

Review of the Season

Whatever the individual's view of the 1979-80 season, it cannot be said to have been one lacking in interest, which was sustained until the final encounters. And while one might consider that Liverpool flirted with the challenge of Manchester United before easing towards their 12th title, the other three divisions remained passionate affairs until the last kick.

United could again claim to be the best-supported team in the country, with a First Division average attendance of 51,608 compared with Liverpool's 44,586. But you had to look across Manchester for the next-highest crowd at City's Maine Road, where 35,272 was the mean. On this evidence City would argue that expenditures of over £1 million, first for Steve Daley and then for Kevin Reeves, plus the acquisition of other noted players kept their supporters on their toes, even if their results often had them reeling back on their heels.

More alarmingly, the aggregate of First Division attendances slumped to 12,163,002, which represented a fall of more than half-a-million on 1978-79. It would be foolish to jump to any particular conclusion about this, especially when many clubs have been pruning their capacity and losing out on the bigger occasions when attractive fixtures come to hand.

However, in the second half of the season the positions of Liverpool at the top and Manchester United in second place changed only relatively speaking when the Merseysiders had games in hand but insufficient points to enable them to stay at the head of the race for the championship. And this might have tended to reduce interest for the other clubs. Even allowing for this drop for the top echelon, the overall attendances were actually up on 1978-79, moving from a post-war low of 24,540,627 to 24,623,975 - a remarkable state of affairs in the circumstances, but simply mirroring the benefits of closely-fought issues in the lower divisions and a reasonably kind winter of fewer postponements.

The Second Division promotion battle was one in which the contestants were reluctant to fall by the wayside. Indeed, after prolonged rivalry the last fixture of the division on May 12 saw Sunderland clinch the remaining place by beating West Ham United to join Leicester City, the champions, and Birmingham City as successful candidates.

In the Third Division the final relegation issue was cleared up in their last game when Blackpool's 2-0 success at Rotherham United saved them from the drop and doomed Bury to Fourth Division fare. At the other end of the table Blackburn Rovers, stimulated by a fine run in the FA Cup and an equally lengthy 15 games on the trot without defeat in the Third Division, finally won promotion along with Sheffield Wednesday and Grimsby Town.

The Sheffield derby between Wednesday and United on Boxing Day broke the record for Division Three with a crowd of 49,309. Indeed, the division was fortunate in that the Yorkshire area had several other local derbies to provide big crowds.

In the Fourth Division, Huddersfield Town reached 101 goals, the first three-figure total in the League since Lincoln City in 1975-76, and Walsall, Portsmouth and Newport County also won promotion.

JACK ROLLIN

ALDERSHOT

DIV. 4



Chairman: R. J. Driver.

Vice-Chairman: F. G. Wiltshire, F.S.V.A.

Directors: S. R. Hooker, M. E. J. Hall, R. H. Lemarre.

Team Manager: Tom McAnearney.

Secretary/Commercial Manager: M. A. Cosway.

Year Formed: 1926. *Turned Professional* 1927.

Limited Company: 1927.

Football League Record:

1932 Elected to Division 3(S). 1973-76 Division 3.
1958-1973 Division 4. 1976- Division 4.

Honours: *Football League:* best season: 8th Division 3, 1973-74. *F.A. Cup,* best season: 5th Rd. 1932-33, 5th Rd. replay 1978-79, *Football League Cup,* best season: Never past 2nd Rd.

Record Victory: 8-1 v Gateshead, Division 4, Sept. 13th, 1958.

Record Defeat: 0-9 v Bristol C., Division 3(S), Dec. 28th, 1946.

Most League Points: 57, Division 4, 1978-79.

Most League Goals: 83, Division 4, 1963-64.

Highest League Scorer in Season: John Dungworth, 26, Division 4, 1978-79.

Most League Goals in Total Aggregate: Jack Howarth, 171, 1965-71; 1972-77.

Most Capped Player: Peter Scott, 1 (10), Northern Ireland.

Most League Appearances: Len Walker, 450, 1964-76.

Record Transfer Fee Received: £100,000 from Shrewsbury T for John Dungworth Nov. 1979.

Record Transfer Fee Paid: £54,000 to Portsmouth for Colin Garwood, Feb. 1980.

Managers Since the War: Bill McCracken, Gordon Clark, Harry Evans, Dave Smith, Tom McAnearney, Jimmy Melia, Cliff Huxford.

Address of Supporters Club: 213 High St., Aldershot.

Recreation ground: High St., Aldershot, GU11 1TW. Telephone Aldershot 20211. *Record attendance:* 19,138 v Carlisle U., F.A. Cup 4th Rd. Replay, January 1970. *Record receipt* £11,850 v Shrewsbury T. F.A. Cup 5th Rd., February 20, 1979. *Ground capacity:* 16,000 (14,000 under cover).

How to get there: Aldershot railway station is on the main line from London's Waterloo; the ground is five minutes walk from the station. Many buses run from the town centre on match days.

Match tickets: Can be booked in advance by telephoning ground. Available 2 weeks prior to match.

Car parking: Car parks within ½ mile of the ground.

Entertainments/catering facilities: Members' club, Sportsman's club.

Club shop: Run by Supporters' Club; sells all types of souvenirs.

Handbooks/programmes: Programmes only available on sale.

Extra information: Harry Brooks scored five goals for Aldershot in each of two successive F.A. Cup ties in the 1945-46 season.

Club Colours: Red shirts, blue and white edging, white shorts with blue and red trim, red stockings with blue and white turnover.

Change Colours: White shirts, with blue and red edging, blue shorts with white and red trim, white stockings with blue and red turnover.

Club Captain: Joe Jopling.

Trainer: John Anderson.

Coach: Len Walker.

Club Nickname: 'Shots'.