

Mrs. Bates,
Asst. Secretary,
S'lon F.C.

"D. Inail" 11/8/47

From: The Dell
(Tel. S'lon 3408)

£8,000 for Curtis

George Curtis captained the Arsenal reserve side in the first public trial on Saturday, and half an hour after the game signed for Southampton. The fee is £8,000.

It is expected that Don Roper, the Southampton outside right, will join Arsenal this week at a fee of about £12,000.

George Eastham, Blackpool inside forward, formerly with Bolton and Brentford, has been transferred to Swansea Town.

Zimmell covering 12/8/47
Also Arsenal player
Rudkin at S'lon.

Sub
did not turn up
as arranged.

London address of
George Curtis:-
4 Springfield Rd.
Little Wymondley,
Gray, Essex.

x-182040

New Chronicle
12/8/47



DON ROPER

Arsenal clinch Roper deal

AFTER weeks of negotiation Donald Roper, Southampton outside-right, was transferred to Arsenal yesterday. The fee was not disclosed (writes Charles Buchan).

At the same time Tony Rudkin, the outside-left for whom Arsenal paid Peterborough £1,800 last January, has signed for Southampton, where he joins Curtis to make a new left-wing.

I have a shrewd suspicion that very little money changed hands during the deals. Curtis and Rudkin, plus a small sum for Roper, seems a reasonable exchange.

Will it be Langton?

During the close season Arsenal have parted with two outside-lefts, the other being Calverley to Preston. As Denis Compton will not be available for the opening games, I expect a new arrival at Highbury before Saturday week. Will it be Langton, Blackburn's international winger?

Leyton Orient have signed on two more new players, making a total of 12 during the close season. Latest captures are M. Morrison, 22-year-old goalkeeper from Luton, and A. Grundby, wing-half-back from Horden Colliery, Co. Durham.

Johnny Jordan, Grays Athletic inside-right, and Pat Edelston, Wimbledon centre-forward, have joined Sutton United, the Athenian League club.

Jordan was reserve for England v. Wales and Ireland in last year's amateur-international games.

Nottingham Forest made a profit last season of £2,919.

Graphic
12/8/47

Roper Signs For Arsenal



Roper

DON ROPER, Southampton's nippy goal-getting right-winger, is now an Arsenal player. After the longest drawn out negotiations in recent years—the talks began almost a month ago—Arsenal yesterday wrote a cheque for about £11,000 and gave left-winger Tom Rudkin, the Peterborough lad, in part exchange.

Rudkin and George Curtis—transferred from Arsenal for £9,000 on Saturday—will form Southampton's new left wing.

Now that Roper has gone to Highbury fans are wondering what the Arsenal forward line is going to look like. Manager Tom Whittaker tells me that he is not sure himself.

Roper has played at inside right, but he is a natural winger and is almost certain to displace the fleet-footed Ian MacPherson who was beginning to reveal a lot of Matthews' touches last season. MacPherson will probably be switched to the left wing until Denis Compton stops hitting centuries.

When Compton returns, what then? Arsenal have not only a surfeit of wingers. Lewis, Rooke, Bryn Jones, and Logie are all available for the inside positions, and Archie Macaulay was not bought from Brentford solely as a wing half.

One of the biggest problems facing Arsenal seems to be whom to leave out.

JACK MILLIGAN

x-182040

12/8/47.

Arsenal Secure Roper And Let Rudkin Go

DON ROPER, Southampton outside-right, was yesterday transferred to Arsenal, who, in turn, transferred **Thomas Rudkin**, outside-left, to Southampton.

Rudkin, signed from Peterborough last season, joins George Curtis, whom Arsenal transferred for £9,000 on Saturday. No fees for yesterday's double transactions have been divulged.

Leyton Orient signed two more new players, making a total of 12 during the close season. The latest are Murdo Morrison, 22, goalkeeper, from Luton, and Arnold Grundby, wing half-back, from Horden Colliery, Durham.

George Poland, former Welsh international goalkeeper, has signed for Lovell's Athletic. He has played for Liverpool, Cardiff and Wrexham.

Roper signed at last

By **ROY PESKETT**

AFTER weeks of negotiations, Don Roper, the tall two-footed Southampton forward, became an Arsenal player yesterday.

The fee has not been disclosed, but I can say it is about £12,000—highest sum paid by Arsenal since Bryn Jones joined the club nine years ago.

The transfer takes a weight off the mind of Arsenal's secretary-manager, Tom Whittaker, who will be glad of journey's end. Apart from hours spent in behind-the-scenes discussion, he has made 11 trips to Southampton to get the player's signature.

It is not certain that Roper will play at outside right, his usual position. Maybe he'll play inside to MacPherson, inside left to Denis Compton or Vallance, or even outside left. MacPherson, who has played in every forward position, may also be experimented with during the second Arsenal trial on Saturday.

Southampton, who on Saturday signed George Curtis for £8,000, yesterday signed Tom Rudkin, the outside left secured by Arsenal from Peterborough last winter.

Leyton Orient have brought their total of players signed in the close season to 12 by securing Murdo Morrison, 22-year-old goalkeeper from Luton Town, and Arnold Grundby, wing half-back from Horden Colliery Durham.

HE SIGNED IN CAFE

DON ROPER, Southampton's goal-getting outside right, signed for Arsenal in a little café close to Highbury yesterday, and becomes part of a £50,000 forward line that Tom Whittaker hopes will put Arsenal back on top of the Soccer world.

Roper did not even go into the Arsenal offices or ground, but was met by Mr. Whittaker with the necessary forms, writes Frank Butler. Tom Rudkin, Arsenal left-winger signed from Peterborough last season, was yesterday transferred to Southampton, where he joins his ex-Arsenal colleague, Curtis, signed for £9,000.

The signing of Roper ends one of the most "delicate" transfer deals for years. The Arsenal manager made more than a dozen visits to Southampton. Bill Dodgin, of Southampton, made nearly as many trips to London.

Arsenal are keeping the transfer fee secret, but it is estimated at around £11,000.

George Poland
covering
RUDKIN.

ENGLAND STAR PLAYS IN PARK WHILE CLUBS TALK £10,000 FEE

WITH an undersized football, and folded jackets and school-caps as goalposts, England's most discussed international yesterday prepared for an uncertain future.

Back in the public park where he first learned to play football Bobby Langton, England's first-choice outside left, was playing in a schoolboy kickabout while First Division managers all over the country discussed whether to pay a £10,000 fee for him.

Every boy in the neighbourhood tried to join in as Langton, stripped to the waist and wearing plimsolls instead of boots, ran down the wing in the Burscough, Lancs, recreation ground where Blackburn scouts spotted him ten years ago.

Transfer-listed at his own request, Langton does not yet know for which club he will be playing this season. (Blackburn directors tonight discuss the many inquiries for him.)

"While I'm waiting I intend to do my best to keep fit and will continue to train in the park," he says.

"I've had a good job offered me as a lorry driver and have also considered going into business on my own account, but much prefer football."

500 MILES TO LIMBER UP

WITH the week's training over, Manchester United, like other clubs preparing for the season, enjoy taking it easy.

But The Boss—Manager Matt Busby—who takes his place training with the team, is made of sterner stuff.

After leaving his boys to enjoy their well-earned leisure, Matt travelled nearly five hundred miles, watched a Scottish League match, signed a player, and was back at the ground in time to greet the lads when they arrived for training yesterday.

Newcomer to the United staff is a promising Scottish wing half, Tommy Lowrie, 19, who has been playing as an amateur for Troon Athletic.

DON ROPER GOES

YOUNG Donald Roper's ambition to join Arsenal was fulfilled yesterday

After weeks of "the most complicated negotiations you can imagine" Arsenal manager Tom Whittaker completed the five-figure deal which brings Southampton's star winger to High-bury at last.

SO DOES RUDKIN

SOUTHAMPTON, ambitious, as manager Bill Dodgin says, "to provide thoughtful and constructive football," bought from Arsenal in a straight cash deal the promising winger from Peterborough, Thomas Rudkin.

He will join at the Dell a former team-mate in George Curtis, sold to Southampton over the week-end.

BRENTFORD TO BUY

BRENTFORD, who still have one of the smallest professional staffs in the League, hope to sign two new forwards within the next few days.

A. H. Gibbons, England international bought from Bradford, has completed his signing.

BRIEFLY . . .

(GEORGE POLAND, Cardiff's Welsh international goalkeeper, has joined Lovell's Athletic, progressive Southern League club)

Latest captures by Leyton Orient who have now signed twelve newcomers are Murdo Morrison, goalkeeper from Luton, and half-back Arnold Grundby, from Horden Colliery.

JOHN THOMPSON.

DERBY LINE-UP "UNKNOWN" WITH £15,500 STEEL

Oakes Opens For Plymouth At 42

By CLIFFORD WEBB

WILLIE STEEL (22), Soccer's Golden Boy—he cost Derby County £15,500—makes his debut in English football tomorrow. **John Oakes** (42), who played Soccer before Steel was born and went from Charlton on a free transfer, begins a tough Second Division assignment with Plymouth.

Just one of the many kick-off contrasts, Steel is inside-left to McGihl, comparative "unknown" who played four games for County last season on the wing. Broome and Carter renew the right-wing partnership, and bury Jack Stamps is in the middle.

Oakes is centre-half in an Argyle side, which includes four other newcomers—Ratcliffe, right-back from Wolves, and three forwards, Albert Hall (Tottenham), Maurice Tadman (Charlton) and Knight (Leeds).

Southampton start with both the ex-Arsenal players who figured in the exchange deal for Don Roper—Curtis, inside-right, and Rudkin, outside-left.

Roper, of course, appears on Arsenal's right in a line that reads: Roper, Logie, Lewis, Rooke, McPherson.

Personally, I am pleased Arsenal are putting Macaulay in the half-back line. It is undoubtedly his best position and there are few wing-halves in the four home countries superior to the red-headed Scot when he is in top gear. Dr. O'Flanagan, despite rumours, has again signed as an amateur for Arsenal.

Wolves Remoulded

Never scared of remoulding a team, Wolves push Smyth, the Irishman they signed recently, straight into the League eleven at inside-left. Brice, from Luton, is the centre-half, and at left-back is Shorthouse, a young Midlands-born player who figured in Wolves'

Central League side last season either at back or half-back.

I think big-occasion jitters cost Wolves the title around March-April last season. If this can be cured. . . . Well, there are enough good players at Molineux to win everything except the Boat Race.

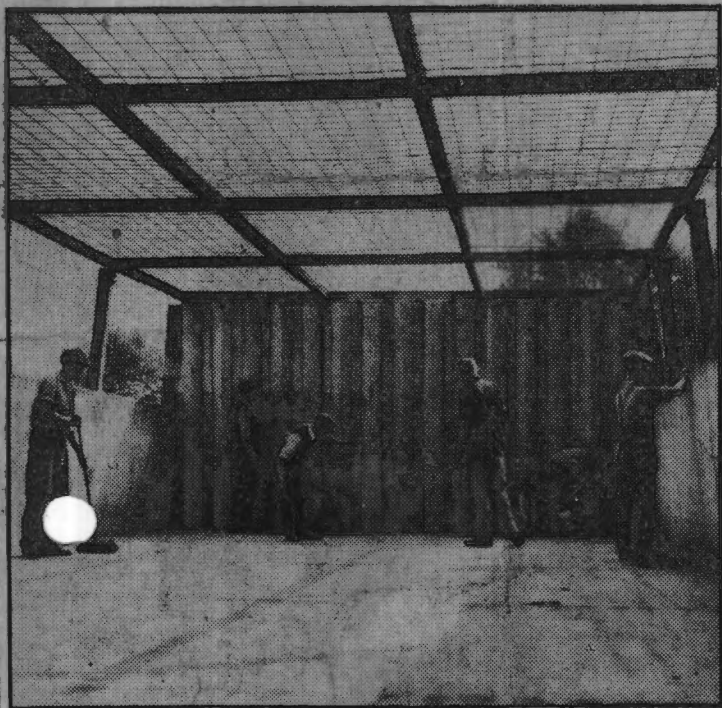
A practice match hat-trick by George Edwards earns him the inside-right berth for Aston Villa at Grimsby, with Goffin on the wing and the defence as last season.

Cummings Again

This means that long-service man George Cummings, at full-back, continues to hold his own against the up-and-coming youngsters. Advice to any new boy who may run up against George this season? Don't let the lack of hair and the lazy-looking action deceive you, sonny.

And so over to St. Andrew's, where Birmingham City, plagued by injuries in 1946-47, are still suffering. They have seven casualties, but hope Jennings and Harris will be fit.

Leicester City have picked one recruit, Haines (Swansea), who is at left-half, and have Herson, whose sole appearance was in the last game of last season, at inside-left.



A new training device for Arsenal players is this shooting box. The end wall consists of strips of timber from which the ball returns at varying angles

Casualty lists—before the kick-off

HARD GROUNDS' SOCCER TOLL

By ROY PESKETT

THE hard grounds have added unexpected difficulties to the task of some managers and directors responsible for choosing teams to take part in tomorrow's Football League kick-off. They find themselves with lists of injured before a ball has been kicked, except at practice.

Players have not only suffered injuries in falling on the concrete-like pitches, but some have blistered feet, and a well-known club manager told me yesterday: "If this weather lasts I expect a record number of early season injuries. I shall count myself lucky if my players only graze themselves tomorrow."

Following Chelsea's announcement that centre forward Lawton would be out of their team at Blackpool, West Ham yesterday notified two changes for the visit to Bradford after the team had been chosen.

They lose both their wing halves. Cater (right half) hurt a knee during practice, and Moroney (left half), signed from Cork, is badly affected by blistered feet (partly due to new boots), and does not feel fit enough for the opening.

Birmingham's manager, Mr. Harry Storer, himself only just recovering from illness, reports a lengthy bill of injuries. Six men are out of action, including Hall, who broke his arm in a trial match.

Stoke City may be without Jock Kirton, their captain, for the three opening matches. After straining an ankle tendon he broke down in train-

ing yesterday, and Frank Mountford takes his place at left half at Bolton.

Chesterfield, meeting promoted Cardiff City at Ninian Park, will be without Oliver outside right (ankle injury), and Howsam, centre forward (sprained muscle), and Newport County, at Reading, will be without Carr, Shergold, and Hamwill.

Derby County's full-strength team against Huddersfield will include Willie Steel, the Scottish international inside left who cost them football's record fee of £15,500.

Arsenal (home to Sunderland) have solved their forward difficulty by playing the recruit Roper at outside right and MacPherson on the left wing. Lewis, who has been showing plenty of punch in the trial matches, is to be centre forward with Logie and Rooke on either side. Macaulay is at right half.

Teams for tomorrow

ARSENAL (v. Sunderland): Swindin; Scott, Barnes; Macaulay, Fields, Mercer; Roper, Logie, Lewis, Rooke, MacPherson.

SUNDERLAND: Mappson; Stelling, Huggell; Housam, Hall, Wright; Duns, Robinson, Whitelum, Lloyd, Burbanks.

CHARLTON (v. Sheffield U.): Bartram; Croker, Shreeve; Johnson, Phipps, Revell; Hurst, Fenton, Welsh, McCrae, Duffy.

BRENTFORD (at Fulham): Crozier; Munro, Oliver; Moore, Latimer or Manley, Paterson; Dougal, Stewart, Gibbons, Dawson, Gallego.

WEST HAM (at Bradford): Gregory; Yeomanson, Forde; Corbett, Banner, Walker; Woodgate, Parsons, Neary, Wright, Bainbridge.

LEYTON ORIENT (v. Palace): Tolliday; Brown, Ritson; Waller, Sales, Stroud; Clapman, Skelton, Hunt, Naylor, Pullen.

CRYSTAL PALACE: Graham; Hardin; Dawes; J. Lewis, Bassett, Reece; Robson, Mycock, Kura, Russell, G. Lewis.

QUEEN'S PARK R. (v. Norwich): Allen; Dudley, Jefferson; Powell, Smith, Heath; Hartburn, McEwan, Durrant, Hatton, Pattison.