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LEAGUE CLUBS 'NO' TO NEW IDEAS ATTENDANCES DOWN AGAIN

By John Camkin

THE 1961-62 season brought the Football League almost to the point of no return. Accrington Stanley resigned from the Fourth Division with fixtures uncompleted. Attendances slumped again.

The League's Management Committee recognised the dangers. Outside help was summoned to provide an independent survey into the game's waning popularity. It provided few new conclusions.

A comprehensive plan for re-organisation was offered to clubs. It was not accepted. The survey did not indicate the means of breaking the determination of clubs to retain the *status quo* in the face of every disaster.

No concessions to progress were made at the annual meeting in June. More Accringtons, more idle turnstiles will be necessary before clubs recognise that to stand still is to die.

Winterbottom Surprise

The season saw the departure from the domestic scene of Sir Stanley Rous, the secretary of the Football Association from whom most of the game's reforms and progress had originated in the previous two decades. He became the new president of F.I.F.A.

It was expected that Mr. Walter Winterbottom, Director of Coaching, would be elected to the formidable task of replacing Sir Stanley. The post went to Mr. Dennis Follows, Treasurer of the F.A.

He assumed office at a critical period. The centenary of the F.A. in 1963 and the staging of the World Cup in 1966

are major administrative operations. The responsibility of guiding the game through the next decade will be even heavier.

The progress of Tottenham Hotspur in the European Cup, was ended in the semi-final by Portugal's Benfica, and the constant communiques from the legislative chambers allowed Ipswich Town to progress almost unheralded to the First Division Championship.

For a team playing in the First Division for the first time, this was a spectacular achievement. The success of Ipswich is based on foundations so solid and sure that they should be able to consolidate their position as one of England's leading clubs in the coming seasons.

Burnley, caught between the F.A. Cup and the Championship, ran completely out of form and finished second in both. This was an undeserved reward for a side which, in the first half of the season, played football as fine as any I have ever seen.

The season, otherwise, was an undistinguished one. Chelsea, who changed managers in mid-stream, collapsed completely and were relegated from the First Division for the first time while Liverpool, who have spent too long in the Second Division, climbed back to their rightful place.

Perhaps Newcastle and Sunderland can follow their example in the coming season. Then substantial contributions from Roker Park and St. James's Park may place a more optimistic glow on attendance figures.

Playfair Football Annual

This edition sees the combination of two famous football annuals—the Playfair Football Annual and the former News Chronicle Football Annual which, in its pocket-size format, has been published for more than half a century. The book has been increased to 256 pages to combine all the well-known features of both annuals.

OUR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

ALF RAMSEY—Ipswich Manager

IN April 1957, Ipswich scraped the Championship of the Third Division (South) by a decimal point of a goal from Torquay. Until the final game, Torquay were favourites for promotion.

In April 1962, Ipswich confounded the whole of the English football world by winning the Championship of the Football League. For months, the title seemed to be a formality for Burnley who faltered in the last weeks.

There is no doubt that Ipswich provided the most unexpected shocks in a Championship history stretching back to 1888.

The architect of tremendous triumph was, quite clearly, club manager Alf Ramsey, the former Tottenham and Southampton full-back who won 32 caps for England between 1949 and 1954. His was the hand on the Ipswich tiller.

As a player, Ramsey perhaps lacked the speed which most judges would say is essential to a great full-back. His shrewd brain allowed him to devise a simple style of play which made him one of the world's most constructive and effective defenders.



These are precisely the qualities which Ramsey uses as a manager. His team contains men who have never found fame or fortune elsewhere than at Portman Road. Many were picked up for a song as outcasts from more fashionable clubs.

Such were Crawford, Stephenson and Leadbetter, three of the forwards, and Bailey, the goalkeeper. Others, like Baxter and Moran, were turned into First Division players almost as soon as Ramsey brought them from junior football to Ipswich.

The style of the whole team—and an interesting style it was—was devised to utilise the strengths of each player. None was called upon to perform a task which, in the manager's opinion, was not within his capacity.

Four years ago, as Ipswich struggled with Torquay, the most fervent of Suffolk fans dared not dream in his wildest moments of a place in the European Cup.

Now Ipswich are in the European Cup and the critics have been given a decisive answer. A. E. Ramsey, shrewd, calculating, and quiet, is very obviously the Outstanding Football Personality of 1962.

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TOTTENHAM STILL TOP CROWD-PULLERS

But lose 12,000 followers

ALTHOUGH Tottenham are still the top attraction home and away as shown by these average figures for League games based on published attendance figures—they are down by 8,000 at home, and 4,000 away.

But Second Division gates are up. The most improved clubs are Liverpool, (up by 10,000) and Sunderland (6,000). Stoke, with Stanley Matthews as the star attraction, have increased by 6,000 at home and 5,000 away.

Ipswich, the League Champions, have increased the gates on their first season in Division One by 50 per cent.

DIVISION I

	HOME Average		AWAY Average
	Pos'n Att'd'ce		Pos'n Att'd'ce
Tottenham	3 45,544	Tottenham	3 39,418
Everton	4 41,801	Manchester Utd. . .	15 33,585
Arsenal	10 34,422	Burnley	2 31,681
Manchester Utd. . .	15 33,330	Arsenal	10 27,093
Aston Villa	7 32,648	Ipswich	1 26,920
Sheff. Wed.	6 29,794	Wolverhampton ...	18 26,836
Burnley	2 27,171	Everton	4 26,179
Chelsea	22 27,013	West Ham	8 26,056
Manchester City .	12 25,626	Chelsea	22 25,525
West Ham	8 25,372	Sheff. Wed.	6 25,370
Wolverhampton ...	18 24,825	Aston Villa	7 25,367
Fulham	20 24,456	Blackburn	16 25,144
Birmingham	17 23,583	Blackpool	13 25,135
Nottm. Forest	19 23,309	Manchester City ..	12 24,868
Sheff. Utd.	5 22,953	Fulham	20 24,745
Ipswich	1 22,835	Sheff. Utd.	5 24,448
West Brom	9 21,975	Nottm. Forest	19 24,150
Cardiff	21 19,731	Birmingham	17 23,962
Leicester	14 19,454	West Brom	9 23,962
Blackpool	13 18,618	Bolton	11 23,300
Bolton	11 17,512	Leicester	14 22,887
Blackburn	16 15,857	Cardiff	21 21,204

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TOTTENHAM SUPREME IN CLASSIC FINAL

Tottenham 3, Burnley 1

(at Wembley Stadium, May 5, 1962)

THE failure of Burnley in the League Championship—only 11 points came from the last 13 games—allowed Tottenham to assume the unenviable position of favourites to win the F.A. Cup Final for the second consecutive year.

In 1962, Tottenham won more conclusively than had been the case when Leicester were beaten 12 months previously. Thus they emulated the performance of Newcastle who won the Cup in 1952 and 1953.

Tottenham played superlative football in the first vital 30 minutes of the 1962 Final. The number of shots at Burnley's goal merited more than the slender lead snatched by Greaves.

Burnley, lucky and courageous, managed to survive this onslaught without finding themselves in an impossible position. Gradually they imprinted their own pattern on a match which developed into one of Wembley's finest Cup Finals.

Pointer versus Norman

In the last minutes of the first half, the claret and blue shirts from Turf Moor achieved almost a parity with the famous white shirts of White Hart Lane. After the interval parity threatened to become temporary supremacy.

Centre-forward Pointer, whose energy and intelligence provided a severe test even for the brilliant Norman, eventually took the ball from the rugged Mackay to start the move which inside-left Robson converted into the precious equalising goal.

But the decisive moment of this Final was to come a few seconds later. Burnley were still congratulating themselves when Tottenham, their temperament steeled in European Cup fires, scored through Smith straight from the kick-off.

Burnley could never recover from this second thrust delivered almost with the cold precision of a matador. They contrived still to play academic, attractive football that acknowledged gracefully the existence of a lost cause.

Perfect penalty

The hopes of their partisans were crushed finally some 30 minutes later when centre-half Cummings was forced to handle the ball to prevent a goal and Blanchflower, showing not a trace of nerve, shot the perfect penalty.

There were many great men in a great final. Worthy victors were congratulated by gallant losers. None could be more proud than Adamson, the Footballer of the Year, and Blanchflower, the skippers, and Norman and Pointer who fought a brilliant duel in the centre of the field.

TOTTENHAM: Brown; Baker, Henry, Blanchflower, Norman, Mackay, Medwin, White, Smith, Greaves, Jones.

BURNLEY: Blacklaw; Angus, Elder; Adamson, Cummings, Miller; Connelly, McIlroy, Robson, Harris.

Referee: Mr. J. Finney (Hereford).

First Round

Aldershot	3	Chelmsford	1
Tunbridge	1	Kings Lynn	2
Barry	1 0	Chester	4
Q. P. R.	1 7	Ashington	1
Bournemouth.....	0	Coventry.....	2
Margate	3	Gillingham.....	0
Bradford	0	Crewe	2
Port Vale	1	Lincoln	0
Bradford City	1	Crystal Palace	3
York	0	Portsmouth	0
Brentford	3	Darlington	0
Oxford United	0	Carlisle	4
Bridgwater	0 1	Doncaster	0
Weston-super-Mare	0 0	Chesterfield	4
Brierley Hill	3	Exeter	3 1
Grantham	0	Dartford	3 2
Bristol City	1 5	Hartlepoons	5
Hereford	1 2	Blyth	1

Hull	5	Southport	1
Rhyl	0	Northwich	0
Mansfield	3	Stockport	0
Grimsby	2	Accrington	1
Morecambe	2	Swindon	2 0
South Shields	1	Kettering	2 3
Northampton.....	2	Torquay	5
Millwall	0	Harwich	1
Notts County.....	4	Tramere	2
Yeovil	2	Gateshead	3
Oldham	5	Walthamstow Ave.	2
Shildon	2	Romford	3
Peterborough	3 2 3	West Auckland	3 0
Colchester	3 2* 0	Barnsley	3 2
Reading	1 0	Weymouth	1
Newport	1 1	Barnet	0
Rochdale	2	Workington	2
Halifax	0	Worksop.....	0
Shrewsbury	7	Wrexham	3
Banbury	1	Barrow	2
Southend	0	Wycombe Wanderers ...	0 0
Watford	2	Ashford	0 3

Second Round

Aldershot	2 0	Hartlepoons	2
Brentford	2 2	Accrington	1
Ashford	0	Hull	0
Q. P. R.	3	Bradford City	2
Barnsley	1	Margate	1 1
Carlisle	2	Notts County.....	1 3
Bridgwater	0	Northampton.....	3
Crystal Palace	3	Kettering	0
Bristol City	8	Rochdale	1
Dartford	2	Wrexham	2
Chester	0	Romford	1
Morecambe	1	Watford	3
Chesterfield	2 2	Shrewsbury	3
Oldham	2 4*	Brierley Hill	0
Coventry	1	Southport	4
Kings Lynn	2	Mansfield	2
Crewe	1 0	Torquay	1
Port Vale	1 3	Peterborough	4
Gateshead	0	Weymouth	1
Workington	2	Newport	0

* after extra time