

# Charles Buchan's FOOTBALL MONTHLY

JUNE 1961

1/6  
Overseas price 2/-  
Forces overseas 1/6



STARS OF TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

The Greatest Soccer  
Magazine in the World



- Which club can claim the most loyal band of supporters? Each month we are putting the spotlight on the crowds who throng the terraces in fair weather or foul. Watch for your club.
- This month it is the turn of Tottenham Hotspur fans, some of whom we see on the left.

headquarters for the 2,500 strong Spurs' Supporters' Club, of which Mr. E. A. Jones is secretary and a tireless worker in the cause of ensuring that his members get fair ticket allocation for the big games.

"The club help us a lot, but we really should smash the ticket spivs," declared Mr. Jones. Backed by their Arsenal F.C. Supporters' Club friends, Spurs fans have enlisted the aid of M.P.s to try and make ticket racketeering illegal.

The Supporters' Club, who run their own magazine—the "Lillywhite"—can count on a faithful hard core of 800 or so. For each away trip, even as far north as Newcastle, there is always at least a coachload of Spurs fans, brandishing the navy blue and white favours.

Like most of the wealthy clubs, Spurs do not seek cash aid from their Supporters' Club. "But," says manager Bill Nicholson, "we help *them* whenever we can. They are good supporters and they

**I**t is the footballing fashion of the season to be a Tottenham supporter. Especially in North London where Spurs fans have never had it so good, nor given their lungs such an airing.

With good cause, of course! England's top club team of the year have packed in the fans, home and away, as no post-war side has yet done—not even Manchester United in their pre-Munich glory days.

Listening to the expectant hum of the White Hart Lane terrace types before kick-off time must be a nerve-wracking experience for the visiting side.

Atmosphere like this can do much toward wrecking the morale of a team before they even kick a ball on the Spurs' pitch.

Conveniently next door to White Hart Lane is the original "White Hart", whose boundary walls were there when Tottenham Hotspur built their famous ground at the back. This is the focal point of pre-match chatter, with no elbow room for your pint after mid-day.

Here, publican Bob Halbrook reckons to serve upwards of 2,000 customers in a couple of hectic hours on match days. At 5.30 many of them are back again, especially if the Spurs have had a good win.

Here, I found Lew Foles, Isaac "Toffee" Lester and Maurice Sofier, representing two generations of Spurs supporters.

Foles and Lester, the latter a dead "ringer" for film actor Jeff Chandler, have been watching the "Lillywhites" since the first world war. Both reckon the 1921 Cup-winning side a better one than the present combination.

Sofier, who goes to almost every away game and sees his heroes at least 30 times in a season, wouldn't know ... he started to watch the Spurs only in 1947.

He remembers Les Medley and George Robb, before little Terry Dyson,

but not Jimmy Dimmock, rated by Messrs. Foles and Lester as the greatest-ever winger.

All three have season tickets but deplore the Cup ticket ramp alleged to centre around the club. "We have never objected to players making a bit on the side through selling tickets, but now they are to get more pay they shouldn't need to do it in future," they told me.

Isaac Lester watches games in comfort now. But as a twelve-year-old, in 1919, he recalls being trapped in the

crush behind one goal and fainting during a Cup visit by Leicester Fosse.

In making comparisons between the Spurs of today; of the 1950's under Arthur Rowe ("a great manager, was Arthur"); and of the 1920's, I could get the trio to agree only on one thing—the 1961 half-back line is the best of all.

These three seem typical of the 700,000 or so fans who have passed through the White Hart Lane turnstiles this season.

Most of them live locally, but Spurs have regular supporters coming from as far away as Southend and Brighton.

Each match Saturday these fans pour into Tottenham's busy main streets in something like 8,000 cars and motor coaches. This in addition to the average 10,000 spectators who come in by train from Liverpool Street.

No wonder the High Road shop keepers, cafe owners and tobacconists have been reaping a golden harvest from the Spurs success story, as home and visiting fans turn into Saturday spendthrifts.

In addition to providing for thirsty fans, the "White Hart" also acts as

## SALAD DAYS AT WHITE HART LANE

do appreciate good football." Contrary to popular belief in some quarters, Spurs and Arsenal fans are not continually at loggerheads. Many Soccer enthusiasts in this part of North London hold season tickets for Highbury AND White Hart Lane. Spurs have 6,000 season ticket holders on their books, with a waiting list of more than 500!

But whether they drive in by Mark IX Jaguar from Hendon, cram into a trolley bus from Cockfosters, or queue for a green White Hart Lane special from Manor House bus stop, these Spurs fans have seen the best football in Britain this winter, have cheered brilliant play from home side and opponents alike, in London's cheapest sporting entertainment.

Danny ... Dave ... Les ... Cliff ... these are the golden boys in white shirts whose names roll round the towering stands when the Spurs spark off another attacking gem and the goals thunder in.

THESE ARE TRULY SALAD DAYS AT WHITE HART LANE.  
PETER MORRIS.