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Saturday, 27th March, 1971

Southern League Premier Division

ROMFORD

DOVER

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CLUB COMMENT

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen.

This afternoon we are very pleased to extend a cordial welcome to the Directors, Officials, Players and Supporters of the Dover Football Club, for a Southern League Premier Division fixture.

Romford having defeated Hillingdon last Saturday, are still well in the championship hunt, but will need points from today's game and the return game with HILLINGDON BOROUGH at Brooklands, next Monday, 29th March, 1971, kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Dover defeated well placed Wimbledon by five goals to one last Saturday and will be hoping to avenge their 0—4 defeat by Romford at Dover earlier in the season.

After the game with Hillingdon next Monday, Boro have five away trips in their last eight Southern League fixtures, and have difficult home games against championship rivals BARNET and CHELMSFORD CITY.

Away games at Barnet, Weymouth, Yeovil Town and Gloucester City will mean Boro's task is no easy one.

The Metropolitan League side have no game this afternoon, but make the journey to Bury St. Edmunds to meet Bury Town in a league fixture on Wednesday, 31st March, 1971.

Next Saturday, 3rd April, 1971, Boro travel to Kent to meet relegation haunted Ashford Town in a Southern League fixture, kick-off 3 p.m. The reserves are at home to Woodford Town in a Metropolitan League game at Brooklands, the same afternoon, kick-off 3 p.m.

"25 YEARS AGO"

"Billy Bridge Goes Nap". That was the news headline twenty-five years ago!! Yes, Billy Bridge had followed up his two goals (v. Crittals) and four (v. Kingstonian), with five more in the 8—3 defeat of Corithian Casuals at Brooklands on Saturaday, 23rd March, 1945. Brooks (2) and Rowntree netted Boro's other goals.

This was yet again a great second half performance by Boro who were winning 3-2 at half-time!

The Romford team again had several changes, as Brooks, Paviour and Mackenzie returned from Isthmian League duty, they lined up as follows:—R. Mortimer; P. Wallace, W. Dennis; W. Mackenzie, J. Paviour, F. Fryatt; H. Brooks, S. Olton, W. Bridge, L. Rowntree, J. Oakes.

The following week, Boro had another home fixture, this time against lowly St. Albans City. Details in next programme.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

FIXTURES 1970-71

1970	Opponents	Goals Grnd For Agst	1970	Opponents	Grnd	Goals For Agst
Aug. 1 3 11 15 18 22 24 29 Sept. 2 5 9	Gillingham (F) Orient (F) King's Lynn Wimbledon Chelmsford C. Bexley (S.L.C.) Weymouth Bexley (S.L.C.) King's Lynn Wimbledon	Home 2 — 0 Home 2 — 1 Home 1 — 2 Home 1 — 1 Away 1 — 2 Away 0 — 4 Away 1 — 2 Home 2 — 1 Home 3 — 1 Away 3 — 2 Home 1 — 0	Dec. 2 5 12 16 19 26 1971 Jan. 9 16 20 23 30	Margate Bath C. Poole T. Cambridge C. Worcester C. Poole (FA Trophy) Cambridge C. Poole T. Worcester C.	Home Away Home Away Away Home Home Home	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
26 30 Oct. 3 10 13 17 19 21	Margate Dover Bath C Erith (F.A.C.) Erith (F.A. Replay) Hereford U Erith F.A.C.Replay	Home 2 — 3 Away 4 — 0 Away 2 — 1 Home 0 — 0 Away 1 — 1* Away 3 — 1 Aveley 1 — 0 Home 1 — 2	Feb. 6 10 13 17 20 24 27 Mar 10	Yeovil T. Telford U. Weymouth (S.L.C.) Kettering T. Kettering T. Chelmsford (E.P.C)	Away Home Away Home Home Away Home	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
24 27 31 Nov. 2 7 14 21 25 28	Walton (F.A.C) Walton (FA Rply) Nuneaton B Walton (Rply) Hill Telford U Dartford Gloucester C Dartford Dartford Bedford T	Home 1 — 1 Away 3 — 3* Away 1 — 1 ingdon 2 — 3 Home 2 — 1 Away 1 — 0 Home 4 — 1 Home 0 — 1 Away 0 — 1	20 27 29 Apr. 3 9 10 12 17 21 24	Dover Hillingdon B. Ashford T. Barnet Ashford T. Barnet Weymouth Yeovil T. Chelmsford C.	Home Away Home Home Away Away Home	2-2
	* After Extra T	ime	29			

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MANAGER'S NOTES

Good Afternoon Everyone,

Today we welcome Dover F.C. to Brooklands. Up to last Saturday they had been experiencing a lean spell in the league, then they put up the performance of the day by beating Wimbledon 5—1, and it must be a long time since the 'Dons' had 5 scored against them.

The Boro also had a good result last Saturday at Hillingon when a Robin Chandler goal was sufficient to collect both points. That made the Boro's away record stand at 8 wins and 3 draws, and that is a good record. The Boro have 10 Southern League matches to play which are evenly divided, 5 home and 5 away.

Hereford and Yeovil must still be the favourites to win the championship but every point gained will put extra pressure on them and there are at least 6 other clubs that can also do just that. It all adds up to an exciting climax to the season and far more interesting than having one team streaking away with the title.

Colin Flatt took a nasty knock on his shoulder last Monday and Bert Howe strained a thigh muscle during the same match. Both players are doubtful for today's game.

On Monday evening we entertain Hillingdon Boro in a Southern League

fixture, kick-off 7.30 p.m.

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METROPOLITAN LEAGUE

FIXTURES 1970-71

1970	Opponents	Grad For			Opponents	Grn	Goals d For Agst
Aug. 1	Tilbury (F) Grays (F)	Away 0 -	- 0	2 9			y 0 - 4 e 1 - 1
15 22 26 29 Sept. 5	Sheppey U. (A/S) Chelmsford (A/S) Woodford T (A/S) Bury T. (A/S) Sheppey U. (A/S)	Home 0 - Home 7 - Away 0 -	- 3 Feb. - 2 - 1	6 13 20 27	West Ham U. Chelmsford C.	Awa	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
12 26 Oct. 3 10 17 24 26	Chelmsford (A/S) Cray W. (A/S) Bury T. (A/S) Hatfield T. Bury T Metropolitan P. Colchester U	Away 0 Away 3 Home 3 Away 1 Home 1 Away 0 Away 3	- 1 Mar. - 0 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 1	6 10 13 15 20 23 31	Bedford T. Cray W. (Ch.C) Bedford T. West Ham U. Sheppey U.	Away	a 3 — 3
31 Nov. 7 21 28 Dec. 5 12 19	JT. Clarke Cup 1969 Cray W. (A/S) Cray W Woodford T. (A/S) Sheppey U Epping T. Bletchley Sheppey (Pro. Cup)	70 Final Home 2 — Away 1 — Away 1 — Home 2 — Away 1 — Home 1 —	Apr. 4 2 0 4 1	3 7 21 24	Cray W. Metropolitan P.	Hom Hom	8 8 7

NEXT AT BROOKLANDS

Monday, 29th March, 1971 HILLINGDON BOROUGH

Southern League Premier Division

Kick-Off 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 3rd April, 1971 WOODFORD TOWN

Metropolitan League

Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.

EASTERN PROFESSIONAL FLOODLIGHT COMPETITION

1970	Opponents	Goals Grnd For Agst
Sept. 21	Stevenage A.	Away 5 — 0
Oct. 7	King's Lynn	Away 0 - 5
Nov. 11	Stevenage A.	Home 4 — 2
Dec. 9	Southend U.	Home 2 — 3
1971		
Jan. 26	Cambridge C.	Away 0 - 2
Feb. 1	Cambridge U.	Away 1 - 4
Mar. 3 13 22	Boston U. Southend U. King's Lynn	Home 1 — 1 Away 0 — 0 Home 1 — 1
Apr. 14 26	Bedford T. Bedford T.	Home
May 3 5 12	Chelmsford C. Boston U. Cambrigde U.	Away
	Cambridge C. Chelmsford C.	Home

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

(up to and including 23rd March 1971)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Cambridge C.	34	17	9	8	52	31	43
Romford	32	17	7	8	46	34	41
Worcester C.	32	17	5	10	49	33	39
Barnet	31	15	9	7	51	35	39
Yeovil T.	29	16	6	7	42	21	38
Chelmsford C.	31	15	8	8	42	22	
Wimbledon	31	17	4	10	56	37	
Hereford U.	27	16	5	6	51	33	
Bedford T.	32	14	7	11		38	
Weymouth	32	11	11	10	53		
Dartford				10			
Hillingdon B.	31			13		45	
Dover		13		13		46	
Bath C.				13			
Nuneaton B.				14			
Margate		10		14	46	54	
Poole T.				18	49	66	
King's Lynn		9		18	37	54	
Telford U.				16		50	
Kettering T.	34			19		71	
Ashford T.				14		60	
Gloucester C.	31	5		17	23	48	19

ROMFORD F.C. SUPPORTERS and SOCIAL CLUB NOTES

Good Afternoon Everyone,

And welcome to Brooklands for this Southern League clash with Dover. The Kent club have a reputation for hard and fast football and always run us very close, they even beat us here 1-4 a couple of seasons ago, with the aid of that ex-Boro dynamo Brian Kelly, who has since moved on to become player-manager to that other Kent club with strong Romford connections, Bexley. Two of our regular first-teamers joined from Dover, Harry Obeney had a short spell with them after leaving Millwall and of course "clockside hero" Robin Chandler gave them very good service. We are now reaching the climax to what could be a very successful season of Southern League football, it's no easy task to maintain such a consistently high place in non-league soccer, and at this stage in the season our lads always have us on edge, that they could very well lift the title, and this year is no exception. Just look at the fortunes of some of the clubs that were household names in the world of non-league soccer in the fifties and sixties, one or two are still there but many have fallen by the wayside. We haven't even been in danger of relegation! The lowest position that Romford have occupied in the league since their promotion in our first season in the league is 14th. Time is running out for some of the clubs who are still involved in cups, and their fixtures are piling up. At this stage of the season points are more valuable than games in hand. The other big worry is injuries and here again the psycology of still having cup interests applies, no player wants to ruin his chances of a medal or an appearance at Wembley by sustaining an injury during a league game. We have been very fortunate regarding injuries this season (most of the players won't agree, especially after the game at Stourbridge) although we do have two of our very valuable first team squad injured at the moment, from knocks in last Monday's game, here against King's Lynn, in the Floodlight League. Bert Howe who strained his leg and Colin Flatt who injured his shoulder, we trust that there's nothing complicated there and that they'll both be back in action ready for Monday night, when we entertain Hillingdon, in the Southern League, for what we hope will be a very valuable "double". Another goal like that one at Hillingdon last week and we'll all be happy (especially Terry and Robin) Hillingdon are still involved in the F.A. Trophy, that's why Monday's game is a re-arranged one, let's hope that they're too pre-occupied to notice us stealing another couple of points.

Next Saturday, Romford play away to Ashford, a side that won promotion last year only, it seems, to be plunged straight back to Division One again this year, the pace of Premier Division football proving too strong. Anyway, anybody who wants to go on this trip should contact Andy Neeson or his assistant Chris in the Social Club. By the way, Andy's telephone number is in your Membership Card should you require his assistance.

So, back to today's game and a welcome to all our friends who have travelled up from the coast, the Officials, Players and Supporters of Dover F.C., who will doubtless hope for a repeat of their club's performance last Saturday when they trounced Wimbledon 5—1. Well in one sense we'd like a repeat of that — a 5—1 home win.

On the social side there is a dance being held in the Clubhouse this evening, organised by the Supporters and Social Club, and if you're a member then the price for admission is only 25p, non-members 37p The dance starts at 8 p.m. dancing to Len Cousins. Do come along, we'll be pleased to see you. Oh, by the way, you've got about a month to look out that old costume for our Fancy Dress Ball on Saturday, 24th April.

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