence.

But, apart from the fact that both Tony and Andy will prove to be big assets to the club, we are now in the position of having a greater challenge among the players for vital places in the team. This, naturally, will bring with it a keenness of football — which is all to the good. All we are looking for now is that extra support that we can meet our commitments.



Gills' keeper Derek Bellotti collects a dangerous ball at Northampton on Tuesday. Watching are team-mates Bill William and Mel Machin, with Northampton's Fairbrother and Hatton. N 15



## Waiting for the skipper

**SELECTION** of Gillingham's team for tomorrow's home clash with unpredictable Walsall will depend on whether or not Gordon Riddick is fit.

The Gills' skipper — who had a cracking game in his new role as striker against Plymouth and was Watford's biggest threat on Saturday — went down with a heavy attack of 'flu on Tuesday morning, forcing a last minute switch in the team who grabbed both points at Northampton.

The illness could, however, stay with him and so the Gills' fans will see a rare turn of events at Priestfield Stadium tomorrow with Ray Bailey repeating his Northampton role and forming a twin-striking partnership with Brian Yeo.

Manager Basil Hayward was impressed with the performance he put up on Tuesday and, although Bailey is essentially a defender, his height and strength could still cause trouble for Walsall's rearguard.

Although Yeo was out of the scoring bracket for four matches he still tops the Gills' charts and his winning goal against Northampton has put him just two away from reaching double figures. Another interesting point about the striker's goal-getting talent is that, although the season is not yet at the half-way stage, his tally has already put him halfway towards Brian Gibbs' top-scoring total of 16 last season.

### TOUGH GAME

Fresh from the 2-0 thrashing they gave high-riding Luton, Walsall will provide quite a game at the Stadium tomorrow. But interest from the fans is bound to be centred on Andy Smillie who will be making his home debut for the Gills after being signed from Southend just before the Watford meeting.

A highly-intelligent player, he revels in roaming around mid-field where he can pick up clearances and switch the run of the ball into counter-attacks.

A few of the Gillingham players reported to Priestfield Stadium on Wednesday morning for treatment following Tuesday's robust match. But injuries are only slight. And so, apart from one possible alteration — Riddick for Bailey — Gillingham are likely to be unchanged.

But, apart from the influence Smillie has had on the pattern of things, the fans will see more subtle changes in Gillingham's approach.

# Riddick's fitness fight

GILLINGHAM manager, Basil Hayward, may well delay his final team selection for the home game with Walsall until just before the match.

Reason for the delay is that Hayward will want to be sure whether skipper Gordon Riddick, a flu victim this week, is fit

enough to return to the side.

Riddick reported back for light training yesterday and was training

again today.

The Walsall match will be an important one for two Gillingham players — Terry Simpson and Andy Smillie.

For Smillie it will be his home debut and for Simpson it will be a chance to show his old club how wrong they were to let him go. For last season Simpson skippered the Midlands.

Looking at the game the other way around will be Walsall boss Ron Lewin, who was formerly a player with Gillingham on their return to the Football League.

Team (from): Bellotti; Weston, Green; Simpson, Williams, Machin, Quirke; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Bailey, Smillie, Meredith.

Gillingham Reserves: (away to Bournemouth): Simpson; Chapman, Simmons, Ribbens, Arnott, Gough; (from) Osborn, Harrison, Bray, Peach, Folds, Gilbert, Tydeman.

## ROLL CALL

Date	Opponents	A	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	Williams
Sept. 7	Torquay	A	0-2		
14	BRIGHTON	H	5-0	4,445	Gilbert (2), Yeo (2), Woodley, Yeo, Woodley
	16 Barrow	A	1-2		
	20 Southport	A	1-2		
	28 MANSFIELD	H	1-1	4,630	Woodley, Yeo (2)
Oct. 4	Reading	A	3-2		
9	ROTHERHAM	H	2-0	5,525	Gilbert, Yeo
12	STOCKPORT	H	0-0	5,314	
19	Bristol Rovers	A	1-5		Riddick
26	PLYMOUTH	H	1-0	5,170	Riddick
Nov. 2	Watford	A	1-2		T. Simpson
5	Northampton	A	1-0		Yeo
9	WALSALL	H			

\* Football League Cup.  
Appearances to date, including League Cup: Bailey 13, Bellotti 15, Folds 1 and 1 as sub., Gibbs 7, Gilbert 9, Green 18, Machin 18, Meredith 19, Quirke 11 and 2 as sub., Riddick 16 and 1 as sub., J. Simpson 4, T. Simpson 17 and 2 as sub., Smillie 2, Thear 3, Weston 3, Williams 19, Woodley 19, Yeo 15.

Goalscorers: Yeo 8, Woodley 4, Gilbert 3, Quirke 2, Riddick 2, T. Simpson 2, Williams 1, Gibbs 1.

Record, including League Cup: P 19, W 5, D 4, L 10, F 23, A 32.

### SETTLED DOWN

Tony Weston, who came back to the first team after his year's absence, against Plymouth, has settled down well. And this has given Mr. Hayward the scope to bring Terry Simpson into a more attacking role.

The 28-year-old former Walsall skipper was at No. 10 against Plymouth but was wing half at Watford — where he picked up Gills' only goal — and at Northampton where he was responsible for Gillingham's winner by laying on the through pass for Derek Woodley to "feed" Brian Yeo.

David Quirke is also still pushing hard for a place and, even if Riddick reports fit, Bailey will be making a bid for a half back berth. In fact, manager Hayward now has more competition for places than at probably any period since he has been with the club. And so, once again, he is not likely to make up his mind until nearer kick-off time.

The team then, will probably be chosen from Derek Bellotti, Tony Weston, Mike Green, Terry Simpson, Bill Williams, Mel Machin, Ray Bailey, David Quirke, Derek Woodley, Brian Yeo, Gordon Riddick, Andy Smillie, John Meredith.

### A GILL RETURNS

A Gillingham stalwart of the early fifties, Ron Lewin, is looking forward to return to Priestfield Stadium tomorrow as manager of Walsall.

Lewin, who played for the Gills from 1950-56, has been Walsall's chief since June when he succeeded Ray Shaw, and he told the Chatham News today: "It will certainly be nice to return to Gillingham. I enjoyed my football there and I will be hoping my lads can impress everyone with their play. I'm not committing myself on the result. Let's just say I hope it's a really good game of football."

Lewin joined Gillingham from Fulham and after his spell at Priestfield he became a coach in Sweden. Now he has found his way into soccer management in this country and his team are making excellent progress in the League after a difficult start.





The ball is on its way to the Walsall net for Gillingham's first goal on Saturday. New signing Andy Smillie, watched by Brian Yeo, has a dream Priestfield Stadium debut as he heads home a Derek Woodley cross in the 44th minute. P.5152



CAMERA angle is deceptive as Gordon Riddick gets up by the far post, beats Walsall full-back Colin Harrison and nods home the Gills' third goal.



Derek Bellotti reaches high to clear a corner in the second half. Also in the picture are teammates Bill Williams, Mel Machin and Terry Simpson, and Walsall leader, Wilson. P.5154



# GILLS STORM INTO TOP GEAR

Gillingham 4, Walsall 0

ONCE again Gillingham showed what a remarkable game they are capable of when, after struggling to find form for nearly half the match, they suddenly switched straight into top gear and tore Walsall to shreds, writes **MARTIN HITCHINGS**.

As half-time approached, it looked as though the pitifully small crowd were in for a goalless stalemate as for long boring minutes the defences dominated so much that play was virtually confined to the midfield.

Gillingham looked the more threatening side and the slick understanding between Gordon Riddick, Brian Yeo and Derek Woodley almost paid off once or twice. But, although they penetrated deep into Walsall territory they lacked the right kind of service to sustain any prolonged pressure.

Walsall on the other hand found the Gills defence so solid that they hardly came within striking distance. Although their midfield work did, at times, look promising.

Although Bill Williams kept a vice-like grip on the way things went and again showed that he is currently one of the finest centre halves in the Third Division, the first half was marred when Mel Machin had his second booking in a week after he brought down Walsall's danger man Allan Baker in the 40th minute.

## HARD AND FAST

But then, four minutes later, Gillingham struck hard and fast.

Derek Woodley, who seemed to have two men shadowing him most of the time, cut back well to pick up Gordon Riddick's back pass from the penalty area. His "escort" followed but, by using his amazing control in collecting a ball, he wrong-footed both of them and sent it high towards the far post from almost on the sideline.

By this time **ANDY SMILLIE** — who had already shown signs of fully justifying the transfer in this, his home debut — had run into the box and, completely unmarked, he coolly met the ball with his head and turned it past goalkeeper Wesson.

The second half was only six minutes old when **BRIAN YEO** picked up the second. Williams sparked it off with a ball to

John Meredith who raced over the half-way line, forced Walsall to back-pedal frantically, and then slipped it neatly through to Yeo.

## FORCEFUL

Using his incredible speed off the mark, he turned and beat Walsall defence to the ball and hit it hard and low. Wesson had raced out and the ball hit his foot but the force of the shot carried it through and it bounced into the net.

By now Walsall found themselves floundering in the face of the forceful hold the Gills players had exerted. And it was only a matter of time before the rearguard — which, conceding only 18 goals in 18 matches had one of the best de-

fensive records in the league — caved in again.

And it was another brilliantly timed move that did the trick. This time Smillie set things up by bringing the ball up to the defence and laying it off for Simpson. He prodded it out to Woodley who turned it on to Yeo. The diminutive striker had, by this time, broken through Walsall's back rank and he did well to hook the ball off the bye line across the goal where RIDDICK was waiting to slam it home. Wesson flung himself backwards and got his hand to the ball but the referee decided it had crossed the line.

By now Woodley's wizardry was creating havoc on the flank and, with the crowd roaring him on, he was soon giving Walsall the run-around. He and

Simpson teamed up well for the former Walsall skipper to try a shot that was blocked. But again YEO was on hand to pick up the half clearance and bring his goal-tally up to 10.

Already victims of the soundest thrashing they had sustained this season, Walsall tried desperately to break the strangle-hold. But Gillingham's supreme confidence made things almost impossible.

Casual, short passing movements had Walsall flailing frantically and the almost monotonous pressure allowed Yeo to go close with a flying header he missed by a fraction and another raid ended with Smillie clipping the ball just over the top.

Riddick, showing no signs of the 'flu attack that kept him in bed for most of last week, went flat out for another goal but one spectacular attempt just failed when he twisted in mid-air but just failed to connect.

**GILLINGHAM:** Bellotti; Weston, Green; Simpson, Williams, Machin; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie, Meredith.

**WALSALL:** Wesson; Harrison, Harris; Trevis, Jones, Atthey; Murray, Baker, Wilson, Bennett, Morris.  
Attendance 4,857.



**TWO-GOAL** man Brian Yeo flies in to meet a cross from the right. But this time Walsall 'keeper Bob Wesson has the ball in his grasp for a fine save.

No 20  
M.T. 1-0  
Attend: 4,857



## In the mood for a Cup triumph

GILLINGHAM, who have collected six points from their last four matches, must feel confident of forcing at least a draw when they visit Orient on Saturday in the first round of the F.A. Cup.

Brisbane Road has been a reasonably lucky ground for the Gills in recent seasons. Two League visits have brought maximum points, although the Gills did crash 3-0 at Orient this season in the League Cup after drawing 2-2 at Priestfield.

Latest Orient signing Roger Cross, on a temporary transfer from West Ham, netted his side's goal in a 1-1 draw with Watford on Saturday—only four minutes after coming on as substitute.

Response to the Blue and Whites' transport arrangements for the Orient game has been so strong that they have

decided to use a double-decker bus. There are still, however, a limited number of seats available which can be obtained from the ground this week between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Fare is 6s. 6d.

There is also a limited number of nine shilling stand tickets but these have to be returned tomorrow (Wednesday).

● Gillingham heard yesterday (Monday) that they will visit Dunstable in the second round of the F.A. Youth Cup after trouncing Dover Youth 6-1 at the Stadium on Thursday (report page 17.)

## Basil Hayward's Own Column



### WE'RE MOVING UP, SO GIVE US A HAND

THE LADS found it difficult to overcome the clinging mud of the pitch on Saturday, and the going was made even harder with Walsall offering far more in attack than they normally do away from home.

Consequently, we had our work cut out in the first half but eventually the pressure eased when Andy Smillie picked up an excellent goal just before half time.

We still had to contend with a short gruelling spell after the change-round but then the team fitted into a pattern of accurate passing and strong running and soon the goals started coming. These too were the results of tremendous efforts by Brian Yeo (2) and Gordon Riddick.

The big disappointment to me, however, was the surprisingly low attendance. This was particularly difficult to understand when one considers that we have had larger crowds than this at home this season and they have had fair entertainment. Apart from this there has been the added encouragement of two good away matches plus the recent acquisition of Andy Smillie.

As I have frequently said before, no matter how willing we as a club are to improve our standards, it is only with good support that we can eventually achieve our aims.

#### LATE CHALLENGE

A fact that has been proved so often in the League is that promotion sides have a habit of coming from the back.

This applies particularly to the lower divisions but it can be fatal if gates have not been too good throughout the season.

Promotion prospects show themselves when the final placings are being gained between Easter and the end of the season but frequently it can be too late if support starts to come in then. There is just not enough time left in the season for a club to consolidate themselves sufficiently and prepare for the higher division.

Oxford have found this out to their cost this season. A club has got to have sustained support so that it can find the necessary means to strengthen themselves after promotion.

Tomorrow (Saturday) brings us to a crucial stage in the season when we go to Orient in the first round of the Cup. We are desperately hoping for a good cup run so that eventually we can bring one or more top sides to Priestfield Stadium.

This, then, would bring with it the upsurge in support we so badly need and, once we can bring in those who are now sitting on the fence, then I am convinced we have the ability to retain interest and make the majority of them regular supporters of the future.

## HAYWARD PLEASED

GILLS' manager Basil Hayward said of the game: "I thought it was a very good win."

When asked what had happened to transform the side from mediocrity to a superb attacking machine Hayward said: "What I told the players at half-time is between the players and myself. I never divulge that."

"We just tightened up a little bit and that did it."

We found it difficult to get into our stride in the first half. The ground was difficult to get used to—it was very sticky—perhaps the frost was coming out of it. "Smillie showed he is a good player. It is no problem with players like him, he is the type who will fit in anywhere."

There were no serious injuries and everyone should be fit for Saturday's F.A. Cup-tie at Orient.



A Walsall attack comes to an end as Derek Bellotti safely takes a centre.



## TUESDAY COMMENT

## F.A. Cup mission at Orient

# GILLS ALL SET FOR BIG GAME

GILLINGHAM will be at full strength for their vital F.A. Cup first round match at Orient tomorrow and the signs are that they will be cheered on by the biggest crowd of Priestfield Stadium supporters to see the team play away from home this season.

Scores of youngsters and adults will be travelling by special coaches laid on by the supporting organizations, The Blue and Whites and the Supporters Association, and many more are expected to be making the trip by train or their own transport.

Manager Basil Hayward, delighted with the 4-0 thrashing the team gave Walsall on Saturday, is confident they can pull off another win so that Gillingham can be in on the start of a "desperately needed" good cup run.

Orient were responsible for the Gills going out of the Football League Cup earlier this season when, after being held to a 2-2 draw in August, they put in three goals at Leyton in the replay.

### IMPROVEMENT

But then Gillingham were not the team they are today. New players Terry Simpson and Mike Green were still finding their feet and trying to fit into the Gills style. And both players have improved so much lately that they could be key figures in Orient's downfall.

Mr. Hayward's answer may well be that one star costing more than the other players might disrupt team spirit — and I agree there's a lot to be said for this. But equally, team spirit improves by the sheer process of winning matches and one star, even for only a season or two, can achieve so much in this direction.

To be fair, a "name" signing is no guarantee of success. In recent weeks former famous men like Len Ailechurch and Jimmy Murray have looked decidedly second-rate opposed by much nipper Gillingham defenders. Gillingham have done well in the last few weeks. Their football is efficient, hard-working, professional. I still feel that just a little more spark could bring excitement, points and bigger gates.

Few clubs can have such potential. Despite the proximity to London, Gillingham have a local population of a quarter-of-a-million to call on and thousands and thousands more people in other parts of Kent who are clamouring to see better football than their local teams can provide.

Simpson, for instance, showed on Saturday that he is much happier in the attacking wing half position and he and Derek Woodley could strike up the same sort of partnership that ripped Walsall apart.

Now Gillingham also have Andy Smillie, who has undoubtedly brought a lot of strength to midfield and given Brian Yeo and Gordon Riddick the room to use their speed and

pace to create havoc in the penalty area. Riddick too, incidentally, will be in as striker instead of the attacking wing half game he was playing when the two teams met earlier.

Tony Weston, too, has come into the squad since the last Orient meeting and he has already shown the kind of form that made him one of the strongest fullbacks in the game not so long ago.

### FINE DISPLAYS

Apart from the changes, Gillingham's whole approach to the game has improved tremendously in the past few weeks with Bill Williams and his colleagues at the back giving some of the finest defensive games seen from a Gillingham team in a long time and the front runners carving great holes in defences.

If Woodley is given the service, he will almost certainly be the biggest threat to Orient's rearguard. Gordon Riddick seems to be reveling in his new role and Brian Yeo has shown chalking up to 10 goals so far this season and putting himself among the top men in the division.

As usual, manager Hayward is sticking to the 13-strong squad to travel to Orient and he will not be making his final selection until nearer kick-off time.

And so, once again, the team will be chosen from Derek Bellotti, Tony Weston, Mike Green, Terry Simpson, Bill Williams, Mel Machin, Ray Bailey, David Quirke, Derek Woodley, Brian Yeo, Gordon Riddick, Andy Smillie and John Meredith.

The supporters association coach is full but Blue and Whites chairman, Mr. Harold France said yesterday that there were still some seats available on the coaches they were laying on for the trip.

Seats can be booked at the stadium between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. this evening. People finding it difficult to reach the stadium tonight may also find room in the coach due to leave Priestfield at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

### ORIENT PROBLEMS

Since their early-season burst of fixtures with Gillingham, Orient have laboured along in the lower half of the division and injuries have plagued their small playing staff.

Their player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield, former Arsenal, Wolves and England player, has been grappling with a number of problems recently and he has decided not to announce his line-up until shortly before tomorrow's cup-tie.

One of Orient's star men, former Chelsea and England winger Peter Brabrook, has been receiving treatment for achilles tendon trouble since late September and during a London Midweek League game at Watford on Tuesday he dropped out at half time because of soreness in the ankle.

He saw a specialist yesterday and is still hopeful of being fit for the latest clash with the Gills — a match that is so vital for both clubs.

Two other members of the Orient squad have been on the sick list this week but are almost certain to be in their team.

They are Malcolm Slater, who has had a bad cold, and Ray Massey who has been having treatment for a slight groin strain.

### CROSS OUT

Orient's finishing may be found wanting tomorrow for they go into the match without a really effective striker.

A few weeks ago, they transferred their top goal scorer Vic Halom to Fulham for a £30,000 fee and to try to fill the gap created, they have borrowed Roger Cross from West Ham.

But Cross, who scored against Watford last Saturday only a few minutes after taking the field as substitute, is not eligible for the F.A. Cup clash.

The Orient line-up will be chosen from the following players: Ray Goddard, Mike Jones, Dennis Rolfe, Bert Howe, Dave Harper, Terry Mancini, Tommy Taylor, Malcolm Slater, Roy Massey, Mike Bullock, Jimmy Bloomfield, Peter Allen, Graham Archell.

## Essential

But as I say, with the weather fine, Medway Towns folk just were not prepared to fork out to watch the Gills in sufficient numbers. In this column a few weeks ago I asked whether it was not essential for the club to inject some personality, some new life in order to get people to start talking about them again.

The management paid £7,000 for Southend's Andy Smillie. With respect to this obviously talented performer, he is not immediately going to set tongues wagging in the pubs and clubs of Kent.

This is not direct criticism of the club. We all know of the acute financial difficulties they are up against and their present revival of form is all the more commendable in view of their limitations.

BY SPORTS EDITOR  
JOHN EVANS

But if the Gills are really to make headway — and that means getting out of the Third Division as soon as possible — they need names to fetch the spectators back from the towns and further afield.



# There's only one manager

Q It has been argued that a Football League club needs two managers — a team manager to look after the team and a general manager to arrange things such as fund-raising. Harold France, chairman of the Blue and Whites said as much on television recently. Do you agree?

A I think it's a case of everyone looking for a title. They will not accept that the football club manager is the manager by name and responsible for running affairs.

Obviously a manager does not consider himself a fund raiser, but in the three clubs I have been involved with, and with all small clubs, the manager has always been concerned in it, because it is so vital to the good running of a club.

Yet this matter is neglected. Clubs like us should be more efficient on things like pools than the Tottenhams and Manchester Uniteds as we need money more.

I do agree that one man should be put in charge of fund raising and such like, but I don't think general manager is his title — there is only one manager. If a manager wants to shrink the issue and say he'll be team manager then he's shirking the responsibilities of the club.

Q What do you think can be done at Gillingham in this context?

A There is only one thing we can do at Gillingham and that is cancel out everything. We can have a clean sweep and just have one body responsible for fund raising instead of several.

Then maybe everybody would accept they are working for Gillingham and not for these or those.

Some people are working hard for the club and I appreciate this, but unfortunately they are working against it as well by being split and one running the other down.

Q You have been with three other clubs and had a lot of experience with the F.A. Cup — what was your most memorable Cup run?

A I have very pleasant memories of the Cup. There was the year Port Vale reached the semi-final against Watford and we were actually about 15 minutes from being in the final. I was at Yeovil after that and we did well there. Then we had a good side. If they stay together and you can build the side up you're halfway there.

## Hayward



answers the Post

## STADIUM SPOTLIGHT

THIS weekend will probably be one of the most significant in the life of Gillingham's young fullback Mike Green. For tomorrow he is likely to be at the centre of one of the most crucial matches Gillingham have had in a long time and then, after the match, he will be dashing back to his home town Carlisle for his wedding to attractive brunette June Miller on Monday.

Like Terry Simpson, the incentive for Mike to make good at Priestfield Stadium has perhaps been even more marked as, since they were signed by manager Basil Hayward in the close season, they have not only been expected to fit in with the team but also to show that they have the basic talent to adopt a different approach to the game.

Using much the same methods as he did with Simpson, Mr. Hayward has converted Mike from his old role as an attacking wing half into a fullback.

But tomorrow he is almost certain to be given his sternest test when the Gills face Orient in the first round of the cup. Like the other ten players in the squad, Mike will be fully aware of how badly Gillingham need a win. But — as part of the four-man back rank — he will be given the added responsibility of holding a forward line that is already renowned for its ability to break quickly (which will be even more prominent at home) and of checking the probable wanderings of former English international Peter Brabrook — still one of the most dangerous flankmen in the game.

Twenty-two year old Mike has, however, shown that he can use the strength and speed in his 6ft 2 ins frame to as good effect as any defender in the division.

Mild-mannered but aggressively dedicated to the game, Mike has used his insatiable enthusiasm for football to adapt to his new role. And, as the manager commented this week: "He is a great clubman. He has had a lot to over-



come with his recent fortunes in the game but he is always prepared to listen and I am sure he will be one of the finest fullbacks we have seen for some time," commented Mr. Hayward.

Joining Carlisle straight from school, Mike was a regular first team player — turning out at centre or wing half for a number of seasons. But, before coming to Priestfield Stadium, he had spent some time in the northern club's second string. And, although his former boss Alan Ashman — now with West Brom. — still rates him as a player of great potential, his move to Gillingham was coupled with a need to restore confidence in his own ability.

But the tremendous wrench from the natural complacency of being a second team player plus the switch in positions has not materially affected him.

One of the most astute place kickers of a ball on the club's books, he can pin-point a pass from half the length of the field. And the kind of opposition Gillingham have been facing lately has shown that he is prepared to take the more robust side of the game.

"He has certainly improved a great deal since he took over the fullback role and I am sure that now he has accepted the more gritty side of the game he will be a defender to reckon with," said Mr. Hayward.

## Book your seat

GILLINGHAM F.C. Supporters' Association will be taking transport bookings for Saturday's F.A. Cup match at Orient from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and 7.30 onwards tomorrow from 10.45 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday at the office in Gordon Road.



## Not the Gills happiest - ever season!

LAST week I invited older soccer followers to see if they could recall the players in a Gillingham team group — the picture is reproduced again below to remind you.

The picture was taken in 1937-38 and these are the names: Standing: Alan Ure (manager), J. O'Neill, S. Hartley, D. Whitelaw, G. Tweed, G. Holland, J. Oxberry (trainer). Seated: J. Watson, T. Wilson, F. Herbert, R. Neal, L. Fishlock, G. Ballsom.

I'll admit we could have chosen a team to bring back happier playing memories than this one, for that season was Gillingham's last in the Football League for quite some time.

Bottom of the old Third Division South with only 26 points from 42 games, the Gills dropped out of the League and went into the Southern League, where they finished third the following year.

It was not until 1950, of course, that the Priestfield club were re-elected to the big-time when the League was extended.

We hear a lot about the lack of goals in today's soccer, but it's worth bear-

ing in mind that Gillingham found the net only 36 times in that 1937-38 league campaign. They were a losing side, admittedly, but the divisional champions, Millwall, scored only 83 and First Division toppers Arsenal, got a mere 77.

Incidentally, Charlton were fourth in the First Division that season and Brentford were sixth! Manchester United came second in Division Two.

The club who took the place of Gillingham at the end of the season were Ipswich Town.

Probably the best-remembered of the players in the group is the late Tug Wilson, a very clever inside-forward from the Isle of Sheppey. He was still in the team after the war and wound up his career with Gravesend and Northfleet.

Laurie Fishlock, the left-winger, played cricket for Surrey and was capped six times by England.

● If you have any similar old team groups that you think might interest readers, I'll be only too pleased to hear from you. Please contact Steve Bishop at the Evening Post office, Chatham.

● Gillingham Reserves will visit Leicester on Saturday for a Football Combination fixture. The following week they travel to Birmingham. On Saturday, Gillingham Youth have a South East Counties League match at Luton.



# Honeymoon Cup-tie?

GILLINGHAM begin their FA Cup campaign at Orient tomorrow and no one will be hoping more for a first-time victory than the Stadium club's full-back Mike Green.

For Green travels north on Sunday to his home town of Carlisle to prepare for his wedding on Monday and if a replay is necessary — it would be at Priestfield Stadium on Wednesday night (7.30) — he would have to be back again at Gillingham by first thing Tuesday morning.

Green motored the 300 miles to Carlisle on Sunday and he said today: "We have an emergency plan ready if Saturday's game is drawn. The wedding is on Monday morning and we would immediately drive south again to spend the night somewhere near London, enabling me to report back on Tuesday morning."

He added: "I am very much hoping, however, we shall win first time and not need to think about a replay."

Gillingham are likely to be unchanged for the game at Brisbane Road from the side who thrashed Walsall 4-0, although manager Basil Hayward had named 13 players from whom he will make a final selection. Ray Bailey or David Quirke are the probable contenders for the No. 12 shirt.

He has been free this week from injury problems and the staff have conducted their normal training routine.

Watching the Gills' bid for Cup success will be trainer Jimmy Boswell, who was in the side which beat Orient in the Cup at Priestfield Stadium in season 1947-48, when Gillingham were a Southern League side.



GILLINGHAM players got down to their final training preparations at Priestfield Stadium this morning—Post photographer John Wardley caught this leap-frog session with Tony Weston airborne and Bill Williams doing the donkey work. Next in line is John Meredith.

## ROLL CALL

Aug.	10 Tranmere	A	0-2		Quirk (2)
	14 ORIENT*	H	2-2	5,998	Woodley.
	17 ORIENT*	H	2-2	5,524	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	Williams
Sept.	7 Torquay	A	0-2		
	14 BRIGHTON	H	5-0	4,445	Gilbert (2),
					Yeo (2),
					Woodley
	16 Barrow	A	1-2		Yeo
	20 Southport	A	1-2		Yeo, Woodley
	28 MANSFIELD	H	1-1	4,030	Woodley
Oct.	4 Reading	A	3-2		Yeo (2)
	9 ROTHERHAM	H	2-0	5,525	Gilbert, Yeo
	12 STOCKPORT	H	0-0	5,314	
	19 Bristol Rovers	A	1-5		Riddick
	26 PLYMOUTH	H	1-0	5,170	Riddick
Nov.	2 Watford	A	1-2		T. Simpson
	5 Northampton	A	1-0		Yeo
	9 WALSALL	H	4-0	4,857	Smillie,
					Yeo (2),
					Riddick
	16 Orient†	A			
	23 SHREWSBURY	H			

\* League Cup  
† FA Cup

## How they line-up

**ORIENT (from):** Goddard, Jones, Rofe, Howe, Harper, Mancini, Taylor, Slater, Allen, Bullock, Bloomfield, Archell.  
**GILLINGHAM:** Bellotti, Weston, Green, T. Simpson, Williams, Machin, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie, Meredith. Sub.: Bailey or Quirke.

Gillingham Reserves (away to Leicester) from: Simpson; Chapman, Simmons, Robbins, Arnold, Gough, Osbourne, Peach, Gilbert, Folds, Bray, Tydeman.

**Appearances to date, including League Cup:** Bailey 13, Bellotti 10, Folds 1 and 1 as sub., Gibbs 7, Gilbert 9, Green 10, Machin 10, Meredith 20, Quirke 11 and 2 as sub., Riddick 17 and 1 as sub., J. Simpson 4, T. Simpson 18 and 2 as sub., Smillie 3, Thear 3, Weston 4, Williams 20, Woodley 20, Yeo 16.

**Goalscorers:** Yeo 10, Woodley 4, Gilbert 3, Riddick 2, Quirke 2, T. Simpson 2, Williams 1, Gibbs 1, Smillie 1.

**Record, including League Cup:** P. 20, W. 6, D. 4, L. 10.



## TUESDAY COMMENT

### FOCUS ON GILLINGHAM'S OPPONENTS

# The O's will miss poise of Brabrook

ORIENT have already met Gillingham three times this season, twice in the League Cup and once in the League. Two matches were drawn and the third ended in a convincing 3-0 win for the Londoners.

So it was with an "Oh, no! Not again!" feeling that the news of the FA Cup draw against Gillingham was received in the East End.

After the first three matches of the season, the O's went through a pretty promising period. Seven wins on the trot, including one over Second Division Fulham, again in the League Cup, saw the fans return to Brisbane Road.

The Orient front line was going strong, banging in the goals. The signing of former Chelsea star, Peter Brabrook, from West Ham for £10,000, added a badly needed poise to the attack. Brabrook's influence was quickly felt to advantage, but he has been ruled out of the cup-tie because of injury.

### Striker

Young Vic Halom was up front waiting to grab the goals and rapidly established himself as their leading striker.

True, most of their games resulted in draws, but the East-Enders looked as if they were heading for better things.

They met a strong Crystal Palace side in the League Cup and only just lost by a rather lucky goal.

But after that they began to fade. Soon they found themselves in the middle of a bad patch. A run of defeats saw them slip from their healthy position with in striking distance of the League leaders to a place pretty near the bottom.

In an effort to strengthen

the team, particularly up front where new blood was needed, player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield, the former Arsenal star, signed top Oxford scorer, Micky Bullock, and obtained the young West Ham winger, Roger Cross, on a two months' loan.

Unfortunately Cross is not eligible to play in the cup.

Then came the news, not altogether unexpected because rumours had been rife for some time, that Vic Halom had been transferred to Fulham. The 19-year-old inside-right had not been as prolific as at the beginning of the season and the money was needed.

### Favourable

The new transfers had a favourable effect. Orient found some form with wins over Brighton and Reading. Another draw with Watford saw them strengthening their league position.

The Orient could be on their way to another revival, but if they are not careful their tactics could prove their downfall. They are content to take the field, grab an early goal and then hold on to their slim lead until the end.

This could prove their downfall as it did against Watford. The visitors piled on the pressure after the interval and seven minutes before time rocked the O's back to reality with an equaliser.

Orient certainly do not show enough confidence in a front line that, if it did get going, could probably be one of the most dangerous in the Third Division.

WHILE the Gills were earning a rattling good FA Cup draw at Orient on Saturday their near-neighbours from the Southern League, Dartford, were commanding nation-wide attention as the giantkillers of the season so far.

With a man sent off, a penalty and two goals for Dartford in the last few minutes, there was no shortage of excitement at Dartford's Watling Street ground — a good deal too much excitement for Fourth Division Aldershot.

And with any luck there will be plenty to shout about at Priestfield tomorrow night if Gillingham can clinch that coveted second round spot.

Yet by and large I'm sure Danny Blanchflower was right when he suggested on Sunday that the excitement was going out of the game, that present-day tactics were turning it into a bore.

Danny's point is that all first-class players today are skilled, versatile, fit and fast but the confines of universal 4-3-3 patterns and general reluctance to open out play for fear of making mistakes have meant that game after game is a mid-field stalemate.

## Jumbled

And when you come to think of it, no one ever does seem to give the ball a decent kick these days. There are no such things as forwards and backs, and as soon as one side attack all the opponents come back and everyone's jumbled up again.

BY SPORTS EDITOR  
JOHN EVANS

The result is that you get far too much sideways passing and not nearly enough shots at goal for packed defenders can deal with tip-tapped short passes without giving away goal-mouth chances.

OK, so that's simplifying the case to an exaggerated degree. But is there anything finer in any standard of football than a winger (remember 'em) going right down the part of the pitch that used to be called a wing, beating his man and putting over a fast cross that leads to man-to-man combat in the penalty area?

## Married —then a replay dash

IT was not so much a matter of getting to the church on time for Gillingham full-back Mike Green. It was more a case of getting back again!

Mike, 22, was married today in Carlisle to June Miller.

Originally they were looking forward to three or four days honeymooning. But on Saturday Gills drew 1-1 with Orient in the F.A. Cup.

So today, Mike and his bride were haring down to Kent . . . to get to the ground in time for Wednesday's replay at Priestfield.

The other side of the coin of course, is that the game must develop. No matter how fond your memories are of Stanley Matthews' famous F.A. Cup-winning dribbling of 1953, the fact remains that it looks ridiculous every time they play it over again on television.

## Mesmerise

He just seems to mesmerise the Bolton defence with his long baggy shorts and they let him centre as soon as he's beaten a couple of men. Today he would have someone on him right from the kick-off and he would never have the room to get the ball over.

What we want now is football of today's technically high standards with yesterday's old-fashioned robustness and excitement. Somehow I feel that's like oil and water.

But meantime we'll gladly settle for a drop of the guts and glory stuff in an FA Cup run by Gillingham this season! And Dartford, too.



# GILLS' BIG CHANCE TOMORROW

Orient 1, Gillingham 1

GILLINGHAM must be odds on favourites to go into the second round of the F.A. Cup in tomorrow night's replay, even though on Saturday — as nearly 1,000 supporters who travelled from the Towns will vouch — they were nowhere near the team they have been lately.

But the fact that they were well below form and still held Orient must give them the confidence to make the running at the Stadium. There will, however, certainly be no room for complacency as on Saturday they only just did enough to force the replay.

Although they looked as though they would swamp Orient in the first half, Gillingham surprisingly allowed the game to slip away from them after the change-round and, even though they were victims of one or two strokes of bad luck, they and the fans found themselves gasping sighs of relief far too often for comfort.

Gordon Riddick must have wept inwardly when he saw his effort hit the underside of the bar and bounce out after Brian

Yeo had completely flummoxed the Orient defence when he raced out to meet Derek Woodley's close-to-the-line corner and turned it inside with an amazing back-heel flick.

And Woodley himself found the referee in an uncompromising mood when, as he squared to cross after racing into the box unmarked, wing-half Tommy Taylor sent him reeling with a highly dubious tackle.

writes  
**Martin Hitchings**

Both these second half incidents could have given Gillingham a win. But they were just two isolated efforts in an otherwise spasmodic bout of football the Gills players dropped into after the interval. Orient, on the other hand, were given long, long sessions of freedom in midfield.

This gave them the room to feed outside right Malcolm Slater who played havoc with Gillingham's left defensive flank before switching to the other wing in the second half where he exploited the "weakness" of Tony Weston playing with the obvious pain of the jarred ankle he sustained in the first half.

All too often Bill Williams had to pull out everything he knew to instil some discipline in the defenders and, towards the end, he stopped what must have been a goal when he raced behind Derek Bellotti as the young player advanced to cut off a cross. The ball skidded away from him out to Taylor who put in a low shot only to see Williams fling himself off the line and head it clear with Bellotti beaten. Earlier, the young keeper had himself pulled off a remarkable save to baulk Orient when again Slater sliced the Gillingham defence

with a cross. Centre-forward Bullock positioned himself perfectly to take it on the right of the goal and his header from two yards seemed certain to go in. But Bellotti flung himself at it to tip it over the bar.

In fairness to Gillingham's rearguard, these were the only real occasions, apart from their score when Orient showed themselves with the right kind of power to strike hard in the box and frequently they had to resort to long shots against the wall of Gillingham defenders.

But one can't help asking why the Gills did not see the danger Slater posed when Orient took the lead in the seventh minute.

Mike Green — who had little to rejoice about in this his pre-marriage match — missed a clearance and Slater and full-back Mick Jones moved up to seize the loose ball. Green ran back with John Meredith in support but they could not stop the cross which, after a scramble in the box, found JIMMY BLOOMFIELD and he simply hooked it home.

The icy, swirling wind and frozen mudpack of a pitch made controlling the ball a full time job and perhaps this was one of the causes of Derek Woodley having such a subdued afternoon. But still he and the Riddick-Yeo partnership was good enough to expose the brittle Orient defence several times in the first half.

The first slip came just five minutes after Orient took the lead when terrific Gillingham pressure in the box ended with ANDY SMILLIE slamming the ball home to make it 1-1.

John Meredith worked hard, breaking from the back, and was unlucky to see the ball go over the top when he rounded off a slick move which Mel Machin started with a long ball to Yeo who headed down to the incoming outside-left for him to hit first time. Another defence-splitting move saw Yeo put in a long raking high ball that dropped plumb in the box. But Riddick just failed to time it properly and the ball drifted aimlessly away.

Smillie, too, showed the talent he has for drawing players when he went through on his own and beat three men before crossing to Riddick who hit it just over the top.

This kind of stylish football was, however, too infrequent to be of any real effect but, if the Gills can sustain it at the Stadium tomorrow night then they must be in with a chance.

Gillingham: Bellotti; Weston; Green; Simpson, Williams, Nachin; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie, Meredith.

Orient: Goddard; Jones, Rofe; Harper, Mancini, Taylor; Slater, Allen, Bullock, Bloomfield, Archell.

## A visit to Luton, if. . .

NO LUCK for Gillingham when the F.A. Cup second round pairings were made yesterday (Monday). If Gills overcome Orient in tomorrow night's replay then they will travel to Luton, 6-1 conquerors of Ware.

Luton are the only team to win at Priestfield Stadium this season — they won 3-1 in September.

Still, the big problem facing Gillingham is getting through tomorrow night's replay. It will be the fifth time the two clubs have met so far this season.

Orient knocked Gillingham out of the Football League Cup in a replay and they have already met once in the league proper.

Manager Basil Hayward, who referred to Saturday's draw as a "fairly even match" will not be picking the team until tomorrow but now making his way back from the North is Mike Green who has to report for training this morning — only a few hours after his marriage last night to June Miller who lives at Mike's home town, Carlisle.

### PLEASED

Mr. Hayward was quite pleased with his team's performance on Saturday and commented: "Under the conditions, it was difficult enough even to control the ball."

Few, if any, changes are likely and even Tony Weston, who took a nasty knock on his right ankle, is expected to be fit for consideration tomorrow.

## Weston should be fit

FULL-BACK Tony Weston is the only doubtful starter for Gillingham's Wednesday F.A. Cup replay against Orient at Priestfield Stadium.

He was kicked on the ankle in the first half of Saturday's game and played the second period with his ankle bandaged. But this morning manager Basil Hayward said that Weston should be fit in time.

Of Saturday's match Basil said: "I think we did very well. It was not a particularly good ground to play on and the match could have gone either way. "I like to think we can win the replay."



ANDY SMILLIE

No. 21

H.T. 1-1

Attend 4,903





An Orient defender is on his knees and colleagues can only stand and watch as Andy Smillie (not in picture) nets Gills' equalizer on Saturday. Skipper Gordon Riddick raises his arms in jubilation. P 5294

# It's Radio Priestfield, by George!

HOSPITAL patients in the Medway Towns hear George Russell's voice every Saturday. They have come to look forward to his accurate, on-the-spot reporting.

For George, a 48-year-old father of four, has the job of giving match commentaries from Priestfield, the home of Gillingham.

A member of Rochester Round Table, he has been reporting the Gills' games since 1952. It was his idea that a commentary service was needed for hospital patients who couldn't get along to see their team in action.

"Ever since we started the service we have been greatly encouraged by the remarks passed. People seem to think we are doing

a good job and giving them accurate and efficient commentaries.

"After 16 years broadcasting football, my knowledge of the game has improved. I manage to be neutral when I am reporting the games," he went on.

Mr. Russell's equipment was paid for by the Round Table. "I have had three sets of broadcasting equipment since I started the commentaries. They wear out pretty quickly," he explained.

He has missed only a couple of the Gills' games throughout the whole of his 16 years at Priestfield.



GEORGE RUSSELL in action at a Gillingham game.



# Two thousand seek No. 1 fan award

BRITAIN'S No. 1 Soccer Fan will be one of the two thousand who have claimed the title or been nominated.

That was the final count when entries for the Daily Mail's £2,150 competition closed yesterday.

Every letter and postcard has already been read. All will now be examined in detail

before the panel picks four finalists to appear in front of ITV's cameras on London Weekend's Sports Arena on December 15.

The brief passed to the panel is to try to find Soccer fans who put more into the game than just watching it. The ever-present will obviously stand a chance of winning but the £1,000 first prize is more likely to go to someone who makes some extra effort.



● Jimmy Bloomfield (centre) tries to power his way past Gillingham's Mike Green and goalkeeper Derek Bellotti.

## Mark, non-stop supporter

MARK AGATE,  
Coombe Close,  
Lordswood,  
Chatham, Kent.

GILLINGHAM'S No. 1 Fan is 25-year-old Mark Agate, who travels 10,000 miles a season supporting the Third Division club and on football business.

'I spend every minute of my spare time on Soccer,' he says. 'I am lucky to be able to take the necessary time off when I want it.'

He is nominated by Gillingham Supporters' Association secretary, L. Marmara, who lists Mr Agate's activities.

They range from supporters' association committee - man, national delegate, co-editor of Gillingham's programme to president, secretary and committee member of many smaller football organisations.

He even calls his bungalow The Stadium and decorates it in the club's blue and white.



## Who was managing?

TALKING about Gillingham's history in these columns last week, I asked if readers had any pictures of old soccer teams that they would be willing to allow the POST to feature.

A couple of days later 61-year-old Arthur Gilbert, of St. Leonard's Avenue, Chatham, came in to see me with the picture printed above.

Arthur can identify all the players and the man on the right hand side of the photo — but not the manager.

'I can't remember who he was at the time. They were always chopping and

changing around and seemed to have a new one every week,' he said.

Can a reader help Arthur? If so drop me a line please and I will pass the solution on. Meanwhile, you can puzzle over the rest of the team and the year in which the picture was taken. I will tell you that it was in the early 20s.

Full details next week. Arthur believed two or three of the players are still living in the Medway Towns and if they happen to read this I would be grateful if they would let me know what they are doing nowadays. I feel sure readers would like to know.





# Best gate of season?

## GILLINGHAM

(From)  
Bellotti  
Weston  
Green  
T. Simpson  
Williams  
Machin  
Woodley  
Yeo  
Riddick  
Smillie  
Meredith  
Quirke  
Bailey

A TOTAL of 27 players are standing by for tonight's FA Cup first round replay at Priestfield Stadium (kick-off 7.30).

Orient will be choosing from 14 and Gillingham from 13 — the 12 selected for the 1-1 draw at Orient last Saturday plus Ray Bailey.

Gills' manager, Basil Hayward, said that full-back Tony Weston, who received a kick on the ankle during the game on Saturday, was fit to play, but he was not naming the team until just before the kick-off in case anything happened.

## Doubt

Orient have one doubtful starter — Dave Harper, who played in the No. 4 shirt on Saturday.

Player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield is hoping that his striker, Roy Massey, will be fit after missing Saturday's game and if he does play he will probably take the place of Graham Archell.

## ORIENT

(From)  
Goddard  
Rofe  
Howe  
Harper  
Mancini  
Taylor  
Slater  
Allen  
Bullock  
Massey  
Bloomfield  
Brisley  
Archell



THE man Gillingham will have to watch tonight, Orient player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield — who scored their goal in Saturday's tie at Leyton — weaves through Gillingham's defence as Brian Yeo and Mel Machin converge. Bloomfield made his name at Arsenal and also played for Birmingham and West Ham.

Referee for tonight's match is E. D. Wallace, who officiated in Saturday's match and was thought by many to have refused a valid penalty appeal by Gillingham when Derek Woodley was brought down in the area.

## Lucky numbers

GILLINGHAM F.C. Supporters' Association daily draw numbers: £5 18993, 30130, 19259.





F.A. Cup action from Brisbane Road on Saturday. Top, Orient 'keeper Goddard leaps high to collect a cross, with Gordon Riddick challenging and Orient's Mancini covering. Below, Riddick moves forward to head against the underside of the crossbar.

P.5296, P.5297



## 'We are going to Luton to win!'

**Q** Just how important is a good F.A. Cup run to a club — how much do you gain financially, and if you do have a run what is the reaction of the fans likely to be when you do go out?

**A** Wednesday night's gate was over double what we normally get and obviously this makes a big difference.

"We have been desperate for years for success on the field in the F.A. Cup and now we want to beat Luton away in the next round. The unfortunate thing is people place more importance on the Cup than on the bread and butter of the League.

"If you go out of the Cup then that is the end of the world — there is this terrific glory attached to the Cup.

"If you are fortunate enough to draw a big club this can mean tremendous gates and you are made for the season.

"But even if we got gates like Wednesday's for every home game we would still not be paying our way.

"That is on our present commitments. Obviously if we are more successful our commitments become bigger and we need still bigger gates to cover them, and so it goes on. It's a vicious circle.

"If we have a good run in the League as well as a good Cup run we are going to do very well. If we don't do well in the League gates tend to slump to an all-time low after the cup run . . . it is this way with all clubs.

"I am hoping we can do both and that the two will come together. In this way we might get gates of 9,000 and more, regularly.

"We will go to Luton to win in the next round. We play every game to win and I think we have a reasonable chance."



# GILLS HIT BACK TO TRIUMPH

Gillingham 2, Orient 1

ANYONE with even the slightest scepticism about manager Basil Hayward's conviction that "Gillingham has the potential to be a great club" was given a glorious eyeful of what he is getting at on Wednesday when, after being a goal down at half-time, the Gills put every ounce of know-how and courage into their game to steamroll Orient out of the cup.

And what a game it was! Hardly a minute passed without the crowd — the biggest in a long, long time — being given something to roar or sigh at as the two teams served up all the dramatic thrust-and-parry expected in the do-or-die atmosphere of an F.A. Cup-tie.

The tingling, nail-biting suspense, too, could not have been

better timed if it had been rehearsed. For, although Gillingham completely dominated the second half, it took them until three minutes from the end to clinch the issue.

And the man who did it was skipper **GORDON RIDDICK** who slammed the ball home in the 87th minute after he had put the Gills level in the 60th.

This certainly was Riddick's night. These two brilliantly taken goals confirmed once and for all that he has everything a manager could want in a striker and I am sure no one will be more proud that he is when he skips and leads the Gills in the next round against his old club Luton.

But, in carving out the goals,

Riddick and his front runner colleagues Brian Yeo, John Meredith, Derek Woodley and Andy Smillie also had to put up with the demoralizing frustration of seeing a glut of chances going astray through either the woodwork getting in the way, the slightest of miskicks or through downright bad luck.

Riddick, for instance, sent in a fantastic angle shot just 10 minutes from time that keeper Ray Goddard could only deflect. The ball seemed certain to go in but somehow fullback Mick Jones managed to race back more than 10 yards to hoof it off the line.

And Brian Yeo, who was in on both of Riddick's goals when he laid the ball off for the first and saw his first time shot pushed down to the skipper for the second, found himself on the losing end of luck.

Less than a minute after **SLATER** had given Orient their 44th minute lead with a low angle shot that beat Bellotti completely Yeo saw Goddard put in a remarkable reflex save to turn round his point blank effort.

And, earlier, one of his many first-time shots cannoned off the bar with such force that it came back to well outside the penalty area before landing.

Smillie, too, hit the top of the bar in the opening stages and followed it up with a desperate shot that sailed over the top and John Meredith was unlucky to see at least two of his low angle efforts go just wide of the post. But none of them slackened the pace at all, especially in the second half.

The men mainly behind Gillingham's eventual supremacy, however, were Terry Simpson and Derek Woodley. The Gills' winger gave us plenty of the kind of speed and ball control that has made him one of the finest flankmen in the Third Division and Simpson — the most dangerous looking player on the field — used all his guile and experience not only to create his own room but also to play Orient's player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield out of the game in the second half.

But, although Gillingham's absolute stranglehold after the change-round fully justified their win, Orient too had to contend with bouts of hard luck.

Three minutes after the start, Massey knifed his way through and turned the ball goalwards only to see Bellotti just get his hand to it and put it on to the bar.

Then the striker, — who was out of the team on Saturday but made all the difference on

Wednesday, tried a lob header that Mike Green headed off the line. Slater too created a lot of problems in the Gillingham penalty area, as he did on Saturday.

But Mel Machin, Mike Green, Tony Weston and Bill Williams managed to hold out — even though Slater's goal was well deserved — and in the second half Bellotti was hardly troubled at all.

**Gillingham:** Bellotti; Weston, Green; Simpson, Williams, Machin; Yeo, Riddick, Smillie, Meredith.

**Orient:** Goddard; Jones, Rofe; Allen, Mancini, Taylor; Slater, Massey, Bloomfield, Bullock, Archell (Howe).

Attendance: 9,563.

M.H.

No 22  
H.T. 0-1  
attend: 9,563

Gills are  
Where the

## DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bournemouth	17	11	2	4	30	12	24
Barrow	18	11	2	5	31	24	24
Swindon T.	16	10	3	3	24	11	23
Watford	18	9	5	4	22	12	23
Stockport C.	18	9	5	4	31	24	22
Luton T.	17	10	2	5	31	16	22
Tranmere	18	10	2	6	27	23	22
Torquay U.	19	9	3	7	28	21	21
Plymouth	19	8	4	7	22	19	20
Reading	18	7	5	6	28	22	19
Rotherham	18	6	7	5	22	21	19
Northampton	16	6	5	5	17	15	17
Barnsley	19	5	7	7	23	28	17
Bristol R.	18	6	4	8	29	34	16
Walsall	19	4	8	7	18	22	16
<b>GILLINGHAM</b>	18	6	3	9	25	27	15
Southport	18	6	3	9	28	34	15
Orient	17	4	7	6	21	26	15
Hartlepool	18	3	9	6	13	28	15
Mansfield	18	5	4	9	23	26	14
Brighton	19	5	4	10	25	33	14
Shrewsbury	18	5	4	9	15	25	14
Crewe	17	4	5	8	24	30	13
Oldham	17	2	3	12	11	35	7

## FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Tottenham	6	6	0	0	22	1	12
Arsenal	7	5	2	0	18	4	12
Q.P.R.	7	5	2	0	22	8	12
Crystal Pal.	7	6	0	1	11	6	12
Fulham	6	5	0	1	18	7	10
West Ham	7	2	5	0	14	7	9
Bristol R.	6	4	1	1	16	11	9
Birmingham	7	4	0	3	17	10	8
Cardiff C.	6	3	2	1	6	4	8
Oxford U.	7	3	2	2	11	12	8
Ipswich T.	7	2	3	2	18	13	7
<b>GILLINGHAM</b>	7	3	1	3	6	9	7
Leicester C.	7	3	0	4	11	16	6
Peterborough	7	1	4	2	6	10	6
Chelsea	6	2	1	3	13	11	5
Plymouth A.	7	2	1	4	6	9	5
Norwich C.	6	1	3	2	11	10	5
Swansea T.	8	1	3	4	11	23	5
Southampton	6	2	0	4	7	6	4
Bristol C.	5	2	0	3	7	9	4
Northampton	5	2	0	3	5	10	4
Walsall	6	1	1	4	12	18	3
Reading	7	1	1	5	5	22	3
Bournemouth	6	0	2	4	4	12	3
Luton T.	7	1	0	6	6	26	2
Swindon T.	5	0	0	5	7	11	0



Derek Bellotti climbs high to collect and is challenged by Orient's Bullock. In attendance are Gills' defenders, Tony Weston and Bill Williams.

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# TWO-ANGLE VIEW OF THE GILLS' TICKET TO LUTON



## 'Pleased with the gate'

GILLINGHAM manager, Basil Hayward, said: "Apparently everyone enjoyed the match as indeed I did, although it was very worrying for me."

"The lads had done well and were getting through the Orient defence — they were also finishing well. It came as a shock when Orient scored."

"I was extremely satisfied with the gate. It was more than I expected. I just hope that as the fans enjoyed themselves they will come back again."

## SOCCER HOOLIGANS

Nine youths were ejected by police from Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, after outbreaks of hooliganism during the match between Gillingham and Leyton Orient on Wednesday night. All were Gillingham supporters.



Orient 'keeper Ray Goddard parries a close range shot from Brian Yeo (not in picture) but Gordon Riddick moves in to slot home the winner three minutes from the end. P 5338







Gillingham skipper Gordon Riddick leaps for joy after slamming home Gills' equalizer in the F.A. Cup replay with Orient at Priestfield Stadium on Wednesday night.

P.5337



ORIENT goalkeeper Goddard looks round in despair as the ball settles in the net for Gillingham's first goal last night. Gordon Riddick was the scorer.

## ROLL CALL

Aug. 10	Tranmere	A	0-2	
14	ORIENT*	H	2-2	5,988 Quirk (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 Williams
Sept. 7	Torquay	A	0-2	
14	BRIGHTON	H	5-0	4,445 Gilbert (2), Yeo (2), Woodley
16	Barrow	A	1-2	Yeo
20	Southport	A	2-4	Yeo, Woodley
23	MANSFIELD	H	1-1	4,630 Woodley
Oct. 4	Reading	A	2-3	Yeo (2)
9	ROTHERHAM	H	2-0	5,525 Gilbert, Yeo
12	STOCKPORT	H	0-0	5,314
19	Bristol Rovers	A	1-5	Riddick
26	PLYMOUTH	H	1-0	5,170 Riddick
Nov. 2	Walsford	A	1-2	T. Simpson
5	Northampton	A	1-0	Yeo
9	WALSALL	H	4-0	4,857 Smillie, Yeo (2), Riddick
16	Orient†	A	1-1	Smillie
20	ORIENT†	H	2-1	9,563 Riddick (2)
23	SHREWSBURY	H		
30	Bournemouth	A		
Dec. 7	Luton†	A		

\* League Cup

† F.A. Cup

Appearances to date, including league and F.A. Cups:  
Bailey 13, Bellotti 18, Folds 1 and 1 as sub., Gibbs 7,  
Gilbert 9, Green 21, Machin 21, Meredith 22, Quirk 11  
and 2 as sub., Riddick 19 and 1 as sub., J. Simpson 4, T.  
Simpson 20 and 2 as sub., Smillie 5, Thear 3, Weston 6,  
Williams 22, Woodley 22, Yeo 16.

Goalscorers: Yeo 10, Riddick 5, Woodley 4, Gilbert 3,  
Quirk 2, T. Simpson 2, Smillie 2, Williams 1, Gibbs 1.  
Record: P 22, W 7, D 5, L 10, F 30, A 34.



IN between playing twice for Gillingham in five days as the Priestfield Stadium club beat Orient in the F.A. Cup, full-back Mike Green dashed north to Carlisle to get married. Our picture shows 21-year-old Mike at a novel kick-off as he left the church with his lovely bride, sales assistant June Miller, of Carlisle, who is also 21. With them are Mike's former colleagues at Carlisle United, John Rudge (left) and Eric Welsh.



# Gills held up by injured

## trio

GILLINGHAM, who have now gone four League and Cup games without defeat—their best sequence of the season—revert to their League programme tomorrow with the visit of Shrewsbury.

The line-up depends on the result of late fitness tests—for Derek Woodley, John Meredith and Gordon Riddick all sustained leg injuries in the mid-week Cup replay with Orient.

Manager Basil Hayward was waiting until later today to get a bet-

ter assessment of the injuries and will probably defer his selection until tomorrow.

He is hoping that all three will be fit but the names of David Quirke and Ray Bailey are added to the 11 who played on Wednesday.

Hayward watched Shrewsbury on Monday night when they lost their first round replay at Port Vale 3-1. Despite their defeat the Gillingham boss still has a great deal of respect for the Midlanders.

Shrewsbury's visit

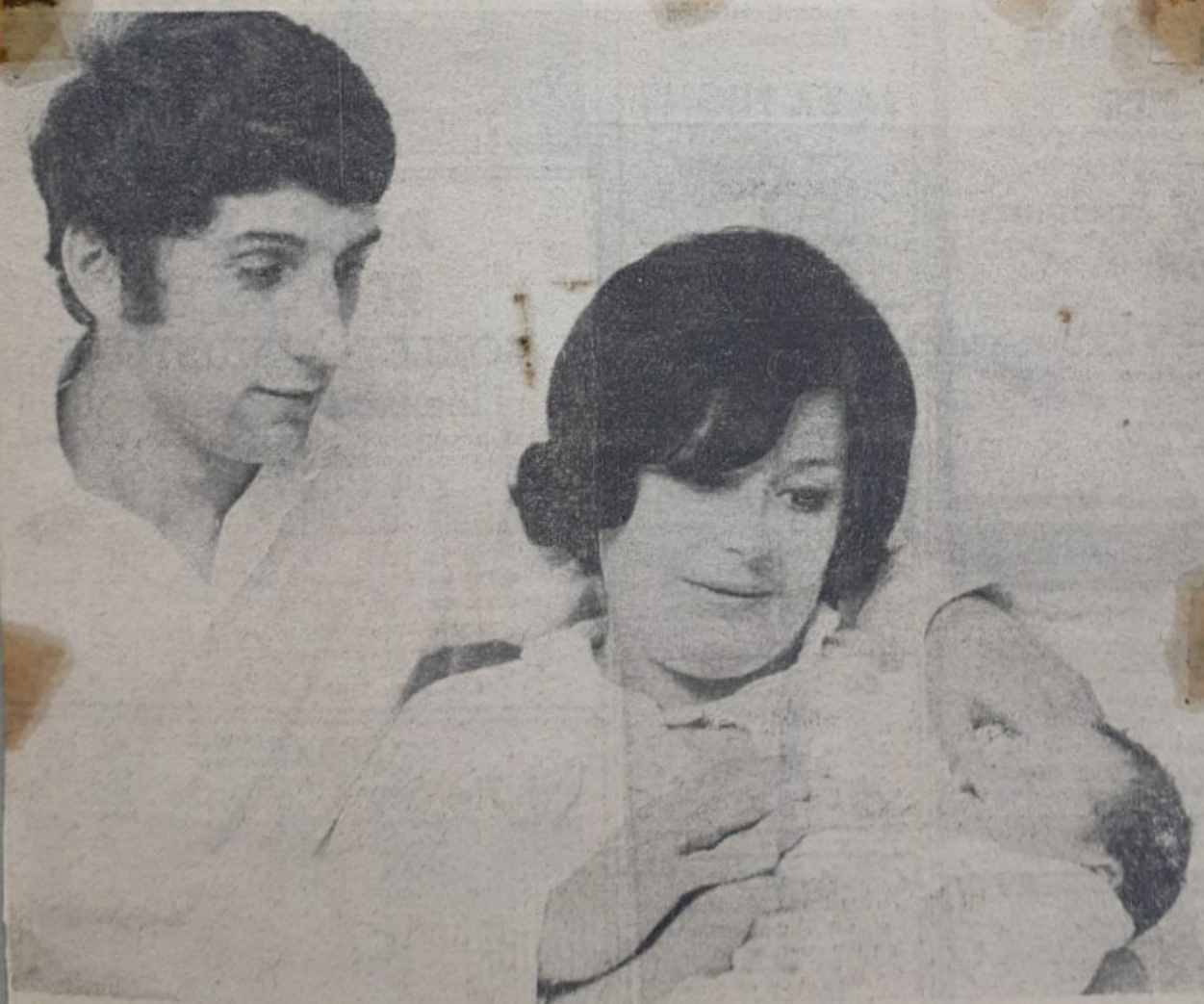
means a renewal of a link between Gillingham left-back Mike Green and the visitors' inside-forward Eddie Loydon—they were both together at Carlisle.

Gillingham (from): Bellotti; Weston, Green; Simpson, Williams,

Macinn, Quirke; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Bailey, Smillie, Meredith.

Reserves (away to Birmingham City): (from) Simpson; Chapman, Simmons; Ribbens, Arnott, Gough, Osbourne, Harrison, Bray, Gilbert, Peach, Folds, Tydeman.

Nine shilling stand tickets for the F. A. Cup match at Luton will be on sale at Priestfield Stadium from Tuesday for eight days. They can be obtained at the main entrance at normal office hours or between 6-8 p.m. and judging by the response for similar tickets for the Orient game those thinking of making the trip to Luton are advised to get their tickets early.



## BABY TURNS UP FOR THE CUP . . .

GILLINGHAM inside-forward Brian Yeo was feeling "over the moon" today with the Cup replay with Orient only hours away.

For, nicely timed between the two games, his wife, Jennifer, has presented him with an 8 lb. baby boy.

Yeo, Gillingham's leading scorer this season, said: "I am delighted. Mother and baby are both doing well and I'm glad it's all over. It's been a bit of a strain during the last week or two." He already has a three-year-old daughter, Nicola.

Match preview—back page.



# Hero Riddick should

## be fit

GILLINGHAM, brimming with confidence after their defeat of Orient in the F.A. Cup replay on Wednesday evening, hope to continue their excellent home run with a victory over Shrewsbury at Priestfield Stadium tomorrow (kick-off 3 p.m.).

The tough clash, with Orient took its toll, however, and a

number of Gillingham players have been receiving treatment for an assortment of injuries.

Skipper and attack leader Gordon Riddick, who notched Gillingham's match-winning goals on Wednesday, has an ankle injury and his fellow attackers Derek Woodley and John Meredith also suffered painful knocks. But manager Basil Hayward, full of praise for the way his team dealt with Orient, is not unduly worried by these injuries and is reasonably confident that they will be fit for tomorrow's test.

A particularly heartening aspect of Wednesday night at the Stadium was the size of the crowd. The attendance of 9,563 was the biggest turn-out at a Gills home match since the Football League match with Arsenal a couple of seasons ago.

Manager Hayward feels that the Gills' performance on Wednesday was good enough to persuade those "extra" fans to stay with the team and he is hoping for more good support at tomorrow's match.

A victory over Shrewsbury will extend the Gills successful home sequence and will help them further away from the Third Division danger zone.

### FINE RUN

Including the 5-0 victory over Brighton on September 14, Gillingham have now gone seven home games without defeat, scoring 15 goals against only two.

Apart from Orient on Wednesday, only Mansfield have managed to score at Priestfield in that run which has produced five wins and two draws.

Gillingham will select their team for tomorrow's clash from: Derek Bellotti; Tony Weston, Mike Green; Terry Simpson, Bill Williams, Mel Machin; Derek Woodley, Brian Yeo, Gordon Riddick, Andy Smillie, John Meredith, David Quirke, Roy Bailey.

### HEADS TO ROLL?

Shrewsbury's manager Harry Gregg, the former Manchester United and Northern Ireland goalkeeper, is in the mood to make a number of heads roll after his team's elimination from the F.A. Cup at Port Vale on Monday evening.

Shrewsbury were disturbed at the way their usually compact defence was penetrated and there appear to be even more problems in attack.

Gregg will have to make at least one change, for wing half John Moore had a leg injury X-rayed after the Port Vale match and cannot be considered for the match at Gillingham.

Centre half Alf Wood, who pulled a thigh muscle, is likely to be available and a special gleam of hope for Gregg is that

Peter Dolby, the lanky key man in the defence who has been out of the last two games through injury, was seen by a specialist on Thursday and is thought to have a good chance of playing.

The Shrewsbury team is likely to be selected from the following: John Phillips; Tony Gregory, Geoff Fellowes, Terry Matthias, Alf Wood, Peter Dolby, Dave Poutney; Trevor Meredith, Dennis Hawkins, Dave Roberts, Eddie Loyden, Eddie Garbett, George Boardman, Jim McLaughlin.

# Follow the Gills in Cup and league

BOTH Gillingham supporters' clubs are making travel arrangements for the Gills' FA Cup second round tie away to Luton on December 7.

Gillingham F.C. Supporters' Association are taking bookings for transport at Medway 50398 during the day or fans can call in at the office in Gordon Road during the day and between 7.30 and 9 p.m. on Friday evenings.

They are also hoping to obtain train tickets at 15s. return.

The Blue and Whites Association are laying on transport on a "considerable scale," believing that a large number of fans will be making the trip.

Bookings can be made at the ground (main entrance) Mondays to Fridays 6-8 p.m., and stand seats at 9s. will be available up to Wednesday December 4.

For this Saturday's game against Bournemouth, currently at the top of the division and managed by Freddie Cox, ex-Gillingham boss, the Blue and Whites are organising transport and bookings will be taken any evening this week between 6 and 8.

## Booked

The association has booked the complete house for the pantomime, "Snow White and the Seven Musical Dwarfs," on December 23 at 6.30 at the Central Hall, Chatham. The seats, at 6s., 5s. and 4s., will cost 4s. and all profits will go to the football club.

The supporters' association are discussing how to improve their daily draw ticket system so it will bring in more money for the club. They are also appealing for

more people to come forward and sell the tickets, even if it is only four or five a week.

A "meet the players" dance is being organised for February, primarily for the younger supporters. For the older fans there will be a social in March.

Sid Walter resigns from the committee at the end of this season because of business commitments and his place will be taken by Paul Curzon.

Among other future activities is the production of another issue of Priestfield Press some time in the New Year and a Player of the Year competition.

## Follow the Gills

AS IN previous years, Gillingham's supporting organization, the Blue and Whites, will be laying on a special coach for the trip to Bournemouth on Saturday. And, judging by the recent growth in support, they should have little difficulty in filling it.

Several people have already asked for seats and the revival the Gills are going through should see a fair crowd travelling to see them on Saturday.

The added attraction of course is that Gillingham's current form could see them topping high riding Bournemouth from their perch or, at least, picking up a point.

Former Gills boss Fred Cox is having a lot of success lately but new-look Gills will be out for revenge for the 4-0 caning they were given at the seaside last season.

Anyone interested in travelling with the Blue and Whites can reserve a seat at the Stadium's main entrance between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. any evening this week or they can phone B and W chairman, Mr. Harold France at 50634.

"We realize that people may not be able to make it to the Stadium but if they confirm their telephone reservation 24 hours afterwards by letter or by calling in, then their seats will be held for them," said Mr. France.





# Mini girls have

## big plans

FROM pop to carols and probably a spot of football — that's what 10 young Towns' girls have lined up for themselves in the coming months.

They are all members of the Blue and Whites Mini Girls' Squad formed by B. and W. chairman Harold France for Gillingham Football Club at the beginning of the season. So far their main job has been acting as hostesses at home and nearby away games, selling tickets and helping with fund raising schemes at the ground.

But now they want to do a little bit more — not only for the club but also for local charities.

And so they have hit on the idea of running a discotheque night, singing carols at the local hospitals and forming themselves into a football team.

The pop night is set up for 11 December — a Wednesday, which the girls are convinced is one of the best nights of the week for teenagers.

"There's usually something to do at week-ends but by mid-week the Towns are dead," said attractive 18-year-old travel clerk Iris Kelly of Hawkhurst Road, Gillingham, who is one of the instigators of the idea.

They expect, however, to have an added attraction for the evening as they are hoping that some of the younger Gillingham players will act as disc jockeys for at least some of the records.

In between arranging for 11 December, Iris and her pals are making inquiries to local matrons to see if they can have a tour of hospital wards at Christmas.

"We've been putting in a spot of choir practice and hope to lay on a good show if the hospitals will allow us," said 18-year-old copy typist Pat James of Brabourne Avenue, Gillingham.

Proceeds of the discotheque and the carolling will go to local charities and the club. And the girls are hoping to give the funds an even bigger boost with a football match between themselves and a group of girls in Strood.

In charge of the Minis is "bunny mother" Josie Markham, 21-year-old typist of Lilac Road, Strood, and as soon as they find another girl to make up a team, they will all be getting down to training.

So far, the rest of the team is likely to be made up of 21-year-old comptometer operator, Sheila Davis, of Hawthorn Road, Strood, Barbara Kelly (16), a student typist of Walderslade Road, Janice Bushell (16), of Snodhurst Avenue, Sharon Filmer (16), of Montgomery Avenue, Chatham, Alison Gilham (16), of Eden Avenue, Chatham, Jacky Dennis (15), of Parr Avenue, Gillingham, and Lesterlyn Arnold, of Queen's Road, Gillingham.

Apart from building up the football team, the Blue and Whites also want more girls to join the squad.



## Difficult away matches in store for the Gills

The highly encouraging events of the week have underlined my belief that we are at a turning point in our fortunes. We had a very good draw at Orient on Saturday and followed this up with an excellent win on Wednesday when, after being a goal down, the team put in a tremendous effort and their wonderful fight back coupled with a lot of good football saw us coming out on top.

Full marks must therefore go to the players for putting so much into the game but equally encouraging for the team and myself was seeing the surprisingly good attendance for Wednesday which we only hope can be maintained for the meeting with Shrewsbury tomorrow.

Following tomorrow, of course, we will be away from home for three weeks during which time, we have difficult matches with Bournemouth, Luton in the next round of the F.A. Cup and Stockport and how we fare against these will be the big decider on whether, or not we can retain our growing support.

But this phase in the season does, I feel, give you some idea of how unfortunate we have been with fixtures this year. We started with difficult time away from home and, now we are beginning to capture the interest of people in the area, we have to go away from home again.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Still, Wednesday's win has meant we are now looking forward to our trip to Luton, when I hope we can take with us something like the number of

people who travelled to Orient on Saturday.

Our big worry at the moment, however, is the outcome of the personal hearing Bill Williams is having as a result of his sending off at the Reading match. This is due next Friday and we are all keeping our fingers crossed for him in the hope that he will be available for the Luton game.

A lot of you have probably seen the new proposals regarding players' contracts. I doubt myself whether the players will accept these restrictions on their basic wages but, as far as the incentive part of the contracts is concerned, I feel it opens even further the gap between the rich and the poor.

I have always believed that clubs should only pay within reasonable limits of their resources but once again these new proposals bring home the need for better organization throughout a club so that it can enable them to be more competitive in this sphere.



# GILLS WORK HARD FOR GOALS — — AND IT PAID OFF

ONCE again Gillingham confirmed the tremendous discipline and determination they have injected into their game lately by overhauling and eventually completely dominating a team that, aided by a lot of curious inactivity on the part of the referee, seemed bent on knocking the Gills out of their run of home wins.

Obviously shaken by the ferocity of Shrewsbury's attitude in the early stages, Gillingham trod carefully to start with and for long bouts supporters must have been convinced they were in for an afternoon of trepidation, coupled with the disjointed football Shrewsbury served up.

But then, shocked out of their wariness by a cracking 30-yard volley shot from Shrewsbury's **DENIS HAWKINS** in the 39th minute, Gillingham sprang back to life.

Within three minutes they were on level terms when **TERRY SIMPSON** slammed the ball home from close range after a goalmouth melee.

And two minutes after the change-round, the rot really started to set in for the Shropshire side when **GORDON RIDDICK** spun round on the penalty spot to hook the ball past keeper John Phillips after Andy Smillie had laid it off with a glancing header.

**BRIAN YEO**, who had taken a terrific amount of stick from Shrewsbury's back rank throughout but still gave them their biggest headache, showed his amazing flexibility in the 62nd minute.

Although he was completely off balance and almost horizontal, he flung his left foot at the ball and sent it sailing past Phillips to make it 3-1.

Then in the 73rd minute, referee Mr. D. R. G. Lippard, of Bournemouth, could not possibly ignore a blatant push by centre-half Alf Wood on Riddick in the box and **MEL**

## Gillingham 4, Shrewsbury 1

**MACHIN** coolly prodded the ball home from the penalty spot to complete the scoring.

On the face of it, this drubbing of Shrewsbury looked as easy as the Brighton (5-0) and Walsall (4-0) home victories. But, as any of the 5,270 crowd will confirm, Saturday's goals were four of the hardest Gillingham have had to get in a long time.

Shrewsbury just did not want to play football and, when they weren't scything down a player, pulling his shirt or dragging out some other below-the-belt tactic, they were giving spectators a totally over-acted display of how to use the offside trap.

It was as if they just did not

breaking through only to see his hard ground shot smothered by the young Phillips. and then a remarkable run by Woodley saw him race past no less than four Shrewsbury defenders. The scoring chance fell down when Phillips gathered Woodley's cross waist high.

The Gills' skipper followed this up with an angle shot that beat the 'keeper but was cleared by Loyden and then Simpson moved in with a pile-driver that Phillips flung himself at to hold.

Mike Green, who seems to be unsettled lately, carved his way through for the best chance of the early stages but, with the 'keeper on the ground, the Gills' fullback shot wide.

And then Woodley blasted high and wide after Smillie had set it up with a knifing through ball.

By now, Gillingham were finding their way through and Yeo was unlucky to be just a shade offside when he picked up a Riddick header, after Machin had chipped the ball through, and turned it home only to have the goal disallowed.

### BACK IN BALANCE

Hawkins' goal came right out of the blue when Shrewsbury put up one of their very brief attacks. But Gillingham's monopoly on play was soon back in balance after Simpson's and Riddick's quick-fire replies.

This, however, brought even more ragged play from Shrewsbury and Yeo alone was involved in three skirmishes on the trot — one of which was when wing half David Pountney stopped a certain goal by taking the striker's legs from under him as he ran into the box. Yeo's pleas for the penalty went unheeded.

As if determined to cock a snook at Shrewsbury's grappling, Yeo took less than a couple of minutes to show them they were out of luck. After bringing another remarkable save out of young Phillips who

brilliantly turned his flick around the post, he slid home the third.

Another fine save cheated Woodley but, by this time, Gillingham were breaking through the offside trap. They used John Meredith and Tony Weston coming from the back and at one time Weston beat three men in a scintillating run and Meredith too, was almost through but was dragged down as he came into the box.

But although his appeal — like Yeo's — went unnoticed, Riddick's fall did not.

Minutes after it was 4-1, Shrewsbury's Geoff Fellows hobbled off with a knee injury but his replacement, Eddie Garbett, could do little to change the domination Gillingham had.

**GILLINGHAM:** Bellotti; Weston, Green; Simpson, Williams, Machin; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie, Meredith.  
**SHREWSBURY:** Phillips; Gregory, Fellows (Garbett); Mathias, Wood, Pountney; Roberts, Hawkins, Loyden, Douglas, Clapham.

Attendance 5,270.

writes

### Martin Hitchings

know what defensive football was all about. Time after time, whenever a Gillingham player gained possession, they scurried upfield. And such was their enthusiasm for this that, often, they found themselves on the halfway line.

Though obviously demoralizing for the Gillingham front runners, it proved useless in the long run. And the man who exploited it most was Terry Simpson who showed yet again that he likes nothing better than probing and foraging around in midfield where he and Andy Smillie can set things up.

But they, like the rest of the Gills' squad, had to contend with Shrewsbury's guerilla tactics that frequently resulted in a Gillingham player writhing in agony whenever he came in too close.

### EARLY SHOCKS

Still, Gillingham showed they were only interested in getting on with the game and, after some early shocks when Shrewsbury went close, they soon looked in a scoring mood. Riddick set the pattern by

No. 23

HT. 1-1

attend. 5,270





Shrewsbury defenders can only look on as inside-forward Terry Simpson puts Gillingham on level terms at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday. Also in the picture is Gills' pivot Bill Williams.

P5390

1 - 1



Spectacular third goal for the Gills as leading marksman Phillips twists in mid-air to hook the ball home.

P.5392

3 - 1



Shrewsbury's young goalkeeper Phillips tries in vain to prevent skipper Gordon Riddick from putting Gillingham in front.

P5391

2 - 1



# Where the Gills are

## DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth.	18	11	3	4	31	13	25
Watford.	19	10	5	4	24	12	25
Barrow.	19	11	3	5	32	25	25
Stockport.	19	9	6	4	32	25	24
Luton.	18	10	3	5	32	17	23
Swindon.	17	10	3	4	24	13	23
Torquay.	20	10	3	7	29	21	23
Tranmere.	19	10	3	6	28	24	23
Plymouth.	20	8	5	7	22	19	21
Reading.	19	7	5	7	28	23	19
Rotherham.	19	6	7	6	22	23	19
Northampton.	17	6	6	5	18	16	18
Barnsley.	20	5	8	7	23	28	18
<b>GILLINGHAM</b>	19	7	3	9	29	28	17
Southport.	19	7	3	9	32	34	17
Orient.	18	5	7	6	23	27	17
Walsall.	20	4	9	7	19	23	17
Hartlepool.	19	4	9	6	15	29	17
Mansfield.	19	6	4	9	25	26	16
Bristol R.	19	6	4	9	30	36	16
Brighton.	20	5	5	10	26	34	15
Shrewsbury.	19	5	4	10	16	29	14
Crewe.	18	4	5	9	24	34	13
Oldham A.	18	2	3	13	12	37	7

## FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Tottenham.	7	7	0	0	25	1	14
Arsenal.	8	5	3	0	19	5	13
Q.P.R.	8	5	3	0	25	11	13
Crystal Pal.	8	6	1	1	12	7	13
Fulham.	7	6	0	1	23	8	12
West Ham.	8	3	5	0	16	8	11
Bristol R.	7	5	1	1	18	11	11
Ipswich Tn.	8	3	3	2	21	13	9
<b>GILLINGHAM</b>	8	4	1	3	8	10	9
Birmingham.	8	4	0	4	18	12	8
Cardiff C.	7	3	2	2	6	7	8
Oxford U.	7	3	2	2	11	12	8
Norwich C.	7	2	3	2	16	10	7
Chelsea.	7	2	2	3	15	13	6
Southampton.	7	3	0	4	18	6	6
Leicester C.	8	3	0	5	11	18	6
Peterborough.	8	1	4	3	7	15	6
Plymouth.	8	2	1	5	6	10	5
Swansea Tn.	9	1	3	5	12	25	5
Bristol C.	5	2	0	3	7	9	4
Northampton.	5	2	0	3	5	10	4
Walsall.	6	1	1	4	12	18	3
Bournemouth.	7	0	3	4	7	15	3
Luton Tn.	8	1	1	6	8	28	3
Reading.	8	1	1	6	5	27	3
Swindon Tn.	6	0	0	6	2	14	0

## SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE

Ipswich Tn.	12	11	1	0	45	7	23
Millwall.	12	11	1	0	56	15	23
Orient.	12	8	4	0	42	17	20
Q.P.R.	13	7	4	2	27	16	18
Crystal Pal.	13	8	0	5	37	26	16
Colchester.	13	6	1	6	21	28	13
Tottenham.	12	5	2	5	24	14	12
Charlton A.	11	4	4	3	22	14	12
Chelsea.	13	5	2	6	25	27	12
West Ham.	13	4	4	5	16	26	12
Fulham.	12	4	2	6	15	20	10
Reading.	13	3	4	6	17	40	10
Luton Tn.	13	3	3	7	24	34	9
Brighton.	13	3	1	9	17	29	7
<b>GILLINGHAM</b>	11	3	1	7	8	19	7
Watford.	12	1	2	9	14	43	4
Oxford U.	12	0	2	10	5	40	2



Goal number four for Gillingham as Mel Machin beats Phillips with his spot kick. P5393



A TOUCH of head the ball from two Shrewsbury defenders with Bill Williams an interested onlooker.



# Memories are made of this



NOW get those brains working overtime again, for here is another team picture of the 20s which has been submitted by 70-year-old Len Matthias, of Hamilton Road, Gillingham, a Gills' supporter for 60 years. Who were they? Incidentally, I'd welcome photographs from later decades, up to the 50s.



## Match day —this time for love

TO 21-year-old Carl Gilbert, a match usually means wearing the Gillingham colours and tearing round a soccer pitch.

This Saturday, however, the inside-forward will be appearing in another sort of "match"—at St. Martin's Church, Canterbury. The occasion: His marriage to 19-year-old Canterbury bank clerk Miss Joyce Adams.

The couple (seen left) have been busy this week decorating their home in Alexander Road, Gillingham.

WOW! I have been absolutely inundated with pictures and information about the Gillingham of yesteryear since publishing a photograph of an old Gills team last week.

There is an awesome pile of pictures and letters on my desk waiting to be sifted. But please don't stop sending them in. By sheer weight of numbers you have proved there is a tremendous amount of interest in the history of Gillingham.

Last week, if you remember, there was the picture of a team from the 1920's belonging to Arthur Gilbert, of St. Leonard's Avenue, Chatham. Arthur, a 61-year-old, knew the players but could not remember the name of the manager.

Well, every letter bar one gives the manager's name as S. McMillan who, apparently, did not last too long in that position.

Two readers have been able to throw some light on the club at that time—1921/22.

James Spearpoint (73), of Rochester Road, Chatham, said when he called in to see me he thought McMillan lasted about a year at a time when managers were coming and going at regular intervals.

Reginald Sayer, of Alexander Avenue, Gillingham, writes to say that McMillan's son, Stan, made 19 appearances, mainly on the wing or at inside-forward, in the 1921-22 season.

The team sheet usually read: Branfield or J. Thompson; Marshall, Robertson or Sissons; Needham, Waugh, McAlpine or J. N. Thompson or Wakefield; Battiste, Freeman, Wood, Howard or Cassell, Hall or Travers, Waterall or McMillan.

Reginald goes on to say the team finished 18th of the 22 clubs in Division Three South that year.

Reginald ends his letter by saying: "May I also say a very belated but big thank you to George Russell for his match commentaries on Gillingham during my stay in hospital."

Back to Mr. Spearpoint for a moment who has many memories of football both at national and local level.

He still travels around the country whenever he can, watching soccer. One of his recent trips was to Sunderland.

● The man who started the correspondence, Arthur Gilbert, gives the Gillingham team in last week's photograph as—from left to right (back row): Syms, Lee, Branfield, Robinson, Reay, Baxter. Front row: McMillan, Battiste, Needham, Wood, Hall, Chance, Webster.

In his younger days Arthur played for the Rochester League team of St. Peter's Guild and was a member of the team that played in the first Quarter Century Cup—and won it.

● More news on the picture comes from Percy Jackman, of Wood Street, Brompton, who says the only local man in the team was Jack Branfield. Trainer was Jim Kennedy.



JAMES SPEARPOINT



# Basil Hayward's Own Column



## RESULTS HAVE GONE WELL FOR 'CHERRIES'

Tomorrow sees us at the start of a very tough away programme with our visit to Bournemouth who must now be playing with a lot of confidence and enthusiasm, having taken full advantage of an excessive number of home matches at the start of the season. Results have gone well for the "Cherries" they are now in the top spot.

Naturally, a team in this position will be hard to dislodge with the players picking up the maximum incentives. And the lads will have to play really hard if we are going to come away with a favourable result.

I am hoping that we can get over the attack of gastric 'flu which prevails among clubs at this time of the season and which we have already had our taste of.

Bill Williams managed to overcome an attack last weekend, Andy Smillie suffered with it at the beginning of this week and Derek Woodley went down with it on Wednesday.

We are, however, hoping it will not be too severe and that Derek will be able to play tomorrow.

### RUGGED OPPOSITION

Last Saturday's result was a particularly pleasing one in that the boys kept reasonably calm and eventually, by play-

ing good football, they managed to overcome the very rugged opposition.

This, I feel, was brought about by the extra strain put on everyone concerned at Shrewsbury and shows the dangerous state of affairs that can arise when a side is going through a lean spell.

This applies particularly when a side is not a naturally hard one and the result is that the physical pressures can lead to a lot of pettiness which must be very degrading for a manager.

On Saturday, I had a great deal of sympathy for Harry Gregg who must have been horrified to see the outcome of these pressures, brought about largely through the club's early exit from the F.A. Cup at Port Vale five days earlier.



A second-half incident at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday as Shrewsbury clear, with Brian Yeo and Andy Smillie in attendance.



# CRUCIAL WEEK-END FOR GILLS



BILL WILLIAMS

THIS week-end will be one of the most crucial Gillingham has had to face this season. Today (Friday) Bill Williams goes before the Football League's Disciplinary Committee and tomorrow (Saturday) the Gills travel to Bournemouth to take on a team that has given the seaside club one of its most successful runs in recent history.

Gillingham's 26-year-old pivot has asked for a personal hearing and, whatever the outcome,

he will be in the line-up tomorrow. If the committee decides to suspend him, it is likely to come into operation from Monday which could, of course, mean him being out of the side for the second round F.A. Cup match at Luton the following week.

Though Williams nor manager Basil Hayward, who will be travelling with him to London today, could comment this week, the centre half is believed to have called for the hearing as he disagrees with the referee's decision to send him off the field following an incident with Reading's goalkeeper on Friday 4 October.

Other shocks for Gillingham came this week with the news that the team had been hit by a bout of 'flu and that this could

keep Derek Woodley, Gillingham's most menacing raider, out of the team for tomorrow.

Woodley looked a doubtful starter earlier this week when it was feared he would not recover from an ankle injury he sustained against Shrewsbury on Saturday. But on Wednesday, though the injury looked like mending — he went down with the attack of 'flu that has already hit two other Gillingham players.

Bill Williams had a mild attack of it at the week-end but managed to play on Saturday and then earlier this week Andy Smillie had to take to his bed — though he too has recovered.

Another "casualty" for the Gills is David Quirke who has been laid up in bed with glandular trouble.

Mr. Hayward is, however, hoping that all of his 13-strong first squad will be fit for this tough clash with high-riding Bournemouth who incidentally, have not lost against Gillingham for over two seasons.

Last year they held the Gills to a goalless draw at Priestfield Stadium and canded them 4-0 at home.

But Gillingham's spate of wins lately could give them the confidence to put up a tremendous fight that might be just enough to cause an upset against the team now managed by Gillingham's old boss Freddie Cox.

A fair band of supporters should be with them to see how things go as the Blue and Whites are taking reservations for seats on the special bus they are running to the match. Tickets can be obtained at the ground between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. tonight.

The B. & W's are also arranging for special coaches for the Luton match and seats on these can be reserved at the same time.

In fact, chairman Mr. Harold France and his colleagues have four sets of tickets on sale consecutively. For they are also dealing with nine shilling stand tickets for Luton and, as an added attraction for parents, they have bought the whole of the first house for "Snow White and the Seven Musical Dwarfs" — the puppet pantomime being put on by Chatham Council at the Central Hall for opening night 23 December. These are being sold at a special low rate of four shillings.

Attraction at Priestfield Stadium tomorrow (Saturday) will be the visit of unbeaten West Ham United for a Football Combination fixture. In the morning the Youths entertain Q.P.R. in a South East Counties League match.

## WHERE THE GILLS ARE

### DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth	18	11	3	4	31	13	25
Swindon Tn.	18	11	3	4	30	15	25
Watford	19	10	5	4	24	12	25
Barrow	19	11	3	5	32	25	25
Stockport	19	9	6	4	32	25	24
Luton	18	10	3	5	32	17	23
Torquay	20	10	3	7	29	21	23
Tranmere	19	10	3	6	28	24	23
Plymouth	20	8	5	7	22	19	21
Reading	19	7	5	7	28	23	19
Rotherham	19	6	7	6	22	23	19
Northampton	18	6	6	6	20	22	18
Barnsley	20	5	8	7	23	28	16
GILLINGHAM	19	7	3	9	29	28	17
Southport	19	7	3	9	32	34	17
Orient	18	5	7	6	23	17	17
Walsall	20	4	9	7	19	23	17
Hartlepool	19	4	9	6	15	29	17
Mansfield	19	6	4	9	25	26	16
Bristol R.	19	6	4	9	30	36	16
Brighton	20	5	5	10	26	34	15
Shrewsbury	19	5	4	10	16	29	14
Crewe	18	4	5	9	24	34	13
Oldham A.	18	2	3	13	12	37	7

### FOOTBALL COMBINATION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tottenham	7	7	0	0	25	1	14
Arsenal	8	5	3	0	19	5	13
Q.P.R.	8	5	3	0	25	11	13
Crystal Pal.	8	6	1	1	12	7	13
Fulham	7	6	0	1	23	8	12
West Ham	8	3	5	0	16	8	11
Bristol R.	8	3	3	2	21	13	9
Ipswich Tn.	8	4	1	3	8	10	9
GILLINGHAM	8	4	0	4	18	12	8
Birmingham	7	3	2	2	6	7	8
Cardiff C.	7	3	2	2	11	12	8
Oxford U.	8	2	3	2	10	7	7
Norwich C.	7	2	2	3	15	13	6
Chelsea	7	3	0	4	18	6	6
Southampton	8	3	0	5	11	18	6
Leicester C.	8	1	4	3	7	15	6
Peterborough	8	2	1	5	6	10	5
Plymouth	9	1	3	5	12	25	5
Swansea Tn.	9	2	1	6	8	27	5
Reading	5	2	0	3	7	9	4
Bristol C.	5	2	0	3	5	10	4
Northampton	6	1	1	4	12	18	3
Walsall	7	0	3	4	7	13	3
Bournemouth	8	1	1	6	5	21	3
Luton Tn.	6	0	0	6	2	19	0
Swindon Tn.	6	0	0	6	2	19	0

## ROLL CALL

Aug. 10	Tranmere	A	0-2		
14	ORIENT*	H	2-2	5,988	Quirk (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	Williams
Sept. 7	Torquay	A	0-2		
14	BRIGHTON	H	5-0	4,445	Gilbert (2), Yeo (2), Woodley
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	2-3		Yeo (2)
9	ROTHERHAM	H	2-0	5,525	Gilbert, Yeo
12	STOCKPORT	H	0-0	5,314	Riddick
19	Bristol Rovers	A	1-5		Riddick
26	PLYMOUTH	H	1-0	5,170	T. Simpson
Nov. 2	Watford	A	1-2		Yeo
5	Northampton	A	1-0		Smillie, Yeo (2)
9	WALSALL	H	4-0	4,857	Riddick
16	Orient†	A	1-1		Smillie
20	ORIENT†	H	2-1	9,563	Riddick (2)
23	SHREWSBURY	H	4-1	5,270	Simpson, Riddick, Yeo, Machin (pen.)
30	Bournemouth	A	0-2		
Dec. 7	Luton†	A			
13	Stockport	A			

\* League Cup.

† F.A. Cup.

Appearances to date, including League Cup: Bailey 13, Bellotti 19, Folds 1 and 1 as sub., Gibbs 7, Gilbert 9, Green 22, Machin 22, Meredith 23, Quirke 11 and 2 as sub., Riddick 20 and 1 as sub., J. Simpson 4, T. Simpson 21 and 2 as sub., Smillie 6, Thear 3, Weston 7, Williams 23, Woodley 23, Yeo 10.

Goalscorers: Yeo 11, Riddick 6, Woodley 4, T. Simpson 3, Gilbert 3, Smillie 2, Quirke 2, Williams 1, Machin 1, Gibbs 1.

Record, including League Cup and F.A. Cup: P. 23, W. 8, D. 5, L. 10, F. 34, A. 35.



## Hayward



answers  
the Post

## Youth is the key to reserve strength

**Q** It seems that the first team have turned the corner and are on the way up the table. But what is the strength behind the first team? How large and of what quality are the reserve and youth teams and what is being done to improve the club's playing strength?

**A** We have got a young reserve side now because I believe this is the only way. They are much younger than most second sides. We are always looking around to strengthen them.

The youth team are run at a far lower age range than other teams in the league. The average age is only 15 to 16, which is very low.

This is to try and get something a bit better than usual. If they are about 17 then I think they should be in the reserves.

I feel it is no good a reserve or youth team winning a competition. If this happens it points to the fact that players in the team should be playing for the next team up.

When it comes to getting hold of new players I know in my own mind what the club needs and I go out and look for the player.

At the moment we have 18 professionals and five apprentices — the other players are all amateurs, including all the youth team.

They are mostly players who have asked for a trial or players we have seen in local schools football.

# Woodley the only doubt

PROVIDED Derek Woodley has recovered from gastric trouble which prevented him training yesterday, Gillingham will be unchanged for tomorrow's visit to Third Division leaders Bournemouth, who have conceded only two goals in home matches.

This means that Ray Bailey continues in the number 12 role and the Gillingham squad will present a "different" look to Bournemouth manager Fred Cox.

Since Cox moved from Gillingham back to Bournemouth he has been accustomed to seeing many of the Gillingham players he had with him at the Stadium.

In tomorrow's Gillingham side, however, there are only three players who served under Cox at Gillingham — Brian Yeo, Tony Weston and John Meredith.

Bournemouth have been loaned Arsenal's 20-year-old

attack leader David Simmons, who makes his debut against the Gills. But they are without the injured Tommy Naylor and make their final choice from 12.

Meanwhile Gillingham manager Basil Hayward was leaving Gillingham early today to drive the first leg of a 400-mile round trip to Stockport, where he will watch the County play Luton tonight.

Hayward's interest in Luton is that Gillingham meet them next Saturday in the F.A. Cup, and in Stockport that they provide Gillingham's League opposition the following week.

Hayward arrives home in the early hours of the morning and will snatch a few hours' sleep and then set off on the 200-mile round trip to Bournemouth.



## Teams

**Bournemouth** (from) Jones; White, Miller, Gates, Stocks, Bolton, Bumstead, Pound, East, Simmons, Hold, Peters.

**Gillingham:** Bellotti; Weston Green, Simpson, Williams, Machin, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie, Meredith. Sub. Bailey.

Gillingham Reserves are at home to West Ham Reserves. Team (from) J. Simpson; Chapman, Simmons, Ribbens, Arnott, Gough, Quirke, Osbourn, Harrison, Bray, Folds, Peach, Tydeman.

Carl Gilbert is getting married tomorrow.



## The latest league tables

### THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth	18	11	3	4	31	13	25
Swindon Town	18	11	3	4	30	15	25
Watford	19	10	5	4	24	12	25
Barrow	19	11	3	5	32	25	25
Stockport City	19	9	6	4	32	25	24
Luton Town	18	10	3	5	32	17	23
Tranmere Rovers	19	10	3	6	28	24	23
Torquay Utd.	20	10	3	7	29	21	23
Plymouth Arg.	20	8	5	7	22	19	21
Reading	19	7	8	7	28	23	19
Rotherham Utd.	19	6	7	6	23	23	19
Northampton	18	6	6	6	20	22	18
Barnsley	20	5	8	7	23	28	18
Gillingham	19	7	3	9	29	28	17
Southport	19	7	3	9	32	34	17
Orient	18	5	7	6	23	27	17
Walsall	20	4	9	7	19	23	17
Hartlepool	19	4	9	6	18	29	17
Mansfield Tn.	19	6	4	9	23	26	16
Bristol Rovers	19	6	4	9	20	36	16
Brighton	20	5	8	10	16	29	14
Shrewsbury	19	5	4	10	16	24	13
Crawley Alex.	18	4	5	9	24	34	13
Oldham Ath.	18	2	3	13	12	37	7

### FOOTBALL COMBINATION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tottenham	7	7	0	0	25	1	14
Arsenal	8	5	3	0	19	6	13
Q.P.R.	8	5	3	0	25	11	13
Crystal Pal.	8	6	1	1	12	7	13
Fulham	7	6	0	1	23	8	12
West Ham	8	3	5	0	16	8	11
Bristol R.	7	6	1	1	18	11	11
Ipawich Tn.	8	3	3	2	21	13	9
Gillingham	8	4	1	3	8	10	9
Birmingham	8	4	0	4	18	12	8
Cardiff C.	7	3	2	2	6	7	8
Oxford U.	7	3	2	2	11	12	8
Norwich C.	7	2	3	2	10	10	7
Chelsea	7	2	2	3	15	13	6
Southampton	7	3	0	4	10	6	6
Leicester C.	8	3	0	5	11	18	6
Peterboro'	8	1	4	3	7	15	6
Plymouth	8	2	1	5	6	10	5
Swansea Tn.	9	1	3	5	12	25	5
Bristol C.	5	2	0	3	7	9	4
Northampton	5	2	0	3	5	10	4
Walsall	6	1	1	4	12	18	3
Bournemouth	7	0	8	4	7	15	3
Gillingham	8	1	1	6	8	28	3
Reading	8	1	1	6	5	27	3
Swindon Tn.	6	0	0	6	2	14	0



## GOOD START IMPORTANT TO ANY TEAM

Looking through the Football League tables, I was struck by the uneven number of home and away matches played in the Third and Fourth Divisions as compared with the First and Second Divisions.

In the top two divisions, where the number of matches played is even, you find that the number played home and away are equal but this is far from the case in the other two divisions, some teams having played as many as three more home games than they have played away.

This, to my mind, gives them a false position in the table. I know over the season as a whole it evens itself out but I would think there could possibly be a psychological advantage in this apart from the fans having to wait sometimes three weeks for a home game.

Surely, if the top two divisions can have their fixtures home and away on alternate weeks, it could be done for the lower division.

The "Gills," for instance, started this season with six of their first nine League games away and presumably other teams had the reverse situation, thus giving them a much better chance of making a good start to the season which is most important to any team.

Look at the "Gills" fixture list for March 1969, and you will find that they are due to play 8 games in 29 days, plus games that quite possibly were postponed earlier because of adverse weather conditions.

This situation is also carried on into April when 6 matches are scheduled to be played in 16 days. Why can't more evening games be played and spread over the season instead of cramming them into the last few weeks of the season?

I know the Football League Cup and F.A. Cup matches slightly disrupt the fixtures but certain dates are already set aside for the earlier rounds of these competitions and still there are midweek "gaps" which could be used.

I understand the fixture lists are produced by computer these days, so perhaps it got overheated working out the top two divisions properly and went a bit haywire on the other two divisions!

MR. T. J. MATTHIAS  
55, Sunnymead Avenue,  
Gillingham.

# How fans can help the Gills

GILLINGHAM'S Blue and White Association are making all-out attempts to increase membership and fund raising capabilities, writes STEVE BISHOP.

At recent home games the association's team of Blue and White Mini Girls have been asking people for their names and addresses and a few days later a form is sent to them explaining how they can help the soccer club.

The letter says "From your presence, it is obvious you must have a genuine interest in the parent club and we are sure that given the opportunity you could assist us in a very minor way.

## START OF MAJOR DRIVE TO RAISE THAT VITAL CASH

"It is a fact that the attendances at the stadium are insufficient to afford anything in the way of extras such as the purchase of new players, better spectator facilities, etc.

"So we as an association are determined to help more in this direction — but only with your assistance can we attain the success for which we strive.

"We shall from time to time be fund-raising in various ways and would be more than grateful if you would kindly indicate your willingness to help or

otherwise."

The supporter is then asked to fill in the form starting whether he would like to help the association and if so in what way.

Harold France, chairman of the association, said that scores of supporters had been contacted and he was hoping for a very favourable reaction.

● The Gills' first team are away to Stockport County in the Third Division tomorrow night (7.30 kick-off). The reserves are at home to Walsall in a Football Combination match on Saturday.

## MORE CASH SOON FOR THE GILLS?

GILLINGHAM Football Club Supporters Association are determined to boost their weekly donation to the parent club. At the moment the figure is £100 a week from their pools account.

The association's executive committee devoted an entire meeting recently to discussing ways and means of improving the daily draw and instant jackpot schemes.

It was eventually decided

to ask the 100 or so agents for their suggestions and comments on a new ticket which would be in the form of a bingo card and would replace the daily draw.

But the committee plan to retain the instant jackpot and the I.O.U.

The association have long been dissatisfied with the amount of money they are giving the parent club and have frequently appealed for supporters to come forward to act as agents.





A melee in the Gillingham goalmouth at Bournemouth on Saturday. S.73

# MACHIN CUP SHOCK

THE postponement of Bill Williams' personal hearing on Friday brought a note of optimism to the Gills this week as he will now be turning out for the team in their vital second round F.A. Cup-tie at Luton tomorrow (Saturday). But the problems have changed as Mel Machin is not likely to be fit enough for selection.

He was helped off the field after a collision with Bournemouth's East on Saturday and yesterday (Thursday) the knee injury he sustained had not improved enough for manager Basil Hayward to seriously consider him for Saturday.

Ray Bailey and David Quirke, who have been sitting on the sidelines for some weeks, are bound to come in the reckoning as they are part of the Gills' manager's 13-strong first team squad.

But, although Bailey had a short spell in the team when he replaced Machin on Saturday, David Quirke has had an uphill fight trying to get over a bout of glandular trouble.

He left his sick-bed at the beginning of the week and he has been having a full day's concentrated training every day this week to build up his strength.

"He has been working hard and he should be ready for selection," said Mr. Hayward.

Tomorrow will be particularly big day for the Gills' skipper, Gordon Riddick, who will be

going back to his old club in an entirely new role.

When he came from Luton, Riddick was predominantly an attacking wing-half but manager Hayward has successfully converted him into a striker and, although he had an off day against Bournemouth, he could be among the goalscorers to create an upset against the high-flying Herts club.

Luton will, however, provide tough opposition in more than one way. They have the reputation of being a rugged, hard-hitting side and caused something of a stir with their approach to the Stockport meeting last Friday when they went down 2-0.

But Gillingham have shown they are capable of outplaying such opposition and, although they went down 1-3 to them at Priestfield Stadium earlier this season, they have changed a lot since then.

Apart from Riddick's switch, Tony Weston is back in the team and this has given Mr. Hayward the scope to use Terry Simpson in a much more constructive role at wing half. This he has shown he can do to devastating effect.

The Gills also have Andy Smillie in the side and he can prove to be a midfield or striking threat to any defence when the ball is running right.

In spite of the defeat at

Bournemouth on Saturday, Gillingham have the potential talent to play fast, open football and, if they can contain Luton's front runners, they must be in with a chance and might even bring off a good away win.

The Gills will certainly not be lacking in support either as, according to bookings now being taken by the two supporters' organizations, the Supporters' Association and the Blue and Whites, several coach loads of people will be taking off for Luton tomorrow morning.

The Blue and Whites have high hopes of filling four

coaches and the Supporters say they are expecting three or four coachloads of their members to be at the game. This is quite apart from the many people likely to make the trip by train or car.

Seats may be booked with the Supporters' Association during the day at the Gordon Road headquarters, Priestfield Stadium, and the office will be open between 7.30 p.m. and 9 p.m. today.

The office will also be open for booking arrangements tomorrow morning from 9.10 a.m. The Blue and Whites office is open tonight from 6 to 8 p.m.

## NEW 'KEEPER

Two players have joined Luton, managed by former Scotland and Blackpool forward Allan Brown, since they inflicted a 3-1 defeat on the Gills at Priestfield Stadium in August.

Former Scotland Under-23 goalkeeper, Sandy Davie, from Dundee United has replaced Tony Read and at wing-half is Jack Bannister, who joined the club from Crystal Palace.

Expected to return to the side after several weeks' absence with a knee injury is full-back, Fred Jardine.

Luton's top goalscorer is Brian Lewis, a close season signing and who forms a dangerous twin spearhead with the experienced Laurie Sheffield.

Luton are expected to select their side from: Davie; Dougan, Jardine, McDerment; Slough, Branstorn, Bannister; French, Lewis, Sheffield, Allen, Roach and Harrison.

## WHERE THE GILLS ARE

### DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B'mouth	19	12	3	4	33	13	27
Walsall	20	10	6	4	24	12	26
Stockport	20	10	6	4	24	25	26
Swindon	18	11	3	4	30	15	25
Barrow	19	11	3	5	32	25	25
Tranmere	20	11	3	6	32	26	25
Torquay	21	10	4	7	29	21	24
Luton	19	10	3	6	32	19	23
Plymouth	20	8	5	7	24	20	23
Reading	19	7	6	7	32	24	21
North'ton	21	5	9	7	23	23	19
Walsall	20	6	7	7	22	24	19
Rotherham	21	5	8	8	24	37	18
Bristol R.	21	5	8	8	24	37	18
Barnsley	20	7	3	10	29	36	17
Mansfield	20	6	5	9	26	37	17
Southport	19	5	7	10	33	31	16
Orient	20	4	9	7	17	33	16
Hartlepool	19	5	5	9	25	34	15
Crewe	19	5	5	9	25	34	15
Brighton	20	5	11	26	38	15	15
Shrewsbury	19	2	3	14	13	41	7
Oldham A	19	2	3	14	13	41	7

### FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Fulham	9	8	0	1	28	9	16
Q. P. R.	9	6	3	0	26	11	15
Tottenham	8	7	0	1	25	3	14
Arsenal	8	5	3	0	19	5	13
Crystal Pal.	9	6	1	2	13	9	13
West Ham	9	3	6	0	17	9	12
Bristol R.	8	5	1	2	18	14	11
Oxford U.	9	4	2	3	9	11	10
GILLINGHAM	8	4	2	2	13	13	10
Ipswich Tr.	8	3	3	4	21	6	8
South'ton	8	4	0	4	21	6	8
Norwich C.	9	2	4	2	18	12	8
Birmingham	9	4	0	5	18	13	8
Chelsea	8	3	2	3	17	13	8
Cardiff C.	8	3	2	3	16	12	8
Leicester C.	9	4	0	5	16	20	8
Swansea T.	10	2	3	5	16	26	7
Peterborough	8	1	4	3	7	15	6
Plymouth	8	2	1	6	6	10	5
Reading	8	2	1	6	8	27	5
Bristol C.	5	2	0	3	7	9	4
North'ton	7	2	0	5	7	17	4
Luton Tr.	5	1	2	6	10	30	4
Walsall	6	1	1	4	12	18	3
Bournemouth	8	0	3	5	9	20	3
Swindon T.	7	0	0	7	2	27	0

## Cup query on Bill Williams

BILL WILLIAMS, kingpin of Gillingham's defence, has not broken his arm. But whether or not he will be fit in time for Saturday's second round F.A. Cup tie at Luton is a different matter.

An X-ray taken yesterday showed that when Williams fell on to a wall in the match against Bournemouth on Saturday, he did not crack anything, but that he badly bruised an arm.

He will be receiving special treatment all this week along with Mel Machin, who got an injured knee. Williams' personal hearing before the Football League's Disciplinary Committee on Friday was put off because a witness could not attend. The Gills' man was sent off at Reading on October 4.

The reserves' home game against Bristol City this Saturday has been postponed.

## Williams' hearing postponed

GILLINGHAM manager — Basil Hayward — said yesterday (Monday) that both Bill Williams and Mel Machin were receiving treatment for injuries received at Bournemouth on Saturday.

Williams injured his arm when he collided with railings at the back of the goal and Machin has a knee injury.

While the Gills' boss was satisfied with the build up of moves at Bournemouth he was quick to point out that there was a lack of striking power.

"Our football was fairly good but we did not have the striking power in the penalty box when it was needed.

"Machin's penalty miss came at a vital time when a goal might have swung the game in our favour. We should have had a penalty for a blatant handball by Miller in the second-half — this was also at a time when we were playing well," he said. Because a linesman was

unable to attend, Bill Williams' personal hearing before the Football League's Disciplinary Committee, scheduled for last Friday, was postponed and now the club are waiting for another date.

Williams received marching orders in the Gills' match at Reading when he was involved in an incident with the Reading goalkeeper.

Supporters are reminded that tomorrow is the last day that stand tickets for Saturday's F.A. Cup-tie at Luton will be available at Priestfield Stadium. Nine-shilling tickets can be obtained during office hours or between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Coaches to Luton have also been arranged.

Gillingham Reserves' home match with Bristol City on Saturday has been postponed. The youth team will visit Dunstable that day for their F.A. Youth Cup — first round — match.



# MISTAKES PROVED COSTLY

GILLINGHAM'S revival hopes took a jolt on Saturday when they found themselves swamped by the power play Bournemouth served up almost from the kick-off. But, although it was a virtually predictable defeat for the Gills, the outlook is not as grim as one would think.

For they could have picked up at least a point but for a series of totally out-of-character mistakes. And these can easily be rectified if Gillingham can retain the right kind of discipline to re-establish their confidence.

Apart from their two first-half goals, Bournemouth had to make do with a handful of near-misses. But Gillingham, too, had their chances and they came at such vital times in the match that they could have meant an entirely different scoreline had they been taken.

The first, for instance, came less than a minute after Bournemouth had taken the lead through POUND in the fifth minute. Almost from the re-start the ball came into the penalty area for Gordon Riddick to glance the ball in to Brian Yeo.

But, although the move was one of the neatest of the day and completely bemused the Bournemouth south defenders, keeper Roger Jones cheated the Gills by snatching Yeo's header out of the air.

This was followed up by another slick move that saw Terry Simpson slamming the ball goalwards only for it to be deflected to safety. And then came the biggest miss of the match in the eighth minute.

Gillingham seemed certain to come to terms when the referee pointed at the penalty spot but Mel Machin had to stand and watch flabbergasted as Jones flung himself to his right to hold the low spot kick.

And it was Jones, — along with the other defenders, — who played a big part in the tactics that had Gillingham under so much pressure. For, apart from his indisputable ability, the young keeper showed what a big kicker he is by frequently lifting the ball high into Gillingham's penalty area. He also threw it, incidentally, over the half way line several times.

Gillingham often found themselves struggling in the face of this kind of distribution. All too often, however, it was left to big Bill Williams to deal with them as well as the fast raids which came from the back and should have been cut out well beforehand.

No-one worked harder than the Gills' pivot who played his heart out trying to stem the flood of attacks Bournemouth mounted.

When he wasn't shadowing one — or even two — of Boscombe's front runners, he was racing out to the wing to plug one or other of the holes the Gills had in the back rank or flinging himself at the countless crosses they were allowed to put in.

By far the most active man in the Gillingham squad, apart perhaps from Derek Bellotti and Terry Simpson, — Williams should have been remembering this as one of his finest games since coming to Priestfield Stadium. But two incidents will obviously leave him with a sick feeling whenever he thinks of it.

For he "gave" Bournemouth their second goal in the 40th minute and was booked just before half-time.

## TWICE CLEARED

No-one could really blame him for the goal as Bournemouth's pressure was such that they were bound to increase their lead. And in this instance, Williams did everything he could to ward off the onslaught and was right in the thick of the melee which saw the ball twice cleared.

# COSTLY

## Bournemouth 2, Gillingham 0

But, as a terrific shot bounced off Bellotti, the centre-half had no option but to try and head it over. The spinning ball was, however, virtually impossible to control and Williams' header failed to carry which meant SIMMONS was able to nip in and push it home.

The referee was perfectly justified in taking his name a few minutes later when he kicked East, but this incident too must have come, one suspects, from Williams' frustration at his colleagues.

For he had little alternative but to try a desperate tackle on East after he broke clear when Derek Woodley foolishly passed back only a few yards from his own line on the wing and presented East with his chance.

But with all the flaws which Bournemouth, on several occasions, only just failed to cash in on, Gillingham still insisted on playing good football.

They had little chance to in the first half with burly Simmons showing just why managers like Basil Hayward want him on their books. But, after the change-round, hard-working Terry Simpson managed to set up the kind of raids that put Bournemouth back in their defensive shell.

Woodley teamed up well with him and provided Bournemouth with their great-

est threat, though frequently he spoilt good efforts by trying to do too much or squaring the ball too flat for Riddick or Yeo to pick up.

Bournemouth got off lightly when a hand-ball by Ralph Miller in the box was waved on by the referee but, even though Gillingham pushed them back, the Seaside's always looked threatening.

In the 77th minute they were

unlucky not to be allowed a goal when Hold was given off-side after they had completely flat-footed Gillingham with a free-kick on the edge of the box.

**Bournemouth:** Jones; White, Miller; Gates; Stocks; Bolton; Bumstead; Pound, Simmons, East, Peters (Hold).  
**Gillingham:** Bellotti; Weston, Green; Simpson; Williams, Machin (Baker); Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smalls, Meredith.

No 24  
H.T. 2-0  
attend:



A close call for Gillingham as burly David Simmons, on two months' loan to Bournemouth from Arsenal, dives to connect. Gillingham pivot Bill Williams puts in a tremendous effort to lunge forward and push the ball over the line. The effort, however, cost Williams a momentary injury as he and Simmons crashed into the railings. S.72



David Simmons makes it 2-0 for Bournemouth with this opportunist goal after terrific pressure on the Gills' line. S.71

## WHERE THE GILLS ARE

### DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth	19	12	3	4	33	13	27
Watford	20	10	6	4	24	12	26
Stockport	20	10	6	4	24	12	26
Swindon	18	11	6	1	24	12	25
Barrow	19	11	3	5	32	25	25
Tranmere	20	11	3	6	32	26	25
Torquay	21	10	4	7	29	21	24
Luton	19	10	3	6	22	19	22
Plymouth	21	9	3	7	24	20	21
Reading	20	8	5	7	32	24	21
Northampton	19	7	6	6	23	23	20
Walsall	21	7	6	7	23	19	19
Rotherham	20	6	7	7	23	24	19
Bristol R.	20	7	4	9	32	37	18
Barnsley	21	5	8	8	24	31	18
GILLINGHAM	20	7	1	12	13	37	17
Mansfield	20	6	5	9	29	27	17
Southport	20	7	3	10	30	36	17
Oxford	19	5	7	8	24	29	17
Grimsby	20	4	7	9	27	34	15
Hartlepool	19	5	5	9	27	34	15
Crewe	19	5	5	9	27	34	15
Brighton	21	3	5	11	26	38	15
Shrewsbury	20	3	5	11	26	38	15
Oldham A	19	2	3	14	13	41	7

### FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Q.P.R.	9	6	3	0	26	11	13
Tottenham	8	7	0	1	25	3	14
Fulham	8	7	0	1	25	8	14
Arsenal	8	6	3	1	19	5	17
Crystal Pal.	9	6	3	0	17	9	12
West Ham	9	3	6	0	17	9	12
Bristol R.	8	5	1	2	18	14	13
Oxford	9	4	2	3	9	11	11
GILLINGHAM	8	4	2	2	13	13	10
Spawich T.	8	3	3	2	21	13	10
South'pton	8	4	0	4	21	8	9
Norwich C.	9	2	4	2	18	12	8
Birmingham	9	2	0	5	13	13	8
Cardiff C.	7	3	2	2	8	7	8
Leicester C.	9	4	0	5	16	20	8
Swansea Tn.	10	2	3	5	16	26	7
Chelsea	7	2	2	3	12	13	6
Peterborough	8	4	0	7	17	13	6
Plymouth	8	3	1	5	6	10	5
Reading	9	2	1	6	8	27	5
Bristol C.	5	2	0	5	7	9	4
Northampton	6	2	0	4	6	14	4
Luton Tn.	9	1	2	6	10	30	4
Walsall	6	1	1	4	12	18	3
Bournemouth	8	0	3	5	9	20	3
Swindon T.	7	0	0	7	2	17	0

### SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE

Spawich Tn.	13	11	2	0	46	8	24
Millwall	13	11	2	0	37	16	24
Orient U.	12	8	4	0	42	17	20
Q.P.R.	13	8	4	0	37	16	18
Crystal Pal.	13	8	0	5	37	26	18
Tottenham	13	6	2	5	29	15	14
Charlton A.	14	6	2	6	30	27	14
Chelsea	12	5	4	3	25	15	14
Colchester	14	6	1	1	21	36	13
West Ham	14	4	4	6	17	29	12
Reading	14	4	4	6	20	41	12
Fulham	12	4	2	6	15	20	10
Luton Tn.	14	3	3	8	25	26	10
Brighton	14	3	1	10	18	34	7
GILLINGHAM	12	3	1	8	8	20	7
Watford	13	2	2	9	15	45	5
Oxford U.	12	0	2	9	5	48	0



# Hayward



answers  
the Post

## Perils of life as a manager

Q Hardly a day goes by now when we do not read on the back page of the paper of a football manager being dismissed, being asked to resign or actually resigning. In these days of win at all costs, when soccer is no longer a game to play but a fight to win failure is not allowed. How do you feel as a manager and what made you take up this seemingly perilous job?

A It has its pressures, but it is a life I would not like to change.

I worked hard for the clubs I was with as a player, and I have worked even harder for the clubs I have been with as manager.

It gets a little worrying at times when you see some of the stunts that are being pulled. Sometimes a manager is at fault and has not done too well, but I would say that in the vast majority of cases it is the club who are to blame.

Most managers can cope with tremendous pressures, but the boards cannot.

I was 17 when I started playing football for a living, and from 17 to 30 football was a player's life. You give up many pleasures and make sacrifices and it is everything.

While you do not expect it to be your living after the age of 30, you are always hoping to stay in the game. You cannot change your affections just like that.

My wife has always been a bit worried about the situation, but nevertheless I am very lucky in that she accepts that I have to be far away for a lot of the time and she lets me get on with the job to the best of my ability.

I have a five-year-old son and I would not try to stop him from following in my footsteps if he has the ability, but certainly will not push him.

The key to the whole thing is loyalty and understanding between the players, the manager and the board. Once you have these and people realise the problems the others face, then you have a chance of getting somewhere.

## WHERE THE GILLS ARE

### DIVISION THREE

Bournemouth	19	12	3	4	33	13	27
Watford	20	9	8	5	34	13	26
Stockport	20	10	6	4	34	25	26
Swindon	18	11	3	4	30	15	25
Barrow	19	11	3	5	32	25	25
Tranmere	20	11	3	6	32	26	25
Torquay	21	10	4	7	29	21	24
Luton	19	10	3	6	32	19	23
Plymouth	21	9	5	5	34	20	23
Reading	20	8	5	7	32	24	21
Northampton	19	7	6	6	23	23	20
Walsall	21	5	6	7	23	19	19
Rotherham	20	7	7	7	22	24	19
Bristol R.	20	7	4	9	32	37	18
Barnsley	21	5	8	8	24	31	18
GILLINGHAM	20	7	3	10	29	30	17
Manfield	20	6	5	9	26	27	17
Southport	20	7	3	10	33	36	17
Orient	19	5	7	7	24	29	17
Hartlepool	20	4	8	7	17	23	17
Crews	19	5	5	9	25	34	15
Brighton	21	5	5	11	26	38	15
Shrewsbury	20	5	5	10	17	30	15
Oldham	19	2	3	14	13	41	7

### FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Q.P.R.	10	7	3	0	28	12	17
Tottenham	9	8	0	1	27	3	16
Fulham	9	8	0	1	28	9	16
Argente	9	8	3	0	22	6	15
Crystal Pal.	10	7	1	0	26	8	15
West Ham	10	6	5	0	18	9	14
Bristol R.	9	5	1	3	18	18	11
Southampton	9	5	0	4	22	6	10
Birmingham	10	5	0	5	22	13	10
Norwich C.	10	3	4	2	21	14	10
GILLINGHAM	8	4	2	2	15	13	10
Oxford U.	9	4	2	3	9	11	10
Ipswich Tn.	8	3	3	2	21	13	9
Chelsea	9	3	3	2	4	17	8
Cardiff C.	9	3	2	4	7	12	8
Leicester C.	9	4	0	5	16	20	8
Plymouth	9	3	1	5	8	10	7
Swansea T.	11	2	3	6	17	28	7
Peterborough	8	1	4	6	7	18	6
Reading	9	2	1	6	8	27	5
Bristol C.	5	2	0	3	7	9	4
Northampton	8	2	0	6	7	10	4
Luton Tn.	9	1	2	6	10	20	4
Walsall	7	1	1	5	12	19	3
Bournemouth	9	0	3	6	11	23	3
Swindon T.	8	0	6	8	2	20	0

### SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE

Ipswich Tn.	14	12	2	0	48	9	26
Millwall	14	12	2	0	43	17	26
Orient	13	9	4	0	44	17	22
Q.P.R.	14	8	4	2	32	17	20
Charlton	15	7	2	6	40	28	16
Crystal Pal.	14	8	0	6	37	28	16
Tottenham	14	6	2	6	30	17	14
Chelsea	13	5	4	4	26	18	14
Colchester	15	6	1	8	22	41	13
Fulham	13	5	2	6	27	21	12
West Ham	15	4	4	7	17	33	12
Reading	15	4	4	7	21	48	12
Luton Tn.	15	4	3	8	29	37	11
Watford	14	3	2	9	18	44	8
Brighton	15	1	1	11	19	40	7
GILLINGHAM	12	3	1	8	8	20	7
Oxford U.	13	0	2	11	6	42	2

## Luton—Jekyll and Hyde Club

MEASURE of the task faced by Gillingham in their tie at Luton on Saturday is that only one of 12 visiting teams — Bournemouth — have avoided defeat this season.

Luton at the moment, are very much a Jekyll and Hyde team. Their home form is impressive — they usually steamroller their way to victory by all-out attack — but their form on opponents' grounds is pathetic.

In seven of their nine away games, Luton have failed to score. And three of the four goals they have managed away from Kenilworth Road came at Gillingham in August.

This is the only time they have managed both points away from home.

Luton caused a shock today when they overlooked Laurie Sheffield, ex-Oldham, Rotherham, Norwich, Doncaster and Newport leader.

and Keith Allen, former Stockport utility player, for the centre forward spot and brought in Derbyshire cricketer Ian Buxton to lead the attack.

Mike Harrison, former Chelsea, Blackburn and Plymouth left winger, who has missed the last five matches with a strained thigh muscle, returns to outside left. But Freddie Jardine who was expected to return at left back, after six weeks absence with a twisted knee, has gone down with pleurisy.



Since Luton last met Gillingham, there have been two new signings at a cost of £16,000.

Sandy Davie, former Scottish under-23 goalkeeper, from Dundee United, has now taken over from Tony Read and Jack Bannister, the Crystal Palace wing-half, is also holding a regular place.

### Certain

One of Luton's major handicaps has been the injury to left-half John Moore, who has not played since September 18 because of torn ankle ligaments.

He is back in full training, but will not be considered for the team in which Bannister is near enough certain to keep his place.



FRED JARDINE

Max Dougan, who played at left-half in a 4-3-3 formation last Friday, bruised a thigh muscle, but there is not much doubt about him being fit.

Team. Davie, Dougan, McDerment, Bannister, Branston, Slough, French, Lewis, Buxton, Rloch, Harrison. Substitute to be announced.

## Basil Hayward's Own Column



## Satisfied viewer could become a paying supporter

ON Saturday at Bournemouth we all came away very disappointed at not gaining at least a point — but, then again, you don't expect to gain anything if you cannot take your chances.

The penalty was missed and you have got little or no chance of getting into the game, especially when you are away from home, if you don't snap up chances like this.

make this possible but I feel that if we as clubs were willing to provide a high platform then there would be much better presentation.

### SATISFIED VIEWER

There was also the incident when the referee failed to acknowledge a blatant handball in the penalty area which could have given us another opportunity to come to terms. But, as it was, we failed to come back and to get more striking power in the Bournemouth penalty area.

Watching the game on Southern Television on Sunday afternoon, however, brought home to me the need for clubs like ourselves to prepare for this kind of coverage.

The presentation was not as good as it should have been and this, I feel, was due to the low angle of the camera. If it had been higher I am sure we would have had a much better idea of the match. Third Division clubs do not have the kind of facilities to

At Gillingham, for instance, the ideal spot would be over the Gordon Road stand. I am sure that if our matches were televised properly then we could possibly encourage a satisfied viewer to become a paying supporter.

Once again we reach a crucial stage in the season tomorrow (Saturday) when we go to Luton for the second round of the cup. And, despite Saturday's setback, the lads will be doing their utmost to bring off a favourable result. They have the confidence and, of course, there will be the added incentive of knowing that the First Division clubs are coming into the Cup.

It is also a vital game for us all in that a good result will bring that much more interest from the supporters to take us over the Christmas period.





# MACHIN OUT

GILLINGHAM suffered a cup-tie eve blow today when wing-half Mel Machin was definitely ruled out as unfit for the tough clash at Luton tomorrow.

Machin, a vital mid-field link in Gillingham's 4-3-3 formation injured a knee in last week's League game at Bournemouth and has been fighting a losing battle to get fit all week.

"It's certainly a blow to our hopes," said manager Basil Hayward

this morning.

But the Gills' boss, who saw his cup opponents in action at Stockport last Friday, is quietly confident of forcing at least a replay at Priestfield Stadium on Wednesday evening.

"I fancy our chances with anybody. I would obviously like to win but I think it would be very good to get a replay," said Basil.

With Luton's disastrous away record, the Gills would have a good

chance of pulling off a win at the Stadium and enter the hat for the next round with the football giants.

If it does come to a replay it is still very doubtful whether Machin will be fit in time.

Hayward has named three players as possible deputies — Ray Bailey, Bobby Folds or David Quirke.

Experienced Ray Bailey is the most likely candidate for the job, but Bobby Folds could be a

surprise choice.

Quirke, who had a spot of throat trouble last week, has been training morning and afternoon to get back to peak fitness again.

Said Hayward: "It will be a late decision and I may even leave it until we arrive at the ground."

There is some good news from the Gills' camp. Kingpin centre-half Bill Williams has recovered from the arm injury sustained at

Bournemouth and is a definite starter.

Gillingham skipper Gordon Riddick has a special reason for wanting to do well — he was formerly a Luton player and four years ago in the second round of the cup he scored the goal when Luton knocked out Gillingham.

**Gillingham** (from): Bellotti; Weston, Green, Simpson, Williams, Quirke, Bailey, Folds, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smilie, Meredith.



David Quirke guards the Gills goal-line as 'keeper Derek Bellotti, skipper Gordon Riddick and Luton's Brian Lewis get in a rare tangle as they go for a cross. S41



MEL MACHIN

## Reserve game is off

WHILE the Gills travel to Luton on Saturday for their F.A. Cup second round tie the youth team are involved in the second round of the F.A. Youth Cup at Dunstable.

Because several reserves are being drafted into the team the Football Combination game against Bristol City has been postponed.

Travel to Luton is being organised by both supporters' clubs. The Blue and Whites' Association will take bookings between 6 and 8 pm at the main entrance to the ground and the Supporters' Association are available during the day, between 7.30 and 9 pm tomorrow, and from 9 and 10 am on Saturday at the Gordon Road office.

• See tomorrow's POST for the full cup preview and focus on Luton Town, plus the latest news from the Gillingham camp.

## Basil Hayward's Own Column



### YOUTHS CAN PUT UP A FIGHT

NATURALLY, we were deeply disappointed at having to go out of the F. A. Cup at Luton on Saturday. But then we received the very heartening news that the Youth team had picked up their extremely good away win at Dunstable in the second round of the F. A. Youth Cup. On Tuesday, when the next round was announced, we were all delighted to hear that the Youths had been drawn at home to Arsenal.

This tie should be very interesting indeed as Arsenal will provide very tough opposition. They have withdrawn from the Youth League we are in and chosen the much stronger Metropolitan League as their training ground.

But, given the right encouragement and support from the Gillingham fans I am sure we can put up a good enough fight to go into the fourth round.

I have been quite pleased with the progress shown by our young players lately and four of them — John Ribbins, David Peach, Geoff Bray and Dick Tydeman — are now fighting hard to stake their claim for the time when we will be deciding whether or not they will be retained as full-time professionals.

#### VERY INTERESTED

A number of other young players are also pushing their claims to become apprentices and this week we have taken on 15-year-old Kenny Hill from Aylesham, near Canterbury.

We were impressed with the promise he showed and had

no hesitation in taking him on the staff as we feel he has the makings of a good centre-half. Needless to say, he was in the team on Saturday at Dunstable.

This evening (Friday) we have again got a very tough away fixture at Stockport. But we will be going all out to bring something back, and if we can pull off a favourable result then, we could find ourselves in a very good position in the league.

I was interested to read in yesterday's papers that Sir Alf, bemoaning his luck in results with the pick of the country, was thinking of getting himself a rabbit's foot. Looking at our luck lately, I reckon my choice would be the nose-twitching Samantha.



# GILLS HAD THEIR CHANCES

LUTON 3, GILLINGHAM 1

**We created more chances, Hayward**

YET another F.A. Cup campaign has come to an end for Gillingham after their 3-1 defeat in the second round at Luton on Saturday.

A disappointed Basil Hayward told the Chatham Standard yesterday (Monday): "We created more chances than Luton did, but after getting through them we just could not finish."

The Gills return to their League programme on Friday evening with yet another away fixture. It is against third-placed Stockport County, the division's leading home goalscorers, who held the Gills to a goalless draw at Priestfield Stadium earlier in the season.

THOROUGHLY dejected and spattered with mud from the atrocious conditions, Gillingham trudged their way wearily off the pitch and out of the F.A. Cup at Luton on Saturday. And they must have been asking themselves yet again when their run of excruciating luck is going to come to an end.

For, apart from the inescapable fact that they failed to cash in on the chances they had to gain at least a replay, they had to look on in amazement as Luton's goal led a charmed life for something like half an hour of the game just before and after half-time.

The most heart-breaking blow came just before the interval when Brian Yeo raced out to meet a cross by Derek Woodley with a glancing header. But, although it was perfectly timed and had Luton's goalkeeper going completely the wrong way, the ball somehow struck Davie's foot when it looked as though nothing would stop it going into the net.

Then in a remarkable 20-minute bout from the restart, Gillingham broke clear of the flat Luton defence on no less than nine occasions.

Yeo set things going by outstripping the rest of the field and sending in a low shot to the bottom left hand post. The ball bounced out from goalkeeper Davie's feet but by this time Gordon Riddick and Terry Simpson had left the defence standing and were alone in the box.

But somehow a defender got

back and, in the middle of a frantic goalmouth melee, Riddick was ruled offside.

This provided the spur for a series of raids by the Gills. As Luton floundered around in a desperate attempt to apply their favourite move — the offside trap — Terry Simpson sparked off the onslaughts by breaking brilliantly on to long balls that had Luton completely bemused.

But luckless Simpson reflected, perhaps, most of Gillingham's problems up front when he raced through to create a golden chance for himself in the 56 minute.

He beat everyone, including Davie who had raced out to cut him off, but, with the empty goal yawning in front of him, he hesitated for that split second to allow McDerment to lunge out from behind and rob him of the ball.

A handful of other chances went Gillingham's way in this rugged, uncompromising clash. But, even though it looked that Gillingham's bad luck carried over to the fact that Mel Machin and Andy Smillie, who dropped out late on Friday after having a wisdom tooth removed, were not in the team, no-one could possibly say this in any way weakened the team.

For their replacements, David Quirke and Ray Bailey, fought every inch of the way to keep Gillingham in the fight. Spurred on by yet another

tremendous performance from Bill Williams, every one of the rearguard of Quirke, Tony Weston, Mike Green and Derek Bellotti played their hearts out from start to finish. And Bailey was always on hand to either feed the men in front or nullify any threat Bruce Rioch had in mind.

And yet, with all the remarkable amount of work put in, Gillingham conceded all three goals from deadball moves.

Luton's better control on what must be one of the worst pitches Gillingham have had to

writes

**Martin Hitchings**

play on in months, gave them midfield monopoly in the first half.

And they took the lead in the 16th minute when they were awarded a free-kick just outside the box. McDerment chipped it in and Bellotti had no chance to punch it clear properly as a bunch of Gillingham players leapt for it. The ball dropped tamely down to FRENCH who simply lifted it into the net.

Eight minutes later they went further ahead — this time straight from a corner. French sent it close to the post for it to be deflected over the heads of everyone and HARRISON timed his run in just right to hit the ball first time from a few yards.

Like so many times before this season, Gillingham refused to give up and, after almost 30 minutes of relentless defending, they suddenly switched to the offensive.

Riddick, who had a somewhat subdued afternoon — although he did a lot of work in defence — found more room for himself and set the mood for a more attacking Gillingham with a long through ball to Yeo who was just baulked as he squared to shoot.

Woodley followed this up with a yinking run into the box that saw him beat two men. But he overran himself and then, just before half-time, Yeo's effort hit Davie's boots.

Luton hardly had time to get their breath after the interval before Gillingham hit again.

Apart from the offside incident and Simpson's miss, Woodley saw his shot from a Yeo cross go wide, Yeo headed just round the post, Woodley brought a smart save out of Davie and John Meredith, who had worked hard fetching and carrying down the left flank, sent in a cracker that went just the wrong side of the bar.

Bailey, too, tried a low shot that went inches wide and then Davie did well to fling himself at a high Woodley corner cross to tip it over.

## PENALTY SPOT

Lewis, the Bedfordshire club's most menacing forward, rattled the post with a bullet-like rising shot and then, in a frantic goalmouth scramble, Mike Green, who had shown a marked and encouraging change in his form, had the misfortune to touch the ball with the back of his arm as he slid into a tackle in the 72 minute. It was a pure accident but the referee pointed to the penalty

spot and HARRISON made no mistake with the shot.

Still, Gillingham came back with more good attacking football and 10 minutes from the end Branton held Riddick as he came into the box and again the referee signalled a penalty.

Top scorer BRIAN YEO was given some consolation for his earlier bad luck when he coolly slammed the spot kick into the net.

In a game that was riddled with drama and perhaps too much emotion at times, it was ironic that it should finish up with a 3-1 scoreline — exactly the same as it was in the League just a short while ago.

Luton: Davie, Dougan, McDerment, Bannister, Branton, Slough, French, Lewis, Buxton, Rioch, Harrison.

Gillingham: Bellotti, Weston, Green, Simpson, Williams, Quirke, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Bailey and Meredith.

No. 25

H.T. 2-0

attend:

The Gills  
48 years  
ago

LAST week's picture of an old Gillingham team was sent in by 70-year-old Len Matthias, of Hamilton Road, Gillingham, a supporter for 60 years. If you said it was of the team playing in 1920 and 1921 then you were dead right.

The players were: Back row: Cartwright (ex-Chelsea), Branfield (local) and Leslie (ex-Chelsea); middle row: Read (local), Gregory (ex-Watford), A. Steele (ex-Spurs); front row: Wood (ex-Fulham), Lee (ex-Chelsea), J. Mahon (captain), Redpath (ex-Spurs) and Kelly (ex-Southend).

Len said: "Read was a schoolboy friend of mine and the team's centre-forward. Jackie Mahon was right-half and a very fine player."

● Another memory lane picture soon.

In my story on the Gills of yesteryear last week I mentioned James Spearpoint, aged 73, of Rochester Road, Chatham, who besides having memories of the team is a great football fan in general.

He has been to every football club ground in the English League and still travels about the country each weekend in search of good football.

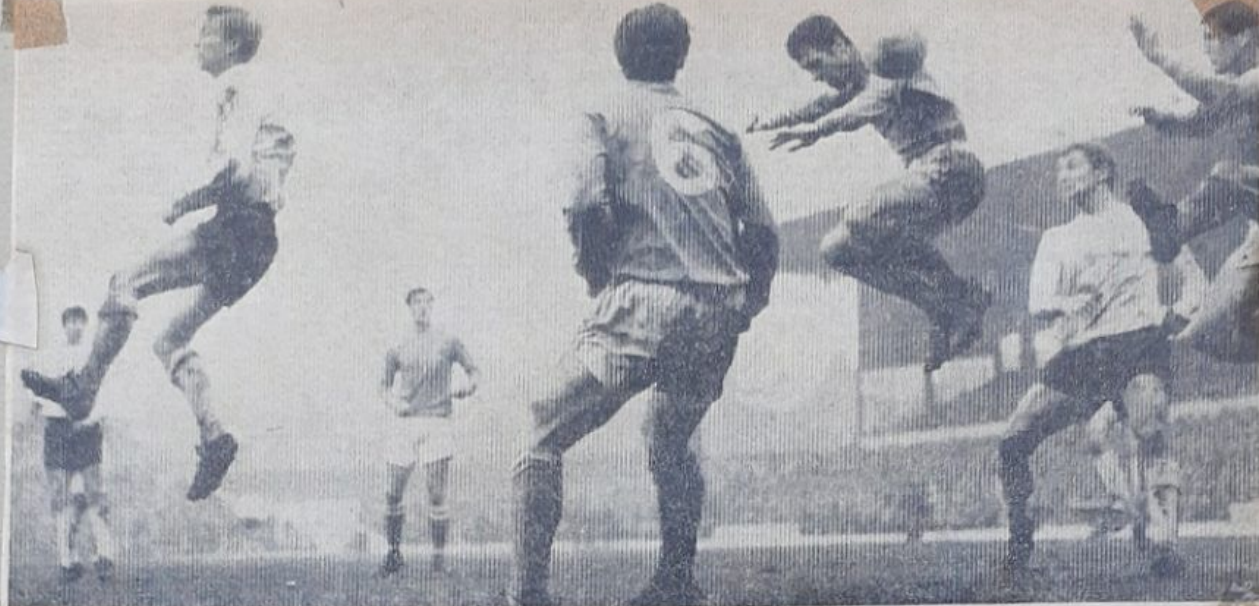
On Saturday he saw the seven-goal thriller between Charlton and Fulham and next week he is off to Wembley to see England play Bulgaria. He is no stranger to Wembley, having seen 10 F.A. Cup Finals and 12 Amateur Cup Finals.

Incidentally, besides being a football fan James also watches most of Kent's cricket matches and often visits the White City for athletics. When he has time he plays cards and has billiards for Chatham Working Men's Club.



BELLOTTI is first this time with David Quirke, Bill Williams and Mike Green (left) all offering support to quell a Luton raid. Pictures by James Bell.





GILLINGHAM soon get in a spot of bother as skipper Gordon Riddick and keeper Derek Bellotti try to scramble away the first corner of the match.

## SMILLIE AND MACHIN RECOVER BUT...

# Hayward's problem is who to leave out



● Luton's Graham French (white shirt) can afford to smile: this effort by him flashed into the Gillingham net for a goal.

GILLINGHAM manager Basil Hayward has a problem of a different kind for tonight's (Friday) away clash at Stockport — who can he leave out?

Andy Smillie has got over the after-effects of having a wisdom tooth removed last Friday which meant him missing the cup meeting at Luton. And Mel Machin has been putting himself through a rigorous week of training in an effort to get fit.

So the Gills' boss will be faced with the bitter-sweet dilemma of deciding who to pick out of the 13 strong first team squad, who will all be staking a strong claim for selection.

David Quirke and Ray Bailey replaced Smillie and Machin on Saturday and, although the Gills went down, they both put in tremendous performances in defence to keep the quick-raiding Luton forwards at bay.

Mr. Hayward is, however, taking all 13 with him to Stockport and will be making his final selection nearer kick-off time.

The team will be chosen from Derek Bellotti, Tony Weston,

Mike Green, Mel Machin, Terry Simpson, Bill Williams, David Quirke, Ray Bailey, Derek Woodley, Brian Yeo, Gordon Riddick, Andy Smillie and John Meredith.

### THIRD PLACE

Since holding Gillingham to a goalless draw at Priestfield Stadium in October, Stockport County have moved rapidly up the table and now hold third place on goal average behind Watford and are just one point behind leaders, Bournemouth.

Shortly after the visit to Gillingham, the Cheshire club sold striker Jim Fryatt to Blackburn Rovers for about £20,000. Three weeks ago they used the money to buy former Everton and Scotland forward — Alex Young — from Irish League club Glentoran for £14,000.

The former Merseyside idol has played two matches for Stockport — both at home — and a noticeable fact is that gates for both games showed an increase of over 3,000 above the average gate.

It was Young who scored the opening goal last Saturday to send Barrow out of the F.A. Cup with a 2-0 defeat.

Leading marksman is Bill Atkins, previously with Halifax Town, who has 13 goals and he is closely followed by Lowe, who wears the number six shirt.

### BEST EVER SEASON

Another former international in the side is outside-right Len Allchurch, who is having his best ever season for the club since joining County from Sheffield United. He was previously with Swansea Town and has picked up many Welsh caps.

Stockport will field: Ogley, Haydock, Hartle, Goodwin, Milner, Lowe, Harley, Allchurch, Atkins, Young, Price.

Visitors to the Stadium tomorrow (Saturday) for a Football Combination fixture will be Walsall Reserves. Kick-off is at 3 p.m. The youths entertain Tottenham Hotspur at the Garrison Ground in a South East Counties match, kick-off 11 a.m.

Playing Record Up to And Inc. 7<sup>th</sup> Dec

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos
20	7	3	10	29-30	17		16 <sup>th</sup>

Average Attend:

home = 5,442

away =

Leading Goalscorer

Yeo - 11 goals



# Supporters can lick

ONE of the biggest chores about being a parent is when junior comes sidling up to you, announcing that he wants to go somewhere with his friends and demanding that you foot the bill to the tune of anything from a few bob to a couple of pounds.

This applies particularly when — like hundreds in the Towns — your boy happens to be a Gillingham football fan and he and his mates decide to buy themselves a set of scarfs or any other piece of bric-a-brac that goes with football today. And the bill can be even steeper if some week-end or other they feel they want to travel away with the team.

Then, as any parent of a Gills' fan will vouch, you can find yourself shelling out anything up to £2 or £3, if the match happens to be at Stockport or Plymouth or some other far flung town.

But the club's supporting organization, the Blue and Whites, have come up with a novel idea for easing the load on parents.

Within the next couple of weeks, the B and Ws will be printing their own saving stamps.

Bearing the club crest — the Invicta — they will be "on sale" soon after Christmas and anyone interested can use them to save up all the year round and then draw on them whenever they want to take a trip to an away game or buy something like a club scarf.

Blue and Whites chairman, Mr. Harold France, who is

# travel away with the Gills costs

himself the father of a nine-year-old boy, said at the week-end: "I know just what it's like when my youngster wants a hat, or an autograph book."

"I always seem to be putting my hand in my pocket so that he can get himself something to do with the club."

"My friends and I on the Blue and Whites Committee happened to be talking about this the other day when someone suggested we should form a 'bank' for the youngsters which, at the same time, would be a boon to their mums and dads," he commented.

## Blue (and White) beat

THE Blue and White Girls, those lovelies in the blue and white uniforms you see at Gillingham's home games selling tickets — have organised their own fund-raising activity.

They are running a beat dance at the Central Hotel, Gillingham, on December 11, from 8 to 12 midnight, with all profits going to Gillingham F.C.

# 'We must keep on striving'

**Q** WHAT are the prospects now Gillingham have been knocked out of the F.A. Cup? What do you think will happen and what would you LIKE to see happen?

**A** Well, obviously we hope to get to the top of the league. This is the aim of myself and the board.

What I would like to see happen now we are out of the Cup is the opposite of what usually happens when you are knocked out near Christmas.

The gates slump and so you always look to be in the Cup until after Christmas. This way the better attendances are maintained, especially if you have a good draw. The crowds keep coming to see how the team is doing.

It is ironical that people complain about the team and the cost of going to a match — although I personally think the price is still relatively cheap — and a lot of people are only fair weather supporters.

Yet you get a club like Arsenal, as we did in the League Cup, and even in the middle of the season people want to buy a season ticket just to make sure they can get in to see the match.

If only these so called supporters would support the team, everything would improve.

There are no fixtures looming up that can be called easy. Each match will be hard but later in the season the discrepancy between home and away games played levels out.

I think we have got some very good players but no manager is ever completely satisfied with his team. There are one or two players who you feel might be able to help you and strengthen the team but the fees are out of our pocket at the moment.

You have just got to keep on striving and hope that some time you will get a little windfall that will enable you to improve the team.

Hayward



answers  
the Post

## GOALS IN SHORT SUPPLY?

GILLINGHAM Reserves may not be scoring many goals in the Football Combination League, but Plymouth Reserves, who they play in Devon tonight, have scored only eight goals in their nine games.

The Gills, strengthened by first-teamer Mike Green, who did not play in the match at Stockport on Friday, must be in with a very good chance of bringing two points home with them, for Plymouth have only won three times so far.

**Gills' team:** J. Simpson; Chapman, Simmons, Ribbins, Arnett, Green, Osborne, Peach, Harrison, Folds, Tyde-man. Sub: Bray.



Never in the game at Stockport

# GILLINGHAM THRASHED

## Clubhouse blow for Supporters

GILLINGHAM Supporters' Association have had their application for planning permission to build a clubhouse at Priestfield Stadium, turned down by Gillingham Council.

The corporation's Works Committee refused the application on the grounds that because of its siting near to occupied houses, it would be detrimental to the amenities by reason of noise and the attraction of traffic.

The Association has, however, been told that they can submit a further application if the building is sited well away from houses.

STOCKPORT 5  
GILLINGHAM 0

DEFENSIVE errors, slipshod football and lack of midfield control contributed to Gillingham's downfall in Friday night's game at Edgeley Park. But it would have taken a far better side than the Gills to hold opponents who gave their most convincing display of the season.

This was Stockport's ninth consecutive home win and their biggest in a run which brought them 28 goals and on Friday took them to the top of the Third Division table for a brief period.

Stockport had all the answers to a Gillingham side which lacked ideas in both defence and attack. Poor shooting and good saves by the overworked Derek Bellotti in the Gillingham goal kept the scoreline down.

Alec Young, County's recent ex-Everton signing should have put his side ahead in the second minute when he headed straight at Bellotti from the edge of the six yards box. It was a foretaste of things to come

for the Gillingham back row and Tony Weston, Ray Bailey, Bill Williams and Mel Machin was giving the County forwards far too much room in which to work.

## Exploited

Once Stockport had settled down they exploited this to the full. Young and Goodwin took control of midfield and with long, raking passes deep into the Gillingham half gave the visitors' defence a nightmare game.

It was not surprising when County took the lead in the 25th minute. Harley put a beautiful ball through to Atkins and the big striker, far too quick for Williams, rammed home his shot.

Three minutes earlier the

Gillingham goal had its luckiest escape of the match when Young rapped the crossbar and Atkins blasted over the top from the rebound.

Only Derek Woodley and Gordon Riddick were giving the home defence any trouble. Woodley was Gillingham's most dangerous forward. He was unlucky early on when he picked up a loose ball deep in his own half and after a fine run saw his shot blocked by Price, coming back to cover.

## Desperate

Price got the second goal in the 38th minute. He had what looked like a miscued cross punched under the bar by Bellotti.

With Gillingham getting desperate, Williams was

booked for a foul on Alichurch and David Quirke was substituted for Andy Smillie at half-time. He added weight to the midfield play, but could not pull his side back into the game.

John Meredith wasted a good chance before Stockport went further ahead when Atkins took advantage of Simpson's mistakes to slot the ball past Bellotti in the 60th minute.

Eight minutes later Price scored the fourth with a fine 20-yard drive into the top corner of the net and Harley made sure five minutes from the end after a mistake by Williams.

It was little more than a formality, but it emphasised the vast difference in ability between the two sides.

Mel Machin stood out in Gillingham's defence and was on hand a couple of times to clear off the line. But for the rest, it was a game to forget!

Stockport: Orley; Haydock, Milner, Low, Hartley; Goodwin, Young, Harley; Alichurch, Atkins, Price. Sub.: Kinsella.

Gillingham: Bellotti; Weston, Williams, Bailey, Machin; T. Simpson, Smillie (Quirke); Woodley, Riddick, Yeo, Meredith.

Attendance: 8,106.

## 'Same old story'— Hayward

Basil Hayward, Gillingham manager, said of Friday's game, "It went the same as most of our away games have gone. We play well—very well—on the build-up, but we do not take the chances and then present the opposition with goals when they attack."

"We gave them three goals on Friday and failed to take our chances at all." Andy Smillie had to go off at half-time with stomach trouble but there were no other casualties in spite of the bone hard pitch.

Basil stayed up north on Friday night and the following day watched a Central League game. He said he looked at two players in particular, but would not name them.

He was still looking at players generally for the time when money might be available.

# Hayward decides to wait

WITH no reserves' match tomorrow, Gillingham manager Basil Hayward can afford to wait until the last possible moment before choosing his team for the Third Division game against Bristol Rovers at Priestfield Stadium (3.0 p.m.).

After last week's disastrous visit to Stockport, where the Gills crashed 5-0, he has plenty to think about.

Welcome news is that midfielder Andy Smillie, who has not enjoyed the

best of health since joining the club, has been training for the past couple of days after stomach trouble brought on following the extraction of a wisdom tooth just before the F.A. Cup tie at Luton.

"We shall have to wait and see how he is tomorrow," said the Gillingham chief.

## Favourable

Despite disappointing results recently, he believes the team have not lost confidence in their ability to play good football and is looking for favourable results from the holiday programme covering three games — tomorrow's match

is followed by another home game against Reading on Boxing Day and then Plymouth away.

The Gills still have an impressive home record—they have lost only one league game at Priestfield and have conceded only seven goals in nine matches.

As Bristol Rovers have yet to win away and have been beaten in seven of their 10 outings, the chances of a Gillingham win look bright indeed.

The team will probably be chosen from: Bellotti, Weston, Williams, Green, Smillie, Machin, T. Simpson, Quirke, Woodley, Riddick, Yeo, Meredith.

In the South East Counties League, Gillingham are away to Watford.

## Moffat moves

FORMER Gillingham utility player Bob Moffat, who left Priestfield Stadium in the closed season for Margate, was transferred on Friday to Chelmsford where he joins former team-mate John Furie.

## Arsenal date

Gillingham youths will play their F.A. Youth Cup match with Arsenal at Priestfield Stadium on Tuesday, 7 January, kick-off 7.30 p.m.

No 26

HT 2-0  
attend: 8,106



# Panic measures are not likely

A BIG question mark hangs over the selection of Gillingham's team to meet Bristol Rovers at Priestfield Stadium tomorrow (Saturday). There is no Reserve game and manager Basil Hayward said yesterday that he will be taking a close look at all the players available before making up his mind — and this is not likely to be until tomorrow.

Despite the club's encouraging home record, which has seen them among the top scoring clubs in the country at

home this season, fortunes have taken a nose-dive with the 10 goal total scored against them in the last three away meetings.

This very fact, however, might prompt the Gills boss to persevere with the team. For, although he has hinted that he might make one or two changes, any major replacements could weaken the squad for what will obviously be a tough and crucial home match.

And this policy is borne out by the view he takes of the Stockport meeting in that the 5-0 defeat was largely due to "individual mistakes."

He could then decide that it would be better to accept that the players who made the errors in judgement have enough professionalism to know where they went wrong and to tighten up on their individual approach to the game.

In the face of the opposition Bristol are likely to present, Mr. Hayward could then decide not to be forced into panic measures that might have even more drastic consequences.

Certainly, it seems that he hasn't entirely solved his striker problem away from home.

But Brian Yeo is still among the top scorers in the Division and Gordon Riddick has shown that at Priestfield Stadium he can be one of the most dangerous men around the penalty area. The combination of them has seen the Gills chalk up some of the best home results seen from a Stadium team in years.

The same could also be said of the defence which has conceded only three goals at Priestfield since the end of August — though of course this is more than offset by the away record.

Still, while Mr. Hayward wrestles with this problem he has the added headache of not knowing if Andy Smillie will be fit for the three-match Christmas programme. He has got over the stomach trouble which saw him leaving the field at half-time last Friday. But this week he was having treatment for a shin injury.

Other than this, however, all the players are fit and will be up for selection.

Obviously, the tension among the players must be high at the moment. But they have

changed vastly since that Rovers' defeat in October and Mr. Hayward has said that they still have confidence in the way they are playing.

If they break come, as they have done at the Stadium this year, then Gillingham should gain sweet revenge on the West Countrymen and, at the same time, give themselves that vital boost to see them through a successful week.

## DOUBTFUL STARTER

Bristol Rovers are almost sure to be without leading goalscorer Bobby Jones for the visit to the Stadium who is a flu victim. Another doubtful starter is wing-half John Petts, who was previously with Reading.

With the exception of Petts, left-back Tom Stanton and Bobby Williams the Rovers players are all one-club men.

Tomorrow's line-up is likely to be from: Laurie Taylor, goal; Lindsay Parsons, right-back; Tom Stanton, left-back, who joined the club in the close season from Mansfield.

Half-backs: Stuart Taylor, Larry Lloyd and John Petts.

Forwards from: Ray Graydon, Wayne Jones, Ray Mabbutt, Vic Barney, Bob Williams, Bobby Jones, Bob Brown and Harold Jarman.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	A	P
Fulham	10	9	0	1	28	9	18	3	4
Arsenal	10	7	3	0	25	7	17	1	1
Q.P.R.	11	7	3	1	28	13	17	1	1
Crystal Pal.	11	7	2	2	17	10	16	1	1
West Ham	11	4	7	0	18	19	15	1	1
Birmingham	12	6	0	6	24	16	12	1	1
Norwich C.	11	3	5	3	22	15	11	1	1
GILLINGHAM	10	4	3	3	16	15	11	1	1
Bristol R.	10	5	1	4	19	21	11	1	1
Oxford U.	11	4	3	4	11	16	11	1	1
Southampton	10	5	0	5	22	7	10	1	1
Chelsea	10	4	2	4	20	16	10	1	1
Leicester C.	10	5	0	5	19	21	10	1	1
Cardiff C.	10	4	2	4	10	13	10	1	1
Ipwich Tn.	9	3	3	3	21	14	9	1	1
Plymouth	11	4	1	6	10	12	9	1	1
Bristol C.	7	4	0	3	13	11	8	1	1
Swansea T.	12	2	4	6	18	29	8	1	1
Walsall	9	2	2	5	17	21	6	1	1
Peterborough	10	1	4	5	8	19	6	1	1
Luton Tn.	10	1	3	6	10	30	5	1	1
Reading	9	2	1	6	8	27	5	1	1
Bournemouth	10	1	3	6	12	23	5	1	1
Northampton	9	2	0	7	8	23	4	1	1
Swindon T.	10	0	0	10	3	27	0	1	1

## Basil Hayward's Own Column



## PLAYERS HAVE NOT LOST CONFIDENCE

LAST Friday at Stockport we came to the end of our three away fixtures and there we desperately needed a point so that we could put ourselves in a better position in the table. But the game was played under treacherous conditions and we made individual mistakes which proved to be very costly.

Once again, however, the general pattern of play was quite good. But it showed that we have got to develop more determination in our opponents' penalty area if we are going to pick up anything away from home.

We have had an exceptionally tough away programme so far this season and the fact that we have not picked up points becomes even harder to grasp when one reflects on how well we have played at Priestfield Stadium this year, which has seen us losing only one match — against Luton at the end of August.

We are now going into two home fixtures — Bristol Rovers tomorrow (Saturday) and Reading on Boxing Day — before travelling to Plymouth for another away fixture the following Saturday.

Needless to say, we must pick up the maximum points from the two Stadium matches and this I hope will enable us to settle down again for the more even balance of home and away fixtures in front of us.

If we can find that little extra with our home matches and pick up the occasional point away from home, we could still, I am sure, find ourselves in a reasonable position from which we can launch an improvement in our standards.

Basically, the players have not

lost their confidence and the ability to play good football. If they can come out of the three-match Christmas programme with favourable results, I am still convinced that the New Year can see us take a turn for the better.

## ILL HEALTH

I would like now to mention Andy Smillie who, since he joined us at the end of October, has not enjoyed the best of fortunes with injury and ill health. The treatment he received for a wisdom tooth extraction just before the Luton Cup-tie, unfortunately affected his stomach with rather painful results.

We are hoping, however, that he will be fit for Christmas and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Finally, I hope supporters will make a particular note of Tuesday, 7 January. This has been fixed for the Youth team's third round home F.A. Youth cup-tie with Arsenal. I am sure you will all find it a most attractive evening fixture and which, with the right support, could see our youngsters going through to the next stage of this exciting competition.

I would like also to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board of Directors, the players and the staff of wishing you all a happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

## ROLL CALL

Aug. 10	Tranmere	A	0-2		
14	ORIENT*	H	2-2	5,988	Quirk (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	Williams
Sept. 7	Torquay	A	0-2		
14	BRIGHTON	H	5-0	4,445	Gilbert (2), Yeo (2), Woodley
16	Barrow	A	1-2		Yeo
20	Southport	H	2-4		Yeo, Woodley
23	MANSFIELD	H	1-1	4,030	Woodley
Oct. 4	Reading	A	2-3		Yeo (2)
9	ROTHERHAM	H	2-0	5,525	Gilbert, Yeo
12	STOCKPORT	H	0-0	5,314	
19	Bristol Rovers	A	1-0		Riddick
26	PLYMOUTH	H	1-0	5,170	Riddick
Nov. 2	Watford	A	1-2		T. Simpson
5	Northampton	A	1-0		Yeo
9	WALSALL	H	4-0	4,857	Smillie, Yeo, (2), Riddick
16	Orient	A	1-1		Smillie
20	ORIENT*	H	2-1	9,563	Riddick (2)
23	SHREWSBURY	H	4-1	5,270	Simpson, Riddick, Yeo, Machin (pen.)
30	Bournemouth	A	0-2		
Dec. 7	Luton	A	1-3		Yeo
13	Stockport	A	0-3		
21	BRISTOL R.	H			
26	READING	H			
28	Plymouth	A			

Appearances to date, including League Cup: Bailey 15 and 1 as sub., Bellotti 22, Folds 1 and 1 as sub., Gibbs 7, Gilbert 9, Green 24, Machin 24, Meredith 26, Quirk 12 and 3 as sub., Riddick 23 and 1 as sub., J. Simpson 4, T. Simpson 24 and 2 as sub., Smillie 8, Thear 3, Weston 10, Williams 26, Woodley 26, Yeo 22.

Goalscorers: Yeo 12, Riddick 6, Woodley 4, T. Simpson 3, Gilbert 3, Smillie 2, Quirk 2, Williams 1, Machin 1, Gibbs 1.

Record, including League Cup and F.A. Cup: P 26, W 8, D 3, L 13, F 35, A 45.

## DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bournemouth	20	13	3	4	35	14	29
Watford	21	11	6	4	26	12	28
Stockport	21	11	6	4	30	23	28
Swindon	19	12	3	4	31	15	27
Barrow	20	11	3	6	32	26	26
Tranmere	21	11	3	7	32	26	25
Torquay	22	10	4	8	30	23	24
Luton	20	10	3	7	32	20	23
Reading	21	9	5	7	34	24	23
Northampton	21	8	7	6	27	24	23
Plymouth	22	9	5	8	24	24	23
Walsall	22	6	9	7	26	23	21
Rotherham	21	6	8	7	23	25	20
Southport	21	8	5	8	33	38	19
Bristol R.	21	7	5	9	33	38	19
Hartlepool	21	5	9	7	18	33	19
Orient	21	5	8	8	25	33	18
Barnsley	22	5	8	9	24	34	18
Mansfield	21	6	5	10	27	29	17
GILLINGHAM	21	7	3	11	29	35	17
Crewe	20	6	5	9	27	35	17
Shrewsbury	21	6	5	10	18	30	17
Brighton	22	5	5	12	26	39	15
Oldham	20	2	3	15	19	43	7



# Rovers handed first away win

Gillingham 0, Bristol R.2

## Christmas Day birthday

**GILLINGHAM GOALKEEPER** Derek Bellotti celebrates his 22nd birthday on Christmas Day.

Derek, who joined the club from Bedford Town, is having his third season with the Gills. He is one of five players registered with the Football League who have Christmas Day birthdays.

The others are John Boyle (Chelsea), Trevor Meredith (Shrewsbury Town), Trevor Shepherd (Coventry City) and Bill Harvey (Exeter).

BASIL Hayward's gamble of playing an unchanged team that crashed at Stockport failed miserably on Saturday when Bristol Rovers, without an away win before the Stadium visit, became the first team to have a League "double" over Gillingham — and before the season's lowest gate.

And they did it so decisively and easily that one must ask what major shake-up is in store. Admittedly it was only Gillingham's second home defeat this season. But it came at such a crucial time and was handed to Bristol so tamely that one must have serious doubts whether the present set-up is going to stop the rot — a rot

that has seen the Gills concede a total of 12 goals in their last four games.

Despite whatever hopes and faith the Gills' boss must have had, they showed so obviously that the overwhelming spate of away defeats is beginning to get on top of them.

Hardly a grain of confidence could be found in the Gills' play as Bristol, looking no better than any of the teams Gillingham have trounced at Priestfield Stadium this year,

made them seem like also rans.

The whole pattern of the game seemed to go Rovers' way. They kept it tight at the back and although they had narrow escapes, largely through Gillingham's ineptitude in the box they always looked dangerous when breaking from the back.

It was from such moves that they picked up their two goals and both came through the Gillingham defence being caught napping.

In the 27th minute, outside-right Eddie Graydon seemed to mesmerize the whole of the back rank as he picked up a through ball on the right of the box and was unbelievably allowed to bring it right across the outside of the penalty area.

Tony Weston lunged at him

writes  
Mike Scott

in vain but the rest stood still as he pushed it on to an unmarked HAROLD JARMAN who simply slammed it into the net. Derek Bellotti flung himself at it but he looked far too close to his own line for his effort to have paid off.

A similar counter-attack under Gillingham pressure brought the second in the 60th minute when a long ball up the middle found Ray Mabbutt. Again flat-footing the Gillingham defence, he set up a neat interpassing move with young BOBBY BROWN making his league debut, who put in a cracking shot from the edge of the box.

Though both players should have been picked up by Bill Williams and Co, again young Bellotti failed to come out to cut down on the centre-forward's chances.

All this time, Gillingham fiddled and fussed around in mid-field and not even the replacement of David Quirke for Andy Smillie midway through the second half made any difference. For, whenever the ball did reach the front runners, they were too out of touch with the game to do any good.

Gordon Riddick hardly put a foot right throughout the match and Derek Woodley, on the rare occasions he came in contact with the ball, failed to do anything constructive with it.

Brian Yeo, John Meredith and Terry Simpson seemed to suffer with the same problem in that they worked hard enough to gain possession but lacked the understanding between themselves and the other men up front to turn it into effect.

Amid the whole catalogue of loose passes, indecisive running and timid approach work, Gillingham did, however, have their chances.

Woodley put a low shot wide in the early stages; Riddick lacked the power to head home a high lob after Yeo had laid it on following a brilliant flank.

But that saw him beat two men, and Meredith saw his low turning shot from the edge of the box grabbed by keeper Laurie Taylor.

Minutes after Bristol's first goal, Ray Bailey blasted one over the top and Woodley brought a great save from the keeper when he tipped round the winger's cross.

With minutes ticking out, Riddick, Woodley and Yeo both tried desperately to put some respectability in the scoreline and this may have happened if the referee had not waved on a hand-ball appeal against Taylor in the box.

Gillingham: Bellotti-Weston, Machin; Simpson, Williams, Bailey; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie (Quirke), Meredith.

Bristol Rovers: Taylor (L); Parsons, Standon; Taylor (S), Lloyd, Fettes; Graydon, Barney, Mabbutt, Brown, Jarman.

No. 29

H.T. 0-1

atend.

## Gills' boss had little to say

SUBDUED AND OBVIOUSLY SHATTERED Basil Hayward had little to say on Saturday after watching Gillingham concede their seventh goal this season against Bristol Rovers.

But his only comment — "They had two chances and took them. We had ours and failed" — will undoubtedly be high in his mind when he comes to pick the team for Thursday's equally tough clash against Reading at the Stadium (kick-off 3 p.m.).

Like Bristol, Reading have already beaten the Gills this season and their fast-raiding forwards will undoubtedly be out for more.

But will Mr. Hayward make sweeping changes or will he stick to the replacement he made on Saturday when he brought Andy Smillie off the field and put in David Quirke in the second half?

As in every match so far this season, he will not be making his selection until near kick-off. But the defence could be time. But the defence could be time. But the defence could be time.

The fact that Gillingham continue to create chances and not pick them up could also mean a reshuffle up front.



GILLINGHAM pivot Bill Williams in a mid-air duel with Bristol Rovers' right-half Stuart Taylor. Gills' players in the picture are Brian Yeo and Gordon Riddick. P.5803

## FORWARDS, NOT HALF-BACKS IN THE FORWARD LINE

IT IS pleasing to note that at long last the management of Gillingham Football Club have adopted Press and Public relations through the local press as a method of raising the standard of interest in the club and, of course, possibly the attendances.

This is no doubt a worthy idea, but I consider largely cancelled out by the fact that the press hand-outs consist of two main groans: "Attendances are not as we would like them," and "we suffered

the same failings — not taking our chances."

To my mind these two things are complementary and likely to continue until such times as forwards and not halfbacks are played in the forward line.

Without detracting from the ability or efforts of Riddick and Bailey, these two players, are wasted up front. Their style of play shows they prefer the ball in front and not coming from behind.

Personally, I think that the F.A. Cup match against

Luton showed this very plainly.

Another point emerges in football today, the first team to play five forwards, including two raiding type wingers, will go a long, long way.

In recent games at Gillingham I consider Woodley has proved this point and with a similar style of player (Meredith when he first came) the game would be faster, more interesting and therefore more attractive.

I think also that we showed this same point at Wembley against Bulgaria. Notice that

Bournemouth are suffering loss of gates, in spite of success in Division 3, playing the style of closed up "they shall not score" of game favoured by most managers, Fred Cox among them.

Remember the dull, dreary games under his guidance at Gillingham.

Come on Gills show them that the English style of game is better than a poor copy of European style, and all the best of wishes for 1969.

S.V. KNIGHTS  
16, BLAKER AVENUE,  
Rochester





A cross from Derek Woodley almost beats Bristol Rovers' goalkeeper Laurie Taylor, with Brian Yeo and Gordon Riddick in close attendance. P.5804



GILLINGHAM skipper Gordon Riddick takes the ball past the despairing dive of goalkeeper Laurie Taylor, only to miss a great second half opening.



GILLINGHAM'S Guest of the Day on Saturday for the home game with Bristol Rovers was Fred Lowday, a supporter since the days when the club played at New Brompton. Fred, of Cleave Road, Gillingham, thinks the Gills' standard of play is such that the team merit a better position in the Division Three table. Our picture shows Fred being introduced to Brian Yeo. Looking on is Harold France, chairman of the Blue and Whites, and Mel Machin.

## Too much method says Charlie

ALTHOUGH he thinks there is too much method in present day football, 78-year-old Charles Frost, of 71, Edinburgh Road, Chatham, still loves watching it—and to prove it you can see him at Gillingham's home matches any weekend.

For Mr. Frost, a regular member of the side when it was known as New Brompton before and after the 1st World War, claims to have missed only about half-a-dozen home games since he packed up football 43 years ago.

A utility forward, he once scored 24 goals in a season for Sittingbourne—and that was after Gillingham dropped him from the semi-professional staff because of knee trouble.

In a letter to the Evening Post, Mr. Frost identified the complete 1910-11 football team reproduced in our columns a few weeks ago. Though he played with many of that same side for two or three seasons when he returned to the club after the war there were very few still playing.

"But nearly the whole team were locals after the war," he went on. "Nowadays far fewer local boys make good."

The last of his old playing colleagues are dropping out of the sidelines. "The last I saw at Priestfield was Curley Nobbs four or five years ago," he said.

Percy Jackman, who sent me the picture and has a phenomenal memory, gives the line-up in the picture as: back row—G. Craddock (trainer), Collins, Mosley, Bailey, T. Holmes, Hawkes, Mr. Checkfield, Mr. Crumby; next row—Mr. Crawley, Mr. Pearce, Mr. Barnes (chairman), Mr. Evans, Johnson, Mahon, Strang, McArthur, Higgins, Arthur, Nobbs, R. Unthun (assistant trainer), Mr. Negus, Dr. Paton; seated—the referee, Westwood, Reynolds, Taylor, Eames, Court, Ald. Swain, Powell, Satterthwaite, Pickett, Massey, Johns, Mr. Groombridge (secretary); on ground—Willata, Yule, Sutherland, F. Holmes.

Reynolds, Taylor, Court, Satterthwaite and Pickett, according to Percy, were "probably the best forward line the club ever had."



# 'We will improve —Hayward

GILLINGHAM suffered a major blow this morning when goalkeeper Derek Bellotti sprained an ankle during training. He was having it X-rayed this afternoon and is obviously very doubtful for the vital Third Division clash against Reading at Priestfield Stadium on Boxing Day (3 p.m.), writes STEVE BISHOP.

Harassed manager Basil Hayward has no idea at this stage of how his team will line up. He already had John Meredith (bruised leg) and Bill Williams (groin injury) nursing after-effects of Gills' 2-0 home defeat by Bristol Rovers. To make matters worse,

Gordon Riddick and Derek Woodley both took knocks during today's training.

It seems likely that at least one of the reserve side will be drafted in — and it could be a surprise choice — while experienced John Simpson will presumably deputise for

Bellotti if necessary.

With the season half over and Gillingham struggling at the foot of the table what happens now?

"We are going to do better," said Basil. "A lot of what went wrong on Saturday was more the fault of individual mistakes rather than the team breaking down."

"One of the things we could do is go back to playing ultra-defensive football and limit the number of goals being scored against us. But this would not help us to score, which we have to do to win matches."

"We do not want to return to this style of play."

## Trying

"There is no question of increasing the amount of training after the home defeat. We are already training hard."

"The lads give as much as they can give. On Saturday one might have wondered about that but I know the players and I know they were trying."

"They just went out there and played their usual game but things started to go wrong and they found it very difficult to get back again."



JOHN MEREDITH—injured in the Bristol Rovers game.

## Who is to blame?

I HAVE been a Gillingham supporter for 15 years and after seeing the game against Bristol Rovers I feel we are going to end up in the Fourth Division.

Is it Mr. Hayward we have to blame or is it the directors? I think they are expecting Mr. Hayward to be like a tradesman who has not got the tools to do a job.

We read in the local Press that it is just hard luck. But if we have not got the players we cannot do anything. People will not go and see a bad game like Saturday's.

There were only two men on the field who were trying — Brian Yeo and John Meredith and they played their hearts out.

If we drop into the Fourth Division I think you may just as well shut the gates.

## SPORT POST-BAG

The biggest mistakes the club ever made was to free Freddie Cox and let him have our defence, who are now playing well for Bournemouth, and also when they got rid of Dennis Hunt.

HENRY CARRIER.

Marlborough Road,  
Gillingham.

## FOCUS ON GILLINGHAM'S OPPONENTS

## Reading have slipped after bright start

READING will bring a party of 14 players to Priestfield on Boxing Day and manager Roy Bentley will not decide on his final line-up until the last moment.

After first-class performances in recent weeks in winning a cup replay 2-1 at Torquay and then beating high-flying Tranmere at Elm Park, the Berkshire club flopped badly in the Brighton mud last Friday.

They lost full-back Colin Meldrum, who had been playing in attack for the last month, with a badly sprained ankle in the first half and went to pieces later to lose 2-0.

And it is this injury plus the lack of fight shown by his players which is holding up Bentley's team plans for Gillingham.

Meldrum will not be in action again for some weeks and Bentley has been holding special training sessions to help decide in defence between veteran Dick Spiers and former link man Ernie Yard for his 4-2-4 system.

Yard looks favourite for Thursday, but there is also a chance that the manager may swing around his forward line.

Reading go to Newcastle one of Bentley's old clubs, in Round Three of the F.A. Cup on January 4 and the manager is anxious to test

reserves John Sainty and John Docherty beforehand. Both are players who cost Reading a lot of money but so far neither have really hit their form.

Sainty, a £12,000 buy from Spurs, should come in for the Gillingham visit with Docherty — bought for a similar fee from Brentford — more likely for the Barnsley game at home on Saturday.

## Morale

Reading have slipped a lot after a good start to the season and Bentley is looking for maximum points from both matches this week to boost morale for the big cup game.

"We know Gillingham are not in a very good position at the moment, but there's no doubt that they are a good team," he said.

"We can beat them though if we can regain the form we showed before the Brighton match."

Reading won the corresponding game at Elm Park in October by three goals to two.

The Reading party will include: Brown, Bacuzzi, Dean, Thornhill, Chapman, Yard, Henderson, Allen, Collins, Silvester, Sainty, Spiers, Docherty, Harris.

## Basil is looking for one point

WITH more than 250 miles to travel for their match at Plymouth tomorrow and with Derek Bellotti, Bill Williams and John Meredith still doubtful, GILLINGHAM manager Basil Hayward is banking on the team which drew 2-2 with Reading yesterday to take at least a point from the Devon men.

David Quirke is named as substitute.

Plymouth, whose local derby against Torquay yesterday was postponed, are halfway up the Third Division table with 23 points from 23 games and have a goal average of 24-26.

Basil Hayward said of yesterday's match: "Once again we did everything but score. We played well, but the ball just wouldn't go in."

Gillingham Reserves' home game against Chelsea Reserves in the First Division of the Football Combination has been postponed owing to the condition of the Priestfield pitch after the night's sharp frost.

## ROLL CALL

Aug. 10	Tranmere	A	0-2		
14	ORIENT	H	2-2	5,988	Quirk (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	Williams
Sept. 7	Torquay	A	0-2		
14	BRIGHTON	H	5-0	4,445	Gilbert (2) Yeo (2) Woodley Yeo Yeo, Woodley Woodley Yeo (2) Gilbert, Yeo
16	Barrow	A	1-2		Riddick
20	Southport	A	2-4		Riddick
23	MANSFIELD	H	1-1	4,630	T. Simpson
Oct. 4	Reading	A	2-3		Yeo
9	ROTHERHAM	H	2-0	5,525	Smillie, Yeo (2)
12	STOCKPORT	H	0-0	5,314	
19	Bristol Rovers	A	1-5		
26	PLYMOUTH	H	1-0	5,170	
Nov. 2	Watford	A	1-2		
5	Northampton	A	1-0		
9	WALSALL	H	4-0	4,857	
16	Orient	A	1-1		
20	ORIENT	H	2-1	9,563	
23	SHREWSBURY	H	4-1	5,270	
30	Bournemouth	A	0-2		
Dec. 7	Luton	A	1-3		
12	Stockport	A	0-6		
21	BRISTOL R.	H	0-2		
26	READING	H			
28	Plymouth	A			
Jan. 11	WATFORD	A			
18	Walsall	H			
25	NHAMPTON	H			

\* League Cup. † F.A. Cup

Appearances to date, including League Cup: Bailey 16 and 1 as sub., Bellotti 23, Folds 1 and 1 as sub., Gibbs 7, Gilbert 9, Green 24, Machin 25, Meredith 27, Quirke 12 and 4 as sub., Riddick 24 and 1 as sub., J. Simpson 4, T. Simpson 25 and 2 as sub., Smillie 9, Thear 3, Weston 11, Williams 27, Woodley 27, Yeo 23.

Goalscorers: Yeo 12, Riddick 6, Woodley 4, T. Simpson 3, Gilbert 3, Smillie 2, Quirke 2, Williams 1, Machin 1, Gibbs 1.

Record, including League Cup and F.A. Cup: P 27, W 3, D 5, L 14, F 34, A 47.





Brian Yeo scorer of Gillingham's second goal against Reading on Boxing Day.

# Gills dominate but lose point

Gillingham 2, Reading 2

VITAL fractions of an inch plus momentary, but fatal, lapses in concentration stopped Gillingham from bringing about a complete transformation from Saturday's debacle and giving Reading their biggest hiding of the season on Boxing Day.

Unlike the disjointed football they churned out against Bristol when they crashed 2-0, Gillingham virtually monopolized this game with fast, direct football and created at least a dozen golden chances — most of which went to either Gordon Riddick or Brian Yeo who must still be kicking themselves for not giving the Gills sweet re-

venge after Reading's equally lucky escape at home earlier this season.

The two goals Gills' top scorer Yeo picked up could, however, have been enough but for defensive errors that handed Reading their two goals — and their third point in the clubs' meetings this season.

The first came in the 60th minute when outside right JOHN COLLINS shook off a half-hearted tackle by Andy Smillie in the box and had no trouble in slamming the ball home.

Then, with only four minutes to go, John Sainty latched onto a ball that had only been half cleared and made it 2-2. He too found little difficulty in by-passing Mel Machin, Mike Green and Ray Bailey who were all on hand and could have cleared the danger.

John Simpson, the Gills' veteran whose return to goal was greeted with loud chanting from the fans, had no chance with either goal. And, although Reading offered virtually nothing but these two efforts during the whole of the second half, he showed that he has not lost any of the timing and agility that has made him a firm favourite at Priestfield Stadium for 11 years.

## GROIN INJURY

The fact that Gillingham had to contend with a draw could, however, be put down to the absence of Bill Williams who suffered a groin injury against Bristol.

Bailey tried his hardest to fill the vacancy and frequently he came out on top by using his height and strength to outplay Sainty and Co. He also did a lot to feed the men up front but Gillingham certainly lacked the discipline and strength that Williams has so often instilled into the back-rank this year.

A torn ligament injury to John Meredith brought the third change in the line-up but his replacement Bobby Folds in any way detracted from the Gills' striking power up front.

Ironically, this was Folds' second first team outing for Gillingham — and the first was against Reading at Elm Park.

This time, however, he refused to be overawed by the bustling tactics the Berkshire club adopted and which should have seen at least one player sent off or booked.

Using his determination in possession Folds laid on pass after pass to give the men up front a whole glut of chances and it was a brilliant piece of timing and courage that brought Gillingham's opening goal in the 23rd minute.

Derek Woodley, again the ever-menacing scourge of the defence, sent over a pin-point header that Riddick just missed with a high flying header attempt. But in that split second as the ball dropped behind the Gills' skipper, Folds put in a ground level header that seemed to scoop the ball back into the goalmouth and YEO was on hand to nod it home.

With Terry Simpson probing Reading's weaknesses with almost disdainful ease, Gillingham looked bound to chalk up yet another record home win. Apart from a bout of pressure near half time — which John Simpson dealt with so competently, Gillingham spent at least 70 per cent of the game in the Reading half.

And Riddick was first to fall victim of yet another cruel blow of hard luck when he cleared well over two feet from a standing jump to completely outstep the defence only to see his header hit the bar.

Luck again frowned on him minutes later when he and Yeo both dived to meet a Woodley

cross. Yeo connected and turned it for what seemed like a certain goal but somehow Riddick got in the way and the ball bounced out.

Woodley and Simpson teamed up well to force shaky Reading into a corner and this Riddick slammed wide after he had hustled his way through the box to set up the chance.

As if this wasn't enough bad luck, he had another taste when he broke through the defence to put himself clear in the box. But he pushed the ball just that little too much which gave goalkeeper Brown the edge to grab the ball.

To complete his day of woe, the tremendously hard-working Riddick saw his remarkable header from a free-kick hit the post with the goalkeeper hopelessly beaten.

But, if it wasn't his day to be among the scorers, he played his part in giving Gillingham their second in the 83rd minute when he laid the ball off perfectly for YEO to clip it home after Simpson had set the whole move up with a raking through ball.

Rarely have Gillingham dominated a team so much in recent months — and the feat was even more remarkable when one looks at the time Reading's Thornhill and Allen showed their determination to keep the Gills at bay by continually banging down or grappling with players.

Brian Yeo was sent flying with a body check on the right flank and Andy Smillie found Allen around his neck as he made his way into the box. But on both occasions the referee seemed to prefer talking to the culprits rather than taking a more severe course.

Gillingham: Simpson (J), Weston, Green; Simpson (T), Bailey, Machin; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie and Folds.

Reading: Brown, Bacuzzi, Dean; Thornhill, Chapman, Allen; Collins, Docherty, Sainty, Silvester, Harris.

Attendance 4,692.

M.H.



FORMER Canterbury City reserve Kenny Hill (15), who comes from Aylesham, near Canterbury, has agreed forms to become Gillingham's latest apprentice professional.

## Not too late to climb table

I wonder how many watching the Gillingham v. Bristol Rovers match on Saturday noticed that not only did the visitors have two so called orthodox wingers in the team but they lined up in 5-2-3 formation.

The style of their play was fitted to this formation and the Gillingham defence had no answers to it.

Once again the Gills forward line lacked that finishing punch. Riddick tried hard but showed once again that he was best "up front."

My own idea of what this team should be is: J. Simpson, Weston, T. Simpson;

Bailey, Riddick, Machin, Woodley Smillie, any of the 2nd team, yes, and Meredith, the latter with instructions to play his natural attacking style.

The result could not be worse than last Saturday's efforts.

It is not too late to climb the league table and if any experiment will bring results surely it's worth trying. Despite appeals for larger attendances, I for one am not going to pay to see the stuff being turned out.

S.V. KNIGHTS

Blaker Avenue  
Rochester.



GILLINGHAM skipper Gordon Riddick sees a first half chance whip just past an up-right.

No. 28

H.T. 1-0

attend: 4,692



## NO CHANGE LIKELY FOR PLYMOUTH

THOUGH Gillingham could only manage a draw at home on Thursday, manager Basil Hayward seems happy with the way they played and shook themselves out of the doldrums that saw them going down 2-0 against Bristol on Saturday. He is likely to field an unchanged team for today's clash at Plymouth.

The only possible change could be David Quirke who was one of the 12-man squad that left Gillingham yesterday lunch time for Devon.

Injuries sustained during the Bristol match have, however, brought about the changes.

Bill Williams who became tangled up in an awkward tackle in the first half but played on, has a bad groin injury and John Meredith is also out for a while. He took a tumble on Saturday that saw him temporarily leaving the

field and it was found this week that he has a torn leg ligament.

Goalkeeper John Simpson is also in for Derek Bellotti who replaced him earlier this season.

The team will be chosen from Simpson; Weston, Green, Quirke, Simpson (T), Bailey, Machin, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie and Folds.

### ARGYLE DEBUT

Plymouth introduce an amateur in their line-up to meet Gillingham at Home Park. He is John Wingate, from Devon club Dawlish, who makes his debut and leads the attack.

Argyle's match at Torquay on Boxing Day was postponed because of a water-logged ground but yesterday a club spokesman said there was no danger of the match being postponed at Plymouth.

Plymouth, managed by

former Southport chief Billy Bingham, will field: Pat Dunne, former Manchester United keeper; Mike Reeves, a local boy; Duncan Neale, signed from Newcastle United for £12,000 five seasons ago.

John Hore, a local boy; Fred Molyneux, centre-half, signed from Southport in October and previously with Liverpool; Norman Piper, captain, another local boy.

Stephen Davey, England youth international; Richard Reynolds, England youth international; John Wingate; Dave Burnside, previously with West Brom and Wolves; Aiden Maher, a £10,000 signing from Everton in October.

Gillingham Reserves home Combination match with Chelsea Reserves today has been postponed. The Youths will entertain Charlton Athletic at the Garrison Ground, kickoff 11 a.m.

## KEY-NOTE OF OUR PROGRESS MUST BE TEAMWORK

AFTER not too bright a Christmas, from a result point of view, I shall not be sorry to see the year out in the hope that we can use 1969 to pull ourselves back into the reckoning.

We will be looking to maintain greater striking ability and obviously we shall be trying to tighten up our defensive play so that we can perhaps equal our home scoring record with a few away games.

I read the comments of Mr. S. V. Knights of Blaker Avenue, Rochester, in last week's paper and he seems to be a very interested supporter. In his letter he refers to half backs playing in the forward line and calls for this to be dropped.

I have gone into this before but I would like to enlarge on the fact that today a manager has got to have a more flexible playing staff than he did years ago and that changes have come about in the game that make it far easier for a player to take up a midfield or a so-called front runner role.

The new system has brought a tremendous number of players who want to take up a midfield position without accepting the more physical

side of the game. But good midfield work, coupled with strong striking power plus at least one winger capable of getting behind a defence and three uncompromising defenders are vital ingredients for any successful side.

These qualities are only gained through a good upbringing in the game and they demand either a great deal of money or patient team building.

Naturally we are in the latter category and so we have got to work that much harder in the hope that we will get the breaks so that the future will be a little more rosy.

Patience, of course, demands co-operation all round — not only from the players but the club, the spectators and everyone connected with football.

The key-note of our progress must be team-work from us all and, if we can achieve this, then, I am sure, we can make 1969 our year.

## 1968 - A YEAR OF FRUSTRATION

1968 must go down at Gillingham Football Club as the year when everyone said a lot but virtually nothing was done. And, unless some action is taken in the very near future, the next 12 months will undoubtedly be just as bleak and frustrating.

### MARTIN HITCHINGS

On the face of it, one might be tempted to resort to the old argument that everything revolves around the fortunes of the team. And perhaps to a large extent this is true.

But, considering the stark lack of interest, activity and co-operation among people concerned with the club this year, it is to me something of a minor miracle that Basil Hayward has managed to retain such a basically talented squad of players.

The overriding problem has, of course, been the shortage of money. This is reflected in the fact that the manager has spent only £7,000 on one player — Andy Smillie — apart from the signing on fees — though, it might be noted that he brought income to the club from Charlie Crickmore (£17,500) and Brian Gibbs (£6,500).

### RIDDLED WITH APATHY

The profits have naturally been absorbed in the high cost of running the club and no-one can justifiably blame the directors for not spending more.

They have had to grapple with the fact that the Medway Towns is riddled with apathy. This has meant gates dropping even though the manager has introduced some of the most entertaining football seen at Priestfield Stadium for some time.

The score-lines this season speak for themselves.

Still, the Directors can be blamed for not taking a long, hard look at the set-up they are responsible for.

Clerically, they have been content to cruise along at the same old pace as in previous years without accepting that they must come into line with

the demands of modern football. An example is that no-one was able to book a seat for the return F.A. Cup match with Orient. Little, too, has been done in the way of improvements.

They must soon get down to the root of all Gillingham's problems — the fact that they have two supporting organizations with vastly different ideas on how to help the club and, one suspects, with motives that just only do the club harm.

The Supporters' Association has made a lot of its schemes like the Player of the Year, coach trips, Radio Big G, hot soup at home matches and others. And they even have the audacity to say they are "maintaining" a £100 contribution a week to the club.

All this is a smokescreen to avoid the fact that four years ago they were giving £400 a week and that since then their activities have slumped drastically.

The Blue and Whites, too, are equally guilty of saying and promising a lot but, so far, getting little done.

### REVITALIZED COMMITTEE

It too has run coach trips and made a lot of the fact that it now has a revitalized committee. And it used as its first platform the providing of a clubroom where supporters could have a drink at half-time. This was promised for the beginning of the season. It is still not open!

Then there was the formation of the squad of mini girls. They have, admittedly, helped a tremendous amount in the selling of tickets on match days but weeks ago they were due to carry out a census to see where supporters come from. What has happened to this?

One worthwhile scheme is the booking of today's pantomime at the Central Hall which the B and W's are offering to supporters at reduced rates. This might make a small profit.

But surely the answer would

be for the directors, the Supporters' Association and the Blue and Whites to get together and settle their differences of opinion. If necessary they should drop both banners and form themselves into an entirely new body which would live up to the title of being a supporting organization.



ANDY SMILLIE



READING 'keeper Brown gathers safely as a colleague helps ward off Brian Yeo's challenge.



# Comings and goings at the Stadium

GILLINGHAM'S manager Basil Hayward, now in his fourth season with the club, had a busy time with the comings and goings of players in 1968 which saw eight leave Priestfield Stadium and the arrival of four newcomers.

The departure list kicked off in January when young Howard Moore, signed only a few months earlier from Coventry City, figured in an exchange deal with Southend United's 25-year-old Derek Woodley — a player who has become a firm favourite with the Gills' supporters.

The biggest shock of the year came immediately after the end of the season when the Gills' boss not only freed six players but included among them Bill Brown, the tall striker, who was brought from Bedford and who he defended strongly in the face of criticism.

Brown was quickly snapped-up by Portsmouth. One of the six, veteran John Arnott, remained with the club and is now skipper of the Reserves and is in charge of the youth team.

Utility player Bob Moffat joined Southern League club, Margate and this month moves to Chelmsford. Long-serving full-back Dennis Hunt joined up with former team-mate Pat Terry at Brentford, another full-back, Ralph Miller, joined his old boss Fred Cox at Bournemouth, where he now holds a regular place, and John Furie went to Southern League club — Chelmsford.

## FREE TRANSFERS

Mr. Hayward's next move was to obtain replacements for the departed players and this resulted in the arrival of ex-West Brom player, Terry Simpson from Walsall. The same week full-back Mike Green arrived from Carlisle — both players came on free transfers. Another newcomer was young Barry Simmons from West Ham United.

The 1968-69 season was only a few weeks old when long-serving striker Brian Gibbs was transferred to Colchester United for a fee of about £6,500.



HOWARD MOORE



DEREK WOODLEY



BILL BROWN



DENNIS HUNT



RALPH MILLER



JOHN FURIE



BOB MOFFAT



MIKE GREEN



TERRY SIMPSON



BRIAN GIBBS



PETER HALL

# Stop copying Sir Alf!

YOUR correspondent on December 24 poses the question, "Who is to blame?" in his comments on Gillingham FC.

It seems to me that quite a bit of blame can be apportioned to the fact that football managers as a whole are trying to copy Sir Alf Ramsey's idea of "they shall not pass" and generally making a poor job of it.

Freddie Cox was, it must be admitted, fairly successful with this style, but in being so, killed the football at Priestfield from an entertainment angle and if the attendances are anything to judge by he is doing the same thing at Bournemouth.

This, apart from the fact that at Gillingham we find the team largely composed of half-backs, does have a dire effect on the results obtained.

Even the Spurs are not meeting success in playing a centre-half at centre-forward. On December 21,

Bristol Rovers lined up in a 5-2-3 formation, and showed that with this style, including two raiding wingers, they could destroy any defensive ideas Gillingham might have had.

## SPORT POST-BAG

It is time that football managers, including Mr. Hayward, forgot this slavish attempt to copy our World Cup team and the continentals, and returned to the British type of open football which not only provides entertainment, but goals as well.

S. V. KNIGHT  
Blaker Avenue,  
Rochester.

# GILLS HAVE DAY OFF

GILLINGHAM nearly completed their first League double of the season at Home Park on Saturday. It was only a hotly disputed equalizer just six minutes from the end that robbed the Gills of their third away league victory this term.

Gillingham players argued that Terry Simpson had cleared Richard Reynolds' goal-bound effort but the referee pointed to the centre spot after consultation with a linesman.

Gills' boss Basil Hayward said yesterday (Monday) that he was not in a position to comment whether it was a goal or not but he added: "The lads claimed it was not over the line."

"The boys played very well and with courage on the difficult pitch. It could so easily have been 2-1 or 3-1 after the disputed goal when both Bobby Folds and Brian Yeo went close to scoring," said Mr. Hayward.

Gillingham, who took a cup k.o. at Luton, are without a match on Saturday as their opponents, Swindon Town are involved in the third round of the F.A. Cup.

Visitors to Priestfield Stadium will be Cardiff City, whose senior side are going great guns in Division Two, who will meet Gillingham Reserves in a Football Combination fixture. The Youths will visit Ipswich for a South East Counties League match.

Chatham Town and Eastcourt United are involved in cup-ties next Saturday. The Chats visit Herne Bay in the first round of the Kent Senior Cup and the winners will receive a home tie against Sittingbourne or Whitstable.

Eastcourt entertain Eagle at Maidstone Road ground in the first round of the Kent Amateur League Cup.

# Mini girls seek two more

GILLINGHAM'S mini girls — the bright little bunch of mini-skirted soccer girls who got together this season to support Gillingham F.C. — are close to forming a team of their own.

Last night (Monday) their leader, 21-year-old Josephine Marham of Lilac Road,

Strood, told the Blue and Whites — Gillingham's supporting organisation — that only two more girls were needed to make up a side.

Specifications: Girls interested in football, reasonably presentable, and preferably over 18.

Mr. Harold France, chairman of the Blue and Whites, says that so far ten girls are ready to swap their mini skirts for soccer shorts and two more are necessary to give them one reserve. "It's best if they are over 18 because it makes it less difficult when we visit social clubs," he explains.

"We may get some of the Gillingham players to coach them. They coach kids in schools so it shouldn't be too difficult for them to teach the girls — in fact they might enjoy it."

"There may be some difficulty with Kent FA. Other ladies' teams have had difficulties — the FA frowns on them for some reason — but we are hoping to sort all that out. In fact we are hoping that our team will be forerunner for others."

"If everything goes well they should be in action pretty soon."

# Girl soccer fans wanted

GILLINGHAM Supporters Club are looking for a squad of girls to help with fund raising.



# Footballer Terry's special fan club

## He's tops as far as the girls are concerned

## FEMININE FOCUS



by Muriel Johnson

WHEN GILLS right half Terry Simpson takes the field at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday afternoon he has plenty of encouragement from the crowd. For Terry is a popular player with the supporters in the terraces.

But Terry has five very special fans. They are his wife, Janet, and his four young daughters, Nicole (seven), twins Gina and Tracy (five) and latest addition to the Simpson fan club, Lianne, who is 20 months old.

The girls think he's the greatest, and although Janet doesn't get much opportunity, with four youngsters to watch her husband play, the Saturday evening football

results are a "must" in the Simpson household.

If the Gills have won that's wonderful. But if the team lost then a consoling kiss and a "Never mind dear, better luck next time" is just what the doctor ordered when Terry gets home.

### DEBUT

What is it like being married to a footballer?

Well, of course, he's rarely home to help with the Saturday afternoon shopping, but his family will see quite a bit of him during the days when he's not training.

The Simpsons hail from Southampton. It was in his home town that Terry made his debut in football circles.

A keen and talented player at school he was soon spotted and played as an amateur in Southampton's youth side.

By the time he was 20 he was signed as a professional.

He met Janet when with a crowd of the Southampton players he went into the chemist's shop where she was an assistant.

Soon Janet became a Simpson fan. She persuaded her brother to take her along with him to watch Southampton play. It was the first time she had been to a football match, and little did she know that football was to play such a large part in her life.

After a two-year courtship, Janet became Mrs. Simpson. Since their marriage eight years ago Terry has played for West Bromwich, Peterborough and Walsall. He joined the Gills at the beginning of this season.

Last season he had the chance to go to the United States to play for an American team, but Terry and Janet talked it over and decided that they didn't want the girls to be uprooted.

With four daughters there isn't a football in the house.

But Terry's always ready for a knock-about game with a beach ball with the girls.

If he had a son, he says, he would like to see him go into football providing he had the talent.

"There's still a lot a sportsman in the game. It's a good life. I wouldn't want any other," he says.

"There's a feeling when you know the crowd are with you. You seem to be able to find that little bit extra to put into the game."

### THE FUTURE

He thinks talent isn't enough to make a good footballer. The golden rule is to train hard and keep yourself fit, particularly when you are young.

The future? Well the Simpsons are not too bothered

about that at the moment. Terry's still on the ball, so to speak, but he's realistic and knows that one day he's going to have to hang up his football boots for the last time.

Then of course, there are still possibilities — a trainer's job, perhaps, Manager? It's a bit precarious at the moment, says Terry with a wry grin.

Meanwhile Terry and Janet are quite happy bringing up their family in the semi-detached house in which they live at Berengrave Lane, Rainham.

Already young Nicole is an avid viewer whenever the Gills are on the television, and this season she went along to watch Daddy play and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Whatever the years ahead bring one thing is certain Terry will always be the tops as far as the girls are concerned.

## Where the Gills are

### DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps.
Watford	23	13	6	4	31	13	32
Bournemouth	23	14	3	6	38	20	31
Stockport	23	12	7	4	45	28	31
Swindon	21	13	3	5	32	16	29
Luton	22	12	3	7	36	20	27
Tranmere	23	12	3	8	34	30	27
Barrow	23	11	5	7	37	34	27
Reading	23	9	6	8	36	28	24
Torquay	23	10	4	9	30	24	24
Plymouth	24	9	6	9	25	27	24
Northampton	23	8	7	8	28	28	23
Southport	24	10	3	11	41	41	23
Rotherham	23	7	8	8	24	26	22
Barnsley	24	7	8	9	27	35	22
Walsall	24	6	9	9	27	26	21
Mansfield	23	8	5	10	31	30	21
Bristol R.	23	8	5	10	36	40	21
Crewe	23	7	6	10	30	38	20
Orient	22	6	8	8	26	33	20
GILLINGHAM	24	7	12	5	32	40	19
Brighton	25	7	5	13	32	41	19
Hartlepool	23	5	9	9	19	37	19
Shrewsbury	23	6	5	12	18	32	17
Oldham A.	22	4	3	15	16	44	11

### FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Tottenham	11	10	0	1	32	4	20
Arsenal	12	8	4	0	29	9	20
Fulham	11	9	1	1	35	12	19
Q.P.R.	11	7	3	1	28	13	17
Crystal P.	11	7	2	2	17	10	16
West Ham	12	4	7	1	18	12	15
Cardiff C.	12	6	2	4	17	17	14
Birmingham	14	6	1	7	27	22	13
Bristol R.	12	6	1	5	23	20	13
Southampton	11	6	0	5	25	17	12
Norwich C.	12	3	6	3	15	18	12
Ipswich	10	4	3	3	25	15	11
GILLINGHAM	10	4	3	3	16	15	11
Oxford U.	11	4	3	4	11	16	11
Bristol C.	9	5	0	4	19	14	10
Chelsea	12	4	2	6	20	22	10
Leicester C.	11	5	0	6	19	23	10
Plymouth	11	4	1	6	10	12	9
Walsall	10	3	2	5	19	21	8
Swansea T.	13	2	4	7	19	33	8
Northampton	13	3	1	9	15	32	7
Peterborough	11	1	5	5	9	20	7
Luton Tn.	11	1	4	6	11	33	6
Reading	12	2	2	8	14	37	6
Bournemouth	10	1	3	6	12	23	5
Swindon T.	11	1	0	10	7	28	2

### SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE

Millwall	17	15	2	0	72	20	32
Ipswich T.	16	14	2	0	57	12	30
Orient	15	11	4	0	51	18	26
Q.P.R.	16	9	4	3	35	20	22
Charlton	15	7	4	4	34	18	18
Crystal P.	17	9	0	8	42	38	18
Tottenham	16	7	2	7	36	22	16
Chelsea	16	6	2	8	35	32	14
Reading	17	5	4	8	26	53	14
West Ham	17	4	5	8	20	37	13
Colchester	17	6	1	10	24	50	13
Fulham	13	5	2	6	17	21	12
Luton Tn.	16	4	4	8	30	38	12
Watford	14	3	2	9	19	44	8
Brighton	16	3	1	12	22	45	7
GILLINGHAM	14	3	1	10	10	47	7
Oxford U.	14	1	2	11	8	48	4



A happy family group — Terry and Janet relax with their four daughters in the lounge of their home at Berengrave Lane, Rainham.



# GILLS NEARLY BREAK HOME PARK BOGEY

## No day off for some

Although the first team's fixture with Swindon Town has been postponed because of the F.A. Cup, Gillingham should have plenty to offer the fans tomorrow (Saturday) at the Stadium.

Visitors will be Cardiff City Reserves, who are highly-placed in the Football Combination table and whose first team are Second Division front runners, and this will be the first meeting between the clubs for several seasons.

It is likely that the Gills line-up will contain a sprinkling of first team players.

Fitness progress with John Meredith, Bill Williams and Derek Bellotti could influence manager Basil Hayward's selection as he is keen to give men in the senior squad — and those on the injured list — a chance for a run-out.

Meredith and Williams have been out of the first team since the Bristol Rovers' match a fortnight ago. Meredith has a torn ligament and Williams is still suffering slightly with stomach trouble that followed a groin injury. Bellotti too has an ankle injury.

If any of them are fit enough then they could be up for selection and Mr. Hayward could be thinking of augmenting the Reserves even more with one or two other senior men.

"There will almost certainly be a few of the first team out on Saturday. Though with all the playing staff to choose from I shall not be making up my mind until nearer the kick-off," said the Gills boss yesterday (Thursday).

Cardiff are bound to provide a pretty tough clash but the combination of enthusiasm from the young players in the second string and experience

should see a home win in the offing.

Although form away from home has meant a struggle for the first team, the players are bound to have been boosted by the good result at Plymouth on Saturday when Gills supporters who went to the game claimed they should have picked up both points.

Gordon Riddick gave Gillingham the lead almost immediately after the change-round and Plymouth did not draw level until almost on time. And those who saw the game are convinced that the shot which gave them a share in the points was chested out on the line by wing half Terry Simpson.

This too, they say, was minutes after the final whistle should have gone.

Another big date for Gillingham is Tuesday evening when the Youth team will be at home to Arsenal for the third round of the F.A. Youth Cup.

This should be a popular draw for fans in the Towns and Arsenal should provide young Gills with their hardest fight yet as, although the ages are the same, the Gunners have opted out of the South East Counties League for the much tougher competition of the Metropolitan League.

Gillingham's next home game will be Saturday, 11 January, and it is a big attraction for supporters. League leaders Watford, who defeated Gillingham 2-1 in November, will be the visitors.

## RESERVES

## MAY GET

## A BOOST

A STRONG Gillingham Reserves side is expected to turn out for the Football Combination match against highly-placed Cardiff City Reserves at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday.

The first team are without a fixture and manager Basil Hayward could well introduce a number of his best players into the side to keep their eye in.

"We have not decided yet, but some of the first team may be playing here!" he said today.

Asked if the Gills were to do any extra training to keep them in trim, he commented: "They are on their toes."

## Plymouth 1, Gillingham 1

GILLINGHAM came within an ace of breaking their bogey at Home Park on Saturday. There were only six minutes left for play when Plymouth salvaged a point but until then Gillingham had looked set to collect their first ever victory at Plymouth.

Even a draw was a good result for Gillingham. The last time they gained a point at Plymouth was over 40 years ago. In 28 previous league and cup visits to Plymouth the Gills had managed only three draws — the most recent being in September 1927.

During the first half on Saturday, Plymouth shaped as if they were going to maintain their impressive record. They were the first side to settle down on a frosty pitch which made playing conditions difficult.

## MORE PROMISE

Both sides were slow at getting to grips with the game but it was Plymouth who began to show more promise towards the interval.

They should have taken the lead when Aiden Maher was put through by Norman Piper but the winger delayed too long and failed to get in his shot. Plymouth were to pay dearly for this miss.

The second half was only 90 seconds old when Derek Woodley sent over a fine centre which GORDON RIDDICK headed low into the corner of the home net.

The goal caught the home defence completely offguard and goalkeeper Pat Dunne, the former Manchester United star, made no effort to move for the ball.

It was fitting that Woodley and Riddick should combine in the move which earned Gillingham a point. From the start Woodley proved to be a live-wire on the right wing and frequently had the Plymouth defenders busy.

Riddick had an impressive game in attack for Gillingham. He was always a danger, particularly in the air, and might have added to his goal but for some reliable covering by Plymouth centre-half, Fred Molyneux.

Once they were in front, Gillingham played with more confidence and Plymouth were faced with an uphill struggle. To add to the Devon side's worries their debutant centre-forward John Wingate, a 20-year-old amateur, was troubled by an early knee injury.

After 54 minutes, he was called off by manager Billy Bingham who substituted Bob Saxton, normally a half back.

Saxton moved straight into the attack to add some fire to the Plymouth front line, but Gillingham still held out confidently.

Plymouth's best efforts came from defenders Piper and Duncan Neale. But John Simpson, Gillingham's veteran goalkeeper, was in superb form to make a couple of good saves.

He was perhaps fortunate, however, when he dived at the feet of Richard Reynolds who fell full length in the Gillingham penalty area. Referee Tom Reynolds waved play on and turned aside Plymouth's appeals for a penalty.

After 84 minutes, however, it

was Gillingham who were having frantic protests rejected by the referee. STEPHEN DAVEY, a former English youth international winger, forced the ball home from close in. It was scrambled away by Terry Simpson and play continued for a moment but the referee had already awarded a goal.

A linesman confirmed to the referee that the ball had crossed the line before it was bundled out again.

Gillingham swiftly hit back, however, and mounted a promising raid down the left with Bob Folds sending in a shot which looked set for the back of the net. Dunne dived smartly across his goal, however, to fingertip the ball behind for a corner.

It was disappointing for Gillingham to have been deprived of a victory through a disputed goal only six minutes from the end. Nevertheless, they will be thankful to have picked up a precious away point as they continue their battle to move away from the lower region of the league table.

PLYMOUTH: Dunne; Reeves, Neale; Hore, Molyneux, Piper; Davey, Reynolds, Wingate (Saxton) Burnside, Maher.

GILLINGHAM: John Simpson; Weston, Green, Terry Simpson, Bailey, Machin; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie, Folds.

## 'We could have won' — Hayward

AFTER Boxing Day's 2-2 draw against Reading at home the Gills' away point from Plymouth on Saturday came as a welcome surprise.

But manager Basil Hayward said: "We could have won it, even after their late equaliser. Brian Yeo hit the post with almost the last kick of the match and just before that Bobby Folds had forced the goalkeeper to make a great save."

"I don't think the ground was playable — it was frozen solid right down the middle although the wings were a bit better. It was very difficult to judge and some of the players wore special rubber soled shoes."

"I was very pleased with the lads especially the defence who settled down and did very well."

## GILLS: MORE GUTS THAN GRACE?

GILLINGHAM exiled supporter Charles Wright, of Plymstock, Plymouth, tells the POST that having been a follower of the Gills for close on 40 years, he was delighted to hear the result of Saturday's game at Priestfield Stadium, when they beat Plymouth 1-0. Then he goes on:

"However, any illusions I may have had were shattered by the following comment from Monday's edition of the Western Evening Herald: 'Gillingham are a poor side with more guts than grace'."

I saw the Gills' performance at Torquay earlier this season and I cannot truthfully say I am shocked at this comment.

Is it a vain hope that by the time the Gills come to Home Park, Plymouth, in December, there will be

some improvement in their performance? I would like to leave the ground on that occasion proud of being a Gills supporter."

Sports Editor's note — Gillingham have played some poor matches, Mr. Wright, but they have also been brilliant on a couple of occasions. Manager Basil Hayward is after two players to strengthen the side and we all hope that by December the Gills will be climbing the table.



# Williams gets reserve test

KEEN to give some of his first team squad, particularly those who have been on the injured list, a run out tomorrow, Gillingham manager Basil Hayward is making full use of the reserves' home game against Cardiff Reserves in the First Division of the Football Combination, kick-off 3 p.m.

With the first team facing a blank day because Swindon, whom they should have visited, are playing in the FA Cup, Hayward has named a strong side for this attractive clash with the Welshmen at Priestfield Stadium.

Four members of the team that drew 1-1 at Plymouth last weekend — keeper John Simpson, defender Derek Woodley and forwards Derek Woodley and Bobby Folds — are included in the line-up.

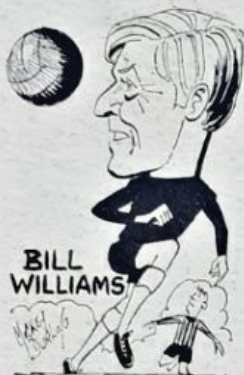
## Kingpin

Bill Williams, kingpin of the Gills' defence, who has not played since the home game against Bristol Rovers a fortnight ago, is having a run at centre-half and his performance will be watched with the closest interest.

He has been suffering from stomach trouble following a groin injury.

Two other regular first teamers, keeper Derek Bellamy and forward John Meredith, are still out of action with ankle injuries.

Team: J. Simpson; Chap-



man, Simmons, Quirke, Williams, Green, Osborne, Harrison, Gilbert, Folds, Woodley.

Managed by former Portsmouth and Newcastle wing-half Jimmy Scouler, Cardiff are having a fine season.

Headed only by Derby County in the Second Division, they expect a record gate for tomorrow's cup visit by Arsenal, and their reserves are highly placed

in the Combination. The Gills' blend of youth and experience should triumph in what looks like being an entertaining game — the first between the two clubs for many years.

The name of Arsenal has never lost its magic, and the Londoners' great revival this season adds interest to next Tuesday night's attraction at Priestfield Stadium when young Gillingham tackle the Highbury club in the third round of the F.A. Youth Cup, kick-off 7.30.

## Tough

The Arsenal side, consisting mainly of youngsters who meet pretty strong opposition week by week in the Metropolitan League, are likely to prove a tough handful. Some have also played for Arsenal Reserves.

Gillingham's next Third Division match is on Saturday week when the visit of league leaders Walford ought to pull in the fans. Gills lost the away game last November by the odd goal in three.

Hayward



answers the Post

You have to make a pact with system soccer

**Q** Formations — 4-3-3, 4-2-4, 2-3-5 — the arguments rage as to which is the best system and what provides the most attractive football. In these days of overlapping backs and sides without wingers, what are your views on the way football should be played?

**A** Whatever happens, football today is basically the same game that it always was.

It has certainly been made easier for certain positions — the inside-forwards and the wing-halves for instance. Now you have two or three men in midfield who are all-round users of the ball while in the past they had to defend and attack as well.

Now you have better defenders and glorified inside-forwards — cum-wing-halves or glorified wing-halves-cum-inside-forwards.

This gives far better use of the ball in midfield if you have got the right players.

## IDEAL

The thing is that systems come into the game and however much you are against them you have got to go a certain amount of the way with them.

Your system is governed by the strength of the opposition. If the going is against you and the other team gets on top you have got to change, and vice versa.

I would like to have two quick wingers capable of getting in behind the full-backs, but this is dying a bit nowadays. I was loath to let Charlie Crickmore go — he would have made an ideal partner for Derek Woodley, but I had to part with him.

Sir Alf Ramsey has dispensed with the orthodox winger I know, but you have still got to have somebody who will put the ball over from the wings.

## ABILITY

The secret in modern football is to break quickly — quickness of movement is the keynote and it does not matter which system you use as long as you can do this.

We at Gillingham are not governed by any particular system — we are governed by the players we have available. At the moment we play what is termed 4-2-4, but that occasionally turns into 4-3-3 because the wingers are totally different.

We have a raiding winger and a winger who goes back to help out in defence.

The ability of each new player also changes the system slightly. Andy Smillie and Terry Simpson both altered the set-up.

The 4-2-4 system can be very exciting and with Simpson and Smillie both playing well at Plymouth and holding the mid-field, we took a point. Against Bristol Rovers, Smillie was not fully fit and we lost a bad game.

# Basil Hayward's Own Column



## STILL SO NEAR TO BECOMING A PROMOTION SIDE

LAST week I mentioned the great need for patience and co-operation with team building and, at the risk of being accused of dwelling on the subject, I would like to emphasize how vital this is at this time of the year.

While we were at Plymouth, I spent some time with the officials and they told me that they have an income from fund raising sources of about £800 a week. This to me, underlines just how accessible a club like Gillingham.

With the right kind of approach from everyone, we could be setting our sights on a similar income and this would make all the difference in us achieving our ambitions.

Though it appears that we may be going through a lean spell at the moment, we are still so near to becoming a promotion side and, but for some unfortunate away performances, we could have been attracting much better home gates.

## MORE DRIVE

In view of the fact that we have not, we must then have more drive in the off-the-field subsidiary activities if I or anyone else is going to have a successful team.

To give you some indication of the mounting difficulties we have we are at the moment short of the right kind of player in one or two positions. But, unless we can do something in the near future, we shall have to start thinking of parting with a couple of players so that we can balance our budget.

Consequently, we will soon be faced with the even bigger problem of finding more players and this obviously will make any hopes we have of gaining promotion to the

Second Division that much harder and further away.

Even though our league position at the moment is not too good, we have a certain number of players who are attracting attention from other clubs and, while I personally am very loathe to part with anyone at this point in the season, we will soon have to face up to harsh facts unless we are given the right kind of backing.

I realize that I have spoken along these lines before this season but possibly the advent of the New Year — the time for resolutions for the future — will encourage people to give us just that little extra support so that we can do something towards finding a remedy.

## BOLD OUTBURSTS

When a club like ours is struggling it is easy to make bold outbursts and do things hastily. But this sort of thing can have very serious consequences and, in my experience, rash statements can be an expensive exercise for a manager.

Still, we must all remember that the game is greater than any individual or his ambitions and we have all got to realize that we must work together for the club.

No-one would be happier than I if we could have more optimistic things to speak about these days. But, if we can make just that little extra effort, I am sure we can turn the corner in the near future.

# Gordon Pulley returns to Kent

FORMER Gillingham winger Gordon Pulley has joined Ramsgate Athletic, the Southern League club, and so links up again with his ex-teammate, Les Riggs.

Riggs, now the Rams' player-manager, signed Pulley from Chelmsford City on Friday and he made his debut in the 5-1 defeat of Ashford at Ramsgate's Southwood ground.

Pulley — renowned for his great shooting ability at Priestfield — went to Peterborough from Gillingham but after never really making it with the Posh, signed for Southern Leaguers Chelmsford.



GORDON PULLEY in his Gillingham days.



# Now Gills fans can save up with stamps

A REVOLUTIONARY "save as you go" scheme to help supporters spread the cost of following Gillingham Football Club at home and away, has been introduced by the Blue and White Club.

Next weekend two shilling savings stamps will be on sale at the ground for the first time, and it is hoped soon afterwards to introduce the stamps into shops at strategic points in the Medway Towns.

Harold France, club chairman, who devised the scheme — the first of its kind anywhere — told

the POST: "We are not trying to enter the savings stamp war. Our aim is to provide these stamps and a card to supporters, in order that they can purchase stamps whenever they are able.

"It would be particularly useful in the summer months when a fair amount could be saved towards the coming sea-

son's games."

The stamps will be exchanged for their value in travel costs, club scarves and badges, and other activities within the club which call for payment of any sort — they will not be exchanged back for cash.

"It's heartbreaking sometimes when the children have only got



ASSOCIATION  
TWO  
• SHILLINGS •



ASSOCIATION  
TWO  
• SHILLINGS •

part of their fare," said Mr. France. "Now they will be able to have in advance."

Possibly anticipating good sales, the supporters' club have had 5,000 stamps printed.

## ONE REF. TOO MANY



POST photographer David Curling found this youthful spectator at the Gillingham v. Bristol Rovers game at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday with a whistle in his hand — and a peep or two was heard behind the Rainham end goal during the first half. At this point he was obviously blowing bubble gum, but next time, please leave your whistles at home, lads — they could cause a lot of unnecessary trouble.

## Youth team's hopes soar

GILLINGHAM'S chances in tomorrow's F.A. Youth Cup third round tie at home to Arsenal look brighter after their fine performance against Ipswich on Saturday.

They lost 3-2 in their South East Counties League match but were unlucky, producing form described by inside-forward Geoff Bray as "The best I have experienced."

A goal two minutes from time earned Ipswich victory after Gillingham had led throughout the game. Dover Grammar Schoolboy Graham Oxenham put the side

ahead with a header, and after Ipswich equalised David Peach made it 2-1 with a spectacular four-yard volley.

Oxenham, in his second game for the youth team, gave a promising performance, and the Gills did particularly well considering that the opposing side included seven apprentices and a professional.

• For Tuesday's game (kick-off 7.30 p.m.), the Gillingham side will be chosen from: Hunn, Kibbel, Saward, Chapman, Robbins, Gough, Hill, Knight, Tydeman, Oxenham, Peach and Bray.



THIS study of a Gillingham player of yesterday has us wondering. The only clue of his identity was at the bottom of the photograph, being signed "Yours sincerely, Dick." The picture was sent to me by Tom Lindsay, of Randolph Road, Gillingham. Can anyone help identify the player?









AS HE IS TODAY—DICK EDMED

## Dick Edmed — former Gills and Kop hero

THE man we asked readers to help up identify last week was in fact Dick Edmed, thought by many to be the fastest right-winger in the country in his heyday.

He played against and was a close friend of Dixie Dean and his transfer fee from Gillingham to Liverpool was the second highest ever paid at that time — £1,800. When he went north his wage packet doubled—to £8 6s. a week. Now Dick is looking forward to retiring in a few weeks from Chatham Dockyard and taking it easy at his home in Danes Hill, Gillingham.

A native of the Medway Towns, he started his footballing career in local parks and graduated through the Gills to fame—but not fortune.

"I am not a bit jealous of the present day wages because I was a member of the players union and fought as hard as anyone for the lifting of the maximum wage restriction.

"I started with Gillingham as an amateur and when I turned pro my summer pay was 35s. a week and £23 during the season as a part time pro. If you were full time you got £5 a week.

"When I was transferred to Liverpool the pay was £28 6s. with a win bonus of another pound."

And that was the start of an eight-year period during which time he played against the best in the land.

Dixie Dean, he says, was the greatest centre-forward of all time, but not the best player. That honour falls to Alex James, who was "absolutely marvellous".

"There is no personality in modern football—that's the trouble," said Dick. "But I don't think you can compare the game then with the game now."

"Today's players, as far as I can see, are getting a lot of money and not giving the spectators their money's worth."

"There is too much of this playing for a draw because of money offered to players as an incentive."

One of his fondest memories is of playing for Liverpool at home to Bolton at the beginning of the 1932/33 season and scoring twice in a 7-2 win.

### Forced

Later on he was transferred to Bolton and in one of the last games of the season he scored twice for Bolton in an 8-1 win to completely turn the tables.

It was during his spell at Liverpool that the Spion Kop stand was opened—the largest, single span stand in the country with accommodation for 22,000.

Tragedy came to Dick in his second season at Bolton. Carriage trouble, which had started while he was an Anfield,

became worse and he was forced to stop playing.

That was in 1934. He then became Bolton's southern area scout before the Second World War put paid to that.

He retires next month at the age of 65 and after 35 years' service at the dockyard. It would have been 50 if he had not become a professional footballer.

And what of Dick's years with Gillingham and his early days?

### Returned

"I started playing with Chatham Centrals in the New Brompton League and we won everything in the Medway Towns," he recalls.

"Then we broke up and I went to Rochester. When Harry Curtis took over as manager of Gillingham about seven of us went along there and joined the reserves side in the Kent League."

From there, of course, the story really starts. He returned to Gillingham in 1946 and was part time trainer of the reserves until 1957 when the staff was pruned.

"If it hadn't been for me, Archie Clark, the manager, and Albert Collins, the trainer, there wouldn't be a Gillingham now. When we were handed back the ground after the war by the fire service it was in a terrible condition."

His wife agreed—"I never saw him in those days. He more or less lived up there."

Marshall were one of the best right-wing combinations that Gillingham ever had.

Harold Avent (63), a Gills supporter for 50 years, phoned us to say that Edmed was "a grand player, who later acted as a scout for Bolton."

Geoff Rayfield, of Portland Road, Gillingham, said Dick Edmed was an old friend of his father.

"I played inside-right to him in 1924," said Bert Oust. "It was three or four years ago that I last saw him."

## 'In with a chance' young Gills can shock Arsenal

GILLINGHAM Youth will be virtually unchanged for their toughest and most important clash of the season tonight (Tuesday) when they take on Arsenal in the third round of the F.A. Youth Cup at Priestfield Stadium, kick-off 7.30 p.m.

The highly polished London club must be favourites to go through to the fourth round but young Gills are confident they can pull off a shock—despite their 3-2 South East Counties League defeat at Ipswich on Saturday morning.

"I have rarely seen them play so well and, if they can bring out something like the kind of form they showed on Saturday, they must be in with a chance," said their trainer Bill Collins at the week-end.

Whatever the result, it

should be a fine game for Gillingham fans interested in the progress of the club's juniors and there are high hopes that they will be playing in front of one of the biggest crowds for a long time.

### CLOSING MINUTES

The youngsters held the lead almost throughout the match on Saturday—even though Ipswich fielded seven apprentices and a professional. And it wasn't until the closing minutes that Ipswich managed to pull off the win.

The first Gills goal came when Geoff Bray distracted the 'keeper enough for OXENHAM to move inside and head home. And then, after Ipswich had drawn level, DAVID PEACH, playing at inside forward, slotted home the second.

Defensive errors, however, allowed the home side to come to terms and eventually take both points.

"But for these errors we could have come away with at least a point," said Mr. Collins. "Even so, the lads will be going all out to pull off a win on Tuesday."

There is likely to be only one change from Saturday's squad as outside left Nash is not eligible. His place is expected to be taken by "Trigger" Hunn.

The line-up for tonight is likely to be: Seward; Charman, Ribbins; Gough, Hill, Knight; Tydemann, Oxenham, Bray, Peach and Hunn, with the possible inclusion of Kibbell.

## WHERE THE GILLS ARE

### DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	23	13	6	4	31	13	32
Bournemouth	24	14	3	7	41	24	31
Stockport	23	12	7	4	45	28	31
Swindon	21	13	3	5	32	16	29
Tranmere	24	13	3	8	38	33	29
Luton	22	12	3	7	36	20	27
Barrow	23	11	5	7	37	34	27
Torquay	24	10	5	9	32	26	25
Plymouth	25	9	7	9	26	28	25
Reading	23	9	6	8	36	28	24
Northampton	23	8	7	8	26	28	23
Southport	24	10	3	11	41	41	23
Rotherham	23	7	8	8	24	26	22
Crewe	24	8	6	10	32	38	22
Barnley	24	7	8	9	27	35	22
Walsall	24	6	9	9	27	36	21
Manfield	23	8	5	10	31	40	21
Bristol R.	23	8	5	10	36	40	21
Brighton	26	7	6	13	33	42	20
Orient	3	6	8	9	26	35	20
Gillingham	24	5	10	9	21	39	20
Shrewsbury	24	7	5	12	32	40	19
Oldham	23	6	5	12	18	32	17
	22	4	3	15	16	44	11

### FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Tottenham	12	11	0	1	37	4	22
Arsenal	13	9	4	0	35	9	22
Fulham	11	9	1	1	35	12	19
Crystal P.	12	8	2	2	19	11	18
Q.P.R.	11	7	3	1	28	13	17
West Ham	12	4	7	1	16	12	15
Cardiff C.	13	6	2	4	18	19	14
Birmingham	14	6	1	7	27	22	13
Gillingham	11	5	3	3	18	16	13
Bristol R.	12	6	1	5	23	25	13
Southampton	11	6	0	5	25	17	12
Bristol C.	10	6	0	4	21	15	12
Norwich	12	3	6	3	15	18	12
Ipswich	10	4	3	3	25	15	11
Oxford U.	11	4	3	4	11	16	11
Chelsea	12	4	2	6	20	22	10
Leicester	11	5	0	6	19	23	10
Plymouth	12	4	1	7	10	17	9
Walsall	10	3	2	5	19	21	8
Swansea T.	13	2	4	7	19	33	8
Northampton	13	3	1	9	15	32	7
Luton T.	11	1	5	5	9	20	7
Peterborough	12	1	4	7	11	39	6
Reading	12	2	2	8	14	37	6
Bournemouth	11	1	3	7	13	25	5
Swindon T.	11	1	0	10	7	28	2

### SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE

Millwall	17	15	2	0	72	20	32
Ipswich	17	15	2	0	60	14	32
Orient	16	11	5	0	52	19	27
Q.P.R.	16	9	4	3	35	20	22
Charlton	16	8	4	4	36	19	20
Crystal P.	16	10	0	6	44	36	20
Tottenham	17	8	2	7	38	23	18
Chelsea	16	6	2	8	35	32	14
West Ham	16	4	6	8	21	38	14
Reading	16	5	4	9	27	55	14
Colchester	16	6	1	11	24	32	13
Fulham	14	5	3	7	15	23	12
Luton T.	16	4	4	8	30	35	12
Brighton	17	4	1	12	26	45	9
Watford	14	3	2	9	19	44	8
Gillingham	15	3	1	11	12	30	7
Oxford U.	15	1	2	12	8	47	4

## Mini girls want soccer

A CHALLENGE to any women's soccer team is extended by the girls of Gillingham Blue and White Supporters' Club.

Known as the mini girls, they wear a smart uniform and sell programmes at Gillingham matches. Then recently Sheila Davis thought that the girls might like to form a soccer side of their own and when her friends were enthusiastic it was decided to go ahead.

A training session will be held soon in one of the car parks at Priestfield Stadium.

Asked if they could play football one of the girls said on Saturday "We haven't tried yet. But we would like to play our women's team—and maybe even men!"



# No injury problem for visit of leaders

BILL WILLIAMS, Gillingham's centre-half who was suspended from playing for a week and fined £25 by the disciplinary committee of the Football League on Wednesday, will be up for selection for tomorrow's tough home meeting with top of the table Watford.

The suspension does not take effect until Monday and so Williams will only miss the away match with Walsall the following Saturday.

Though relieved at the lightness of the suspension, the Gills' centre-half still has to face the cost of the appeal and this could amount to anything up to £50. He asked for the personal hearing following the incident at Reading in October when he was sent off the field.

Williams is also fully fit and had a run-out for the Reserves on Saturday after being out of the game for two weeks following a groin injury against Bristol Rovers just before Christmas.

## WINNING GOAL

Though the shadow of the hearing hung over him, Williams still managed to give the second string a boost for their 2-1 win over Cardiff City Reserves and, in the bargain, scored the winning goal in the last move of the match.

The whole of the senior squad looks like being ready for selection and, after putting them through a tough training session yesterday (Thursday), manager Basil Hayward said he will be making his choice from 14 players.

John Meredith, who also missed the post-Christmas programme, seems to have recovered from the leg injury he sustained against Bristol and, of course, still in with a strong chance of a place in the team is Bobby Folds.

He had a good game against Reading — brilliantly laying on one of Brian Yeo's goals — and did a lot in the Gills' draw at Plymouth.

Still pushing hard for a berth is David Quirke, who has been substitute for the team more times than any player this season. He too played in the Reserves on Saturday and did a lot of work in defence.

Though, as usual, the Gills' boss is not making up his mind until tomorrow, the team is

# visit of leaders



Gillingham pivot Bill Williams who will start a week's suspension on Monday.

likely to be chosen from John Simpson; Tony Weston, Mike Green; Terry Simpson, Bill Williams, Ray Bailey, Mel Machin, David Quirke; Derek Woodley, Brian Yeo, Gordon Riddick, Andy Smillie, John Meredith and Bobby Folds.

## DEFENSIVE RECORD

Watford, who have the plum game of the F.A. Cup — fourth round — with a visit to Manchester United, boast the division's best defensive record with only 13 goals conceded in 23 matches. They hold top spot in the table on goal average from Stockport County.

But Watford are expected to be without Brian Endean — he joined the club at the start of the season from Pelton Fell

where he played in a Workington's Club team — who has netted five goals in his last four games, including one in the 2-0 Cup victory against Port Vale on Saturday.

Endean has a leg injury and is a doubtful starter. But his absence will probably result in the return to the Stadium of a former Gillingham favourite — Rodney Green, who joined the club this season from Luton.

Watford's line-up tomorrow is likely to be: Mike Walker, goal, Wales Under-23 international who was signed at the start of the season for £5,000 from York City.

Full-backs: Duncan Welbourne, previously with Grimsby; John Williams, a former trialist with Arsenal. Half-backs: Keith Edy (cap-

tain) formerly with Barrow; Brian Garvey, ex-Hull City; Tom Walley, who joined the club from Arsenal.

Forwards: Stewart Scullion, ex-Charlton Athletic; Dixie Hale, formerly with Workington; Terry Garbett, ex-Middlesbrough; Rodney Green and Brian Owen.

Gillingham Reserves are without a fixture tomorrow and their next Football Combination outing will be on 18 January when they meet Arsenal at the Stadium.

## WHERE THE GILLS ARE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Watford	23	13	6	4	31	13	32
Stockport	24	12	8	4	45	28	32
Bournemouth	24	14	3	7	41	24	31
Swindon	21	13	3	5	32	16	26
Tranmere	24	13	3	8	38	33	28
Luton	23	12	3	8	37	23	27
Barrow	23	11	5	7	37	34	27
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Plymouth	23	9	7	9	26	26	25
Reading	23	9	6	8	36	28	24
Northampton	23	8	7	8	28	28	23
Southport	24	10	3	11	41	41	23
Rotherham	24	8	6	8	24	26	22
Crewe	24	8	6	10	32	38	22
Barnsley	24	7	8	9	27	35	21
Walsall	24	6	9	9	27	26	21
Mansfield	23	8	5	10	31	30	21
Bristol R.	23	8	5	10	36	40	21
Brighton	26	7	6	13	38	42	20
Orient	23	6	8	9	26	35	20
Hartlepool	24	5	10	9	21	39	20
GILLINGHAM	24	7	5	12	32	40	19
Shrewsbury	24	7	5	12	21	33	19
Oldham A.	23	4	13	16	44	12	

## FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Tottenham	12	11	0	1	37	4	22
Arsenal	13	9	4	0	35	9	22
Fulham	11	9	1	1	35	12	19
Crystal P.	12	8	2	2	19	11	18
Q.P.R.	11	7	3	1	28	13	17
West Ham	12	4	7	1	18	12	15
Cardiff C.	13	6	2	4	18	19	14
Bristol R.	13	6	2	5	25	27	14
Birmingham	14	6	1	7	27	22	13
GILLINGHAM	11	5	3	3	18	16	13
Southampton	11	6	0	5	25	17	12
Ipswich	10	6	0	4	21	15	12
Bristol C.	12	3	6	3	15	18	12
Norwich	10	4	3	3	25	15	11
Oxford U.	11	4	3	4	11	16	11
Chelsea	12	4	2	6	20	22	10
Leicester	11	5	0	6	19	23	10
Plymouth	12	4	1	7	10	17	9
Walsall	10	3	2	5	19	21	8
Swansea	13	2	4	7	19	33	8
Northampton	14	3	2	9	17	34	8
Peterborough	11	1	5	5	9	20	7
Luton Tn.	12	1	4	7	11	39	6
Reading	12	2	2	8	14	37	6
Bournemouth	11	1	3	7	13	25	5
Swindon	11	1	0	10	7	28	3



DEREK WOODLEY, Gillingham's flying right-winger who troubles the best Third Division defences, creates a clear chance for his white-shirted colleagues as he crosses past the Royal Anglian Regiment goalkeeper. The Gills were warming up for their big game this weekend.

# 'MILITARY' TONE-UP HELPS THE GILLS KEEP IN TRIM

A PRACTICE match between almost the full Gillingham first team and the East Anglian Regiment side from Gordon Barracks, Gillingham, at Chatham Football Ground proved useful to both yesterday.

Gillingham were keeping in trim after a week-end without a match, and the Army were making final preparations for a big match on Friday.

They meet the Royal Highland Fusiliers from Inverness in the quarter-

finals of the Army Cup at Brompton Barracks. Two years ago they were beaten in the final, and this year, according to Lt. N. H. P. Jenks, in charge of the side, they have a better chance of winning.

"We expect about a thousand people, there, including two or three generals," he said yesterday.

Yesterday's match was keenly contested. Gillingham won by four goals to nil. Play was stopped

every quarter of an hour for instructions.

## Banned

Basil Hayward, Gills manager, did not see the game — he was up in London with centre-half Bill Williams who was appearing before the FA Disciplinary Committee as a result of being sent off in the match against Reading on October 4.

Club chairman Dr. C. S. Grossmark also attended

the hearing.

The committee were satisfied he was guilty of dangerous play and striking an opponent with his elbow. He was fined £25, banned for seven days as from Monday and ordered to pay costs.

This means he will miss the away game against Walsall. Last night Bill took a busman's holiday and watched the FA Cup replay between Crystal Palace and Charlton.



# MEREDITH OUT OF BIG GAME

EXCEPT for John Meredith, who is still unfit with a leg injury he received against Bristol Rovers just before Christmas, all Gillingham's first team squad reported fit today for the visit of Third Division leaders Watford to Priestfield Stadium tomorrow, kick-off 3 p.m.

Manager Basil Hayward, who put his players through a tough training session yesterday, said he would make a late choice from 13 players — the side that drew 1-1 at Plymouth a fortnight ago, plus David Quirke and

Bill Williams. Quirke was substitute against Plymouth — the Gills' last match — and Williams, who starts a week's suspension on Monday, proved his fitness in the reserves' game last weekend after a groin injury against

Bristol Rovers had put him out of action for a fortnight.

Williams scored the winning goal against Cardiff Reserves in the last minute. His suspension means that he will miss only one match — away to Walsall tomorrow week.

Despite their lowly position in the League table, Gillingham have been beaten only twice at home — 3-1 by Luton and 2-0 by Bristol

Rovers.

Their visit to Watford on November 2 resulted in a 2-1 defeat, the winning goal coming five minutes from the end when 'keeper Derek Bellotti failed to hold the ball from a corner-kick.

## Dreaded

While tomorrow's game is rated a good away win by the experts, it's worth remembering that the Gills have a good home record against Watford in recent years.

If they can reproduce the form they showed at Plymouth the points may well be shared. And with three of their next four matches at home, now is the time the Gills must start pulling away from the dreaded relegation zone.

Team from: J. Simpson, Weston, Green, T. Simpson, Williams, Bailey, Machin, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie, Folds, Quirke.

Gillingham's visit to Swindon, put off last Saturday because the Wiltshire club were playing in the FA Cup, has been rearranged for Tuesday, February 25, at 7.30 p.m.

The reserves have no match tomorrow, and the youth team are away to Chelsea in the South-East Counties League.



A Cardiff City attack comes to an end as inside-right Allan is beaten by Gillingham's right-back, Graham Chapman in Saturdays Football Combination match that Gills won 2-1. Also in the picture are 'keeper John Simpson, David Quirke, Bill Williams and Mike Green. R.227



Arsenal 'keeper Malcolm Webster punches a cross off the head of Gillingham centre-forward Geoff Bray in Tuesday's F.A. Youth Cup tie. R.223

## ROLL CALL

Aug. 10	Tranmere	A	0-2		
14	ORIENT*	H	2-2	5,938	Quirk (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	Williams
Sept. 7	Torquay	A	0-2		
14	BRIGHTON	H	5-0	4,445	Gilbert (2), Yeo (2), Woodley Yeo
16	Barrow	A	1-2		Yeo, Woodley
20	Southport	A	2-4		Woodley
28	MANSFIELD	H	1-1	4,630	Yeo (2)
Oct. 4	Reading	A	2-3		Gilbert, Yeo
9	ROTHFRHAM	H	2-0	5,525	
12	STOCKPORT	H	0-0	5,314	Riddick
19	Bristol Rovers	A	1-5		Riddick
26	PLYMOUTH	H	1-0	5,170	T. Simpson
Nov. 2	Watford	A	1-2		Yeo
5	Northampton	A	1-0		Smillie, Yeo
9	WALSALL	H	4-0	4,857	(2), Riddick Smillie
16	Orient	A	1-1		Riddick (2)
20	ORIENT	H	2-1	9,563	Simpson
23	SHREWSBURY	H	4-1	5,270	Riddick, Yeo, Machin (pen.)
Dec. 30	Bournemouth	A	0-2		
7	Luton	A	1-3		Yeo
13	Stockport	A	0-5		
21	BRISTOL R.	H	0-2		
26	READING	H	2-2	4,692	Yeo (2)
28	Plymouth	A	1-1		Riddick
Jan. 11	WATFORD	H			
18	Walsall	A			
25	NHAMPTON	H			

League Cup

F.A. Cup

Appearances to date, including League and F.A. Cups: Bailey 18 and 1 as sub, Bellotti 23, Folds 2 and 1 as sub, Gibbs 7, Gilbert 9, Green 26, Machin 27, Meredith 27, Quirke 12 and 4 as sub, Riddick 26 and 1 as sub, J. Simpson 26, T. Simpson 27 and 2 as sub, Smillie 11, Thear 3, Weston 13, Williams 27, Woodley 29, Yeo 25.

Goalscorers: Yeo 14, Riddick 7, Woodley 4, T. Simpson 3, Gilbert 3, Smillie 2, Quirke 2, Williams 1, Machin 1, Gibbs 1.

Record, including League Cup and F.A. Cup: P 29, W 8, D 11, L 14, F 37, A 50.



# What has happened to the Simpson fund?

As a regular supporter of Gillingham, I was only too happy to contribute to the John Simpson Testimonial Fund last season as I still consider him one of the finest players in the club and a man worthy of some recognition from the fans

I assume the Testimonial Season is now over but during it I read whatever news I could of the progress it was making and, although I have no real axe to grind, I would like to remark on two points made in your sports columns last year.

First of all we were told that, as soon as the season was over, those who contributed would be told what had been done by the Committee John Simpson gathered around him.

Now, I'm not criticising the player, but I for one would like to know how well he did for the season and how well the Towns responded to the appeals made.

Has the chairman, Mr. France, been too busy lately with the Blue and Whites we seem to be reading about in the paper so often these days to bother about the fund he was responsible for? What has happened to the Committee?

The other point was your paper told us that a big match was being lined up for John Simpson and you even said Chelsea might be coming to Gillingham. What has happened to this?

(Name and address supplied)

## Managers must practise what they preach

Hayward



answers the Post

Q Many games are spoiled by petty fouling—shirt pulling, pushing and tripping. Time-wasting and other unsporting activities also help to ruin the game for the paying customer. What do you think of Eddie Firmani's much publicised decision to discipline his Charlton players and fine them for dirty play and what are your own attitudes to this situation?

A There are too many people nowadays saying what they are doing, but in fact they are not practising what they preach all the time. To my mind what Eddie is doing is just degrading his players. If there is a need for continual disciplining of players then it is time to get a new staff. If you have to do this all the time there is no respect

for your authority. Occasionally you have to bring someone back into line, but otherwise there is no respect in the manager or for the game.

But obviously I agree with the sentiments behind his statements. I have said in the past, virtually the same thing but I don't continually broadcast the fact. I think anyone who starts shouting something about is trying to convince people he is something which he is not, like these so-called "tough" managers.

I think I possibly lost a few points through saying I would not tolerate dirty play after the Arsenal game and saying I would discipline players.

But spectators are entitled to see a player playing football and not pulling shirts. If a player is continually doing this then he should be replaced.

Often I think it is just laziness and if this happens the player is in trouble.

At Gillingham if there is open fighting on the field I fine the player.

I tell my players to play it clean, but hard—to play the ball at all times, or at least to try and play the ball.

Obviously there are going to be fouls in any game but these should be fouls that don't hurt or cripple. I can see there being an excuse for a foul if you are near your own goal and there is no other way of stopping a player.

But when you are up in the opponents' penalty area shirt-pulling and pushing can be just as costly as in your own area. In one you give away a penalty. In the other you might lose a good chance to score.

I took no action against Bill Williams over his sending off at Reading because I did not think he was guilty of what he was accused of. His fine and suspension by the P.A. were the minimum penalties and I feel sure this was because there was at least a little doubt in their minds.

## Basil Hayward's Own Column



## GAME NOT AS BAD AS PEOPLE TRY TO MAKE OUT

WEDNESDAY saw the end of the long wait for the inquiry into the sending off of Bill Williams in the Reading game last October and, as you probably already know, the result is that he will only miss one Saturday.

Needless to say, we are all quite relieved at the outcome of the hearing. But Bill's thanks, mine and the club's must go to Mr. Clifford Lloyd, the Players' Union representative, who conducted the case.

I can't help but feel that it was the wonderful way in which he led our appeal that saw Bill having the lesser sentence and I have no doubt that without Mr. Lloyd's help the Disciplinary Committee could have been swayed to take a much harsher line in view of all the publicity given to this side of the game recently.

A lot has been said these past few days about violence on the field but I am convinced that the game is not as bad as people are trying to make out.

### STRAIGHTFORWARD

Obviously, there is much more unruliness on the terraces than there has ever been. But, although I have listened to all the arguments on how it can be stamped out, to me the solution is pretty straightforward.

The answer, of course, lies with evicting the offenders from the ground and then it is up to the magistrates' courts.

But, apart from this, I have never understood how anyone can pay a high admission fee for his afternoon's entertainment and allow it to be spoiled by a minority of people. Surely, the remedy lies with the spectators themselves?

If they see a bunch of hooligans making too much of a nuisance of themselves, all they have to do is to act quickly and stop it from spreading.

There are enough police officers around the ground and, if they are called early enough and are given the right kind of assistance, they can easily quell the trouble in time.

We have not experienced much in the way of crowd misbehaviour at Priestfield Stadium in recent years and I only hope nothing will develop as a result of any change in fortunes on the field.

This then, brings me to my final point this week. Due to us not having a game at

the weekend we have slipped nearer the bottom of the table. But, with a little help and a lot more determination on our part, we can lift ourselves from the threat of relegation.

No-one is kidding themselves that it is not going to be a tremendously hard fight to get back up the table. But, once again, I repeat the need for support.

Isn't it better to give us just that little bit more encouragement now rather than having to come back to support a successful Fourth Division side?

## Soccer placings

### DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Watford	22	13	6	4	51	32
Stockport	24	12	8	4	45	38
Bournemouth	24	14	3	7	45	31
Swindon	21	13	3	5	32	18
Tranmere	24	13	3	8	38	33
Luton	22	12	3	8	37	27
Barrow	23	11	5	7	37	34
Torquay	24	10	5	9	32	28
Flymouth	25	9	7	9	26	25
Reading	23	9	6	8	26	34
Northampton	23	8	7	8	28	33
Southport	24	10	3	11	41	41
Rotherham	23	7	8	8	24	22
Crewe	24	8	6	10	22	28
Barnsley	24	7	8	9	27	20
Walsall	24	6	9	9	27	20
Mansfield	23	8	3	10	31	30
Bristol	23	8	3	10	36	40
Brighton	20	7	6	13	33	42
Oxford	22	6	8	9	28	35
Grimsby	24	5	10	9	21	20
Gillingham	21	3	5	12	25	49
Sheff. Wed.	24	2	5	12	21	33
Oldham	20	4	4	15	16	42

### FOOTBALL COMBINATION

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Tottenham	12	11	0	1	37	4
Arsenal	12	9	4	0	30	9
Fulham	11	9	1	1	35	12
Crystal P.	12	8	2	2	19	11
QPR	11	7	3	1	28	13
West Ham	12	4	7	1	18	12
Cardiff C.	12	6	2	4	18	14
Bristol R.	12	6	2	4	25	27
Birmingham	14	6	3	5	22	13
Gillingham	11	3	3	5	18	13
Southampton	11	0	5	6	25	17
Derby C.	10	0	4	6	21	13
Newcastle	12	3	3	6	13	12
Ipswich	10	4	3	3	25	11
Oxford U.	11	4	3	4	11	16
Sheff. Wed.	12	4	2	6	25	10
Leicester	11	5	0	6	19	19
Flymouth	12	4	1	7	10	17
Walsall	10	3	2	5	19	21
Swansea T.	13	2	4	7	19	23
Northampton	14	2	2	0	17	24
Peterboro	11	1	3	7	9	20
Exeter T.	12	1	4	7	11	28
Reading	12	2	2	8	24	37
Bournemouth	11	1	3	7	18	25
Swindon	11	1	0	10	7	28



## FOCUS ON GILLINGHAM'S OPPONENTS

# Rodney Green to get recall chance?

RODNEY GREEN, the striker Gillingham bought for about £8,000 in the days of manager Freddie Cox, will probably lead the attack for top-of-the-table Watford at Priestfield Stadium tomorrow.

Bustling six-footer Green joined promotion-hunting Watford in September after stays with Grimsby, Charlton Athletic and Luton Town.

Dogged by injury and a month's suspension, Green has been unable to command a regular Road line-up, which has one of the best defensive records in the Football League.

Substitute for the last four matches, Green was called upon two weeks ago against Brighton and scored the winning goal, his first since joining Ken Purphy's staff.

He may get his chance because of an injury to Barry Endean. An amateur until signing for Watford in September, Endean has become the find of the season, scoring five goals in his last four outings, but a calf injury looks like keeping him out of the side at Gillingham.

Watford come to Gillingham with an away record that only a couple of clubs in the Football League can match—their last defeat on



FORMER Arsenal man  
Tom Walley.

an opponent's ground being back in September.

But Purphy's men will not be under-estimating the Kent outfit, who only lost by the odd goal in three at Watford.

Strengthened by the early-season signing of Welsh under-23 goalkeeper, Mike Walker, Watford's well-drilled rearguard has proved a tremendously effective unit.

With the impressive Keith Eddy—the club skipper—controlling tactics at the back, and Tom Walley, the former Arsenal and Welsh under-23 wing half, covering midfield, Watford will want at least a point to maintain their lead in the Third Division.

Their hard-working attack relies greatly on the brilliant ball-play of winger Stewart Scullion, who has attracted interest from several top clubs.

Queen's Park Rangers' bid for the services of manager Purphy, the former Workington player-manager, last week, but the Watford boss, who has guided his club to an F.A. Cup (fourth round) tie against Manchester United at Old Trafford, firmly believes that a place in the Second Division is only just around the corner for the Hertfordshire men.



RODNEY GREEN—back to face Gillingham.

# Let's have some facts from you Mr. Hayward

I have been reading Basil Hayward's column regularly and have come to the conclusion that his remarks concerning the club are just remarks...they have little significance.

There is nothing constructive in his writings and the average supporter knows what is wrong with the club.

To write that "we are near to becoming a promotion side" is utter rubbish. Surely he means "near to a demotion side." And, my goodness, we are very near it!

And he talks of "unfortunate away performances." Well, Mr. Hayward, get out the record and you'll find that over the 70 odd years Gillingham F.C. have had a woeful away record.

I have followed them home and away and I say they always lack a lot of punch when playing away - away from the Priestfield Stadium critical eye. Only the players can tell you why, but something comes over them and they forget they are representing Kent.

## GALLING

I don't follow them away now because of their performances - it's galling to travel and shout them on only to see them get another bashing.

Mr. Hayward speaks of parting with players to balance the budget: why does the club keep their supporters in the dark when it comes to transfer fees?

According to the National Press, Crickmore went to Rotherham for £18,000 to £20,000, Gibbs went to Colchester for £6,000 to £8,000, but no statement comes from our club or Mr. Hayward. So what has happened to this money?

## STRIKER

We need a striker says Mr. Hayward. And then Riddick grabs a couple of nice goals which change Mr. Hayward's tune. Then reports had it that a club had offered £15,000 for Bellotti. If that is true, why wasn't a deal made?

Profit for the club and a better class of football for Bellotti!

Apart from Andy Smillie's debut goal I have yet to see him come up to my expectations. Riddick belongs in the half back section, reading the game and directing operations on the field. He is a fine player whose talent is wasted up front.

Speed Machin up and put him up front. After all, he came here as a forward. Meredith has been with us quite a time but his goals tally is very poor, so his Fancy Dan work is wasted. It's in the net that it counts.

## 'Don't blame the fans'

IT looks very much as if the Fourth Division writing is on the wall for the Gills.

Call it fate or call it what you like — the Gills never seem to rise to the occasion. As soon as they are knocking at the door of something big the rot sets in.

I for one will not blame the supporters. Surely the Medway Towns, with their vast population, plus the surrounding districts, are worthy of a first-class soccer team.

You must have the goods in the window to attract the customers. I wonder if the majority of the directors realise this? If they do, how about some action?

Season 1964-65 proved that a winning side would pack them in. The gates have dropped since then and in my opinion will continue to do so unless the directors abandon their closed shop attitude and get some fresh faces or increase the number on the board.

The potential for soccer in these Towns is unlimited. Let's take an example from Aston Villa — have a clear out and make a fresh start. — JIM BUCK, 55, Widderslade Road, Chatham.

And please let our team play in the blue and white whenever possible... and I don't mean dark blue top and bottom with a white edging. I mean blue shirts and white shorts. And bring back that rampant horse of Kent to their shirts. Give them something to fight for and be proud of.

Let them remember that they are being well paid to do a job of work and we the supporters pay well to see.

A winning side commands bigger gates so, Mr. Hayward, make that your first priority lest we fall into Division Four.

Perseverance  
(Name and address supplied)



# Another 5 goal lesson

PROBABLY Gillingham's last hope of reclaiming big crowds this season crumbled on Saturday when, in a paralyzing second-half, they crashed to the worst home defeat in recent years.

Primarily, the shock sending off of skipper Gordon Riddick in the 30th minute was the cause of it all. But other important factors were the clinging, uncompromizing mudpack of a pitch that Gillingham

**Writes  
Martin Hitchings**

**Gillingham 0. Watford 5**

told on the team's strength and resources. But they did nothing for even the most optimistic and ardent Gillingham fan to say they put up a gallant show. Derek Woodley, brilliant the first-half, hardly came into the game at all after the interval and Andy Smillie again failed to live up to his reputation of being the tactician of the team. Bobby Folds too suffered under the pressure and all too often Brian Yeo was left to chase his heart out in a desperate effort to give Gillingham some say in the game.

The whole of the defence too switched embarrassingly from one extreme to the other. In the first-half Bill Williams, Mike Green and Mel Machin looked in peak form and, with Tony Weston in support and Terry

Simpson setting things up from the back, it looked as though a home win was only a formality.

But everything fell apart almost straight after the change-round.

ENDEAN was first to expose the flaws when he slotted the ball home in the 50th minute and GREEN followed up with a similar close-in effort in the 52nd.

A spark of retaliation came a few seconds later when Folds flung himself at a low cross only to see his glancing header go just wide.

**LOSE BUT**

But then in the 65th minute ENDEAN picked up his second — again from near the goal and again after being left to move into position.

Machin tried to bring something back into the game with a first-time left-footed shot from the edge of the box that went over the top and Yeo was just short with a flying header during a desperate onslaught that saw at least eight Gillingham players within striking distance of the Watford goal.

The 70th minute, however,

saw ENDEAN picking up his hat-trick with a shot from no more than a yard or so outside the goal after Green had laid it perfectly on his boot with a glancing header.

Then in the 82nd minute Endean brought the ball through the mud in the middle and, although challenged by two Gillingham defenders, managed to send it out to OWEN who skirted what remained of the rearguard and slammed the ball home from a sharp angle.

The irony of the whole display was that Gillingham could have so easily claimed both points in the early stages.

Woodley cut the Watford defence to shreds time and again and his raking crosses could have been rounded off with just that little bit of luck. Yeo, Riddick and Folds all came close.

Gillingham: Simpson; Weston, Green; Simpson; Williams, Machin; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie and Folds.

Watford: Walker; Welbourne, Williams; Eddy, Garvey, Walley; Scullion, Hale (Green), Garbett, Endean and Owen.

Attendance 5,641.

Kick would not have burst a paper bag'

MANAGER Basil Hayward immediately went to the trainers' bench as Gordon Riddick was sent off — the captain can be seen disappearing down the tunnel in our picture.

Worried men on the Gillingham bench are substitute Ray Bailey, Hughie Russell (hidden behind Bailey) and trainer Jimmy Boswell.

Basil told the POST that any action he took over the Riddick incident was between the player and himself.

"But I think that he failed to receive adequate protection from the officials. After only half-an-hour he had marks on his chest, the back of his legs and on his shins," said the Gills' boss. "I think the kick he aimed at Garvey was more of a token gesture than a vicious kick. He doesn't know why he did it, but that kick would not have burst a paper bag."

"I don't condone what he did. You go up as leader of the attack, expecting to take some punishment, and he is getting more now because opposing sides all realise he is a good header of the ball."

"I think we would not have been beaten had it not been for Riddick getting sent off. The lads worked hard and I thought they did very well in the conditions. Even after Riddick had gone a win or a draw always looked on, then we got into a bit of a mix-up in the six-yard box and they scored."

"After that it became a question of how many." Asked why he had not substituted Ray Bailey for one of the forwards in an effort to bolster the defence at the start of the second half, Basil said this had not been necessary because all the players were working.



rarely came to terms with; the coming on of one-time Priestfield "golden boy" Rodney Green and the Gills' lack of determination — one of manager Basil Hayward's biggest worries — which has already this season seen Gillingham take a five-goal thrashing twice.

The fact, rather than the justice, of Riddick being given marching orders was the biggest body blow of the game. For the skipper, who has rarely

been in trouble in his footballing career and has only ever been booked once, retaliated after a bout of haggling with Watford centre-half Garvey.

An edge-of-the-box tussle saw the Gills' striker grounded and then suddenly he sprang to his feet and lashed out at the centre-half. Referee Mr. Norman Burtenshaw had no hesitation in pointing to the dressing room and, although the action enraged the Gillingham fans, the decision — on the facts before him — was justified.

Still, one can't help wondering why Mr. Burtenshaw chose to ignore a whole series of infringements on Riddick, particularly early on when he was fouled in the box.

At this point, Gillingham, who had the edge from the kick-off, looked like making a fight of it. The only real threat mounted by the Division pacemakers was an Endean shot that hit the top of the bar. And Gillingham looked even more dangerous when the odds were balanced a few minutes later with inside-forward Dixie Hale limping off with a leg injury.

But, although both teams were down to 10 men up to half-time, the change-round saw Gills' former centre-forward Rodney Green coming on as substitute. And it was he who turned out to be the scourge of the Gills defence by picking up one of the goals himself and laying on at least three of the rest.

Why Gillingham did not see the menace of Green when he "made" Endean's first in the 50th minute and followed up with his own two minutes later is a mystery.

But the fact is that four of Watford's goals came from close-in scrambled efforts and the fifth saw Gillingham's defence completely flat-footed.

The psychological burden of being a player short obviously



Police at Priestfield on Saturday.



# Hayward



answers  
the Post

## Let's try football on Sundays

**Q** Several clubs have tried switching their matches from Saturday afternoons to Friday and Saturday evening. Do you think this is a good idea?

**A** Football has always been the No. 1 attraction for me and many other people. Driving around alone for many miles I have often thought about this question and there are several different answers.

The top clubs don't have to change from Saturday afternoons because they have a tag to their names. People will always go to see them though whether they will see any more entertainment than they would at any other game, including Gillingham, is a different matter.

The smaller clubs might have to try different things to attract a larger crowd. Friday evenings have become a late shopping night and a lot of families now shop together. This seems to be the trend at the moment. Husbands and wives go out together.

Therefore I don't think Friday evenings are such a good idea.

Saturday evening matches seem to be a very good idea. Most people are free. I would like us to have a good social centre at the ground to make it a good night out, but of course we haven't and it doesn't look as though this is a possibility at the moment.

I think Sunday football will eventually come to be and everybody will have to accept this. A lot of people have jobs which keep them busy the rest of the week, especially as many of them have more than one job.

Sunday is often the only day off they have.

**Q** You went to Wembley for the England-Romania game. What did you think of the match? Did you consider it boring?

**A** The Rumanians had wonderful control of the ball and they used this ability very well in tight situations. They accepted tackles while they were playing the ball and this gave them greater accuracy.

England's game is full of vigour and running and we never got it going this way.

The Rumanians were fortunate to get away with losing the ball near their own area several times in the first 20 minutes. We could not get the ball in the net. Had we done so it would have led to a cricket score.

As it was we started playing in the same vein as they were and our skills on the ball are not as good as theirs.



WATFORD'S second goal, headed by substitute Rodney Green, the former Gillingham man. Gillingham's defence is in confusion—Bill Williams and Tony Weston share the dejection of grounded goalkeeper John Simpson—and referee Mr. Burtenshaw has already set off for the centre circle.



TENSION BETWEEN RIVAL FANS SNAPS

# Soccer BATTLE OF THE STATION Punch-up

**POLICE** swarmed into Gillingham railway station to stop a battle between fans after the Gillingham v. Watford soccer match.

Onlookers said that there were more than 50 youths in the punch-up that spread from the front of the station on to the platform.

Within minutes policemen on foot and from patrol cars were on the spot to break up the melee. Traffic had come to a standstill.

Railwaymen and police had been on the alert throughout Saturday for trouble between supporters of Gillingham FC and Watford.

The first indication had come when police were asked to meet the 11.14 train from Victoria, on which about 100 Watford fans were travelling to the Gillingham match.

Hundreds more supporters were arriving in coaches. A railway spokesman said: "There was no destructiveness at this stage. The fans were merely high spirited and making a lot of noise."

At Gillingham policemen talked to some of the supporters before they dispersed for lunch.

There was one pre-match incident in the High Street, when a local man was assaulted. He was taken to hospital to be X-rayed for a suspected broken jaw. A Watford supporter was later arrested.

At the match, police moved in quickly to make two more arrests, when scuffling broke out on the terraces and some toilet rolls were hurled. But there was no serious trouble.

But at the end of the game, when jubilant Watford fans

By **JIMMY HODGE**

streamed on to the pitch, jeering and making derisory gestures at the home crowd, tension rose.

The prancing Watford supporters ignored appeals over the public address system and refused to budge. They had to be cleared away by the police.

Then the tension snapped as rival groups headed for Gillingham station.

Terry Phillips, 16, of Clive Road, Rochester, said: "I was near the station afterwards and it was swarming with football supporters from both sides."

"There was a scuffle and in no time the thing became a big punch-up."

"I was wearing a scarf of 'Spurs' colours, but I wasn't taking any chances—I took it off quickly."

"There was a big hold-up in traffic because people were running backwards and forwards across the road."

Another eye-witness said: "It was a real free-for-all, but the police were on the spot very quickly and it broke up as fast as it had begun."

No one was injured in the brawl.

"We stepped on it before things had a chance to develop," said a policeman. "Three more boys were arrested."

Four of the six persons arrested were juveniles.

When the train with the Watford supporters arrived at London, electric light bulbs and a fire extinguisher were missing.

Mr. Lewis Marmara, secretary of Gillingham FC's Supporters' Association, said: "This is something we deplore very much."

## Skipper Riddick is sent off

GILLINGHAM skipper Gordon Riddick is sent off for kicking Watford centre-half Garvey. It made many fans wild.

They were angry that nothing was done about two fouls on Riddick that led to the act of retaliation. But referee Norman Burtenshaw was right on the spot.

With Riddick off, the Gills fell to pieces. Watford, Third Division leaders, scored five goals without reply.

Gillingham are now in deep trouble and face a terrific struggle to escape relegation. To make matters worse, defence king-pin Bill Williams begins a seven-day suspension today and will miss Saturday's match at Walsall.

Turn to back page for story and pictures of the match and read Gillingham manager Basil Hayward's verdict on the Riddick incident.







WATFORD'S ace goal-grabber Barry Endean in action at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday, when he collected a hat-trick in the Third Division leaders' 5-0 win. This time 'keeper John Simpson saved Endean's header. Other Gills in view are Mel Machin and Andy Smillie, with Mike Green on the line.

## Dejected Hayward

AFTER watching the Gills' take their third five-goal beating this season, manager Basil Hayward must now be looking to tighten up the defence for the touch away clash with Walsall on Saturday and to instil something new in the players for the long haul back to respectability.

Now third from bottom, Gillingham are at their lowest ebb since coming into the Third Division and the fact that they have picked up only two points from their last six games puts them well among the relegation candidates. Since the 4-1 home win over Shrewsbury, Gillingham have only picked up three goals and conceded 17.

But, though there are king-

sized problems at Priestfield Stadium, the team showed on Saturday that they are still capable of good football even against teams like top-of-the-table Watford.

The Hertfordshire club went on to swamp Gillingham in the second-half but it wasn't until about the 40th minute — well after Gillingham were down to ten men through Gordon Riddick being sent off — that they showed any real thrust and were given their first corner.

Utterly dejected by the way things turned out on Saturday, Mr. Hayward has a big job on his hands these days. But, he commented: "Before Gordon Riddick went off the field we

looked quite capable of taking both points with a lot to spare.

"The players worked hard under atrocious conditions and had the better of the game," he said. "But we fell apart after we were down to 10 men."

The pitch was in one of its worst conditions for years and prolonged rain and frost created huge patches of mud. The whole of the centre circle, for instance, was completely void of grass.

The Gills' boss has no illusions about what has to be done with the team. But he can be slightly encouraged by the fact that the worst of the season is over and that Gillingham are at home for five of the next eight matches.

## The manager has a difficult job

EVERYONE IS ENTITLED to his own opinion, but last week's correspondent on the Gills should make sure he has sound knowledge of the workings of a professional football club.

Basil Hayward has stated time and time again why he cannot get the players he would like — lack of funds.

The money obtained from Crickmore and Gibbs has been used to pay the Club's expenses with regard to travelling, hotels and other commitments.

If we had sound support in the Towns, that money would have been used to buy the type of player who could draw even larger crowds.

### THE SHIRTS

I think the Manager has a difficult task in an area which is not primarily sport-minded.

With regard to the shirts worn by the team, I cannot see that this has any bearing on the performance of the team at home or away.

Now is the time for the real sportsmen to put on their coats, rally round the team and make sure we do not drop into a worse position.

P. Brett,

Gillingham.

## THE BLANK FACES OF THE NOISY

Why is it that frequently those who shout the loudest and longest in "Hear All Sides" lack the courage of their convictions?

I am fed up with these letter writers who criticize other people and haven't the guts to disclose their identity for publication.

I can understand a railwayman, a busman, policeman, or other public servants, whose job is at stake, wishing to remain anonymous.

But for a man who occupies the best part of a column in last week's paper to attack Mr. Basil Hayward and then hide his name I can think of no more suitable adjective than "Despicable."

BOB DAY,

54 Goddington Road, Strood.

# Enough of the excuses, says supporter

SO once again out come the excuses — it's either bad conditions, bad referees or that old favourite bad luck.

Will Mr. Hayward ever admit that Gillingham are a bad team. It's as simple as that!

At the beginning of the season Gillingham lost two forwards, Brown and Gibbs. What did we get as replacement? Two half-backs and a full-back with the result that Gillingham have one of the worst defences in the division.

So we come to the Watford match, and strangely enough, it was your headline which seems to typify the whole shoddy Gillingham set-up — "Impossible after Riddick's expulsion". The important word is impossible. What the devil was impossible about it? Good skilled football, which after all is what we are repeatedly being told Gillingham play could have and should have made the score much closer.

I remember not so long ago Barrow were playing here. Just before half-time they lost their goalkeeper. Yet with all the home advantage and the skilled football they played, they could score only three goals. On Saturday it was not a goalkeeper sent off, not a centre-half or a half man, but a centre-forward, Gillingham had their strongest defence playing, the goals were not against the run of play, all the defence were in the area, in position when the goals

were scored. Gillingham completely surrendered the match, they lost control of midfield, and never fought really hard for the ball but just sat back and waited for the inevitable. The great fight-back was limited to a few big boots upfield chased only by Yeo.

### Year's gem

And what were the thoughts of Basil? Of course he blamed the defeat on Riddick being sent off. Then came the gem of the year. He did not send on the substitute because in his own words "all the players were working well."

Smillie, Folds and Woodly wandered about midfield as though they were lost. The defence just showed how badly they can play.

So come on Mr. Hayward give the supporters a bit of credit. We would all think much more of you and your team if, just once when Gillingham play badly, you will admit it and stop making excuses.

If Gillingham go down it will be the end of them for they will need a board of directors and a manager with much more courage and enterprise than those we have at present to achieve any substantial success. — D. L. OSBORNE, 15 Northbourn Road, Gillingham.

## The Gills have had bad luck

I read Jim Buck's "Don't blame the fans" letter in the Post with dismay and disgust. It was his usual criticism when support, not knocking, is required. Seen a game for a year or two, Jim?

The present team, in my opinion, are one of the best Gillingham have had in the last 15 years. Ask Tommy Docherty — remember the Rotherham game?

Having seen all the home games and all the away matches except two I think encouragement is required at the moment.

How many times have Gillingham hit the post

this season? Remember the Reading game, the Plymouth game, the Bournemouth game?

How about injuries — notably Smillie?

I do feel also that Gillingham have had their share of bad match officials. Every team have their share, but Gillingham more so at the moment.

Things go well for you when the ball is running. When it is not you need encouragement, sympathy, support and loyalty. Come on you supporters, Gillingham FC need every one of you. — I. CARE (name and address supplied).

SPORTS EDITOR JOHN EVANS writes: Both correspondents seem to have over-stated their cases. Gillingham are not as black as Mr. Osborne paints them, not as white as "Mr. Care" suggests. The difference between good and bad remains only marginal, but they are in grave danger of relegation and bad luck stories, no matter how justified, cannot change that.

Club chairman Dr. C. S. Grossmark told me this week that he thinks the Gills will achieve their point-a-game target from now on and stay in the Third Division. But he added that the board would take steps to strengthen the team if at all possible.

The sooner they act the better to make sure the Gills avoid the big drop. But meantime, as the writer of the second letter suggests, the fans can help by cheering instead of accepting the situation with the silence that reigned at Priestfield on Saturday.

What are your views, supporters — air them in the POST. These columns are yours!



# SOCCER GANGS CLASH IN HIGH STREET

How easy it was to predict Gills' slump

Just over two years ago I wrote giving a few points of view concerning Gillingham F.C. which you kindly printed under the heading "Gills Must Stop This." I ended the letter with the following prediction: "To our Directors, who are ultimately responsible, I say 'Cut your losses before we are in Division Four!'"

How unfortunate it is to be within a few weeks of being proved right.

To my mind it was so easy to forecast. A winning team drawing an average gate of 11,000, replaced by a mediocre line-up playing with no pattern and very little method.

## CHAMPIONSHIP?

We read, week in and week out, a manager who says in effect "I have a championship side."

You can fool some of the people, Mr. Hayward, but not all the time.

Do you remember, Mr. Hayward, when there was terrific interest and enthusiasm in the club? Possibly not, because gates have now slumped to an average of 5,000 and your team is in danger of relegation.

As Manager you must, of course, bear some of the responsibility just as you would expect praise if you achieved promotion (which you always appear to be talking about).

## KEEPS 'MUM'

Of course, you are not alone. The Chairman (who keeps "mum") and his not-so-merry band of co-Directors are not without responsibility.

In the Chatham News on Friday I read: "Isn't it better to give us a little more encouragement now rather than having to come back to support a successful Fourth Division side..." How about that!

After Saturday's show I shouldn't think many will want to come back at all.

Gillingham Supporter  
(Name and address supplied)

Rival gangs of soccer supporters fought in Gillingham High Street on Saturday after a match at Priestfield Stadium when Gills went down to a 5-0 defeat.

And, after one of the worst days of disturbances ever connected with a Gillingham home match, six youths were arrested to appear at Chatham Court later this month.

First signs of trouble came around lunch-time when the railway authorities contacted Gillingham police to be on the alert for rowdies on the train from Victoria.

Extra squads of officers were called in and the police were waiting for the Watford supporters as they came off the train.

Scuffles broke out and one youth was apprehended after a fight further down the High Street.

## PLAIN CLOTHES

Officers in plain clothes also mingled with the crowd for the match. And uniformed officers had to move into the terraces at the Rainham and shortly after the Gillingham skipper Gordon Riddick was sent off the field.

The crowd became restless after the decision of referee Mr. Norman Burtenshaw of Yarmouth to give the player his marching orders.

And, although hundreds of people drifted away from the ground well before the game finished, other became more and more frustrated as Gillingham, now well into the relegation zone, went down to their worst defeat at home in years.

## JUBILANT

Scores of Watford supporters poured on to the field at the end of their club's 5-0 victory over the Gills and danced a jubilant highland fling.

And, as many of the 6,641 crowd made their way along Balmoral Road to the station, police kept a close watch on gangs of youngsters.

With traffic building up, how-

ever, two gangs clashed and the police had to move in.

## LIGHT BULBS

Hundreds of Watford fans were seen on to the trains but London police were also called in by British Rail after reports of vandalism on the 5.16 from Gillingham.

Several light bulbs were missing and a B.R. spokesman said that a fire extinguisher appeared to have been emptied in the corridor of one of the coaches.

No arrests were made in London but a spokesman at Gillingham police said that six had been made in Gillingham.

## EVICTED

One is charged with an offence concerning the High Street incident before the match; two were evicted from the ground and three more were charged with offences in connection with the fracas outside the station after the match. All six were bailed to appear at Chatham court on 28 and 29 January.

When approached about the incidents, Gillingham manager Mr. Basil Hayward, commented: "There is very little, if anything, we as a club can do about this sort of thing. It lies largely with the authorities to help us stamp it out."

And he repeated the remarks he made about crowd violence in last week's Chatham News when he said that supporters themselves could do a lot to help if they assisted the police and called them in before trouble was allowed to grow to any extent.

## ... AND THE GAME WENT ON

An example of the interest shown during Gillingham's home defeat on Saturday as these young fans decided it was more interesting away from the field. The picture was taken during the early stages of the second-half at the Rainham end.







The only real chance of scoring in the second half — as Brian Yeo tries a header which 'keeper Walker did well to save. Covering the goal is full-back Welbourne. R. 269.

## Going,.....



After an incident with Watford centre-half Garvey.... R. 265



Referee Burtenshaw speaks to Gordon Riddick... R. 266



And then books the Gillingham captain.... R. 267

## Going, .....

It looks very much as if "Fourth Division" is the writing on the wall for the Gills.

Call it fate, or call it what you will, the Gills never seem to rise to the occasion. As soon as they are knocking at the door of something big the rot sets in.

I for one would not place the blame on the supporters. Surely, the Medway Towns with its vast population, and taking into account the outlying districts, are worthy of a first-class soccer team.

### ACTION

You must have the goods in the window to attract the cus-

tomers. I wonder if the majority of the Directors realize this. If so how about some action?

The season 1964-5 proved that a winning side can pack them in.

The gates have dropped considerably since then, and in my opinion this trend will continue unless the Directors abandon the closed shop attitude and get some fresh faces on the Board, or increase the number of Directors.

The potential for soccer in these towns is unlimited. Let's take an example from Aston Villa, have a clear out, and make a fresh start.

JIM BUCK

55 Walderslade Road, Chatham.

## Gone.....



And gives him his marching orders. R. 268



**Bumper  
weekend  
with the  
Gills  
scheme**

THE Blue and Whites, Gillingham's supporting organization, are forging ahead with plans to boost the club's off-the-field fund raising activities. Two new projects — along with a "perk" for the fans — were announced this week.

The Association's Entertainment Committee has managed to get the use of the Aurora Hotel, Gillingham and will now be running a "Football Night" every Wednesday evening from next month.

Aurora owners, Mr. Walter Kimmel and Mr. Lorne Scott, have asked for only a nominal hiring fee and this, said B and W chairman Mr. Harold France this week, will go a long way towards his association making an even better go of the ideas.

First big night is Wednesday, 5 February when local beat group The Barons, who won the Chatham Standard "Pop Poll," will be on hand for the youngsters. They will be followed the next week with The Panthers.

**CENSUS REPLIES**

"For the moment we are catering for the youngsters while we see how successful the "Football Night" is going to be. Our "mini" girls tell us that the Towns don't have much to offer midweek so this should fill the void," said Mr. France. "Naturally, when we sort things out we shall be putting on bigger events as we have the use of the whole hotel."

"We could, for instance, have beat dances in one part and ballroom dancing for older people in another — or even bingo," he added.

The deal with the Aurora was lined-up by committeemen Bill Williams, Don Jones and Bill Blakey.

Another fillip for the Blue and Whites is that they have so far had nearly 80 replies to the letters they sent to supporters following the big census of the crowd carried out by the mini girls some weeks ago.

"The response has been most encouraging and although there might be a slight delay, we shall be getting round to visiting everyone in the coming weeks," said the chairman. "Naturally, we can't go to all those who replied at once but we shall be calling on them soon."

"There is definitely a genuine interest in helping the club as shown by the letters," said Mr. France.

The supporters' "perk" will come at Easter when the Gills have a packed away and home programme. The Blue and Whites are now lining up a full week-end's travel and accommodation for anyone interested in going with the team.

First match on the agenda is at Oldham Athletic on Friday 4 April. From there the fans will be able to stay in a Manchester hotel so that they can then see the Gills at Mansfield Town on the Saturday and then travel back to the Towns for the home match with Barrow on Monday 7 April.

"We will be going by coach but we would like to get some idea of the number interested as we have to decide on hotel bookings," said Mr. France.

**Basil Hayward's Own Column**



**I'm under  
no illusions**

I THINK it is about time we got one or two things straight in view of last week's letter from "Perseverance" criticizing myself and the club in the Hear All Sides column. Normally, I wouldn't even bother to reply to anyone who hasn't the backbone to put his name to a letter like this. But, as this sort of thing seems to be something of a habit in this part of the country, I suppose I ought, for once, to pay some regard to it — though I feel newspapers should not allow letters of this kind to go in their columns unsigned, especially when they are criticizing individuals.

Taking his first point about my belief that we have the players to make Gillingham a promotion side, I am still convinced this is the case and that, given the support and the right run of the ball, we have a nucleus of players that could eventually put us into Division Two. Naturally, I am under no illusions and am realistic enough to know that we have got to put up a really big fight — particularly in view of last Saturday's disastrous result — if we are going to avoid relegation.

But, with regard to the writer's other point about our so-called "woeful" away record. Apart from this season, I think he will find that for the past three years we have fared pretty well away from home.

He also talks of the club colours. Unless I'm colour-blind, we wear blue shirts, white shorts and white stockings.

If "Perseverance" is such a keen football supporter, he will know that it has been said many times before that fees paid for the transfer of players are confidential and must be kept so according to Football League rules. This is why one only sees an approximate figure given in the Press.

Which brings me to the point about where the money is spent that we might pick up from selling players. Obviously, we have got to buy players and look after the general running expenses of the club which, at Gillingham, runs into something like £1,000 a week.

**THE MONEY**

But to suggest that the directors should plough more money into Gillingham is just not on. There is just no true comparison between us and the likes of Aston Villa from an investor's point of view. There, the chances of anyone losing money are remote as Villa are a well established club with a strong following and little prospect of not making money.

At Gillingham the situation is quite different and one cannot expect people with money to take that much bigger gamble.

Frankly, if I were a director of Gillingham F.C., I would be most reluctant to enter into such a one-sided bargain where there is so little being done to support the efforts being made to provide entertainment.

I, as manager, am prepared to struggle — and at times it is a real struggle, believe me — so that we might find that little bit of success in the future and so build on the very real potential we have here.

As to the writer's point about players' wages, this is a very private thing between the

club and the player but, at the risk of being accused of repeating myself, I would like to say again that I am always working to give the players even better contracts and conditions — not only for the sake of the staff we have now but so that we can attract the right kind of man to Gillingham who is ambitious enough to realize what rewards there can be in the game for success.

"Perseverance" also refers to the conversion of players.

When Brian Gibbs went to Colchester, this gave us the money to negotiate for Andy Smilie from Southend. There were one or two delays in negotiations and so Gordon Riddick took up the striker role and proved my belief that this is a role he is best suited to. Consequently, this gave us the opportunity to use Andy in the midfield role along with Terry Simpson.

**ILLNESS**

They have built up a good workmanlike combination, though I would like to point out that Andy, who has had very little injury in his footballing career and was given the most stringent of tests when he came to Gillingham, was most unfortunate in starting his association with the club with a series of illnesses. This, you will find, in more detail in the "prospects" section of the paper.

Mel Machin was also mentioned by last week's critic but it might interest him to know that Mel has lost two stones in weight since coming to Priestfield Stadium from Port Vale and has worn out numerous pairs of spikes in his efforts to increase his speed.

But, in my judgement, Mel is far better suited to the half-back line where his talent and indisputable intelligence allows him not only to build up moves with our own attack and also to counter the threat of our opponents.

This is by far Mel's best position and we already have plenty of pace in our own forward line with Derek Woodley, Brian Yeo and Gordon and apart from using a high-speed turbine from the Dockyard, I don't know where we are going to find any more pace from.

Finally, to answer the writer's other point about being proud of representing Kent. It is interesting to note that councillors in the Towns are bending over backwards to retain a county cricket match at Gillingham which would attract no more than about 15,000 with no mention of the football club which is capable of bringing into the Towns more than this in just one afternoon!

**GILLS' MEDIOCRE**

ALDERMAN Harold Smith called Third Division Gillingham Football Club "mediocre" on Thursday night when he sprang to the council's defence following recent comments by the club manager, Mr. Basil Hayward.

In an article in the Chatham News Mr. Hayward, manager for the last three seasons, answered criticisms about the club's recent performance and attacked the council for its lack of support.

He said in his weekly column: "It is interesting to note that councillors in the towns are bending over backwards to retain county cricket at Gillingham which would attract no more than about 15,000 with no mention of the football club which is capable of bringing into the Towns more than this in just one afternoon."

**Why not a  
fund?**

At the Watford match Golden Goal tickets could not be bought at the Gordon Road entrance five minutes before the game, and again on Saturday.

Maybe not a lot of money is lost by the sellers returning to pay in early enough to see the start of the game, but when it is claimed that every shilling counts the loss over a period can be considerable.

Some little time back I suggested that it might be a good idea to formulate the issue of non-votable £1 shares to get cash for the immediate purchase of a good player. This suggestion fell on stony ground.

Now I would like to suggest that perhaps for one or two months a Shilling Fund could be started.

S. V. KNIGHTS  
16, Blaker Avenue,  
Rochester.

**The obstinate  
Mr. Hayward**

REGARDING the correspondence about the present misfortunes of Gillingham F.C., may I add my views, having been a follower of the club since before the war? Obviously the directors are responsible in the first instance, by appointing the manager.

One must assume that the manager decides what players to go for, and in this Mr. Hayward has been woefully at fault, having been left the nucleus of a good team by Mr. Cox.

These players have been gradually disposed of and replaced by men of less ability, mainly (as stated by Mrs. Negus in her letter from the Southern League, with a strange obstinacy on the part of Mr. Hayward to realise his errors.

The players cleared out following Mr. Cox's departure were mostly young, while one replacement — from Bedford of course — was a 29-year-old winger who shortly afterwards announced his retirement, not prematurely, I add.

What else are we to think, Mr. Hayward; but "jobs for the boys". Carry on like this and there won't be any jobs.

Only the directors can do anything. Some of your correspondents have said the board can't be expected to dip into their pockets. Why on earth not? It is a business run by them.

We are not kicking the club while they're down, but trying to shake the board out of their complacent attitude.

Nor are the players to blame. They are all workers (we've had the other sort in the past), but quite a few are in a higher sphere of football than they should be.

S.J.H., Wigmore.  
(Name and address supplied).









Gordon Riddick — sent off last Saturday.



Bill Williams — suspended by the F.A.



Andy Smillie — doubtful starter.



John Meredith — fighting back.

Gillingham Supporters' Association are looking for about a dozen girls to help their fund-raising ticket draw schemes.

Like the football club's other supporters' organisation—the Blue and Whites—they feel that the feminine "touch" might just result in increased sales at Gillingham matches, and also better results in local clubs and pubs.

The Blue and Whites Supporters' Club have organised Wednesday evening socials at the Aurora Hotel.

# A point will be hard to get

ANOTHER body blow for Gillingham came this week when Andy Smillie had to go into hospital for a minor stomach operation. He was out after an overnight stay but yesterday (Thursday) he had still not recovered fully and so is likely to be a doubtful starter for tomorrow's tough and crucial match at Walsall — whom they beat 4-0 at home.

And as the Gills will also be without anchor-man Bill Williams because of his suspension, manager Basil Hayward will have more than his share of headaches to find a team that can pull off at least a draw in an attempt to pull the Gills out of the lower reaches of the Division.

Smillie has been having a rough deal health-wise, almost since he came to Priestfield Stadium just before the Watford away game in November. Later that month he had to have a wisdom tooth extracted and so missed the second round F.A. cup tie at Luton at the beginning of December. Since then he has been having a lot of stomach trouble.

Though he has not actually been unfit to play, the Gills' midfield tactician has been having a great deal of discomfort for weeks. And on Monday this week it was made even worse when he had to have another wisdom tooth taken out. The stomach complaint became more acute and so on Tuesday he was taken into St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, for the operation. He reported for training yesterday (Thursday) but was still in pain and needed more medical treatment.

"Andy has had a most

unfortunate time with us so far," said Mr. Hayward. "It seems to have hit him all at once — even though he has been relatively free of injury in his footballing career and had no trouble in passing the fitness test we made on him when he joined us."

The absence of Smillie and Williams — who started a week's suspension on Monday following an incident at Reading in October — could mean a major reshuffle in the Gillingham line-up.

The situation could also be aggravated if John Meredith — out of the team since he sustained a leg injury against Bristol Rovers just before Christmas — does not fully recover. He has been going through a tough training programme this week and Mr. Hayward has high hopes of including him in the squad to travel to the Midlands tomorrow.

"I cannot say, however, what

the team will be in view of the circumstances," he said.

## DEFENCE FLAWS

His problems will also centre on the fact that Gillingham crashed 0-5 against Watford on Saturday — the heaviest home defeat they have suffered in a number of years. Main reason behind it was the shock sending off of Gordon Riddick in the 30 minute but Gillingham also found themselves swamped by the fast-raiding top-of-the-table club in the second-half.

Defensively, Gilling showed a number of glaring flaws and this could be a salient factor the Gills' boss will take into account for the Walsall meeting.

He will also have to take a long hard look at the second string line-up however, for they too have a tough-lash in the offing with Arsenal Reserves at the Stadium. The state of the pitch could also create some misgivings as it hasn't "healed" much since being chopped up by the first team on Saturday when they found the going hard.

Apart from hitting the Stadium, the weather has also caused so much trouble at the Garrison Ground that the club has decided to postpone this youth team's scheduled match with Colchester Youth.

# Even now it's not too late

## SPORT POST-BAG

MAY I, through the medium of your paper reply to my critic, Mr. W. I. Waterman (Post, Friday last).

Surely when Mr. Waterman wrote he had his tongue in his cheek? In my reply, I do not wish to be personal, but my critic has surprised me.

I claim to be one of the hard core who turn up every Saturday, wet or fine, in which case I am investing in the club by paying at the turnstiles.

I also buy tickets, and place a club poster in my window, so that should answer the question of "How much am I prepared to invest?"

I and a great number of supporters still remember when two local businessmen of repute, whom I am sure would have been a big asset to the club, were turned down. Why?

Yet my critic concludes with the words "A little help from everyone."

I trust that the words of wisdom from myself and other supporters will be well digested by the directors of the club for it is not too late for them to take the football-going public into their confidence and plan for a team worthy of better support.

With the development which is planned for the south-east, the Medway Towns will be worthy of a first class team.

JIM BUCK

55 Walderslade Road, Chatham.

# Williams, Smillie out . . . Meredith doubtful

# IT COULDN'T BE TOUGHER

WITH Bill Williams under suspension, Andy Smillie unfit and John Meredith doubtful, Gillingham face a tremendously hard task in their return Third Division fixture at Walsall tomorrow, writes GORDON CARPENTER.

Only Northampton (in the league) and Spurs (in the FA Cup) have won at Fellows Park this season and each time the margin of victory was a single goal.

But the Gills will much prefer to cast their minds back to that happy day last November when they handed out a 4-0 beating to Walsall at Priestfield Stadium, which still rates as the Midlands' heaviest defeat this term.

Gillingham will be anxious to atone for last week's dismal showing against Watford, but their weakened defence can expect another gruelling afternoon.

## Discharged

Smillie, who has been plagued by ill-health practically since joining the Priestfield club at the beginning of November, had another wisdom tooth extracted on Monday.

The following day he entered St. Bartholomew's

Hospital, Rochester, for a minor stomach operation.

Andy was discharged after an overnight stay, but although he reported for training yesterday he was still unfit and in need of medical attention.

Meredith, who has been out with an injured leg since the home game against Bristol Rovers just before Christmas, was having a fitness test at the ground today.

"I can't say yet whether he will be fit enough to travel with the party to Walsall," said manager

Basil Hayward, who named the following team:—

J. Simpson; Weston, Bailey, Machin, Green; T. Simpson, Quirke; Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Folds.

Gillingham Reserves have an attractive home game against Arsenal Reserves in the Football Combination, and manager Hayward said this morning that there should be no doubt about the match being on.

Team: Bellotti, Chapman, Simmons, Ribbins, Arnott, Gough, Osborn, Peach, Harrison, Gilbert, Tydemann.

# ROLL CALL

Appearances to date, including League and F.A. Cups: Bailey 18 and 1 as sub, Bellotti 23, Folds 3 and 1 as sub, Gibbs 7, Gilbert 9, Green 27, Machin 28, Meredith 27, Quirke 12 and 4 as sub, Riddick 27 and 1 as sub, J. Simpson 7, T. Simpson 28 and 2 as sub, Smillie 12, Thear 3, Weston 14, Williams 28, Woodley 30, Yeo 28.

Goalscorers: Yeo 14, Riddick 7, Woodley 4, T. Simpson 3, Gilbert 3, Smillie 2, Quirke 2, Williams 1, Machin 1, Gibbs 1.

Record, including League Cup and F.A. Cup: P 30, W 6, D 7, L 15, F 37, A 55.

## WHERE THE GILLS ARE

### DIVISION III

#### —HOME—AWAY—

	W	D	L	Pts
Watford	7	3	2	3
Stockport	10	3	1	2
Bournemouth	12	0	2	3
Swindon	8	1	0	5
Tranmere	8	1	0	5
Luton T.	10	1	0	2
Barrow	7	4	2	4
Plymouth	7	5	3	2
Torquay	9	1	2	2
Reading	8	0	3	1
Southport	8	3	1	2
Barnsley	7	4	2	1
Walsall	5	5	1	2
Northampton	5	4	4	3
Bristol R.	7	2	2	2
Mansfield	7	3	2	1
Rotherham	6	3	2	1
Crewe A.	7	2	4	1
Hartlepool	3	8	2	3
Brighton	5	4	3	2
Orient	5	5	1	3
GILLINGHAM	5	4	3	2
Shrewsbury	6	4	2	1
Oldham	3	2	7	1



# Hayward's problem is who to leave out

THE two weeks' rest brought about by Saturday's postponement of the Walsall game has given the Gills time to come back to full strength. And, with every player in the squad reporting fully fit yesterday (Thursday), manager Basil Hayward has the bitter-sweet dilemma of who to drop for tomorrow's home clash with Northampton.

His choice is made even more difficult these days as, due to injuries, Bobby Folds came into the team and has played well enough to swell the senior side to 14 players.

"Picking 11 of the right kind of players out of 14 is going to be that much harder," said manager Basil Hayward who once again is hanging fire on final selection until nearer kick-off time.

Last week's prospect of taking on Walsall with three first team players out no longer applies and the postponement has had a pleasant outcome for centre half Bill Williams, who should have missed the match as part of his week's suspension.

And midfield schemer Andy Smillie who failed to recover fully from the minor operation he had last week in readiness for the week-end, is now completely fit.

John Meredith, too, out of the team since he took a tumble against Bristol Rovers just

before Christmas, has now got over the ligament trouble that has been bothering him.

Desperately in need of a good win to pull the Gills up off their knees, Mr. Hayward has had the players hard at it all week to make up for the week-end void. If the breaks come, Gillingham could pull it off against the former second Division club who will be out to avenge the home 1-0 defeat they suffered at the hands of the Gills in November.

Mr. Hayward is, however, not laying any store in past achievements and he said this week: "Northampton will be a tough side to beat. They have a big team and we will have to pull out everything if we want it to go our way."

Another big worry for the Gills' boss is the state of the Priestfield Stadium pitch. It failed to come back into shape after the pounding it took with the Watford game a fortnight ago and last week-end the Gillingham Reserve match had to be called off.

"We have, however, never failed to have first class games against Northampton and tomorrow should be no ex-

ception," said Mr. Hayward.

Northampton Town, managed by Welsh team chief Dave Bowen, with former England international wing half Ron Flowers as team coach, come to the Stadium with an impressive away record of having conceded only eleven goals in 12 league outings.

But Flowers, for many years with Wolves, will not be in action against Gillingham. In December he damaged knee ligaments in the F.A. Cup-tie at Brighton and has only just had the plaster removed.

The "Cobblers" are expected to field the side that defeated Rotherham 1-0 at Millmoor on Tuesday evening — their fourth away league victory of the season but a match that saw inside forward John Roberts ordered off in the 65th minute.

The line-up will probably be: Gordon Morritt, goal, signed from Doncaster in August and who previously played in South African football with Durban.

Full-backs: Ray Fairfax, previously with West Brom; Clive Walker, formerly with Leicester.

Half-backs: John Clarke, a local boy; Frank Rankmore, born at Cardiff and previously with Cardiff City and Peterborough; John Kiernan, ex-Sunderland.

Forwards: Eric Weaver, scorer of the goal that beat Rotherham, previously with Notts County; John Fairbrother, ex-Peterborough; Bob Hutton; John Roberts, formerly with Swansea Town and Wales Under-23 international; Tommy Knox, joined club from Mansfield.

Gillingham Reserves will visit Q.P.R. on Monday for a Football Combination fixture and the Youths entertain Ipswich Town tomorrow in a South East Counties League match, kick-off 11 a.m.

Division 3				
Watford	25	14	7	4 36 13 35
Bournemouth	26	15	3	8 44 26 33
Stockport	26	12	9	5 47 31 33
Swindon	23	13	5	5 33 17 31
Tranmere	14	3	9	40 35 31
Torquay	26	12	5	9 36 27 29
Plymouth	27	11	7	9 32 29 29
Luton	24	12	4	8 37 23 28
Reading	25	10	7	8 38 29 27
Barrow	25	11	5	9 39 40 27
NORTHAMPTON	26	9	8	9 29 30 26
Barnsley	26	9	8	9 32 36 26
Southport	26	10	4	2 42 43 24
Rotherham	26	8	10	30 42 24
Bristol R	25	9	6	10 30 42 24
Walsall	25	7	9	9 28 26 23
Mansfield	25	8	7	0 32 31 23
Brighton	28	7	8	13 35 44 22
Crew	25	6	11	33 42 22
Hartlepool	26	10	10	23 43 22
Orient	24	6	9	9 26 35 21
GILLINGHAM	25	7	5	13 32 45 19
Shrewsbury	25	7	5	13 21 34 14
Oldham Ath	25	4	4	17 17 49 22



TEN small boys share the duty as mascot for Gillingham's first team home games. Last Saturday, two boys generously missed their turn so that Martyn France could lead the team on to the field on his ninth birthday.

Martyn, son of Harold France, chairman of the Blue and White Supporters' Association, is just crazy about football and the Gills.

"He eats and sleeps the game, and his room is full of table football teams," said his father. "On the field itself he shapes well, but like all kids he tends to chase the ball all over the pitch!"

The 10 youngsters qualify for mascot duty when they have obtained 20 new members for the Blue and Whites. They are kitted out by the association, and normally have a rota to go out with the team.

Our top picture shows Martyn France on the shoulders of two of his heroes, David Green (left) and skipper Gordon Riddick as they leave the tunnel before the start of the Northampton game.

Below, John Simpson with seven of the young mascots — back row: G. Brown, R. Jones, K. Williams and R. Allen. Front: L. Smith, M. France, J. Hutton.



## Soccer is a business

I would like to point out that if football is to be run as a business, certain business practices should be applied and studied:—

1 Market potential — A population exceeding 300,000 in the immediate area with relatively easy communications.

2 Possible competition. There is only one other competitor in the area.

3 Price—This is set by the league and therefore there can be no undercutting.

4 Research and investment—Investments should be made either in young promising players or older experienced "crowd pullers". Young local talent should be investigated and any potential league players should be encouraged.

5 Administration—Costs should be maintained at the lowest possible level.

6 Product—Without a good product any business will be doomed to failure. The product must be something the public want and should sell itself without undue publicity.

I think that if these points are studied the product is the reason for the lack of business and no amount of moaning at a so-called "non-sporting community" by officials will make any difference.

L. T. PERRIMAN,

25, Pattens Lane, Chatham.



Back to  
full  
strength



JOHN MEREDITH

GILLINGHAM'S luck took a change for the better today with the news that both Andy Smillie and John Meredith are fit for Saturday's vital Third Division game with Northampton at Priestfield Stadium.

They showed that they had made full recoveries from injury in a practice game.

And of course centre-half Bill Williams is back after his week's suspension, so the Gills should be at full strength.

Manager Basil Hayward confirmed today that the club have offered terms to David Peach, reserve team wing-half, though nothing had been drawn up at the moment. If Peach accepts it will bring the strength of the club to 20 professionals.

He signed as an apprentice professional in May 1966 and is a native of Bedford.

# Chance for a double

IT'S AN ILL WIND THAT BLOWS NOBODY ANY GOOD!

Postponement of last Saturday's trip to Walsall meant that Gillingham centre-half Bill Williams did not miss a game during his seven days' suspension, and also gave Andy Smillie and John Meredith time to get back to complete fitness.

So today manager Basil Hayward is faced with the unusual problem of who to leave out from his full first team squad of 14 players for tomorrow's Third Division game against Northampton at Priestfield Stadium.

This match provides the Gills, 1-0 winners at the County Ground, Northampton, last November, with their best chance yet of completing the season's first double. Will they take it?

Manager Hayward says the Cobblers a big strong team, will be a tough side to beat, and ground condi-

tions will influence his final choice of players.

Williams is certain to return to the defence, and now that he has fully recovered from last week's minor operation Smillie looks set to resume his mid-field scheming.

Meredith has been out of action since injuring a leg against Bristol Rovers just before Christmas. But although he has had no opportunity of a run out with the reserves first, his skill and experience make it likely that he will be recalled to the attack straight away.

Gillingham (from): J. Simpson, Weston, Green, T. Simpson, Williams, Machin, Bailey, Quirke, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie, Folds, Meredith.

● The Gills' match at Walsall has been provisionally rearranged for next Tuesday evening (7.30) but this will depend on whether Wolves force a replay in their F.A. Cup-tie against Tottenham at White Hart Lane tomorrow.

● The young Gills are at home to Ipswich in the South East Counties' League tomorrow, kick-off 11 a.m. at the Garrison Ground.



BILL WILLIAMS—returns to defence.

## Manager has a lot to answer for!

IN assessing the blame for the present plight of the Gills, I feel the following facts must be considered:

(1) At the time of the Cox/Hayward changeover the team was fairly successful, having obtained promotion from Division 4, and been within a few points of Division 2 at the end of the previous season.

(2) The team had one of the best defensive records in the four leagues.

(3) Gates were above the average for Division 3.

(4) The directors and the supporters "set-up" was as far as I know, the same as it is now.

Mr. Hayward has, since taking over—

(a) torn the defence to pieces.

(b) sold regular first

team players, some of whom are playing successfully for other clubs.

(c) bought first team players — some without league experience.

(d) made endless permutations with available players.

(e) been responsible for the team's training and match tactics.

(f) finished up in the bottom four of the division with poor attendances and relegation a distinct possibility.

Mr. Hayward should therefore stand or fall by his own judgment and be responsible for the results attained.

If, however, he has had interference from the directors and has not been allowed to manage the team in the true sense of the word, then he should publicly say so!

My advice to the club is to use the Evening Post, take the public into its confidence, give the true position of the club, including the relations between the manager and the directors, and more important still, create local interest by stating what they intend to do about it — and why.

It's not a bit of good asking the public to be good sports and just pay up at the turnstiles and look happy. With London football within easy reach the club cannot just bury its head in the sand — especially if Charlton are lucky enough to be in the first division next season.

A. T. BRISTER

(Gills supporter for 36 years).

45, Quixote Crescent, Frindsbury, Rochester.

SPORT  
POST-BAG

Spend  
more!

## What about a little help?

IN answer to Jim Buck's letter, I would like to point out that it is exactly the same board that was present when promotion was won. The cry then was "Good old Freddie Cox" — I can't remember anyone congratulating the board.

How much are you prepared to invest in the future of Gillingham Football Club, Jim? If you can't afford to do this, how much of your time will you give? I, with some of my friends, give a few hours each week in the evening to help to ensure that this club lives. If you're not prepared to help, don't rock the boat! Let's look at the gates.

In our promotion year the figure stood at 9,500. In our first year in the Third Division at 11,000, I might add that this is the highest average since the war, and we obtained seventh place. In our second season we obtained sixth place and the average gate had already dropped to 6,500. So, how can you say "Let's do an Aston Villa" when no one knows what the potential gate is? At Aston Villa they know they can get 40,000 to 50,000 — what a vast difference!

W. I. WATERMAN

111 Roosevelt Avenue, Chatham.

As a regular and loyal supporter of Gillingham Football Club for over 40 years, I feel the plight that we are in at the moment is solely the responsibility of the Board of Directors. I would appeal to them to spend a bit more instead of counting it up — improve the team, get quality players and then we can expect better times ahead for Gillingham.

W. F. ABNETT

1 Allington Road, Gillingham.



# CONFIDENCE BOOST FOR GILLS

GILLINGHAM 2, NORTHAMPTON 0

Hayward



answers  
the Post

**Q** Do you think that football clubs should try to sell themselves to the community?

**A** Obviously to a point. I do not believe in a lot of gimmicks from the managerial side — it is best to rely on the keenness of the supporters' side to sell the club activities.

The team themselves can only be sold with results or an F.A. Cup run. My players are always available to go to functions in the town as long as it is not in the latter part of the week when they are in by 10.30 p.m. That is something that is expected of any club.

**Q** What is the future for youngsters in football these days.

**A** It's never been better. Providing a lad has the ability — and clubs will not take anyone on unless he has — and he has the right confidence in himself, then he is made. Most clubs now "scout" boys as young as 12, but if a boy wants to have a trial he should write to a club.

THE "next stop relegation" brigade found themselves running short of ammunition on Saturday when Gillingham pulled off one of the most significant results of the season with a capable, if unspectacular, win over Northampton.

The long haul back to respectability is by no means over and the two points made no difference at all in the Gills' league table position. But, apart from the tremendous confidence-boosters this first double of the season must have given the whole team, the game must also go down as a personal triumph for manager Basil Hayward.

In the first place, it proved beyond doubt that he has built a team that is far too talented for there to be any justice in relegation if it does come. But, beneath this, the game also brought home to his critics the fact that he knows exactly what he is doing.

Though the purists might still argue that Gillingham could have chalked up an even bigger scoreline it is interesting to note that, although Mr. Hayward has the reputation of building an essentially attacking side, goalkeeper John Simpson had only four real threats to deal with from Northampton throughout the game.

Rarely has the defence put in such a workmanlike perform-

ance. And this attitude of coolly getting on with the job and not bothering with trimmings seemed to percolate through the whole team.

Though it would perhaps be unfair to single out players from this fine team effort, the game must also have given the Gills' boss some cause for satisfaction over Mel Machin and Gordon Riddick. The two of them showed indisputably that they are entirely suited in the roles he has given them.

With big Bill Williams keeping a vice-like grip on anything happening in the middle, Machin was given all the room he wanted to engineer tactics between himself and Terry Simpson. And frequently he had Northampton completely flat-footed with his quite remarkable gift for switching direction with his "dummy" moves.

Riddick, too, could not have given Mr. Hayward better returns for the faith he has in him as a front runner.

When he wasn't teaming up with the rest to run Northampton off their feet, he was towering above everyone — even Northampton's rangy goalkeeper Morritt — to pick up the high crosses. And his utterly selfless approach to the

game brought off both Gillingham's goals plus a handful of other scoring chances for his team mates that could have come off but for a split second lapse in timing or luck on Northampton's part.

It was sheer misfortune that robbed John Meredith of his chance to pick up his first goal

## Writes Martin Hitchings

of the season when he sent in a scorcher early on but saw Morritt stop it with his foot.

Brian Yeo, again the constant worrier, had his chance a minute later when he brilliantly by-passed wing half Clarke in the Gillingham half, raced over the halfway line and took the ball right into the penalty box. But, as he squared to shoot, the bustling Northampton defence moved in and cheated him.

The now almost traditional threat Derek Woodley presents to any defence was again served up like peaches and cream for the Gillingham fans. And in one of his rapier-like runs he carved a great gully in

the Cobblers' back ranks with his floating cross that found Riddick's head.

The Gills' skipper planted it perfectly for his partner to run in but Yeo seemed to go the wrong way and the ball was cleared.

All this time Simpson had only the odd back pass or belated long ball from the Northampton front runners to deal with.

And in the 32nd minute Gillingham hammered home their supremacy with goal number one — again a precision-timed team effort.

Meredith set things up with a cross to Riddick who headed goalwards. Northampton seemed mesmerized by the speed of the move and so BRIAN YEO struck hard to slam the ball home from close range.

It wasn't until the 41st minute that Northampton came anywhere near the Gills' goalmouth and then Hatton ballooned his chance over the top.

## CHANGED DIRECTION

But Gillingham were soon back on the rampage and again Riddick created yet another threat. This time he put in a turning header to feed Andy Smillie who controlled the ball well to put in a grass-high curving shot.

Morritt was drawn right out of position but it hit the far post, bounced right along the line and spun away before being cleared.

Terry Simpson tried a low shot but Morritt showed how deceptive his size was by getting down quick for a fine save.

And then Simpson's namesake between the posts gave fans a taste of the kind of keeping that has seen him return to the senior squad with a brilliant double save. Roberts looked like levelling the score with a point blank shot that Simpson could only parry. But, with the goal gaping at him, Fairbrother hit the rebound only to see Simpson scramble to his feet and race across to save.

Menacing Meredith soon had Gillingham back on the advantage again, however, and sent in a cross that Riddick glanced on to Yeo. The inside forward tried desperately to get to the ball but just failed to make it. Woodley picked it up but could only force a corner.

But the persistent nuisance Woodley seemed to be to the Northampton defence came to a head when he completed one of his many detours around fullback Walker only to find himself dragged down as he made his break. Referee Mr. K. Markham of Woking, who had done a fine job throughout, had no hesitation in taking Walker's name.

Shortly afterwards, Riddick had a go for himself with a shot that Morritt blocked. But the stranglehold Gillingham had on the game was bound to tell.

A low ball from Smillie by-passed the defence in the box and Riddick looked set to shoot. But, showing remarkable reflexes, he saw Northampton racing over to cut it out and so calmly turned it to incoming WOODLEY who put in an angled full volley for the second goal.

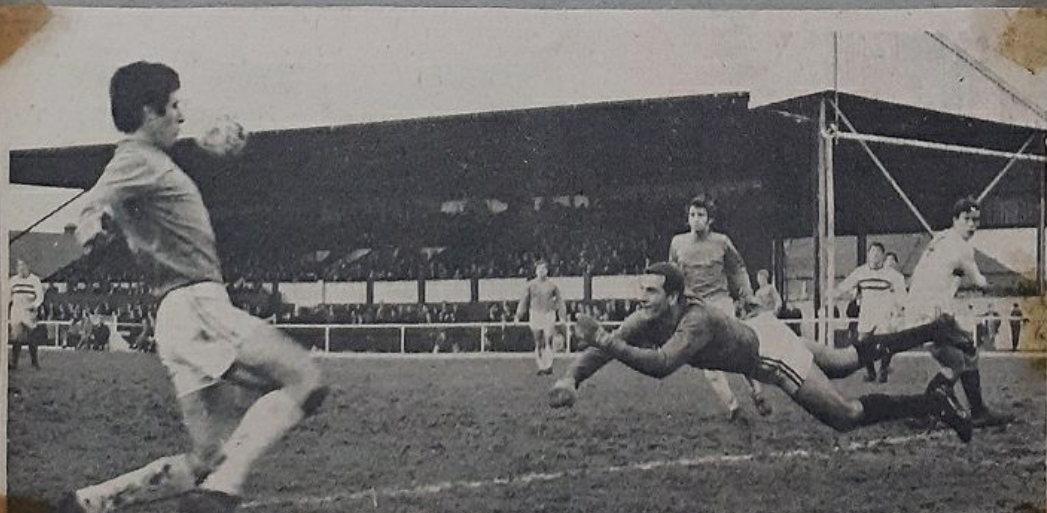
The Cobblers tried a brief retaliation but Fairbrother was wide and Hatton found himself offside with a good chance. In the closing stages Simpson was tested again but he did well to save a hook shot from Roberts.

**GILLINGHAM:** John Simpson; Weston, Green; Terry Simpson, Williams, Machin, Woodley, Yeo, Riddick, Smillie, Meredith.

**NORTHAMPTON:** Morritt; Fairfax, Walker, Clarke, Rankmore, Kiernan, Weaver, Fairbrother, Hatton, Roberts, Knox. Attendance: 4,532.



A lucky escape for Northampton in the second half as Andy Smillie's shot beats 'keeper Morritt and hits the upright. R.455



A splendid save by Northampton 'keeper Gordon Morritt as he punches a left wing cross away from the advancing Gills' skipper, Gordon Riddick. R.454





FIRST goal coming up. Skipper Riddick heads for goal with a defender waiting on the line ready to push the ball out. But Yeo, lurking on the left of our picture, scored from the rebound.

## Basil Hayward's Own Column



JUDGING by the local papers these days, the hunting season is now in full cry with the quarry being the directors, manager and players at Gillingham Football Club. This is, of course, understandable in view of our lowly position in the league and no-one is more ready to accept it than me.

Obviously we are far more concerned about the present situation than those supporters who have become our critics lately. But I can't help smiling when I read the remarks made in the papers by people who profess to know enough about football to tell someone who has devoted most of his life to the game what it is all about.

We are fully aware of the problems we have and, I can assure everyone, that we are doing our utmost to solve them. All of us at the Stadium are doing everything we can to rectify the present position but, no matter what we try to do, we have to face up to the inescapable fact that we just don't have the means to carry it out.

Times are bad and the only way we are really going to make the grade is to have a vigorous and active group of supporters because I have always accepted — and I hope others will too — that gates will never be sufficient to see us through unless we occupy a promotion position in the league.

I am not trying to make excuses for the way things are today but I would like to point out that when I came to Priestfield Stadium, I was faced with the task of changing the pattern of things with the team.

Even before I started, gates had dropped to around the 5,000 mark and we were midway through a season when we faced attractive opposition such as Peterborough United.

People were already disillusioned over the way things were at the Stadium and so we had to change.

### ATTACKING FLAIR

I started by bringing in players with an attacking flair and it looked as though things were beginning to be put right this season when we were fortunate enough to pick up Terry Simpson from Walsall who, on his day, has few equals in the Third Division when it comes to setting up attacks. Unfortunately, lack of money

stopped me from bringing about the changes I wanted for a completely satisfactory side.

Even so, we have still managed to provide the supporters with some of the most entertaining football seen at the Stadium in years. Though, of course, while we have capable defenders we have been guilty of carelessness in defensive situations.

The only way we are going to prevent this is by becoming even more defensive — and that will mean putting more players of this kind on the field or by adopting the now accepted way of defending by sheer numbers.

The second of these possibilities is something I don't want to resort to but I know that my hand may be forced in order to keep the hounds at bay.

So far, I have managed to a large extent to avoid criticism levelled at some managers over excessive gamesmanship and taking everything that moves.

But, make no mistake about it, this sort of football is not new to me and I have had plenty of experience with it during my playing days. I have, however, long accepted that the paying customer deserves greater entertainment for his money and wants to see the more attractive side of the game.

Finally, I would like to make it clear that the object of these articles is to give supporters a better insight into the problems we have. Naturally, under present circumstances, they are magnified and so it seems as though I am making excuses.

Only an idiot would, of course, be foolish enough to run down his own business but, if you feel you would like questions answered, I would be only too pleased to see that they are.

But I would like to repeat that while we welcome constructive criticism, no-one gains anything from remarks that are prompted by viciousness rather than genuine interest and concern.

## One man can make all the difference

I ADMIT that Gillingham are having a bad season, but how many of the supporters who keep writing on how bad Gillingham are remember last season, when they were in the run for promotion threequarters of the season?

They went nine games without defeat and when they did lose it was by the odd goal in five to the eventual promotion team Bury.

In Friday's POST one writer claimed in his letter that Gillingham had one of the worst defences in the division and other letters say they have poor players. One letter even went as far to say we should have a complete change.

Do you call Mel Machin a bad player? Williams, Simpson, Weston — are these bad players, too? These four players make up a good defence, but what is missing?

One more good player, that is all, then I'm sure we would have a great defence. Also in the Friday letters, D. L. Osborne said that Gillingham lost two forwards. Brown and Gibbs, and as replacements got two half-backs and a full-back. He did not mention a £7,000 fee for Andy Smillie — S. BRITTAIN (aged 14), 17, Britton Street, Gillingham.



BRIAN GIBBS, now with Colchester United. Our youthful correspondent says that Andy Smillie was one forward signed to replace him.

## 'Mad fans' started football rumpus

POLICE had to form a human barrier between two rival groups of football fans who went wild before the start of a match between Gillingham and Watford.

At Chatham juvenile court today magistrates were told that eggs and toilet rolls were being thrown about in the Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, when suddenly Watford fans surged forward and a fight started.

Before the court was a 16-year-old Watford youth who pleaded not guilty to using threatening behaviour at Priestfield Stadium likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Police sergeant Kenneth Jones said, "Eggs and toilet rolls were being thrown about and suddenly the group of youths representing Watford surged forward and I saw the offender rush forward and start punching another youth about the face and body."

In evidence the boy said, "I was standing on the edge of the Watford supporters and suddenly a push came from the centre and I was pushed into the Gillingham supporters."

He was found guilty and fined £20.

MACHIN and Green received leg injuries which might cause them to be left out of tomorrow's rearranged Third Division match at Walsall.

They will have a fitness test later today and if their legs stand up to it, they will travel when the team leaves Gillingham tomorrow afternoon.



# SOCCER VIOLENCE - POLICE TELL OF FIGHTS, ATTACKS

## Watford match led to incidents

FIGHTS at which extra police had to be brought in before, during and after Gillingham's home game with Watford earlier this month, had their sequel in Chatham Magistrates' Court. Five young fans, two from the Medway area, faced charges.

The magistrates on Tuesday heard of scuffles, a fight involving about 20 people in the crowd and an incident after the game when about 50 young supporters created disturbances in traffic-congested Gillingham High Street.

Chief Insp. Peter Finn said about 30 minutes before the start of the match a 15-year-old Watford supporter became involved in a fight in the Stadium with a Gillingham fan.

Sgt. Kenneth Jones, on duty at the ground, said the youth was with friends, who were standing near Gillingham fans. Suddenly the youth ran into the rival crowd and started punching one of them.

The youth denied using threatening behaviour and said he was pushed into the boy and only put his hands up to protect himself. He said he threw one punch. He was fined £20.

A 16-year-old Halling school-boy was given an absolute discharge after admitting insulting behaviour.

Chief Insp. Finn said this was the least serious of the charges. A police constable saw several toilet rolls being thrown from the Gillingham half to the Watford half, general disorder was ensuing and a fight between about 20 people broke out.

The officer saw the boy throw a toilet roll into the Watford crowd, and though he was involved in the fighting at no time was he the aggressive party.

### WARNED

In court the boy said as the crowd went forward he was pulled down into it. His father told the magistrates: "This has come completely as a bomb-shell to us. We weren't too happy about him going to the football match, but told him not to get involved in anything."

"He has only been to one other football match in his life before."

Chief Insp. Finn said after the match fights broke out in Balmoral Road, Gillingham, near the Railway Station.

Special Police Inspector Hynes, on traffic duty, said a police car was forced to stop because of a scuffle in the road. When the officer got out to clear the way a youth pointed at him and shouted: "Let's get the b...!" He was arrested.

The youth, a 15-year-old Watford supporter, denied using insulting behaviour and said he did not swear. He said: "I didn't even see a police car. I was just trying to keep away from all the fighting."

He was fined £15 with £3 12s. 6d. costs.

A 16-year-old Watford youth was fined £20 after pleading not guilty to using threatening behaviour. He was given 56 days to pay.

Chief Insp. Finn said P.C. Cecil Barton was on motor patrol duty in Balmoral Road when he received a message to go to Gillingham Station where youths were fighting.

He came across about 50 youths who were running away from the station and blocking one side of the road. He got out of the car and saw two youths fighting one another, and leaning against a car held up in the traffic.

He got hold of the two youths, one of whom was the defendant, but found it difficult to keep a hold on them and two members of the public helped him. The youths were then taken to the police station.

### PUNCHED

At the court on Wednesday 18-year-old Watford apprentice, Charles Fryman of Bowman's Green, Watford, was sent to a detention centre at Orpington for three months after he pleaded guilty to assaulting a 44-year-old Gillingham man in Gillingham High Street before the game.

Prosecuting Insp. Derek Moseley said Mr. Leonard Lloyd of College Avenue, Gillingham, was walking along the footpath in Gillingham High Street about lunchtime when he saw a group of 10 to 20 youths on the path ahead of him.

As he passed he was pushed and someone said: "Who do you think you are shoving?" All the youths gathered around and one punched him in the face. He was injured and went to a nearby shop and police were called.

Police who went to the area saw about 30 youths near the corner of Saxon Street. They all appeared to be Watford Football Club supporters. A police car arrived and Mr. Lloyd who was in the vehicle identified Fryman as the youth who had attacked him. Fryman was taken to Gillingham Police Station.

Insp. Moseley said Mr. Lloyd went to St. Bartholomew's Hospital where it was found he had a fractured cheekbone.

At first Fryman denied the attack but later said he was punched by Mr. Lloyd and retaliated in self-defence. He also agreed he had changed coats with one of his friends to avoid being caught. Fryman said in a statement he and his friends had been in a pub and when they came out they saw a scuffle going on on the other side of the road. He went over to have a look.

"A man grabbed me and shouted for someone to fetch the police. I warned him to let go but he would not. I panicked and lashed out."

A second youth who appeared before the court on Wednesday, 19-year-old Graham Peters, an apprentice shipwright at Chatham Dockyard, of Rock Avenue, Gillingham, was fined £30 after pleading guilty to using threatening behaviour after the game.

Insp. Moseley said after the game a police officer was attempting to drive to Gillingham Railway Station but there were so many people walking towards there that he was forced to use his two tone horn and blue light.

He saw two youths fighting and swearing and they would not give over," said Mr. Moseley.

The officer asked the two youths, one the defendant, to come with him to Gillingham Police station but more youths gathered around and prevented him from getting them into the car.

Police reinforcements arrived and Peters and the other youth were arrested.

In a statement Peters said: "My mate got hit and I was trying to protect him. He told the magistrates: 'It was not premeditated. I only did it because my mate was hit.' Peters, the police said, had one previous conviction for malicious damage.

## Soccer boy swore at inspector

FIFTY youths ran down a road fighting and swearing after Gillingham had lost a home match against Watford, a policeman told Chatham Juvenile Court.

Before the court were two Watford fans aged 15 and 16, accused of using threatening behaviour, and a 16-year-old Gillingham fan, accused of using insulting behaviour.

In the case of the 15-year-old, Special Police Inspector Joseph Hines said he was on traffic duty in Balmoral Road, Gillingham, when he saw about 50 youths running down the road, many of them fighting and swearing.

The driver of a police car tried to stop two youths who were fighting in the middle of the road.

The policeman appeared to be having trouble, said Inspector Hines, so he went to help. He saw the accused standing behind the police car.

Said Inspector Hines: "He put up his right hand and pointed to the police car driver and said, 'Let's get the b...'"

The boy, who denied the offence, said the match, on January 11, was the first away game he had seen. He was with about 100 other Watford supporters and they were happy because their team had won.

At Gillingham station they encountered a group of Gillingham supporters who took it out on them because they had lost.

Said the accused: "There were about 100 of them. They had knives and broken bottles. I ran off down the street."

"When I got a fair way

down, I eased up. Suddenly a policeman came up to me and said: 'You are one of them. I am going to arrest you.'"

The boy was fined £15. In the case of the other Watford youth, the police car driver, P.C. Cecil Barton, said he was called to Gillingham station, where a large number of youths were fighting.

On the way he had to brake sharply because about 50 youths were running down Balmoral Road, taking up the whole of one side.

P.C. Barton said: "I got out of my car and I saw two youths fighting. One was the accused. They were lying and rolling against a car held up in the traffic."

The accused told the court: "I was near the other boy. I had been running and I had stumbled forward."

He was fined £20. The Gillingham supporter before the court was from Halling.

Chief Inspector Peter Finn, prosecuting, said a policeman at the ground saw several toilet rolls being thrown from a group of Gillingham supporters into the Watford crowd.

The constable saw a large number of each group of supporters starting to push each other. A fight involving about 20 people followed.

The chief inspector added: "The accused then threw a toilet roll into the Watford crowd. Although he was involved in the fighting, at no time was he the aggressor." The boy was absolutely discharged.

## MAN SET UPON BY SOCCER FAN

A FOOTBALL fan who punched a Gillingham man and broke a bone in his face, was sent to a detention centre by Chatham magistrates today.

Charles Stephen Jenner Fryman, 18, a sheet metal apprentice, of Watford, pleaded guilty to assaulting 44-year-old Leonard George Lloyd, of College Avenue, Gillingham, before the Gillingham-Watford match on January 11.

Insp. Derek Moseley said that Mr. Lloyd was walking along the High Street towards the railway station, when he saw a crowd of 10 to 20 youths, all wearing yellow and black scarves, pushing and shoving.

As Mr. Lloyd went to pass he was pushed and one youth said: "Who are you

shoving?" A crowd gathered round him and one youth punched him around the face.

Mr. Lloyd went with police in a patrol car, and near Saxon Street they saw about 30 Watford supporters and Mr. Lloyd immediately recognised Fryman, who was then wearing a blue denim jacket and not the black overcoat he had been wearing at the time.

Mr. Lloyd was taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester. He had bruises to both eyes and a fractured cheek bone.

At first Fryman denied the assault, saying he had only acted in self-defence. Then a friend of his arrived wearing a black overcoat which was too big for him and they admitted changing coats.

● Inspector sworn at—P11.