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NEWS&VIEWS

Tonight we have great pleasure in entertaining Fulham Football Club in an F.A. Cup Third Round replay after a well fought 3 - 3 draw at Craven Cottage on Saturday.

A game which contained many incidents and was full value for money.

Unfortunately on Saturday, January 1st, 1977, the spectators at the County Ground were denied full value for money when the referee abandoned the game after 67 minutes because he thought the conditions were farcical.

Even the most non-partisan spectators were amazed at the decision reached and it is great credit to the 12,369 paying spectators in the way they took the decision.

Unfortunately after playing so well, probably the best ever at the County Ground this season it produced nothing for Swindon, a great disappointment for the New Year for everyone who is a Swindon supporter.

It is often stated that the game is about players Is it?. Surely spectators must count, especially on the financial side.

Tonight we welcome Fulham Football Club to the County Ground. It does not seem so long ago, in fact it was 1974-75 season when they reached the Cup Final before losing 2 - 0 to West Ham United. Since then considerable changes have taken place and in the summer of 1976 they persuaded George Best and Rodney Marsh to join them. They are a star attraction on away grounds and will add many more spectators tonight to our own loyal town supporters.

Many Town supporters will remember Rodney Marsh playing for Queens Park Rangers here but I believe George Best last played at the County Ground for Manchester United Youths on Monday April 27th, 1964, in a F.A. Youth Cup Final (First Leg) match which ended 1 - 1. The second leg result was 4 - 1 for Manchester United who won 5 - 2 on aggregate. Teams:

Swindon: Hicks, Foscolo, Ling, Griffin, Brown, Prosser, Rogers, Tabor, Plumb, Peapell, Walker. Manchester United: Rimmer, Duff, Noble, McBride, Farrar, Fitzpatrick, Anderson, Best, Sadler, Kinsey, Aston.

On the Swindon side Don Rogers is on the books, Dickie Plumb plays for Yeovil Town, and Ricky Tabor for Oxford City.

In the Manchester team Jimmy Rimmer is firstteam goalkeeper for Arsenal, David Sadler in the back four of Preston, John Aston outside-left for Luton Town and George Best plays for Fulham.

The Anderson is Willie Anderson who played for Aston Villa and now Cardiff City.

The last time we met Fulham at the County Ground was on December 8th 1973 in Division Two. The score resulted in a 1 - 1 draw with a goal by Peter Eastoe before a 5,568 crowd.

Teams:

Swindon: Allan, Butler, Trollope, Hubbard, Burrows, Potter, Moss, Syrett, Eastoe, McGovern, Jenkins.

Fulham: Mellor, Cutbush, Fraser, Mullery, Lacy, Dunne, Conway (John), Conway (Jimmy), Busby, Slough, Barrett.

The return game was played on April 20th, 1974 and resulted in a 4 - 1 defeat. The goal being scored by Dave Syrett before a crowd of 7,808.

Unfortunately Swindon we re relegated that season and Fulham finished in 13th position.

We trust all spectators (25,000 we hope) present this evening will enjoy a grand game of football - a repeat of Saturday's match, and we shall see you all again on Saturday for home game against our great friends, Portsmouth in a Division Three game.

All supporters, especially our older ones, will be sorry to hear, Maurice Owen, one of our finest players ever, is in hospital in Oxford. To him we say, Best wishes, Get well soon. Shall be glad to see you back.

Talk of the Town

By the Chairman

After wishing you all a Happy New Year in the last programme notes, we put on a game that was handled with everything accept goodwill. On behalf of our Club, I would like to apologise to all supporters, that paid money to get to our ground to witness something that I hope will never be allowed to happen again. I have received your letters and sympathise with everything you say. We the Club, have written to the Football League with our protest and explanations of our reasons and this is so far as we go. At a time when the good name of Football is constantly being dragged through the mud through the various mediums of press and radio and television, the behaviour of our supporters at this match was something for us to be proud of, and I hate to think what might have happened, if this game had been terminated say in Liverpool or Manchester. What a fine performance our lads put up in this game, only to be robbed of a result, after leading by four clear goals.

This farce did not distroy the fighting spirit of our lads in their performance at Fulham on Saturday last and we were very proud of their great efforts. I know that everyone of them appreciated the wonderful support from you all and I hope that tonights game will be as entertaining.

On Thursday last our Youths played against Swansea in the Youth Cup and what a fine game this turned out to be. We had to play this game on our Shrivenham Road Training Ground, because of the number of games that we are committed to on the County Ground, and our youngsters won this game by five goals to four. We now meet West Bromwich Albion at home in the third round of the Youth Cup. I hope that we are playing this on the County Ground and give our public plenty of notice of the coming date, because these games are exciting to say the least.

At the time of writing these notes I do not know whether Colin Prophets injury has healed. After the game last Saturday Colin was rushed back to Princess Margaret Hospital to have an X-Ray on his ankle, which proved that there was no break.

We are grateful to our Club Doctor Dr. John Nicholas for always giving the Club his services so freely. It is very important that medical advice is on hand at our games and we are extra fortunate that John is always on hand to help us through the week as well and this voluntary work comes on top of his everyday medical duties.

Our physiotherapist Kevin Morris works hand in glove with our Doctor and this is a very important part of our backroom set up which few people give thought to.

Here's hoping that tonights game will make up for the disappointment that you had at the Brighton game.

Visit our SOUVENIR SHOP after the match where we have the following items on sale all bearing the name of the club and/or our badge.

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OUR VISITORS

by Tony Puller

Fulham

GERRY PEYTON (Goalkeeper) Fulham paid Burnley £40,000 for Gerry a few weeks ago after an injury had sidelined Peter Mellor, Gerry broke into Burnley's senior side last season.

League Record: Burnley 28 aps, Fulham 4 aps.

JOHN CUTBUSH (Defender) John joined Fulham from Spurs during the 1972 close-season after being a member of Spur's reserve team for a couple of years. He has enjoyed four outstanding seasons in League football for Fulham.

League Record: Tottenham nil aps., Fulham 132 (2) aps, 3 gls.

BOBBY MOORE (Defender) Fulham secured the transfer of former England captain Bobby Moore for £25,000 in 1974. Earlier Bobby had created a new record by winning his 108th England cap had he also broke the West Ham club record with 545 League appearances. League Record: West Ham 544(1) aps, 24 gls., Fulham 105 aps, 1 gl.

ERNIE HOWE (Defender) Ernie made his Fulham debut three seasons back. Normally a centre-back, he was later tried in the strange role of striker, with some success, scoring seven goals last season.

League Record: Fulham 56 (2) aps. 10 gls.

JOHN LACY (Defender) John one of the tallest players in League football, is a former Fulham amateur. He made his break into their League eleven in 1972/73 and recently regained his place after a spell in the reserves.

League Record: Fulham 109 (3) aps. 4 gls.
LES STRONG (Defender) Les played with
Crystal Palace as a junior but was never in contention for a first-team place at Selhurst Park.
After joining Fulham, he rose to their senior
eleven four seasons ago and he has now taken
over the left-back position.

League Record: Fulham 133 (3) aps. 2 gls.
ALAN SLOUGH (Midfield) Now one of the key figures in midfield for Fulham, and club captain, Alan can play well in every position including goal! He began with Luton and cost Fulham £35,000 in 1973.

League Record: Luton 265 (10) aps, 28 gls. Fulham 135 aps, 11 gls.

GEORGE BEST (Midfield) George made his name in the great Manchester United side of the 'sixties, helping them win the European Cup in 1968. He won on five occasions United's leading scorer. Last season he had a brief spell at Stockport. He has 34 Irish Caps.

League Record: Manchester Un. 361 aps, 137 gls, Stockport 3 aps, 2 gls., Fulham 18 aps 5 gls.

JOHN EVANSON (Midfield) John joined Fulham from Blackpool this summer and made his first appearance for them at Charlton in August. He began his career with Oxford United and transferred to Blackpool for £40,000 in 1974.

League Record: Oxford 145 (13) aps, 10 gls. Blackpool 63(4) aps, Fulham 21 aps. 1 gl. BRIAN GREENAWAY (Midfield) Brian has won his first chance in the Fulham senior side this season and recently re-appeared in Best's position when the Irish international was under suspension. Brian's first full League game was in the Christmas 'derby' at Chelsea.

League Record: Fulham 4 (1) aps.

RODNEY MARSH (Forward) Rodney returned to his original club this season. He originally scored on his League debut for the Cottagers back in 1962/63 and then moved to Q.P.R. for £15,000 in March 1966. With Rangers he won the earliest of his nine England caps. In 1972 he was sold to Manchester City for £200,000

League Record: Fulham 63 aps. 22gls. Q.P.R. 211 aps, 106 gls, Man-City 116 (2) aps. 36 gls, Fulham 11 aps. 5 gls.

JOHN MITCHELL (Forward) John joined Fulham from amateurs St. Albans in 1971 and made a tremendous impact in his first season (1972/73) as a first-teamer when he hit 11 goals. Then he went off the boil and found himself out of the side. He made a perfectly-timed come-back two seasons ago when he played in the F.A. Cup final.

Leage record: Fulham 103(11) aps., 35 gls.

LES BARRETT (Forward) Les is as close to conventional winger as you will find these days, his big asset being his ability to attack as well down both flanks. A former England under-23 player, Les entered Fulham's first-team in 1965/66 and was top scorer six seasons ago when they won promotion to Division Two.

League record: Fulham 418(3) aps., 74 gls.

TONY MAHONEY (Forward) Tony is another of Fulham's young brigade to be given his chance in their League team this season. He made his first full appearance at Plymouth in November and later was included as substitute.

League record: Fulham 1 (1) aps.



BOBBY MOORE

Moore possesses commanding qualities of leadership given to few players. A tremendous ability to read a game allows him to anticipate as few other players and his defensive quality is extremely high. Immaculate distribution of the ball compensates for a slight lack of mobility for which he is sometimes criticised.

He has climbed the winner's rostrum at Wembley three times ... for the FA Cup, the European Cup Winners' Cup and the World Cup.



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GEORGE BEST



RODNEY MARSH

PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS

Swindon v Fulham

PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS

F.A. CUP: First Round - Jan. 10, 1920

FULHAM (1) 1 SWINDON TOWN (2) 2, Travers 2

Swindon Town: Hinton; Kay, Clayton; Tout, Simms, Lochhead;

Bolland, Fleming, Travers, Batty, Davies.

First Round - Jan. 10, 1925

SWINDON TOWN (1) 1 Johnson FULHAM (1) 2

Swindon Town: Randall; Dickenson, Weston; Cooper, Bew, Wareing; Denyer, Crossley, Richardson, Johnson, Davies.

LEAGUE CUP :

Fourth Round - Oct. 27, 1970

FULHAM (1) 1 SWINDON TOWN (0) 0

22,576

Swindon Town: Jones; Thomas, Trolloper; Butler, Burrows, Harland; Smith, Smart, Horsfield, Noble (Gough), Rogers.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE :

Mar.	29 1929	Fulham 2 Swindon 0	30,000 *
Apr.	1 1929	Swindon 1 (Thom.) Fulham 2	7,000 *
Jan.	1 1930	Fulham 4 Swindon 1 (Roberts	12,000 *
Apr.	19 1930	Swindon 1 (Morris) Fulham 1	3,000 *
Dec.	25 1930	Swindon 4 (Kirby pen., Morris 2, Richardson) Fulham 1	
Dec.	26 1930	Fulham 6 Swindon 1 (Gibbons o.g.)	8,000 *
Oct.	24 1931	Swindon 2 (Starsmore, Morris) Fulham 2	4,994
Mar.	5 1932	Fulham 2 Swindon 2 (Lawley 2)	15,000 *
Sep.	18 1971	Swindon 4 (Noble, Rogers, Jones, Butler) Fulham 0	12,967
Jan.	1 1972	Fulham 2 Swindon 4 (Horsfield 2, Rogers 2)	7,406
Dec.	23 1972		9,489
Apr.	20 1973	Fulham 0 Swindon 0	8,519
Dec.	8 1973	Swindon 1 (Eastoe) Fulham 1	5,568
Apr.	20 1974	Fulham 4 Swindon 1 (Syrett)	7,808

Approx. attendances only

LEAGUE SUMMARY :

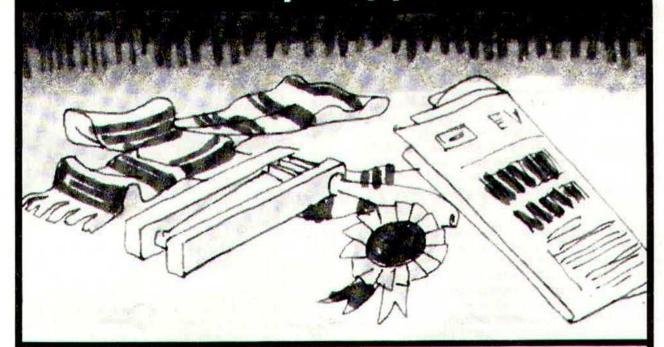
	W	D	L	F	-	A
Home	2	4	1	15		9
Away	1	2	4	9		20
Total	3	6	5	24		29

TRANSFERS BETWEEN CLUBS :

Frank Peters (outside-right) from Fulham to Swindon Debut for Swindon: v. Newport County away Aug. 26 1933 Total apps. for Swindon: 100 lge + 7 cup Goals: 44 lge.

Arthur Haddleton (inside-forward) from Fulham to Swindon Debut for Swindon: v. Clapton Orient home Sept. 16 1933 Total apps. for Swindon: 7 Goals: nil

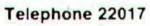
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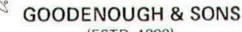
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Old Fans Return to Football

by Tony Pullein

Once again the holiday fixture list proved that English football has lost none of its attraction to the ordinary man in the street. Boxing Day games drew a fantastic 900,000-plus - the sort of attendances we enjoyed most weeks in the early post-war boom - and no fewer than 36 clubs attracted their best gates of the season over the holiday period.

Chelsea's crowd for their local derby with Fulham was 55,003 - the highest attendances for any League game in London this season and the best at Stamford Bridge for 51/2 years. It was just like old times for hapless Chelsea who must now feel that their overwhelming debts are within reach of repayment one day if they can somehow maintain their present progress.

Another of football's troubled clubs, Portsmouth, had a happy Christmas. The attendance for their Third Division match with Brighton was an astronomical 32,368 - their best League gate for nine years.

Several other clubs drew crowds three times higher than their normal average and many more doubled their usual attendances.

Generally the Third and Fourth Division sides fared best, by comparison. Half of them enjoyed their best crowds of the season so far.

Botton-of-the-table York City are scarcely a big attraction, yet their visit to Sheffield Wednesday attracted 22,004 - almost double Hillsborough's average.

This merely bears out the point that the general public is not too worried about the opposition apart from the classic examples of Manchester United, Fulham etc., - and that it is the game that really counts. Boxing Day at football has become something of a ritual for thousands of fans who were once regular visitors to League grounds.

Many things have helped to lose them over the years - marriage, the rising cost of football and the licity. The media just makes it seem worse hooligan element being high among them. There are always the drop-outs from clubs not doing very well - "I'm not going to waste my time watching that rubbish any more," is a familiar enough comment to us all - but these, usually, are compensated by the additional fans drawn to the successful clubs.

The fear of hooliganism has probably lost football more fans, and revenue, than any other aspect. Sadly, the whole thing is a myth.

Thousands of potential fans are put off by distorted publicity about the roughnecks. It is certainly NOT an ordeal going to football these days - no more than it was visiting places like Millwall twenty years ago.

One of my jobs is to follow Manchester United around the country. They are supposed to have the "worst" supporters in the country, yet I have found them to be among the best. They have, perhaps, 300 useless human bodies that it is their misfortune to have associated with them. These louts corner all the publicity and create such a criminally bad impression of a band of supporters that is reality among the most knowledgeable and loyal in the world.

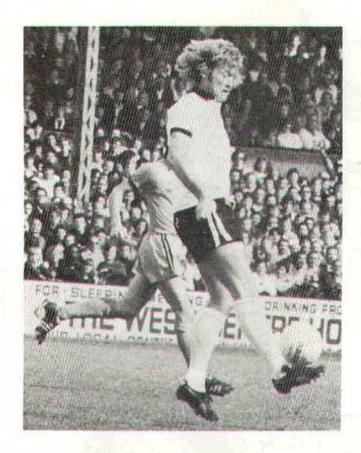
Yet to mention United in any living room in the land is to invite hoots of hollow laughter about their supporters. That's the first thing that comes to mind when one raises the subject of Manchester United. Very rarely is the quality of their play, or of players like Hill, Macari, Pearson etc., brought up in initial conversation.

The very nature of the game gives rise to emotion and passionate opposition. And where there are crowds of ten thousand or more packed together for 90 minutes there are bound to be arguments and scuffles.

Games were abandoned because of crowd violence 70 and more years ago. Shots were fired at football matches before the first World War.

While in no way condoning such immature behaviour, I think it is important that it should be brought home to the public that it was probably more dangerous watching football 50 years ago than it is today.

The only thing that has changed is the pubtoday.



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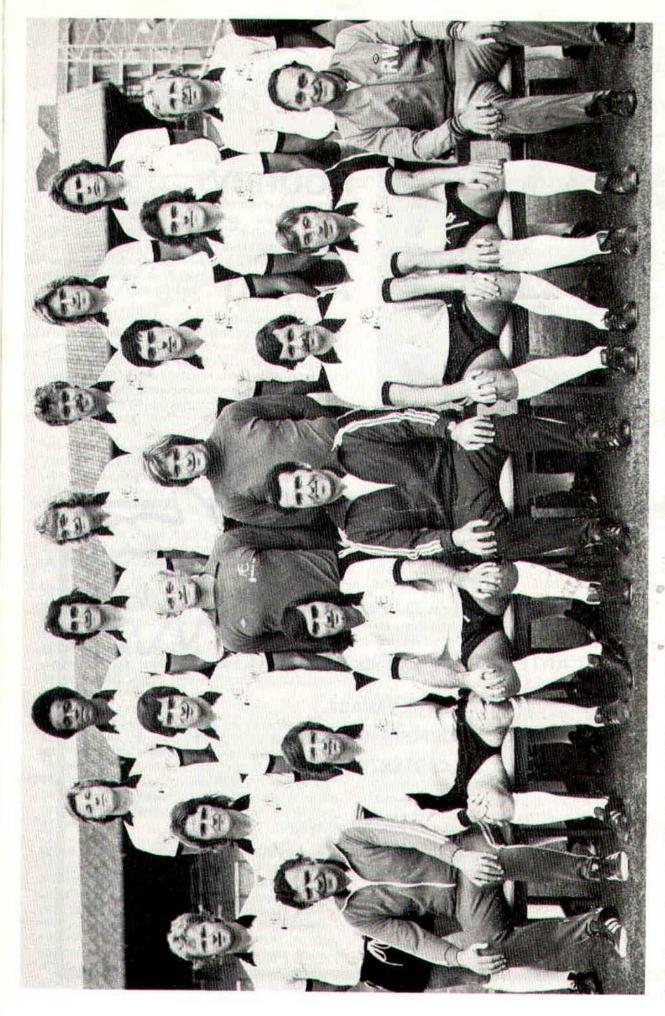
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- 9 Syrett
- 10 McHale
- 11 Anderson
- 12 Rogers

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Mr. B. H. DANIELS (Brentwood)

Mr. F. G. Richard (Exeter)
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FULHAM

- 1 Gerry Peyton
- 2 John Cutbush
- 3 Les Strong
- 4 Alan Slough
- 5 Ernie Howe
- 6 Bobby Moore
- 7 George Best
- 8 John Evanson
- 9 John Mitchell
- 10 Rodney Marsh
- 11 Les Barrett
- 12 Brian Greenaway

Next Match Saturday 15th January 1976

Referee:

Linesmen:

DIVISION III

PORTSMOUTH

Re-arranged matches:-Preston N. End Away February 1st Grimsby Town Home March 8th



BRIAN H. DANIELS (Brentwood Essex)

Passed the Referees' Examination of Essex County F.A. in 1951 and has progressed through local and the Isthmian League, Football League line and the full list in 1967. Was a linesman at the U.E.F.A. Cup Quarter-Finals played in Las Palmas in 1972/73.

Married, with three children, he is an ex-Military Policeman now engaged as Recruiting and Advertising Manager in Industrial Security. His interests are coarse fishing and ballroom dancing, He is a founder member and President of the Ilford 7-a-side Charity Cup also Vice-President of the South East Combination Charity Cup.