

SPORTS by LOTHIAN LAD

Coronation Cup Ties Take Pride Of Place

Elms: Star To Launch Benefit Fund

SCOTTISH Juniors, and especially football followers in the West of Scotland, were deeply shocked Wednesday evening by the tragic passing of Charlie Elms, Newtongrange Star's inside right, one of the best known and highly respected personalities in junior football. After 5 minutes' play in the second round of the Coronation Cup tie at Victoria Park, Newtongrange, he was seen to stagger and put his hand to his head. Play was stopped, and after trainers Denholm Young had given him attention accompanied them to the pavilion. It was then realised that Charlie had taken his final exit as he walked into the green ward, and taken part of the last game. Continuing to feel well, he was conveyed to his home, Newbraighall, where he died early afterwards.

The Star management and players, who at the team's last half-hour, seemed to be in a state of confusion, were stunned by the tragic news of their popular player's death. A product of the prominent juvenile organisation, Musselburgh United, he stepped up in 1944 to seniority with the team. He later joined Strathgordon, who, on Saturday, won the League "B" Division championship flag, and after a short spell returned to junior football. He had been in the team since the 17 years' spell in the wilderness. His place will be difficult to fill in the team, but his experience and coaching abilities were invaluable to the younger players.

Of a quiet and lovable disposition, Charlie Elms was held in high esteem by all who came in contact, and was one of the most gentlemanly players ever stepped on to a football field. Junior football is the poorer by his sudden passing, which was caused by a perforated duodenal ulcer. He was at a minimum, but a leader and four young children. He was in his 29th year.

A concourse of nearly 500 mourners, including three motor coaches from Newtongrange, westward, and East of Scotland Junior F.A. officials and players from Lothian clubs, many former colleagues, and officers and members of the 60th Edinburgh (New Scotland) Company of the Boys' Brigade, with whom deceased was associated, paid their last respects at the funeral service on Saturday morning at Portobello Cemetery. In the afternoon, a minute's silence was observed at several Lothian junior games in memory of one who for many years, by his exemplary conduct and talent, enriched the country's national sport.

Newtongrange Star management were ready to assist a deserving cause, are already contemplating schemes to help in some way the welfare of his widow and family. It is probable that a Testimonial Cup will be inaugurated at an early date, which clubs and supporters throughout the Lothians would be pleased with an opportunity to show their appreciation of an outstanding personality.

Officials of the East of Scotland Junior F.A. are also likely to sponsor a Junior Select v. Senior opposition at Victoria Park, Newtongrange, at the commencement of the forthcoming season.

Easthouses Boys' Cup Win

A keenly contested game at Links Park, Leith, on Friday night, Easthouses Boys' Club (under 16 years) won the custody of the Forthcup trophy with a narrow but merited win over the Rosedale Youth Club by two goals to one.

'Plum' Game At Dalkeith

CORONATION Cup ties take pride of place in this week's mid-week games, with the week-end reserved for semi-finals, heated cup-ties and League games. With a local "derby" flavour, surprises may be forthcoming in the Coronation Cup. Dalkeith Thistle, at home, have the plum attraction when they line out against Newtongrange Star.

On current form, the Star are favourites, but a Dalkeith win would provide a tonic for the Thistle and a keen encounter in the second leg of the competition. Easthouses Lily, in view of their forthcoming Scottish Junior Cup tie with Annbank United, may be prepared to forego the minor competition and rest some of their regulars.

The Lily, at home, are a stiff proposition, and a home win is well within their scope. Penicuik Athletic, who have lost their earlier form, and are unlikely to prevent an away Loanhead Mayflower victory, unless there is a decided strengthening in the front line.

Thornhill United, at home, should account for near neighbours Preston Athletic, but in view of Saturday's merited draw with Edinburgh City, the "Tree" cannot afford to take the game too lightly.

At Ormiston, the local Primrose will do well to hold Trant Juniors to a draw. Bonnyrigg Rose A.B., after the week-end fall from grace at Loanhead, will be on their mettle against Rosedale, who had a good win over Penicuik. Bonnyrigg, however, should clear this hurdle.

Musselburgh Athletic and Haddington, even with home environment, are unlikely to halt Edinburgh City and Dunbar United. Camelon Juniors, Broxburn Athletic, Armadale Thistle, and Forth Rangers, with home ground advantage, should return wins against Alva Albion Rangers, Bathgate Thistle, Whiteburn and Grange Rovers respectively, but in the return game, Stoneyburn Juniors have a big task to wipe out a three goal league away defeat West Calder United.

The "Burn" at home, however, may force a third game to decide the issue. Arnis Rangers will be fully extended to keep the points at home in their encounter with Loanhead Mayflower.

On Friday evening, Newbyres Park, Gorebridge, will host the Brown Cup semi-final tie between Newtongrange Star and Trant Juniors. The East Lothian club "humbly" the Star at this enclosure last season. The tragic loss of stratigist Elms and a depleted playing strength through injury may upset the Star.

Well Done. The Lily!

EASTHOUSES LILY fully merited their home league victory over Musselburgh Athletic, being superior in practically every department. But for poor finishing, coupled with clever saving by the visiting keeper, Duncan, the margin would have been doubled.

Easthouses quickly settled, and after Johnston had rattled the cross-bar, and Cowan had missed a "sitter," the latter made amends by netting with a well-placed shot. Keeping up their attack, Easthouses went further ahead when O'Hanlon netted cleverly.

The visitors were seldom dangerous, their only efforts being a Cobb drive which struck over, and a Lewis shot which carried the upright. Near the interval, Cowan added a third Lily goal.

On resuming, the Lily increased the lead when Cowan completed his "hat-trick." Five minutes later, Hall from the spot, netted a penalty awarded for a handling infringement. Easthouses continued aggressively, but poor finishing by Johnston spoiled a trio of scoring chances. Musselburgh fought back, and Strachan intercepted a Hall back-pass to his keeper to net easily.

Shortly afterwards the visitors again broke through. Cobb scoring with a smart drive. Play continued to the final whistle in favour of the Lily, but chances went abegging, while Duncan, Calder, and Sheridan interventions halted dangerous Lily attacks.

The visitors were a bit disappointing since those attacks failed to combine, in marked contrast to the virile display of the home front line.

Darts League

THE Dalkeith Darts League now stands as follows: P W L D Pts. Unicorn 31 24 2 5 53. Masons Arms 30 21 4 5 47. Red Lion 30 17 8 5 39. Harrow 30 16 8 6 38. Hothelburg 30 12 8 10 34. Bartley Breeze 30 11 9 10 32. Forrester's Bar 30 11 9 10 32. Wheatheaf 30 12 10 8 32. Horse Shoe 31 10 11 31. Pines 30 9 8 13 29. Legions 30 8 16 8 28. Shuff 30 8 12 10 26. Ship Inn 30 8 15 7 23. Coach & Horses 30 6 15 9 21. Legion 30 6 16 8 20.

In the semi-final of the individual championship, P. J. Miller, Unicorn, meets R. Selkirk, Horse Shoe, and J. Higginson, Harrow, opposes R. H. Allen, Unicorn.

He was a 'Star'

WITH the football season near its close, fate struck a cruel blow on the April evening of Wednesday 22, the occasion of the Newtongrange Star v. Ormiston Primrose (Thornhill Shield) game. Within 15 minutes of the start, the innocently-looking accident occurred, with Charlie Elms being led from the field and not returning.

On Thursday morning, it must have come to many as a great shock that Charlie Elms was dead. When we saw him being helped from the field, none amongst us realised that tragedy was being enacted, and nothing further from our minds than that this was the last occasion on which Charlie Elms would tread the turf of Victoria Park.

That his death came as a sudden shock is a tribute to the mark he has left on the game. Charlie Elms was a true sportsman, and liked nothing better than to be given the task of encouraging and guiding youngsters on their passage through football.

Most likely, a better result than that which he achieved, a run out against Dalkeith. He played a sound game, and no doubt will benefit from the help given by those of experience in the Arnis team. He is inclined to be slow of the mark. Rangers didn't solve their centre-forward problem by the introduction of Livingstone, and Williams, on the right-wing, has lost some of his sparkle.

After a fighting victory over Penicuik Athletic last week, many were hoping for a better result than a 3-1 defeat for Dalkeith Thistle against Arnis Rangers. It must be borne in mind, however, that Thistle had six young players in their team, and his storm test was a 3-1 defeat for Dalkeith Thistle against Arnis Rangers.

It was fine to see Easthouses Lily getting back on the victory trail with a grand win over Musselburgh Athletic. After a little initial difficulty, the management are now settling down to the business of next season. Information to hand is to the effect that Lily

Restored to the leadership of Easthouses Lily, Cowan netted a "hat-trick" against Musselburgh Athletic.

batgate Thistle had a narrow 3-2 win over lowly Polkemmet Juniors, while League "wooden-spoonists" West Calder United, at home in the first game of the Coronation Cup, gained an unexpected 6-3 win over Stoneyburn Juniors, who have to register at least a four-goal win in the second game to make progress in the competition.

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Arnis Rangers Win Championship

AT a meeting of the Midlothian Billiards Association, it was intimated that the season's competitions had been completed. The successful winners were: League Champions — Arnis; runners-up, Newtongrange. Knock-out competition — Arnis; runners-up, Whitecraig No. 1. Individual Championship: Class I — 1. Dan Todd, Whitecraig; 2. D. Bernard, Arnis. Class II — 1. G. Goodall, Bonnyrigg; 2. J. Stewart, Dalkeith. Boys' Individual Championship — 1. Wm. Ross, Whitecraig (for second successive year); 2. D. Cox, Arnis.

Highest break — John Davidson, Newtongrange (98).



The Palace Prepares

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Points Claim By Bo'ness

FOLLOWING their defeat by Armadale Thistle in a vital Edinburgh and District League game, Bo'ness United are lodging a protest and points claim. They allege George Gray, centre half of the juvenile Carriden Hearts, who assisted the Thistle, is ineligible, being a retained Bathgate Thistle player.

Bathgate Thistle aver that Gray had been provisionally signed for the past two seasons, but he had not been registered with the S.J.F.A. for the current season. They claim, however, he was retained by them at the end of the season.

Gray is now a signed Armadale Thistle player, but due to the Combined League's retaining rule, will be ineligible to play in league games. The decision of the league legislators will be eagerly awaited.

WEEK-END GAMES REVIEW

WITH the introduction of mid-week games, progress was made in both local cup and League competitions. Arnis Rangers struck a bad spell at Musselburgh, where the local Athletic applied Midlothian's Scottish Juniors "hope," and lessened their championship aspirations in the League tournament by inflicting a 5-2 defeat to the "cup boys" favourites. On Saturday, with four of their regulars on international duty, the Rangers redeemed themselves with a good win over Dalkeith Thistle, who earlier in the week had a smart home win over Penicuik.

Minor Soccer

SATURDAY was a day of high scoring among the juveniles. Bonnyrigg Rose 'A' entertained Easthouses Athletic at Dundas Park in a first round Insurance Cup tie, and trounced them by 10-2. The score was rather hard on the visitors, however, as they played with nine men owing to the non-appearance of players.

The home team showed several changes, centre forward Robertson playing at right back and winger Smith at centre. All the Bonnyrigg forwards scored, with Moffat getting three and Thomson two. In this game Thomson converted a penalty, the first scored in 12 awards.

Whitecraig Star visited Cockenzie and forced a draw with the local Star in another cup tie, the score being two each. The visitors were unlucky, however, as both their centre half and right back received injuries, which forced them to finish the game on the wings.

Musselburgh Union, at Olive Bank, beat Pitlochry N.C.F.S. United by 11-1. Learmonth, the Musselburgh centre half, was again among the goals, converting two penalties. Incidentally, Olive Bank must be an unlucky place for Thomson, the Pitlochry keeper, in this game Thomson converted a penalty, the first scored in 12 awards.

Whitburn Star visited Cockenzie and forced a draw with the local Star in another cup tie, the score being two each. The visitors were unlucky, however, as both their centre half and right back received injuries, which forced them to finish the game on the wings.