A Season by Season Diary of Millwall Football Club by Eddie Tarrant

Millwall Football Club Founded 1885



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The Early Days

Manager F.B. Kidd.

In the summer of 1885 a group of young lads from Scotland came to London to find work. They found employment at Morton's jam factory in the West Ferry Road on the Isle of Dog's and thereby formed *Millwall Rovers*. As most of the team was made up from these Scottish lads they adopted their country's colours of blue and white. The "Rovers "home pitch is at Glengall Road (now Tiler Road) and the Islanders Public House is not only their H,Q. but also their changing rooms.

1885/86 Manager F.B. Kidd.

Millwall Rovers play their first game away to Fillebrook at Leytonstone which they lose 0-5, however they learnt from this early defeat for they were to go their next 12 games unbeaten before they suffered their second defeat 0-4, at the hands of the top East London side Old St. Paul's. They played a total of 20 matches of which they won 14 and drew 3.

1886/87 Manager F.B. Kidd.

After just one season the "Rovers" move to a new ground behind the Lord Nelson Public House and go on to win their first piece of silverware drawing the final of the East End Senior Cup with London Caledonians 0-0, and 2-2 after a replay, and thus being declared joint holders. In October they recorded a fine win over Hendon Rovers at home 7-0, but lose the return 2-4 mainly due to the fact that they only had 8 players. Also in April they played two games in one day, both at home, the first being a 0-0 draw with Dreadnought in the morning, and the second a 4-1 win over Westminster Swifts in the afternoon.

1887/88 Manager F.B. Kidd.

Millwall Rovers entered the FA Cup for the first time and received a walkover for their first game as Casuals withdrew. Unfortunately they were to go out in the next round losing 1-8 to Old Westminster. However they did go on to retain the East End Senior Cup that they had won the previous season by beating Woodford 3-1. During the away match against Fulham St. Andrew's, whilst losing 1-2 the match was abandoned as all the available balls had burst. G. Oliver 1 FA Cup goal.

1888/89 Manager F.B. Kidd.

Millwall Rovers change their name to Millwall Athletic. They also win the East End Senior Cup for the third consecutive season 2-1 against Dreadnought to become outright winners. They chalk up a fine 8-0 win away to Cray Wanderers.

1889/90 Manager F.B. Kidd.

Millwall Athletic play their last game at the Lord Nelson. A benefit game was played against Royal Arsenal, which resulted in a 3-3 draw, to raise money for their new ground, which is to be near the George Public House on the East Ferry Road opposite Millwall Dock Station.

1890/91 Manager F.B. Kidd.

Preston North End become the first Football League club to visit *Millwall Athletic*. North End winning the match 0-3. However *Millwall* borrow two players for this game, King and Croxen. In November they have a great win over St. Barts Hospital at home 12-0.

R. E. Edwards, H. Butler 1 FA Cup goal.

1891/92 Manager F.B. Kidd.

Millwall Athletic win the Luton Charity Cup beating the 1st. Battalion Scot's Guards 2-1. They also make the final of the London Charity Cup only to lose 0-1 to Crusaders. They have another 12-0 win, this time at home to London Welsh. P. Banks 2 FA Cup goals.

1892/93 Manager F.B. Kidd.

Millwall Athletic receive their worst defeat in competitive matches by losing 1-10 to Old Carthusians in the semi-final of the London Charity Cup. Also the following week saw Millwall's first recorded use of a substitute, the injured T. Horne receives a broken leg during the London Senior Cup match away to Old Westminsters (in which Millwall lose 0-6) and A. Burton comes on to replace him. Unfortunately this was the only match Horne ever played in. Another first was on the 15th October 1892 when during their FA Cup round 1 qualifying match at home against Folkestone J. Lindsay scores Millwall's first ever competitive hat-trick in their 6-1 win. They also beat West Bromwich Albion 1-0 at home, this is the first time they have beaten a Football League club (a hat trick of firsts).

J. Lindsay, E. Jones 3 FA Cup goals.

1893/94 Manager F.B. Kidd.

Millwall Athletic record a 17-0 victory over Chesham. In December 1893 Millwall Athletic finally turn professional and in January 1894 at a meeting in the Billiter Coffee Rooms, Fenchurch Street, London, a proposal was put forward by Mr. William Henderson (secretary) in the presence of nine other clubs that "This meeting is of the opinion that it is in the interests of football that a Southern League should be formed", and in doing so Millwall Athletic became founder members of the Southern League.

J. Lindsay, 3 FA Cup goals.

1894/95 Manager F.B. Kidd.

The first ever season of the Southern League began on the 22nd. Sept. and *Millwall* celebrated their first game in the new league by beating Swindon Town 9-0. They went on to be unbeaten all season and finished as 1st Division Champions, winning 12 and drawing 4 of their 16 games. They also win all their qualifying matches in the FA Cup to reach the first round proper for the first time only to be beaten 1-3 by Sheffield United.

A.D. McKenzie 17 Southern League, 4 FA Cup goals.

1895/96 Manager F.B. Kidd.

Defending the championship Millwall were again in dominant form maintaining their 100% home record and only losing one game away 0-2 to Southampton., to retain the 1st Division Southern League tittle. They again made the first

round proper of the FA Cup with *Alf Geddes* scoring in 7 consecutive cup ties (a club record to this day).

C. Leatherbarrow 17 Southern League, 3 FA Cup goals.

1896/97 Manager F.B. Kidd.

Millwall record their highest League win 12-0 against Wolverton, John Calvey scoring 5 times. On the 25th December they lose their 100% home record to Tottenham Hotspur going down 0-4. They went on to lose one further game and finished runners-up in the Southern League 1st Division. Millwall also enter their first team in the United League and win the championship at the first attempt. September of this season saw Millwall's first recorded use of a substitute in the United League, A. D. McKenzie replacing J. Davies, and March saw Millwall have their first International player in Joe Davies who was capped for Wales. Also a friendly was played against the German FA X1 in which Millwall won 9-0, John Calvey scoring 4 goals.

J. Calvey 17 Southern League, 12 United League, and 4 FA Cup goals.

1897/98 Manager F.B. Kidd.

Probably *Millwall*'s worst season to date finishing 9th in the Southern League 1st Division and 7th in the United League. Two highlights however, one was the 9-1 defeat of Wolverton in which *Millwall*'s Welsh international *Joe Davies* scored 6 goals, and the other was in the 2-2 home draw against Gravesend in which *John Calvey* scored his 100th goal for the club.

J. Calvey 14 Southern League goals.

A.E. Geddes 5 United League goals.

1898/99 Manager F.B. Kidd.

 $\it Millwall$ win the United League championship for the second time in three seasons, and they finish $\it 3^{rd}$ in the Southern League $\it 1^{st}$ Division. They also played a friendly with the Scottish League champions, Glasgow Rangers in which $\it Millwall$ win 5-1. Highlight in the United League was $\it Millwall$'s 6-2 home defeat of Luton Town in which $\it J. Calvey$ scored 5 goals.

P Turnbull 14 Southern League goals.

- J. Calvey 18 United League goals.
- J. Calvey, J.H. Gettins 2 FA Cup goals.

1899/1900 Manager E.R. Stopher.

Millwall reach the semi-final of the FA Cup by beating Football League champions, Aston Villa 2-1, unfortunately, they lose the semi to Southampton (their Southern League rivals) 0-3 after a replay. Millwall also win the Southern District Combination League, (a league that only lasted this season) without conceding a goal at home. They finish 7th in the Southern League 1st Division. An interesting note is the fact that this season saw the introduction of neutral linesmen, after previously allowing each team to use their own official.

H.E. Banks 11 Southern League, 6 Southern District Combination and 9 FA Cup goals.

1900/01 Manager G.A. Saunders.

Millwall finish 4th in the Southern League 1st Division and 2nd in the Western League. However they are told to leave their third ground as the Millwall Dock Co. require the land for a timber yard. They are looking at a ground near the

Lord Nelson Public House. *H.E. Banks* becomes Millwall's first International to be capped for England.

H.E. Banks 13 Southern League, and 12 Western League goals.

1901/02 Manager G.A. Saunders.

Millwall move to their fourth ground near their old site by the Lord Nelson. They begin their new season at their new ground with a friendly against Aston Villa, which they win 2-0. They finish 6^{th} in the Southern League 1^{st} Division, 4^{th} in the Western League, and 3^{rd} in the London League, first team section.

- B. Hulse and A.E. Watkins 12 Southern League goals.
- B. Hulse, A.E. Watkins, and J. Bell 2 London League goals.
- B. Hulse 8 Western League goals.
- A.E. Watkins 1 FA Cup goal.

1902/03 Manager G.A. Saunders.

Millwall reach the semi final of the FA Cup (the furthest they have ever gone) only to lose 0-3 to Derby County at Villa Park, Birmingham, in front of a staggering 40,500 crowd. They finish 7th in the Southern League 1st Division, 5th in the Western League, and 4th in the London League. Millwall also reach the final of the Southern Professional Charity Cup alas losing to Portsmouth 0-2. However in the semi final they did achieve a good result winning 7-1 away to West Ham United.

B. Hulse 14 Southern League goals, 4 London League goals.

7 Western League goals, 3 FA Cup goals.

1903/04 Manager G.A. Saunders.

Millwall win a nice double this season. They win the London League without losing a game, and they make the final again of the Southern Professional Charity Cup this time winning 2-1 against Arsenal. Millwall again finish 7th in the Southern League 1st Division, and as mentioned above become London League Champions (this was their final appearance in this league). For some reason Millwall did not enter a team in the Western League this season. A great highlight of the London League was Millwall's 8-1 home defeat of Fulham where H. Astley scored 4 goals.

W.S. Maxwell 23 Southern League goals, 11 London League goals.

1904/05 Manager G.A. Saunders.

Millwall's worst League season, where they finish 15th in the Southern League Division 1, just two points clear of the relegation zone. They go out early on in all cups that they enter including the Southern Professional Charity Cup (after being in the previous two finals) to Queens Park Rangers after a marathon four games in the 1st round in which they drew 1-1, 1-1, only to lose 1-2 in the forth game. They also re enter the Western League and finish 6th.

W.S. Maxwell 11 Southern League goals, 7 Western League goals, 3 FA Cup.

1905/06 Manager G.A. Saunders.

Millwall have a slightly better season, whilst finishing again 6th in the Western League they improve their Southern League Division 1 position to 12th. One odd event that occurred in the Western League was that the home game against Bristol Rovers was abandoned due to bad light after 85 minutes (Millwall were winning 3-0 at the time). However when the game was replayed Millwall won 4-1 with J.A. Twigg scoring a hat-trick.

- P. Milsom 13 Southern League goals.
- J.A. Twigg and S. Heaton 7 Western League goals.
- S. Heaton 1 FA Cup goal.

1906/07 Manager G.A. Saunders.

Millwall changed to the Western League (section B) and had a disastrous season winning only one game and finishing bottom of the league. Their fortunes changed in the Southern League Division 1 where they finished 7th, a vast improvement on the previous two seasons. Highlight of the Southern League was the 10-1 home defeat of Watford in which *J.A. Twigg* scored 5 goals. Also in this season a local newspaper paid for and erected a scoreboard at the ground. J.A. Twigg 27 Southern League goals.

Dean 2 Western League, 1 FA Cup goal.

1907/08 Manager G.A. Saunders.

Millwall win the Western League which means that they have now won every league that they have entered. They also finish 3rd in the Southern League 1st Division which is their highest position for 11 seasons. By winning the Western League (section B) they played Southampton who were winners of (section A) in the final and won 1-0 with a goal from J.A Twigg. They were also expelled from the Southern Professional Charity Cup as they refused to play extra time in their semi final match against Portsmouth. It appears that after drawing their two previous games 1-1 and 2-2 respectively they were level after ninety minutes at 1-1 and refused the extra time so they were scratched, Millwall were to play no further part in this competition again.

J.A. Twigg 18 Southern League goals, 11 Western League goals. R. Jones 1 FA Cup goal.

1908/09 Manager G.A. Saunders.

Millwall win the first London FA Challenge Cup Tournament by beating Leyton 2-0 in the final. This was a cup for professional London sides, but some London amateur sides were invited to make up the 16 teams required. Millwall also retain the Western League championship by winning the League and then by beating Brighton & Hove Albion 2-1 in the final after a replay. They finish 11th in the Southern League 1st Division. Throughout the season rumours have been rife that Millwall were yet again to move their ground.

F. Vincent 9 Southern League goals.

D.F. Cunliffe, J.A. Twigg 6 Western League goals.

Dean, R. Jones, H. Shand, J.J. Tellum, A. Twigg, 1 FA Cup goal.

1909/10 Manager G.A. Saunders.

Rumours last season prove to be correct, for in March, *Millwall* announce that their home game against Coventry City on the 30th April is to be their last game on the Isle of Dogs, (*Millwall* win 1-0) and that they are to move to a new site in South East London. This will put an end to 25 years of football on the Isle. *Millwall* finish 16th in the Southern League 1st Division.

J. Martin 12 Southern League goals.

1910/11 Manager G.A. Saunders / H.B. Lipsham.

Millwall move to their new ground at Cold Blow Lane, New Cross, South East London, and also appoint their first player-manager in Bert Lipsham and thereby

end the tradition that the position was an honorary post held by a director. Unfortunately his first game in charge was a defeat 0-3 to Clapton in Paris, France, in *Millwall's* first and only overseas cup tie in the Dubonnett Cup. *Millwall* finish 15th in the Southern League 1st Division. They also hold a Representative match and an International in their first season at the new ground. The first was the Southern League versus the Scottish League, in which the Southern League won 1-0, and the later was between England and Wales in which England won 3-0. Whilst on the subject of Representative matches, *J. Jeffrey Millwall's* own full-back, played for the Southern League against the Irish League, in which the Southern League win 4-0. League gates have almost doubled since moving south of the Thames.

J. Martin 11 Southern League goals, 1 FA Cup goal.

1911/12 Manager H.B. Lipsham.

Whilst remaining in the Southern League *Millwall* joined the Kent Football Association, who organised a new cup competition for this season called the Kent Senior Shield. *Millwall* reached the semi final at their first attempt only to lose 0-5 to Crystal Palace after a replay. They also reached the final of the London FA Challenge Cup Tournament only to lose 0-3 to Clapton. *Millwall* finish 8th in the Southern League 1st Division. An interesting note this season was the fact that The Lions joint top scorer J. *Wilson* scored 10 of his 12 league goals from the penalty spot, 3 of which came in consecutive games, and on the 7th October *F. Vincent* scores the first hat-trick at The Den in the 5-0 defeat of Exeter. Also this season *S. Frost* represents the Southern League in their 2-1 defeat at the hands of the Football League.

J. Wilson, W.O. Davis 12 Southern League goals. W.O. Davis 1 FA Cup goal.

1912/13 Manager H.B. Lipsham.

The Lions hit four goals on six occasions this season, the first in the opening league match at home to Southampton 4-0, the others being 4-3 Reading, 4-0 Bristol Rovers and 4-0 Coventry City also at home, and 4-0 Southampton and 4-1 Exeter City away. *Millwall* again reach the final of the Kent Senior Shield and this time get revenge over Crystal Palace by beating them 2-1, after losing to them on both occasions in the League. Despite this *Millwall* finish 6th in the Southern League 1st Division. They also hold two representative games at The Den, both of which involved the Southern League, the first being against the Scottish League, and the second, the Irish League. The Southern League won the first 1-0, and drew the latter 1-1. *Millwall's W. O. Davis* and *S.Lamb* played in the Irish League game. Also this season *Millwall* enter a new league called the Southern Alliance and finish 4th. They also score four or more goals at home in this league. The first 4-2 against Brentford, then Southampton 4-0 again and further wins against Luton Town 4-0 and Southend United 5-1,

W.O. Davis 23 Southern League goals.

J. Wilson 1 FA Cup goal.

1913/14 Manager H.B. Lipsham.

Millwall retain the Kent Senior Shield by beating Gillingham 2-0, this was their third consecutive final in this competition. However they had a poor season in the league by finishing 15th in the Southern League 1st Division. They hold another representative game between the Southern League and the Football League in which the latter won 3-1, and they stage their first FA Charity Shield final, in which the Professionals beat the Amateurs 7-2.

W.O. Davis 18 Southern League goals, 2 FA Cup goals.

1914/15 Manager H.B. Lipsham.

Millwall win the London FA Challenge Cup (they last won this cup in 1909) by beating Arsenal 2-1 in the final. They had a better season in the league by finishing 8th in the Southern League 1st Division. However due to the outbreak of war the Southern League was suspended and the new London Combination was formed. Also representative games seem to be becoming a regular feature as this season Millwall staged the FA Amateur Cup final between Clapton and Bishop Auckland, Clapton won 1-0. They also stage what will be their last representative game in which the Southern League drew with the Scottish League 1-1.

W.O. Davis 18 Southern League goals.

H.B. Moody 3 FA Cup goals.

The War Years (1914-18)

1915/16 Manager H.B. Lipsham.

This was the first season of the London Combination, which saw a split, in that the season was divided into two halves. The first part was the Principal Tournament, which was played from September to January, the second was from February to April and called the Supplementary. In the Principal on 9^{th} October *Millwall* beat Croydon in a 9 goal thriller at The Den , winning 6-3. *Millwall* finished 2^{nd} in the Principal, and 3^{rd} in the Supplementary.

W.O. Davis 14 Principal and 16 Supplementary League goals. (total 30 London Combination League goals).

1916/17 Manager H.B. Lipsham.

This season was complete from start to finish and *Millwall* finished runners-up again. The last two seasons have seen the emergence of one of The Lions star players for the future, in *Wally Davis*, who not only has finished top scorer for the last 6 seasons but had scored 72 goals in 62 London Combination matches (10 of which were in 8 consecutive games).

W.O. Davis 42 London Combination League goals.

1917/18 Manager H.B. Lipsham.

This season *Millwall* were without star player *Wally Davis*, who had sustained a War injury to his leg. They only managed to finish second from bottom out of 10 teams thereby finishing 9th in the London Combination League. Goode 9 London Combination League goals.

1918/19 Manager R. Hunter.

This season mirrored the last and *Millwall* finished again second from bottom out of 10 teams. *Wally Davis* attempted a come back playing two games and scoring in one in January of 1919 but was forced to retire due to his leg injury. The Lions also play a London Victory Cup match at home to Arsenal but lose 0-1. *Millwall* finished 9th in the London Combination League. *Bill Voisey*, a regular first team player for *Millwall*, was capped by England against Wales in a Victory International at Cardiff in October 1919. This season saw the introduction of a new manager in that of *Bob Hunter*. He has been the club's trainer since the summer of 1897.

Thompson 9 London Combination League goals.

The Football League

1919/20 Manager R. Hunter.

This is the last season that *Millwall* will play in the Southern League. In fact the league may never be the same again as almost all the teams are invited to join the 3rd Division of the Football League. The Southern League will still continue, but if most of the teams leave it will never to be as strong again. In their final season *Millwall* finish 14th in the Southern League 1st Division. During the season *J. Broad* hits all four goals in the 4-2 home win over Northampton. They did however resume their use of The Den for representative games and staged the Southern League against the Corinthians in which the Southern League won 3-0. They also stage their second FA Amateur Cup final in which Dulwich Hamlet beat Tufnel Park 1-0.

J. Broad 32 Southern League goals.

1920/21 Manager R. Hunter.

Millwall are now a Football League club and they begin their first season as such in style. They win their first home and league game at the Den against Bristol Rovers 2-0 and they go on to play another 10 home games without conceding a goal. Crystal Palace were the first club to score a goal against Millwall at The Den and did so in the 87th minute, thereby ending 1,077 minutes of play before Millwall conceded a goal. This season saw the creation of a few records, one, was that Millwall were involved in 10, 0-0 draws, two, was that they kept 25 clean sheets, and three, was that they only let in 8 league goals all season. Also this season Millwall win the Lincoln Hospital Cup 2-1 away to host's Lincoln City (this happened to be Lincoln's first home defeat of the season) They finish 7th in the Football League Division 3 (South). Millwall also staged their first London Senior Cup Final in which Dulwich Hamlet appear at The Den for a second consecutive season this time losing to Barking 4-1.

W. Keen 10 Football League Division 3 goals.

1921/22 Manager R. Hunter.

As the Football League was expanding it was decided to regionalise the teams and form a Division 3 North and South. *Millwall* draw 18 of their league games this season to finish 12th in the Football League Division 3 (South). They also become the first 3rd Division side to reach the last eight of the FA Cup by beating Swansea Town 4-0, however they lose the quarter final game 0-3 to Huddersfield. The route to the 4th round was;

Round 1 (H) Ashington 4-2

Round 2 Crystal Palace (A) 0-0

Replay Crystal Palace (H) 2-0

Round 3 (H) Swansea Town 4-0

Quarter Final (A) Huddersfield Town 0-3

W. Keen 10 Football League Division 3 (South), 6 FA Cup goals.

1922/23 Manager R. Hunter.

Millwall draw 18 games again, the same as last season but this time they improve their league position to 6th in the Football League Division 3 (South). 39,700 watch the 0-0 home draw with Huddersfield. Also The Den hosts an England trial match and Millwall's own J. Lansdale plays in goal. They also have

a mass clear out at the end of the season by sacking 25 of their 40 professionals.

A.S. Moule 9 Football League Division 3 (South) goals. C. Hannerford 2 FA Cup. 1923/24 Manager R. Hunter.

Millwall's season's as a Football League club are getting better as this season they finish 3rd in the Football League Division 3 (South) by virtue of the fact that they won 8 more and drew 8 less games than last season. They also hold their third FA Amateur Cup final at The Den in which Clapton beat Erith & Belvedere 3-0

D.H. Morris 17 Football League Division 3 (South) goals.

1924/25 Manager R. Hunter.

This season was the first in which clubs played each other on a random basis, rather than successive weeks. Also *Millwall* sign Gillingham goalkeeper *Fred Fox* whom while at Gillingham was selected to play for England. He was transferred to *Millwall* but before he played, his England call up came, therefore making him the first *Millwall* player to play for his country before his club. They finish 5th in the Football League Division 3 (South) and also hold their forth FA Amateur Cup final in which Clapton appear for the second successive season and beat Southall 2-1.

A.S. Moule 18 Football League Division 3 (South) goals.

A. Lincoln 1 FA Cup goals.

1925/26 Manager R. Hunter.

Millwall go 11 consecutive games without conceding a goal (a league record) and they finish $3^{\rm rd}$ in the Football League Division 3 (South). Two memorable home results this season were the 8-1 defeat of Southend United, and the 7-0 defeat of Luton Town. *Millwall* smash their record home attendance this season, in the 0-1 FA Cup $5^{\rm th}$ round defeat by Swansea Town. A crowd of 42,250 watch the match.

A.S. Moule 15 Football League Division 3 (South) goals.

R. Parker 3 FA Cup goals.

1926/27 Manager R. Hunter.

Millwall start the season with a 6-1 home victory over Norwich City in which Richard Parker scored 5 goals and therefore has become Millwall's highest individual scorer in a league game. They also win 6-1 away to Crystal Palace creating their highest away league win. An odd statistic happened at Christmas when on Christmas Day Millwall played away at Luton Town only to suffer a 0-6 defeat and then two days later in played Luton in the home fixture where The Lions get their act together and inflict a 7-0 thumping. Richard Parker also created another club record by scoring 37 goals in 39 games. The Lions again smash their record home attendance. This time it is in the 3-2 FA Cup 5th round victory over Middlesbrough where a crowd of 44,250 watch the game. Millwall stage their fifth FA Amateur Cup final in which Leyton beat Barking 3-1. They finish 3rd in the Football League Division 3 (South).

R. Parker 37 Football League Division 3 (South) goals.

A.J. Black, A. Gomm, W.J. Phillips 2 FA Cup goals.

1927/28 Manager R. Hunter.

Millwall win the 3rd Division (South) Championship scoring 127 league goals (87 at home) a record for home goals scored in a season. They also win away 6-1 at Bristol Rovers which equalled their highest away league win, but better still,

they win 9-1 at home twice, against Torquay United and Coventry City to create their highest home league score. An interesting fact about the 9-1 defeat of Torquay United (which was Torquay's first ever away fixture in the league) was that nine days later *Millwall* win 1-0 away to become the first team ever to do the double over them in the league. *Millwall* also win the London FA Challenge Cup by beating Leyton 6-3 in the final (last won in 1914/15). Apart from the 9-1 home defeats of Torquay United and Coventry City other memorable home results were;

5-1 Southend United

7-1 Walsall

6-0 Brighton & Hove Albion

5-0 Charlton

6-1 Queens Park Rangers

5-1 Newport County

6-0 Gillingham

and one fine away result was;

6-1 Bristol Rovers

J. Landells 33 Football League Division 3 (South) goals.

J.G. Cock 1 FA Cup goal.

Full Members

1928/29 Manager R. Hunter.

Millwall's first game in Division 2 was a home fixture in which a record crowd of 35,000 saw them lose 0-1 against Notts County. This season was a struggle in the 2nd Division and they finally finish 14th in the Football League Division 2 after losing 11 of their last 14 games. They make the final of the London FA Challenge Cup but this time lose 1-5 to Spurs. Also this season Millwall decided to give referee's a grey blazer in order that their black shirts do not clash with the dark blue shirts of Millwall (most referee's take up the offer but it did not stop the team from struggling for a few seasons).

J.G. Cock 22 Football League Division 2, 3 FA Cup goals.

1929/30 Manager R. Hunter.

Millwall struggle again and finish 14th in the Football League Division 2. One landmark this season was the 250th league appearance of *Jack Fort*. He played his one and only game this season in the 1-1 home draw with Bristol City at the ripe old age of 41 years and 8 months to become *Millwall's* oldest league player. J.G. Cock 15 Football League Division 2 goals.

W.J. Corkindale 3 FA Cup goals.

1930/31 Manager R. Hunter.

Millwall complete a hat trick in as far as they yet again finish 14th in the Football League Division 2. A season not unlike the previous two and bringing two matches of note i.e. on the 15th Nov. the legendary "Dixie Dean" played in his one and only game at the Den in which Everton run out 1-3 winners, and the other, another home defeat by Preston North End 5-7, (it had been a long time since The Den faithful had seen 12 goals in one match).

J.G. Cock 15 Football League Division 2 goals.

J. Poxton 1 FA Cup goal.

1931/32 Manager R. Hunter.

This season <code>Jack Cock</code>, <code>Millwall's</code> leading goalscorer for the last three seasons sets a club aggregate record of 77 goals from 115 games (1927-31) and <code>Millwall</code> suffer their worst home league defeat losing 1-8 to Plymouth Argyle. After finishing 14^{th} for three consecutive seasons <code>Millwall</code> finish 9^{th} in the Football League Division 2.

L. Smith 16 Football League Division 2 goals.

L. Smith, J. Poxton 1 FA Cup goal.

1932/33 Manager R. Hunter / W. McCracken.

Millwall finish 7th in the Football League Division 2, their highest league position to date. Early in the season they suffer a humiliating defeat against Manchester United at Old Trafford 1-7 but gain revenge in the return home game 2-0 to beat Manchester United for the first time. Also this season saw the death of the great Bob Hunter, who had been connected with the club as trainer or manager since 1897. In honour, his funeral cortege began not from his home in Blackheath, but from Cold Blow Lane.

G.A. Bond 16 Football League Division 2 goals.

G.A. Bond, A. Bloxham, J. Poxton 1 FA Cup goal.

1933/34 Manager W. McCracken.

Bill McCracken, the former Newcastle United player and Hull City manager becomes the first person outside of *Millwall* to become manager. Unfortunately they have a disastrous season and after losing their last game of the season 0-2 at home to fellow strugglers Manchester United *Millwall* finish 21st in the Football League Division 2 and are relegated (for the first time in the clubs history) back into Division 3 South. They score just 39 league goals, which was not only the lowest in the division, but in the whole league.

L.B. Fishlock 7 Football League Division 2 goals.

J. Yardley 4 FA Cup goals.

1934/35 Manager W. McCracken.

Millwall start the season in bright form, winning their first 6 matches (which to this day is one of their best league starts). However it all goes wrong and they win just 11 more games to finish 12th in the Football League Division 3 (South). They also reach the final of the London FA Challenge Cup (the last time they made the final was 1928/29) only to lose 1-2 to Brentford after extra time. J. Yardley 15 Football League Division 3 (South), 2 FA Cup goals.

1935/36 Manager W. McCracken / C. Hewitt.

This season sees *Bill McCracken* resign and *Charlie Hewitt* take over as manager. *Millwall* have some disastrous early away results going down 0-5 at Coventry City, 0-6 at Southend United and 0-5 at Crystal Palace but rally from December onwards to finish again 12th in the Football League Division 3 (South). One highlight of the season was in the away 3-1 win at Gillingham. For in this match *J. Thorogood* scores *Millwall's* 1,000th Football League goal. During the close season *Charlie Hewitt* will completely revamp The Den, everything is to be repainted, gas lighting is to be scrapped and electricity installed, corner flags are to be used for the first time, the club programme will be made bigger but is to remain at the old price, and there will be the formation of a supporters club. Also the club are to change their colours from the old dark blue to the lighter royal blue and wear a red lion on their shirts (*Millwall* will be one of the first clubs to wear a club badge).

J. McCartney 13 Football League Division 3 (South) goals.

1936/37 Manager C. Hewitt.

As mentioned last season, *Charlie Hewitt* revamped The Den and *Millwall* become the first Football League 3rd Division side to reach the semi-finals of the FA Cup. The run up to the semi's saw no fewer than five home ties before they lost 1-2 to Sunderland at Leeds Road, Huddersfield. *Millwall's* 5th round home tie against Derby County saw a record capacity crowd of 48,762 squeeze into The Den (this was the official attendance but it was felt that figure was at least in excess of 50,000). The cup run was:

1st round 6-1 Aldershot
2nd round 7-0 Gateshead
3rd round 2-0 Fulham
4th round 3-0 Chelsea
5th round 2-1 Derby County
6th round 2-0 Manchester City
Semi Final 1-2 Sunderland

Also this season the largest clock ever erected at a football ground went up at the North Terrace. Millwall finish 8^{th} in the Football League Division 3 (South).

They also make the final of the 3rd Division (South) Cup against Watford, which ended 2-2. The replay also ended in a draw 1-1 so *Millwall* were declared joint holders. Strangely the final was not played until September / October 1937/38. F.C.K. Burditt 17 Football League Division 3 (South) goals. D. Mangnall 9 FA Cup goals.

1937/38 Manager C. Hewitt.

Millwall win promotion back to the 2nd Division. They start of in their usual slow way but soon get to grips and by 16th October they top the table for the first time under *Charlie Hewitt* by beating Southend United 1-0. This top position was short lived and after 27 games The Lions were sitting in 11th spot. It appeared to be the same old story, but convincing results against Torquay United 7-0 and Notts County and Gillingham 5-0 at home put *Millwall* back on the right tracks. With only losing one of their last 17 games (the final 6 matches were all won) *Millwall* finished the season as Champions of the Football League Division 3 (South). They also stage their 6th FA Amateur Cup Final (the most by any club) in which Bromley beat Erith & Belvedere 1-0. Also *Millwall* win the London FA Challenge Cup beating Crystal Palace 4-0 in the final.

D. Mangnall 16 Football League Division 3 (South) goals.

F.C.K. Burditt, J.R. Smith, W. Walsh 1 FA Cup goal.

1938/39 Manager C. Hewitt.

During the close season a running track was introduced around the ground and the clock was moved from the North Terrace to the Canterbury Road end, also a new scoreboard was erected and Charlie Hewitt was made General Manager/Secretary (the first ever by a Football Club). Millwall struggle in the 2nd Division as they did before and win only two away games all season, one of which, the game at Norwich City, was attended by King George IV. This was the first time a reigning monarch had attended a Football League match. Millwall finish 13th in the Football League Division 2. During the season there was a piece of history made as far as Millwall F.C. goes for Reg Smith and Tom Brolly were both capped for their countries in the England versus Ireland Home international (Smith for England and Brolly for Ireland). England won the game 7-0. The two England wingers on that day were our own Reg Smith and the infamous Stanley Matthews. Also during this season the Duke of Norfolk was asked to become our first President, a position to which he accepts. Two points of note were, firstly, the consecutive matches against Newcastle away (37,166), West Bromwich Albion at home (35,369), and Tottenham Hotspur away (48,103) attracted the highest league attendance's on the day. This is the only time that this has happened consecutively in a clubs history. Secondly was the 6-1 mauling of Manchester City at Main Road, and the 6-0 slaughter of Norwich City at home.

J.S. Rawlings 13 Football League Division 2 goals.

J.S. McLeod 7 FA Cup goals.

1939/40 Manager C. Hewit.

During the close season the goals were changed from that of square posts and crossbar to that of round ones. This season also saw numbers being worn on a *Millwall* shirt for the first time. *Millwall* started the season of well with a 3-0 home win over Newcastle United, unfortunately two days later they lose at home 0-2 to Plymouth Argyle then follow that with a 2-2 draw away to Bradford Park Avenue. However the following day September 3rd 1939 England declare war on Germany due to their invasion of Poland and so the Football League was suspended.

J.R. Richardson 3 Football League Division 2 goals.

The War Years (1939-1946)

1939/40 Manager C. Hewitt.

Due to the outbreak of war the Football League was suspended and regionalised. *Millwall* were placed into two groups League South (A) Division, and League South (C) Division. The FA Cup was also suspended but in its place was the Football League War Cup. *Millwall* finished 3rd in the League South (A) Division, and were the only team to be unbeaten at home.

They finish 5th in the League South (C) Division and go out of the War Cup 2-3 on aggregate to Norwich City as this was a two legged affair.

J.T. Jinks 16 League South (A) Division, 17 League South (C) Division goals.

F.W. Fisher, J.T. Jinks 1 Football League War Cup goal.

1940/41 Manager W. Voisey.

This season the League was split into a North and South which meant that a total of 32 teams would be in Millwall's section. Teams only played as and when they could so by the end of the season Stoke City had played 36 games, Luton Town and Watford 35, Millwall 31 and Coventry City and Swansea only 10, so for this season only it was decided that the championship was to be settled on goal average. If it had been settled on points Millwall would have finished 6th but alas, they had to be content with the goal average system and therefore finished 11th in the South Regional League. A London War Cup was formed on a league basis in which Millwall only manage to finish 5th in group (B), and they go out again of the War Cup 3-4 on aggregate to Southend United. One of the War Cup ties sees Bill Voisey play at the ripe old age of 51. Two other games of note this season were firstly the home game against Crystal Palace in which due to an airraid the match was abandoned after 40 minutes with Millwall winning 1-0, and the second was another home match this time against Luton Town and again due to an air-raid the game started over two hours late and because of bad light only 35 minutes were played, this time Millwall were winning 2-0. However the league decreed that both results should stand.

J.T. Jinks 23 South Regional League goals.

Reeve 3 London War Cup (B) goals.

F.W. Fisher 2 Football League War Cup goals.

1941/42 Manager W. Voisey.

Millwall along with Arsenal, Brentford, Charlton, Chelsea, Fulham, Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United all refuse to carry out this seasons fixtures as they all agree that the idea of having two leagues and all the travelling and possibly fixture pile-ups that this may incur was not acceptable to them, so they all were expelled from the Football League. In view of this they all decide, along with Aldershot, Brighton & Hove Albion, Clapton Orient, Crystal Palace, Portsmouth, Queens Park Rangers, Reading and Watford to form a London League. Millwall finish 14th in the London League and due to commitments elsewhere are forced to use "guest" players, something that other clubs have been doing since the War began. In total Millwall use 69 players this season. They also finish 2nd in the London War Cup (group 2).

Bell 13 London League goals.

Heathcote 5 London War Cup (group 2) goals.

1942/43 Manager W. Voisey.

Millwall along with the various other clubs settle their differences with the Football League and are accepted back into the fold. Due to the War taking a tighter grip Millwall are forced to use no fewer than 83 players this season. Then disaster struck, for with the season nearly over a German bomb hit The Den leaving only the Main Stand standing and spreading debris all over the pitch. With the London Senior Cup Final being held at the Den a week later volunteers set about clearing the pitch and terracing. The game between Dulwich Hamlet and Tooting & Mitcham went ahead on the Easter Monday with the Hamlet winning 5-4, but then what is believed to be a discarded cigarette or match absent mindedly thrown away, the Main Stand within 30 minutes of the final whistle was totally ablaze. Within the space of seven days The Lions Den was virtually distorted. Millwall manage to finish the season 16th in the Football League South Cup (group 3).

Heathcote 11 Football League South goals.

Heathcote, Lowes, Loom 1 Football League South Cup (group 3) goal.

1943/44 Manager W. Voisey.

Millwall began this campaign with their home games being played at several London grounds due to the devastation of last season. They came back to The Den in March 1944 and celebrate with a 5-0 victory over Portsmouth in the Football League South Cup (group 3). Two weeks later in the same competition Millwall lose at home by the same score to Aldershot Town. "Guesting" for Millwall on this occasion was Ron Greenwood, whilst playing at half back for Aldershot was Joe Mercer. Millwall finish 10th in the Football League South and 3rd in the Football League South Cup (group C).

Dean 15 Football League South goals.

Law 3 Football League South Cup (group C) goals.

1944/45 Manager W. Voisey / J. Cock.

Millwall start the season under Bill Voisey but, in November appoint their record goalscorer Jack Cock. They have a disastrous start and do not win a match until the 4-1 away game against Charlton Athletic on the 30th December 1944. It's not until the 27th April 1945, with only 3 home games to go, that Millwall win at The Den for their first home league win of the season. Millwall finish 17th in the Football League South but win the Football League South Cup (group 2). In this competition they lose only one game to Brighton & Hove Albion 2-6 (at the Goldstone) and "guesting" for Millwall on that day was the infamous Tommy Lawton. However by winning their group Millwall go on to play Arsenal in the semi-final and after surviving two penalties they win 1-0 (one of which was with only 2 minutes to go). They then faced Chelsea in the final at Wembley, which was played in front of the King and Queen and which Millwall lost 2-0. However 90,000 people attended this Wembley occasion which is the highest crowd ever to see a Millwall team and the first time Millwall have ever played at Wembley. J.T. Jinks 10 Football League South, 6 Football League South Cup goals.

Group 2

	Home							Away						
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts		
Millwall	6	3	0	0	5	2	1	1	1	7	9	9		
Fulham	6	2	0	1	7	5	2	0	1	8	4	8		
Brighton & H.	6	1	0	2	9	9	1	0	2	7	9	4		
Brentford	6	0	1	2	7	12	1	0	2	6	6	3		

Group 1

	Home							Away						
	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α		W	D	L	F	Α	Pts	
Arsenal	6	2	0	1	10) 4		3	0	0	10) 4	10	
Portsmouth	6	2	0	1	11	15		2	0	1	5	3	8	
Reading	6	1	1	1	4	5		0	1	2	1	9	4	
Clapton O.	6	0	1	2	2	5		0	1	2	3	11	12	

Group 3

	Home							Away						
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α		W	D	L	F	Α	Pts	
West Ham Utd.	6	3	0	0	10	0		1	1	1	4	6	9	
Q.P.R.	6	2	1	0	4	2		1	1	1	3	6	8	
Tottenham H.	6	2	1	0	11	2		1	0	2	2	2	7	
Aldershot	6	0	0	3	1	7		0	0	3	2	12	26	

Group 4

	Home							Away						
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts		
Chelsea	6	3	0	0	9	2	2	1	0	4	1	11		
Southampton	6	3	0	0	18	5	1	2	0	11	6	10		
Charlton	6	2	1	0	8	2	2	0	1	8	3	9		
Luton	6	1	1	1	3	3	0	0	3	5	22	23		
Crystal Palace	6	0	2	1	4	6	0	0	3	1	7	2		
Watford	6	0	0	3	3	14	0	1	2	3	6	1		

Semi-Final

Millwall 1 Arsenal 0 Chelsea 2 West Ham Utd. 1

FA Cup Final (at Wembley)

Millwall 0 Chelsea 2

The "League that never was".

1945/46 Manager J. Cock.

This season was known as the "transitional period" as far as the Football League were concerned. "Guest" players were still allowed to play in league games but, not in the FA Cup. Also for this season only, the FA Cup was a two legged competition where unfortunately Millwall suffered their biggest cup defeat 1-9 to Aston Villa in the second leg after losing 2-4 in the first making the aggregate score 3-13. The "transitional period" meant that the 1st and 2nd Divisions were put together and then split into a "North" and "South" (this was because of travelling reasons as money was still short due to the War) and fixtures went back to home and away matches on consecutive weeks as in the 1920's. Records for this season were unofficial so it is often referred to as the "League that never was". From Millwall's point of view this was a good thing because apart from a few convincing wins Millwall, suffered some horrendous defeats. However one victory (the 2-1 victory over Wolves at Molyneux) was unusual in that Millwall's two "guest" players from Spurs, Almer Hall and George Ludford were nowhere to be seen at kick-off time so they had to start the match with only nine men, however after 10 minutes they appeared out of the tunnel to cheers from the Millwall supporters. Millwall also had other wins in;

Home A

5-1 Swansea Town 6-2 Leicester City

5-1 Birmingham City

5-3 Southampton

6-1 Plymouth Argyle

but some terrible defeats as;

Home Away

0-8 Chelsea 1-5 Tottenham Hotspur

1-7 Brentford

0-5 Swansea Town

1-8 Derby County

2-7 Coventry City

0-7 Fulham

 ${\it Millwall}$ finish 12th in the Football League South, but they make the final of the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup and draw with Gillingham 2-2 to become joint holders.

J.T. Jinks, W.P. Hurrell 16 Football League South goals.

J.R. Smith 3 FA Cup goals.

Chapter 7 The Post War Years

1946/47 Manager J. Cock.

The Football League resumes and Millwall take their place in the 2nd Division. League rules now apply so no "guest" players are allowed and The Lions begin to rebuild their squad. Large gates return to The Den and the League programme begins with a 1-4 home defeat against Newcastle United (this was the opening fixture of the season when Millwall had played only 3 matches before War broke out in 1939/40. Millwall won that game 3-0). There were two games of note this season, the first was the 2-5 away defeat at Bury where Eddie Quigley scored all 5 goals for the home team (this is the only time a player has scored 5 goals in one match against Millwall), the other was the away match at Swansea where the Millwall team left London on the 08.55 train which would get them to Swansea in plenty of time before the kick off. Instead the train arrived at 4pm (one hour after kick off) but there was little the League could do about it for on the train was a very important witness, the referee. One other fact this season was that due to an exceptionally bad winter the league was extended to June (the only time this has ever happened). Millwall finish 18th in the Football League Division 2.

J. Johnson 10 Football League Division 2 goals.

1947/48 Manager J. Cock.

Millwall have a bad season and go 6 matches with out scoring a league goal (December 21st to January 26th). In the 1-7 home defeat by Bury, both Constantine and Daniel score a hat-trick each (the only players ever to do so in the same game against Millwall). There was only one good win of the season and that was the last home game against Coventry City which The Lions won 6-2. Millwall finish 22nd in the Football League Division 2 and are relegated. However they make the final of the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup and beat Gillingham 4-0. Due to an 'unruly incident' in the home match against Burnley, The Den is closed for seven days and Millwall are fined £100.

W.P. Hurrell 7 Football League Division 2 goals.

R.W. Mansfield 1 FA Cup goal.

1948/49 Manager C. Hewitt.

Charlie Hewitt returns to the Den and signs Jimmy Constantine who the previous season had scored one of the two hat-tricks for Bury against The Lions. Jimmy Constantine was to play a significant part in the away game against Walsall in which the towns Lord Mayor described the match as "the finest game ever seen at Fellows Park", for after 20 minutes Millwall's goalkeeper Finlayson was carried of and rushed to hospital. Constantine put on the 'keepers jersey and play continued until half time with the score 1-2 to Walsall. The second half began and Millwall conceded a third goal, but while this was going on Finlayson had returned to the ground in a somewhat dazed state but was allowed to carry on playing. So Constantine was pushed back up front and from that moment on Millwall really began to play. They pulled two goals back to make it 3-3 but then conceded a goal 3-4 before scoring two themselves to make it 5-4. Then Walsall had four consecutive shots all of which hit the woodwork before at their fifth attempt equalising 5-5 with just six minutes to go. However in the dying minutes Millwall slotted in goal number six to make the final score 6-5 to Millwall. Towards the end of the season Millwall entertain Celtic in a friendly at The Den and win 3-2. Playing on that day for the Bhoys was a very young Tommy Docherty. Millwall finish 8th in the Football League Division 3 (South). They again make the final of the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup and retain it by drawing with Charlton Athletic 1-1 and sharing as joint holders.

J. Constantine 23 Football League Division 3 (South), 2 FA Cup goals.

1949/50 Manager C. Hewitt.

Millwall have a disastrous season winning only 12 matches (10 at home) and finish 22nd in the Football League Division 3 (South) and have to apply for reelection. To add injury to insult they have their ground closed for the forth time due to crowd behaviour. They are successfully re-elected and the Division is also extended by a further two sides to 24 teams Millwall play Charlton Athletic again in the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup final but this time lose 1-2 after a replay. J. Constantine 12 Football League Division 3 (South), 2 FA Cup goals.

1950/51 Manager C. Hewitt.

A far better season this campaign, and *Millwall* finish 5th in the Football League Division 3 (South) and play Charlton Athletic again in the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup final but this time win convincingly 6-1. They have a good FA Cup run and reach the 4th round for the first time since 1937. The fans where given an unusual treat at the end of the season in the three friendlies that *Millwall* held at home in the Festival of Britain. The first was a 3-3 draw with H.F.C. Harlem, the second a 2-1 defeat of Dundee Utd, and the third was a 2-1 defeat of R.C. Anderlecht.

J. Constantine 26 Football League Division 3 (South) goals.

H.F. Neary 4 FA Cup goals.

1951/52 Manager C. Hewitt.

This season *Millwall* play Gillingham in the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup final and retain the trophy by beating them 1-0. *Millwall* finish 4th in the Football League Division 3 (South). They also buy The Den on the 4th December 1951 for £30,000 from the Railways.

H.F. Neary 15 Football League Division 3 (South) goals.

A. White 1 FA Cup goal.

1952/53 Manager C. Hewitt.

Millwall have a very good season and finish runners-up in the Football League Division 3 (South) to Bristol Rovers. They also beat Charlton Athletic again in the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup final 3-2 and retain the trophy for the 3rd successive year. Also this season saw a landmark in the clubs history in that they appoint Ron Grey as the clubs first Assistant Manager to Charlie Hewitt. This season also saw J. Sheppard score all 4 goals in his debut for the club in the away win at Leyton Orient. For some reason Millwall borrow Arsenals away colours of white shirts and black shorts for their last 4 away matches of this season.

J.H. Sheppard 15 Football League Division 3 (South), 6 FA Cup goals.

1953/54 Manager C. Hewitt.

After ending last season as runners-up *Millwall* start this season as favourites to win the league. Alas they finish 12th in the Football League Division 3 (South), however this season did go down as a landmark in the clubs history for at a cost of £15,000 floodlights were erected and on October 5th 1953 Manchester United are invited to play a friendly to commemorate the big switch-on which *Millwall* win 2-1. On March 29th 1954 *Millwall* played another friendly, this time against

Sheffield United and drew 2-2, however, the BBC were there and showed the whole of the second half live and this was broadcast as the first floodlit match ever to be shown on television. They again play Charlton Athletic in the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup final but lose 2-3.

G.C. Stobbart 17 Football League Division 3 (South), 3 FA Cup goals.

1954/55 Manager C. Hewitt.

A slightly better season and *Millwall* finish 5th in the Football League Division 3 (South), however this was 19 points behind Bristol City who won the championship. This season was also a make or break season for *Charlie Hewitt* as the fans are starting to become disillusioned with him. He does his cause no good when at the end of the season he sells some of his "Young Lions" again to the annoyance of the fans. They again play Charlton Athletic in the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup and again lose this time 2-4.

J.H. Summers 13 Football League Division 3 (South) goals.

D.F. Pacey 3 FA Cup goals.

1955/56 Manager C. Hewitt / R. Gray.

In January 1956 *Millwall* sack *Charlie Hewitt* after a dismal start to the new season and appoint *Ron Gray* as their new manager. In his first game in charge *Millwall* thrash Gillingham at the Den 5-0 but, alas this was not the shape of things to come and *Millwall* continue their bad form and narrowly miss having to apply for re-election by finishing 22nd in the Football League Division 3 (South) only after winning their last 3 matches. The 1-2 away defeat at Leyton Orient was double edged in as far as it marked Orient's return to Division 2 as champions but also brought the total of goals conceded this season to 100 for the first time in the clubs history. Ironically one of the last 3 matches that *Millwall* had to win to stave off that re-election threat was at home to Orient in which *Millwall* won 5-0. In the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup *Millwall* play Charlton Athletic for the 4th consecutive time in the final, this time sharing the trophy after a 3-3 draw.

J.H. Summers 24 Football League Division 3 (South) goals.

D.F. Pacey 1 FA Cup goal.

1956/57 Manager R. Gray.

A marginally better season finishing 17th in the Football League Division 3 (South). However they save their best football for the FA Cup. *John Shepherd* goes down in the clubs record books by scoring a total of 15 goals in the FA Cup (9 of which came in 3 separate hat-tricks), and scoring in all rounds this season bar one before *Millwall* go out in the 5th round 1-4 to Birmingham City (the first time *Millwall* have reached the 5th round since 1937). In the league *Millwall* lose 2-7 away to Torquay United only to win by the same score at the Den. Also *Millwall* play their first league match under floodlights at home to Aldershot and win 5-1. They again play Charlton Athletic in the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup final and win 3-0. They also make the final of the London F.A. Challenge Cup (the last time they played in the final was in 1937/38) only to lose 1-3 to West Ham United.

J.H. Shepherd 17 Football League Division 3 (South), 7 FA Cup goals.

1957/58 Manager R. Gray / J.M. Seed.

The Football League decide that at the end of the 57/58 season a new 4th Division would be formed and that the teams in the lower halves of the Division 3 (South) & (North) would form the new League. *Millwall* start of the season

well but soon hit a bad run and on New Years Day *Ron Gray* resigns. *Jimmy Seed* the ex-Charlton manager is installed as the new boss and makes the worst ever start by a manager at the club by going the first 9 matches without a win. *Millwall* finish a poor 23rd in the Football League Division 3 (South) and not only do they become eligible for the new League, they also have to apply for reelection for the 2nd time. Due to their history *Millwall* receive 46 of the possible 49 votes and are comfortably re-elected to the new 4th Division. Incidentally this season was *Millwall's* tenth successive season in the Division 3 (South) the longest run in the clubs history. *Millwall* play their old rivals Charlton Athletic yet again in the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup final but lose 1-2.

J.H. Shepherd 11 Football League Division 3 (South) goals.

A.C. Morrison, R.D. Summersby, J.H. Shepherd 1 FA Cup goal.

1958/59 Manager J.M. Seed.

Millwall play their first season in the 4th Division and win both their first home and away matches, 2-1 away to Gillingham and 1-0 at home to Carlisle Utd. They finish 9th in the Football League Division 4 and at the end of the season finish with the services of *Jimmy Seed* after just one season in charge. They bring in an old Den favourite, *J. R. "Reggie" Smith* and keep *Ron Gray* as Assistant Manager. *Millwall* play Charlton Athletic again in the final of the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup and share the trophy 1-1.

R. E. Heckman 11 Football League Division 4 goals.

R. E. Heckman, J. Hutton, A. R. Moyse, J. A. Roche, R. D. Summersby 1 FA Cup.

1959/60 Manager J. R. Smith.

Millwall get off to a record breaking start under their new Manager "Reggie" Smith going their first 19 matches without defeat. Unfortunately 11 of these games were all drawn and Millwall found themselves in only 2nd position in the league. The rest of the season was a mixed bag of results and eventually they finish 5th in the Football League Division 4 just missing out on promotion. Millwall play Charlton Athletic for the 8th consecutive time in the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup final and lose 1-2.

A. A. E. Ackerman 18 Football League Division 4 goals.

S. Wilson 1 FA Cup goal.

1960/61 Manager J. R. Smith / R. Gray.

Millwall enter the new League Cup and play their first fixture in this competition at home to Chelsea. Unfortunately they are on the wrong end of a thrashing and are beaten 1-7. In January for no apparent reason they sack "Reggie" Smith and Ron Gray takes over for the remainder of the season as Caretaker Manager. They have a fairly good season and finish 6th in the Football League Division 4. P. J. Burridge scores 35 goals this season to become the highest goalscorer since R. Parker's 37 goals in season 1926/27. Millwall play their old rivals Charlton Athletic yet again in the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup final and lose 1-5.

P. J. Burridge 35 Football League Division 4, 2 FA Cup, 1 Football League Cup.

1961/62 Manager R. Gray.

Ron Gray is promoted back to Manager for his second spell in charge of the club. The team respond by winning the title to become Champions of the Football League Division 4 in a season which saw the collapse of one of the Leagues founder members Accrington Stanley. With losses of around £60,000 Accrington Stanley resign from the League and therefore all their results were declared null

and void. At the time of the collapse Colchester were leading the division and as they had already played Stanley both at home and away (both wins) they had 4 points deducted as opposed to *Millwall's* 2 points (*Millwall* having only played Stanley once, winning away) meaning that *Millwall* closed the gap by a further 2 points, to just 1 point. These points were to play an important part at the end of the season. One match of note this season was the away win at Chester. With just six minutes left, *Millwall* were trailing 1-2 when up pops *Dave Jones* in the 84th, 86th, and 88th minutes to score one of the most amazing hat-tricks in the clubs history and thereby win the match 4-2. *Millwall* play Charlton Athletic yet again in the 10th consecutive final of the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup this time winning 3-0. They also make the final of the London F.A. Challenge Cup (having last played in the final in 1956/57) but unfortunately lose to Arsenal 1-3.

P. J. Burridge 23 Football League Division 4, 1 Football League Cup goals.

1962/63 Manager R. Gray.

Millwall struggle to find any real form in Division 3 and need to win one of their last two matches in the league to avoid going straight back down. Fortunately they win the home game against Barnsley 4-1 (losing their final game 0-3 at Halifax Town) and get the two points required. They finish 16th in the Football League Division 3.

- P. A. Terry 18 Football League Division 3 goals.
- D. W. L. Jones 2 FA Cup goals.
- E. J. Towers 1 Football League Cup goal.

1963/64 Manager R. Gray / W. P. Gray.

Millwall get off to a record breaking 7 home defeats in a row and in November 1963 sack Ron Gray. They install Billy Gray as the new Manager (who is no relation) and get of to a good start under the new "boss", but it was short lived and Millwall finish 21st in the Football League Division 3, and are thereby relegated back to Division 4. However after going out in the 1st round of the League Cup every season that they have been in it so far, this season they have a good run before they finally get knocked out in the 4th round away to Rotherham Utd. 2-5. After missing their "annual" local derby against Charlton Athletic in the final of the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup last season, Millwall make the final this year and play Charlton Athletic yet again sharing the cup 1-1.

- P. A. Terry 10 Football League Division 3 goals, 1 FA Cup goal.
- G. Fraser, H. R. Obeney 1 FA Cup goal.
- J. McLaughlin 6 Football League Cup goals.

The Lion Kings of the Den

1964/65 Manager W. P. Gray.

Millwall start life again in Division 4 and go all season unbeaten at home. They also have a good FA Cup run with the 3rd round replay at the Den against Fulham being one of the season's highlights. Playing for Fulham that day were three names that have gone down in football history. First, Johnny Haynes, an England legend, second, George Cohen who became an England full-back and was to play in the 1966 England World Cup winning team, and third, Bobby Robson who again was not only an England International but also became the national manager and led England to the semi-final of the 1990 World Cup only to loose 4-3 on penalties to West Germany. A crowd of 31,339 saw the match against Fulham (one of the biggest attendance's at the Den for some seasons) and through sheer numbers one of the entrance gates collapsed and hundreds of the crowd got in free. However Millwall played some outstanding football and won the match 2-0 to the delight of the crowd so much so that of the hundreds of fans that got in free most of them actually sent in their entrance fee through the post. To crown a good season Millwall win their final match of the season away to Notts. County to finish 2nd in the Football League Division 4 and runnersup to Brighton & Hove Albion to thereby win promotion back to Division 3. Old rivals Charlton Athletic join Millwall in the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup final again in which Millwall get hammered 0-5.

H.P. Curran 18 Football League Division 4 goals.

- J. Whitehouse 4 FA Cup goals.
- B. Rowan 2 Football League Cup goals.

1965/66 Manager W. P. Gray / B. R. V. Fenton

This season Goerge Jacks becomes the first Millwall player to play as a substitute in the Football League, coming on for the injured Ken Jones. Millwall's away defeat at Hull City 0-1, was watched by a record 40,231 crowd for a Division 3 match. Unfortunately this season saw an increase in crowd trouble, and people started to link the word 'hooligan's' with the supporters of the club. On the 28th January Millwall's away match at Workington was beamed back live to The Den, where 9,134 fans saw interviews before the game. The match was introduced by *Danny Blanchflower* and ended 0-0. During the away game with Q.P.R. violence with the fans again reared its ugly head. After the match, due to a comment made by one of the directors, *Billy Gray* resigns. However, he agrees to stay until it is mathematically assured that Millwall are promoted then he makes way for *Benny Fenton* to take charge of the final two games. The Lions finish 2nd in the Football League Division 3, and did not loose a home again game all season. This means that *Millwall* have not lost a home match in the League for the last two seasons, a total of 46 matches.

L. B. Julians 22 Football League Division 3 goals.

B. Rowan, M. J. Brown, G. C. Jacks 1 FA Cup goal.

W. W. Neil 3 Football League Cup goals.

1966/67 Manager B. R. V. Fenton

This season saw a couple of landmarks in that on the 7th January *Harry Cri*pps scores *Millwall's* 1,000th Football League goal, in the 2-1 away defeat of Northampton Town, and one week later in the home match against Plymouth Argyle The Lions were defeated 1-2 for the first time since the beginning of the 64/65 season making a total of 59 home games without defeat. This run

spanned through 3 Divisions, taking them from the 4th Division to the 2nd Division in successive seasons. Unfortunately there was crowd trouble again after this game. In the FA Cup *Millwall* drew Spurs at home and appeared on "Match of the Day" for the first time. The game ended 0-0, with Spurs winning the replay 0-1 and going on to win the competition. *Millwall* again play Charlton Athletic in the Kent F.A. Challenge Cup final on lose 2-3. The Lions finish 8th in the Football League Division 2.

L. B. Julians 17 Football League Division 2 goals.

1967/68 Manager B. R. V. Fenton

This season *Millwall* buy their two most expensive strikers to-date, *Keith Weller* and *Derek Possee*, from Spurs for £17,500 and £25,000 respectively. They also buy *Bryan King* from non-league Chelmsford for £3,000. Also this season *Millwall* install new floodlights, four giant pylons each with four massive 3'6" bulbs. The Lions finish 7th in the Football League Division 2.

K. Weller 14 Football League Division 2 goals.

G. C. Jacks and R. R. Hunt 2 Football League Cup goals.

1968/69 Manager B. R. V. Fenton

Near the end of the first half of the season *Millwall* sat proudly at the top of the table, played 19 with 26 points, 2 points clear of second placed Derby County. However, in the last third of the season they equal their worst ever run-in, in that they only manage to pick up 2 points from their last eight matches (they last did this 40 years ago). On a brighter note, at the beginning of the campaign they beat Charlton Athletic, at the Valley. This was the first time that they had done so in the League since 1933. A first this season was the debut of *Frank Peterson*, who became *Millwall's* first ever "black" player. The Lions finish 10th in the Football League Division 2.

K. Weller 16 Football League Division 2 goals.

D. J. Possee, R. R. Howell 1 FA Cup goal.

K. B. Jones, E. M. Dunphy, B. R. Kitchener and R. W. Plume 1 Football League Cup goal.

1969/70 Manager B. R. V. Fenton

Millwall have a poor start to the season and crowds on average are down 3,000. After losing to Cardiff in December Chairman Mr. M. Purser has his car showrooms in the Old Kent Road vandalised. Once again the small element of so called Millwall "fans" give the club some bad press. On their exit from the FA Cup at Scunthorpe, The Lions were run ragged by their right-winger. So after the match and through the whole of December Benny Fenton pestered Scunthorpe, and offered £10,000 for him. Eventually they agreed to the transfer but put the price up to £15,000. Enquiries went back and forth for a while with neither club changing their price. So Kevin Keegan never did sign for The Lions. They finish 10th in the Football League Division 2.

D. J. Possee 18 Football League Division 2 goals and 1 Football League Cup goal.

G. E. Bolland 1 FA Cup goal.

1970/71 Manager B. R. V. Fenton

Crowds are still low and *Millwall* start the season poorly. However, they do turn this around and finish 8th in the Football League Division 2. They do set a record for a League club though, albeit a bad one in that they have gone 24 FA Cup matches away from home that has not ended in a victory when they lost 1-2 to

Stoke City. Ironically the team they took the record from was Stoke City. A better record to be set by the club however was that *Eamonn Dunphy* played his 23rd match for Eire, of which 22 of these are as a *Millwall* player, to become the clubs most Internationally capped player.

- B. J. Bridges 15 Football League Division 2 goals.
- D. J. Possee 1 FA Cup and 2 Football League Cup goals.

1971/72 Manager B. R. V. Fenton

What a season! Harry Cripps plays his 300th game for the club in the opening match of the season against Blackpool, and sets up the winner for Gordon Bolland for The Lions to win 1-0. In the away 1-1 draw against Q.P.R., Eamonn Dunphy scores direct from a corner. Gordon Bolland scores in the 3-1 home win against Bristol City and the goal goes on to become Octobers "Goal of the Month" on Match of the Day. Mid-season Millwall were joint top only 2nd on goal average with Norwich City, but 5 points clear of 3rd place Q.P.R.. In the home game against Middlesbrough *Harry Cripps* equals *Len Graham's* League record of 313 matches. After 31 matches in the League The Lions were top, one point clear of Norwich (but Norwich had a game in hand). So everything goes on to the last game of the season which was home to Presto North End. Millwall have to win, Birmingham have to lose. The Lions were 2-0 up with ten minutes to go when like wildfire the word goes around the ground that Birmingham are losing 2-1 at Sheffield Wednesday. The fans go wild after the game and run onto the pitch holding players aloft. Millwall had finally made it to the 1st Division, Or had they? In fact the score was the other way around, and that was how it stayed. So all Birmingham now needed to do was draw their last game of the season away to Orient to get promoted over The Lions. 8,000 Millwall fans went to cheer the Orient on but, Birmingham win the game 1-0, leaving The Lions in 3rd spot and missing out on promotion. More drama followed the match in that the Daily Mail had received a phone call in the dying stages of the game saying that a bomb had been planted beneath the main stand, and that it would go off after the match. However, at the final whistle the Police managed to evacuate the whole stand safely. Also this season Harry Cripps held his testimonial against West Ham United, who won with Geoff Hurst scoring a hat-trick. In the League, seven players had played in all 42 games this season which to-date is another club record and also one of the highest numbers in the Football League. Millwall also go the whole of the season without losing a home game and therefore become the only club to through a season, unbeaten at home, in four different divisions. The 4th Division, the 3rd Division (South), the 3rd Division and the 2nd Division. As mentioned The Lions finish 3rd in the Football League Division 2.

- D. J. Possee 15 Football League Division 2 goals and 2 FA Cup goals.
- D. J. Smethurst 2 FA Cup goals.

1972/73 Manager B. R. V. Fenton

Complete opposite to last season. After 16 matches are played *Millwall* are bottom of the League. In the away match against Luton Town on the 16th December *Derek Possee* scored a goal in our 2-2 draw and in doing so equalled *Jack Cock's* record of 77 League goals. Then in the 3-0 victory at home to Bristol City *Possee* scores two to make the record his own. Unfortunately, after Christmas *Possee* was sold to arch rivals Crystal Palace after appearing for *Millwall* 244 times and scoring 87 goals (79 in the League). *Millwall* 11th in the Football League Division 2. Also The Lions win their first away FA Cup match for 21 years when the beat 1st Division Everton, 2-0 at Goodison Park.

- G. E. Bolland 19 Football League Division 2 goals.
- A. E. Wood 2 FA Cup and Football League Cup goals.

1973/74 Manager B. R. V. Fenton

The power crisis was in due to the miner's strike so the scheduled 7.30pm kick-off mid-week match at home to Luton Town in the 4th round of the League Cup kicked-off at 2.30pm instead. There was still a crowd of 9070 fans who saw The Lions win 3-1 to set up a home tie with Norwich City in the 5th round. This season started to see the so near promotion side of 71/72 begin to break up and in doing so make way for some promising youngsters. In the FA Cup The Lions go out to a bizarre goal after only 12 seconds away to Scunthorpe. In the League however they make history by playing their home match against Fulham on a Sunday. This was the first League match ever to kick-off on a Sunday. As this was a "derby" match the kick-off was at 11.30am, where as the other games that were played that day were all afternoon kick-offs. *Millwall* won the game 1-0 and *Brian Clark* therefore became the first player to score a League goal on that historic day. *Millwall* 12th in the Football League Division 2.

A. E. Wood 21 Football League Division 2 goals and 1 FA Cup goal.

B. B. D. Clark 3 Football League Cup goals.

1974/75 Manager B. R. V. Fenton / G. Jago

Millwall start the season off with their worst home defeat in 28 years by losing 1-4 to Sunderland. Also in this game Harry Cripps plays his last game for The Lions, having played a total of 447 games, 11 of which as a substitute and scoring 40 goals. At the end of the season another Millwall great, Bryan King also played his last match after appearing in no less than 340 games, this being the most appearances by any Millwall goalkeeper. Unfortunately the season carried on as it had started and The Lions were relegated after finishing 20th in the Football League Division 2. In October Benny Fenton resigns and for two matches an old Millwall favourite Laurie Leslie takes over as caretaker manager before the job goes to the new incoming manager, Gordon Jago.

C. D. Clark 7 Football League Division 2 goals.

G. E. Bolland, G. A. Hill, P. E. Summerill 1 FA Cup goal.

1975/76 Manager G. Jago

Millwall have a good season and finish 3rd in the Football League Division 3 and thereby gain promotion back to Division 2. Towards the end of the season they play-out four goalless draws in five matches, equalling a run of matches that they last accomplished in the 1920/21 season, and with only one goal being scored in these five matches it is so far the clubs worst run in their League history. Also the following match after this run saw The Lions beat Brighton & Hove Albion 3-1. The score was significant in that it was the first gaol that they had conceded in 787 minutes.

G. A. Hill, P. E. Summerill 8 Football League Division 3 goals.

A. Welsh, B. R. Kitchener, P. E. Summerill, J. Moore, B. J. Salvage, A. M. Hart 1 FA Cup goal.

P. E. Summerill 1 Football League Cup goal.

1976/77 Manager G. Jago

Millwall win their first ever penalty shoot-out by beating Colchester United at the third attempt. The Lions won the first match at home 2-1, but lost the away game 1-2 making the aggregate score 3-3. In the replay eight goals were scored in a 4-4 draw, 3-3 at ninety minutes, then 4-4 after extra-time. So then a penalty shoot-out which Millwall win 4-2. The Lions also win their first ever

Football League game at Fulham 3-2. One point of interest in this match was the milestone of 400 appearances for *Barry Kitchener*, who now is the longest serving player to play for the club. Only the day before in the 1-1 home draw with Charlton Athletic he beat *Harry Cripps'* 388 appearances. *Millwall* finish 10th in the Football League Division 2.

- J. Seasman 14 Football League Division 2 goals.
- R. L. Evans 3 Football League Cup goals.

1977/78 Manager G. Jago / G. Petchey

This was to be a season of violence due to the Panorama programme on television. Two so called bands of Millwall "fans" "F-Troop" and "Treatment" are followed by television cameras and show a very disturbing side to football violence. The following press and television coverage is very damaging to the club. On the football side though, Gordon Jago resigns and Theo Foley takes over for four matches, then Barry Kitchener and Tony Hazell take over for two as caretakers before George Petchey gets the job full-time. In the FA Cup game at home to Luton Town, Ian Pearson scores a hat-trick. This is the first hat-trick for the club in three years. A sad note was the death of 8 Millwall fans, all aged between 19-21, killed in a car crash while travelling to see the away game against Southampton. Before the FA Cup 5th round tie with Notts County three fans lay a wreath on the pitch in the shape of a eight. The Lions go on to win the match and go into the 6th round for the first time in 41 years. In this round they get a home tie against Ipswich Town and after 38 minutes violence breaks out and the match is stopped for 18 minutes. Until the screening of the Panorama programme there had been no trouble at The Den for five years. Millwall win their last six matches in a row, having last done this 25 years ago and finish 16th in the Football League Division 2.

- I. T. Pearson 9 Football League Division 2 goals, 3 FA Cup goals.
- I. T. Pearson, J. Seasman, B. Hamilton 1 Football League Cup goal.

1978/79 Manager G. Petchey

George Petchey signs Millwall's first £100,000 player in John Mitchell from Fulham, then soon after signs his second in Nick Chatterton from Crystal Palace, but the season in some ways was to be their worst to-date. They were in the relegation zone for most of the season and finish 21st in the Football League Division 2, and therefore relegated. Maybe it was because the team was being changed so much. The youth team was certainly given their chance to perform at first team level in that eight of them were given their debuts. Also on the last game of the season only 2833 spectators watch The Lions lose 0-2 to Preston North End, which, to-date is the clubs lowest Football League attendance. On a better note perhaps the debuts of the "Young Lions" was beneficial because the youth team won the FA Youth Cup beating Manchester City 2-0. On a sad note, Gordon Borland dies. He had been with the club for 24 years after first starting out as Charlie Hewitt's assistant and then becoming one of the clubs finest administrators. Ron Greenwood brought a "Young England" squad to play the "Young Lions" to commemorate their FA Cup victory, but the match, although still played was dedicated to the memory of Mr. Borland.

- J. Seasman 9 Football League Division 2 goals, 1 Football League Cup goal.
- P. Walker 1 FA Cup goal.
- J. Mitchell 1 Football League Cup goal.

1979/80 Manager G. Petchey

Plans are announced that the club and ASDA want to build a new "Super Den" complex that will incorporate a stadium, shops and an ice rink. Total cost £12

million. On the pitch however The Lions get of to a better start and after 6 matches top the table. They hover around the top for a while and after 20 matches go top again. Then the slump comes. They have a poor second half of the season and finish 14th in the Football League Division 3, six points above the relegation zone. Two players make their exit from The Den this season, the promising young *Kevin O'Callaghan* and *Dave Donaldson* who had made 215 League appearances. The youth side have another good cup run but this time get knocked out in the semi finals 0-2 to Aston Villa.

J. P. Lyons 18 Football League Division 3 goals, 3 FA Cup goals.

K. O'Callaghan 2 Football League Cup goals.

1980/81 Manager G. Petchey / P. Anderson

Pre-season two more players are sold, Seasman and Towner and gates plummet as thousands boycott The Den in protest at Millwall selling their best players. On the pitch they get of to a bad start and in November sack manager George Petchey. T. A. Long takes over as caretaker for several matches before Peter Anderson is signed as player/manager, but his first game in charge saw Millwall's lowest League gate of just 2780. Halfway through the season Millwall are third from bottom but they pick up and by the end of March they are a healthier 11th. They end the season by losing their last three matches and finish 14th in the Football League Division 3, six points above the relegation zone finish 14th in the Football League Division 3, six points above the relegation zone finish 16th in the Football League Division 3, two points above the relegated Sheffield United. One proud Millwall record to go this season was the 59 home games without defeat that was taken from us by Liverpool when they beat Aston Villa 2-1 to take their record to 60 home games. However on the 29th November 1980 Barry Kitchener played his 500th full League match for the club, becoming by far Millwall's longest serving player.

N. J. Chatterton 8 Football League Division 3 goals, 1 FA Cup goal.

J. P. Lyons 1 Football League Cup goal.

1981/82 Manager P. Anderson

The Football League introduces a new points system for all four divisions. Now for a win instead of 2 points you get 3, but a draw still attracts 1 point. *Millwall* get off to a good start and under the new system after 15 games they were third in the table. A piece of history was made this season in that The Lions play their first Sunday fixture in the League, unfortunately they lose 0-1 to Reading. The Lions have a fair second half of the season but finish 9th in the Football League Division 3. Also this season *Barry Kitchener* plays his last game for the club, already *Millwall's* appearance record holder he leaves behind him a record that will take some beating. 595 full appearances, 7 appearances as a substitute, and 28 goals. One other record for the club this season is that *Nick Chatterton* scores 7 penalties. Which is the most that any one player has scored in a season.

D. V. Horrix 15 Football League Division 3 goals, 3 Football League Cup goals. N. J. Chatterton 3 FA Cup goals.

1982/83 Manager P. Anderson / G. Graham

Millwall sign Trevor Aylott from Burnley for a club record fee of £150,000. Unfortunately they get of to a bad start and by the end of November they relieve Peter Anderson of duty. Roger Cross and Barry Kitchener are installed as caretakers, before George Graham takes the job full time. He has a mid-season clear out, the most dramatic in the clubs history, and in come Peter Wells, Steve Lovell, Kevin Bremner, Dean White, Dave Cusack, Anton Otulakowski, Ian

Stewart and Micky Nutton. Towards the end of the season they begin to gel together and go from bottom of the table after 34 games to but finish 17th in the Football League Division 3. With the way the other results went if they had lost their last game they would have been relegated. This season the League introduce a new competition called the Football League Trophy, which The Lions win by beating Lincoln City in the final 3-2. One point of interest this season was the attendance for their last home match against Brentford. 9097 fans were there to see The Lions win 1-0, which was their highest gate for 3 years.

D. J. Neal 18 Football League Division 3 goals, 1 Football League Cup goal.

D. Martin 1 Football League Cup goal.

1983/84 Manager G. Graham

Millwall win their first sponsorship deal with the London Dockland Development Corporation (LDDC), and they also launch a newspaper called "Pride". The newspaper is a weekly publication but it only lasts until October. On the pitch their home record for the season is the 2nd best in the division, but their away record is not so impressive (their first away win was not until 20th March, their 18th away match). They therefore finish 9th in the Football League Division 3. Two brothers played for The Lions this season, the first to do so in twenty years. They were John Neal and brother Dean. The Lions also reach the final of the Associate Members Cup (Southern), but lose to Bournemouth 1-2.

K. J. Bremner 13 Football League Division 3 goals.

D. Martin, A. T. Massey, S. J. Lovell, D. S. Cusack 1 FA Cup goal.

D. J. Neal 3 Football League Cup goals.

1984/85 Manager G. Graham

The Lions start the season off well, and after 11 games they are in 2nd spot, just one point off the top. They win their next home match 2-0 against Lincoln City and after a further 2 matches are two points clear with a game in hand. They falter slightly and just after mid-season are down to 6th place, 14 points of the leaders. However, they do get things together and in the final third of the season manage to climb back up the table to finish 2nd in the Football League Division 3. They also have a good FA Cup run and make the 6th round before going out to Luton Town 0-1. Unfortunately this match was to bring Millwall's good name to perhaps their lowest level ever, for it was probably the worst night for football violence in the clubs history. Fights broke out during the game and at one point the referee took the players off the field for 25 minutes. When the match finally came to an end there was a pitch invasion and rioting broke out. Seats were ripped out from the stands and thrown, and outside the ground shops had their windows smashed. However, in Millwall's defence it appeared that when those that were arrested appeared in court, most of them claimed to be Chelsea or West Ham United "fans". One thing is strange though; there was an estimated 10,000 supporters trying to get behind the Kenilworth Road goal, nearly twice as many as normally attending Millwall's home games. Not a good way to go out of the cup in The Lions centenary year. On a happier note Steve Lovell breaks Nick Chatterton's penalty scoring record for a season (set in 1981/82) by scoring 8, one more than "Chatt's".

S. J. Lovell 24 Football League Division 3 goals, 4 FA Cup goals.

D. J. Neal 4 Football League Cup goals.

1985/86 Manager G. Graham

Newly promoted to the 2^{nd} Division, *Millwall* have a very up and down season in their centenary year, and by the 31^{st} August they equal their second highest unbeaten run at home of 27 games. Unfortunately they lose their next home

game to Brighton & Hove Albion 0-1. Although The Lions play good football this season results do not go their way and by November they are 4th from bottom. They do however pick up and by the end of the season they finish 9th in the Football League Division 2. Due to the Bradford City fire many ground in the country are told to bring their grounds up to safety standards. Although some of the money to do this would be given to the clubs in a grant for Millwall the extra money needed would be hard to find as gates are still low. The club is reported to be losing £7,500 per match. The Lions are given an estimate to bring their ground up to standard to the tune of £1 million. The future of the club is beginning to look grim. On a brighter note whilst still in their centenary year The Lions play and beat Carlisle United at home 3-1 on the 22nd October, this was exactly 75 years to the day that Millwall have been playing at The Den. S. J. Lovell 14 Football League Division 2 goals, 3 Football League Cup goals.

J. Fashanu 2 FA Cup goals.

1986/87 Manager J. Docherty

During the close season George Graham leaves to take the vacant managers job at Arsenal and in comes John Docherty. As mentioned last season Millwall are losing £7,500 per match and it becomes known that they are now in debt to the tune of £5.5 million. To add to this dismal situation gates are still down in fact they average between 3,000 to 5,000, which is the lowest for 2nd Division football in the clubs history. Another all time low for the club is that the only manage to score 12 goals away from home all season. This season the club gets a new sponsor in Lewisham Council and they also open a crèche, the first club to do so in Britain. The club also smashes its transfer fee and spends £225,000 on Tony Cascarino; the money being supplied from the directors' own pockets. The season is very average but one highlight was in Michael Marks (18) who became the youngest *Millwall* player to get a hat-trick for the club in the 4-0 home defeat of Shrewsbury on the 11th October. There was also an historic match played at Oldham when they entertained The Lions in that it was the first match Millwall played on an artificial surface. The club leave it late to ensure that they play 2nd Division football next season by drawing their penultimate match, at home to Sunderland to avoid relegation and thereby they finish 16th in the Football League Division 2. During the close season a Millwall first was achieved when Steve Lovell and Steve Lowndes toured Canada with Wales. When the two teams met in Toronto they became the first Millwall players to play for the same international side at the same time.

E. P. Sheringham 13 Football League Division 2 goals, 2 Football League Cup.

J. Leslie, D. J. Morgan 1 FA Cup goal.

A. Walker 2 Football League Cup goals.

Manager J. Docherty 1987/88

What a season! Millwall are up with the promotion challengers all season and in the final quarter of the campaign embark on a 12 match unbeaten run (the final seven all being victories) to ensure promotion to the 1st Division for the first time in the clubs history. Although The Lions lost their final game of the season at home to Blackburn Rovers 1-4, they finish 1st in the Football League Division 2. It was a joyous day for the club though, for they were crowned Champions before the game having already secured promotion the previous week in their 1-O away win at Hull City. After only two seasons in charge of the club and with mounting debts John Docherty had achieved what seemed like the impossible. Also a first for the club this season was when Kevin O'Callaghan scored a penalty in 4 consecutive matches, ending with that all important goal away to Hull City on the 2nd May.

E. P. Sheringham 22 Football League Division 2 goals.

A. Walker, D. J. Morgan, G. R. Lawrence 1 Football League Cup goal.

The top flight at last!

1988/89 Manager J. Docherty

At last! *Millwall* in the 1st Division for the first time in their 103 year history, and they could not dream of a better start. They go their first 9 games unbeaten then, after a slight blip losing to Middlesbrough 2-4 away they go another 4 matches without being defeated. During this run the unbelievable happened for on the 1st October The Lions beat Q.P.R. at home 3-2 to go top of the division. Although only having played 6 games at the time, with four wins and two draws they were one point clear of the likes of Liverpool, Man. Utd., Spurs and Newcastle. The Lions stayed in the top five for most of the season with memorable home wins over such teams as Everton 2-1, Newcastle United 4-0, Sheffield Wednesday, Derby County, Coventry City and Charlton Athletic all 1-0, and Aston Villa and Middlesbrough 2-0. Then in their last 10 matches they draw 4 and lose 6 to finish 10th in the Football League Division 1. Gates are well up; averaging 15,500 each home game so things are beginning to look brighter.

- A. G. Cascarino 13 Football League Division 1 goals, 1 FA Cup goal.
- E. P. Sheringham, J. W. Carter 1 FA Cup goal.
- E. P. Sheringham, N. Ruddock 3 Football League Cup goals.

1989/90 Manager J. Docherty / B. Rioch

The season starts of as last season and after 5 matches The Lions top the table but they start to falter and by Christmas they have fallen to 15th. They then go and break their transfer record and sign *Paul Goddard* for £800,000, but he fails to make an impression. Two thirds of the season had gone when they sell *Tony Cascarino* to Aston Villa and break up one of *Millwall's* most successful strike forces in *Sheringham* and *Cascarino*. The last twenty matches become the worst in the clubs history for in those twenty games they did not pick up a win and therefore finish 20th in the Football League Division 1 and are relegated. Also *John Docherty* leaves the club with 14 matches left to play, and *Bob Pearson* takes over as caretaker until the new manager is appointed. By the time *Bruce Rioch* is appointed manager there is only three games to go and The Lions brief stay in the top flight is over. For the record The Lions only win five league games all season, Nottingham Forest 1-0, Coventry City 4-1, Sheffield Wednesday and Aston Villa 2-0. Their only away win was in the opening fixture at Southampton 2-1.

- E. P. Sheringham, A. G. Cascarino 9 Football League Division 1 goals.
- E. P. Sheringham 2 FA Cup goals.
- T. A. Hurlock 2 Football League Cup goals.

Chapter 10 Striving to get back.

1990/91 Manager B. Rioch

Bruce Rioch keeps The Lions in the promotion hunt and Millwall finish 5th in the Football League Division 2. They therefore get their first taste of play-off football, and meet Brighton & Hove Albion in the first leg away at the Goldstone Ground. When the two teams met there earlier in the League the result was 0-0. How The Lions must have wished for the same score for the went down 1-4. The second leg at The Den was not that better and they were beaten again 1-2, (having beaten them 3-0 in the League), making the aggregate score 2-6. Two notes worthy of mention this season was that Millwall scored no fewer than 4 goals in 6 matches, 5 of which were at home. Of those 24 goals scored, 13 were by Teddy Sheringham alone. The other note was that man Sheringham again, for he broke all records this season to become Millwall's record scorer, taking the mantle from that old Millwall favourite Derek Possee. This season alone, Sheringham scores 4 hat-tricks and 2 braces. In the 4-1 home win against Plymouth Argyle he scores all four goals, something that Millwall fans have not seen for quite some time. Unfortunately, Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest put in a bid that the club could not refuse and in when the season ended he is transferred for £2, million. His goalscoring record for the club was 111 goals, made up as follows;

> 93 League 5 FA Cup 8 League Cup 1 Associate Members Cup 4 Full Members Cup

E. P. Sheringham 33 Football League Division 2 goals, 2 FA Cup goal,2 Football League Cup goal.P. Stephenson, A. S. Rae 2 FA Cup goal.

1991/92 Manager B. Rioch / M. McCarthy

After making the play-off's last season, this season was a disappointment. Millwall struggled all season to finish 15^{th} in the Football League Division 2, having only achieved a highest position of 11^{th} . During the season they suffer two humiliating defeats away from home, the first going down 2-6 at Sunderland, and the second, (in which another six goals were scored)

0-6 at Portsmouth. Three quarters of the way through the season The Lions change their manager for a player manager *Mick McCarthy*.

P. A. Kerr 12 Football League Division 2 goals.

A. S. Rae 2 FA Cup goals.

C. P. Armstrong, J. Colquhoun, and P. Stephenson 1 Football League Cup goal.

1992/93 Manager M. McCarthy

This season saw the birth of a new Division called the Premiership, which is sponsored by the Football Association. Therefore all the remaining divisions are renamed by the Football League, and are as follows;

Old Division 2, now Division 1 Old Division 3, now Division 2 Old Division 4, now Division 3

So The Lions start the season off in the new Division 1 with promotion to the new Premiership on the horizon. They are there or thereabouts all season but just fail to gain that all-important 6th spot. In fact, by the end of the season

they finish 7th in the Football League Division 1, 6 points away from 6th place. They enter a new competition called the Anglo Italian Cup but fail to progress beyond the preliminary stages. The idea of this competition is that after the initial round played amongst English teams, you play Italian teams from Seria "B" in the later stages. In the League Cup however, The Lions do have a memorable encounter with Arsenal in round 2. This round was a two-legged affair, with the first leg taking place at Highbury and ending 1-1. The second leg at The Den also ended 1-1 after extra time so the dreaded penalty shoot-out took place. Unfortunately The Lions lost on penalties 1-3. Also plans are drawn up for Millwall to move to a new stadium that is only half a mile away at Senagal Fields. Building starts before this season is over with the view to start next season off in the new ground. It is to be four two-tier stands that will take a total capacity of just over 20,000.

- J. D. Moralee 15 Football League Division 1 goals.
- M. Allen, A. J. Roberts 2 Football League Cup goals.

A fresh start.

1993/94 Manager M. McCarthy

Millwall start life in their new 20,000 all-seater ground this season and to open the stadium they play a friendly against Bobby Robson's Sporting Lisbon. The Lions go a goal up through John Kerr but eventually lose the match 1-2. The official title of the ground is the New London Stadium, also to be known as The New Den, and was opened by The Rt. Hon John Smith M.P. In the league The Lions have a great season (after losing 1-4 to Southend United in their opening home fixture) and finish 3rd in the Football League Division 1, and therefore make the play-offs. They are drawn away to Derby County in the first leg and go down 0-2, and unfortunately lose the second leg also, 1-3 to make the aggregate score 1-5. As a point of interest both games in the league ended 0-0, so the curse of the play-offs strikes again. For the second time The Lions enter the Anglo Italian Cup, but fail to progress beyond the preliminary stages yet again. The also meet Arsenal in the FA Cup in what appears to be their annual meeting in some knock-out competition or other, and in front of a New Den record attendance of 20,093 they lose 0-1. The Den also stages the WBO Heavyweight Championship of the World fight between the currant Champion Michael Bentt and British Champion Herbie Hide, in what they hope to be many events to be staged at the stadium.

A. S. Rae 13 Football League Division 1 goals.

E. Verveer, J. D. Moralee, R. J. Huxford, B. Murray 1 Football League Cup goal.

1994/95 Manager M. McCarthy

The Lions have an average season in the league but only manage to finish 12th in the Football League Division 1. However, they do have two great cup runs, the first being in the League Cup where they reach the 5th round before losing 1-3 to Swindon Town. Along the way they pull off a great 2-0 victory against Nottingham Forest away. They also make the 5th round of the FA Cup only to lose 0-1 away to Q.P.R. However, in the 3rd round they draw their old favourites Arsenal at The Den and the match ends all square at 0-0. In the replay at Highbury *Millwall* play what must go down in the clubs history as one of their best games ever. They out-play 'The Gunners' and win 2-0 to set up a 4th round tie at home to Chelsea. Again the match at The Den ends 0-0 so it off to Stamford Bridge for the replay. This also ends in a draw 1-1, and is still the same after extra time, so it goes to penalties in which The Lions win 5-4.

A. S. Rae 13 Football League Division 1 goals.

M. Kennedy, M. Beard, D. T. Savage 1 FA Cup goal.

J. Goodman, M. Kennedy, G. J. Berry 2 Football League Cup goals.

1995/96 M. McCarthy / J. Nicholl

This must go down in *Millwall's* history as one their most disastrous seasons ever. The season started off very well and by the beginning of December they were sitting proudly at the top of the league, having been their for several weeks. In October they had beaten Everton 4-2 after extra time at Goodison Park in the Coca Cola Cup (Everton were at the time the FA Cup holders having beaten Manchester United 1-0 the previous season) so things were looking very good. On top of this *Millwall* had bought the German striker Uwe Fuchs for £750.000 from Kaiserslautern. Then suddenly disaster struck, *Millwall* went to Roker Park where they were beaten 0-6 by Sunderland, who eventually went on the become champions, and from that moment on they steadily went down the

league winning only another three home games and one away game all season only to be sitting in 21st position two points above Portsmouth going into the last game of the campaign. Everything hinged on *Millwall* getting a win away at Ipswich Town which would guarantee them safety but Ipswich needed the three points in order to assure them of a play-off place. Unfortunately the result ended 0-0, and with Pompey winning away 1-0 at Huddersfield *Millwall* were sadly relegated, finishing 22nd in the Football League Division 1, with 52 points, the same as Portsmouth but with an inferior goals tally. Also midway through the season *Millwall*'s manager *Mick McCarthy* left *Millwall* to manage the Republic of Ireland making way for Raith's outgoing manager *Jimmy Nicholl* to take over. One of *Mick's* on loan signing's before he left were the Russian international pair Sergi Iouran and Vassili Kulkov from Spartak Moscow but, even they could do nothing to stop the slide down the table.

A. Rae 13 Football League Division 1 goals, 2 FA Cup goals.

Taylor 2 Football League Cup goals.

1996/97 Manager J. Nicholl / J. Docherty

Millwall start off the season as before and by The nightmare continues! December were again sitting in the top 3 places. When as at last Christmas then same happened again this Christmas, Millwall lose 1-5 away to Stockport Co. to start sliding down the table. They go out of the Coca Cola cup in the first round to Peterborough Utd., but more dramatic was their exit from the FA Cup losing their first round replay to non-league Woking 0-1 at the Den, after drawing 2-2 at the Kingfield Sports ground. Millwall go through a run of bad results in the league and so decide to part company with Jimmy Nicholl and bring back John Docherty, who led The Lions into the old First Division in his first spell at Millwall. Then in the middle of January Millwall announce that they are to call in the administrators to examine their affairs as they are in debt to the tune of £10 million, and are losing £250,000 per month. Drastic changes are needed to save the club from going out of business, the playing staff are reduced, and office staff are cut. The administrators decide that a new share flotation is the answer to raise funds along with a new incoming chairman and so put the vote to the present shareholders. Before the result is announced John Docherty resigns on the eve of the final league game. Things go quiet for a while then during the close season the new chairman and board announce that the new manager is to be the old West Ham United favourite Billy Bonds. They also announce that the new share issue has been accepted and that the debt will be cleared and the new season will kick off with Millwall in a lot healthier position. The Lions finish 14th in the Football League Division 2.

S. Crawford 11 Football League Division 2, 3 Associate Members Cup, and 1 FA Cup goal.

C. G. Malkin 1 Football League Cup goal.

1997/98 Manager W. A. Bonds

Billy Bonds first season as manager starts just as the other 3 seasons have started with Millwall sitting pretty in the top three at the beginning of December. Then as before Christmas comes and everything turns sour. By the end of February Millwall are 17th in the table. The fans are now calling for Bonds to go (in fact he has a worse record than Bruce Rioch). However Brighton & Hove Albion sack Steve Gritt and Millwall sign him in March, as assistant to Billy Bonds. Millwall did approach Brighton at the end of last season to ask Gritt to be manager of The Lions (after pulling off a miraculous escape, saving Brighton from going out of the League) but he declined. However, since the arrival of Gritt, Millwall do start to pull themselves up the table at achieve a fine 2-1 win away at Fulham after going a goal down and playing the last half hour with only

10 men. A statistic worth mentioning is that by the home game against Northampton on the 27th February, *Bonds* had used no fewer than 34 players. A milestone in *Millwall's* history also occurred this season in that the home game against York City on the 24th January saw The Lions field debuts to both *Andy Gray* and *Stuart Nethercott*. Prior to this match *Millwall* had used a total of 999 players in competitive games, so both "debut players" share the honour of being the 1,000 player. The Lions finish 18th in the Football League Division 2.

P. Shaw 11 Football League Division 2 goals.

D. J. Hockton 2 Football League Cup goals.

P. Shaw and K. T. Grant 1 Associate Members Cup goals.

1998/99 Manager K. H. Stevens

During the close season Billy Bonds is sacked and Millwall favourites Keith Stevens and Alan McLeary take on the job as manager and assistant manager respectively (whilst still keeping their player registrations). The get of to a good start by wining their first game in charge away to Wigan 1-0. They also win their first home game 2-1 against Wycombe Wanderers and go a further 5 matches at home before they are defeated 0-1 by Fulham. One of the first signings that the two make is the signing of another Millwall favourite, Jimmy Carter. They also give Jamie Stuart the chance to re-start his career, after being sacked by Charlton Athletic, and banned by the Football Association for taking drugs. However, 10 games into the season they sell Millwall's 3rd longest serving player, Dave Savage (after Rhino and Macca), to Northampton Town. Christmas comes and goes with The Lions hovering just outside the play-off places and in their Associate Members Cup 2nd round tie away to Brighton & Hove Albion they turn on the style and come away 5-1 victors. They go all the way in this competition and play Wigan Athletic in the final at Wembley but alas, they lose 0-1 to a 93rd minute goal.

1st round, Cardiff City (H) 2-0 2nd round, Brighton & Hove Albion (A) 5-1 Quarter-Final, Bournemouth (A) 1-1, (won 4-3 on penalties) Semi-Final, Gillingham (H) 1-0, (golden goal) Southern Final, Walsall 1st leg (H) 1-0 Southern Final, Walsall 2nd leg (A) 1-1, Aggrigate2-1 Final (Wembley) Wigan Athletic 0-1.

One record this season that *Rhino* and *Macca* would not like was that in the 3rd from last league match *Ben Roberts* the on loan Middlesbrough 'keeper was sent off. This brought The Lions total of League sending's off this season to 11 (which is the most ever for a League club in one season). *Millwall* finish 10th in the Football League Division 2.

N. Harris 15 Football League Division 2, 3 Associate Members Cup goals.

P. Shaw 1 Football League Cup goal.

1999/2000 Joint Managers K. H. Stevens & Alan McLeary

The close season sees some old blood go and new arrive. *Gerard Lavin* and *Kim Grant* are but two of the players to go their respective ways and in comes *Tony Warner*, *Paul Moody David Livermore* and *Sean Dyche*. The season starts off with four draws in five matches, with the home draw with Wigan being the more exciting. With just 12 minutes remaining *The Lions* find themselves 0-3 down when they score what appears to be a consolation goal. Then two minutes later a second goal goes in to set up the final nail biting last 10 minutes. In the final minute *Millwall* get a penalty and up steps *Neil Harris* to slot the ball home to make the comeback complete (this penalty was one of six penalties in the first five games: 3 for *Millwall*, 3 for the opposition). *The Lions* go out in the 1st round in all three cup competitions, they go out of the League Cup by losing

away to Swansea 0-2 and only drawing the second leg 1-1, making the aggregate score 1-3. They exit in the FA Cup after being beaten 1-0 away at Hartlepool United. Then go out of the Associate Members Cup 1-0 away at Brighton & Hove Albion (played at the Withdean Stadium). On Tuesday 16th November Millwall hit five at home to Reading with Paul Moody scoring a hattrick. This is the first hat-trick scored by a Millwall player since 27th August 1994 (John Kerr in the 4-1 win over Derby County). It is also the highest league win at the New Den so far. Christmas and the Millennium come with The Lions hovering around the table in 4th spot. An interesting note to end the year was that on the final Nationwide League programme of the old millennium, Millwall's home match against Brentford was delayed ten minutes due to the fact that there was still quite a crowd of fans trying to get in the ground. Millwall won the match 3-2, scoring two goals in the last seven minutes. However, David Livermore's wining goal (and his first for the club) was scored in the fifth minute of injury time and therefore recorded as hitting the net at 5.03 pm, making it the final league goal of the old millennium. Before the start of the home game against Stoke City Livermore was presented with a specially commissioned bottle of champagne from the Football League sponsor Nationwide. Also this season, Jimmy Carter, without making an appearance, has to retire from football due to a back injury. Millwall continue to stay in the top six places just prior to Easter, with Neil Harris scoring his first hat-trick for the club, and his 22 goal of the season so far, in the away defeat of Brentford and thereby becoming The Lions' most prolific scorer since Teddy Sheringham scored 33 League goals in 1990/91 season. However it is a disastrous Easter, losing away to Burnley 4-3 after being 4-0 down. Then only drawing at home to Gillingham 2-2 after being 2-0 up inside 8 minutes. The following week The Lions lose away to Preston, who were Champions prior to the match, 3-2 after being 3-0 down at half time. Millwall found themselves going into the final league match of the season needing to beat Oxford United at home, whilst hoping that either Bristol Rovers lose or draw away at Cardiff City and or, Stoke City lose away at Reading. Amazingly, not only did Bristol and Stoke lose, but The Lions' 1-0 defeat of Oxford (and Neil Harris' 25th league goal of the season) moved them from 7th to 5th in the table, setting up a two legged play-off with Wigan. Unfortunately, Wembley for a second year running, and Division One, was not to be as The Lions lost their two-legged play-off to 4th placed Wigan Athletic 0-1.

N. Harris 25 Football League Division 2 goals.

R. T. Sadlier 1 Football League Cup goal.