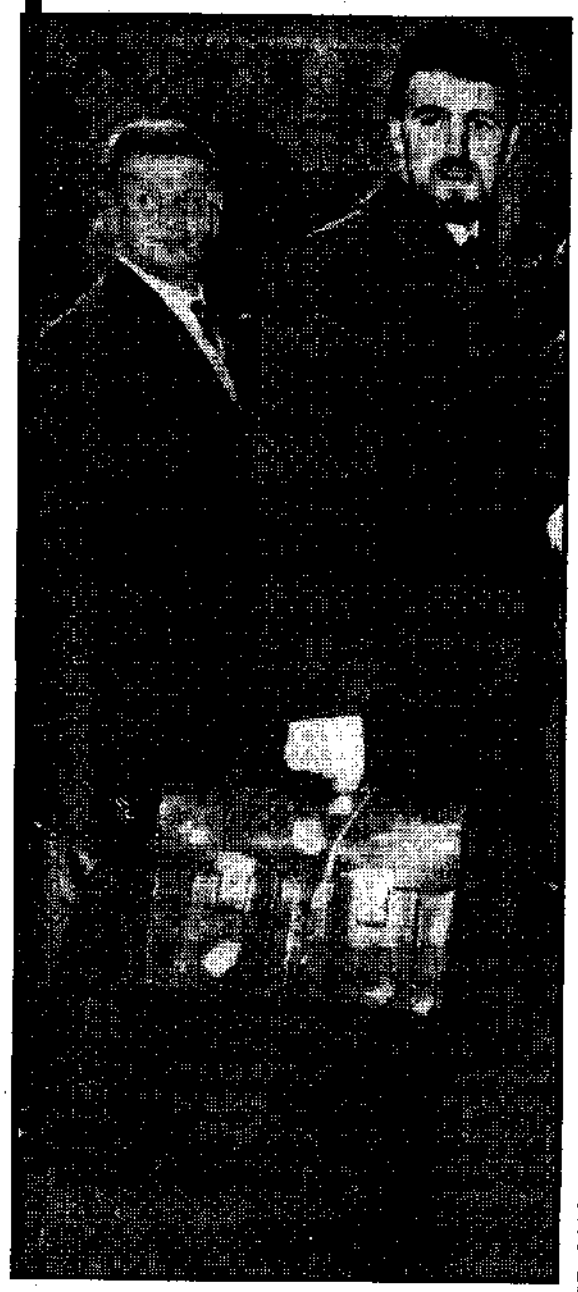
He leads his 'team' to victory... and the right to freedom

HILL'S HOUR OF TRIUMPH



THE PLAYERS' CHAMPIONS . . . bearded Jimmy Hill and Cliff Lloyd at the Ministry of Labour yesterday.

By BILL HOLDEN and KEN JONES

THIS was Jimmy Hill's hour of triumph. The bearded Fulham inside forward, chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, finally led his team to victory—the right to freedom—yesterday.

His eight-month battle with the Football League chiefs to end the players' "slave" contract was finally won in a four-hour meeting at the Ministry of Labour.

Immediately it was over Hill read an official statement from his management committee hailing the new agreement with the League as "an historic moment for football in this country.

"We have reached an honourable agreement which must eventually be of benefit to the players, the League, the public and football itself."

Hill then appealed to players to give the new system their wholehearted support.

League agree to end the Soccer 'slave' contract

'Not Easy'

Football League president Joe Richards, asked if he was happy about the situation, said:

"I am not going to express an opinion. We have reached a settlement and that has not been easy."

News of the agreement was first announced by the Minister of Labour, Mr. John Hare.

He had been waiting at the Ministry, ready to intervene if the two sides failed to agree.

At exactly 6.47 p.m. he said: "After considerable discussion, agreement has been reached and the strike is therefore off.

"I think statesmanship, that is the right word for it, has been shown by both sides. The future prospects of football look good."

Jimmy Hill emphasised the new deal is on trial. "I do not think either side is satisfied. We will both give it all we have got to make it work. If it does not then we shall go to the joint negotiating committee to deal with it."

Last Point

The players and League will meet again at the Ministry to arrange the last point of the COMPLETE pay and contract settlement—the joint committee.

This will be a body of officials of both sides to discuss any further problems which arise inside the game.

Thus the players have won practically every concession they asked for:

The removal of the maximum wage; a higher minimum wage; a new transfer system—and the creation of a joint committee.

And at last there is no stumbling block. The clubs cannot throw out this new agreement at a future meeting.

League secretary Alan Hardaker assured us: "We had a mandate from the clubs to go this far."

Beaming happily, Hill and his team of PFA officials were the last men to leave the Ministry conference room.

They had spent two and a half hours in session with League representatives hammering out the new transfer deal.

Separated

Then the sides separated for an hour and a quarter of private discussions between themselves. Finally they got together again for a brief period to frame an agreed statement.

Hill explained the benefits of the new system this way:

"A player who is dissatisfied with his club at the end of his contract, and tells the club so, MUST be put on the transfer list.

The club will still get a fee for him. But if the player thinks this is too high he has the right of appeal to the League.

He is also guaranteed wages while a transfer is negotiated and a club can no longer hold him—as they could in the past—without wages.

If the club have not arranged his transfer within three months of his request he can appeal to the League Management Committee and they will deal with it.

Accepted

We are accepting the use of the word 'deal' as a guarantee of definite action by the committee.

In return, the players will not ask for transfers during the period of their contracts which can be for up to two years.

And we take the view that if a player has accepted a two-year agreement he should serve it.

At the end he can say he wants to go to another club and be given a transfer as a right."

PFA secretary Cliff Lloyd said: "We will help the League all we can to make this new system work.

"We may be called in to discipline any of our members if they try to abuse it."

Peace terms

1. No transfers to take place during the term of the contract, except by mutual consent of club and player.
2. Players to be informed by May 19 preceding the end of the contract of the club's wish for new contract.
3. Player to decide by May 31 whether or not to accept.
4. If he does not accept, the club will retain and place him on the transfer list.
5. If he is not transferred by June 30, the club may continue to retain him on payment of £15 per week in First Division, £14 Second Division, £13 Third Division, £12 Fourth Division up to July 31.
6. If not transferred by July 31 the player will sign a monthly contract on the offered terms, subject to the club maintaining efforts to transfer him.
7. If by August 31 he is still not transferred, the Management Committee of the Football League will, on the application of the player, deal with the matter. The player will also retain the present right to appeal to the Management Committee in connection with transfer fees, etc., at any time.

BURNLEY GRAB TWO-GOAL CUP ADVANTAGE

Burnley 3, Hamburg S V 1

BURNLEY go into the second leg of their European Cup quarter-final two goals up.

They set 40,000 fans roaring at Turf Moor last night when Brian Pilkington put them ahead after only seven minutes.

In the second half Pilkington and Jimmy Robson put the League champions three up.

But Hamburg struck back for outside left Gerd Dorfel to reduce the margin in the seventy-fourth minute.

CRICKET

FOURTH TEST (Madras). — Pakistan 446 for 8 dec. and 59 for 0. India 539 for 9 dec. (Contractor 81, Umrigar 117, Borde 197 not). Drawn.

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