

Eire

Wales

SUCCESS FOR BOHEMIANS

by TOM MULDOWNEY

BOHEMIANS, the most exciting team in the League of Ireland in recent seasons, are having a successful Spanish tour.

In the opening game at Europa Stadium, Barcelona, they defeated Europa 3-1 before an estimated attendance of 5,000. Europa play in the Spanish Second Division.

The game kicked-off at 10.30 p.m. because of the intense evening heat. The amateurs' keeper, Tony Swan, was the man of the match, bringing off many brilliant saves from the home forwards. Eammon Carroll, whose name has been linked with Liverpool, opened the scoring but Europa equalised. After Swan had kept many great efforts out Ben Sullivan and Carroll scored twice for Bohs in the closing quarter.

In their second game Bohs forced a draw with a selected Figueiras team including international forward Marcial and Reina, Ramoni, and Garcia who have also won representative honours.

Figueiras led twice in a tough, hard-hitting game but the Irish boys playing with great fire came back with goals from Sullivan and Flood. Over 8,000 spectators watched this game and they applauded Bohemians for a fine display.

Shock for Waterford, busy preparing for next term, came when their famous coach, Paddy Coad, resigned. Coad, who left the Blues in the 1940s to make his name with Shamrock Rovers, returned to Kilcohan Park a few years ago. Although he never met with the same success as he did at Milltown he helped his home team to their first championship two years ago. Coad has no plans for the future but he has spent a lifetime in football and, with Sean Thomas, Ewan Fenton and Gibby McKenzie already gone, League of Ireland football cannot afford to lose another. Earlier in the season it was reported that Coad was to return to Shamrock Rovers. This was denied by "Hoops" and later player-coach Liam Tuohy was re-signed on a new contract.

Perhaps Limerick or Shelbourne will be interested now that Coad is "free."

In response to a request from FIFA to nominate their three best referees, the Eire FA Council voted in favour of P. P. Coates, O. McCarthy and W. O. Neill. Coates was in charge of most of the important home games, including the cup final and impressed all as the best home "knight" for many years.

NEWPORT COUNTY, who won two of their last three matches to avoid the ignominy of having to seek re-election to the Football League, still have a long way to go before they can look forward to a rosy future.

For the past two years they have lived very close to the bread line, and it must be a matter of some bewilderment among more prosperous clubs how County can survive in League football with average gates of 2,500.

In fact, three of their last four matches failed to top the 2,000 mark with only 1,222 turning out for their home match with Bradford and a mere 1,539 attending the final League encounter at Somerton Park with Crewe Alexandra.

Most of the top non-League clubs would no doubt shudder if they had to survive on this sort of support, yet Newport have managed to keep Fourth Division football going on a shoestring in Monmouthshire.

The big question-mark, however, is how much longer could they do it if there was a continued slump in attendance figures.

But it's not the sort of question that general manager Trevor Morris would lose any sleep over. He knows that there is the potential to treble last year's figure, and is working on ways and means of attracting more customers.

New players have already been signed, and supporters are now being given the opportunity of buying season tickets on the never-never.

At a cost of five bob a week during the summer a supporter can pay for next season's soccer long before the winter sets in.

Mr. Morris thinks that a lump sum system of payment often deters supporters from buying

Mini-attendances at Newport County

by BARRY GRIFFITHS

season tickets in view of holiday and other commitments, whereas the new instalment plan involves no unnecessary hardship.

It is a worthwhile idea to encourage more season ticket holders but at the same time it could also be beneficial to the club.

The extra revenue will be made available to buy new players before the start of the new season.

Swansea Town players will be reporting for training later this month—three week's earlier than usual.

It's all part of manager Billy Lucas's intention to make the Swans one of the fittest teams in the Football League next season.

The man responsible for licking the players into shape will be Tom Hudson, the former British Pentathlon champion, who was a member of the 1956 British Olympic team.

Hudson, who is in charge of physical education at the University College of Swansea, is an FA coach, an AAA senior coach, an ASA qualified teacher and holds a fencing diploma.

After five years as player-coach with Mid-Wales League club Berriew George Antonio has played his last game for the club and will probably be hanging up his boots.

Antonio, now aged 51, was one of Sir Stanley Matthews' contemporaries at Stoke City, with whom he first played in 1936.

He had a ten year spell with

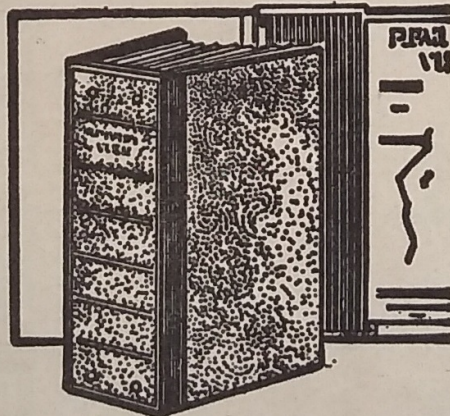
the Potteries club and then played with Derby County, Doncaster Rovers, Mansfield, Wellington Town and Oswestry.

During his five seasons with Berriew he steered them to the league championship and a league cup win, but now he has decided to take things easy.



George Antonio . . . has played his last game for Berriew.

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