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### ECCEPLACES



What a day. It rained throughout the day, the wind blew hard from the sea and the night was the most miserable I can ever remember. Yes, those are my memories of Brighton. This normally picturesque seaside town suddenly turned into a manager's nightmare. The 7-0 defeat we suffered at the hands or should I say feet of Alan Mullery's men still haunts me.

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think that any team in the league would ever give us such a thrashing. To have seven goals put past us in ninety minutes would be bad enough, but when you consider that all the goals came in the final forty-five it really does take some believing. It was total disintegration. I couldn't believe that we were the same team in the second half. In the first half we had given Brighton all sorts of problems and with a bit of luck we could have been a goal up with Alan Buckley just failing by a hair's breadth to connect with a ball knocked down by Bernie Wright. Our small band of supporters must have been thinking that the long tiring journey was all going to be worthwhile and that the return to the Midlands would fly past with recollections of how we outplayed the high scoring seasiders.

The second half commenced where the first half had left off with the lads g'ving Brighton plenty to think about. Alan Buckiey had a great shot saved by the goalkeeper, which looked a goal all the

way. At that time I was confident we were going to gain the result. Everyone at home must have looked at the result and thought what a terrible game we must have played, and you would be right about forty-five minutes of the game but the first half display showed that the ability is in the side, but a game lasts ninety minutes and we must show this ability throughout that time. We had just four days to put all this behind us and prepare ourselves for our next objective the visit to Fratton Park. I felt that overall we deserved both points but an unfortunate penalty decision four minutes from time gave Pompey a lucky point. Their goalkeeper pulled off many fantastic saves and when Alan Buckley and Alun Evans did manage to beat him their shots were cleared off the line. Normally when a team is doing well, shots of that calibre go in, but that was not to happen on this occasion. However we looked a lot more confident on Saturday but we are still not at our

DOUG FRASER

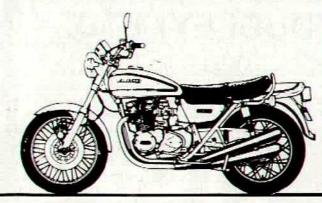
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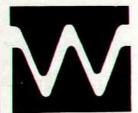
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WILLENHALL PRESSURE DIECASTING CO. LTD., STREET, 22 SHAW STREET WALSALL WS2 8PH Back row, L. to R.— Trollope, Thompson, Rogers, Stroud.

Middle row, L. to R.— Allen, Goddard, Prophett, Aizlewood, Gilligan, Burrows, Barron.

Front row, L. to R.— Chalklin, Dixon, Moss, Syrett, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Anderson.

Swindon Town, like Walsall, fought off the threat of relegation last season to become one of the favourites to regain Second Division status this time.

And they have made a considerably better start to the new campaign than the Saddlers, currently lying eighth in the table just a couple of points behind leaders Brighton.

Wiltshire club. The by former managed Rotherham player, Danny Williams, are unbeaten they did have at homea lucky Success Shrewsbury. against though, last Saturday but have not really been achieving any sort consistency on travels.





Goalkeeper Allan has been holding his place in the side on merit after being recalled to take over from the injured Jim Barron at the beginning of the season, while the full backs on view today are almost certain to be ex-Crystal Palace man Tony Taylor and John McLaughlin, 'who moved to Swindon from Colchester on a free transfer some years ago.

Swindon normally play with twin centre backs, skipper Colin Prophett and Steve Aizlewood. Prophett, who scored the goals to beat Shrewsbury last weekend, was formerly an amateur with Crewe who had spells with Sheffield Wednesday and Norwich before joining the club for £25,000 after a month on loan.

Aizlewood, a player Walsall expressed interest in when he was at Newport County, was one of manager Williams' transfer deadline deals last March. However, Aizlewood, who cost £12,000, has been out of the side injured and club coach Frank Burrows, at 32 one of the veterans on the Swindon staff, could still be deputising.

Another Swindon signing to help them in their fight against relegation last season was mid-field man Gerry O'Brien, who cost £15,000 when bought from Southampton. He is partnered in mid-field by Kenny Stroud and the club's latest capture, former Halilax skipper Ray McHale.

McHale, who struck 15 goals for Halifax last season, had been wanted by Swindon for 18 months and Manager Williams finally secured his services six weeks ago, in exchange for an £8,000 cheque.

In the striking department David Moss, the club's joint top scorer, is keeping out one of Swindon's best known players, Don Rogers, who is now in his second spell with the club after periods with Palace and Queen's Park Rangers. Rogers played at the beginning of the season because Moss was injured but he is now back in the reserves.

Leading the Swindon attack this afternoon will be Dave Syrett. He was the club's second highest scorer with 14 league goals last season and so far this term he and Moss have notched four each.

Like Walsall, with Eire keeper Mick Kearns, Swindon also have a current international, last season's top scorer Trevor Anderson. Anderson was in the Northern Ireland team that played Holland in Rotterdam in a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday at the same time as Kearns was in Ankara on duty for the Republic of Ireland against Turkey.

(by TREVOR GEDGE of the Express & Star)

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F.A. YOUTH CUP

Walsall 1, Hednesford 2

After dominating the first half in which we had enough chances to have sewn the game up, our performance in the second half was, to put it mildly, pathetic. After going a goal behind, our work-rate should then have increased. what happened in fact was that their heads went down, and we never looked like getting back into the game. I hope that our lads have learnt a lesson from this game. In football success comes from eleven players, all working, and helping one another, plus the balanced use of flair. I stress balance because the continual use of a favourite trick takes away from its future effectiveness.

Team: Harper, Walstead, Hocknull, Newman, Secker, O'Connell, Heath, Crosling, Jordan, Richards, James. Sub: Blanazs

### Soccer Violence

With violence spreading now to non-league football, my personal feelings about this increasing menace at the matches would be to make a minimum fine of £100 and as 90% of the offenders are under 18 years of age, I would make the offenders pay half of the fine the other half to be paid by the parents. The parents would then make certain that they know where their children are and what they are getting up to. After all they are responsible for them until they reach 18 years of age.

### Warley County Borough 0 Walsall 0

Scoring chances were down to a minimum in a game where both defences played tight and gave nothing away.

Team: O'Keefe, Heath, Clarke. Newman. Britton Bates, Hunter, Crosling, Birch. Taylor, James,

> TONY SENTER Chief Scout

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### MAGIC MOMENTS

Today's Magic Moment takes us way back in time to 1930, with a letter sent to us by Mr. Ernest J. Wilcox, 12a Kingswood Park, Holyhead Road, Albrighton.

Dear Sir,

One supposes that when one talks of men like Biddlestone, Houldey, Walters, Muldoon, Helliwell, Bull, Bradford, Mason, Rowe, A. V. Walters, Eyres and Barnes, one is going back a bit. But these players and a reserve named Johnson take me to the famous meeting with Villa in the Cup-tle of 1930. We had got through to the third round which then was called the 1st round proper. Our opponents were to be Villa at Walsall. At this time Villa were one of the "greats" with men like Olney, Smart, Mort, Gibson, Taibot, Tate, Beresford, Kingdon, Waring, Walker, Houghton. Obviously the little Walsall ground wasn't going to be adequate to house all who would want to see this match. So in their wisdom the directors of the day opted to take the tie to Villa.

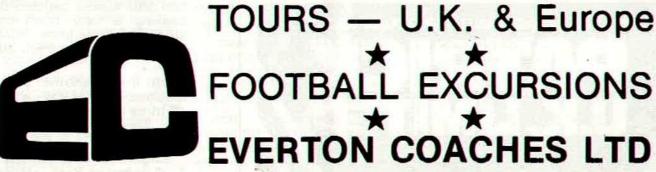
All Walsall decided to go to this piece of history and in the heyday of the railways L.M.S. laid on a relay of trains to Witton. Once there, it was a case of walking ten abreast up the street to the ground. As one approached, the congestion developed enormously until it was impossible to walk in any other direction.

One man got in this current, turned into the ground, paid his shilling (that's what it was in those days) got through the turnstiles, did a U-turn out through the exits which were comparatively empty outside, waited till all the crowds got in and then proceeded home. 74,600 people attended, a then record from which Walsall's share of the gate was less than £2,000 and of course we lost 3—1. But what a day. The Arsenal game was good, too, and I remember some Arsenal supporters quoting that this (the ground) was like a chicken-run. I turned round and told them that they would be the chickens when Alsop and Co. had finished with them, to which they good naturedly laughed scornfully. But I was right.

Happy memories. I still watch every game at home and a few away but since I have come to live at Albrighton I suppose every home game is an away one for me.

> Yours sincerely, Ernest J. Wilcox.

Thanks very much, Mr. Wilcox, for this letter and I'm sure many of our long serving supporters will share in your memories. It's wonderful to hear about the old times so let's have more of these tales of long ago. All letters should be sent to Magic Moments, Walsall Football Club, Hillary Street, Walsall.



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### Third

After the trauma of their 7—0 hiding at Brighton, Walsall had a great chance to come bouncing back to winning ways at Struggling Portsmouth, but it was not to be—a controversial penalty robbing the team of a vital point.

It was a pity that spot kick decision went against the Saddlers at Fratton Park. Without looking particularly impressive, they had still looked capable of beating a very mediocre side Pompey once Alan Buckley had given them the lead.

But it was another point dropped—on a day when all three clubs at the top of the Third Division table were beaten.

Brighton, despite their 3-0 defeat at Bury, stayed top a point ahead of Wrex-

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### WALSALL v SWINDON TOWN

16th October, 1976

Promoter: H. J. Westmancoat. Registered under Lotteries Act, 1975.

### Dimension

easy 3-0 home success were bottom of the table. over Lincoln. Shrewsbury, however, were a bit unlucky to lose at Swindon, where a goal from home captain, Colin Prophett settled the issue a couple of minutes from time.

Reading also lost ground among the pace-setters when going down 4-0 at Chesterfield to give former Walsall trainer, Arthur Cox, immediate success on taking over the managerial chair at Saltergate.

The Saddlers are now seven points behind leaders Brighton-and that's a lot of leeway to make up if the team are to overcome their bad start and begin to make a challenge.

However, things are not as bad as when I con-

nam, one of my earlier tips tributed this column a for promotion, who had an month ago. Then Walsall

> The team can play a lot better than they have been doing. Everyone knows that and no one will be satisfied until they do strike top form.

> The tide will turn soon, I'm convinced of that. Until it does the fans can play their part by getting behind the players as Atthey sug-

> I have always felt Walsall supporters could encourage their team far more than they do. So let's hear all of you this afternoon.

And I hope you have plenty to send you home happy, even if you do go away with sore throats!

> Trevor Gedge of the Express & Star

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LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

This was a match Walsall desperately needed to win away from the depths of the third division. Walsall determined and skilfull side and did not have to wait to hit shot from Nick Atthey. Walsall continued to domin when Colin Harrison added a second. Starting the se Saddlers always looked likely to score again and it was who was on hand to head home a cross from Harrist late in the game but never looked like taking away as action shows two raids on the Vale goal, both involving Bernie forcing his way through the defence for a goal on hand together with Alan Buckley should the goalkee



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WALSALL 3, PORT VALE

tely needed to win against a team also striving to get division. Walsall started this match looking the more not have to wait long to open their account, with a well continued to dominate this game and it was no surprise nd. Starting the second half with a two goal lead, the re again and it was the Club's top scorer, Alan Buckley. cross from Harrison. Port Vale got a consolation goal like taking away any points from the Walsall side. Our goal, both involving Bernie Wright. On the left we show defence for a goal attempt and again on the right he is should the goalkeeper make a mistake.

Photographs by courtesy of Keith Ruston, "Walsall Observer".



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FULL NAME Nicholas Atthey

BIRTHPLACE Newcastle upon Tyne

BIRTHDAY 8th May

HEIGHT 5ft. 7in.

WEIGHT 11st 7lbs.

PREVIOUS CLUBS None

FAVOURITE PLAYER
Norman Hunter
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM

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round of the F.A. Cup
1974/75.

### OGUC

In recent years injury has dogged the career of Nick Attney, Walsall's longest-serving player, but with typical Geordie determination his playing days but he has always kept he has fought his way back to peak fitness on himself in top physical condition and is each occasion to regain a regular first team confident. each occasion to regain a regular first team confident he can continue playing for at least

With over 400 first team league appearances behind him, either sweeping up in defence or in his present rôle as a mid-field man, Atthey is the type of player who is always guaranteed to give 100 per cent effort.

Of the present playing staff only full back Colin Harrison comes anywhere near Atthey for length of service, having arrived at Fellows Park just a few months after Nick. The loyalty of the two Walsall stalwarts has been recognised by the club staging testimonial matches for both of them.

Unlike Harrison, however, Nick Atthey has had to overcome two cartilage operations in the space of four months and then he was out for almost two-thirds of last season with ankle trouble, which was finally cured by an operation for the removal of a piece of floating bone.

At 30, Atthey is coming towards the end of a couple more seasons.

Like everyone else at Fellows Park he is concerned at the club's poor start to the new campaign. "I think it is a lack of understanding between the players and we have got to work at it to try and sort things out," he said.

"All teams have had a bad patch at some stage or other but if we can string together three or four good results we'll turn the corner and still do well," added Atthey.

While Nick praises the faithful Saddlers' followers, he also feels the crowd could help the team more.

"A supporter pays his money to come in so he is entitled to give us some stick when things are going badly, but we all know when things are not going right without being reminded about it.

"I'd like the crowd to get behind us a bit more, especially when things are not going too well," Atthey told me.

Nick Atthey knows only too well what helps motivate the team. So let's hope all supporters take note.

> (By TREVOR GEDGE of the Express & Star)



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### WALSALL V PORT VALE 3rd October, 1976

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Sat. Ja		CHESTER		***	***					
Mon. Ja		Crystal Palace		***						
Sat. Ja		GRIMSBY TOWN (3) Lincoln City		***	***			1.000	THE	
Wed. Ja		League Cup SF SHEFFIELD WEDNES	•••	***	***			term 1		
Sat. Ja		SHEFFIELD WEDNES	DAY	***	***			1		
Sat. Ja Sat. Fe		Mansfield Town (4) Gillingham		***	***					
Sat. Fe	b. 12	READING								
Wed. Fe Sat. Fe		League Cup SF Shrewsbury Town		***	***				1 1	
Fri. Fe		WREXHAM (5)					ı	1 37 34		
Sat. Ma	r. 5	NORTHAMPTON TOW	/N							
Fri. Ma Sat. Ma		Port Vale League Cup Final		***	***			E/ 0H_11		
Sat. Ma	r. 19	PORTSMOUTH (6)		***	***			1 1 1		
Sat. Ma		Swindon Town		***	***					
Sat. Ap		TRANMERE ROVERS		***	***			0.0 UN	7 19 3	
Mon. Ap	r. 11	Preston N.E. (11.30 a.	m.)							
Tues. Ap		Oxford United BRIGHTON		***	***			100 100		
Sat. Ap	r 19	MANSFIELD TOWN			***					
Sat. Ap Sat. Ap Tues. Ma	r. 23	York City SF								
Sat. Ap	r. 30	ROTHERHAM UNITED Grimsby Town		***	***					
Sat. Ma	y /	Peterborough		***	***					
Sat. Ma	ly 14	BURY		***	***			V SIM		
Sat. Ma	y 21	F.A. Cup Final		***	***			100		
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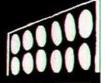
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WEST MIDLAND LEAGUE (REGIONAL) PREMIER DIVISION

				Later City	(REGIONAL) PREMIER DIVISION
NAME	Water and the	LEAGUE	CUP	<b>GOALS</b>	DATE OPPONENTS F. A. PO
G. Andrews N. Atthey M. Bates A. Birch A. Buckley B. Caswell M. Dennehy		6 9 7 2 10 6	133   313	2     8   1	1976 Sat. Aug. 21 BRERETON SOCIAL 0 3 — Tues. Aug. 24 Gornal 0 3 — Tues. Aug. 31 Eastwood 0 4 — Sat. Sept. 4 BRIERLEY HILL 3 0 — Tues. Sept. 7 BILSTON 2 2 Sat. Sept. 11 Dudley Town 7 3 20 Sat. Sept. 25 HALESOWEN 4 0 14 Wed. Sept. 29 COVENTRY SPORTING (Cup) 3 1
A. Evans R. Fry C. Harrison R. Hynd M. Kearns D. Robinson D. Serella B. Taylor B. Wright		10 8 5 10 9 10 8 5 2 8	0   333313003	-     1       2 1	Sat. Oct.         2         Lye Town         0         3         14           Sat. Oct.         9         Warley C.B.         0         3         14           Sat. Oct.         16         V.S. Rugby          0         3         14           Sat. Nov.         6         WARLEY C.B.                                                                              <
LEAG P.	W. D.	THREE	Α.	Pts.	Sat. Feb. 26 Gresley Rovers  Sat. Mar. 12 V.S. RUGBY  Sat. Mar. 19 Halesowen Town  Sat. Mar. 26 STAFFS. POLICE
Brighton	0 6 2 9 6 1 9 5 2 9 4 4	2 26 2 19 2 19 1 15	13 7 10 8	14 13 12 12	Sat. Apr. 2 Tividale Sat. Apr. 9 Warley C.B Sat. Apr. 16 Darlaston Sat. Apr. 23 DUDLEY TOWN Tues. Apr. 26 HEDNESFORD
Sheffield Wed.         10           Reading.         10           SWINDON.         10           Mansfield.         9	5 2 5 2 5 1	2 17 3 16 3 15 3 17	13 14 13 9	12 12 12 11	Tues. May 3 ARMITAGE Sat. May 7 WILLENHALL TOWN Sat. May 14 Alvechurch
Crystal Palace         9           Bury         9           Gillingham         9           Lincoln         9           Peterborough         11           Preston         9           Chester         10	5 1 9 4 3 9 3 4 1 4 2 9 2 5	2 10 3 16 2 15 2 12 5 12 2 12 4 7	7 14 15 9 17 9	11 11 10 10 9	To be arranged Coventry Sporting Staffs. Police Armitage. Tividale Darlaston
Oxford United 9 Chesterfield 10 Tranmere 9 WALSALL 10 Grimsby 9	2 4 3 2 9 2 3 0 2 3 0 2 2	3 17 5 12 4 7 5 11 5 9	17 18 9 20 16	9887766654	
Port Vale         10           York         9           Portsmouth         9           Northampton         9	1 3	6 9 5 10 5 7 6 5	17 20 15 13	6 5 4	Home Fixtures Bold



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G	PRESTON v CRYSTAL PALACE	25	S
H	READING v SHEFFIELD WED.	i en	T
J	ROTHERHAM v TRANMERE		U
K	SHREWSBURY V CHESTERFIELD		V
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L	V STOKE	
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N	COVENTRY V NEWCASTLE	
P	DERBY V TOTTENHAM	
Q	LIVERPOOL v EVERTON	
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U	SOUTHAMPTON v HEREFORD	
V	WALSALL RES. v V. S. RUGBY	

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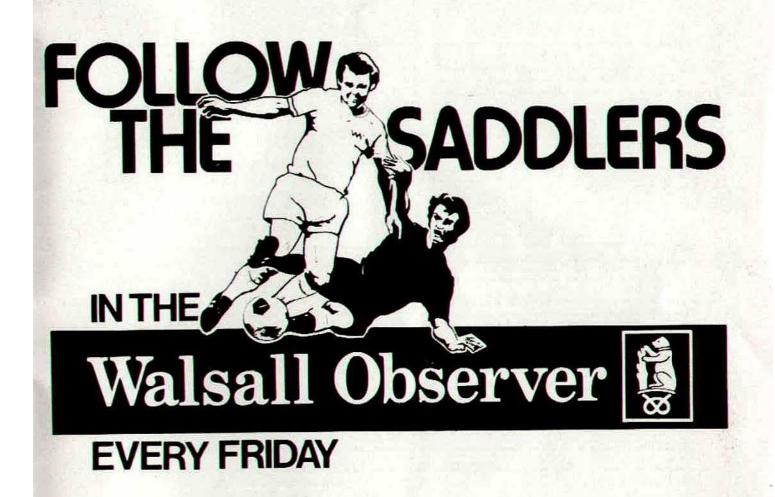


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