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No. 24

Wednesday, April 23rd

1957/58

Club Chatter by Maurice Golesworthy

When we played our first match of the season eight months ago we were saying that it was the beginning of a "new era for Exeter City. That new era has, so far, not gone as well as we would have hoped, and now here we are about to see a game which marks the end of an era, yes, the end, for this is the last Third Division game to be played at St. James Park.

I don't mean that it will be the last Third Division game ever to be played here but it is the last of the Third Division in its

present form.

To be more precise this is the 668th Third Division game played on this ground. How many of them have you seen? Did you see the first of these games which was played here on 28th August 1920? Our opponents were Brentford and we beat them 3-0. Let us hope that we can round off our 31st season of Third Division football at St. James Park with another 3-0 victory.

This season has brought a peculiar mixute of success and failure. Although we are still struggling to keep out of the reelection zone and the club is taking a verbal beating from many of its supporters there have been some pleasing features about season 1957-58.

For instance just look at the top teams in the table today and then recall the displays put up by our lads when faced by those teams on this ground.

Only one of the top six teams beat us at St. James Park (Swindon still to play) and that was Brentford who won here 5-3 in our first Wednesday game of the season.

The next leading team to visit us was Norwich City, in October, and we were all set to run out with both points when their full-back, Ron Ashman, moved up into the attack and netted their equaliser in the closing minutes of the game. So the result was 2-2.

In December we had a visit from Brighton the team that are now favourites to win promotion. Remember we had shocked them by drawing 2-2 on their ground early in the season and we gave them a bigger shock at St. James Park beating them 2-0 with goals by Rapley and Nicholls.



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Club Chatter-Continued

So we rounded off one of the best Christmas-week programmes we have ever had by collecting six points from the three games. Fulham was the only other team in the Football League to do the same.

But there was better to come, and I consider that the two home games played here in the month of February are among the best displays seen from any City side since the war.

The first of those games was against one of the top six-Plymouth Argyle. No-one could have wished for a more exciting and entertaining local derby. I don't need to remind you that we won 4-2.

As good a game as that was. Our next home match was even better. I doubt whether there has ever been a more thrilling packed 45 minutes than was provided by Exeter and Colchester United, in the first

Ted Calland got three goals that afternoon and Arnold Mitchell got one of his best goals for the City by chasing a loose ball nearly 30 yards before shooting in. At half-time we led 4-2 and in the second half most of the honours went to our defence for withstanding Colchester pressure so well that the visitors could only get one more

goal from a host of all-out attacking moves.

But to return to our top six. So far we have lost to one, drawn to another, and beaten two. The last of these teams to visit us before this evening was Reading on March 22nd. Here again our lads gave a display which belied our lowly League position.

No doubt Reading were one of the poorest of the leading teams to visit us this season, but don't forget that the zest and speed with which the City men played that afternoon had a lot to do with making Reading look third rate.

Unfortunately, however, our attack missed several good chances in that game and though we should have won comfortably we had to be satisfied with a 1-1 draw.

I don't like to use the term "bad luck"

to make an excuse for any of the defeats our team has suffered this season. It wasn't "bad luck" that prevented us from beating Reading but-let us admit it-bad

However, I am going to describe last Saturday's defeat by Watford as "bad luck." Watford really must be our bogey team for this was their third consecutive win at St. James Park and all by the same 2-1 result.

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Club Chatter-Continued

It is a long time since we have seen a game in which a team so outplayed their opponents and yet drop both points.

While we swarmed around the Watford goal almost continually from start to finish, hit the framework twice and had the ball kicked off their goal-line by a full-back Watford never really looked dangerous and yet somehow they contrived to got two goals and we could only net one.

Fancy running into such bad luck at a time when we so desparately need every point we can get. But that is the way it goes. They say its tough at the top, but we know that it is tougher at the bottom. It is easy enough to get there but every game is like a cup-tie to a team trying to climb away from the bottom.

This evening's game is going to be another with a cup-tie atmosphere because the

points are vital to both teams.

Swindon Town now have only an outside chance of promotion. On the other hand they are almost certain to qualify for talent money and, of course, the better the position the more they will collect.

As a matter of interest the top team in each section of the Third Division divides £550 among the players, the runners-up £440, Third £330. Fourth £220.

When they came to St. James Park just

over 12 months ago the Railwaymen were occupying the same position in the League table as we do today, and we beat them 3-2 with goals by John (2) and Harvey. Richards and Edwards scored for Swindon.

The teams in that game were:-

Exeter City—Hunter; Lackenby, Ferrier; John, Harvey, Simpson; Buckle, Currie, Mitchell, Willis, Rees.

Swindon Town—Burton; Cross, Earl; Fountain, Jack, Pembury; Owen, Richards, Micklewright, Edwards, Darcy.

It is surprising to see that although Swindon Town are right up at the other end of the table this time they still include the majority of last season's players in their line-up.

The two most notable newcomers to the Swindon team this season are left-back Walter Bingley, signed from Sheffield Wednesday, and 24-year-old centre-forward Jim Kelly, whom they secured from Preston North End in February.

Long-service man is Maurice Owen. He joined them 12 years ago and if chosen for this evening's game we shall probably see him in his new position of right-half back. By now Maurice cannot be far short of his 400th Football League appearance for the Railwaymen. A first class club man.

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Foley

4 Mitchell

7 Wilson 8 Hill Olive 9 Callan

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Mr. D. T. Markall Mr. L. D. Mahoney (Red Flag) (Yellow Flag)

Darcy

10 Edwards

6 Owen

> 3 Bingley

Left

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lelly 5

Micklewright

Richards

Clayton

2 Neal

Burton

Right

SWINDON TOWN

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Our Visitors

The Swindon Town team will probably be chosen from the following:—

BURTON, SAM (Goalkeeper). A local product who has spent the whole of his professional career with Swindon. Now in his 12th season and has missed very few games in recent years. Born Swindon. 6ft, 0ins. 12st. 0lbs.

NEAL, JOHN (Right-back). Born North Shields. Was with Hull City in the Second Division and then had a season with Kings Lynn before moving to Swindon last summer. 5ft. 8ins. 10st. 10lbs.

BINGLEY, WALTER (Left-back). Signed early this season from Sheffield Wednesday. Had been over two seasons with the Wednesday having joined them from Bolton Wanderers. Born Sheffield. 5ft. 11ins. 11st. 9lbs.

CLAYTON, LEW (Right-half). Born Barnsley. An experienced wing-half who has played for Carlisle United, Barnsley, Queen's Park Rangers, and Bournemouth before joining Swindon last summer. 5ft. 9ins. 11st. 3lbs.

OWEN, MAURICE (Right-half). Another experienced player who has been with Swindon since joining them from Abingdon

in 1946. Better known as a centre-forward but has recently been filling a wing-half berth, Born Abingdon, 5ft. 10ins. 11st. 3lbs.

HUDSON, GEORGE (Centre-half) Joined Swindon from Portsmouth ten years ago and has now made well over 300 appearances for them. Born Havant. 6ft. 1ins. 13st. 0lbs.

FOUNTAIN, JACK (Left-half). Born Leeds Signed from Sheffield United last year. Had been seven seasons at Bramall Lane. 5ft. 9ins. 11st 2lbs.

SKULL, JOHNNY (Outside-right). Given a free-transfer by the Wolves in 1956 this player went out of the League for a season until Swindon signed him this term.

when playing for an army team in the locality. Became a part-time professional with Swindon after his demob two years ago Born West Bromwich. 5ft. 11ins. 12st 0lbs

KELLY, JIM (Centre-forward). Born Bellshill, Lanarkshire. Made his debut with Swindon on March 1st last at Torquay. Signed from Preston North End. He was previously with Peterborough United. 5ft. 114 ins. 12st. 5lbs.

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LEAGUE TABLE

(Up to and including Monday, April 21st)

THIRD DIVISION (South).

Plymouth Reading Brighton Swindon Norwich Brentford Southampton Southend Bournemouth	P W 45 24 45 21 42 22 44 20 45 19 43 20 43 19 43 20 44 17	13 2 11 0 14 1 0 15 10 0 10 10 0 10 8		47 5 50 5 61 5 49 5 67 5 54 5 66 5 52 4 69 4	6554320987
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Our Visitors-Continued

DARCY, ARNOLD (Inside or outside-left). Born Blackburn. Joined Swindon from Wigan Athletic in October 1956. 5ft. 8ins. 11st. Olbs.

EDWARDS, BOB (Inside-left). Born Guildford. Was an amateur with Woking, Guildford City and Birmingham before

turning professional with Chelsea. Transferred to Swindon in 1954. 6ft. 0ins. 11st. 7lbs.

MICKLEWRIGHT, ANDY (Outside-left). Was with Bristol Rovers and then Bristol City before moving to Swindon in 1954. Was originally a centre-forward. Born Birmingham. 5ft. 8ins. 11st 6lbs.

GOALSCORERS

Division III—Calland 15, Churms 8, Nicholls 8, Rapley 4, Robinson 4, Mitchell 4, Currie 2, Harvey 2, Atkinson 2, Hill 2, Wilson 2, Foley, Atkins, Rees and John, one each. Total 57. Southern League and Cup-Hill 24, Calland 10, T. Skuse 5, Wilson 4, T. Atkins 3, Rapley 2, Waterman 2, Harvey 2, Beer 2, Rees 2, Robinson, Foley, Atkinson, Dale, Grinney and A. Cruz, one each. Total 62.

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