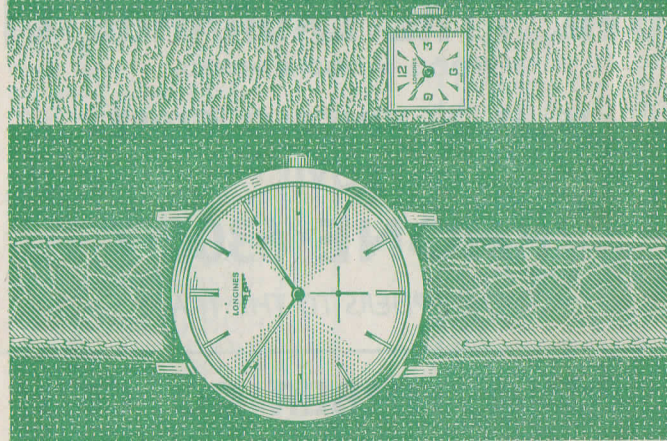


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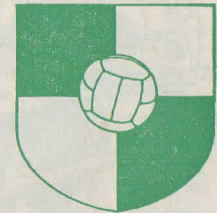
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OFFICIAL

PROGRAMME

6^p

No. 27

Monday, 28th March, 1966

GILLINGHAM

Players' Testimonial Fund

Kick-off 7.15 p.m.

Next Home Match

Wednesday, 30th March

CHELTENHAM

Floodlight League

Kick-off 7.15 p.m.

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Len HARRIS (5)

Malcolm HIRST (9)

Chris HARDING (10)

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Ted READ (3)

George MUIR (6)

Ernie ASHE (11)

Referee :

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FOR SPORTSMEN

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(Red Flag)

(Yellow Flag)

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Welcome to
Gillingham

Gillingham are one of the oldest clubs in the country, joining the Southern League in 1895. In their first season they finished sixth of ten teams, Luton winning the league with 27 points from 36 and Ilford bottom with no points. During the next few seasons Gillingham's successes were few and far between and they finished in the bottom half of the table for many seasons in succession. During this time however, such clubs as Southampton, Portsmouth and Reading were winning the Southern League and Tottenham Hotspur were winning the F.A. Cup. Also the Southern League were playing and beating the Football League.

In 1921/22 Gillingham left the Southern League until 1927 when they re-entered the league in the Eastern Section. After only two seasons they again left the league and did not rejoin until the 1938/39 season when they finished third. After the war Gillingham played four seasons in the Southern League and were Champions in 1946/47 and 1948/49. In 1946/47 they won the Southern League Cup and were league runners-up in 1947/48. This record did not go unnoticed and in 1950/51 they were elected, with Colchester, to the Third Division South when the league was extended.

Once again it took some time for Gillingham to settle down in League Football and when the Fourth Division was formed they found themselves one of its members. In 1963/64 however, Gillingham at last met with success and won the Fourth Division on goal-average from Carlisle and they were promoted to the Third Division.

Last season, after a long time near the top of the league, they finally missed promotion to the Second Division by only four points. This season they have been hovering around the half-way mark with games in hand over their rivals.