



By Richie Gillham

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

In 1951 Tottenham Hotspur became the third member of a unique band of teams to win the top-flight championship as a newly-promoted team.

The Londoners followed in the footsteps of Liverpool (1906) and Everton (1932) and the feat was subsequently achieved by Ipswich Town, managed by Alf Ramsey, in 1962 and Nottingham Forest under Brian Clough in 1978.

It was Tottenham's maiden First Division title and the side, captained by Ron Burgess, became synonymous for their 'push and run' style of play, developed by Arthur Rowe. Many cite it as the inspiration for the brand of 'total football' played by the Dutch national team in the 1970s. Two famous names in that great Spurs team were Bill Nicholson, who would manage the club to the title a decade later, and Alf Ramsey, who led England to victory in the 1966 World Cup. Another, Vic Buckingham, went on to



manage Barcelona, Ajax and Sheffield Wednesday.

Everton responded from being relegated for the first time in our history, in 1929/30, to win promotion at the first attempt. During that one season in the second tier, the Toffees recorded their highest ever league goals return of 121. No prizes for guessing the leading marksman was Dixie Dean, with 39 goals in 37 league appearances (in fact, all five forwards got into double-figures). A total of 76 of the league goals were scored at Goodison and the Blues won the title, seven points clear of nearest challengers West Bromwich Albion. The Baggies did, however, beat Everton in the FA Cup semi-final.

The following season, with a largely unchanged squad, Everton started life back in the First Division with three straight wins and remained in top spot from late October onwards. The championship-winning side eclipsed the home goal tally of the previous season with 84 scored. Dean hit

a remarkable 45 league goals in 38 games, while strike partners Tommy Johnson and Tom White contributed 22 and 18 respectively. This was also the season when Ted Sagar grabbed his chance to be first-choice goalkeeper after Billy Coggins was afflicted with appendicitis. Sagar would make his final appearance for the Senior Team 21 years later.

As reigning champions, the Blues had a mediocre season in the league in 1932/33 but enjoyed an FA Cup run which culminated in a 3-0 victory over Manchester City at Wembley, to bring the coveted trophy back to Goodison Park for the first time since 1906. Three of the team members - Sagar, Billy Cook and Jock Thomson - would still be key players when Everton were crowned league champions in 1939, shortly before football was halted by the outbreak of war.

Acknowledgement: The late Brian Judson.

