

An aerial photograph of the Swindon Town Football Club stadium, showing the pitch, stands, and surrounding urban area. The stadium is a large rectangular field with a goal at each end. The stands are visible along the sides and one end of the pitch. The surrounding area includes roads, parking lots, and some residential buildings.

# **SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2nd, 1957**

Division 111 (South)

**SWINDON TOWN**

v.

**SOUTHEND UNITED**

Kick-off 5.15 p.m.

*Official Programme* **3<sup>D</sup>**

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FOOTBALL COMBINATION

**SWINDON TOWN v. SOUTHEND U.**

**SATURDAY NEXT, 5th OCTOBER, 1957**

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Manager: B. J. HEAD

Secretary: R. A. MORSE

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Vol. 8

OCTOBER 2nd, 1957

No. 7

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## Club Notes

Following our win on Saturday against Millwall the team moved into third position in the League Table, and this with several players who have been regularly included in the Reserve Team. It has been said that a team's strength is in its reserves, and this is certainly true. More than ever before this will decide many clubs' fortunes this year. We are particularly fortunate to have players in our Reserves who can take their place in the First Team with such good results.

As mentioned in last Saturday's programme, the players need your vocal encouragement, so keep up that "roar" for the boys. The results that can be achieved have been shown in recent games when the crowd are behind the players, last Saturday was an example of this.

The injured list which seemed to be growing shorter, has now reached even greater proportions. David Head, injured in the Reserve game last Wednesday, was admitted to hospital on Thursday and had an operation performed on his ankle. He now occupies the next bed to Jack Fountain, who is progressing satisfactorily. We wish them both a very speedy recovery and better luck in the future.

Of the others injured Bill Roost is expected to start light training shortly. Maurice Owen, Alan Moore and Jimmy Cross have not yet fully recovered. Arnold Darcy has commenced light training and Nigel Swinger is to see a specialist regarding his injured knee. At the time of writing Andy Micklewright is still suffering from slight concussion and it is not certain that he will be fit for this evening's match.

When one considers the injuries, the results achieved become even more satisfying. If we are to maintain our position we need your help, so please give the boys all your vocal support.

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### Our Visitors

Southend United Football Club came into existence as the result of a meeting held at the Blue Boar, Prittlewell, on the 19th May, 1906. The convenors of the meeting, Prittlewell United, a newly formed amateur club, had met to consider their prospects and programme for the Season 1906-7, when during the discussions the meeting took a dramatic turn.

It was felt, by a majority, that such an amateur club as was contemplated would have small chance of winning public favour from the powerful Southend Athletic, whose successes had been the feature of the two preceding seasons, and it was there and then decided to form a professional club.

To their everlasting credit, the promoters displayed instantaneous initiative and drive. The name Southend United was adopted, a Company formed, a lease obtained on a field at Roots Hall in West Road, Prittlewell, and entry secured into Division II of the old Southern League and Division II of the South Eastern League.

In all these preliminary negotiations, the driving force came from Mr. Oliver Trigg, the then licensee of the Blue Boar, who may truly be called

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## **Our Visitors (continued)**

the founder of Southend United F. C.

An admirable choice of professionals was made, with Mr. Robert Jack as player-manager, and on 1st September, 1906, the new Club entered its first season, a remarkable one indeed, for in all it played 65 matches, won 50, drew 8, lost 7, and scored 222 goals against 58. It won both the championship of the Southern League (Div. II) and that of the South Eastern League (Div. II), but, unfortunately, the town did not support the new venture, and there was a financial loss on that first season of £1,142. The total gates amounted to £875, less than what is usually derived from a single first-team match these days, and the largest gate of the season was £93 on Easter Monday, 1907.

Despite being worthy champions, the application for inclusion in Div. I of the Southern League was rejected, but the United refused to be ignored, and after winning Division II again in 1907-8 it was admitted to the top grade. The opening home match with Millwall in 1908-9, when the United astonished the football world by winning 3-0, was proof that the promotion was justified, for the Club finished half-way up the League when the season concluded.

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**SWINDON TOWN v. SOUTHEND U**

**SWINDON**

RIGHT WING Colours: RED SHIRTS.

BURTON

NEAL (2)

CLAYTON (4)

HUDSON

SKULL (7) RICHARDS (8) MICKLEWRIGHT (5)

Referee :

Mr. C. A. R. Woan  
(London)

McGUIGAN (11) BARON (10) HOLLIS

DUFFY (6) STIRLING (

ANDERSON (3) THREADGC

**SOUTHEND U**

LEFT WING These teams are subject



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JRTON

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HT (9)

EDWARDS (10)

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ING (5)

DUTHIE (4)

ADGOLD

WILLIAMSON (2)

**ND UNITED**

subject to alteration

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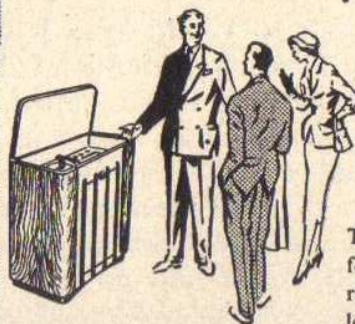
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### *Our Visitors (continued)*

The seasons prior to World War I were full of anxiety, and only the generosity of the Directors, friends of the Club, and the institution of a Supporters' Committee as it was called, saved the Club from extinction. When the Club finally closed down in 1914 it was heavily in debt and the only real asset was the membership of the Southern League.

In the summer of 1919 when preparations for the resumption of football were considered, the Club was once more in jeopardy. It had to start from scratch, for it had no home, no capital, no equipment, and only a few players available. Appeals were made to the sporting public, town meetings were held, and various schemes devised to give financial assistance. A practically new Board of Directors was appointed, the Club established its home at the Kursaal, and Mr. Ned Liddell was chosen as Manager. He had an uphill task in that season of 1919-20, but fortunately the difficulties, mainly financial, were met through money received from the transfer of players.

It was in 1920 that the Football League formed the Third Division (South) and Southend United were admitted to membership.

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Swindon ...	11	5	3	3	20	11	13
Millwall ...	12	6	1	5	20	16	13
Norwich ...	10	5	3	2	16	15	13
Brighton ...	11	6	1	4	16	16	13
Southend ...	11	6	0	5	29	16	12
Southampton ...	12	5	2	5	26	21	12
Shrewsbury ...	11	4	4	3	10	12	12
Newport ...	11	4	4	3	12	15	12
Reading ...	10	4	3	3	21	12	11
Watford ...	11	3	5	3	13	10	11
Brentford ...	11	5	1	5	27	23	11
Bournemouth ...	11	4	3	4	18	16	11
Aldershot ...	11	4	3	4	12	15	11
Colchester ...	12	4	3	5	17	25	11
Northampton ...	12	4	2	6	18	22	10
Q.P.R. ...	12	4	2	6	11	24	10
Crystal Palace	11	3	3	5	14	15	9
Walsall ...	10	3	3	4	12	15	9
Coventry ...	10	3	3	4	11	17	9
Gillingham ...	11	4	0	7	11	18	8
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Exeter ...	11	2	3	6	11	22	7

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