

WORLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Worle Football Club since 1899

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This book tells the story of the 'beautiful game' as it unfolded in Worle from its beginnings in 1899 and throughout the 20th century to 2020. Photographs and other illustration abound. It is for all Worle's footballers and their supporters.

Introduction

The idea for this book has been in the back of my mind for several years. Each time we begin a new line of research into the modern history of our village Worle Football Club, in one of its manifestations, gets a mention. It seems that here, on the Bristol Channel coast, as in the rest of the United Kingdom, football has often held a firm place at the centre of the life of the people, and has reflected the social organisation of society.

This book does not attempt to trace the development and history of association football on the national and international stage. What it does try to achieve is the telling of the story of the beautiful game right here in Worle.

Of course, mention will be made of the wider picture both in this country and abroad, but only mention. We shall be concentrating upon the 20th Century and it will be the players, the officials, the organisers, the supporters, the objectors, the pitches, the transport, the strip, the leagues, the triumphs, the disasters, the programmes, the endless meetings and the stars that will take centre stage.

Now one huge draw back, from the point of view of the reader, is the fact that I am undeniably a female of the species and I have never played a game of football in my life. So why should you read any farther? The truth is that the men of Worle have taken considerable trouble to be helpful, and their women folk have been no slouches, either. Team pictures, anecdotes, newspaper cuttings kept in treasured scrap books have all come my way and helped to build a picture of this wonderful old institution.

It is my great hope that the good folk who still constitute Worle Association Football Club will take the task forward and record the ups and downs for another hundred years. Particular thanks are due to the late and much lamented Eric Maggs, and to Dave Brine and Dennis Cole and a host of players who have contributed so much.

We begin with a timeline and then some newspaper cuttings from 1899, when Weston already had some Association Football teams, but Worle did not.

Worle Association Football Club

Time line

Before 1899: We have no evidence of Association Football activity in the village of Worle before 1899, but it is likely that small, informal groups of boys and young men were gathering on local fields to try out their skills.

1899: This appears to be the first date when we can produce written evidence of the formation of Worle Association Football Club. Their first Annual General Meeting was held at the end of the 99-00 season and was minuted. FC Barcelona, Club Nacional de Football and AC Milan were founded the same year. The Football Association ruled that a team should be made up of eleven players.

1900: On Saturday 19th May a report of the First Annual General Meeting appeared in the Mercury. The meeting was held in the Schoolroom at the National School in Hill Road. Captain W.E.S. Battiscombe, JP presided. 1899-1900 season was reviewed and decision made to enter the Clevedon and District League.

1900-1: Report of the second Annual General Meeting of the club appeared in the Mercury. Meeting took place in the 'schoolroom' at the National School in Hill Road. Reference made to the 'loan of their field free of charge to the Boys Brigade team, so already signs of the youngsters getting very involved. Where was the field? No information yet.

1901-2: The team for the 1901-1902 season was photographed. A. G. Wyatt, who was landlord of the King's Head, was labelled as team captain, so the pub became the natural meeting place for post mortems of matches and was later referred to as 'HQ'. Mercury report on 10th August 1901 gives J. Bird, not Wyatt, as captain and A. Fear as vice-captain. Confusing. 2nd team formed to play junior clubs. Report of Worle v. Blagdon 28/9/01.

1902-3: Another team picture taken and again the mounted print has names printed thereon. Wyatt was still named as team captain and played in goal. Rev. A.C. Harman was then president. Reports were appearing in the Mercury and Gazette by this time, but still not clear where home matches were played.

1903-4: Reports of matches continue. See 4/3/03 Christ Church v. Worle with our team named. NB The team referred to in the papers as the Old Boys are Walliscote Road, not Worle. Worle AFC was renamed in the 1930s.

1904-5: Mention found of 'Married and Single' match in Mercuries of 26/3/04 and 2/4/04 to be played on Good Friday morning.

1924-5: Club won a trophy [see picture in file] which may have been for the Somerset Charity Trophy, but this is not certain. Bob Durston is in the picture.

Late 1920s: Club hits financial troubles and fades into temporary oblivion.

1934-5: G. W. Waite and Mr. Mawson, who were teachers at Worle Elementary School in Hill Road, encouraged the rebirth of Worle Football Club. Called the reborn club Worle Old Boys to encompass the old club and encourage young school leavers to join - and to avoid some nasty financial implications of keeping the same name.

1946-7: Worle Minors team photographed with a trophy.

1947-8: Worle Old Boys went into the Somerset Senior League, where they remained for at least 10 seasons. [see newspaper cutting on Eric Maggs]

1950s: Worle Old Boys 'golden years'. Star players were Ken Lane, Reg Langdale and Eric Maggs. The club took 13 coach loads of supporters to Watchet when Worle were in the final of the Somerset Charity Cup. Home gate was often 600. Many programmes from this period are kept by Dave Maggs. Worle History Society archives also have some.

1952 to 1958: Club minutes in blue book, kept by Dave Brine.

1955: Brian Clough played for Watchet against Worle Old Boys. He, and his RAF friends also attended a Worle Youth Club meeting in the Church Hall, Hill Road East.

1958: Club minutes in red book, kept by Dave Brine for 1958 to 1985. Worle Old Boys were one of the original teams to enter the Bristol Premier Combination. Ken Lane released to enable him to play for another team.

1964-7: WOBs relegated from Bristol Premier League to Bristol Second Division. Team photos from this time donated to WHS by Roger Urch.

1977: WOBs Reserve team attended presentation at Winter Gardens Pavilion to be presented with cup for the winners of League 2.

1980: New manager of the 1st xi was discussed and Mr. Derek Taylor was to be approached and offered the position. [Minutes of June 1st meeting]

1990s: The Newquay Tour report and pictures.

1981 Renamed Worle F.C. and the birth of Worle Juniors F.C.

1984: Dave Brine took over as club secretary.

1980s undated: Paul Hatton special award for being club's top scorer for 2 seasons.

1997: Presentation prepared by committee of Worle Football club outlining the current condition of the club and its facilities. Intended for the local council and includes short and long term objectives and some photographs. Kept by Dave Brine.

2004: FA Charter Standard Club Award presented to Worle FC and signed by Trevor Brooking

2011: Grant Application prepared by Dennis Cole and Dave Brine for a self build community scheme for new changing rooms and to bring the ground and facilities up to league standards. Includes details of finances, facilities at Worle Recreation Ground, plans for proposed new building, letters of support from local people.

2012 -3: Grant achieved to enable club to build a new pavilion and changing facility on Worle Recreation Ground.

2020: Lockdown for the Corona Virus. Gary Coles and Co. take the opportunity to give the Club House a refurb.

Facilities Manager: Gary Coles

First team manager: Aaron Blakemore

Assistant Manager: Damian Bromley

Captain: Connor Down

2nd Team Manager: Jon Crandon

1. 1899 - Socker News in the Local Papers

In 1899 there were several Association Football, or Socker, teams playing in the area around Weston-super-Mare. Socker was spelt with a K instead of the modern double c. The term 'football' was reserved for Rugby at this time.

The following cuttings from the Gazette provide some interesting information.

Gazette, September 1899

iii.

ASSOCIATION.

COLORS V. WHITES.—This game was played on the Club ground on Saturday last in exceedingly warm weather. It was unfortunate that the first game of the new club should have been played with so many members absent, but still two good sides turned out, and, considering the hot weather, and their want of practice, the players showed very good form. Colors, under the captaincy of Mr. W. F. Rossiter won the toss, and kicked off against the sun and wind. They speedily pressed, and owing to good work by Bloxsome and Harris gave Elver a bad time in goal, but he defended well and play moved to the halfway flag. After some uninteresting play a good run down by Bloxsome ended in Harris scoring, but the point was disallowed, the referee ruling that he was off-side. From the free-kick the Whites moved down the field, and pretty passing between H. Gardner and Landon resulted in the latter scoring a fine goal. This was the only point scored during the first half. On the re-start the Colours again pressed, and Harris scored, play ruling very even for a time, but the fine play of P. Gardner and Marshall at half resulted in another goal being added to their score. After this the Whites had a look in, and kept play in their opponents' half for some time, Landon and Gardner being noticeable. But the game again drifted back, and after Elver had saved several good shots he was beaten by a shot from Bloxsome. There was no further scoring, and the game, therefore, ended in a win for the Colours by three goals to one.

The rivalry between Weston's Rugby and Socker teams is termed a 'struggle for supremacy' in the **Gazette of 6th September, 1899**

There is little doubt that the present season will witness a hot struggle for supremacy as regards popularity between the Socker and Rugby teams, although it is earnestly to be hoped from a sporting point of view that the success of either will not tend to the downfall of the other.

The Rugby team will in all probability include a large percentage of the old players, and there is a possibility of some serviceable "new blood" being infused. There are two instances in particular of players with good reputations having taken up their residence at Weston during the past summer and efforts will no doubt be made to secure their presence on the field.

The Socker Club announces that amongst its recruits are A. H. Peace, of the Bridgwater Rugby Club, and Harry Morris, the local sprinter. In our opinion, however, there is very little prospect of the ex-Bridgwater captain permanently transferring his affections to the Association game. Harry Morris probably will. A preliminary trial match will take place on the Club's ground this (Saturday) afternoon, between XI.'s captained by Messrs W. F. Rossiter and C. H. Besley. The teams unfortunately are not representative of the Club's strength, so many members being absent for their holidays or engaged in cricket or other summer games. The actual trial match will take place on September 23rd. The following are the teams selected for this afternoon's match: Mr Rossiter's XI. (to wear colours)—Goal, Elver; backs, Magniac and Gladstone; halves, Marshall, Brockhurst and Brewer; forwards, Stevens, Rossiter, Morgan, Brown and Webber. Mr C. H. Besley's XI. (to wear white)—Goal, H. Comfort; backs, Kelly and L. C. Comfort; halves, Jones, Reynolds and Besley; forwards, Flower, Cosway, Alexander, Landon and Cherry.

2. Victorian Beginnings in Worle

Until 1899 Association Football in Worle was probably played by local lads in a very informal way. It was in this final year of the 19th century that the national Football Association laid down some defining rules. League teams were to have eleven players, for instance, which was helpful. I assume that before that edict they could field as many as they liked!

The first mention of an Association Football club ['Socker' as it was spelt in the Mercury at the time] in our village was in the cutting below taken from 18th May, 1900. It was headlined 'WORLE' and covered several other topics before the sub-heading below caught my eye.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB.—The first annual general meeting of the members of the above club, held in the Schoolroom on Tuesday, was exceedingly well attended. Captain W. E. S. Battscombe, J.P., the president of the club, presided, and in his opening remarks congratulated the club on having so successfully completed their first season. The Secretary's (Mr A. B. Badcock) report showed that the club had played 18 matches, of which they had won 8, lost 6, and drawn 4; scoring 38 goals for and 33 against. The financial report showed the receipts to have been £5 5s. 1d., expenditure £4 19s. 3½d., leaving a balance in hand of 5s. 9½d. A lengthy discussion arose as to the advisability of the club joining the Clevedon and District League, several members speaking in favour of the alliance, remarking that greater interest would be taken in the game. On the motion being submitted it was unanimously carried that the club join the League, provided that a ground be secured suitable for League matches, the chairman intimating that he would be pleased to subscribe the 5s. entrance fee to the League. A very hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding brought a very successful meeting to a close.

Some interesting facts emerge from this first little article. The report covers the first season of the club, as discussed at the annual general meeting. The season, 1899 to 1900 had come to its conclusion. Worle A. F. C. had played 18 matches, with varying success. They won 8 matches, lost 6 and drew 4. Not a bad start. Goal difference seems to have been telling. 38 goals 'for' gives an average of 2.1 goals per game, while the 53 goals 'against' gives us a figure of 2.9 goals per game. Perhaps it's better to conclude that Worle 2 Others 3 was the most usual score line.

The club's officials included Captain Walter Ernest Sax Battiscombe J.P., who was president. Cpt. Battiscombe lived with his wife, Agnes, at Hillside House, behind St. Martin's Church. The picture below left shows him and his wife in the grounds of the now demolished house.

The picture on the right shows Arthur Binding Badcock, who was secretary and treasurer of the football club. In contrast to the opulence of the Battiscombe residence, A. B. Badcock lived in one of the terraced stone cottages in the High Street [called Lower Street in those days] with his wife, mother-in-law, sister and baby son.



It was quite usual at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries for local clubs and societies to seek the support of the local gentry, and Capt. Battiscombe was in great demand, along with a few other locals.

The brand new football club's finances seem to be OK – just! The average weekly wage in the UK in 1900 was about 15 shillings a week [75p], which gives us some sort of comparison with the figures given in the article:

Receipts:	£5. 5s. 1d	[£5.25p]
Expenditure:	£4. 19s. 2 ½d	[£4.95p]
Balance:	5s. 9 ¾d	[28p]

Of course the 5 shillings needed to join the Clevedon and District League for the season 1900 to 1901 would have left the club with only ninepence ha'penny left, which is about three and a half new pence. No wonder they were so grateful to Walter Battiscombe for his offer to pay the entrance fee.

The issue of the suitable pitch is still a mystery. No mention is made of where home games were played. Does anyone know? The AGM was held in the schoolroom at Worle Elementary School in Hill Road, probably in the main hall, originally the tithe barn, which is still pretty much the same over 100 years later. The players are not mentioned at all. Peculiar that.

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3. 1900 to 1901 Season: AGM Report dated 18th May 1901 verbatim from Gazette of that date.

WORLE ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB: *The second annual general meeting of the members of this club was held in the Schoolroom on Tuesday last, when Captain W.E.S. Battiscombe, J.P. presided over a good attendance. Among those present were Messrs: E. W. Tiley, H. N. Day, J. Bird, A. G. Flower, A. S. Sims, A Barrett, F. March, S. Leslie, E.P. Atwell, E. Milkins, E.A.P. Smith, A. fear, H. Stowell, W. Robins, B.T. Day, C. Hooper, R. James, A. B. Badcock, and others.*

The chairman, in his opening remarks, expressed the pleasure it gave him to see so many present, as it was a plain proof of the great interest they took in the success of the club.

The minutes of the last general meeting having been read and passed the Chairman called upon Mr. Badcock [secretary and treasurer] for his report and balance sheet. Before doing so, Mr. Badcock stated that it was his painful duty to propose 'That this meeting wishes to record and forward a vote of sympathy and condolence to Mr. A G. Wyatt [who is an active member of the club and also on the committee] in his sad bereavement through the loss of his mother.' The chairman fittingly commented on the resolution and placed it before the meeting, and it was passed unanimously.

*Mr. Badcock then said the report on the past season was not very satisfactory from a victorious point of view, the result of matches being that out of **25 played** the club had **lost 15, won 8 and drawn 2**, scoring 25 goals for and 73 against. He wished to point out that this had only been the second season of the club, since they had entered the Clevedon and District League. Consequently they had met teams far superior to their own. There had been a great advance on the games of the previous season, and also greater interest existing in the village and in the club generally. Referring to the balance sheet, it certainly gave him greater pleasure as with an increase in members, gate receipts etc the club's income had been far more satisfactory. The receipts were £8. 17s. and the expenditure £7.4s 6d., leaving a balance in hand of £1. 12s 6d. – an intimation which naturally induced loud applause.*

*Several items of business were brought forward, including a proposal to continue in the league, and to run **two teams** next season – Milton having thrown in their lot with the club. The matter was deferred until the next meeting, as was also the election of officers – Mr. H. N. Day thanked the club for the loan of the field for the free use of the Boys' Brigade Football Club – which concession had been much appreciated, and good benefit derived thereby -. Mr. Badcock proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. J. Wride [Lamb Inn], Mr. G. smith [New Inn]. The whole of the vice-presidents, and to the president, who was their chairman that evening – and one of which any club would be proud. In fact it would be impossible to speak in terms too high of his kindness.*

Captain Battiscombe, in responding was received with loud applause. He said it gave him great pleasure to hear from the reports that the club was making such headway

and was in such a good position. He trusted next season the teams would be more successful with their matches, and he hoped they would not lose heart by being defeated at the hands, or rather the feet, of older and better clubs. As long as the club existed they could rely on his support, as in the past [applause]. Before dispersing, he had a very pleasant duty to perform which was to present to Mr. Badcock a silver-plated cruet stand, which had been subscribed for solely by the members of the club – in recognition of his services. Mr. Badcock in response, said such a present had come as the greatest surprise of his life, he having received not the least intimation of such a thing taking place. He assured them he felt very proud not only to receive such a handsome present, but to know that he was held in such high esteem amongst the members as to stimulate them to thus recognise his services. As long as he remained in Worle, and was able to carry out the duties he would endeavour to further the interests of the club [applause]. Mr. Flower stated that he and Mr. Bird had undertaken to canvass the members, and it had been a great pleasure to do so, as all they asked had given freely and willingly. He only regretted time had not permitted their waiting on the whole of the members. This terminated a most enthusiastic meeting.

So, we can assume that by May 1901, the young men of Milton had been attracted to the club, despite the rather dismal results on the pitch. Several club members, apart from the officials were named in this report, so perhaps Worle AFC was beginning to make its mark.

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4. 1901 – 1902 Season

The decision to join the Clevedon and District League seems to have inspired Worle Association Football club to the point where at the end of the 1901 to 1902 season a team photograph was taken, with everyone named. This picture, now 120 years old, still gives us a clear vision of the footballers of Worle at this time. It was taken by R. W. Brown of Boulevard Studio, Weston-super-Mare.



The four hatted gentlemen at the back are:

Rev. A. C. Harman [Vicar of St. Martin's]; Captain W.E.S. Battiscombe [Club President]
 Dr. St. John Kemm, who lived at Westacre, Church Road, later the Vicarage and lastly,
 Edward Hardwick of Springfield House, Spring Hill, landowner and master of Weston
 Harriers.

Three men in caps:

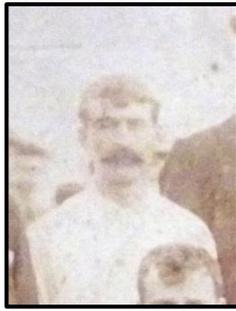
Left: A. G. Flower: Position not known, but maybe trainer or similar. Country clothes,
 watch chain and handkerchief.

Second from right standing. A. E. Billington: Suit, tie, button hole and watch chain.

Light suit on right. A.B. Badcock: Black arm band. Treasurer and secretary.

The dog is a most welcome touch of informality.

The Players: 1902



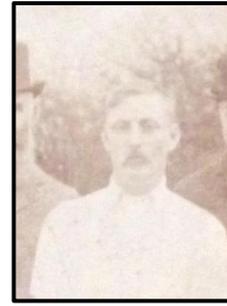
E.W Tiley



S. Leslie



W. Neads



A. G. Wyatt [capt]



S. Popham



W. Tucker



E. Milkins



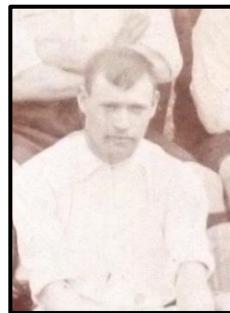
W. Robins



T. Fry



A. Fear



H. C. Leslie

I found Arthur Wyatt, the captain, on the 1901 census and was amazed that he was a beerhouse keeper at the Old King's head at the tender age of 22. The 'tache makes him look more mature. He is pictured, outside the pub in the picture, right.

W. Neads was 25 and lived in Ten Acres Road, now Coronation Road.

T. Fry was a lad of 15 from Lawrence Lane.

William Robins lived at 13 Bolton Terrace, at the top of Coronation Road, and was 22.

No sign of the others on the census, but we do know that S. Leslie was considered to be a strong player.



5. 1902 – 1903 Season

The team photograph of the previous season was repeated at the end of the 1902-3, which was the fourth full season for the team. R. W. Brown from the Boulevard Studio was favoured with the task of taking the picture again. There are some changes to notice. Captain Battiscombe had died in November 1902 and was buried in the churchyard at St. Martin's. He has been superseded as President by Rev. A. C. Harman, M.A. Whether by accident or design, Edward Hardwick and Dr. St. John Kemm are not to be seen.

As in 1901, four men are wearing hats and three have caps. This is, I suppose, a status thing, about which it is better that I make no further comment. The players, as before, are in their team shirts, but they all have different socks and shorts.



Far left: H. Stowell, far right: A. B. Badcock.
 Other 8 standing at back: J. Wride, T. J. Wheeler, W. Robins, A.G. Wyatt, [capt], H.C. Leslie,
 A. G. Flower, Rev. A.C. Harman, E.W. Tiley
 Middle Row: J. Bird, W.H. Neads, R.C. Haddon, E. Milkins, T. Fry
 Front sitting: E. Woodington, E.A. Billington, E.A.P. Smith

There is every sign that the club was gaining local support by this time. The local papers were now much more likely to include Worle AFC in their articles, but they did have some troubles. A report from the Mercury of 21st March, 1903 reads as follows:

Worle's match with Christ Church on Saturday, at Worle, was a close affair, and there was not much difference in the teams, though the visiting forwards made much use of their opportunities and combined better than the homesters. Andrews in particular was very prominent and oftentimes became dangerous. Limmer was dead off, his shooting being very erratic. Leslie and Haddon were the only ones to cause the visitors trouble, though splendid chances were offered them.

Wyatt, in goal, gave the best exhibition seen on the Worle ground, his saves on one or two occasions being marvellous, and he was far superior to Heybryne. The result was a pleasing surprise to the homesters, supporters, as with such a weak team they were expected to come a cropper against their formidable opponents.¹

Worle play Nailsea at Worle today [Saturday]. Team: Goal – Wyatt; backs – Fear [capt] and Besley; halves – Smith, Billington and Woodington; forwards – Milkins, Norville, Haddon, tucker, Leslie; reserves – Robins and Curtis.

There followed a flurry of reports leading up to the end of this 4th season for Worle AFC. The cuttings are reproduced below:

Gazette 28th
March 1903

WORLE.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB.—Since the commencement of the season the club has experienced hard lines by some of their prominent playing members leaving the district. They have found great difficulty in filling their places, but no gap so difficult to supply as the one which they are now called upon to fill, in consequence of Mr A. Fear sailing on Thursday last for Canada. It will be remembered that he was captain of the club, which office he filled with much popularity. He always played at back, and was well known as a very safe tackler and a thorough good all-round player, his genial disposition making him a great favourite. He played his last match for the club last Saturday against Nailsea, and, strange to say, he had the great distinction of scoring the only goal in the match, which gave his side the victory; also two points in the League table. Needless to say this was very popular, and at the termination of the game he came in for a great ovation. He leaves with the best wishes of his club mates for his future welfare, and the general hope that he will make as many friends in his new home as the one he has just left.

¹ The paper fails to give the final score, which is odd after all the previous detail.

The short piece below comes from the Mercury of 2nd April, 1903 and is the first mention of a Good Friday match, this one featuring bachelors against married men. The Vicar did not object. Exactly 50 years later the then vicar, Eric Valance Cook, made a strong objection to a planned Good Friday comic football match, but more of that later

WORLE.

FOOTBALL.—On Good Friday morning a match will be played between Married and Single. Teams:—**Married**—Goal, A Done; backs, J Williams and J Phillips; half-backs, J Watkins, G Yard (capt.), and W Vowles; forwards, F Hood, F Lovell, C Giles, W Blcombe and A Haines. **Single**—Goal, A Boulton (capt.); backs, J Hooper and T Gulliford; half-backs, J White, W Locke and W Phillips; forwards, J Raines, S Louch, A Woodley, W Huish and O Adams.—In the afternoon the home club play Weston United. Team—Goal, A G Wyatt; backs, E Milkins and A Hase; halves, O Dyer, A E Billington and Walter Robins; forwards, T Fry, D Thomas, W G Lodge, W H Needs and Wm. Robbins.

Only two days later the following report appeared, just to emphasise that local interest was growing and the team were enjoying something of a fan base, if such things existed then!

WORLE.

FOOTBALL.—The following have been selected to play for Worle in their return match with Walliscote-road Old Boys, which will be played at Worle today (Saturday)—Goal, Fred Sims; backs, C. H. Bealey (capt.) and H. C. Leslie; half-backs, T. A. Biggs, E. A. Billington, E. A. P. Smith; forwards E. Woodington, R. C. Haddon, W. Tucker, Sid Mathews, J. Carter. This is the strongest team the homesters have placed in the field this season, and they are very anxious to wipe out the six to nil earlier in the season. As a draw or a loss to the Old Boys would place them out of the running for the cup, they will have to be in tip-top form, and not take matters too easily. Considering the great amount of interest attached to the result there should be a good gate, and a fine game witnessed. Kick-off 3.30 Referee, Mr Samson, Wells.

From 1903 onwards, until the mid-1920s, no team photos have been found, though some may have been taken. One theory is that Captain Battiscombe, the club's early benefactor had funded the annual team picture and after that time it was left to chance whether photographs appeared. George V succeeded Edward VII on the throne in 1910 and World War One came and went without any further remarkable occurrences at Worle Association Football Club. Except one. Arthur Binding Badcock, the secretary and treasurer since the early days, left Worle in 1914 to take up a position in South Wales. There were murmurings about financial troubles in the club at this time, which were remedied by the five of the officials, but this is unsubstantiated. A.B. Badcock met an early death when he fell from a ladder in the course of his employment and died of his injuries, leaving his wife, Alice and two children.

With so many young men away fighting it is possible that the club, and indeed the local leagues, were forced into temporary oblivion.

5. Worle Association Football team 1924 to 1925 season

The first pieces of information in the years between the wars were found in this report in the Mercury of October 1924.

Weston-super-Mare Junior League had two divisions; Worle AFC was in Division One and Worle Reserves graced Division Two.

The Reserves had only played 2 matches since the start of the season, winning one and losing one. They were third in a league of ten. Not bad at all.

Division One seems to have been too much for Worle's first team. They had played and lost 3 games, scoring 7 goals and giving away 15. There is a report, in the same edition of the paper, of the game Worle played away to Highbridge Rovers. This paints a rather better picture than the league tables suggest.

The article below right tells us that whilst Worle lost 4 -2 to Highbridge, they played well and had some back luck. Marsh made and scored an excellent first goal for Worle and Wilkins scored a second. It was no walk over and was described as a well contested game.

Six months later, in March 1925, the first team had risen to fourth in Division One – a great improvement. Sadly the reserves had dropped from third to sixth in Division Two.

It would be good to know how the club was run at this stage, but no such information has come into our possession.

However a picture exists of the 1924 – 1925 eleven, presumably the first team, although it is not possible to be sure.

Apart from their league activities, Worle A.F.C. also entered the **Weston Charity**

now on 1st Nov.—EYE WITNESS.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE & DISTRICT JUNIOR LEAGUE.
Last Saturday's results.

Division I.
Highbridge Ath., 4; Y.M.C.A., 1.
Arbridge, 3; WestSn Gas, 0.
(Table up-to-date).

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals.		
					F.	A.	Pts.
Highbridge Ath.	4	3	0	1	15	8	6
Highbridge Rovers	2	2	0	0	7	3	4
Gordano	3	2	0	1	14	7	4
Y.M.C.A.	4	2	0	2	12	14	4
Arbridge	2	1	0	1	4	7	2
Weston Gas	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
Worle	3	0	0	3	7	15	0

Division II.
Last Saturday's Results.
Huntspill, 0; Worle Res., 0.
Weston Gas Res., 2; Checkdar, 9.
Weston Jrs., 2; Christ Church, 1.
(Table up-to-date).

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals.		
					F.	A.	Pts.
Checkdar Res.	4	4	0	0	26	3	8
Huntspill	3	2	1	0	14	3	5
Brent Knoll	3	2	0	1	13	7	4
Worle Res.	2	1	1	0	7	2	3
Bleasdon	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Weston Jrs.	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
R.E. Res.	2	0	0	2	5	12	0
Christ Church	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
St. Saviour's	2	0	0	2	1	8	0
Weston Gas Res.	4	0	0	4	6	35	0

Fixtures for to-day (Saturday).

Division I
Weston Gas v. Worle.
Gordano v. R.E.

Division II.
Christ Church v. Bleasdon.
St. Saviour's v. Weston Gas.
Brent Knoll v. Huntspill.
R.E. Reserves v. Worle Reserves.

HIGHBRIDGE ROVERS v. WORLE. — Highbridge Rovers commenced their season on Saturday last with a home match against Worle. A large number witnessed the game. The Rovers were early prominent, Taylor and Wilkins being in fine form. It was not long before Worle found their feet, but the Rovers' defence was a little too good. A good centre by Solomon was met by Taylor, but he had hard luck, the visitors' goalie bringing off a fine save. Up and down play was now the general run, with the Rovers doing most of the pressing, when, from a breakaway by the visitors' forwards, Vennol brought off a fine save. From the clear, the Rovers came again, forcing a corner, which Marsh placed well, and Taylor scored a fine goal off his head. Ding-dong play then ensued for five minutes, when Wilkins, from a well-placed pass by Taylor, scored. Worle had hard luck on one or two occasions, and the Rovers came again, Wilkins scoring from a pass by Solomon. Half-time came with the Rovers leading by 3 goals to nil. Worle commenced in fine fashion, and Wilkins scored a well-earned goal, which seemed to stimulate them. The Rovers were not done with, however, and after a good bit of play, Marsh made a splendid run down the wing, and scored a fine goal. Worle came again and Wilkins added another goal to their list. The visitors were now trying hard, but it was drawing near time, and the final whistle went leaving the Rovers victors by 4 goals to 2, after a well-contested game. Mr. Percy Hand was an efficient referee.

ROVERS' RESERVES v. HUNTSPELL UNITED.—This match took place on the latter's ground on Saturday last, and after a good game the visitors lost by the only goal scored.

Knockout Cup.**1924 – 25 Team Names****Back Row:**

1. Tommy Whitford Licensee of New Inn	2. Gwy Jones Died in Westonia Cottage bombing	3. Jack Brafield Banwell butcher motor cycles	4. Charlie Cook Sand Bay. Roads for local council	5. Ken Cook Nephew of Charlie
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6. Bill Hancock Goalkeeper, builder	7. Stan Garrett Committee member	8. Frank Lancaster Greenwood Road	9. Bill Pitts Somerset C.C Treasurer's Dept	10. Danny Small Trainer and good customer of New Inn
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Middle Row:

1. Jack Venning Painter	2. Bill Wilkins Builder?	3. Cyril Cruise Team Captain, holding cup Kewstoke taxis	4. W.R. [Bob] Durston 30 years at Huish's quarry 10 years caretaker St Martin's School	5. Reg Weaden Car dealer, later cycle dealer, High Street
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Front Row:

1. Joe Harding Banwell builder married Worle Girl.	2. Jack Hancock Builder and Contractor	3. Ernie Smith Milton man, van driver
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Notes: The Mercury article that follows also names Cruise as Worle's left back and Cook as goalkeeper. Dennis Urch told me that goalie's at this time always wore polo neck sweaters, maybe just for photos, or maybe for games.

The picture must have been taken in 1925 at the close of the season, since the cup and medals are featured. The following Mercury article assumes the date to be 1924, which is wrong.

LOOK - THAT IS A SOCCER PICTURE OF ME IN 1924!

A PICTURE of Worle soccer team, taken in the 1924-25 season, published in last Friday's Mercury, brought an immediate response from several of the men in the picture. We had asked if any of our readers could name them.

Mr Reg Weaden of Hampden Road, Worle (enjoying his 79th birthday that morning) was soon on the telephone to us.

Another early caller was Mr Bob Durston (now aged 80) of Hill Road, Worle.

Then we heard from Mr Jack Brafield of the Butchers Shop in Banwell who remembered the picture being taken.

They could tell us of a couple of others still in the area—Jack Hancock, also of Hill Road, Worle, and Frank Lancaster of Greenwood Road. Mr Durston believes Bill Pitts may still be

living near Bridgwater and that Ken Cook may still live locally.

Mr Weaden was not sure about the cup seen in the picture. He thought it might have been a Cheddar Valley League award because Worle had quite a good season then.

But Mr Durston believed it to be the Weston Charity Knock-out Cup and this was confirmed by Mr Brafield who produced his cup-winners medal to prove it.

Green

Mr Weaden said the club used to play just off the old Bristol Road near Banwell Road on land which is now largely built up. The club colours were green—as they still are—and the two players in striped shirts in the picture were reserves for the day.

Mr Durston recalled Worle AFC was a very successful club in its hey-day, but financial difficulties led to it being disbanded. When, some time later, a club was re-formed, re-entry to the Cheddar Valley League, under the old name, would have been possible only on payment of a fee for each member.

"To avoid having to pay those fees, we decided to give the club a new name. That's how Worle Old Boys came to get their name—we were the 'old boys' of the former Worle RCF"

Mr Brafield said: "That picture was taken after we had beaten Weston-in-Gordano in the Charity Cup final. We drew one each and then beat them in a replay, but I can't remember the score. The first final was on the Clevedon Town ground and the replay on the Weston Potteries ground in Langford Road—or it might have been vice-versa, I can't be sure."

Mr Brafield, who came from Oxford three years earlier, played for Worle because there was no team in Banwell then.

So, the men in the picture are from the left:

Back row—TOMMY WHITFORD, for many years licensee of the New Inn, now the Woodspring Inn, Worle.

"GWY" JONES, killed with others of his family when a German bomb hit their cottage in Worle High Street.

JACK BRAFIELD, a Banwell butcher who used to come to matches on a motor cycle with Joe Harding on the back.

CHARLIE COOK, a committee member from Sand Bay and who worked on the roads for the local council.

KEN COOK, Charlie's nephew.

BILL HANCOCK, the goalkeeper. He was in the building trade.

STAN GARRETT another committee member.

FRANK LANCASTER, now aged over 80.

BILL PITTS, used to work for Somerset County Council's treasurer's department.

DANNY SMALL, the trainer, said to have been "a good customer at the New Inn."

Middle row—JACK VENNING, a painter.

BILL WILKINS, believed by Mr Weaden to have been a builder.

CYRIL CRUSE, holding the cup. He was the captain and had a taxi business at Kewstoke.

BOB DURSTON, for 30 years at Huish's Quarry, Kewstoke Road, and, until he retired in 1968, was for ten years caretaker at St Martin's School, Worle.

REG WEADEN, car dealer, then cycle dealer in Worle, High Street.

Front row—JOE HARDING, a building worker who lived at Banwell and married a Worle girl.

JACK HANCOCK, with the ball. He too was a builder and contractor for many years.

ERNIE SMITH, lived at Milton and was a van driver in his younger days.

As reported recently, Worle Old Boys FC after 47 years is to change back this coming season to the name Worle AFC. The wheel of history has turned full circle.

... AND FRIENDS REMEMBERED





Old players—Jack Hancock (left), Jack Brafield (above) and Durston (right).

This cutting is taken from Weston Mercury in 1981. It is great to see three of the 1924-5 season players still in rude health and enjoying their memories. Some light is also shed on the matter of the home playing field. There is no precise detail but a field 'just off Old Bristol Road' is mentioned.

The cup and the display of medals in the original team photograph were presented to the team following their success in the Weston Charity Knockout Cup. The Mercury does have its uses. I found the following report of the game published in May 1925.

The transcript on the following page is verbatim.

“Weston and District Charity Cup. Worle Team Annexes Trophy”

The re-play for the final of the Weston-super-Mare and District Charity Cup took place at Clevedon on Saturday last. This was necessitated by the teams, Gordano United and Worle [AFC] having played to a draw of one goal each on the Potteries on Easter Monday. Both teams were at full strength, and were strongly supported by enthusiastic followers. Worle kicked off before a good crowd, and at once got down to the Gordano Goal, where they pressed hotly for a spell but eventually the Gordano rear-guard settled down, and repulsed the repeated attacks of the nippy Worle forwards, and some good end to end play was witnessed, with Gordano gradually gaining the ascendancy, and waring down their lighter opponents. Many good chances were missed by both sides through unsteadiness in front of goal, and Gordano continued to have the better of matters during the first half, but failed to penetrate the stubborn defence of the Worle back division.

Cruise , Worle’s left back, was the saviour of his side during this stage, and Cook , in goal, brought off some remarkable saves, half-time coming with a clean sheet. On the resumption, Worle again demonstrated that they are a second half team, as they immediately set up a hot attack, and within three minutes Hancock had netted with a shot which gave the Gordano goalie no chance. The game now became very fast and some good football was witnessed, with Worle showing slightly the better combination.

Gordano strove mightily for the equaliser, and with about a quarter of an hour to go their efforts appeared likely to be rewarded. A hot attack was set up on the Worle goal and from a melee in the goal mouth the ball appeared to have gone over the line before being kicked into touch. Mr. Hack, the referee, consulted his linesmen, both of whom were neutral, with the result that no goal was allowed. Gordano continued to press and some good chances came their way, but over eagerness and a sound defence nullified them. Worle at last got going, and as a result of a smart combination, Weedon netted, thus putting the issue beyond doubt, to the great delight of the Worle supporters, who invaded the playing pitch to congratulate their favourites, and the end came with Worle 2 goals; Gordano nil.

Comments: *The game was one of the cleanest ever witnessed and the outstanding feature was the sturdy defence of both teams.*

In presenting the cup and medals to the winners, Mr. T. Hole [chairman, Clevedon AFC] said that owing to the regrettable absence of Mr. Victor Edghill, the donor of the cup, through illness, the pleasure of presenting the cup for the first time in its history had fallen to him, an honour which he greatly

appreciated. He congratulated both teams on their good, clean performance, and hoped they would continue to fight their battles in the same sporting spirit. He hoped that next season more local clubs would enter for the trophy, the object for which it was put up being a most worthy one and deserved the utmost support.

The Weston-super-Mare and District League officials greatly appreciate the assistance rendered by Mr. A. W. Hand, Hon Secretary, Clevedon AFC and other officials of the Club to whose efforts the success of the undertaking was greatly due.

The medals for the winners were kindly given by Lord Erskine, M.P., President of the League.

Worle Association Football Club was certainly successful in its first few decades. Sadly, during the 1920s financial troubles began to rear their head. Many of the old guard of landowners and professional men in Worle [and the rest of Britain] had had their day and the new order did not provide replacements. Financial assistance died away and sadly, money troubles led to the club being 'disbanded' in the late 1920s. League football, even at a local level was too expensive and Association Football in Worle had a period of 'friendly seasons' rather than the competitive times they had so enjoyed.

6. The Birth of Worle Old Boys. 1934

Many of the young men who had graced the field of play in the 1920s were still eager to get back to league football and by 1934 there were up and coming lads who also wanted to try out their skills against stronger opposition.

Two teachers at Worle Junior School in Hill Road were aware that some of their old pupils were in need of occupation on Saturdays. Granville D. Waite, esq. was one of several Welshmen who played a central role in village life. His teaching at the school had commenced in 1930 and included responsibility for physical education and he was keen that Worle football team should play in a local league. Mr Mawson, the head teacher at the school backed the scheme. Meetings were called and interested parties planned happily.

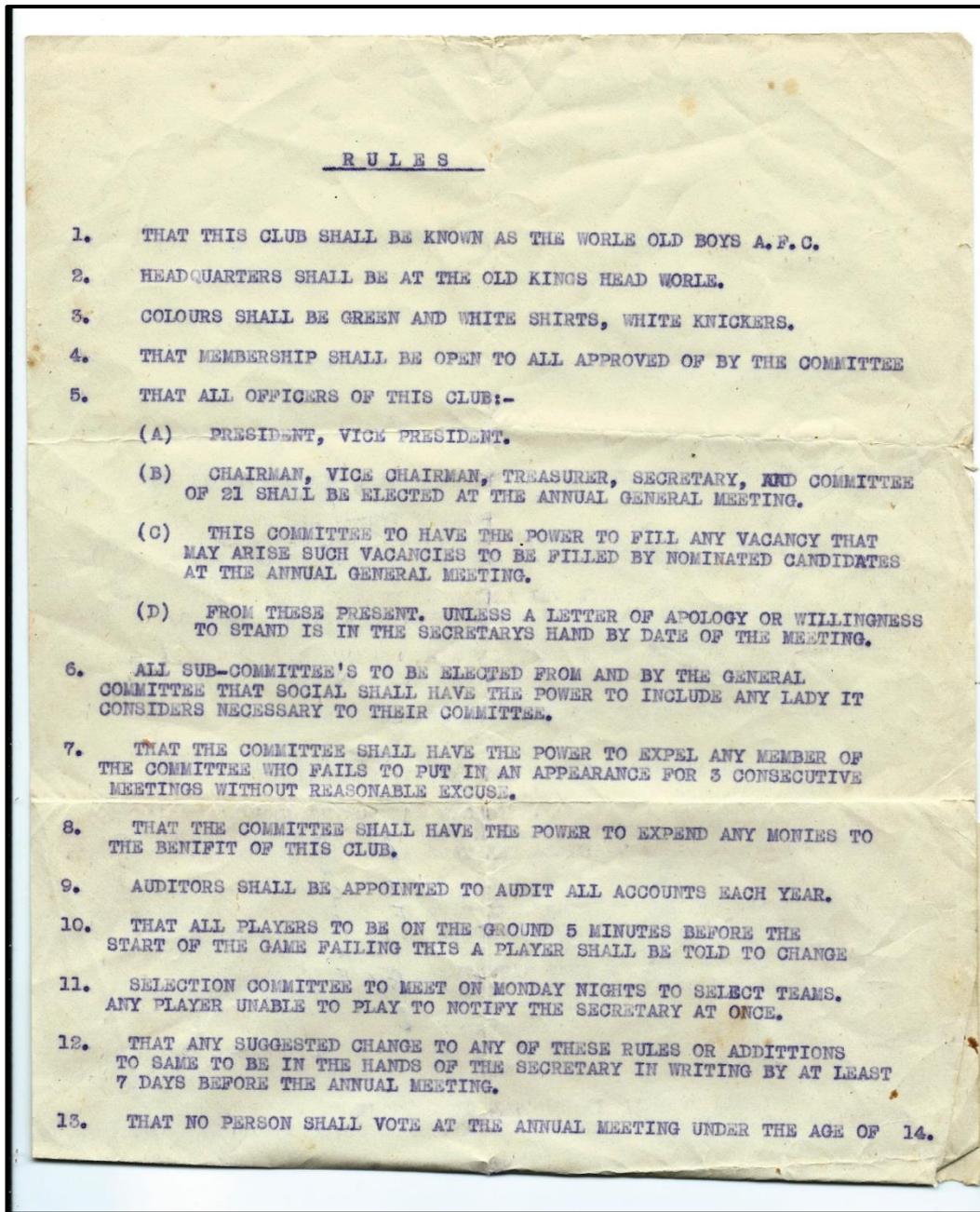
Then they hit a snag. The rejuvenated team wanted to re-enter the Cheddar Valley League, in which they had enjoyed success in the 1920s. But, they could only re-enter the league as Worle A. F. C. if each member paid a fee. It seems likely that they had left the league some years before in arrears!! A scheme was hatched to avoid the payment and get into the league. The name Worle Association Football Club was abandoned and Worle Old Boys Football Club was born. Worle O.Bs were actually the 'old boys' of the A.F.C. with the addition of a few younger members. A very crafty move, I think. Very soon, they were back in the league and had a new kit – still predominantly green – and were making their mark.



Worle Old Boys 1934-35 season, as named by one of the Pemberthy boys:
 Back Row: Kelly, Cornet, White, White [goalie], Bray, Sandford
 Front row: Williams, Smith, Pemberthy, Pemberthy, Gill

The two officials, the trainer on the left with the towel, and the suited gent on the right, are not named. Can anyone help?

**The Thirteen Rules of the reformed Worle Old Boys Football Club,
given by Eric Maggs.**



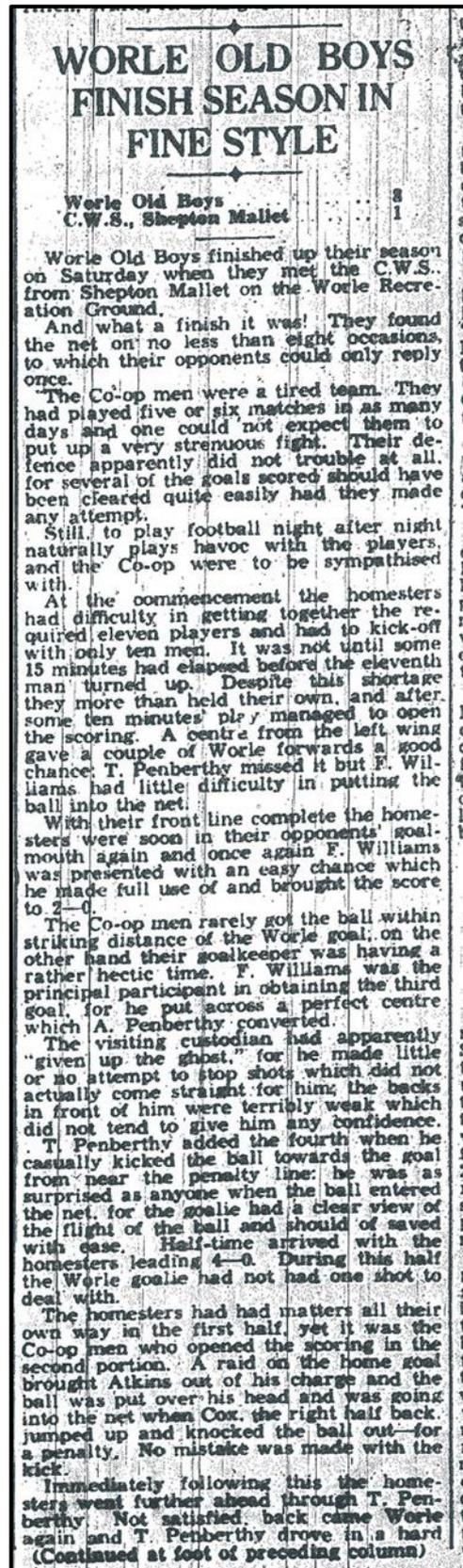
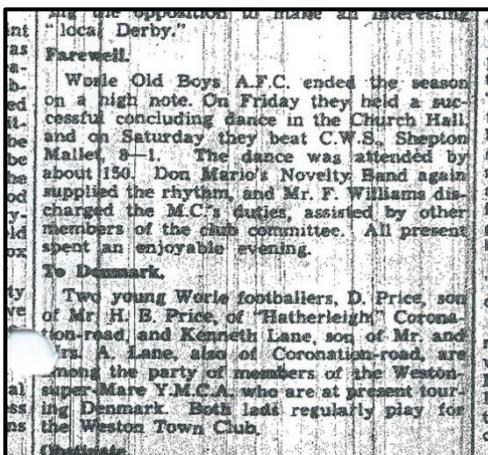
7. Worle Football in World War 2.

From 1935 until 1939 the team re-established itself on the local stage [field, I suppose] and, by the time World War 2 was on the horizon, short reports were appearing in the local papers on a regular basis.

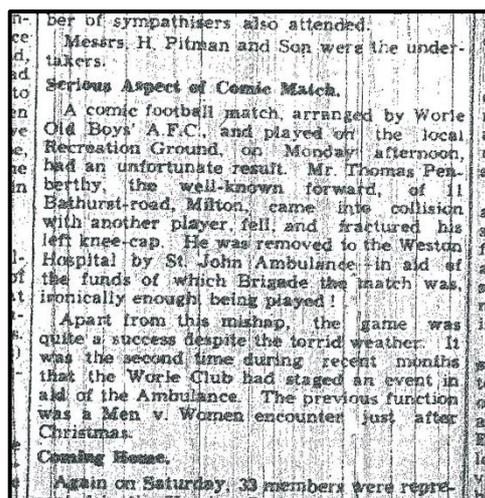
The Gazette, published on 13th May 1939, carried the report on the right. Apologies are needed for the lack of the final paragraph. The Pemberthy boys and Fred Williams seem to have excelled themselves.

On the same day, the Mercury included the snippets below. Worle OBs ended the season by thrashing Shepton Mallet 8 -1. The Church Hall in Hill Road East was packed with 150 celebrating players and fans.

Two young players, who both lived in Coronation Road, D. Price and Ken Lane were in Denmark touring with the YMCA team. Ken joined Worle OBs after the war, but in 1939 was still a regular for Weston Town F. C.



Everyone seems to have been aware of the growing danger over the channel, and the regular Comic Football Match arranged by Worle Old Boys had a serious side this year. It was played on the Recreation Ground in Station Road on Monday 29th May with proceeds promised to St. John Ambulance. Tom Pemberthy of 11 Bathurst Road, Milton, was playing up front when he collided with another played, fell and fractured his left knee cap. St John Ambulance had to be summoned, and he was removed to Weston Hospital for attention. I dare say St John made a loss on the day, over all!!



The declaration of World War II and the subsequent conscription of large numbers of young men, led to inevitable difficulties for Worle Old Boys. A report on 30th March 1940 refers to trouble experienced in trying to get together eleven men every week. Schoolboy soccer was managing better with Worle Schoolboys playing on the recreation ground with some success against Walliscot school and against the Lancaster House team of evacuees. Informal games among the younger generation continued through the first 3 or 4 years of the war, but the adult league club was suspended 'for the duration' of the war.

Things began to show signs of picking up in **1943** when a meeting was held on 26th July to discuss the future of Worle Minor's Football Club. They decided to enter the Minor League for the season, and officials were appointed.

Kit was bound to be a problem with rationing full swing, so a plea went out for any servicable jerseys, socks or boots, etc. to be donated to the cause. With wonderful optimism they set up an reception centre at Worle Village Club in Mendip Avenue, where the inaugural meeting was held.

Worle Minors' Football club officials.

Secretary: A. Skidmore [Bert];
Treasurer, C. Knight
Captain: W. Skidmore [Bill]
Vice Captain: R. Burroughs

'KINDLY SUPPORT THE FUTURE WORLE OLD BOYS' was the Mercury's cry to arms.

It seems to have worked. Just before Christmas in 1943 the paper carried a short snippet in its Worle Column. It read: *The Minors' A. F. C. beat Clevedon again on Saturday, 4 – 2. They have a friendly match with the Naval Cadets at the local ground 3 p.m. on 18th December.*

The success of Worle Minors continued to the end of the war as this report on 13th January 1945 testifies:

On Saturday Worle Minors completed a fine double over Westover Old Boys. The scorers in this 8 – 1 victory were: T. Hutchings (3), R. Jones (3), E. Maggs and K. Burroughs. This week, owing to a county trial at Bath, in which 4 Worle players are taking part, the match against Bournville Rovers has been cancelled.

8. Peace: 1946 -7 season

With yet another war behind them, the footballers of Worle girded their loins again and soon had 2 teams in action – Worle Minors and Worle Old Boys. At the end of the first post war season, with austerity easing a little, the cameras were brought back into use and we have some team pictures again.

Worle Minors are pictured below. The photograph was given by Walter Hartree, who also named the players.



Taken at the end of the 1946 -7 season, probably at Worle Recreation Ground
Back Row: Raymond Hutchings, Michael Gillett, Brian Burrows, Eric Maggs, Banger Ford

Front Row: Tony Pitt, Walter Hartree, Brian Austin*, Johnnie tucker, John Mayled, Brian Elliott

Notes: Walter believes that Worle won 4 – 0, but we need to search the papers for the opponents.

*Brian Austin is NOT the local historian. Elliot lived in Hill Road and had a sister, Joyce.

These youngsters, as it turned out, formed the backbone of Worle Old Boys during their Golden Years in the 1950s. Many of them had started playing at a very young age, filling the boots of the young men away in the armed forces. The early training gave them an excellent grounding, but in the meantime the returning soldiers and some older chaps formed the first team.

Worle Old Boys team for 1946 to 1947 are pictured and some of them named, below.



Back row: 1. Fred Williams [jacket and trousers Home Guard no. 55], 2. Tom Pemberthy [coach with towel], 3. Albert Pemberthy [brother of Tom], 4. Ken Lane [Distinguished Flying Cross], 5. Pogle Jones [N. Br. Rd, missing finger] 6. Bill White [aka Wilf. Home Guard 27] 7. Freddie Brean 8. Taffy Arlot [worked for Tripps] 9. Unknown

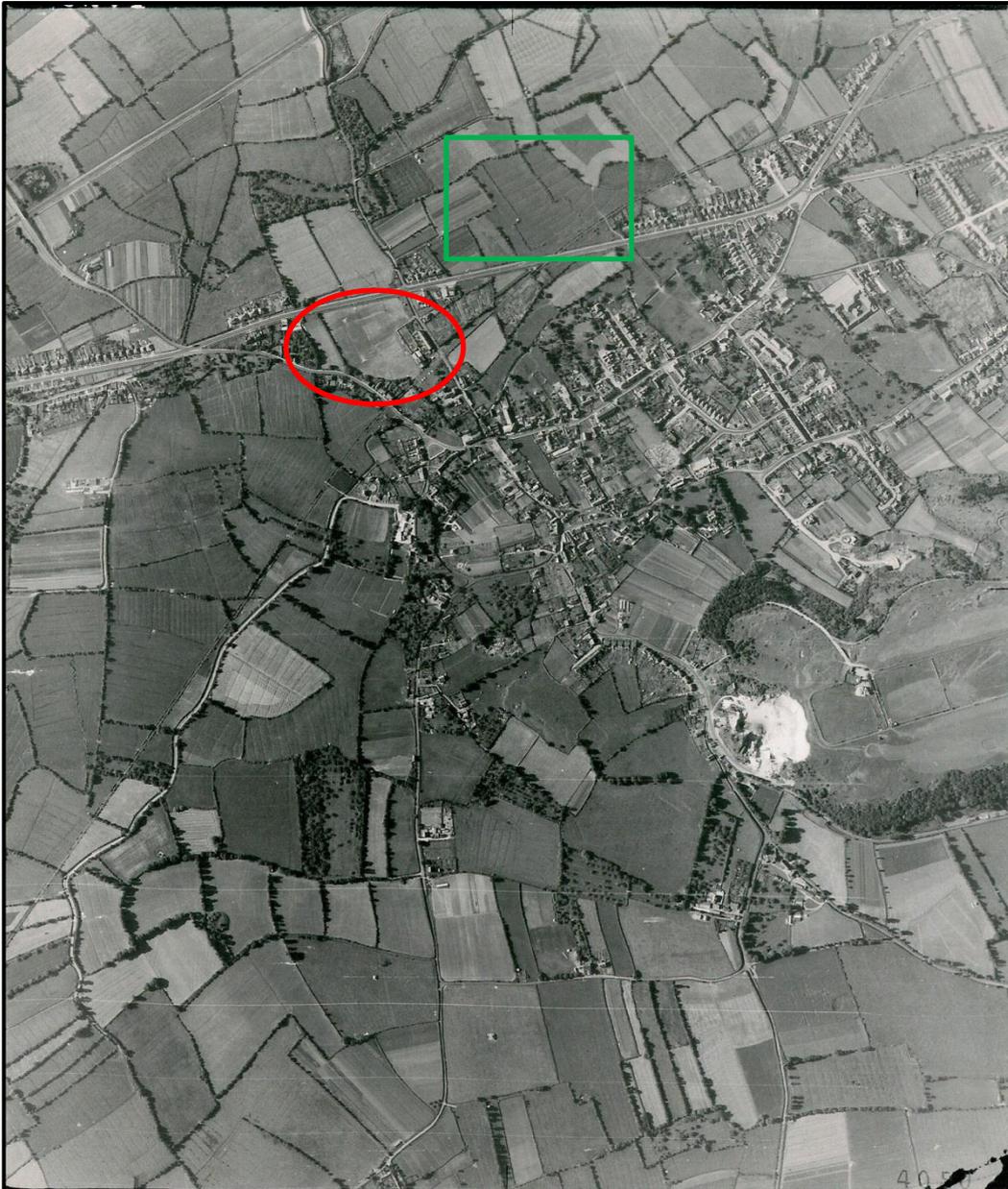
Front row: 1. Jack someone 2. Unknown 3. Fred Gillett 4. Cyril Legge [Station Road] 5. Unknown 6. Ozy Williams [good player]

Dennis Urch and John Wilcox named these for us in 2016. If you know any of the other chaps, please let me know.

1947 to 48 Season

Worle Old Boys Football Club went into the Somerset Senior League, where they remained for the following 10 seasons.

Aerial picture of Worle in 1946 shows the fields where matches were played



The first team, 'Worle Old Boys' played on the field outlined in green, where Worle Comprehensive School was later built; the 'Minors' played on Worle Recreation ground, outlined in red, in Station Road, Worle.

9. The 1950s – the Golden Years of the Somerset Senior League

Eric Maggs, pictured right, provided a mine of valuable information about WOBs Association Football Club. I visited him and listened for almost 3 hours in July 2009.



Team officials during the 1950s:

Team President: R.W. Thomas [market gardener and seed man]
 Chairman: W. Fletcher
 Hon Secretary: T. J. Pemberthy
 Hon Treasurer: P Wilcox, The Old King's Head
 Programme Sec: George Burnham, who wrote the wonderful club notes.

Teams

WOB First XI played in Somerset Senior League.
 Second XI [reserves] Weston and Suburban League
 Third XI Not sure which league, maybe just friendlies
 Youth team Junior League

After George Burnham moved on to become secretary for Somerset Senior League, Eric became secretary of Worle Old Boys and stayed in this post for 20 years. He was a player for 27 years and made 600 appearances for the club.

Eric Maggs and Dennis Urch both began playing for WOB Youth Team, when they were 13 years old [about 1942]. This team was the under 18s, but most of the older boys were away 'fighting the Germans away', having been called up.

One of the high spots of Eric's football career turned out to be a game against RAF Watchet, played on Worle Recreation Ground. The programme for that game, played on 26th March, 1955 shows that one of the players for Watchet was a chap called Brian Clough! WOBs lost. There is a report in the programme dated 2nd April 1955.

Brian Clough talks about the sparse opportunities for a game of football whilst he was at RAF Watchet in his autobiography: Brian Clough, the Autobiography, published by Corgi. If you find a copy look at page 28 for the notes and page 48 for a picture of Clough, 3rd from the left in the back row. The WOB programmes of 26th March and 2nd April, 55 give full details, including teams and match report.

Eric Maggs, Dennis Urch, John and Tom Hutchins and Bill Durston all lived in Kewstoke Road near the quarry. Eric was an accountant, and we have a copy of a newspaper profile of him, which follows these notes.

Ken Lane was an RAF pilot and was awarded the DFC. He moved to the midlands to be near his son.

Dave Maggs, Eric's son, became a Bristol City trainee. Later he managed one of our local youth teams. My son, Dave Smart, remembers him well and was great friends

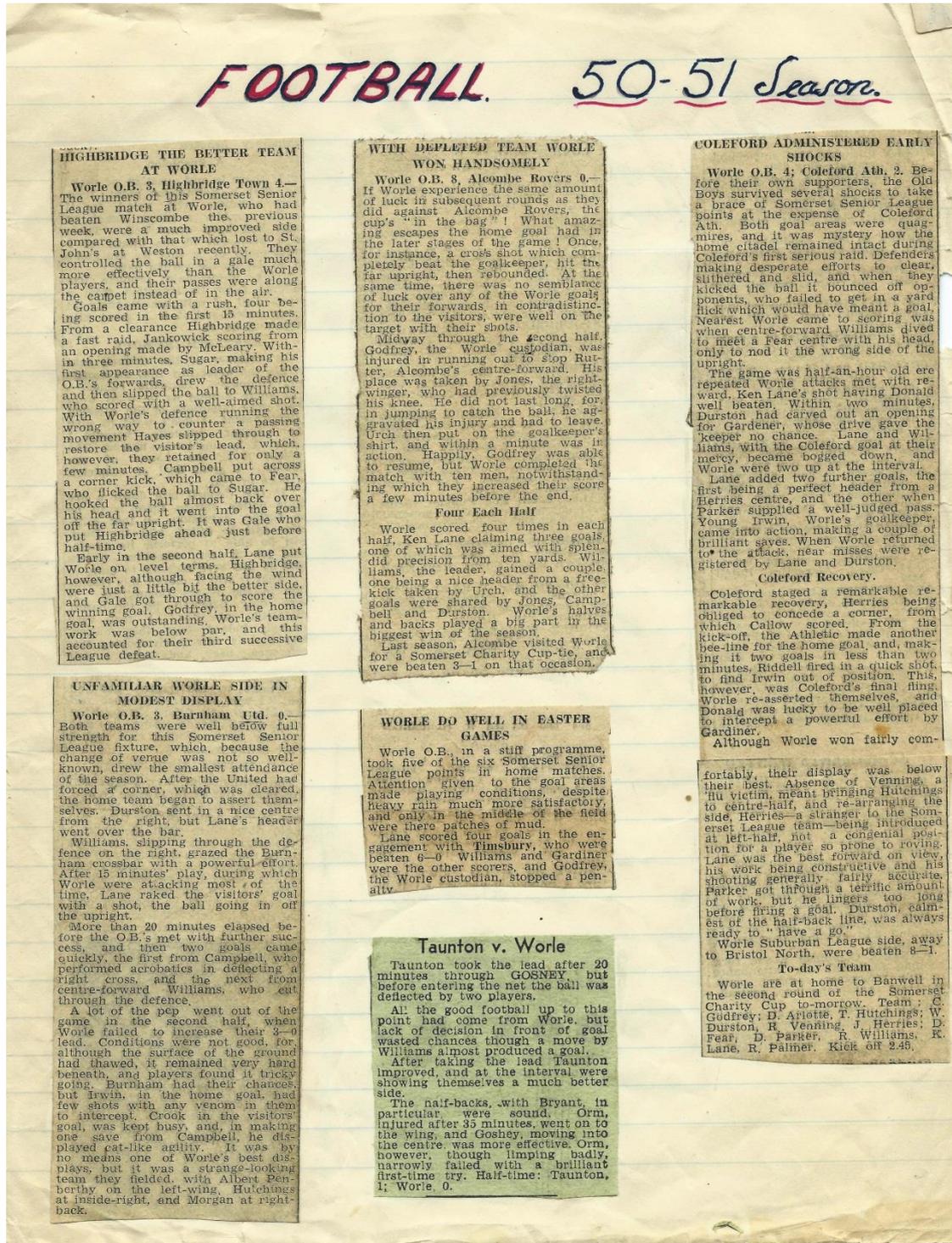
with his son, Paul, who played for the same team. Dave Maggs' other son, Robbi is now one of Bristol Rover's Scholars [2009], so a very strong football heritage goes on.

Worle Old Boys used to be allocated 3 tickets for the cup final and ran a draw each year to decide who got them. I don't know if all players for all 4 teams were included in the draw. Eric was so involved with football in the area that he knew everyone, and was usually able to cadge several more tickets – up to half a dozen, he said. He had a VW camper van, and took a decent sized group to Wembley most years for the match. He still has several programmes and was good enough to give one of them to my son, Nick, who is an Everton supporter. Eric admitted that he did not rate Everton, or he wouldn't have parted with it!

We are fortunate that Eric kept a collection of memorabilia of this period in the club's history, including programmes and cuttings. Other club members from this time kept scrap books. It is not possible to include copies of all these treasures here, but a selection has been chosen. They tell the story of these golden years more eloquently than words.

Page from a treasured scrap book.

This came into our possession when Robert Williams [senior] visited the Worle History Society exhibition at Weston Museum on 11th February 2015. He took a special interest in the display about sport in Worle down the years. The following day Mr. Williams returned and allowed me to borrow his cuttings book. A selection from the 1950s follows.



HIGHBRIDGE THE BETTER TEAM AT WORLE

Worle O.B. 3, Highbridge Town 4.—The winners of this Somerset Senior League match at Worle, who had beaten Winscombe the previous week, were a much improved side compared with that which lost to St. John's at Weston recently. They controlled the ball in a game much more effectively than the Worle players, and their passes were along the carpet instead of in the air.

Goals came with a rush, four being scored in the first 15 minutes. From a clearance Highbridge made a fast raid, Jankowicz scoring from an opening made by McLeary. Within three minutes, Sugar, making his first appearance as leader of the O.B.'s forwards, drew the defence and then slipped the ball to Williams, who scored with a well-aimed shot. With Worle's defence running the wrong way to counter a passing movement Hayes slipped through to restore the visitor's lead, which, however, they retained for only a few minutes, Campbell put across a corner kick, which came to Fear, who flicked the ball to Sugar. He hooked the ball almost back over his head and it went into the goal off the far upright. It was Gale who put Highbridge ahead just before half-time.

Early in the second half, Lane put Worle on level terms. Highbridge, however, although facing the wind were just a little bit the better side, and Gale got through to score the winning goal. Godfrey, in the home goal, was outstanding. Worle's teamwork was below par, and this accounted for their third successive League defeat.

UNFAMILIAR WORLE SIDE IN MODEST DISPLAY

Worle O.B. 3, Burnham Utd. 0.—Both teams were well below full strength for this Somerset Senior League fixture, which, because the change of venue was not so well-known, drew the smallest attendance of the season. After the United had forced a corner, which was cleared, the home team began to assert themselves. Durston sent in a nice centre from the right, but Lane's header went over the bar.

Williams, slipping through the defence on the right, grazed the Burnham crossbar with a powerful effort. After 15 minutes' play, during which Worle were attacking most of the time, Lane raked the visitors' goal with a shot, the ball going in off the upright.

More than 20 minutes elapsed before the O.B.'s met with further success, and then two goals came quickly, the first from Campbell, who performed acrobatics in deflecting a right cross, and the next from centre-forward Williams, who cut through the defence.

A lot of the pep went out of the game in the second half, when Worle failed to increase their 3-0 lead. Conditions were not good, for although the surface of the ground had thawed, it remained very hard beneath, and players found it tricky going. Burnham had their chances, but Irwin, in the home goal, had few shots with any venom in them to intercept. Crook in the visitors' goal, was kept busy, and, in making one save from Campbell, he displayed cat-like agility. It was by no means one of Worle's best displays, but it was a strange-looking team they fielded, with Albert Penberthy on the left-wing, Hutchings at inside-right, and Morgan at right-back.

WITH DEPLETED TEAM WORLE WON HANDSOMELY

Worle O.B. 8, Alcombe Rovers 0.—If Worle experience the same amount of luck in subsequent rounds as they did against Alcombe Rovers, the cup's "in the bag"! What amazing escapes the home goal had in the later stages of the game! Once, for instance, a cross shot which completely beat the goalkeeper, hit the far upright, then rebounded. At the same time, there was no semblance of luck over any of the Worle goals for their forwards, in contradistinction to the visitors, were well on the target with their shots.

Midway through the second half, Godfrey, the Worle custodian, was injured in running out to stop Rutter, Alcombe's centre-forward. His place was taken by Jones, the right-winger, who had previously twisted his knee. He did not last long, for, in jumping to catch the ball, he aggravated his injury and had to leave. Urch then put on the goalkeeper's shirt, and within a minute was in action. Happily, Godfrey was able to resume, but Worle completed the match with ten men, notwithstanding which they increased their score a few minutes before the end.

Four Each Half

Worle scored four times in each half, Ken Lane claiming three goals, one of which was aimed with splendid precision from ten yards. Williams, the leader, gained a couple, one being a nice header from a free-kick taken by Urch, and the other goals were shared by Jones, Campbell and Durston. Worle's halves and backs played a big part in the biggest win of the season. Last season, Alcombe visited Worle for a Somerset Charity Cup-tie, and were beaten 3-1 on that occasion.

WORLE DO WELL IN EASTER GAMES

Worle O.B., in a stiff programme, took five of the six Somerset Senior League points in home matches. Attention given to the goal areas made playing conditions, despite heavy rain, much more satisfactory, and only in the middle of the field were there patches of mud.

Lane scored four goals in the engagement with Himsbury, who were beaten 6-0. Williams and Gardiner were the other scorers, and Godfrey, the Worle custodian, stopped a penalty.

Taunton v. Worle

Taunton took the lead after 20 minutes through GOSNEY, but before entering the net the ball was deflected by two players.

All the good football up to this point had come from Worle, but lack of decision in front of goal wasted chances though a move by Williams almost produced a goal.

After taking the lead Taunton improved, and at the interval were showing themselves a much better side.

The half-backs, with Bryant in particular, were sound. Orm, injured after 35 minutes, went on to the wing, and Goshey, moving into the centre, was more effective. Orm, however, though limping badly, narrowly failed with a brilliant first-time try. Half-time: Taunton, 1; Worle, 0.

COLEFORD ADMINISTERED EARLY SHOCKS

Worle O.B. 4; Coleford Ath. 2. Before their own supporters, the Old Boys survived several shocks to take a brace of Somerset Senior League points at the expense of Coleford Ath. Both goal areas were quagmires, and it was mystery how the home citadel remained intact during Coleford's first serious raid. Defenders making desperate efforts to clear, slithered and slid, and when they kicked the ball it bounced off opponents, who failed to get in a yard flick which would have meant a goal. Nearest Worle came to scoring was when centre-forward Williams dived to meet a Fear centre with his head, only to nod it the wrong side of the upright.

The game was half-an-hour old ere repeated Worle attacks met with reward, Ken Lane's shot having Donald well beaten. Within two minutes, Durston had carved out an opening for Gardener, whose drive gave the keeper no chance. Lane and Williams, with the Coleford goal at their mercy, became bogged down, and Worle were two up at the interval.

Lane added two further goals, the first being a perfect header from a Herries centre, and the other when Parker supplied a well-judged pass. Young Irwin, Worle's goalkeeper, came into action, making a couple of brilliant saves. When Worle returned to the attack, near misses were registered by Lane and Durston.

Coleford Recovery.

Coleford staged a remarkable remarkable recovery, Herries being obliged to concede a corner, from which Callow scored. From the kick-off, the Athletic made another bee-line for the home goal, and making it two goals in less than two minutes, Riddell fired in a quick shot, to find Irwin out of position. This, however, was Coleford's final fling, Worle re-asserted themselves, and Donald was lucky to be well placed to intercept a powerful effort by Gardiner.

Although Worle won fairly com-

fortably, their display was below their best. Absence of Venning, a "Hu" victim, meant bringing Hutchings to centre-half, and re-arranging the side, Herries—a stranger to the Somerset League team—being introduced at left-half, not a congenial position for a player so prone to roving. Lane was the best forward on view, his work being constructive and his shooting generally fairly accurate. Parker got through a terrific amount of work, but he lingers too long before firing a goal. Durston, calmest of the half-back line, was always ready to "have a go."

Worle Suburban League side, away to Bristol North, were beaten 4-1.

To-day's Team

Worle are at home to Banwell in the second round of the Somerset Charity Cup to-morrow. Team: G. Godfrey; D. Archer, T. Hutchings; W. Durston, K. Venning, J. Herries; D. Fear, D. Parker, R. Williams, K. Lane, R. Palmer. Kick off 2.45.

This page is dated 1952 to 1953 and deserves its place. The importance of Worle Old Boys football team in the lives of the players is obvious.



SOMERSET CUP TIE.—Teams representing Worle Old Boys and RAF Locking who met in the quarter final of the Somerset Charity Cup on the Worle ground.

WORLE'S WINNING DAY

Glastonbury 1, Worle O.B. 5.—This fine away win over the strong Glastonbury side keeps Worle up with the leaders of the Somerset Senior League (Div. I). Worle's goals were netted by Huart (2), Adams, Humphris and Tucker.

Won Cup Replay

Worle also had a 4-0 win over Westbury-sub-Mendip Utd. in the second replay of their Somerset Charity Cup third-round game at Winscombe, and will be at home to R.A.F. (Locking) in the quarter-finals on Feb. 26.

Worle's superior skill won the day. Centre-forward Ken Rodgers netted a hat-trick and P. Evans notched the fourth. Worle's defence did well, positioning and covering most effectively, but the United's rearguard was shaky under pressure and their attack was rarely dangerous. Worle wing-halves, Hutchings and Williams, worked tirelessly.

Although facing only nine men, Worle's third XI left it late before going to a 5-0 win over Whitecross. Goals came from Wheeler (2), Osborne, Gullick and Elliott.

To-morrow's Teams

To-morrow, Worle are away to Shepton Mallet, who, at the moment, have the best record in the Somerset Senior League. Worle team: B. Hill; R. Williams, D. Urch; J. Herries, T. Hutchings, W. Dunston; K. Tucker, R. Humphris, L. Huart, K. Lane, D. Adams. Coach leaves Skidmore's at 1.15 p.m.

The 2nd XI, away to Keynsham Utd., is: M. Forde; G. Burgess, R. Palmer; J. Hutchings, N. Baker, W. Williams; P. Evans, G. Headington, K. Rodgers, R. Langdale, T. Osborne. Coach leaves Skidmore's at 1.30 p.m.

The 3rd XI is at home, on Worle Recreation Ground, to Clevedon. Team: R. Irwin; S. Gullick, D. Arlotte; M. Richards, G. Burnham, B. Elliott; A. Williams, J. Hornett, D. Trapnell, F. Williams, D. Wheeler. Res.: J. Osborne, V. Humphreys. Kick-off 2.45 p.m.

Worle Old Boys v. R.A.F. Locking

Following a corner conceded by Worle, Peacock drove the ball in from the touch line, but after some anxious moments Lane headed clear. McCaffrey, in the R.A.F. goal made spectacular saves from shots by Durston and Urch. Yates came near to scoring when he struck the worle upright. Half-time: Worle O.B., 0; R.A.F. Locking 0.

SOMERSET SUB CUP

R.A.F. Locking v Worle O.B.

Worle's goal escaped when Meachan hit the bar and Hill succeeded in clearing. Hutchings and Williams were outstanding in defence for Worle, whose forwards did not see much of the ball. Half-time: R.A.F. (Locking), 0; Worle O.B., 0.

SOMERSET SENIOR LEAGUE SURPRISE

Worle O.B.'s Shock Shepton Mallet

WORLE Old Boys' 5-2 away win over Shepton Mallet was the surprise of the week in the Senior League.

This gives them a record of having dropped fewer

points than any other team in Division I, and having been the only team to take two home points from Shepton since Taunton did it on November 6.

Bristol City Nomads, with a 5-1 away win over Bridgwater, move into second place again, and their Saturday's fixture at Taunton could have an important bearing on the championship.

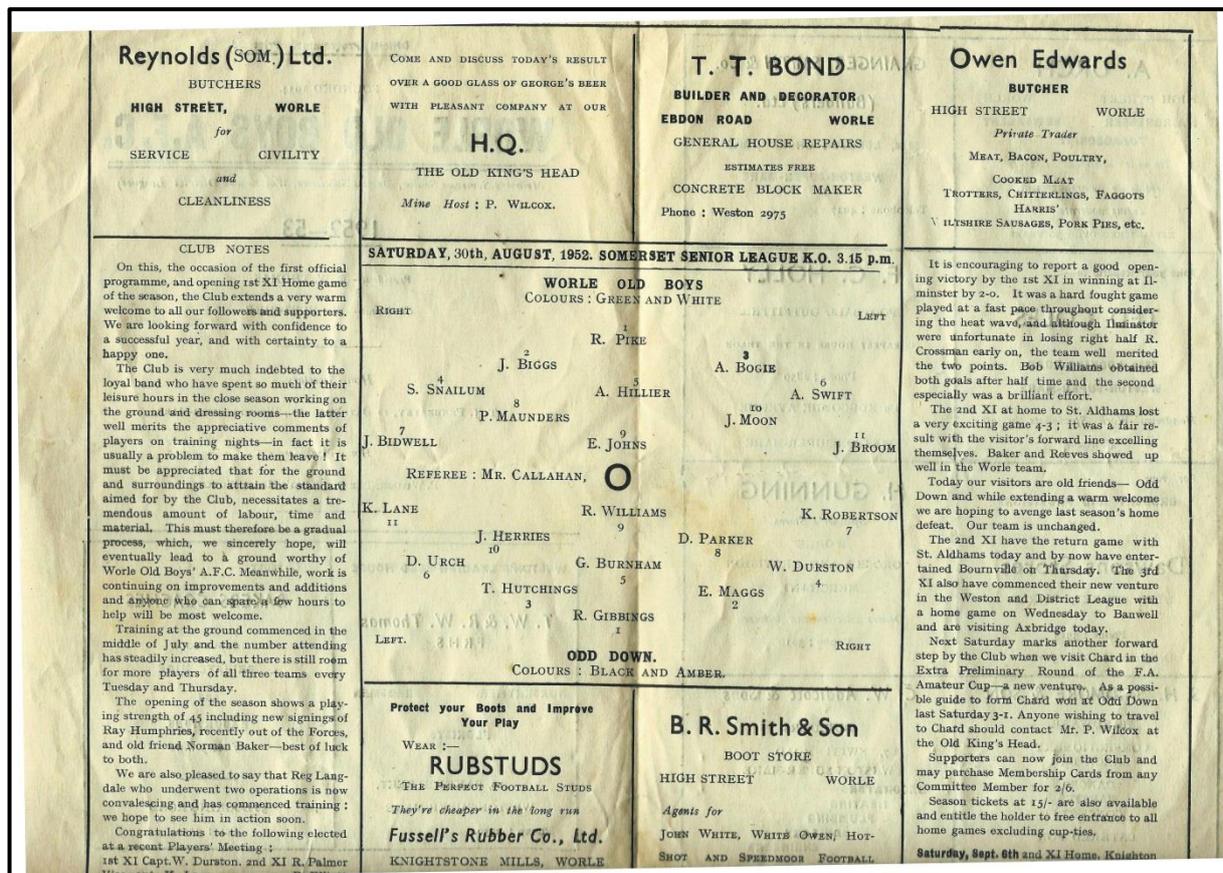
Shepton Mallet v Worle

Slowcombe went close for Shepton and within six minutes HARPER gave them the lead with a fine header from a West centre.

Durston had a fine shot well cleared by Young. The Worle goal had some narrow escapes, Williams robbing West when a goal looked certain.

Worle put in strong attacks and Ewart went close with a hard drive, but Young brought off a good save. Half-time: Shepton Mallet Town 1, Worle OB 0.

The First Official Programme: 30th August, 1952



This is a wonderful dip into the past. There is, of course, one howler. The team names, displayed in the centre of the programme are mis-named. Worle Old Boys and Odd Down are reversed. Never mind, we can see the pride that accompanied the publication of this treasure. George Burnham's initial effort at Club Notes is informative and would be even better if we had the last few lines at the bottom!

The advertisements are telling and nostalgic. Mr Williams was given the job of contacting local firms who might consider advertising in the new programme, so we must thank him for the collection that follows.²

The importance of good boots is represented by two local firms, Fussell's Rubber Co. Ltd, who supplied the Rubstuds [the perfect football studs!] to the team, and B.R. Smith & Son who sold Hotshot and Speedmoor Football Boots in their little shop in the High Street.

Apart from the half dozen adverts for local firms that feature on the inside pages, shown above, there are at least two more eye catching inserts from Gunnings Stores and from F. C. Holly which were on the back page.

² See minutes of meeting held at the Old Kings Head on 23rd July, 1952



9 of the staff of Fussell's in the 1950s



B. R. Smith and his son Alan in 1951

High on the list of priorities for a good footballer was meat, or I suppose so. Both Reynolds and Edwards's butcher shops had purchased advertising space. Pictures from the same era bring it all back.



1950s: Reynold's, the butchers is shown here on the right, with the New Inn in the distance and The Maltings on the left.



Owen and Rosina Edwards outside the High Street shop with the delivery bike

The Old King's Head, once the preserve of Arthur Wyatt, was run by Harry Wilcox in 1952, but was still considered to be Head Quarters for the Worle Old Boys players, as we can see from the advertisement in the first programme.

1952 Reserves



Back Row:

1. Ray Ackland; 2. unknown; 3. unknown; 4. John Harnett; 5. Roy Irwin; 6. Tom Gardner. 7. Cyril Legge

Middle Row:

1. unknown; 2. unknown; 3. Ray Humphreys with ball; 4. unknown; 5. unknown

Front Row:

1. unknown; 2. Brian Pursey; 3. John Gardner; 4. Gordon Slocombe; 5. Ken Slocombe

This photograph was sent to us by June Ackland, widow of Ray Ackland [back left with the coach's towel]. Many of them were named as a result of posting the picture on facebook. The Worle Old Boys Reserves had a good season picking up three cups.

Roy Irvin, the goalkeeper in the back row, proved to be a particular talent. Only a year after this picture was taken, a scout from Aldershot Town visited Worle. J. G. Mundy was impressed and wrote to Roy, offering him a trial. Roy kept the precious letter, and his wife allowed us to copy it for posterity. It is written on the thin, almost transparent paper of the post-war years of austerity. In 1932 Aldershot Town had been elected to Division 3 [south] which doesn't sound massively exciting. They went bankrupt for a second time in 1992. Roy never did play for them, but whether or not he attended the trial I'm not certain.

2 Eastbury Rd,
Bristol.
my Ref: S.M.G./A.T. 53
31/10/53

Dear Mr. Erwin,
I have been much impressed by your displays in recent weeks, particularly at Withington some couple of weeks ago. I am the official Scout for Aldershot Town the Division 3 South Club. I would if you are willing, (and your Club can spare you), like you to go for a trial. If you would like to go let me know by return of post, and I will do my best to fix same for next Saturday. If you go all expenses

will be paid on reporting to the Aldershot Town ground Office. They will play you in the Football Combination side, so you would gain a good amount of experience.

yours faithfully,
F. G. Mundy
Scout

Roy Irvin's precious letter from Aldershot Town's scout.

1953: Worle Old Boys Football Club versus St Martin's Church

Rev. Eric Vallance Cook, pictured right in his RAF uniform, was vicar of St. Martin's Worle at this time and although he was a very popular man locally, he could, occasionally, make his presence felt.



It was towards the end of March 1953 when trouble broke out. The village was frantically trying to raise money to celebrate the coming Coronation on June 2nd. Worle Old Boys Football club held regular comic matches in aid of charities and in this year of national pride decided to donate the proceeds to the Coronation Fund.

At the same time, Vallance Cook was preparing for Easter. He would also have been concentrating on the Palm Sunday services which would include the Confirmation of twelve parishioners, an important occasion. Seven of the new Church Members were youngsters of about 13 years. Margaret Williams, Joan Tozer, Jeanette Durston and Margaret Lovell lived in Hill Road and knew each other well. Five were older, including Roy Irwin, who kept goal for Worle Old Boys.

On Saturday 28th March Worle Old Boys' programme was published and available to buy at the price of 3d [the same as a bag of chips]. These programmes are beautifully produced and a source of great joy to a History Society, but this one was a peach.

'Looking at our forthcoming attractions we sincerely hope you will put two dates in your diary as definitely matches to see. Firstly on Good Friday K.O. 11.00 our ground will be the setting for an epic clash between the Coronation Rangers and the Smashers. For your information the Rangers is a team of all stars selected with great care from the ladies of the Club. The Smashers, I am afraid consisting of mere males, is also chosen from members of the Club and Committee. Referee is our well known Mr Tom Pemberthy [may he keep the peace] so roll up and see the 'weaker sex' get their own back. The match is being played in aid of the Worle Coronation Celebrations Fund'.

In addition to this announcement notices were posted around the village. The Vicar noticed. He was not a happy Easter bunny. Vallance Cook took up his pen and addressed his thoughts to the club secretary, Tom Pemberthy, thus:

'I have been horrified to read in this evening's Mercury that the Football Club has organised a comic football match in support of the Coronation Fund to take place on Good Friday at 11 a.m. Not only is this farce arranged for a day when Christian people everywhere are commemorating the Passion of our Lord, but at a time when many services will be in progress.'

One can't help thinking that the big mistake W.O.B. made was to set themselves up in competition with the Church. The football match was bound to win; Vallance Cook knew it and was certain to be upset.

The correspondence continues in the following vein:

'To make matters worse, I understand that some of the young people connected with St. Martin's Church have been enlisted as players, thus depriving them of the means of performing their religious duties on this day. As a piece of callous blasphemy this fixture is unparalleled in Worle.'

This was indeed very strong language. There is no doubt the Vicar was cross. Tom Penberthy, bless him, was taken aback by this letter, and rapidly contacted the W.O.B. committee, who agreed to postpone the game. The fixture was not at all 'unparalleled'. In fact fund raising matches on the morning of Good Friday had been a feature of life since the 1903 'married and singles' game.

Far from just speaking his mind, which may have been understandable, Vallance Cook had threatened the Football Club as follows:

*'I can only assume that the committee has acted without a proper sense of responsibility in organising fun and games at the most solemn season of the year, and the repercussions on the Coronation celebrations themselves are bound to be serious, for if money is accepted by the Coronation Committee from such a deplorable source there is no doubt that the Christian organisations, which have so far played an active part will feel the necessity of withdrawing from future participation. **Neither will the Church Hall be available to the Football Club for its social events of the next season.'***

The village was in uproar and rifts were appearing between the Church and everyone else. Even the congregation at the Methodist Chapel thought the Vicar had lost all sense of proportion. The trouble was made worse by the knowledge that the comic match and its timing had been agreed by the Coronation Committee, of which Vallance Cook was a member. He had skipped the relevant meeting. The chairman of the committee, Les Bull, headmaster of the Church of England Junior School, had supported the proposed match.

The vicar knew he had made a tactical error, and in an effort to make amends, actually made matters worse. Having heard that the match was postponed until another date [May 15th] he said he would have supported it being played on the afternoon of Good Friday.

In the Mercury report of the whole debacle, published on April 10th, we are told that the vicar later said he was quite sure the club did not intend a blasphemy and he did not think anything would have been said if it had been an ordinary football match:

'it was the fact of having the carnival [code for the men dressing in drag and the girls in football kit] – and in the morning. Some of my Sunday School teachers had even been enlisted to take part.'

Event Was to Aid Coronation Celebration Fund

VICAR'S PROTEST STOPS COMIC SOCCER GAME

ACTION by the vicar of Worle, Weston-super-Mare, put a stop to a comic football match which had been arranged between the youths and girls of the village for Good Friday.

The match was to have been played on Worle Old Boys' F.C. ground, in aid of the village Coronation celebrations fund, and the girls, wearing men's attire, were to have played the men in fancy dress.

The girls had collected their kit, the men had hired costumes and given a final "perm" to their wigs, and 300-400 people turned up at the ground.

"It was impossible to make it known that the match was cancelled," said Mr. Tom Penberthy (secretary of the Worle Club), who was to have refereed.

WAS "HORRIFIED"

Mr. Penberthy received a letter from the Rev. E. V. Cooke on the eve of the match, saying he was "horrified" to hear that such a match was being arranged for Good Friday morning.

The vicar's letter added: "To make matters worse I understand some of the young people connected with St. Martin's Church have been enlisted as players, thus depriving them of the means of performing their religious duties on this day.

"As a piece of callous blasphemy this fixture is unparalleled in Worle. I can only imagine that the committee has acted without a proper sense of responsibility in organising fun and games at the most solemn season of the year.

"The repercussions on the Coronation celebrations themselves are bound to be serious, for if money is accepted by the Coronation Committee from such a deplorable source, there is no doubt that the Christian organisations which have so far played an

active part will feel the necessity of withdrawing from future participation.

CHURCH HALL BAN

"Neither will the Church Hall be available to the football club for its social events next season.

"I am sorry to have to write this letter, but I feel the club should know what indignation it has aroused by its patent disregard of the religious conscience of the village.

"Perhaps it is not too late for the committee to reconsider this shocking proposal."

After cancelling arrangements for the match, Mr. Penberthy called to see the vicar. "I told him," he said, "that the match was approved by the Coronation Committee, of which he is a member.

"We had no fixture for Good Friday and thought we might do something for the Coronation celebration fund.

"The club lent the ground, but I was the only member taking part.

"The vicar said if the match was postponed he would be ready to play in it. I hope to rearrange it for May in the close season."

Mr. Cooke told the Evening Post today: "I do not think I would have said anything at all had it been an ordinary football match.

"It was the fact of having the carnival—and in the morning. They had even enlisted some of my Sunday school teachers to take part in it.

"I was quite sure they did not intend a blasphemy and I do appreciate their putting it off. I hope that when they hold it now it will be a great success."

Bristol Evening Post, April 5th, 1953.

Only a handful of people thought that Vallance Cook was right. Most thought he had put a dampener on a good idea, which would have been great fun. It was pointed out in conversation that he went to work and to the pub in a dress and no-one minded that. When the game was played, in May, it was reported at length in the Mercury without a mention of the vicar who had offered to play to make up for the row! Five hundred people attended the match and the Coronation celebrations would have been much poorer without the money raised. It is not known how many were in the congregation for the 3 hours liturgy on Good Friday.

Worle Old Boys and the Carnival Queens

The golden years of Worle Old Boys Football Club coincided happily with the very best years of Worle Carnival. Both clubs relied on fund raising activities to keep the flag flying and the Church Hall, in Hill Road East, was the usual venue. In particular, the Football Club dances held several times a year on Saturday evenings were a great draw. The hall was always packed with the young and the not-so-young and live music was a feature.

Vallance Cook's threat to forbid Worle Old Boys to hold their dances in the hall did not go down well. The village had raised the money to build the hall reputedly on land given by Mrs. Greenwood and in the 1950s it was a popular place for dances, whist drives, beetle drives, band practice, brownies and all kinds of other social meetings. W.O.B.'s dances were the zenith of live in Worle! For a start, the Carnival Queens were chosen at the Spring dance. The young men of the football club were asked to pick a girl of their choice for the Carnival Waltz. The hierarchy of the village observed the dancing and picked the queen and her attendants from the young women. Joan Maggs, Eric's newly wedded wife, was chosen in 1951 and became Worle's First WAG. This is a tradition which should be revived at once.



Joan Maggs
1951

Doreen Edwards
1952

Shirley Lickes
1953

Joyce Barber
1954



Kathleen Munden
1955



Pat Tabrett
1956



Margaret Wilcox
1957

The 1954 to 55 season, when Kathleen Munden was Carnival Queen, was perhaps the most memorable in the history of Worle Old Boys Association Football club. The club ran several teams at this time:

First team: Worle Old Boys
 Second team; WOB Reserves
 Third team: Worle Minors



Back Row: Eric Maggs; John Hutchings; Tom Hutchings; Brian Hill; Dennis Urch; Mo Kingston
 Front Row: Alan Williams; Johnny Morgan; Brian Sears; Pat Howlett; John Veasey

The Old Boys must have a decent number of good players on their books at this time, so that in 1955 when a very interesting game was in the offing, only a few of those pictured above were chosen for the big match. Amazingly, Eric Maggs was not mentioned in the programme. The list reads as follows: B. Hill; R. Williams; D. Urch; J. Herries; T. Hutchings; W. Durston; R. Humphries; K. Lane; K Rodgers; L. Huart; K. Tucker.

The club, in all probability, did not realize what a significant match was to be played on 20th March 1955. Brian Clough had not yet made his name in the beautiful game. The players who were not picked to line up against Watchet RAF certainly didn't know how cross they would be in later years!!

<p>A. W. J. HUISSH Kimberley Coronation Road Worle Haulage Contractor Phone 4946</p>	<p>COME AND DISCUSS TODAY'S RESULT OVER A GLASS OF GEORGE'S BEER WITH PLEASANT COMPANY AT H.Q. THE OLD KING'S HEAD Mine Host : P. WILCOX.</p>	<p>T. T. BOND BUILDER AND DECORATOR EBBON ROAD WORLE GENERAL HOUSE REPAIRS ESTIMATES FREE CONCRETE BLOCK MAKER Phone : Weston 2975</p>	<p>F. H. PHIPPEN & SONS LTD. Phone 2088 HIGH STREET WORLE Builders Decorators Plumbers Ironmongers Etc. We have a large range of Hardware, Paints, etc.</p>																																											
<p>CLUB NOTES. Today we have much pleasure in welcoming newcomers to our Ground in R.A.F. Watchet in the Semi-final of the Somerset Charity Cup. The R.A.F. team are top of Division II of the League with a fine record and look for promotion this season so our lads will have to be really on their toes. Only regular missing today is Dave Adams who was married last Saturday and I am sure all supporters will wish him the very best of luck and sincere congratulations. Since our last home game four weeks ago we have only played one League match against Odd Down away last Saturday and we had a high-scoring victory by 7-1. Previous to this we visited R.A.F. Locking twice, beating them first of all in the replay of the Somerset Charity Cup match by 3-2 and again the next Saturday in the Somerset Subsidiary Cup by 2-0. This last victory also put us in the Semi-final of the Subsidiary Cup and we meet old rivals, Ilminster, in this next Saturday on our ground. It is very encouraging to do so well in these Cup tournaments as we have this year in all four, but, unfortunately, it means a heavy League programme at the end of the</p>	<p>28th March, 1955. SOMERSET CHARITY CUP SEMI-FINAL. K.O. 3 p.m.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">WORLE OLD BOYS.</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">GREEN AND WHITE.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">RIGHT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1 B. HILL</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3 D. URCH</td> <td style="text-align: left;">LEFT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2 R. WILLIAMS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5 T. HUTCHINGS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6 W. DURSTON</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4 J. HERRIES</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8 R. HUMPHRIES</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10 K. LANE</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7 K. RODGERS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9 L. HUART</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11 K. TUCKER</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">REFEREE : S. A. MOODY, CHEDDAR</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11 LOCKEY</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9 CHESHIRE</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7 KENDALL</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10 CLOUGH</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8 WILLIAMS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7 BARNES</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6 BULLETT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5 WHITE</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4 HODGE</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3 GRAYSON</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1 MANNING</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2 HODGE</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">LEFT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1 COLOURS : BLUE AND MAROON</td> <td style="text-align: center;">R.A.F. WATCHET.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">RIGHT</td> </tr> </table>	WORLE OLD BOYS.		GREEN AND WHITE.		RIGHT	1 B. HILL	3 D. URCH	LEFT	2 R. WILLIAMS	5 T. HUTCHINGS	6 W. DURSTON		4 J. HERRIES	8 R. HUMPHRIES	10 K. LANE		7 K. RODGERS	9 L. HUART	11 K. TUCKER		REFEREE : S. A. MOODY, CHEDDAR				11 LOCKEY	9 CHESHIRE	7 KENDALL		10 CLOUGH	8 WILLIAMS	7 BARNES		6 BULLETT	5 WHITE	4 HODGE		3 GRAYSON	1 MANNING	2 HODGE		LEFT	1 COLOURS : BLUE AND MAROON	R.A.F. WATCHET.	RIGHT	<p>season and as we have an outstanding chance at the League Championship it is quite a problem we still have twelve League games to play but I feel sure that with the solid backing of players of all teams and supporters we stand more than a good chance of pulling it off. The 2nd XI although still with the leaders of the League have dropped back a little having dropped three out of the last eight points. Also the 3rd XI who have recently had to suffer a lot from players called upon for the other sides, have probably lost their chance of the League title when losing in successive weeks to Winscombe and R.A.F. But this eleven are more than doing their job in having ready replacements for the other elevens and encouraging and helping youngsters, so we hope they will not be disheartened. Towards the end of the season all elevens will be having quite a number of evening matches and we hope all our supporters will try to come along to these games. FIXTURES. Saturday, 2nd April. 1st XI. Somerset Subsidiary Cup Semi-Final—v. Ilminster. (Home) 3.15 p.m. 3rd XI. West Post. Away.</p>
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<p>TRIPP BROS. PURE MILK & CLOTTED CREAM GUERNSEY MILK A SPECIALITY DAIRY FARMERS NUTWELL DAIRY HIGH STREET WORLE</p>	<p>RUBSTUDS THE PERFECT FOOTBALL STUD worn and recommended by leading International Players including— BILLY STEEL SAM BARTRAM TOMMY LAWTON JACKIE SEWELL Supplied by Shoe Repairers and Sports Houses Made by Fussell's Rubber Co. Ltd</p>	<p>FOR ALL— SPORTS EQUIPMENT JOHN MOORE (SPORTS) LTD. HIGH STREET WESTON-SUPER-MARE ALSO AT BATH</p>	<p>SHOPPING at the GGOP means a GOOD DEAL Competitive prices and the "Divi" offer a real saving IT COSTS NOTHING TO BECOME A MEMBER. You can join at any grocery branch—or at the Administrative Offices Castle Green</p>																																											

CLUB NOTES

For today's game in the Semi-Final of the Somerset Subsidiary Cup we extend a warm welcome to old rivals from Ilminster. As each team has won at the other's ground this season we may expect a very keen game for this third match.

We are pleased to welcome back Dennis Urch to the team, now recovered from his injury and also Reg. Langdale who has been having some very good games in the Reserves.

We had one disappointment last Saturday when we were beaten in the Charity Cup Semi-Final by R.A.F. Watchet after a very poor display. Experimental positions tried owing to injury to Dennis Urch did not prove successful and at the same time the team did not play to their usual high standard. The visitors certainly had a first class forward line which hammered hard at the defence although their goals all seemed to have a certain share of good fortune.

The second XI also at home had a fairly easy win against Fishponds and the 3rd XI home to Whitecross were winners by 6-1.

Above: Programme for 20th March, 1955, when Worle Old Boys were playing at home against R.A.F. Watchet. Little did they know that the number 10 for Watchet was a lad called Brian Clough, who gave our goalie, B. Hill considerable trouble. Worle was not helped by injuries to Dennis Urch and the absence of Reg Langdale.

Left: the club notes from the following week's programme paints the picture for us. The final score is not recorded, but the writer does feel that Watchet had a share of good luck, whilst Worle did not play to their usual high standard.

PROTEST IS UPHELD, SO WORLE MAY WIN TITLE

By Jack Pugsley

ONE of the most extraordinary soccer situations to arise in Somerset for some time has given Worle Old Boys, Weston-super-Mare, the chance of becoming 1954-55 Somerset Senior League (Div. I) champions—but not until the 1955-56 season.

After Worle's one-all drawn game with Bridgwater the Old Boys entered a protest which has been upheld by the league who, on Thursday, ordered the game to be replayed next September.

If Worle win then, by a decimal point, they will become 1954-55 champions on goal average.

The final league positions were:

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Ps
Bristol City N.	26	20	6	0	96	41	40
R.A.F. Locking	26	18	4	4	66	40	40
Worle O.B. ...	26	18	5	3	78	35	39

Worle have had a great season, for in addition to their league success, they reached the semi-final of the Charity Cup and share the Subsidiary Cup with R.A.F., Watchet, after a 2—2 draw in the final. They did not get far in the Somerset Senior Cup, however.

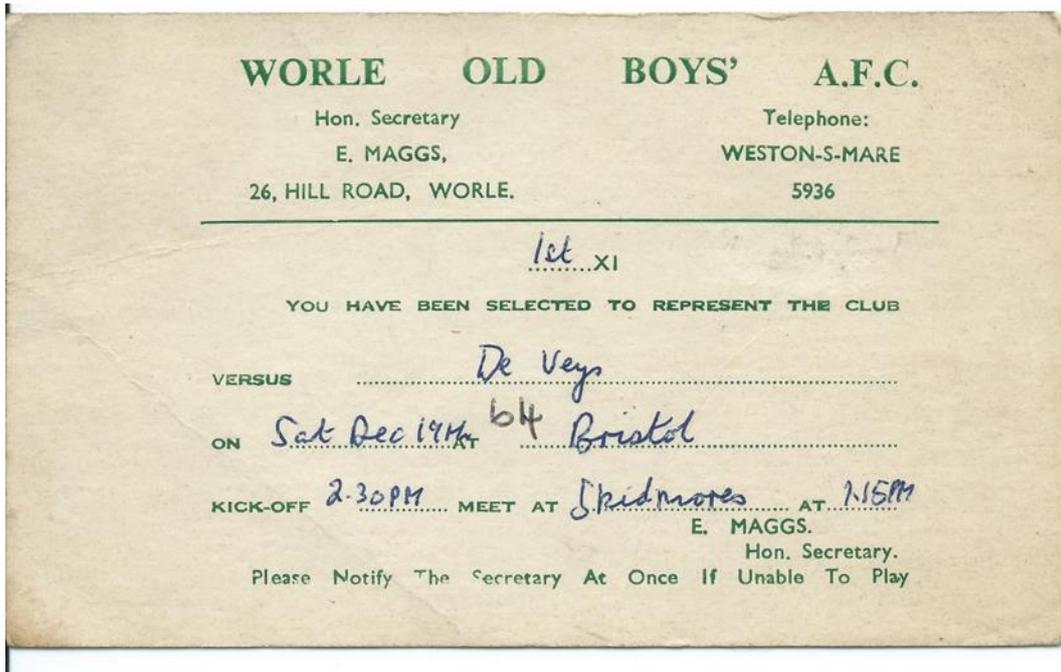
I feel, though, that Worle could have been clear-cut league champions this season if they had not also committed themselves to three cup competitions.

It placed an enormous strain on the club's playing resources, particularly when injuries came along and it burned up energy when fixtures became telescoped that could well have been employed in tilting at the title.

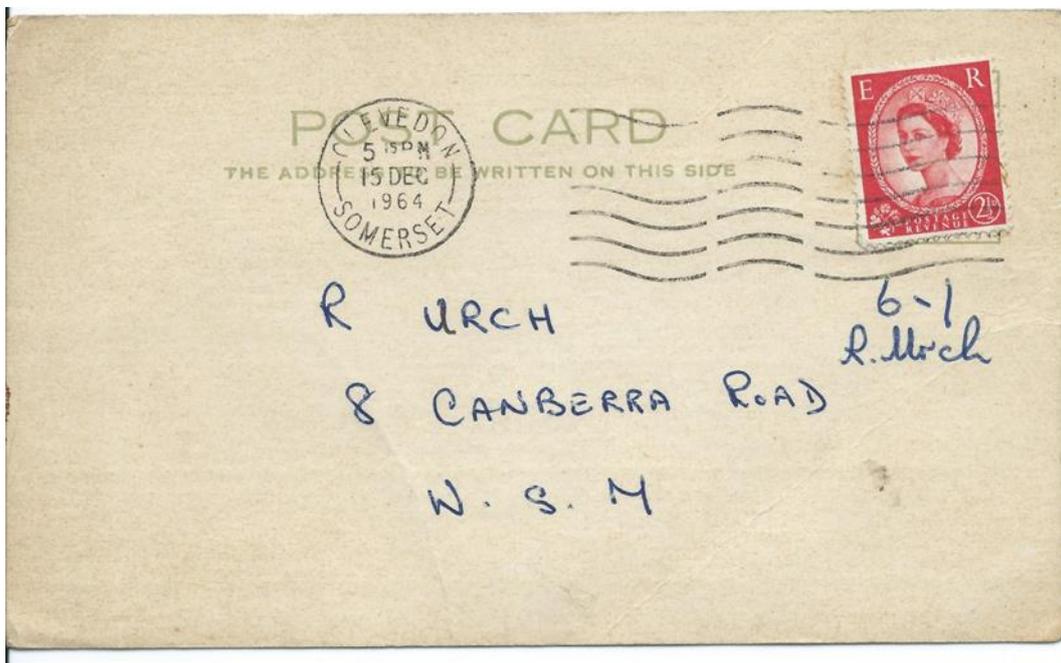
Once again, however, the Old Boys have proved themselves a fine side, a proud, enthusiastic club, and have been model examples of true amateurism.

1954 to 1955 season drew considerable praise from Jack Pugsley, whose analysis of various teams and league positions was a matter of some interest in the local paper. The Gazette had gone out of business in 1952, so this may be taken from the Weston Mercury or from one of the Bristol papers.

Jack is obviously a supporter of Worle O.B. but has his own opinions on over-commitment.



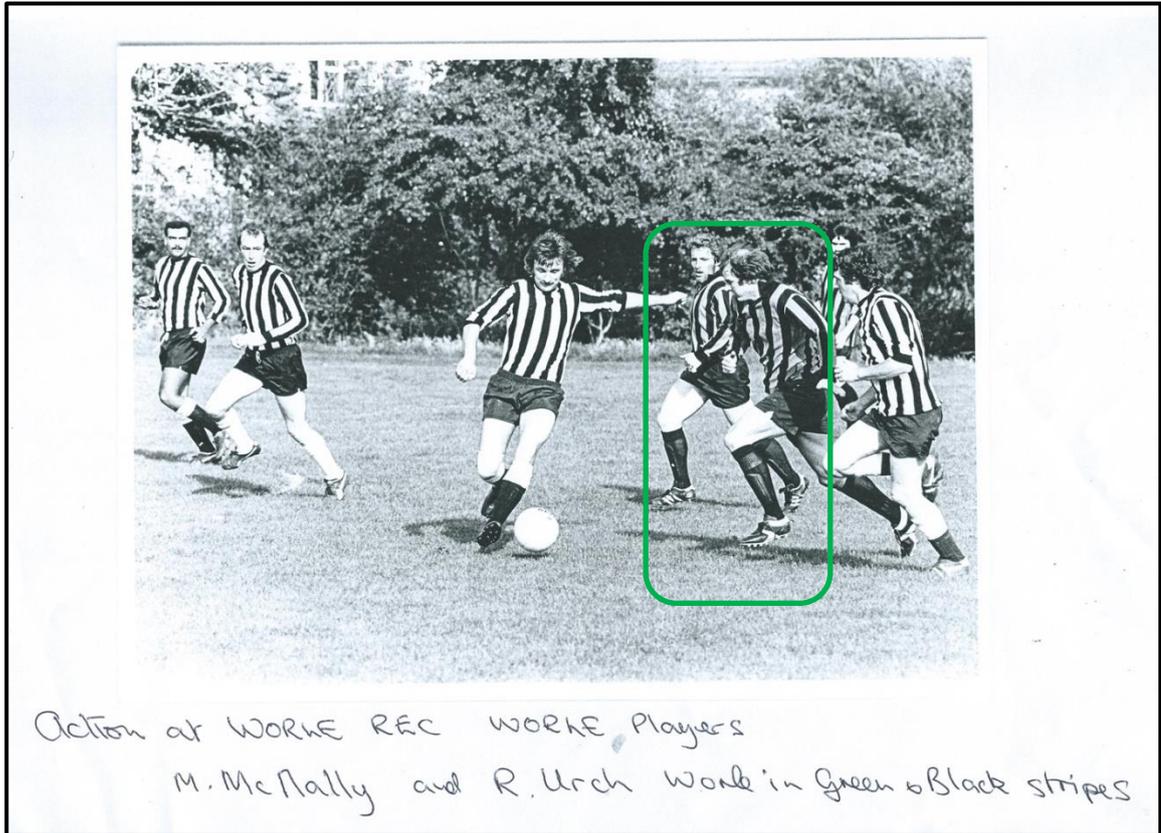
Roger Urch gave us these scans of the postcards sent out by Eric Maggs, the club secretary, to the players picked for First XI games. Roger has noted that this match was a 6 goals to 1 triumph for the Worle boys.





This is the First XI team in the 64 to 65 season, with Roger Urch, was gave the photo in the back row on the far right. If anyone can name the player in the front row, second from the left, please let us know! The first colour team photograph we have is shown below with names supplied by Roger Urch.





Weston Mercury carried this photograph in 1966 and repeated 50 years later in 2016. Third from the left in the back row is Brian Rose, who later played cricket for England.

In the early 1970s, Eric Maggs' contribution to Worle Old Boys was recognized by Bill Andrews in this Personality Piece in the Bristol Evening Post. It looks back on Eric's contribution to the club over at least 20 years, both as a player and as club secretary.

Eric has kept the Worle flag flying

Bill Andrews' Personality piece

Watchet when Worle were in the final of the Somerset Charity Cup. Their average home gate was then around 600; now they are lucky if they get a dozen spectators.

It is small, unfashionable clubs that are the backbone of all sports, and Worle Old Boys come into this category in the soccer world.

One man could be responsible for the fact that Worle have kept going in senior football for over 20 years.

I am referring to 40-year-old Eric Maggs who has been their secretary for the last 10 seasons, a player for 27 years and who has made over 600 appearances for the club.

Eric started playing for Worle Old Boys at the age of 13 in minor football, but the club eventually went into the Somerset Senior League in 1947/48 where they remained for 10 seasons.

STRUGGLED

Worle were one of the original teams to enter the newly formed Bristol Premier Combination in 1955, but after six years were relegated to the second division of that league.

They struggled for a time in their lower sphere, and three times they had to apply for re-election.

Thanks to Eric Maggs' hard work and organisation, they have now built up a useful young side and are fifth in the table with an outside chance of promotion.

Starting his career as a full-back Eric went up to centre-forward in the 1953/54 season and scored 50 goals. He led Somerset's attack against Gloucestershire at Cinderford that winter.

Later, Eric went to centre-half, and this is the position he has filled on the three occasions he has played this season. He is giving way to youth and his side's average age is now about 23.

Back in 1958, Eric played for the Premier Combination in their two representative games.



Eric Maggs.

The early fifties were Worle's golden years, when they had two outstanding footballers in Ken Lane and Reg Langdale.

Eric remembers the day the club took 13 coachloads of supporters to

Yeovil Town's two victories in three days, accomplished with more than one half-fit player in the side, has taken them into the top flight of the Southern League and earned high commendation from chairman Norman Burfield.

"They have done exceptionally well," he said after Monday's fine 2-0 success at Nuneaton. "The players are now showing a wonderful team spirit and that goes for all sections of the club."

Mr. Burfield spoke of the growing interest in social activities particularly since, with the help of director Mr. Lukins, they had enlarged the main clubroom by providing a separate skittles alley.

Paying dividends

"This is paying dividends already," he said, "and so, too, are the efforts of those running the Green and White Supporters' Club." He understood membership was soon

SOCCER IN

Yeovil
spirit

likely to reach the 1,000 mark, which would be "a remarkable achievement."

Speaking of plans to issue 8,000 additional £1 shares in the football club, the chairman said he was particularly anxious that as many individuals as possible should participate.

"Then the people on the terraces would be able to have their full and rightful say in the future running of the club," he said.

Mr. Burfield's confidence in the future prospects of the team is fully shared by player-manager Mike Hughes who, in his quiet way, has done so

1977: Worle Old Boys Reserves at the Winter Gardens.

Winners of Weston District League, Division 2. Courtesy John Astridge



Taken at Weston Winter Gardens at the end of season presentations, when the team was presented with the cup for Winners of Weston District League Division 2.

- Back Row from left: 1. Bob Chapman; 2. Steve Dachtler; 3. Andy Parker;
4. Brian Russell [dec]
- Next from back: 1. Jim MacHenry [trainer?]; 2. Adrian Pomprey;
3. Stewart Simmons; 4. Trevor Buxton
- Next from front: 1. Alan Kingsbury; 2. Pat Doble; 3. Gary Wilde; 4. Sian McNally;
5. Andy Waghorn, 6. Anthony Williams [dec]
- Front Row: 1. John Fuller [dec]; 2. Jon Astridge; 3. Bob Williams [captain];
4. Andy Morgan [Scuby]

Chap presenting trophy may be Mr Dudman

At this time the team played their home matches at Worle Recreation Ground. The strip was green of course, with plain green shirts with white on the neck and cuffs.

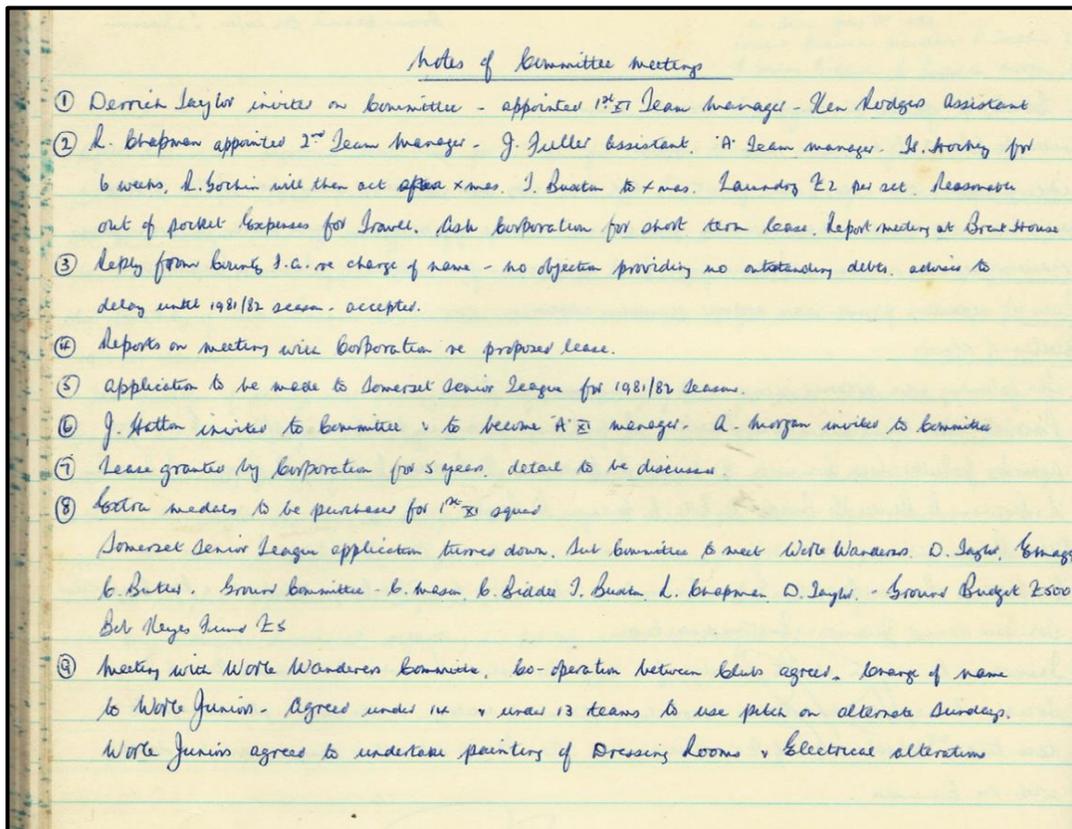


The lads from Balmoral Way area formed a junior football club, mostly drawn from the boys of Worle and Milton. Pilgrims, Smarts and Trezises all feature.

SPECIAL AWARD FOR HOT-SHOT PAUL

WORLE FC held their annual dinner and presentation evening at the Bay View Hotel. Awards were presented by Mrs Helen Hatton. The Robbins Cup for best clubman went to Chris Biddle, and the Sims Cup for best young player to Chris Bond. First team Player of the Year was Clive Wilson, Reserve team Bill Rodgers and A Team Jonathan Brine. A special award was made to Paul Hatton who has been the club's top scorer for the past two seasons. The club's AGM is at the Old Manor, Worle, on June 20 at 8 pm.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE GOOD LOOKING BOYS, (WHERE DID DENNIS GO WRONG?)



Worle Juniors, formed following the above committee meeting, are pictured below in their memorable red and black strip. Steven Smart is 4th from the left in the back row.



THE NEWQUAY TOUR

Thoughts of the Judge

Well the weekend of 14, 15 and 16 May, Worle Football Club chose to tour the picturesque Cornish resort of Newquay. It was a chance after a hard season to relax, take in the sea air, ale, food and the hospitality of the locals.

We met bright and early at The Copper Kettle, enjoyed a fine breakfast and cheered up a few builders. The trip down was fairly uneventful, until we reached the famous Smugglers Inn. With a name like that how was Nellie to realise they would mind if he tried relieving them of a flag. Nellie was barred, a promising start, or would things get worse?

A couple of hours later my worst fears were confirmed. As we arrived at our Hotel it seemed great, close to the beach, pubs, golf course, pubs and it had a nice bar as well. Then we met the Landlady, how can I describe her? She was a sort of cross between Maggie Thatcher, Hitler, a Pit Bull Terrier and Tom Grey. She quite simply was an Irish Cow with a bad temper. Three days with her, well thanks a lot Nick.

After the evening meal which included a bowl of warm water, we decided to take in the town, have a few beers and meet the locals. Well I won't go into great detail but a good night was had. I cannot say any more because I have been told to let sleeping dogs lie.

Pleasant nights sleep with Burnsey and Paul. Nice pyjamas, had breath Burnsey.

Saturday started with the customary swim, all I can say is that was the coldest water I have ever known. The day seemed to fly by, football on the beach, Nellie being ill and lots of familiar Greek faces. Cup final was dull but we had some fun and lost some money at the Bookies. We should have done those Arsenal fans over.

Saturday night was the best night for me, lots of beers and a fine night club. I have never seen so many fat, ugly women in one place. Dennis it was heaven.

Sunday morning subdued, but after another of Maureen's specials we left in the direction of Bodmin to play football. Got lost, eventually found the ground, then lost a very sporting game, notable for the best goal I have ever seen Worle score and the fact we had at one stage 14 players on the pitch.

St Brewards had a nice little clubhouse and a pleasant day was had by all. This is what tours are all about, drinking, football, silly drinking games and running naked around a pitch. Heeded home late afternoon, stopping off once or twice, then back to Weston for a curry to round it off.

Summing up, a good tour was had by all. Let's hope next years is better still and let's hope that all tourists respect the Judge and there are no murmurs of discontent and ousting the Judge.

The Judge's say must be final (back door Boulton).



Football club refurb to maintain league status

AFTER 15 years of searching for a new place to play a football club has decided to spruce up its current base.

Worle Football Club says it needs to take 'prompt' action to revamp its changing facilities in order to meet football league regulations.

The club has been looking for a suitable site in the Worle area for many years, working with North Somerset Council on the issue.

It was offered a site in Ebdon Road a few years ago, but it would not have been cost-effective to develop it due to the flood risk there.

In order to maintain County League status, the club, which is based at Worle Recreation Ground, off Station Road, needs to act fast.

So it has applied to North Somerset Council to demolish its wooden pavilion and replace it with new changing rooms.

The pavilion would be replaced with a brick block and a tea room would provide shelter for spectators and families.

There would also be a kitchen created as part of the new development.

Report by **CHARLOTTE RICHARDSON**
charlotte.richardson@archant.co.uk

A club spokesman said: "The wooden structure has been deteriorating for many years and subjected to vandalism.

"It is no longer insurable and is not cost-effective to maintain.

"It is necessary to have changing

rooms and toilet facilities as they are a functional part of the playing field."

The applicants say the development would not interfere with properties in the area or with activities and facilities on the recreation ground, such as the children's play area.

Provision has been made for disabled access and toilets, which are not present at the moment.



Worle players, in black and white, in action on the recreation ground.

Public Notices

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972,
SECTION 123, (2A)

LAND AT WORLE RECREATION GROUND

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that North Somerset District Council intends to dispose of a parcel of land at Worle Recreation Ground, forming part of an area of open space and having an approximate total area of 0.035 hectares, by way of a long lease, for the purposes of extending the existing football club pavilion.

A plan identifying the area of the subject land can be inspected at the offices of North Somerset District Council, Castlewood, Tickenham Road, Clevedon BS21 6FW.

Objections to the intended disposal must be made in writing and addressed to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, North Somerset Council, Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ, by no later than Thursday 5 July 2012.

Dated the 14th day of June 2012

N.P. Brain
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

A new club house in the offing



These pictures of the newly built club house give just an idea of the facilities. Above is the kitchen, with Dave Brine making the coffee, and the committee table with Bob Champ, chairman of Worle History Society, enjoying a visit.

Below is the home team's changing room with storage, showers and hanging space. Luxury, in fact.



11th March 2015

Report from Local paper

Worle FC Take On Successful Heron Moor

Worle FC have merged with Heron Moor Rangers but will remain as Worle FC.

Worle Football Club have now taken on the highly successful Heron Moor Rangers and will now run 2 teams from this forthcoming season.

Worle First Team remain in division 1 of the Somerset Senior League avoiding relegation into the bottom division. The side will be run by Lach Geddis and already a number of signings have been made coupled with the signings of the existing members of the Worle FC first and second teams from last season making Worle undoubtedly the strongest team in the area outside of Weston-Super-Mare FC.

The second team were promoted into the second division of the Weston & District League

Sponsorship for all teams has already been secured for the forthcoming season.

Brought into the management structure are Gary Coles and John Coles formerly of Westland United FC, joined also by Paul Savage.

Training has already begun with around 30 players taking part all old and new players are most welcome.

Feel Free To Contact Lach Geddis on 07814755170 or Gary Coles on 07534957980 if you would like more information.

In October 2015 Worle History Society held a meeting in Worle Community Centre, Lawrence Road. The topic was the history of Worle Football Club through the 20th Century and into the 21st. The photographs on the next few pages are a happy record of a great evening, attended by players and supporters past and present.



Above: Worle Association Football Team, pictured in February 2015

Below: Worle History Society meeting
Two Ray[e]s and a Dennis





Above: David Brine and Co.

Below: Our golden oldies.





Inspecting the display table

Catching up on the news with Dennis and Walter



Worle Association Football Club First Team. 2019



And so to 2020, the corona virus and lockdown.

Worle Association Football Club has been supported for over 120 years by the good people and small businesses of Worle. In the difficult lockdown months of 2020, the support continued.

Donations and contributions to the refurbishment of the club house on Worle Recreation Ground were received from:

PD & CL Building Services – Paul & Shaun Dance
Moorland Carpets – Paul & Ben Dolbear
SS Complete Carpentry – Spencer Sowden
Sean Crawford – Crawfords Electrical Repairs
Oz Cahill – Benches
Danny Reyes
Flat Cap Mike
Martin Rogers – Painter & Decorator
Steve Nelson – Stoneage Paving Supplies Ltd

If you can add any information to this little tome, please contact Worle History Society by any of the following means:

Website: www.worlehistorysociety.net

Email: rayegreen@talktalk.net

Telephone: 01934 516773