

The official match-day programme of
**CHESTER
FOOTBALL CLUB**



FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION III
SATURDAY, 18th DECEMBER, 1976
KICK-OFF 3.0 p.m.

Chester v. Swindon Town

SEALS



REVIEW

10p



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FOCUS ON ALAN OAKES



I am sure all our supporters must be feeling on top of the world after the team's great performance at Grimsby on Saturday in the second round of the F.A. Cup.

This was probably our best away performance this season, and there was no doubt that the better team won through to the next round. The draw may have been something of an anti-climax, with many supporters hoping for a tie against one of the big clubs, but a visit to Southend must be looked forward to with confidence.

We must have a great chance of going forward in the competition, although there will be no danger of treating Southend lightly just because they are from a lower league.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all you supporters who travelled to Grimsby on the special train and by road. The players really appreciated your efforts on a cold day, and I am sure you must have thought the long journey well worthwhile.

However, we must take one game at a time, and this afternoon we are back to Third Division business—and we extend a welcome to Swindon Town, who are enjoying a very satisfactory season so far.

Swindon have always had a reputation for playing attractive football, and if we can repeat the form we showed at Grimsby, you should be in for a real treat to-day.

Two points would set us up for a very testing Christmas programme, when games against pace-makers Wrexham and Shrewsbury could have a great bearing on the Third Division honours. It promises to be a very exciting time, and I hope you will join us at the Racecourse on Boxing Day, and here at Sealand Road the following afternoon.

Finally, may I wish you all

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

—and for us that means maximum points!

A. OAKES, Team Manager.

THE STADIUM WELCOMES

SWINDON Town

Formed in 1881 Swindon turned professional in 1894 and until 1896 used a ground called The Croft from where they moved to their present ground. In 1910 while still a non-League side they reached the semi-finals of the F.A. Cup losing to Newcastle, and again in 1912 when they lost to Barnsley at the same stage. Around this time Harold Fleming played 11 times for England, while Swindon were still a non-League side. In 1925 the Robins defeated Farnham United Breweries 10-1 in the F.A. Cup, their record score to date. In 1926-27 Harry Morris scored 47 goals in the Third Division (S) and between 1926-33 he notched a total of 216, a club record. After drawing at home in the F.A. Cup to Manchester City, they were beaten 10-1 in the replay on January 25th, 1930. After the War the Robins remained in the Third (S) where they twice finished fourth in 1947 and 1949. 1954 saw Swindon finish 5th from bottom, the season after fourth from bottom, and in 1956 bottom. The next season they finished next to bottom. A revival in 1958 saw them finish fourth from top and ensured that they stayed in the newly formed National Third. 1962-63 saw them finish second behind Northampton. In their first season in Division Two the Robins obtained a mid table position. But the following season they finished next to bottom and were relegated. 1968-69 saw Swindon shake the football world when they beat Arsenal 3-1 at Wembley to take the League Cup to Wiltshire. On the way they beat Burnley in the semi-final and Derby County in the fifth round who then went on to become Division Two champions that season. The teams in the final were — Swindon: Downsborough; Thomas, Trollope; Butler, Burrows, Harland; Heath, Smart, Smith, Noble, Rogers (sub. Penman). Arsenal: Wilson, Storey, McNab; McIntock, Ure Simpson; Radford, Samuels, Court, Gould, Armstrong (Sub. Graham). Smart and Rogers (2) scoring for Swindon and Gould for Arsenal. That season they also finished second in the Third to Watford. The playing records of both were identical: Won 27, Lost 9, Drawn 10, goal average giving Watford the championship. As League Cup winners they played Roma in the Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup and triumphed 5-2 on aggregate. In

the next season in Division Two they finished fifth only three points behind second placed Blackpool. They also won the Anglo-Italian Tournament when after leading 3-0 against Napoli the game was abandoned after 79 minutes. The next three seasons saw the Robins finishing in mid table, but in 1974 they finished bottom and were relegated. They only just missed an immediate return when they finished fourth just two points behind Charlton in third place. But last season saw the Robins always in the danger area but missed relegation by one point and they were put out of the F.A. Cup by Tooting and Mitchum.

Due to the consistency of **JIM BARRON** last season, Inverness-born **JIMMY ALLAN** played only ten times last season, but has established himself this season in the number one shirt. Veteran Barron has made nearly 400 appearances since beginning his career with Wolves, he has since been at Chelsea, Oxford and Nottingham Forest. Ever present at left-back last season was **JOHN TROLLOPE**, a member of the League Cup winning side of 1969, he has made over 650 appearances, a club record. A regular in the centre of the defence is **COLIN PROPHETT**, born at Crewe he was signed from Norwich, whom he joined from Sheffield Wednesday. Alongside him this season has been former Welsh Under-23 international **STEVE AIZLEWOOD**, who joined the Robins from Newport late last season. Utility man **JOHN McLAUGHLIN** made 44 appearances last season, in eight different positions. Signed from Colchester he has made over 100 appearances for the Town. London-born **WILL DIXON**, his first club was Arsenal, but after failing to get into the first team he joined Reading where he played over 150 games, he can play in defence or midfield. **GORDON TAYLOR** broke into the team in the middle of last season and made 19 consecutive appearances, mainly at right back, and will be out to obtain a regular position this term. One-club man **KEN STROUD** played 39 games last season and scored five times from midfield. Scots-born **FRANK BURROWS** started his career with Raith Rovers, came south and joined Scunthorpe, he has completed over 300 games for the Robins and has also been on loan to Mansfield. Early season signing was former Halifax Town captain **RAY McHALE**, where he was top scorer last season. Sheffield-born, his first club was Chesterfield where he scored 27 goals, one of his partners up front this season will be Irish international **TREVOR ANDERSON**, who joined the Robins from Manchester United, an ever present, he was also top scorer with 15 goals. Glasgow-born **GERRY O'BRIEN** joined Southampton from Clydebank, and after being on loan to Bristol Rovers, joined Swindon last season and played

in the last 12 games. **DAVE MOSS** scored one of the goals in the 2-1 victory over Chester, at the County ground, played over 100 games for Swindon, his only club. Hero of the 1969 League Cup winning side **DON ROGERS** returned to Swindon, after leaving the Robins to join Crystal Palace, he went on to Q.P.R. before returning to his first club. He has gained two England Under-23 Caps. Fourteen goals from 28 games made Salisbury-born **DAVE SYRETT** a firm favourite with the fans, and he looks a good prospect. A free transfer from Bournemouth took **HOWARD GODDARD** to Swindon in the close season, he scored 18 goals in 64 appearances for Bournemouth, his only other club.

QUIZ SPOT??

Welcome back to teaser time at The Stadium, hope that the questions which the Programme Editors set for the Northampton Review didn't cause you too many problems. The answers were: A.1—Willie Hall (Tottenham) v. Ireland at Old Trafford 16-11-1938, scored five goals in an international. A.2—The four promoted clubs from Division Four in 1973/74 were Peterborough (champions), Gillingham, Colchester and Bury. A.3—Leading goalscorer in the Fourth Division in 1968/69 was our old favourite here at Sealand Road, Gary Talbot..

This week's quiz questions are as follows:—

- Q1—ID NOSE DAN is an anagram of an ex-Chester F.C. player now with a Fourth Division club.
- Q2—If 'The Gulls' were playing 'The Pirates' at Priestfield Stadium in a Cup replay who would be competing and on what ground would the game be played.
- Q3—Hereford striker Dixie McNeil played for four League sides prior to signing for Hereford, can you name them?
- Q4—Who was the Manager of Blackpool before Stan Mortenson.

The answers to the above quiz teasers will appear in the next issue of Seals Review.

"... There's money in that there waste paper"

Mr. Trevor Ray, the Club's Promotions Manager has arranged with a local waste-paper merchant to take away any old newspapers and magazines which Chester F.C. supporters can collect and bring to the ground. At every first team home match there will be transport on the forecourt by the club offices to take away your old newspapers etc. The money from the match-day paper collections will then be put into a special deposit account, and used solely for supporters facilities. As you are probably aware all Football League Clubs will have to bring their grounds up to standards set by the Safety of Sports Grounds Act. Let's see a grand slam effort with regard to this venture, help yourselves and also Chester F.C. If you need any help in respect of the above scheme please contact Mr. Ray at Chester 21048 or call in at The Stadium or at the Club Caravan on match days.

League Cup Final 1977

Chester F.C. have been allocated a small amount of tickets for this season's League Cup Final played at Wembley Stadium on Saturday, 12th March, 1977. If you would like tickets for this final please contact Mr. Gandy the Club Secretary on or before 28th December, 1976. The final date for applications will be strictly adhered to as the Football League must know Chester F.C.'s total requirements by 31st December, 1976.

NORTHERN FLOODLIT LEAGUE

Our efforts to retain the Championship trophy won last season for the first time commenced in great style with four consecutive wins, scoring nine goals and conceding two in this spell but then came along our bogey team from across the border—Wrexham—who broke the spell with a 3-1 win at the Stadium and this defeat seemed temporarily to have upset our rhythm because we were then hammered at Shrewsbury by 7-1 after scoring first. A win against Port Vale and a draw against Tranmere somewhat restored the balance and we enter the second phase of the competition with the following record compiled up to 11th December—

P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
8	5	2	1	14	14	11

Scorers — Phil Williams 3; Jim Redfern 3; Ian Howat 2; Stuart Mason 2; Neil Goodwin 2; David Burns 1; Mark Nickeas 1.

LEAGUE DIVISION III

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shrewsbury	18	11	3	4	31	14	25
Wrexham	18	10	5	3	30	15	25
Brighton	18	10	4	4	39	21	24
Rotherham	18	9	6	3	32	20	24
Preston	18	7	8	3	31	16	22
Sheffield Wed.	18	9	4	5	28	22	22
Mansfield	17	8	4	5	29	16	20
Chesterfield	18	8	4	6	25	22	20
Bury	18	8	4	6	29	33	20
Crystal Palace	17	6	7	4	17	14	19
Swindon	18	7	5	6	26	27	19
Lincoln	17	6	6	5	25	24	18
Tranmere	18	5	8	5	18	18	18
Gillingham	18	6	5	7	25	29	17
CHESTER	17	7	3	7	14	18	17
Oxford	19	4	8	7	27	29	16
Reading	18	6	3	9	23	30	15
Peterborough	20	5	5	10	20	32	15
Grimsby	17	5	3	9	17	25	13
Port Vale	18	3	7	8	17	25	13
Walsall	18	3	6	9	17	28	12
Portsmouth	18	2	8	8	15	26	12
Northampton	17	4	3	10	17	29	11
York	17	4	3	10	15	34	11

Not including last night's matches

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F.A. CUP Shocks Shocks Shocks !

Last week saw the dreams of most of the non-League sides vanish until next year, with Nuneaton being soundly beaten 6-0 at Lincoln, Enfield losing 4-0 to Crystal Palace, and although leading 1-0 at half time, Hillingdon going down 2-3 at home to Watford. Pride of place to the surviving non-League sides must go to Premier League side Goole who earned a replay with Wrexham after drawing 1-1 at the Racecourse with a last minute goal from 38-year-old substitute Kelly. Isthmian Leaguers Hitchin earned another chance by drawing 1-1 at home to Swindon. Although these notes are written prior to the draw for the Third Round it is certain that the two non-League sides will pull out all the stops to obtain the chance of a plum draw in the Third Round. With the news that Debenhams, the Super Store Chain, have put proposals forward of a trophy plus a large amount of cash to the two teams from the Third or Fourth Division who go furthest in the Cup, there is more than glory at stake in a Cup run this season. The two sides will meet to decide

who wins the Cup and the biggest share of the cash. Last season Crystal Palace from the Third, reached the semi-finals, so who knows, who will be the giant killers this season? The weather badly affected last week's Cup ties, with five games called off and two abandoned. Of the games played, York gained a creditable 0-0 draw at high-flying Rotherham, two other Third Division sides clashed, Chesterfield and Walsall drawing 1-1. Of the non-League sides left in the Cup, one of the teams most sides would like to avoid are Derek Dougan's Kettering who beat Tooting and Mitcham 1-0, and are currently in the middle of a long unbeaten run. One of the saddest results of the round must be the 3-0 defeat of Newport at Southend. Newport badly needed a good Cup run to help stave off their cash crisis. The highest attendance of the round was at Portsmouth where 14,089 saw Pompey beat Minehead 2-1. The Enfield/Crystal Palace tie, which was switched to Selhurst Park, attracted 13,670, the second highest crowd of the round.

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Cabaret Nite a great success

The Cabaret Nite held at The Celebrity Club on Monday, 29th November proved a real winner. Over 350 supporters and agents were treated to a great evenings entertainment. Chester F.C. Manager Alan Oakes along with Coventry City director and former England and Manchester City manager Joe Mercer were interviewed and questioned by members of the local Press. Questions were varied and interesting and both Alan and Joe were ready for anything that was asked.

Alan was asked if problems had arisen during his first three months, he said everything was starting to tick and all concerned at The Stadium were 'pulling their weight' and targets for the future looked very rosy, the only thing giving problems to Alan was his golf—this has had to take a back-seat since his new position at Chester.

Joe Mercer could have talked all night and proved a really interesting character. He was asked if Alan gave him any problems as a player at Manchester City—Joe's answer was that he was the perfect professional and that he was like Joe Shaw the former Sheffield United player, extremely unlucky not to be capped for England. Questions concerning Joe Mercer's period as care-taker manager of the England team, commercialism in the modern-day game, the amount of games top players were expected to be involved with in today's era, the true value of top-class commercial and public relations men took up the major part of the talk-in, every minute was enjoyable.

After 40 minutes the 'chat-show' was drawn to a close when Joe was asked if he could give Alan any tips which may prove valuable in future years. His answer . . . always remember that your team is only as good as it's worst player, and most important be natural, but most of all be Alan Oakes. Very influential words from a very influential man.

The musical entertainment was provided by 'The Merseybeats' who were on stage approaching an hour—playing old Liverpool favourites from the early and middle sixties and general reliving the 'Cavern Sound'.

CHESTER v. SHREWSBURY

Kick-off 3 p.m.

As you will obviously know our Christmas home fixture is against high-riding Shrewsbury Town on 28th December. A very large following is expected from our near neighbours. We would ask you to arrive at the ground extra early so as to avoid parking difficulties and also to avoid congestion at the turnstiles.

Here's proof that
Grenville Millington
doesn't only wear
a green jumper . . .



Chester F.C.'s goalkeeper Grenville Millington was married on Saturday, 4th December, 1976, at St. Ethelwold's Church, Shotton. He was inundated with good luck messages both before and at the marriage reception—Grenville and his wife Linda would therefore like to thank all Supporters who sent good wishes, especially to Miss Violet Jones of Blacon.

LIGHTING-UP THE SEALS..

The directors would like to thank **MR. ROY PARRY** who has so kindly sponsored the floodlights used in this afternoon's fixture. Roy has been a life-long supporter of Chester and his generosity is really appreciated. If you would like to help sponsor Chester F.C. in any way, either as an individual or perhaps as a club organisation, please contact Mr. Trevor Ray (Promotions Manager). Telephone 21048.

NEXT ISSUE OF SEALS REVIEW

The Programme Editors will feature the Junior Seals Spot complete with your answers to the quiz questions. Details for the club's regular away supporters will be featured among the other match-day articles which have proved interesting reading.

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SEALS STATISTICS 76-77

DATE & OPPONENTS	SCORE	SCORERS	ATTENDANCE
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LEAGUE DIVISION III

1976

Aug. 21 (Sat)—Tranmere	A	1-0	Philpotts (o.g.)	4914
Aug. 24 (Tues)—Brighton	H	0-1		4573
Aug. 28 (Sat)—Oxford	H	1-3	Crossley (pen)	3587
Sept. 4 (Sat)—Crystal Palace ...	A	2-1	Crossley Mason	12746
Sept. 11 (Sat)—Preston	H	0-0		4326
Sept. 18 (Sat)—Bury	A	0-2		4976
Sept. 25 (Sat)—Rotherham	A	1-1	Redfern	3913
Oct. 2 (Sat)—Peterborough	H	2-1	Crossley 2 (1 pen)	3614
Oct. 5 (Tues)—Sheffield Wed. ...	A	0-3		13209
Oct. 9 (Sat)—Grimsby	A	0-0		3910
Oct. 16 (Sat)—Mansfield	H	1-0	McKenzie (o.g.)	4033
Oct. 23 (Sat)—York	A	2-0	Crossley (pen.) Dearden	2182
Oct. 30 (Sat)—Reading	A	0-2		5550
Nov. 2 (Tues)—Portsmouth	A	1-2	Dearden	8480
Nov. 6 (Sat)—Walsall	H	1-0	Redfern	4101
Nov. 13 (Sat)—Chesterfield	A	0-1		3500
Nov. 27 (Sat)—Northampton ...	H	2-1	Oakes Edwards I.	3721
Dec. 18 (Sat)—Swindon	H			
Dec. 27 (Mon)—Wrexham	A			
Dec. 28 (Tues)—Shrewsbury	H			

1977

Jan. 1 (Sat)—Walsall	A			
Jan. 3 (Mon)—Reading	H			
Jan. 15 (Sat)—Brighton	A			
Jan. 22 (Sat)—Tranmere	H			
Jan. 29 (Sat)—Sheffield Wed. ...	H			
Feb. 5 (Sat)—Oxford	A			
Feb. 12 (Sat)—Crystal Palace ...	H			
Feb. 19 (Sat)—Preston	A			
Feb. 26 (Sat)—Bury	H			
March 5 (Sat)—Rotherham	H			
March 11 (Fri)—Peterborough ...	A			
March 19 (Sat)—Grimsby	H			
March 26 (Sat)—Mansfield	A			
April 2 (Sat)—York	H			
April 8 (Fri)—Wrexham	H			
April 9 (Sat)—Shrewsbury	A			
April 11 (Mon)—Portsmouth	H			
April 16 (Sat)—Gillingham	A			
April 23 (Sat)—Chesterfield	H			
April 29 (Fri)—Northampton ...	A			
May 3 (Tues)—Lincoln	H			
May 7 (Sat)—Port Vale	H			
May 14 (Sat)—Swindon	A			
—Gillingham	H			
—Port Vale	A			
—Lincoln (3)	A			

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LEAGUE CUP

Aug. 14 (Sat)—Hereford, 1st Leg	H	2-0	Crossley Draper	3866
Aug. 18 (Wed)—Heref'd, 2nd Leg	A	3-4	Draper Crossley Paine (o.g.)	5928
Aug. 31 (Tues)—Swansea 2nd Rd	H	2-3	Dearden Crossley	3326

F.A. CUP

Nov. 20 (Sat)—Hartlepool 1st Rd	H	1-0	Edwards N.	3724
Dec. 11 (Sat)—Grimsby 2nd Rd	A	1-0	Howat	5729
Jan. 8 (Sat)—Southend 3rd Rd	A			

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TODAY'S REF.

JOHN RICE — Leyland

Refereed in the West Lancashire League and Lancashire Combination before moving on to the League line, and then to the Supplementary and full List in 1972. Married with two sons, he is employed as an engineering lathe turner. Refereed the England v. Spain Youth International in 1972, and was linesman in 1973 for the Italy v. Sweden International.

ON THE BALL

The Board of Directors
would like to thank

CASTLE HOLIDAYS

for the generous gift of the match ball
used in today's game.

CHESTER

Official Colours:

Shirts: Blue with White Stripes

Shorts: Blue with Red and White Trim

Stockings: White with Red and Blue Tops

1 Grenville Millington

2 Nigel Edwards

3 Jim Walker

4 Trevor Storton

5 Bob Delgado

6 Alan Oakes

7 Billy Dearden

8 Paul Richardson

9 Ian Edwards

10 Ian Howat

11 Paul Crossley

12

Sub.



SWINDON

Official Colours:

Shirts: Red with White collars and cuffs

Shorts: White with Red trimmings

Stockings: Red with White hoops

Jimmy Allan 1

Will Dixon 2

John Trollope 3

Ken Stroud 4

Steve Aizlewood 5

Colin Prohett 6

Dave Moss 7

John McLaughlin 8

Dave Syrett 9

Ray McHale 10

Trevor Anderson 11

Sub. Don Rogers 12

Linesmen: (Red) J. R. KYLE, Wombourne

(Yellow) N. A. SAUL, Romiley

THERE'S

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THE

Chester Chronicle

