

**"Those Were The Days" Exclusive Articles
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Those Were The Days
*A topical look into the past of
Huddersfield Town AFC*

These exclusive articles first came to the site in August 2004 and here we give you the full collection of the first ten articles - up to November 2005

Article 1: "Start in the present", published August 2004

How better to start than right in the present and indeed the future! - the Galpharm Stadium or as the Examiner's Henryk Zientek [a former soccer player of mine if he of the Town supporters club team are one and the same] put it the "Pharm".

Our beloved Leeds Road home of the "Cow Shed", lets bring the old and the new totally together and let's bring the "Cow Shed" into the "Pharm". Where better for it than the singing section of the Kilner Bank.

The possibilities are endless!

New décor, new chants, new songs ... with a Tony Cows, sorry Carrs (!) here and a Efe there, here a Lloyd, there a Yates, everywhere a Boothy ... got the picture? Or should I say tune?!

Sadly, it is a long time since I graced a Town match, Wimbledon at Leeds Road when the Dons marched on and upwards in their final match before promotion.

Hopefully there will still be a few out there who still remember me, the 'nutter' with the kids and wife at all Town's matches.

Happy, happy days ours to remember in the weeks and months to come, hopefully you'll share with me and together we'll have a great time.

E.I.E.I.O

Did you know?

That following the promotion for Town to the top flight in the 1969/1970 season, the Town management was going to segregate the "Cow Shed"? It was planned to split the Town end into two, down the middle of the goal, to contain both home and away supporters.

But it was stopped after Town fans protested about the planned decision, stating that this was a "Town end" and to segregate would be sacrilege. They also pointed out to the club that they risked losing the vocal support the end made and also the safety and security for all supporters.

Thankfully the management of the club listened, and the vocal support given by generations of Town fans from the "Cow Shed" end for 24 more years before the move to the new Stadium in 1994

Article 2: "A look at some great Town fans in years gone by" April 2005

As the current season trickles to a close perhaps the slightly older of the Town fans may remember some of the names following and can picture the scene down Leeds Road way.

Much different from today I bet as you meander down from Town towards Leeds Road you pass 286 Leeds Road the last house in the row next door to Bradley Mills Working Mens Club.

We are now in the 1960's open the gate on the path up the steps bang on the door. If it's answered by a dapper little chap no more than 5ft 6in tall that is none other than Mr James (Jimmy) H. Firth Chairman of the Huddersfield Town Supporters Club but oh so much more as regards our Town.

A life long Town fan, worked in Hightown for as long as I remember, former Kit man to the team and a permanent fixture at the Club. We have our playing legends such as the Jimmy Nicholson and one for the future young Adnan Ahmed, but if ever a supporter reached legendary status it was Mr Firth.

The Supporters Club was all about the man with his Chairmanship spanning years and rather sadly our demise in the 1970's. But his love for the Club never diminished and his fervent hope was the rise of his beloved Town. One day I am sure for him they will be back at the top.

If you pass over the side road you come to the Town shop where on match days Mr Firth and Brian Gibson can be found running the Town Pool. The forerunner of so many 'new' innovative schemes here it was 45 years ago raising brass for our lads.

Some 10 years on and the same Town Shop was indeed a shop selling Town souvenirs with Mrs Kelly as Manageress. A most lovely lady who is still sadly missed by many. Even all those days and years ago Town Supporters were every where. Particularly in the hotbed of support that is the Heavy Woollen area and each home game saw the Spenborough Branch of the Town Supporters Club bringing a supporters bus starting out at Birkenshaw thro' to Gomersal picking up by Butts Mill, down into Cleckheaton, Hightown winding its way to Leeds Road.

Names from those days include the late Ernest Jones Secretary and Town & Yorkshire County Cricket Club fanatic and especially a lovely fellow. Donald Bould of Heckmondwike Cricket Club fame was another regular along with I think Geoff but his surname fails me who looked after the money.

Other names that memory throws up include Geoff Wilson, Derek Preston all still following their blue & white stripes. Talking about supporters you can't fail to remember Jo Haywood from East Ardsley never missed a match until the good Lord took away his season ticket. Home and away if there was a Town match Jo was there.

Many of you will have your memories of fans from the past and present perhaps you would like to tell us about them, in doing so you would be letting us know more about that most important person - the Town Fan.

Article 3: "A look back on the supporters club and some more Town fans" May 2005

Two dear members of the Town Supporters Club were Mrs Mcsweeney (Mrs Mc) and her big mate and constant companion at all Town matches in the 60's/70's Mrs Robinson. Their favourite player was the one and only Frank Worthington and at each match he would always have a special word for them.

Jack P. Evans of Brighthouse was the Secretary on whose retirement after many years' service a certain David A. Wood took over. Perhaps more of him at a later date!

Meetings were held monthly in the Friendly and Trades Club in Town at the bottom of Northumberland Street by the ring road. A huge somewhat oppressive building seemed to be all corridors and doors until you got to your meeting room and then it still did not improve.

Long was the feeling that Town Supporters should have their own Club. Some were talked about but not much more happened until... if memory serves me right the early mid 60's.

There was a building, stood on the car park behind the East Terrace ('Popular side' at Leeds Road) right in the corner looking onto the Leeds Road itself rather than our magnificent stadium.

Supposedly bought, by the Town Club (?), to turn into a Supporters and Social Club, a much needed match day venue with pints and pies etc and all things club and during the week and evenings. The Town Chairman (or was the role President at the time) was none other than the Police Chief Super or similar title in the local Constabulary.

Nothing happened with the building and as time past, eventually rumour had it there would be no club in this building on the grounds of objections raised. These were said to be on licensing grounds but even in those days I could not be sure just why nothing happened, indeed had we ever owned the building in the first place?

To this day Town fans seem to still be missing out on their own premises. Perhaps you will say we have other opportunities more favourable to us? Times, names, happenings all what memories are made of.

The Cow Shed, changing round at half time and using the track at the side of the field. It just could not happen today. But it did then and is now part of Town folklore and must not be forgotten.

Neither should your memories your tales of the Town, wherever you send them please send them be it to this website nor anywhere Town fans can read them.

Tales such as happened at Fratton Park with the players and kit being walked the last 1/2 mile because the coach could not get through. Supporters coming back from Portman Road following a FA Youth Cup Semi Final - on the official team Coach.

One Town player particularly enjoyed the return journey, his girlfriend was among the supporters!

Those were the days... coming soon. Are you Malcolm Pickup of the newly formed Town Junior S.C. Newly formed in 1964 that is, by the recently appointed Town Manager sadly now the late Tom Johnstone or were you one of the members of the Cub that met at Leeds Road.

Yes, actually had the meetings inside the hallowed portals, lets be hearing form you. For now tara.

Article 4: "The era of Tom Johnson and the HTJS" June 2005

Despite the passing of time and we are talking some forty years ago events concerning our beloved Club may dim or even become somewhat hazy but forgotten - never.

The managerial hot seat in September 1964 was vacated by Eddie Boot who before taking up the Managerial reins from a certain Bill Shankly had been a long serving Left Half and coach at the club. The new Boss was another craggy Scot Tom Johnstone who arrived from Grimsby Town and he quickly set about not only the playing side but off field too.

He very much was a man who recognised the importance of the supporter and especially the younger fans. Within a very short time he had formed a Junior Supporters Club which met at Leeds Road itself, in a room adjacent to the actual Board Room, the meetings under the stewardship of the Manager no less.

Yes the Boss formed the club housed it in the stadium and ran the meetings every Thursday 7-8.30. Imagine that happening today? No Chance.

That was only the start the meetings were all we wide-eyed bairns could have ever dreamed about. Every week we had special guests, players, officials, coaching staff they all came, many with their own 'mementoes'.

One such treasure I got to wear. The England shirt of Henry Cockburn, now sadly one of heavens finest wing halves, but that evening Mr Cockburn enthralled us with his tales of Manchester United and England and now his time at Leeds Road.

In 5 years time as Assistant Manager to Ian Greaves he was to help take us to the Second Division Championship and into the elite of English Soccer.

Back to that shirt. How the heck they played in them I have no idea. I might have been only 14 years of age but when he put it on me I BUCKLED it was so heavy and down it seemed to nearly my ankles. But oh the pride, just think, you are inside Huddersfield Town next to the Board Room no less, with the Manager of the Club and a former England international has just put one of his England shirts on you....!

I wasn't the only one either we always had a couple or three dozen down and one name I have always remembered is that of Malcolm Pickup. Malcolm would be the same age as I, he came from Huddersfield and we used to mate up at the JSC. As you do, you get older and you loose touch, but I have never forgotten Malcolm.

How I would love to meet him again, so if you know him or indeed Malcolm are reading this get in touch. If ever events are the basis for the future the Junior Supporters Club was the road that became a motorway for my involvement with the Town Club.

My already long time association with the Club from the Terraces was to my delight to expand beyond my wildest dreams in the next few years... ..

Town salesman, Town trial, Supporters Club official - all that and more "those were the days"

Article 5: "A very special piece of merchandise" July 2005

The newly appointed Manager in 1964 Tom Johnston was a terrific one for the fans and especially the younger ones hence the starting of the HTJSC, the Huddersfield Town Junior Supporters Club.

A club where the youngsters met weekly within Leeds Road for their meeting at which was a guest each and every week. Always one of our heroes - the players, often also a member of the coaching staff, the opportunity for a real insight into the Club itself and a chance to win a prized possession.

The Boss also wanted us to help the club in our own small way. Thus arose the Town Pennant one of the first souvenirs available to Town fans for years. Purchased for 1 shilling and threepence from Millar Bros of Southport we bought the huge amount of one gross, would they sell?

Priced at 2/6 I took up station on Bradley Mills Road 20 or 30 yards from the main entrance in what could only be described as a telephone box type wooden hut with the front part like a horses stable with the top open to sell from. I took up my post about ten minutes to two by quarter past two all 144 had gone. Complete sell out with a queue "a mile long" wanting their own Town Pennant.

The next home game the very same scenario as Town fans by their hundreds wanted to have the pennant to hang proudly at home or work to show who they supported and their pride in their club.

Being a Scot Mr Johnston was particularly canny and it was not long before he was wanting to link the youngsters with the actual Town Supporters Club so as to keep the supply line of Town fans going.

It worked.

Within a few short years of being introduced to Jimmy Firth and the senior Supporters Club the youngsters would be providing top officials to the Supporters Club. Perhaps more of that later because on the field was where it counted. By the end of that season 64/65 the Scot had changed things around brought in an entire new forward line and Town were to have an end to the season rarely seen until last season (2004/2005).

The last 10 games brought 7 wins 2 draws and just one defeat - that in the last away match of the season 2 nil at Deepdale. The season's finale saw Town 3 1 winners at Leeds Road against Derby County with those 3 goals the only ones conceded in that almost record making run. Town fans didn't want the season to end and nor should they for such was the form in the first half of the next season 1965/66 that if the season had been January to December the Town were going up!

One vital, most important signing, and not for the forward line, was made by Tom Johnstone just before Christmas of that season a man who became a Town legend. A man costing but £7,500 who had been named the next George Best but it was claimed had lost his way prior to signing for Town. What fortune for us his new route came down Leeds Road.

Who his he? A man whose thighs were as thick as tree trunks, whose physique was of granite, whose leadership was to prove so inspirational. Of course you know him the one and only next time on "those were the days"

We hope you have enjoyed our latest "Those Were The Days" articles, and find them an interesting look at some special memories of Town through the years. Memories that will not, and can not be forgotten - and memories only our beloved Town could have created

Article 6: "Welcome to a Town Irish legend, but who is he?" July 2005



Who is this?

He was a Town legend in his own right

Read on to find out more ...

Christmas a time for giving of great enjoyment and pleasure and a very busy time for footballers and fans alike. In his first festive season at Leeds Road Manager Tom Johnston was to make a signing that was to have a profound effect on our Club for many, many, years to come.

With the Saviours birthday celebration but a few days away Town entered the transfer market and signed a player whose name was penned to two Town songs in the way of folklore.

One was most apt for the time of year being linked to the verse of a Christmas carol the other a top ten hit 'grocer Jack'. The carol went..."Noo-el, Noo-el,...Noo-el, Noo-el,... Born is the King of Huddersfield, Noo-el, Noo-el,...Noo-el, Noo-el, Nicholson's King of Huddersfield".

The pop song 'grocer jack' became, "Jimmy Nick, Jimmy Nick get off your back and score for Town don't let us down, oh no, oh no".

So Town secured the signature of a 21-year-old Northern Ireland international wing half from Manchester United, for a fee of £7,500. A signing, that over the Johnston era would have its ups and downs, but most certainly would prove one of the shrewdest bargain buys ever in the history of our football club.

Forty years on you don't need me to tell you of the great man's record as Town's most capped international player. A man, at the end of the decade, who would lead Huddersfield Town back into the top flight of English football (he was captain of the Town side that won the second division title in 1969/1970).

The Manager of our Second Division Championship winning side would be a man who was a senior player at Old Trafford when Jimmy Nicholson came over the water to join the Reds. His start though was rather inauspicious, a 3-2 Boxing Day defeat at Portman Road, and one in the wrong end for our new boy! But the season, as already covered, was to end on a high note with Town firmly on the up. Despite the first half of the season being rather a disaster Town fans went on holiday eagerly awaiting the start of the next...

The team didn't let them down when they got back in action. Three straight wins, 0 goals against (they had conceded the fewest home goals in the Division the previous season) and 9 scored, a real improvement on the past campaign when at home nobody had scored fewer goals.

Whilst still not finding the net often enough the defence for the most part was meagre but too many draws were stopping Town really pulling away at the top. Christmas arrived on the back of 4 straight wins the pick of them a 3-0 victory at promotion chasing Coventry City.

The Town fans travelled in their thousands, the most famous one of all also in the crowd, being well rewarded with a scintillating display. I was later to obtain an autographed match programme bearing the signature of Harold Wilson, courtesy of a draw at the JSC meeting.

We could hardly wait for 1966 to arrive, yes the 1966! But being Town fans just like today you can hardly believe it is happening. When we are carrying all before us, it can't last can it? Please let it continue! It will, won't it? The 12 months since the former Red Devil's arrival at

Town had us up up and would it be away?

Sadly to be brutally honest Town had peaked, having enjoyed the Festive season probably better than ever, we journeyed to the Midlands for the last game of the year and just like the first of the New Year suffered defeat.

I can still feel the pain of that defeat as we returned home from Maine Road, something deep down was causing worry and doubt. When a further promotion rival Wolverhampton beat us in our next away fixture you can imagine the agony building up.

But Tom Johnston had put together a good team, grafters and fighters who would keep going and kept Town right up at the top end of the table.

Despite only two further defeats until we reached the penultimate fixture, those dam draws 1-1, 0-0, 1-1 were crippling our promotion bid. Still with one on our travels and the last game of the

season at Leeds Road, the return fixture with the Sky Blues and a magnificent double possible, the Town had all to play for... "those were the days...."

So a new Town legend under the name of James 'Jimmy' Nicholson was born. He spent 9 great years at Leeds Road and is currently the most capped Town player of all time. He left the Terriers to join Bury in December 1973. He was also the youngest ever capped player for Northern Ireland at the age of 17 years and 8 months and was widely regarded as the 'new George Best'.

... coming next in "Those Were The Days" ... could Town gain promotion and beat the Sky Blues at Leeds Road?

Article 7: "Could Town be promoted at the end of 1965/1966 season?" July 2005

Final match on the road Carlisle 2 Town 0

Despite the demoralising defeat in Cumbria by the end of the week Tom Johnston and the lads had got the fans back in a positive frame of mind. We had it all to play for promotion was still up for grabs though we now had to rely on others.

What a weekend in store (the final weekend of the 1965/1966 season).

The Sky Blues were in Town, still smarting from the total footballing lesson we had inflicted on them at Highfield Road when the Blue and White Stripes had truly endorsed their promotion pedigree with as an emphatic team performance as you would every hope to witness.

The TV cameras were in the gantry, the sun shone, thousands packed into Leeds Road. The scene was set.

Huddersfield Town 0 Coventry City 2.

It would be wrong not to pay credit to the visitors who performed on the day, we didn't. What anti-climax, that Coventry didn't gain promotion either was no consolation. Victory would still have seen us in the same division next campaign but the manner of defeat, two successive losses when all to play for.

It was what many Town fans had feared a step too far. Yet this was a good side, competent, combative with skill and ability yet we were still some way away from the promise land.

It would be totally churlish to say the summer came and went. Despite heavy hearts surrounding our team. England our country was in World Cup '66, and become World Champions. We won the World Cup at Wembley on a glorious sunny Saturday 30th July 1966. Mum's birthday was the birthday celebration to beat all.

In the morning I had the little matter of a trial at Town, along with a school-mate Ronnie Kelly. Seems unbelievable does it not but it happened. Thanks mainly to Henry Cockburn, that man again, followed by a hasty bus ride home to settle down for the, 'the' Match.

No one needs reminding of the score but the pride we Town fans felt in the wearer of the No 3 shirt for England was immense. OK by now Ray Wilson was plying his trade with Everton but he was still a Town 'player', still a Town man.

With England now World Football Champions, the best, the leading Soccer Nation what would the new season bring to our game. What could we hope for down Leeds Road way.

Had the World Cup success made up for the immense disappointment of narrowly missing out on promotion?

Even to this day Jimmy Nicholson who owns his own leisure centre near Manchester still believes that back in days of Tom Johnston the most important element in a football club was it's supporters, and still remembers the role the Town fans played during his nine years in blue and white stripes

If ever there was a Leeds Road legend he is certainly amongst them

Article 8: "Memories of opening day fixtures" August 2005

With the new season but days away perhaps it is down to age, not as good as in my day comes to mind. But as awaited as the big kick-off is things seem different.

We, or rather I did, actually looked forward to summer and the long hot hazy days of cricket, the Cup Final was six weeks after the close of the football season so you had the long exciting build up to the big day, soccer did not re-appear until the middle to end of August.

Two things meant so much. The opening fixture especially if at home and boarding the Supporters Coach in Gomersal for the start of the season.

Friendships re-newed after nearly three months. We sang Donald where's your trusers to the one and only Donald Bould, 'All good friends & Jolly Good Company' was another ditti. Ernest Jones had a almighty juggling act to do with his cricket commitment's but us lads piled onto the back seat happy to be Leeds Road bound again and this campaign would be the one, the one to bring the long awaited promotion!

Oh nearly forgot what was the other so valued component to greet the return of football. All the way on the bus I would look forward to it. Climbing those huge wooden steps at the back of the huge terrace we so loved.

Upon reaching the top I would pause, shut my eyes for a few seconds, building up the moment and then slowly move onto the Terrace at the top of the Popular side. Open my eyes and there you saw it, the green green grass of Home. The Leeds Road turf in all its glory, new, unmarked, perfect.

I can still see it now I'm back at the top of the terrace taking in the sight that still to this day means so much. Then there was the new programme but other than that nothing much changed what we did want to alter was Town being a well established 2nd Division club.

Only a few opening fixtures seem to stick in the memory, a home 1-1 draw with Bolton in 1964, the following season we opened up in the Capital with a 2-0 at the Orient and the next season, with England the World Champions Leeds Road saw Bristol City beaten 2-0, again on opening day 67/68 we met.

This time in the West Country victorious 3-2 at Ashton Gate with thousands of Town fans there, many like me having travelled on the football special to Temple Meads. 1970/71 was a bit special, a bit, a heck of a lot for we had done it we were back in the elite.

Leeds Road hosted Blackpool and First Division football a superb 3-0 victory against the other promoted club. Town gaffer Ian Greaves was heard to quip, "It's true what they say, this 1st Division football is much quicker!"

No doubt you too have your memories of opening days gone by, very special too aren't they. On the eve of another new season, if I have one request of the Town fan of today, one wish it is this.

Huddersfield Town is your football club - YOU are Huddersfield Town. Players & officials come and go, but YOU are for life. So if things get a little tough for your club, the performance patchy, passes go astray, chances missed that's when YOU get going even more.

It is yourself and your club you are supporting. That's when you and all the thousands of mates around you must raise your voices even louder because you must help each other help your club.

Believe me constant encouragement, even louder support from you for your club will mean so much and make a difference. At the end of the season, whatever the results, whatever the league table says, nothing will have altered you - you will still be Huddersfield Town.

Some day "those were the days" will be your 50+ years of memories and whatever the record books say... ..

The Town will still be you and your heart will still belong to your beloved Huddersfield Town

Article 9: "A look at 1966/1967 season" October 2005

It seems churlish with England Champions of the World, Town having only just missed out on promotion May last, but anti-climax was all around the summer following our World Cup win, crazy, yes, but Town meant so much to the fans.

We had still a very strong squad for the coming season, the Gaffer Tom Johnston was forever looking at players so strengthening was always on the cards, yet ...!

The season opened on the green, green grass of Leeds Road with a competent 2-0 victory over Bristol City, the first away fixture at Portman Road and a 0-3 defeat.

The scene had been set and so it continued strong at home, mixed on our travels. The highlight came in September when former England international, and Keighley born, Mike Hellowell was signed from Birmingham City.

The flying winger who was reaching the end of his career very quickly had a Town song penned in his honour. "Run run run run Hellowell", as you may guess this was aimed at his running ability. When picking the ball up in the outside right position, he would draw the opposing left full back to him. Then Mike would push the ball past him and run like the wind, past the full back, regain control and whip the ball across.

His debut away to Derby brought a seven-goal thriller of which we were on the wrong end of the score-line!

We beat Coventry at home, losing away, Wolves did the double over us, whilst we did similar to their Black Country rivals from St Andrews. The Sky Blues and Wanderers were promoted. We finished up a creditable 6th.

But still the promised land which had seemed so close only some 18 months ago had seen two successive near-misses with the feeling that this forever was to be our lot.

Would 1967-68 be any different? Without spoiling the plot... No it would not!

We again finished up in sixth position but the season would prove most momentous... How, find out in the next "Those were the days..." Edition number Ten!

Article 10: "Welcome to the start of 1967/1968 season" November 2005

With Tom Johnston about to start his third full season in charge, a team full of his signings plus one or two youngsters pushing for selection and a former Busby Babe, Ian D. Greaves as Chief Coach the new campaign was eagerly awaited by Town fans.

Expectation was high but remember this was our Club this was Huddersfield and the worry of a kick in the teeth not far away is usual present!

The opening fixture again put us up against Bristol City but this time along with 500 others I needed the football special that pulled out of Huddersfield Railway Station, just after breakfast to take us to the West country.

It was a glorious Yorkshire morning and the weather just kept on improving as we planned our campaign of support for the coming weeks and months. Throughout the journey we discussed how the magnificent support we knew we would give that afternoon could be transferred to Leeds Road the following Tuesday and for all the home games.

We didn't get it right then, funny how we still haven't got it right today! We pulled into Bristol Temple Meads it could have been Brazil such was the hot baking sun. By 3 o'clock it was truly cricket weather. Funny how the first day of a new football season seems to do that to the weather, but could the day get better. It could!

Though the game ebbed and flowed our lads fully deserved their 3-2 victory with both teams playing their part in a superb game. When Town took the points in the first home game the following Tuesday with a 1-0 success over Millwall the scene was set. Another home fixture welcomed Birmingham and for the second successive Saturday a 5 goal thriller with the hosts beaten again.

That kick in the teeth hadn't taken long to materialise. It would be the end of September before Town were to taste victory again as 4 defeats and two draws spelled trouble as for the campaign of support one loss was by 4-1 at Leeds Road, ouch!

Without truly cracking any pots in the league, we were good, 5 wins, 5 draws with just 3 defeats took us to New Year's Eve. But the inconsistency! Having conceded just 4 goals in the previous 9 games & with 4 successive shut outs prior to the visit of Bristol City we went down 0-3. A week later we could not keep the script rolling ala August as in the return fixture with the Blues we were hammered 6-1. Christmas cheer came in the holiday double with Hull City. A Boxing Day 2-0 home win and a point from a one all draw at Boothferry Park. We were up there in the League, challenging yes but a genuine threat no.

But in the Cup, oh yes the Cup. Now we are talking that is where the action really had been taking place. Surely the Cup wasn't until January? At least not for the top two divisional clubs of which we were then members! The Football Association Challenge Cup? - No. But we are talking about the League Cup, not the FA Cup, and in the League Cup Town were turning heads, indeed history is in the making.

Town fans would enjoy the Christmas festivities of 1967 unlike any other because of Town's success. A cup run the like of which had last been seen some thirty years previous. As today's Town fans look forward to a Cup tie with either Worcester or Chip in early December.

Think back to '67 and then followers of the Blue and Whites over their Christmas pudding contemplating a Cup Semi-Final which would involve Town, their Huddersfield Town.

For that and the historic Cup run of 1967-1968 read the next "Those were the Days...."

Visit the HTAFC History section for more articles
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