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VOL. 17

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1967

No. 19

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1967

DIVISION III

SWINDON TOWN

V.

READING

Kick-off 3 p.m.

REFEREE:

Mr. J. W. J. CLARKE (Studley)

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NEWS and VIEWS

This afternoon we play our second important game in a week. These notes must be written before the replayed Cup-tie. Whatever the result of that game (and we hope it was good), today's match is much more vital to us. Whilst the Cup is a great attraction, sometimes a money-spinner, and success in it brings confidence, our League position is such that we badly need points to improve it. The end of the season draws dangerously nearer, and we are far from being out of the wood.

Today's game is naturally an attractive one. With Reading providing the opposition, and a local derby, interest and excitement can be high. I wonder if the gate will be in the same region as on Tuesday, or will it reach **half** that figure? The receipts from Division 3 games are the backbone of our finances. The Cup produces, in some cases, big money, but each club receives less than one-third of the income.

Last season we entertained Reading before a crowd of 15,627 (we shall be very happy to see that number present today). The result was a win of five goals to nil in Swindon's favour. In the return game at Reading we won by two goals to nil. The match was played in the evening of the 1st April. Although we lost at home to Watford on the previous Saturday, Swindon had a tremendous following, something approaching five thousand; and did they cheer and support their team? I remember the announcer at half-time saying rather dejectedly, but trying to stir up enthusiasm: "Come along Reading supporters, people will think this game is being played at Swindon".

The teams for the game played on 6th November were — Swindon Town (5): Downsborough; Dawson, Trollope;

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Reading (0): Dixon; Meldrum, Evans; Cook, Thornhill, Travers; Knight, Webb, Terry, Allen, McDonald.

In the return fixture East played in place of Lawton.

This season we lost 1—2 at Reading after being beaten 0—3 at Bristol Rovers the previous week. We were rather unfortunate to lose, as we scored first through Dennis Brown, and the winning goal came in the last few minutes.

Swindon Town Team: Downsborough; Dawson, Trollope; Morgan, Nurse, Harland; Penman, Brown, East, Butler, Rogers.

We hope we can return the compliment, and record a win in our favour of at least 2—1.

From time to time we have referred to articles published in the "Football League Review". This month Mr. Clifford Coombs, newly-appointed chairman of Birmingham, makes what some consider rather provocative suggestions for the financial improvement of clubs. Some well-known chairmen disprove the ideas, even "shoot them down in flames" in some cases. However some people in football think there is food for thought. Mr. Coombs merely says "One additional gate each week would transform the balance sheet of many clubs. So why not play twice a week, once at home and once away. Several objections are put forward: quite impossible to meet the demands of training and turn out a first-class performance every three days; no manager can start to get his players fit until two days after the last match.

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We hope this week, especially today's game, will disprove the argument of a match every three days. What happens at holiday times, Christmas and Easter? Not so long ago clubs played three games in four days on the latter occasion. As for training, a match releases players from training after a tedious process at this period of the year. In fact some people would go so far as to say many players would prefer to play a game rather than train. Much more enjoyable. Surely full-time, highly trained professionals can play two games in a week. That is not too much to expect. Many of us know amateur players of quite a high standard who often at the end of a season, to complete the fixtures, play four games in a week, and work all day in a factory from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Two matches a week could perhaps cause some congestion of fixtures, but organisation could prevent much of that. There would be more wear and tear of pitches. Some are pretty poor now, and they couldn't get much worse. Certainly more use would be made of football stadiums, but would the public stand for it — would they get fed-up with football? Finally, could they afford to pay for two games every week?

Whatever happens, it appears something will have to be done to place many clubs on a sound financial basis. Quite a number today only exist on donations from Supporters' Clubs and various competitions and lotteries. Fewer people watch each year, yet overall expenses rise higher and higher. Some clubs try to overcome the difficulties by reducing the size of the playing staff. (It is frequently stated that players wages account for 80% of outgoings. We wouldn't put it quite as high as that.) This reduction sometimes create an embarrassing position, although only one team is run. Will some teams cease to exist? It seems very much as if that is the trend of things. Certainly many Southern League clubs are near to closing down.

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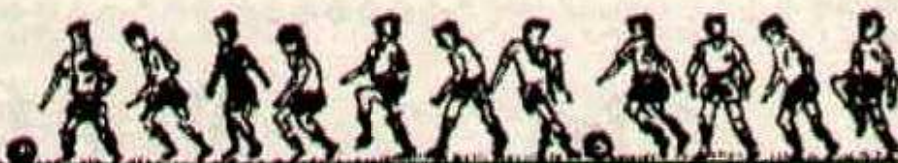
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OUR VISITORS



READING FOOTBALL CLUB

DENIS ALLEN (Centre or Wing Forward)

Born: Dagenham. Joined the Club on 9th June, 1961, when he was transferred from Charlton Athletic F.C. his only other professional Club.

JOHN CHAPMAN (Full Back)

Born: Sacriston, Co. Durham. Joined Workington F.C. in February 1963, for whom he played for three seasons. Transferred to our Club on 7th May, 1966.

RAY DEAN (Centre Half Back)

Born: Steventon, Berks. Joined our Club as an amateur player on 5th October, 1963, and signed as a professional player on 7th May, 1966.

GEORGE HARRIS (Outside Left)

Born: Lambeth, London. Transferred to our Club from Watford F.C. on 18th July, 1966. An experienced winger who prior to joining Watford, assisted Newport County F.C.

COLIN MELDRUM (Left Full Back)

Born: Glasgow. Joined our Club on 4th April, 1963, when he was transferred from Watford F.C. Prior to joining the Hertfordshire Club, Colin assisted Arsenal F.C. for two seasons.

ALAN SCARROTT (Inside Forward)

Born: Malmesbury, Wilts. Joined the Club from Chippenham Town F.C. on 20th April, 1965. His previous Clubs include West Bromwich Albion F.C. and Bristol Rovers F.C.

PAT TERRY (Centre Forward)

Born: Lambeth. A very experienced player who joined the Club on 21st August, 1964, when he was transferred from Millwall F.C.

RODNEY THORNHILL (Wing Half Back)

Born: Reading. A local born player who assisted the Club as an amateur player from 20th August, 1960, until he signed as a professional player on 27th May, 1963.

ARTHUR WILKIE (Goalkeeper)

Born: Woolwich S.E. Joined the Club's ground staff on 11th November, 1958, as an amateur player and signed as a professional player on 8th October, 1959. Reserve for England F.A. Youth XI that toured Germany in January 1959.



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DAVID BACUZZI (Full Back)

Born: Highgate, London. Joined our Club on 9th September, when he was transferred from Manchester City F.C. for whom he played for two seasons. Played for Arsenal F.C. for five seasons.

ERNEST YARD (Wing Half Back)

Born: Stranraer. Joined our Club on 11th November, 1966, when he was transferred from Crystal Palace F.C. An experienced player who has assisted Partick Thistle F.C., Kilmarnock and Bury.

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£30	2nd prize	14—00—17
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DIVISION III

(up to, and including, Tuesday, January 31st, 1967)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Queen's Park Rangers.....	26	16	8	2	71	26	40
Bristol Rovers	29	15	7	7	54	43	37
Mansfield Town	27	14	6	7	56	46	34
Watford	26	13	7	6	36	22	33
Oldham Athletic	27	12	5	10	55	39	29
Torquay United	28	12	5	11	44	34	29
Middlesbrough	26	12	5	9	51	42	29
Shrewsbury Town	27	11	6	10	46	42	28
Gillingham	27	9	10	8	33	34	28
Reading	27	11	5	11	42	37	27
Walsall	25	12	3	10	37	40	27
Bournemouth & B.A.	27	9	9	9	24	33	27
Brighton & H.A.	26	10	6	10	35	35	26
Peterborough United	26	8	9	9	43	43	25
Grimsby Town	26	11	3	12	42	43	25
Colchester United	27	10	5	12	47	50	25
Scunthorpe United	28	9	6	13	32	48	24
Doncaster Rovers	26	9	5	12	39	65	23
Swindon Town	25	8	6	11	44	37	22
Oxford United	26	7	8	11	31	34	22
Darlington	28	9	4	15	28	55	22
Leyton Orient	25	5	10	10	30	41	20
Swansea Town	27	5	9	13	52	64	19
Workington	26	6	5	15	33	52	17

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(2) Trollope (3)

Nurse (5)

Harland (6)

Skeen (9)

Smart (10)

Rogers (11)

These teams are subject
to alteration

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SUPPORTERS *CLUB NOTES*

How can one express, adequately, the appreciation and thanks for the win over West Ham United last Tuesday, which I am sure all Town supporters would wish me to do? The match at West Ham and the replay will undoubtedly join the highlights of past years, and will be talked about and discussed for many, many years to come.

These were two matches when team work, rather than individual brilliance proved, once again, the vital factor. Here one must include the people behind the eleven representatives who ran out on the pitch and, as is natural, receive most of the praise.

Supporters must not forget that three of the team, up until a few weeks ago, were regular members of the Reserve team. That they were able to fit in so well must reflect a great deal of credit to Danny Williams and his trainers and coaches. I have repeatedly reminded supporters that our Reserve team are well worth watching when the first team is away. Their position in the First Division of the Combination League — just behind Spurs and Leicester City, and with a game in hand over Leicester City — is proof of their ability.

I have also stressed the importance of vocal support when the boys are playing. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that had you, the supporters, supported your team in the earlier part of the season as you did last Saturday and Tuesday, our position in the League would be vastly better than it is at



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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES—continued

the moment. It's all very well complaining that Third Division football is not worth watching, and using this as an excuse for not coming to the County Ground regularly, but what you are saying, in effect, is that you, yourselves, are not prepared to put yourselves out to help the Club move up to higher Divisions. It's all very comforting to say that this or that player must be bought, but without your regular support, how can you expect the Club to be in a position to buy such players — or for that matter afford the almost equal expense of training young and promising players from the time they leave school until they are capable of taking their places in the senior teams.

Our next opponents in the F.A. Cup competition is Bury — no newcomers to the County Ground. This will be a hard match to win — perhaps as difficult a cup opponent as West Ham United. The players I have spoken to over the last few days are under no illusion whatsoever on this score. Your support on the 18th February will be as important as it was on Tuesday night, if entry into the next round is to be achieved. Our regular supporters — the steady average of about 10,000 — will be there, as they are today, together with you, the missing thousands. Do your part to the last echo and we shall be through to the next round.

I would again thank the West Ham United team and supporters for the very gallant and sportsmanlike way in which these two matches were played. We had a number of West Ham United supporters in the Social Club after the match, and a very nice bunch of lads they were. They stayed until the Club closed, although this meant that they had to wait until the 2.30 a.m. train before they could leave for home. As I said in my

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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES—continued

last Notes, it is possible for two clubs to play football without the hooliganism so often reported in the Press and through the radio network. I often wonder if the cure for this could be in not mentioning such affairs at all. Such hooligans are never happy unless they can read, or hear, about their efforts afterwards, and the answer could be to refuse to give them this pleasure.

The Social Club members, as those who came in before and after the match know, were able to meet and talk with the B.B.C. film unit who made the tele-recording of the match. All 23 of them worked extremely hard from early morning in rigging the cameras on the top of the old Stand, and we were able to provide them with welcome hot snacks before and after the match, together with a gallon flask of coffee to keep them warm on the top of the stand. Mr. Wolstenhome and Mr. David Colman were kept busy signing autographs and most of them came back after the match to see the recording on our T.V. set, and accepted some good natured remarks as one might expect — with easy grace. Some of the players were also in, quaffing a well-earned tankard, and getting a rousing reception. Another visitor to the Club who, I may add, demonstrated that he was able to cheer as well as the next one, was Lord Suffolk, of Charlton Park.

Tonight is Party night in the Social Club. BINGO and a singsong tomorrow night; with the usual BINGO, PARTY NIGHT and BINGO next week, the 10th, 11th and 12th February.

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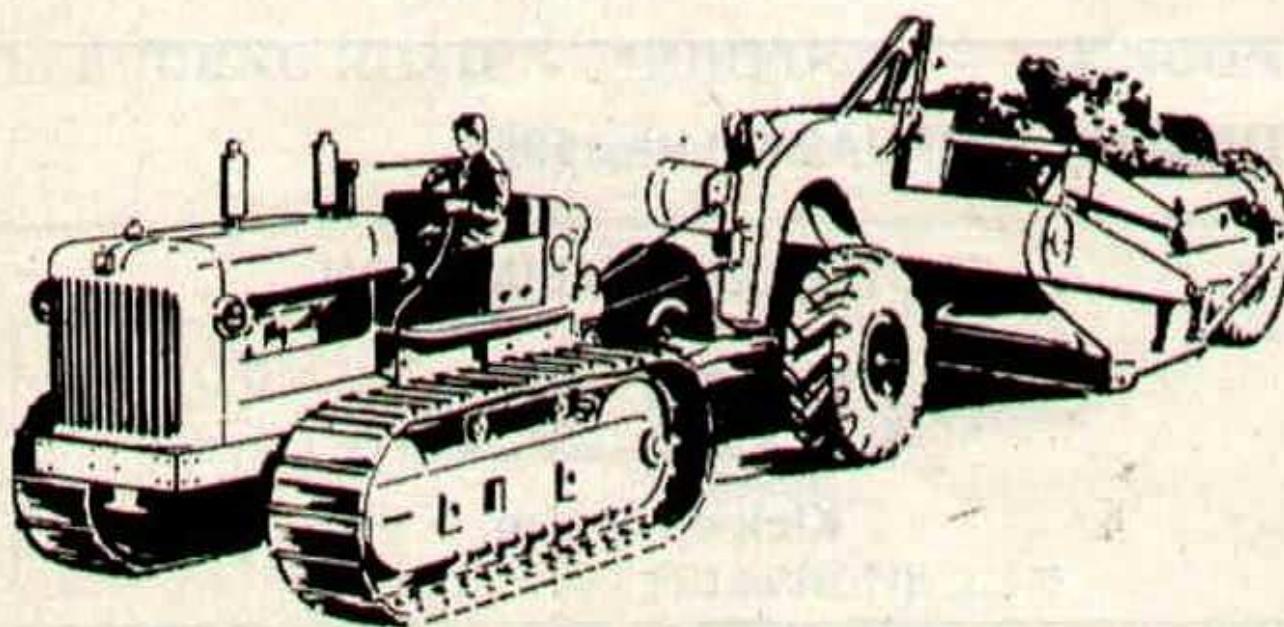
(Table of Results to Tuesday, January 31st, 1967, not inclusive)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Tottenham Hotspur	15	12	1	2	43	15	25
Leicester City	17	9	4	4	40	28	22
Swindon Town	15	9	2	4	25	19	20
West Ham United	14	8	2	4	38	21	18
Northampton Town	15	8	2	5	34	28	18
Arsenal	13	8	1	4	28	20	17
Peterborough United	13	7	2	4	28	28	16
Nottingham Forest	14	7	1	6	39	31	15
Southampton	18	6	3	9	37	35	15
Chelsea	17	6	3	8	31	39	15
Gillingham	14	5	4	5	26	34	14
Coventry City	14	6	2	6	25	34	14
Crystal Palace	15	6	1	8	25	35	13
Plymouth Argyle	15	4	3	8	32	32	11
Fulham	14	4	1	9	29	32	9
Ipswich Town	17	4	1	12	22	39	9
Reading	16	2	1	13	19	51	5

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 1967

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

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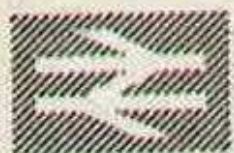
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DIVISION III

Date	Opponents	Gate	Ground	Result
August 20	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	10,102(A)	2—2
24	BOURNEMOUTH & B.A. (League Cup)	7,769	.....(H)	2—1
27	DARLINGTON	10,855	.....(H)	4—0
September 3	QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS	7,900	.....(A)	1—3
6	COLCHESTER UNITED	11,600	.....(H)	1—1
10	WATFORD	9,999	.....(H)	1—2
13	PORTSMOUTH (League Cup)	7,784	.....(H)	4—1
17	BRISTOL ROVERS	10,907	.....(A)	0—3
24	READING	9,064	.....(A)	1—2
26	COLCHESTER UNITED	7,874	.....(A)	1—2
October 1	DONCASTER ROVERS	7,780	.....(H)	0—1
4	DONCASTER ROVERS (League Cup)	9,190	.....(A)	1—1
8	SHREWSBURY TOWN	7,985	.....(H)	2—2
11	DONCASTER R. (League Cup Replay)	8,147	.....(H)	4—2
15	MIDDLESBROUGH	8,126	.....(A)	0—4
18	WALSALL	9,027	.....(A)	1—1
22	SWANSEA TOWN	8,638	.....(H)	4—0
25	W. BROMWICH ALBION (League Cup)	16,254	.....(H)	0—2
29	BOURNEMOUTH & B.A.	6,333	.....(A)	4—1
November 5	LEYTON ORIENT	8,996	.....(H)	5—1
12	GILLINGHAM	7,320	.....(A)	0—1
19	WORKINGTON	9,497	.....(H)	3—0
26	(1) HORSHAM	8,000	.....(A)	3—0
December 3	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	10,347	.....(H)	6—3
10	OXFORD UNITED	10,037	.....(A)	0—0
17	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	9,900	.....(H)	1—1
24	PETERBOROUGH UNITED .....	.....	.....(A)	2—1
26	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	14,619	.....(H)	4—1
31	DARLINGTON	5,060	.....(A)	1—2
January 7	(2) ASHFORD TOWN	12,079	.....(H)	5—0
14	WATFORD .....	.....	.....(A)	0—2
21	BRISTOL ROVERS	15,479	.....(H)	0—1
28	(3) WEST HAM UNITED	37,440	.....(A)	3—3
31	WEST HAM UTD. (3rd Round Replay)	25,789	.....(H)	3—1
February 4	READING .....	.....	.....(H)	.....
11	DONCASTER ROVERS .....	.....	.....(A)	.....
18	(4) BURY .....	.....	.....(H)	.....
25	SHREWSBURY TOWN .....	.....	.....(A)	.....
March 4	MIDDLESBROUGH .....	.....	.....(H)	.....
11	(5) GRIMSBY TOWN .....	.....	.....(A)	.....
14	QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS .....	.....	.....(H)	.....
18	SWANSEA TOWN .....	.....	.....(A)	.....
25	BOURNEMOUTH & B.A. .....	.....	.....(H)	.....
27	TORQUAY UNITED .....	.....	.....(A)	.....
28	TORQUAY UNITED .....	.....	.....(H)	.....
April 1	LEYTON ORIENT .....	.....	.....(A)	.....
8	(6) GILLINGHAM .....	.....	.....(H)	.....
11	MANSFIELD TOWN .....	.....	.....(H)	.....
15	WORKINGTON .....	.....	.....(A)	.....
18	WALSALL .....	.....	.....(H)	.....
22	SCUNTHORPE UNITED .....	.....	.....(H)	.....
24	MANSFIELD TOWN(A)
29	(S.F.) OLDHAM ATHLETIC(A)
May 6	OXFORD UNITED(H)
12	SCUNTHORPE UNITED(A)



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KEY OF THE BOARD

First Section

- A—Arsenal v. Chelsea
- B—Aston Villa v. Leicester City
- C—Burnley v. Manchester United
- D—Everton v. Leeds United
- E—Fulham v. Newcastle United
- F—Manchester City v. Blackpool
- G—Nottingham Forest v. Tottenham Hotspur
- H—Sheffield United v. Sheffield Wednesday
- I—Southampton v. West Ham United
- J—Sunderland v. Liverpool
- K—Bristol City v. Carlisle United
- L—Crystal Palace v. Plymouth Argyle
- M—Huddersfield Town v. Derby County
- N—Ipswich Town v. Blackburn Rovers
- O—Northampton Town v. Hull City
- P—Preston North End v. Norwich City
- Q—Rotherham United v. Birmingham City
- R—Wolverhampton Wanderers v. Bolton Wanderers
- S—Brighton & H.A. v. Walsall
- T—Gillingham v. Swansea Town

Second Section

- A—Leyton Orient v. Bournemouth & B.A.
- B—Oxford United v. Bristol Rovers
- C—Torquay United v. Peterborough United
- D—Watford v. Doncaster Rovers
- E—Workington v. Middlesbrough
- F—Aldershot v. Luton Town
- G—Barrow v. Bradford
- H—Bradford City v. Halifax Town
- I—Exeter City v. Hartlepool United
- J—Lincoln City v. Notts County
- K—Southend United v. Newport County
- L—York City v. Chester



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