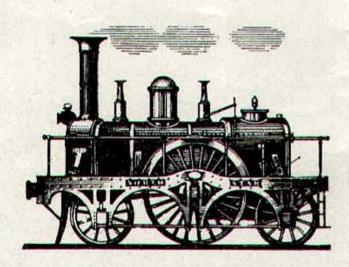


# Swindon Town F.C.

**PORT VALE** 

THIRD OFFICIAL THE PROGRAMME

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# ORTHSTAR

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### **NEWS&VIEWS**

Now begins the fight to restore confidence, and the determination to greatly improve the league position.

The defeat by Tooting was a great disappointment, especially after the splendid victory over Cardiff City, and the hard-won point at Millwall.

Without in any way minimising the loss of prestige caused by the exit from the cup competition, it is after all only one game. Remember too it has happened before, but still the club continued and progressed.

Many of us can remember the deep depression after the defeat 1-3 at Southall in season 1935-36. Interest in football was at a very low ebb, yet two seasons later the County Ground was packed to capacity to see Swindon defeat Grimsby Town (then in Division 1) in a Third Round Replay.

In Season 1953-54 came what seemed at that time a complete catastrophe. After a tremendous build-up and a week's special training at Eastbourne, Swindon was completely outplayed by Southern League Club, Hastings United. Our opponents scored three goals in the first eighteen minutes, and finally won by four goals to one. It was indeed a terrible blow, and it seemed to many the end of Swindon Town Football, as the club was struggling in every way, and needed a boost.

However the club continued despite having to seek re-election to Division 3, and the following season reached the fourth round of the cup competition losing 1-2 at Charlton (Division 1).

The next shattering blow was in Season 1961-62, when the strong young team was developing. Drawn home to Kettering Town in the First Round of the Cup seemed an easy enough fixture especially as after sixty-minutes, Swindon was leading by two goals to nil and quietly coasting to victory. Then came a bad mistake, and 2-1, followed by another goal from the visitors. The replay at Kettering was a real fiasco, and we were soundly beaten by three goals to nil. Many of our supporters will remember most of the players in that match, Burton-Jones, Trollope, Morgan, Owen, Woodruffe, Summerbee, Hunt E, McPherson, Hunt R, Jackson.

Again we recovered from this set back. The game against Kettering was played on 4th November 1961. In the following season 1962-63, in the April Swindon gained promotion to Division 2 for the first time in its history.

Surely history will repeat itself, and Swindon will be back, but it will mean much hard work, determination and concentration. This is the time, which shows the real character of the club, everyone must be together from supporters, the youngest of apprentices, right through players, trainers, managers, directors to the chairman. In fact, everyone connected with the club.

These days we hear so much in football of Professionalism, skill, one hundred per cent effort, etc.

Surely what is needed is straightforward down to earth workmanlike football. Play it the natural easy way and let us hear less of skills and effort, two passes not six. Surely the amateur playing on the Recreation Grounds gives all his effort one hundred per cent.

GROUND ADVERTISING here at the County Ground will do just this. If you are interested, ring the Secretary, without obligation, and he will be pleased to give you details.

SUPPORT 'THE TOWN'.

### FROM OUR TAME STATISTICIAN DIBE Cooper

Toot-toot. Oops, sorry I should not mention you-know-who! We should have had a cricket score by half-time. What a hard lesson to learn for relaxing effort and letting the opposition back to snatch a draw. I felt like returning my Swindon Town pencils for a refund. Swindon 4 Cardiff O. I feel a bit better after saying that. Maybe if I say it again? Swindon 4 Cardiff 0. Yes, I am beginning to summon up enough composure to continue. Swindon 2 Liverpool 0. No, that's too long ago, but I enjoyed the memory and it helps. With the tremendous fight put up at Gillingham last Saturday I believe I have recovered enough to sharpen my Swindon Town pencils and turn my attention to the league and the task ahead. If the lesson learned two weeks ago serves to focus all efforts to meeting Danny's target for survival then we may feel grateful to the parttimers. Congratulations to them and good luck in the 4th and perhaps 5th rounds. Who knows they could go further.

It is hardly necessary for me to say that forecasts based on league performance so far this season will not be too comforting. However, with 13 homes and 10 aways left the forecast is not as gloomy as I feared it might be. It predicts a further 16 points from the remaining 13 home matches and 4 points from the remaining 10 away matches. Thus with the 15 points we have already the forecast is for 35 points at the end of the season. Danny's target set at the beginning of 1976 is 42 points at the end of the season. Danny is therefore asking for an improved performance which will bring 7 points more than is predicted during the remaining 23 matches. With the splendid performance against Cardiff and away to Millwall and Gillingham (yes, I know we lost, but we went down fighting and fighting hard) this is not an impossible target. Looked at in another way we must win 4 more matches than we loose. With 3 more homes than aways we have the County Ground on our side.

To show the task ahead I have prepared the same progress diagram I gave in the Crystal Palace programme last year. This summarises the results to date and shows the forecast meandering (or tootling if you prefer) slightly downwards to end at 11 points below one per match. That is at 35 points at the end of the season. Danny's target is shown as a straight line down from the present position of 8 points less than one per match slightly upwards to 4 points less than one per match at the end of the season. That is ending with 42 points. Drawing the team's future results as they occur will show what progress is being made and how close to the target the team is. Remember results are drawn as follows. Up one point for a win, down one point for a loss and remain level for a draw.

I am confident the team will reach the target. I hope to be writing a similar article about this time next season showing what is required for promotion. Good luck to the squad and a happy new year to all.

**SWINDON 31510** 

SWINDON TOWN POOLS

Pools Manager: D. W. Buswell

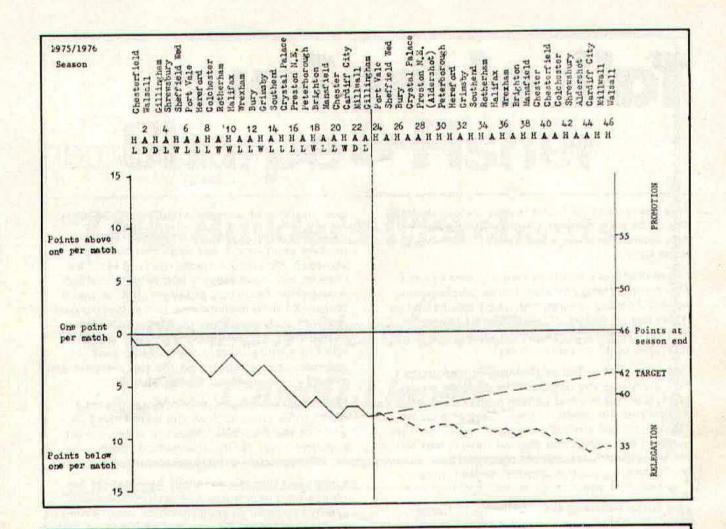
Dear Supporter,

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# Talk of the Town

# By the Chairman

This being our first home league fixture of 1976, should be an extra incentive to our players to win, especially if our New Year's resolutions are to be kept.

I have obviously received many letters of complaint concerning our poor home performance against Tooting & Mitcham, and I would like to state here on behalf of my Board of Directors, that we were as disgusted, and would like to apologise to all of our followers.

Everyone that wrote or phoned in, complained that there was the opportunity to score many goals, and this is what people come to see and we ignored this angle, in preference to playing cat and mouse, with the eventual result we now know. I can only hope that we have learnt our lesson, although I know that it could be a costly one, as every supporter we lose, means money in the end.

This is the worrying side of the professional game, as so many people who rely on making a living are dependent upon the following that the team can command, and one has to be successful to get the support.

Amidst all the gloom, came another gleam of light on Saturday last at Gillingham, when Danny introduced Geoff Chalklin into the team. Geoff, only 19, has been showing good form in the reserves and everybody was pleased by his first showing on Saturday. We look forward to seeing Danny persevere with this young player because the future of our club lies in this direction.

With Kenny Stroud, David Syrett, David Moss, John Gilligan, Geoff Chalklin, (looked after of course by John Trollope), and not forgetting Jimmy Allan and Terry Hubbard, you will see that we number eight boys brought through our Youth Scheme to play in the first team this season.

This is a very difficult time for Danny to get through, but I am sure that he will overcome our troubles, as he has done in the past.

In your letters last week several people said that they would welcome the opportunity to attend one of our open forum evenings which we have held on two occasions previously in the Rendezvous Club. We will certainly arrange such an evening in the near future. It will have to be arranged for a Monday evening and we will try and give as much advanced notice as we can, to

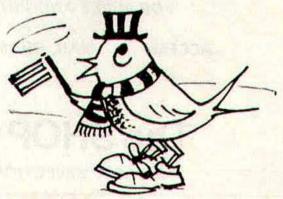
give you all a chance to attend if you so wish.

From our own personal problems to other peoples problems, I was surprised to read an article in the Daily Express quoting Mr. Ted Croker, our most elegant and bright Football Association Secretary as saying that he could forsee the time coming very close to setting up a school of Professional Referees. It was suggested that it should be started with a small band of approximately eight of our best referees, using them for all the top matches and possibly International Games abroad.

I said I was surprised only because the lead looks to be coming from the top of the F.A. and not the Football League or is there a get together here. Both organisations have to be together on any such venture abroad.

I also read that the Football Association has its eye on a new home in Hertfordshire with ground suitable to accommodate the training of our International Teams, and who knows, room for a home or a school for the future training of our Professional Referees. I am sure that there are a lot of things that could be changed or even added to help make the present day officials job easier. I am sure that officials working in a team of three, each taking a turn in the middle could result in a real understanding. At least it should avoid the embarrassing situation we all witnessed the other week of one of our men being flagged for off-side when they had a defendant laying injured in his own goal area, but then, I suppose we all do stupid things sometimes.

Jimmy Hill has long advocated the special watch on goalkeepers moving before the ball is kicked for a penalty and now Ted Croker is said to be advocating the Professional Referee. Yes, we are moving at last.



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JOHN CONNAUGHTON (Goalkeeper). John has enjoyed a colourful, and varied, career so far. He set out with Manchester United, getting the occasional first-team game for the Reds. While at Old Trafford he was loaned out to both Halifax and Torquay before being transferred to Sheffield United for £20,000 in 1973. Vale signed him in 1974. League record: Man. Un. 3 aps.; Halifax (loan 3 aps.; Torquay (loan) 22 aps.; Sheff. Un. 12 aps.; Port Vale 68 aps.

COLIN TARTT (Defender). Colin rose to first-team status in 1972 and has been holding his place for much of the while since, usually turning out at right-back. League record: Port Vale 124 (4) aps. 1 gl.

DAVID came th his Leag Novemb regular i League

GARRY DULSON (Defender). Garry developed with Nottingham Forest without getting into their League team. It wasn't long after his transfer to Port Vale last season, though, that he took over at left-back, remaining until recently making way for Neil Griffiths.

League record: Nottm. For. nil aps.; Port Vale 50 aps. 1 gl.

TERRY BAILEY (Midfield). Terry enjoyed a highly successful first season in League soccer last term when he finished joint top scorer with 14 goals. His output hasn't been quite so prolific this season but he has netted four times. League record: Port Vale 64 (1) aps. 16 gls.

KEITH CHADWICK (Midfield). Keith is yet another product of the club's youth scheme. He made his senior bow as substitute against Aldershot in March 1974, winning a regular place last season.

League record: Port Vale 28 (7) aps. 7 gls.

TOM McLAREN (Midfield). Tom-is one of Vale's most experienced players, having made his League bow back in 1967/68. He recently switched from his normal midfield role to play right-back. League record: Port Vale 257 (29) aps. 27 gls.

### PORT VALE



Back Row (L to R)

Roy Berks (Asst. Man.), Dulson, Chadwick, Griffit Harris, Ridley, Brownville.

Middle Row (L to R)
Front Row

Brodin, Wilkins, Bailey, Roy Sproson, Horton, Tar Robson, Sidley, Beech, Pointon.

DEREK BROWNBILL (Striker). Derek was signed from Liverpool last season when he hit four goals. He was in particularly good form in this season's F.A. Cup competition, hitting five goals in the first two rounds though he has scored only once in the League so far. League record: Liverpool 1 ap.; Port Vale 28 (1) aps. 5 gls.

MIKE Coreturned after six He begar 1965/66 season be with Che was the I scorer with scored 10 once in e League r Chester (12 gls.

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Derek

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DAVID HARRIS (Defender). David came through the junior ranks to make his League debut against Rochdale in November 1973. Now he is holding a regular place in the centre of the defence. League record: Port Vale 76 aps. 5 gls.

BRIAN HORTON (Defender) Last season, when he was Vale's penalty taker, Brian scored 13 goals and just recently he has been on the goals trail again with two against Millwall and another versus Walsall in successive games. Brian has been holding a place since his introduction in 1970.

League record: Port Vale 223 (3) aps.

PORT VALE



(Asst. Man.), Dulson, Chadwick, Griffiths, Connaughton, Dance, ley, Brownville.

lkins, Bailey, Roy Sproson, Horton, Tartt, Cullerton, L. Hamlett (Physio) dley, Beech, Pointon.

MIKE CULLERTON (Striker). Mike returned to League soccer this season after six seasons in non-League football. He began his League career with Vale in 1965/66, topped their scorers the next season but was freed, after a loan spell with Chester, in 1969. Last season he was the Northern Premier League's top scorer with 30 goals for Stafford. He has scored 16 this season, including at least once in each of his last five league games, League record: Port Vale 95(2) aps. 22 gls. Chester (loan) 5(2) aps.; Port Vale 21 aps. 12 gls.

NEIL GRIFFITHS (Defender). Port Vale signed Neil from Chester in 1973 and, though he was not often in the side last season, he has returned at left-back this term.

33 gls.

League record: Chester 89 (1) aps. 4 gls. Port Vale 46 aps.

JOHN RIDLEY (Midfield). John graduated through the Juniors to take his place in the League team two seasons ago. He has played in every game this season

League record: Port Vale 46 (6) aps. 2 gls.

TERRY LEES (Midfield). Terry spent his early years with neighbours Stoke City, making a number of First Division appearances following his debut in 1970/71. He took the short journey over to Vale Park on the eve of this season. League record: Stoke 17 (7) aps.; Crewe (loan) 6 aps.; Port Vale 22 aps. 2 gls.

RAY WILLIAMS (Striker). Ray arrived from Stafford Rangers in 1972 for £5,000 and was top scorer in his first season. Last term he was level top with 14, but he has yet to score this season. League record: Port Vale 134 (6) aps. 34 gls.

# Your Letters

We print here a letter received from Mr. Peter Dodsley of Trowbridge regarding his sponsorship of the Gillingham trip.

The day was here to be actually travelling in the same coach as the players of the team you have supported for the past 10 years. I had been looking forward to this trip for some weeks and now the day was here.

My friends and I arrived at the ground at 8.45 a.m. and were welcomed by Mr. Jefferies the club secretary. He introduced us to several of the club directors. Men that run the club, but perhaps are heard of more than they are seen. I found them to be of a jovial nature and soon felt at home in their company.

The players arrived at 9.00 o'clock, and off we went. Destination GILLINGHAM.

I seated myself at the front of the coach, and was promptly reminded that "BIG FRANK" always sits there. I quickly moved into the seat behind and found myself sitting opposite Manager Danny Williams and we were soon chatting away. I was delighted when I discovered that this man was talking to me not out of politeness because I was a sponsor for the team but more for the enjoyment of convivial conversation to help pass the time pleasantly while travelling. I was surprised to find that we had several things in common, such as, a mutual friend, business interests and eating habits and in no time at all we were through London, and arriving at the Hotel where we were to have lunch. I discovered that it is customary for the players to have lunch first, which consisted of a light meal and a soft drink. The leg pulling started when someone told Danny that David Syrett had ordered a large plate of chips and Danny retaliated by threatening to cut off his

The rest of us sat down to an excellent lunch at about 12.30 and conversation switched to football of yesteryear to the days when Danny and his assistant Jack were players.

I found that people like these will stand out in front when the time comes for football people to stand up and he counted.

With lunch over Manager Danny Williams asked my friends and I if we would refrain from smoking during the remainder of the journey. It was his rule that nobody smoked on the coach from now until after the game. It was then that I realised that none of the players had been smoking at all and I felt guilty that I had not been aware of this before, but my consience was eased a little when I discovered that the players did not smoke anyway.

We pulled up outside the Gillingham Ground about 2.20 p.m. and there to greet us was a group of Swindon Town Supporters, the faithful few that follow "The Town" everywhere. I was pleased to know that my friends and I would not be alone when we cheered on the team.

A ticket was given to us that would admit us to the directors box and tea rooms, the sacred ground to which the average fan never sees. A place where who's who in football congregate. I recognised the well known face of Mr. Bill Nicholson the man who was for so long in the driving seat of the Mighty Spurs. Now a scout with West Ham. I began to wonder which players he may have come to see.

Three o'clock came and the game started off with Swindon kicking into a strong head wind. The famous MR. RAY TINKLER was the man in the middle and the game was fought out in a professional manner which was a credit to the players and to football, very few fouls and lots of end to end stuff and whilst the home team took the points our lads were not disgraced and young Chalklin who made his first debut came out very well. The Gillingham fans were whistling well before the end reminding MR. TINKLER that should he wish to get away early it was with their approval.

Back down to a welcome cup of tea in the directors tea rooms. I eavesdropped on the conversation which Mr. Bill Nichlson was having with another scout. His comments were "Swindon are not a bad side but on the day Gillingham had the fire power" which I think about summed it up.

Back to the coach for the home journey the lads climbed aboard for the return, looking tired but fairly cheerful. I asked David Syrett how he felt after the game "Knackered was the one word reply. I guess he was, he had got through a lot of work in the unfamiliar roll of No. 9 and I was amused when later on I heard him discussing the Gillingham No.5 with other players." That bloody centre back must have been 8' 6" tall he told David Moss, "8 foot bloody six tall." Moral was good they had given their best Danny was disappointed we didn't take a point but was pleased with the efforts of the team. So was I, if this is a sample of what is to come then we must start to close

# Gaining more new fans

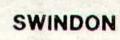


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FOURTEEN

VOUCHER 1975 1976

# Third Division Scene by Tony Pullein

Port Vale's Mike Cullerton is aiming to continue a remarkable scoring run at the Grounty Ground this afternoon. When he netted one of Vale's goals in the 2-0 victory over Peterborough last weekend he was on target for the fifth consecutive League match. During that sequence he has scored seven times to bring his season's tally up to 16 — only one fewer than the divisional leader Fred Binney.

	Lge	LC	FAC	Total
Binney (Brighton)	13	1	3	17
CULLERTON (PORT VA	ALE)			
	12	3	1	16
Silvester (Southend)	12	1	3	16
Buckley (Wallsall)	14	1		15
Evans (Cardiff)	13		2	15
Swindlehurst (C.Palace)	12	1	1	14
Kemp (C. Palace)	9	2	2	13
Robson (Peterborough)	11	2		13

Crystal Palace's slump of four successive League defeats came to an end at Colchester where they ran up an easy 3-0 victory, even allowing for home manager Bobby Roberts' observation that "our goalkeeper gave them all three".

Amazingly, Palace lost very little ground during their bleak spell. True, the gap between them and the second club has narrowed but Palace were still six points clear of the fourth club last weekend, compared with eight before their losing run began.

Walsall's run of seven unbeaten League games — five wins and two draws — has sent them shooting up table to join in the promotion chase. But, as they have played several games more than many of their rivals, the Saddlers are at a slight disadvantage. Yet, if they continue winning, as they did at home to Halifax (2-0) they could still finish in one of the lucky three positions.

Surprise team of the moment are Chester, bottom of the table in October. Now they are unbeaten in nine League games and stood only four points behind the third club last Saturday night! Mansfield held them to a 1-1 draw on their own ground last weekend.

Cardiff's unbeaten home run of 11 games was ended by Brighton for whom an Ian Mellor goal was sufficient. Yet it was a disappointment for Ninian Park's biggest crowd (17,728) of the season. This followed another bumper attendance — 16,094 on Boxing Day for Peter-

borough's visit — and defeat could see the average slump back to the pre-Christmas figure of around 8,000.

If Palace have come through their grey period, then they should win the divisional title fairly easily. But it's going to be a closely-run affair before the other two promotion places are decided.

Even clubs hovering in the relegation zone still stand an excellent chance — mathematically speaking, that is! — of going up. Southend, fourth from bottom, were only ten points behind Brighton with two games in hand.

Sadly, it seems unlikely now that Sheffield Wednesday can have any hopes of promotion. Indeed, they haven't won any of their last nine League games and now look to be heading steadily towards further relegation. If they drop into Division Four this year, Wednesday will have dropped through all four divisions in just six years.

That would not quite equal the unwanted record set up by an equally famous club last year. Huddersfield made the slide from the First to the Fourth Division in four seasons.

Any pools punter worth his salt must surely have put the Chesterfield v Wrexham game down for a draw last week. The game duly ended 1-1. It was Wrexham's fourth successive draw and their eighth in 11 League and Cup games. And all of them were score draws!

#### Letter Cont. from page 10 the gap in the table very soon.

On come the music tapes as we set off for home, out come the snack boxes that the players get after the game. There is a generous portion of Chicken, Crisps, Rolls, Cheese, Nuts, Apples and Cake. There is also "coke" available, the players take the coke. They start to play KNOCK-OUT WHIST to help pass the time away.

Stopping only once for a "you know what" we arrived back at Swindon by 9.00 p.m.

My thanks go to the directors for making this trip possible and to Danny and the players for allowing me to have a glimpse of the side of football which only a few are privileged to see.

May I also reserve three seats on the coach for the away game at BRIGHTON on MARCH 20th

> Yours sincerely, Peter Dodsley

Roy Sproson took over as Port Vale's manager two seasons ago - - - following Gordon Lee's departure to Blackburn - - little more than 16 months after playing his last game for the club. When he packed away his boots for the last time, he looked back on a fabulous record of 762 Football League appearances - - - only two games short of Jimmy Dickinson's all-time record.

In addition he played 72 cup ties and he was a member of the Port Vale team which got to the semi-final of the F.A. Cup in 1954.

Born and bred in the Potteries, Mr. Sproson

played his first League game for the club at Gillingham in 1950. He went on to play in all sections of the League except the First. He had the chance to complete that set when Liverpool wanted to sign him. But he turned them down!

"We were in the Second Division then," he recalls. "And the club looked destined to big things. In fact, it didn't turn out as expected. but I've never regretted staying here".

When his playing days ended he took charge of the reserve team. Before long he was occupying the manager's chair.

# For the Record

#### FOR THE RECORD

Division III 20th December, 1975

CHESTER

SWINDON 1 (Anderson)

Barron, Taylor, Trollope, Emanuel, Burrows, Stroud, McLaughlin, Dixon, Eastoe, Syrett, Anderson(s) Butler

Football Combination 20th December, 1975

SWINDON TOWN

Allan, Chalklin, Brinkworth, T., Thompson, Broom, Harris, Gilligan. A., Jenkins, Brinkworth, R., Gilligan. J., Gardner (s) Andrews

BOURNEMOUTH AFC

Division III 26th December, 1975

SWINDON TOWN

4 (Anderson, Dixon Eastoe, Burrows)

Barron, Taylor, Trollope, Stroud, Burrows, McLaughlin, Moss, Dixon, Eastoe, Butler, Anderson (s) Jenkins.

CARDIFF CITY

Division III 27th December, 1975

MILLWALL

SWINDON TOWN

Barron, Taylor, Trollope, Stroud, Burrows, Emanuel, McLaughlin, Dixon, Eastoe, Syrett, Anderson (s) Jenkins

Football Combination 27th December, 1975

SWINDON TOWN

Lawrence, Chalklin, Tanner, Thompson, Broom, T.Brinkworth, Gilligan.A., Gilligan.J., Farr, Harris, Gardner,(s) Andrews

BRISTOL ROVERS

F.A. Cup Round 3 3rd January, 1976

SWINDON TOWN

2(Eastoe, Dixon)

Barron, McLaughlin, Trollope, Emanuel, Burrows, Stroud, Moss, Dixon, Eastoe, Butler, Anderson (s) Jenkins

**TOOTING & MITCHAM UTD** 

2(Casey, Glover)

Dunn, Berrecloth, Smith, Grubb, Green, Howell, Casey, Ford, Juneman, Glover, Ives, (s) Highland

Football Combination 3rd January, 1976

ARSENAL

SWINDON TOWN

Parry, Andrews, Tanner, Brinkworth, T., Thompson, Chalklin, Gilligan. A, Gilligan. J. Farr, Harris, Brinkworth R. (s) Hooman

Midland Youth

5th January, 1976

OXFORD UTD.

2

SWINDON TOWN

Meagrow, Hooman, Tanner, Andrews, Thompson, Brinkworth, T, Harris, Gilligan, Farr, Brinkworth. R. Edwards (s) Farr.C.

F.A. Cup - Round 3 Replay 6th January, 1976

**TOOTING & MITCHAM UTD** 2(Juneman, Ives) Dunn, Berreclough, Smith, Grubb, Green, Howell, Casey, Ford, Juneman, Glover, Ives (s) Highland

SWINDON TOWN 1(Own goal) Barron, Taylor, Trollope, Stroud, Burrows, McLaughlin, Moss, Dixon, Eastoe, Syrett, Anderson (s) Chalklin

Division III 10th January, 1976

GILLINGHAM 3(Richardson, Westwood, Durrell) Hillyard, Knight, Ley, Galvin, Shipperley, Tydeman, Jacks, Fogaty, Richardson, Westwood, Durrell(s) Weatherly

SWINDON TOWN 2 (Anderson, Burrows) Barron, Taylor, Trollope, Stroud, Burrows, McLaughlin, Moss, Dixon, Syrett, Chalklin, Anderson(s) Jenkins.

Football Combination 10th January, 1976

SWINDON TOWN 0

Allan, Andrews, Tanner, Thompson, Broom, Brinkworth T.Gilligan, Hooman, Farr, Harris, Brinkworth, R. (S) Slatterey

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Two supporters for Grandson
Kevin Coombe
S.T.F.C. Supporters Club
Wessex Decorators

# Danny's Desk

On Saturday 11th January last year, we launched a scheme to provide kit for our players by sponsorship, and the result was absolutely fantastic. Within weeks sponsors had come forward for all the required items of kit for every professional player and we then held a very enjoyable social evening in the Rendezvous Club where the sponsors met and had a drink with the players

I realise that following our dismal display against Tooting and Mitcham, this might not be the ideal time to launch this year's appeal, but a number of folk have expressed interest in ass ting the club in this way, and I am enough of an optimist to know that our true supporters will not let that F.A. Cup result in any way detract from their loyalty to the club.

I know that a lot of criticism has at the present time been directed at the players, and perhaps even more at me, and the Directors are getting their share as well, but please remember that what we are fighting for is not particularly the survival of any individuals, but the survival of the Swindon Town Football Club, an institution that has been in existence since 1881, so how about it friends — will you sponsor a player? You will be doing the club a great service by

relieving it of this financial burden in the same way that the Match Ball donors, and Away Match Sponsors are assisting us.

If you are willing to help us just write, or better still, visit our Secretary Bob Jefferies who will be very pleased to hear from you. Don't forget that everyone who sponsors a player will be invited to spend an evening at the club with the players.

The costs involved are:

Playing Strip £ 7.50
Track Suit £13.00
Football Boots £14.00
Training Shoes £11.00

In subsequent programmes we shall print a chart on which will be shown the sponsors names in a similar manner to last season, and I am sure that it will not be very long before the chart is completely filled.

Please help the club in any way possible - be it sponsoring, or perhaps more important by your support. We need all the support possible to get us out of the situation we are now in, so please rally round and do your bit to ensure that there will always be a Football Club here at Swindon.



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## Saturday 17th January 1976

#### SWINDON TOWN

- 1 Barron
- 2 Taylor
- 3 Trollope
- Stroud
- 5 Burrows
- McLaughlin
- Moss
- Dixon
- Syrett
- Chalklin 10
- 11 Anderson
- 12 Eastoe



#### PORT VALE

- Connaughton
- 2 **Brodie**
- 3 Griffiths
- Ridley
- Harris
- Horton 7
- Morris
- 8 Tartt
- Cullerton
- 10 Bailey
- 11 Brownville

Referee:

Mr. R.S. Lewis (Great Bookham, Surrey).

Red Flag: Linesmen:

Mr. J.J. Faulkner (Didcot)

Yellow Flag: Mr. D.A. Howell (Patchway Bristol).

N

RAY LEWIS (Great Bookham, Surrey). Appointed to the full list for this season after serving on the League line and Supplementary list. Began refereeing in the Kingston and District League and has officiated in the Rothmans Isthmian League. An area catering executive, he is married with a young daughter and interested in playing bowls and reading.

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PLEASE DON'T FORGET

#### BURY

Saturday, 31st January, 1976 K. O. 3.0 p.m.

### Key of the board

- Brighton v Colchester
  - Crystal Palace v Shrewsbury
- B C Grimsby v Sheffield Wednesday
- Halifax v Cardiff D
- E Hereford v Chesterfield
- F Mansfield v Gillingham
- G Peterborough v Chester
- H Preston N.E. v Aldershot
- Aston Villa v Newcastle
- J Burnley v Derby
- K Everton v Norwich
  - Ipswich v Coventry
- M Leicester v Arsenal
  - Manchester City v West Ham Utd
- 0 Q.P. Rangers v Birmingham
- P Shaffield Utd v Liverpool
- Q Stoke v Middlesbrough
- R Tottenham H. v Manchester Utd
- Wolverhampton v Leeds