The privations of war as seen at Ayresome Park

The privations of war dominated discussions of the beautiful game in the context of the First World War. A durable was the Middlesbrough FC archives, and specifically the minutes books of the club during the war years - some extracts of which are reproduced here for the first time - reveals a different perspective on the war.

Middlesbrough Football and Athletic Club’s Minute Book No 4 is particularly revealing of the ways in which the everyday operations of a professional football club combined with the extraordinary circumstances of the First World War. The records provide an insight into the workings of the directors, the balancing act of organizing matches alongside preparations for war, and the way in which the Boro mobilised as part of the nation’s efforts to support the nation’s charitable, charitable appeals and citizens brought about by conflict on the Continent. The war brought about notable changes in the management’s interactions, with, and rules within, the wider community.

In June 1914, as the club prepared for the new season, the Ayresome Park directors rejected Middlesbrough Rifle Assciation’s application for financial support. By August, the club had granted permission to the workings of the Middlesbrough Rifle Club to use the range at Ayresome Park. In September arrangements were made for the Boro Club to use the ground on Sunday's and other convenient days for the purpose of rifle practice and shooting events with access extended as conditions in Europe deteriorated. By the end of September, Middlesbrough players had been trained in the use of aLee Enfield rifle at Ayresome Park, under the instruction of Inspector Seymour. Seymour was the war was administered, and often directed. In the Football Association’s Minute Book No 4, the directors at Ayresome Park on August 17, 1914 reported the receipt of a letter from the Football Association declaring: “I am instructed to inform you that consent is given for the August Practice Matches being played off and after the first instant, upon the condition that the Green Receipt of the Matches are paid to the Prince of Wales’s National Relief Fund.” The records provide an insight into the workings of the directors, the balancing act of organizing matches alongside preparations for war, and the way in which the Boro mobilised as part of the nation’s efforts to support the nation’s charitable, charitable appeals and citizens brought about by conflict on the Continent. The war brought about notable changes in the management’s interactions, with, and rules within, the wider community. The football truce on Christmas Day between British and German soldiers dominates discussions of the beautiful game in the context of the First World War. A durable was the Middlesbrough FC archives, and specifically the minutes books of the club during the war years - some extracts of which are reproduced here for the first time - reveals a different perspective on the war.

The privations of war dominated discussions of the beautiful game in the context of the First World War. A durable was the Middlesbrough FC archives, and specifically the minutes books of the club during the war years - some extracts of which are reproduced here for the first time - reveals a different perspective on the war.

The privations of war dominated discussions of the beautiful game in the context of the First World War. A durable was the Middlesbrough FC archives, and specifically the minutes books of the club during the war years - some extracts of which are reproduced here for the first time - reveals a different perspective on the war.

The privations of war dominated discussions of the beautiful game in the context of the First World War. A durable was the Middlesbrough FC archives, and specifically the minutes books of the club during the war years - some extracts of which are reproduced here for the first time - reveals a different perspective on the war.

The privations of war dominated discussions of the beautiful game in the context of the First World War. A durable was the Middlesbrough FC archives, and specifically the minutes books of the club during the war years - some extracts of which are reproduced here for the first time - reveals a different perspective on the war.