TO-DAY'S F.A. CUP FINAL.

Bolton's Chance in First Half-Hour.

WEMBLEY'S "SPELL."

A Critical Period for Portsmouth.

Kick-off 3 p.m.

As an exhibition of football a Cup Final may often fall into a very low category, but its great magnetism persists. Not a small part of the interest often derives from what is really an incidental circumstance, and thus to-day, when Bolton Wanderers and Portsmouth do combat at Wembley for Association's most glittering prize, it is not merely an extra trial of merit between two First Division teams but a renewal of the undying rivalry between North and South.

The North has been very much cock-a-hoop in this Cup business since the dawn of the professional period. In 30 seasons before the war the South could claim only five appearances in the final tie and only one success, that of Tottenham in 1901. Since the Armistice Southern clubs have contested six of ten finals, and two victories have been their reward, one being that gained by Cardiff City two years ago, when the trophy went out of England for the first time.

And now Portsmouth are trying to redress the balance. When they beat Aston Villa with a penalty goal and qualified as the Southern standard-bearer there was a feeling in the country generally (Hampshire excluded) rising to assurance in the Bolton district of Lancashire that it was all too easy for the Wanderers, that it was hardly fair to take the money at the Stadium. More than that, there was no little admonitory sympathy for Portsmouth; they were told to read of what happened to Manchester City three years ago. Nor was the attitude without justification. Portsmouth, numbered last in the League competition, had won 10 and lost 19 of their matches; they had scored only 42 goals and surrendered 73. Bolton, on the other hand, had lost only 12 even if they had won no more than 11, and they had scored three more goals than they had conceded.

But what is the position to-day? By a great revival that has few parallels in recent years Portsmouth have all but made secure their position in the First Division—another point will do it,—and while they advanced Bolton fell until the pair almost collided in the "danger zone." In eight League games since March 23 Portsmouth have been beaten only once, have secured 12 points, and scored 12 goals to four. Bolton have played seven times, won twice, lost thrice, and surrendered nearly twice as many goals as they have scored. Your racing man picks his horses on "current form"—but fortunately for Bolton's spirit they do not always win. Neither do favourites, and Portsmouth are just about hoisted into that glaring light to-day. Bolton may be pleased; Huddersfield, Arsenal, and Aston Villa have all been losing favourites in the last five finals.

A Test of Nerves.

It is, however, going to be a better struggle than appeared probable a month ago. On League records there is little to choose between the sides, and that little may be Portsmouth's advantage. But the Stadium introduces its own set of factors, and the biggest of them can turn a "star" into a blundering novice. That is the "big occasion" atmosphere, the realisation that a royal band will greet them all at the start and the same band will present the prize at the finish; the vastness of the Stadium, the "urge" of 93,000 people. It is all electricity. Lucky the man with the "big occasion" temperament; pity the man without it, especially if he be a goalkeeper. The melancholy shades of Lewis and Mercer must be imprisoned in those Wembley nets.

Here Bolton should possess their main advantage, for Pym and four of his colleagues will be appearing for the third time, Finney for the second. Five of the six defenders have had previous, and successful, experience of a final tie. Portsmouth will be all "new boys," but they do not give the impression of being subject to nervousness. Here are the two selected teams as they will face each other:

BOLTON.

Pym

Haworth Finney

Kean Soddon Nuttall

Butler McClelland Blackmore Gibson Cook

Cook Watson Weddle Smith Forward

Thackeray McIlwaine Nichol

Bell Mackie

Gilfillan

PORTSMOUTH.

Two Strong Defences.

The efficiency of the Portsmouth rearguard division is best understood by a study of their recent League games, in seven of which only four goals were surrendered. Gilfillan may be counted among the best ten goalkeepers in the country, and Bell and Mackie are robust tacklers who believe in kicking the ball as far away from their own goal as possible. Portsmouth claim that on a hard ground their half-backs, Nichol, McIlwaine (captain), and Thackeray—an all-Scottish line,—are the best intermediate division in Great Britain. All possess excellent ball control, they are clever at opening up attacks, and resolute in breaking up opposing advances. Forward and Cook, the extreme wingers, are fast and thoughtful; the two inside men, Smith and Watson, are schemers of more than average ability, and Weddle, the 20-year-old centre from County Durham, is believed to have a big future in store. This combination, five Scotsmen, four Englishmen, one Irishman, and a Welshman, cosmopolitan as it may appear, has been welded into a forceful yet methodical side which Portsmouth enthusiasts think will present Bolton Wanderers with an unsurmountable obstacle.

Bolton's strong point is defence, the greatest asset for a cup-tie. Pym does not always inspire confidence, but he is not easily ruffled. Haworth will probably be the best of the four full-backs, and, like his partner, he makes objective passes of his clearing kicks whenever there is a chance. Bolton must hope that Seddon's recently injured limb keeps sound; he is not a genius in constructive play, but he is a "stopper" without a peer, and he revels in the hurly-burly of a cup-tie. Kean has been disappointing recently, but if he strikes his real form he may make the Bolton right wing the winning factor in the match, for in front of him he has Butler, who is as much the "live wire" in the Wanderers' attack as Jackson in the Huddersfield side. McClelland is a strong marksman when the ball runs for him, and Blackmore has all the dash of the modern centre forward, plus a fair degree of skill in ball control and leadership. Gibson is, perhaps, the cleverest forward of the ten, and Cook will cause the Portsmouth defenders a great deal of trouble if he will be content to beat his opponent once. Each side has a Cook—Bolton's a Scot, Portsmouth's a Welsh international; both are the midgets of their teams.

Bolton's Chance.

Which team is to win? Whatever the first goal means in any other cup-tie, it still appears to win a final; not for more than twenty years have a team been successful after being in arrears. In fact not until Huddersfield scored a consolation point a year ago had the side that surrendered the first goal in a final made a reply since 1910. Let it be supposed, then, that the first goal is again to decide. Bolton's chance should come in the first half-hour, for that may be Portsmouth's most unsettled time. If Portsmouth are not beaten at that point they should be an improving side with rather more than equal prospects of success.

Bolton's confidence is very high, and so great has been their concentration on the Cup competition that their form in other games had, perhaps, best be ignored. They have established a great tradition, and it is of no little account that they can claim immunity from defeat in a cup-tie on a neutral ground for ten years. They first captured the trophy in 1923, a second success came in 1926 and there is no need to remind Bolton that the triennial period has arrived again. Why, Mr. Foweraker, their secretary, as long ago as last summer decided not to arrange a League match for the Wanderers for this afternoon!

Progress to Wembley.

The finalists won their way to Wembley with the following successes:—

BOLTON.		
v. Oldham Athletic (h)	2	0
v. Liverpool (a)	0	0
Replay (h)	5	2
v. Leicester City (a)	2	1
v. Blackburn Rovers (a)	1	1
Replay (h)	2	1
v. Huddersfield Town	3	1
	15	6

PORTSMOUTH.		
v. Charlton Athletic (h)	2	1
v. Bradford City (h)	2	0
v. Chelsea (a)	1	1
Replay (h)	1	0
v. West Ham (h)	3	2
v. Aston Villa	1	0
	10	4

The replayed tie, in the event of there being no decision at Wembley even after a period of extra time, takes place at West Bromwich Albion's ground on Wednesday. No special tickets will be issued.

THE LEAGUE.

Bury's Last Hope of Escape from Relegation.

Most of the remaining Football League problems may be decided this afternoon, when interest will be concentrated on fourteen matches in which championship, promotion, and relegation issues are involved.

Sheffield Wednesday require only one point to make certain of the championship, and it is generally expected that they will be successful against Burnley at Hillsborough, where no visiting side has won. Burnley themselves are in danger of suffering relegation, but the danger will disappear unless Bury are successful at Birmingham, a result that will be surprising in view of the recent poor displays of the Lancashire club. Portsmouth, too, will be assured of their place in the First Division unless Bury win. Leicester City and Aston Villa, the only challengers of the Wednesday for the championship, are engaged at Huddersfield and Manchester—the City ground—respectively, and neither may obtain the full points that would be necessary to sustain the challenge should the Sheffield club be surprised.

The only question still to be decided in the Second Division is the second relegation. Port Vale, who appear likely to be the companions of Clapton Orient have to visit Bradford, and if they are beaten their fate is settled. In any case Barnsley may secure their own safety by defeating Preston at the Oakwell ground, and Oldham may gain their safety point from the Forest at Nottingham, where already 20 points have been surrendered to visiting sides.

The great struggle in the Northern Section of the Third Division reaches a climax with Stockport engaged at Doncaster and Bradford City at Nelson. Stockport's looks to be much the harder task, although Nelson have not been beaten at home since December. Promotion is likely to be gained by the club that gets the better profit from to-day's encounter.

In the Southern Section Charlton may come close to securing the prize if they succeed in defeating the strong Watford side at The Valley. Queen's Park Rangers may suffer another serious check at Coventry, and the form of Crystal Palace has slumped so badly that they cannot be certain of gaining any profit at Exeter. Luton and Fulham engage in a "cut-throat" game at Luton, the result of which may be helpful to Charlton and also Northampton, who may advance again after their home match with Bristol Rovers.

RUGBY UNION.

Manchester Seven-a-Side Competition.

Twenty of the leading clubs of Lancashire and Cheshire are to compete to-day in a seven-a-side knock-out competition on the grounds of the Manchester Club, Moor Lane, Kersal. The entire net proceeds are to be divided between the Manchester Royal Infirmary and the Salford Royal Hospital, and the competing clubs are furthering the desire of the Manchester club by paying their own travelling expenses.

Eight clubs will take part in a preliminary round, in order to reduce the number to sixteen, and the draw for the first round proper has given several pairings that promise very interesting games. Last year's winners, Waterloo, are again competing and their selected side contains three internationals, H. G. Periton, R. T. Foulds, and S. S. C. Meikle, and two county players, A. H. Rigby and J. P. McArthur. The draw and times of the games are:—

PRELIMINARY ROUND.

p.m.
1.50 A. Broughton Park v. Manchester Y.M.C.A.
1.50 B. Central Old Boys v. Manchester.
2.10 C. Kersal v. Bury.
2.10 D. Heaton Moor v. Eccles.

FIRST ROUND.

p.m.
2.30 Wigan Old Boys v. Bolton.
2.30 Blackburn v. Winner of A.
2.50 Winner of B v. Winner of D.
2.50 Tyldesley v. Winner of C.
3.10 Waterloo v. Manchester University.
3.10 Wilmslow v. St. Helens Old Boys.
3.30 Liverpool v. Southport.
3.30 Sale v. Preston Grasshoppers.

There will be an interval of half an hour between the second semi-final and the final. The competition is timed to finish soon after six o'clock, the kick-off in the final being at 5.40. The Manchester club point out that members of competing clubs are honorary members of Manchester for the day, but that they can enter the pavilions only on production of the membership cards of their clubs.

RUGBY LEAGUE.

Championship Semi-Finals.

The peculiar laws of the Rugby League game ordain that it is not sufficient to reach the summit of the League table to win the championship. The first four clubs have to play in what is termed a Supplementary Competition, and the winning side takes the honours. In the past there have been numerous instances of a club heading the table for the greater part of the season and not securing the championship.

Huddersfield, Hull Kingston Rovers, Leeds, and Salford, all except Leeds past winners, have finished in the order named, and in the Supplementary Competition to-day the first meet the fourth and the second oppose the third, and Huddersfield and Hull Kingston Rovers have the advantage of playing at home.

Everything points to two close matches which the home teams are by no means certain to win. Salford have shown such a vast improvement in form this season that there is a strong feeling in Salford that they will succeed. The problem is: Can the Huddersfield backs be held and can the Salford forwards play the same game as they did against Wigan? Though Salford will be without Meek, their scrum half-back, they are certain to make a very good game of it. At Hull the conditions are very similar. Leeds will depend upon the work of their backs and the Rovers on their forwards. The home team are not noted for their constructive play, and Leeds will be subjected to the keenest of tackling. The Rovers have a home record second to none, and if Leeds reach the final for the first time it will be one of their greatest feats of the season. When they were last at Craven Park they were defeated by five points to nothing, but the form Leeds showed against Wigan suggests that they have recovered from their recent lapse.

The only other match of any consequence is that between Swinton and Broughton Rangers at Swinton. Victory for the home side by a clear margin of two points will give them the Lancashire League championship. They can only tie on points with Wigan, but they are able to secure the honour on superior scoring average.

FIXTURES FOR TO-DAY.

ASSOCIATION.

F.A. CUP (FINAL).
BOLTON WANDERERS v. PORTSMOUTH, at Wembley.

THE LEAGUE (FIRST DIVISION)

M'c C v. Aston Villa (3)
Arsenal v. Leeds United
Birmingham v. Bury
Blackburn v. Liverpool
Derby v. Newcastle
Everton v. M'c United
Huddersfield v. Leicester
Sheffield W. v. Burnley
Sunderland v. West Ham

SECOND DIVISION.

Barnsley v. Preston
Blackpool v. Tottenham
Bradford v. Port Vale
Bristol C v. Middlesbro'
Chelsea v. Reading
Clapton v. Wolverhampton
Grimsby v. Millwall
Nottingham F v. Oldham
Stoke v. Notts C
Swansea v. Hull City
W Bromwich v. Southampton

THIRD DIVISION (NORTH. SECTION).

Ashington v. Halifax
Barrow v. Tranmere
Chesterfield v. Crewe
Darlington v. Accrington
Doncaster v. Stockport C
Nelson v. Bradford C
N Brighton v. Rotherham
Rochdale v. Carlisle
Southport v. Hartlepools
South Shields v. Lincoln
Wrexham v. Wigan

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Bournemouth v. Gillingham
Brentford v. Plymouth
Brighton v. Newport
Charlton v. Watford
Coventry v. Queen's P R
Exeter v. Crystal Palace
Luton v. Fulham
Merthyr v. Torquay
Northampton v. Bristol R
Norwich v. Walsall
Southend v. Swindon

CENTRAL LEAGUE.

Aston Villa v. Bolton
Burnley v. Huddersfield
Bury v. Derby County
Leeds v. Manchester City
Liverpool v. Stoke
M c Utd v. Birmingham
Oldham v. Blackpool
Preston v. Everton
Sheffield U v. Blackburn
Stockport v. W. Bromwich
W Hampton v. Sheffield W

SCOTTISH LEAGUE (FIRST DIVISION).

Clyde v. Hamilton
Cowdenbeath v. A'dricon'ns
Falkirk v. Hibernians
Hearts v. Raith Rovers
Kilmarnock v. Celtic
Motherwell v. Ayr United
Rangers v. Dundee
St. Johnstone v. Aberdeen
St. Mirren v. Queen's Park
T. Lanark v. Partick T.

CHESHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE.

Port Vale v. Altrincham
Chester v. Mossley
Tranmere v. Macclesfield
Crewe A v. Ashton Nat
Hurst v. Stalybridge
Witton A v. Runcorn
Northwich v. Sandbach
Winsford v. Nantwich

LANCASHIRE COMBINATION.

Accrington v. Southport
Bacup v. Nelson
Bacup v. Southport
Lancaster v. Barwen
Prescot C v. M'c Central
Chorley v. Atherton
Wigan B v. G. Harwood

MIDLAND LEAGUE.

Loughborough v. Grantham
Gainsborough v. Wombwell
Wath v. Doncaster
Denaby v. Staveley
Rotherham v. Barnsley
Scarborough v. Scunthorpe
Mansfield v. Mexborough
Newark v. Grimsby
Notts C v. Worksop
Lincoln v. Shirebrook
Boston v. Frickley
York v. Nottingham T

LANCASHIRE AMATEUR LEAGUE

DIVISION I

Blackburn Tech. Coll. v. Heaton Chapel

DIVISION II

Fulwood v. Heaton Moor
Blackburn Tech. Coll v. Chorlton-cum-Hardy

MANCHESTER AMATEUR CUP (FINAL).

Newton Heath Parish Church v. Pendlebury, Bank Street Ground, Clayton, 3.15

RUGBY LEAGUE.

RUGBY LEAGUE (SEMI-FINALS).

Huddersfield v. Salford
Hull K.R. v. Leeds

LEAGUE MATCHES.

Swinton v. Broughton R
Wigan H. v. Castleford

CRICKET.

Higher & Wider Wicket Approved.

NEW LBW RULE.

Experiments for County Matches Only.

Meeting at Lord's yesterday, the Advisory County Cricket Committee carried several of the proposals put before them by the Special Sub-committee appointed to consider ways and means of helping the bowler. They agreed to try a wider and higher wicket and a new application of the lbw rule, while the recommendation of rolling the wicket for seven instead of ten minutes was also approved.

All the changes will come into force for county matches in 1929, but they will not operate in the case of the fixtures in which the South Africans take part, so that the Test matches will be fought out under the old rules. At the conclusion of the meeting the following information was officially given out:—

No. 1 recommendation: That the wicket be one inch wider and one inch higher than that provided for in law 6.

No. 2 recommendation: That the striker be given out lbw under law 24, even though the ball may have first hit his bat or hand.

No. 5 recommendation: That a maximum of seven minutes actual rolling be made the rule instead of ten minutes.

All carried. The remainder were not carried.

With regard to recommendation No. 2, the question of law 27 is to be further considered. This applies to the provision whereby a batsman can divert a ball after playing it, even if it is rolling into his wicket.

These recommendations, which are experiments to be tried in inter-county matches only in 1929, have the consent and approval of the M.C.C.

Kent proposed, and the motion was carried, that profits from the Champion County v. the Rest of England match be divided between the champion county for charitable purposes decided upon by that county, the Cricketers' Fund Friendly Society, and the Benevolent Fund instituted by the Advisory County Cricket Committee.

Test Selectors.

At the Board of Control meeting, the Earl of Lucan presiding, the Selection Committee for this season's Test matches against South Africa was appointed as follows: H. D. G. Leveson-Gower (Surrey), chairman, J. C. White (Somerset), and N. Haig (Middlesex), and if one of these drops out G. R. Jackson (Derbyshire) will take his place. Rule 4 with regard to co-opting others stands as it was.

The dates and grounds for Test matches against Australia in 1930 are as follows:

June 13, 14, 16, and 17: Trent Bridge.
June 27, 28, 30, and July 1: Lord's.
July 11, 12, 14, and 15: Leeds.
July 25, 26, 28, and 29: Manchester.
August 16, 18, 19, and 20: Oval.

The last Test match at the Oval will be played to a finish if the rubber has not previously been decided.

The trial match at Lord's in 1930, recommended by the Advisory County Cricket Committee, will be played on May 31, June 2, and 3.

CONSTANTINE'S BOW.

First Appearance To-day in Lancashire League.

Constantine, the West Indies cricketer, will make his first appearance in the Lancashire League as professional for Nelson at Accrington to-day, and given favourable weather the match will attract the biggest crowd seen at Accrington for many years. "We shall have at least a £150 gate if the present good weather continues," said one of the Accrington officials yesterday, "and that will practically assure us a successful season from a financial point of view."

Another attraction will be Waddington's first appearance as professional for Accrington. Waddington had his left foot scalded a week or two ago, but will be quite fit for to-day's match, and an interesting duel is expected between the Yorkshireman and Constantine. Accrington will be without the services of Alec Jackson, who has not yet recovered from a recent accident while at work, but they are fielding a very strong eleven.

Constantine's engagement with the Nelson club is likely to benefit financially all the clubs in the Lancashire League. Nelson's enterprise in securing Constantine has been generally approved, and up to date there are more than 200 new members compared with last season.

[A special report of the match by Cricketer will appear in Monday's "Manchester Guardian."]

FIXTURES FOR TO-DAY.

CLUB MATCHES.

Urmston v. Manchester
Broughton v. Wigan
Bramhall v. A'derley E.
Hemsley v. Bredbury
South-W. M c v. Bollington
Didsbury v. Sale
Liverpool v. N. Brighton
Formby v. Oxton
Bootle v. Southport
Hightown v. Sefton
Bowdon v. Weaste
Cheetham H. v. Whalley R.
Chorlton-c-H v. Castleton
Flixton v. M'c University
South M/c v. Cheadle H'me
Leigh v. Blackley
Warrington v. Earlestown
Northern v. Birkenhead P.
Ormskirk v. Neston
Wallasey v. Huyton
Bury v. Fylde
Congleton v. Cheadle

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE.

Bacup v. East Lancashire
Haslingden v. Rishton
Accrington v. Nelson
Church v. Ramsbottom
Burnley v. Rawtenstall
Lowerhouse v. Todmorden
Colne v. Enfield

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE LEAGUE.

Heywood v. Ashton
Littleborough v. Crompton
Middleton v. Castleton M.
Milnrow v. Werneth
Oldham v. Rochdale
Royton v. Walsden

SOUTH LANCASHIRE LEAGUE.

Chloride v. Cornbrook
Fieldhouse v. Barton Hall
Reddish v. Clifton
Rhodes v. Redisher Works
Thornham v. Denton St. L.
Woodhouses v. Norden

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE LEAGUE.

E. L'nshulme v. Longsight
Stand v. Stalybridge
Cheetham v. Gorton
Prestwich v. Levenshulme
Swinton v. Glossop
Unsworth v. Dukinfield

BOLTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Adlington v. Walkden
Farnworth v. Walkden W.
Westhoughton v. Eagley
Bradshaw v. L. Lever
L. Hulton v. Social C.
Astley Bridge v. Horwich
Whittlebrook v. Radcliffe
Kearsley v. Tonge
Egerton v. Heaton
Darcy Lever v. Atherton

RIBBLESDALE LEAGUE.

Clitheroe v. Lancaster
Leyland M. v. Ribblesdale W.
Barrow v. Chorley
St. Annes v. Darwen
Leyland v. Whalley
Blackpool v. Read

GLOSSOP AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Charlesworth v. St. Andrew's
Mottram v. Hill End
Ashton T. v. Dinting
Hollingworth v. O. Glossop
Glossop 2nd v. Tintwistle

LAWN TENNIS.

The Davis Cup Competition.

(Press Association Foreign Special.)

VIENNA, FRIDAY.

As the result of the first day's play in the first round tie in the Davis Cup competition between Austria and Czecho-Slovakia which began here this afternoon, the two countries are level, each winning one singles match. F. Matejka (Austria) defeated Jan Kozeluh (Czecho-Slovakia) 6—3, 7—5, 6—1, and R. Mensel (Czecho-Slovakia) defeated H. Artens (Austria) 6—3, 6—4, 6—2.

NEXT SEASON'S CUP COMPETITION.

The Exemption Lists.

SCOTLAND'S PENALTY PLAN REJECTED BY F.A.

At the Council meeting of the Football Association in London yesterday the following Sub-committee—Messrs. A. Kingscott, A. G. Hines, H. J. Huband, H. Walker, W. W. Heard, and C. E. Sutcliffe—were appointed to arrange the clubs into divisions and draw the preliminary and first rounds for next season's Cup qualifying competition.

The Council adopted the recommendation of the Rules Revision Committee that England's representatives on the International Board should be instructed not to support the Scottish F.A. proposal regarding the substitution of a thirty-yard area for the present penalty area.

The exemption of clubs for next season's Cup competition as arranged by the Sub-committee were agreed to as follows:—

The following 47 clubs to be excused until the third round of the competition proper—Arsenal, Aston Villa, Barnsley, Birmingham, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Bradford, Bristol City, Burnley, Bury, Cardiff, Chelsea, Corinthians, Crystal Palace, Derby, Everton, Grimsby, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Middlesbrough, Millwall, Newcastle, Nottingham Forest, Notts County, Oldham, Portsmouth, Preston, Reading, Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, Sunderland, Southampton, Stoke, Swansea, Swindon, Tottenham, West Bromwich Albion, West Ham, Wolverhampton, together with the winners of the respective sections of the Third Division of the Football League.

The following 43 to be excused until the first round of the competition proper:—Accrington Stanley, Barrow, Bournemouth, Bradford City, Brentford, Brighton, Bristol Rovers, Carlisle, Charlton, Chesterfield, Clapton Orient, Coventry, Crewe, Darlington, Doncaster, Exeter, Fulham, Gillingham, Halifax, Hartlepools, Ilford, Lincoln, Mansfield, Merthyr, Luton, Nelson, New Brighton, Northampton, Newport, Norwich, Plymouth, Port Vale, Queen's Park Rangers, Rochdale, Rotherham, Southend, Southport, South Shields, Stockport, Torquay, Tranmere, Walsall, Watford, Wigan, and Wrexham, less the two clubs to be included in the 47 clubs to be excused until the third round of the competition proper.

The following 24 clubs to be excused until the fourth round of the qualifying competition:—Aldershot, Ashington, Chatham, Dartford, Dulwich Hamlet, Folkestone, Gainsborough, Grantham, Guildford, Kettering, Kingstonian, Leyton, London Caledonians, Northfleet, Nunhead, Peterborough, Poole, Scarborough, Sheppey, Sittingbourne, Southall, Spennymoor, Thames, and West Stanley.

FIFTEEN CANDIDATES FOR THE LEAGUE.

At a meeting of the Management Committee of the Football League held in London last night, and presided over by Mr. John McKenna, Blackburn Rovers were fined ten guineas for playing W. T. Whewell, an amateur on their retained list, contrary to rule. The Committee decided that all the players on the list of the Durham City Football Club for the past twelve months should now be struck off the club's list.

The inter-League match against Scotland was fixed to be played on November 2 in Scotland.

The following clubs have applied for admission to the Third Division:—Northern Section: Connah's Quay, Manchester Central, Mansfield Town, Prescot Cables, Rhyl, Workington, York City, and Chester. Southern Section: Aldershot Town, Argonauts, Kettering, Llanelly, Poole, Thames, and Guildford.

Miss S. Marshall (Royal Ashdown Forest), the holder, was defeated in the final of the Sussex ladies' golf championship at Cooden Beach yesterday by Mrs. Olaf Hambro, of the same club, by 6 and 5.

Surrey and Middlesex qualified for the final to-day in the ladies' inter-county lawn tennis singles championships at Bournemouth, Surrey beating Warwickshire by 11 matches to one, and Middlesex beating Staffordshire by 10 matches to two.

LACROSSE.

"Iroquois" Cup Match in Manchester.

One of the most important lacrosse matches of the year will be played at Fallowfield, Manchester, this afternoon, when Boardman, the champion club of the North, meet Lee, the Southern club champions, for the "Iroquois" Cup and the club championship of England. Each team has figured in the final in former years, Lee having won the cup in 1921, when they beat Boardman, while the latter won in the following year, when they beat Lee. Last year the cup was won by Stockport. The teams for to-day are—

BOARDMAN.—F. Leather, A. Worthington, N. O'Gara, P. Howard, J. Walsh, F. Ireland, F. Duckworth, H. Scholes, R. Hallsworth, E. Edge, H. Snape, and J. Mellor.

LEE.—A. G. Knott, R. W. Haigh, T. E. Cresswell, L. J. Luffingham, *L. T. Lamb, *T. H. Hopkins, S. L. Fairfield, *H. E. Davies, *R. S. Widdowson, S. V. Court, F. C. G. Percival, and B. Parkes.

*Lamb may change places with Hopkins and Davies with Widdowson.

CHESS.

The Lancashire Championship.

The competition for the chess championship of Lancashire was this year held in two sections, a double-round tournament and a knock-out contest. In the former four strong players took part, the result being: W. A. Fairhurst (Manchester) 3½ points, R. J. Broadbent (Manchester) 3½ points, E. Spencer (Liverpool) 3 points, H. G. Rhodes (Southport) 2 points. Fairhurst and Broadbent have now to play off the tie.

In the knock-out section nineteen entries were received, including eleven county players from the Manchester area. Fortune, however, favoured the outlying districts, for in the semi-finals J. G. Lomax (Blackburn) beat A. Eva (Manchester), and H. E. Matthews (Blackpool) beat A. Milner (Manchester). In the final round Matthews won, and he has now to meet the winner of the other section (Fairhurst or Broadbent) to decide the championship.

Tourneys were also held for second and third class players, the results being—

B. Tourney: 1, H. J. Phillips (Manchester); 2, C. Warburton (Manchester).

C. Tourney: 1, J. S. Husden (Manchester Jewish); 2, J. T. Boyd (Waterloo).

LANCASHIRE LADIES' SUCCESS.

Owing to an error in transmission four of the scores in connection with the ladies' inter-county match at Southport between Lancashire and Cheshire on Thursday which appeared in our columns yesterday were incorrect. The scores should have read:—

Mrs. Roberts (Lancashire) beat Miss Bridgford (Cheshire), 1 up.
Mrs. Hardcastle (Cheshire) beat Miss Stratton (Lancashire), 2 up.
Miss N. Allen (Cheshire) beat Mrs Forbes Cooper (Lancashire), 2 and 1.
Mrs. Hardman (Lancashire) beat Mrs. Whitfield (Cheshire), 7 and 6.

WOODHALL SPA.

It was announced yesterday that the Victoria Hotel estate and bromo-iodine baths at Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, had been acquired by a syndicate representing important medical and financial interests who intend fully to develop the resources of the neighbourhood. The Victoria Hotel, Woodhall Spa, was burnt down in 1920, and Petwood, the home of Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall, was used as an hotel for two years.

In the North London hard court lawn tennis championships at Highbury yesterday, Rene Lacoste, the holder of the title, qualified to meet his compatriot, Jacques Brugnon, in the final of the men's singles. Lacoste and Brugnon are also in the final of the men's doubles.

GOLF.

English Native Amateur Championship.

TOLLEY FAILS.

Semi-Finals Played in Snowstorm.

Seldom have the important stages in an English golf championship been played under such conditions as prevailed at the Northumberland club's course, Gosforth Park, where the semi-finals of the English amateur close championship were played yesterday. Blinding snow descended, with the effect of coating the balls, and out of it all emerged the fact that William Sutton, of the West Cheshire Artisans, and E. B. Tipping, of the famous Royal Ashdown Forest club, are to contest the 36 holes' final to-day.

Tipping was born in Dublin and was taken to Scotland as an infant, and Sutton is a 27-year-old oil worker in the Liverpool district. He is a brother of Norman Sutton, who also has figured prominently in Cheshire golf and who is a member of the Tranmere Rovers Football Club.

It would be farcical to attempt to go into a golfing analysis of the semi-final matches, so terrible were the conditions. Tolley disappointed; he was not in front against Sutton, and even the big hitting of the former British champion was of no avail. He sometimes gained distances of fifty to sixty yards with wooden clubs, but he was two down with eight holes played, square at the twelfth, and, losing the fourteenth and fifteenth, was two down with three to play. He made an effort to win the seventeenth, but on the home green, in circumstances more suited to curling than to golf, he could not get the win which would have enabled him to keep the match going.

Tipping took command of his semi-final match against W. D. Millar, a local golfer, from the first. He went right away with two holes and smiled his way on through the snow. He won in easy fashion on the fifteenth green after having been four up at the ninth.

RESULTS.

SIXTH ROUND.

C. J. H. Tolley (Royal Liverpool) beat C. W. Ollerhead (Fulwell), 5 and 3.
William Sutton (West Cheshire Artisans) beat B. Thompson (Gosforth), 2 and 1.
E. B. Tipping (Royal Ashdown Forest) beat T. J. Trirsk (Bridlington), 2 and 1.
W. D. Millar (Heworth) beat N. W. Dunn (Doncaster), 5 and 2.

SEMI-FINAL

William Sutton beat Tolley, 1 up.
Tipping beat Millar, 4 and 3.

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY BEATEN.

Manchester University lost to Aberystwyth University College on the Reddish Vale links yesterday by seven matches to two. The foursomes finished all square, but the Welshmen won five of the singles. Details:—

SINGLES.

Aberystwyth.		Manchester University.	
J. Jones (capt.)	1	P. Schofield (capt.)	0
D. Lloyd	1	C. G. W. Harrison	0
A. Garner	1	F. H. M. Smith	0
J. Morgan	1	J. F. E. Johnson	0
J. Paterson	1	R. K. Clough	0
Substitute	½	L. R. C. Rose	½

FOURSOMES.

Lloyd and Jones	1	Harrison & Schofield	0
Garner and Morgan	0	Johnson and Clough	1
Paterson & Substitute	½	Rose and Hodson	½
Total	7	Total	2

WEST LANCASHIRE LADIES BEAT SOUTHPORT.

In the ladies' match between West Lancashire and Southport and Ainsdale, played at West Lancashire, West Lancashire won by four games to two. Details:—

West Lancashire.		Southport and Ainsdale.	
Mrs Livesley	1	Miss Jack	0
Miss M Keizer	½	Mrs. McKenzie	½
Mrs Figgis	0	Miss Wren	1
Mrs Roberts	1	Mrs. Arthur	0
Miss A. J. Kirkman	1	Miss Darrah	0
Mrs Hunt	0	Mrs Watts	1
Mrs. Clark	1	Miss Shaw	0
	4		3

The Batty Tuke Cup, which is competed for annually between Edinburgh and St. Andrews universities, was won yesterday by St Andrews by the heavy margin of six points.

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