



DIVISION THREE

Swindon Town

v

Reading

Official Programme

10p

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TONIGHT?**



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NEWS & VIEWS NEWS & VIEWS NEWS & VIEWS

What can one say as we welcome our friends from Reading! How sad to see them struggling at the bottom of the League Table. Surely another example of how quickly fortunes change in Football. Only a few months ago Charlie Hurley was being acclaimed Manager of the Month, his team having gained Promotion. To-day he is out of a job, his team in danger of relegation. What went wrong? No doubt many people would like to know the answer. It is one of those questions which cannot be answered. If it could, then managers would be able to overcome their difficulties.

May last year, Reading occupied Third Position with the following record:

Home

P	W	D	L	F	A
46	19	3	1	42	9

Away

W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
5	9	9	28	42	60

Now note the results for this Season-

Home						Away						Pts.
P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
33	6	4	6	21	19	2	2	13	14	38	22	

Only six matches won at home out of sixteen played, and remember one of those was when they defeated Swindon by four goals to one on Saturday, 2nd October 1976.

Well now, "The King is Dead" "Long live the King". Maurice Evans is now in charge of the team, which seems to have made a good beginning by defeating Portsmouth, by two goals to nil last Saturday.

Many of our supporters will remember him, for many years a player with Reading. Keen strong determined player, always giving one hundred per cent effort, a great fighter. We wish him well nothing would delight us more, here at Swindon than to see him take his club away from the danger zone of relegation. Good Luck, Maurice, but we still want to win to-night.

Games between Reading and Swindon were always the high lights of the season — real "local derbies".

Not so of late, because prior to this year, the last time the two clubs met was in season 1968-69 (That of course was when we gained promotion to Division 2). The games produced high attendances, in both cases well over sixteen thousand. (Hope we get half that figure to-night). Results not quite so good 0-0 at Swindon and 1-0 at Reading.

In Season 1974-75 we defeated Reading at home four goals to nil in the First Round of the F.A. Cup. Again a very good attendance 13,365. Most of the Swindon team are still on the books — Barron, Dixon, Trollope, Burrows, Prophett, Moss, McLaughlin, Anderson. The composition of the Reading team has changed considerably. At the beginning of the season six were still retained.

We cannot let tonight's occasion pass without reference to the death of Mr. A.E. Smith, President of Reading F.C. A real stalwart and many years Chairman of that Club. He was "Mr. Reading" himself. A real genuine sincere man, respected and loved by all who knew him. A great loss to the game.

Maybe it is quite late, but nevertheless, Swindon Town Football Club, express their deepest sympathy to his widow (who visited us on many occasions) and his family.

Talk of the Town

By the Chairman

We are pleased to welcome the Officials and Players of Reading tonight, although we are sorry that they are struggling, as we were last season, at one stage to keep a position in Division III. This is our second game in four days that we have found ourselves fighting it out against teams that are fighting for every vital point.

Grimsby in a similar position as Reading, played some entertaining attacking football which belied their position in the table and I am sure that we shall experience the same tonight. It proved how important that we have a strong enough squad to duplicate, when necessary through injuries and this of course was why we have had to hold on to Jim Barron because his position is one of the most vital spots to have covered. Jim is hoping to leave for America before this season ends and this is why we have bought Kevin Roberts to take Jim's place, but we shall certainly miss Jim at our Club, because not only is he a very good player, but he is a great help to our younger players and to this end I know that Jim is looking to the future.

Our fund raising efforts through Doug Buswell and his staff have been most encouraging and enables our Club to look ahead and plan for the future.

Our Sports shop ably managed by Doug Woodman, has established connections throughout the County and in fact, into other Counties. The Souvenir Shop, the ground and club catering, along with our Club activities and not forgetting the advertising and sponsorship from our Supporters, make up for the disappointing gate attendances.

This stresses the fact that if we can attract larger attendances, together with our present income, would enable us to strengthen our bid for higher status.

At the Football League meetings which are being held on Thursday and Friday of this week in London, the subject of minimum price admission to all grounds, is down for discussion. At the moment sixty five pence is the minimum we are allowed to charge, although we at Swindon allow our ground spectators the chance to see our games for fifty four pence minimum if a season ticket is purchased.

The new minimum figure, being quoted is eighty pence and if this is voted through, we shall have to give consideration again to the season ticket holder. As much as we would like to hold our prices stable, it looks very much that we shall be forced to raise them.

If we could fill our ground for fifty pence a person, I feel it would be better for everyone concerned, than to have a few thousand at a higher cost.

In my next notes, I hope to be able to explain the outcome of our League Meetings, which we feel concern the future of all of us in the Football World.

The Grand National Draw which Doug Buswell is arranging is going well, but you must return your counterfoils for the draw, which takes place on Friday, 25th March in our Supporters Club, at the latest by noon on this date.

Our Supporters Club is in the process of forming their new committee, which I am sure will be a great help to the Club in helping to raise funds etc., and I know that Jack Conley will welcome any help that they can give.

Here's hoping that you enjoy the game tonight and thank you for coming.

SWINDON TOWN GOAL SCORERS

	League	League Cup	F.A. Cup	Total
T. ANDERSON	10	-	5	15
D. MOSS	7	-	6	13
D. SYRETT	7	1	6	14
R. MCHALE	3	-	2	5
K. STROUD	3	1	1	5
S. AIZLEWOOD	4	-	-	4
C. PROPHETT	5	-	-	5
W. DIXON	2	-	-	2
H. GODDARD	-	1	-	1
D. ROGERS	1	-	-	1
J. MCLAUGHLIN	1	-	-	1



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OUR VISITORS

READING

by Tony Pullein

STEVE DEATH (Goalkeeper)

Steve joined Reading from West Ham for a club record £20,000 in 1970 after spending a loan period at Elm Park. He had been Reading's first-choice goalkeeper until handing over to John Turner this season but he has recently regained his place.

League record: West Ham 1 ap., Reading 289 aps.

GARY PETERS (Defender)

Manager Charlie Hurley spotted Gary playing for Guildford and put him straight into Reading's senior side after signing him last season.

League record: Reading 47 (6) aps., 4 gls.

STEVE HETZKE (Defender)

Steve headed two spectacular goals to give Reading a 2-0 win over Portsmouth last Saturday and ended their run of 12 games without a win. A Reading discovery, Steve made his League debut in 1972/73.

League record: Reading 63 (3) aps., 4 gls.

PAUL BENNETT (Defender)

Paul who grew up in Southampton's junior teams, made his senior bow when they were in the First Division in 1971/72. He opened last season as a regular member of Southampton's defence but was unfortunate enough to lose his place just as the club embarked on its famous run to the F.A. Cup final.

League record: Southampton 116 aps., 1 gl; Reading 26 aps., 1 gl.

DAVID MORELINE (Defender)

David made the left-back position his own immediately after joining Reading from Fulham in 1974. An injury caused him to miss several games early on this season but now he is back again.

League record: Fulham 63 (7) aps; Reading 98 aps.

STEWART HENDERSON (Defender)

Stewart is a former Chelsea junior who had to await a transfer to Brighton in 1965 before getting his chance in League football. He became a reliable defender over seven seasons at the Goldstone Ground, then transferred to Reading in 1973.

League record: Chelsea nil aps; Brighton 198 aps., 1 gl; Reading 141 (3) aps., 6 gls.

BRIAN DRYSDALE (Defender)

Brian is on loan to Reading from Bristol City. Formerly with Lincoln and Hartlepool, Brian was Bristol City's left-back from 1969 until this season when the signing of Norman Hunter caused a re-shuffle in the back four.

League record: Lincoln 14 aps; Hartlepool 169 (1) aps., 2 gls; Bristol City 280 (2) aps., 3 gls; Reading 2 aps.

RICHIE BOWMAN (Midfield)

Richie joined Reading from Charlton earlier this season. He first earned a place in Charlton's senior squad in 1972/73 and for the past two seasons he was a fixture in their team.

League record: Charlton 94 (3) aps., 7 gls; Reading 15 aps.

EAMONN DUNPHY (Midfield)

Eamonn, capped 23 times by Eire, was once with Manchester Un. He joined York in 1965 but quickly moved on to Millwall. Charlton signed him for £20,000 in 1973 but gave him a free transfer two years later, when he signed for Reading.

League record: Man. Un. nil aps; York 22 aps., 3 gls. Millwall 267(7) aps., 24 gls; Charlton 39 (3) aps., 3 gls; Reading 66 (3) aps., 3 gls.

BRIAN CARNABY (Midfield)

Brian was unlucky in several trials with other clubs before Reading gave him his break in 1972. Since then he has remained a fairly constant member of the senior side.

League record: Reading 132 (8) aps., 10 gls.

PAT EARLES (Forward)

Pat was transferred to Reading from Southampton a few weeks ago. Only an occasional first-teamer at The Dell, Pat is now enjoying his first extended spell of League soccer.

League record: Southampton 4 (7) aps., 1 gl; Reading 10 aps., 1 gl.

RAY HIRON (Forward)

Ray enjoyed eleven seasons in Portsmouth's League team, leading their scorers for three consecutive seasons. Reading signed him last season but injuries have been troubling him this term.

League record: Portsmouth 324 (7) aps., 110 gls; Reading 59 (1) aps., 12 gls.

READING



Back Row (Left to Right) Maurice Evans (trainer), Dave Moreline, Robin Friday, Ray Hiron, Tommy Youlden, Gary Peters, Paul Bennett, Gordon Neate (Groundsman)

Middle Row Fred May (secretary), Jimmy Wallbanks (Physiotherapist), Steve Death, Bruce Stuckey, Andy Painter, Jeremy Williams, Bryan Carnaby, John Turner, Charlie Hurley

Front Row John Murray, Stewart Henderson, Mr. Frank Waller (Chairman), Gordon Cumming (captain), Denis Nelson, Mr. Duncan Vincent (director), Eamonn Dunphy and Mick Hollis.

Photo: "Reading Chronicle"



MATCH BALL

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FROM OUR TAME STATISTICIAN....

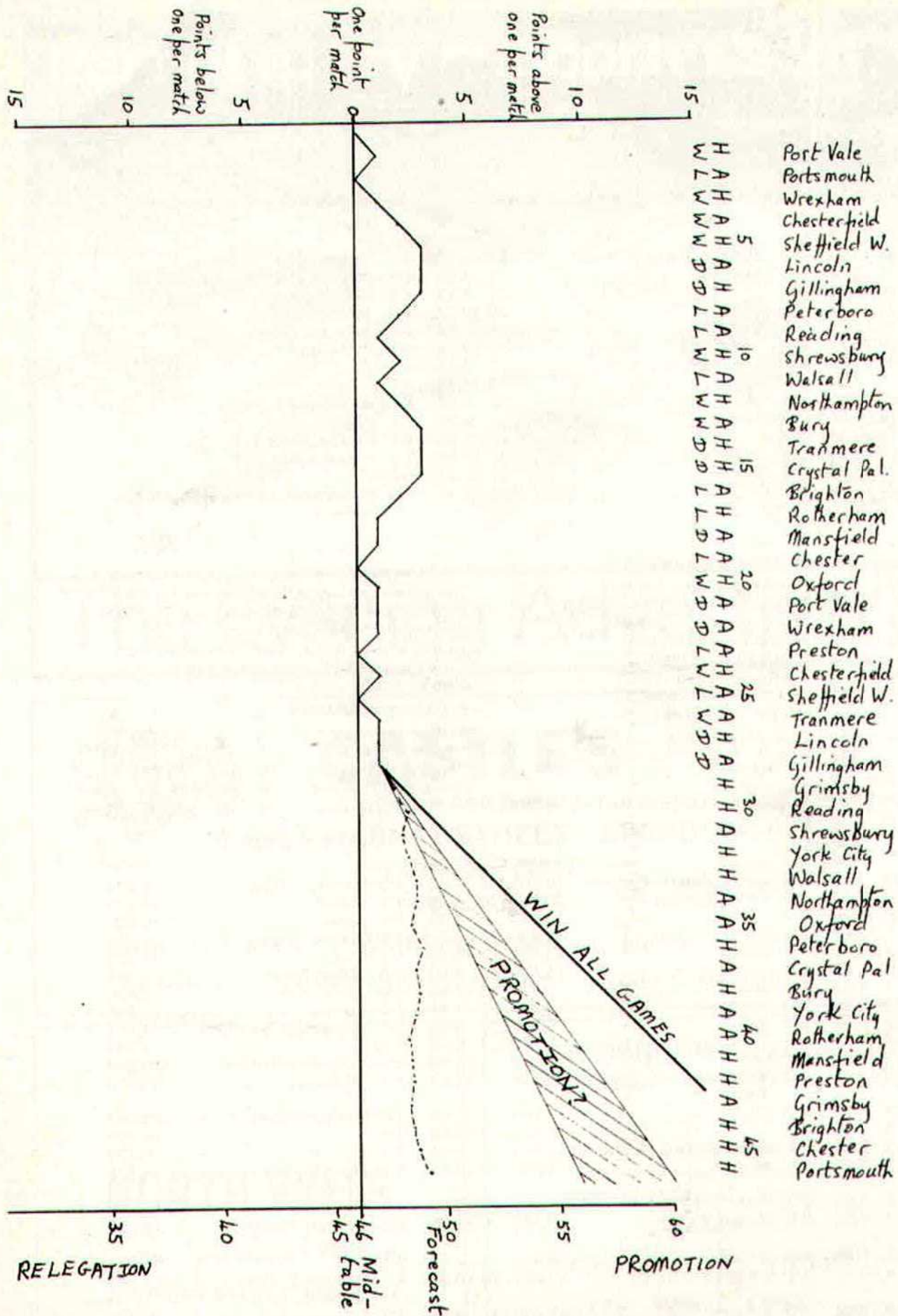
Dr. B. E. Cooper

Reading to-night! Ah, now I have to be careful what I say. You see, I am an ardent Swindon fan who earns his daily bread in Reading. Yes, I did go to Elm Park last October and I will leave you to imagine what my colleagues at work said to me on the following Monday. Now, tonight, as you can appreciate I would like to say that we will turn the tables on our near neighbours. However, if this article gets into the hands of my colleagues who are threatening to come to the County Ground tonight I could be in trouble on Monday. So, I want you all to promise that you will not show this article to any of my colleagues. Good - that's settled. Now I can say it — I want a win tonight and a good one. It's O.K. really I won't be at work on Monday.

Now that everyone is sitting up or standing straight - no slouching - expecting a good game of football I can really begin this article. Those regular readers will recall that in my last article I could only manage to forecast 48 points at the end of the season. Since then we have played 9 matches winning 3 and drawing 4. Six of those matches were away so we have maintained our position on away matches leaving home matches in hand. In spite of the lack of home matches the forecast has gone up to 49 to 50 points.

The forecast is made up of 15 points from the remaining 11 home matches and 5 to 6 points from the remaining 7 aways. That makes 20 to 21 points from all outstanding matches. That is 2 to 3 over one point per game. I have shown the forecast on the usual diagram which appears with this article. You will see on the diagram the line representing wins for all outstanding games and a band labelled 'promotions'. If the team is within (or above) this band promotion remains a possibility. It is a difficult course but not impossible. The three front-names Brighton (I seem to remember them), Rotherham (Danny remember's them), and Mansfield (Danny remembers them too!) are setting a high standard this season. However, since we still have to play each of them we can do something about that.

Now that all the forecasting is over and the task ahead is defined let battle commence and may the best side (Swindon of course) win. If the game is as good as the one at Elm Park we will all be well entertained.



PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS

Swindon v Reading

PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS

* FULL LEAGUE RESULTS : (Swindon score first)

Every Swindon Goal-Scorer

At Reading

25.12.20	3-2	Wareing, Batty 2
4. 2.22	1-1	Johnson
14. 4.23	0-1	
27.10.23	0-1	
26.12.24	1-1	Crossley
25.12.25	0-2	
30. 1.32	2-5	Eddleston, Braithwaite
7. 1.33	1-7	Morris
23.12.33	0-2	
19. 1.35	1-2	Fowler
19.10.35	0-2	
25.12.36	2-2	Cookson 2
25.12.37	1-2	Fowler
12.11.38	0-3	

At Swindon

27.12.20	2-0	Fleming 2
11. 2.22	4-0	Metcald, Denyer, Phillipson 2
21. 4.23	3-1	Phillipson, Johnson 2 pens.
20.10.23	1-0	Johnson pen.
25.12.24	2-1	Johnson, Daniel
26.12.25	1-1	Richardson
19. 9.31	0-2	
3. 9.32	0-1	
5. 5.34	3-1	Armstrong 2, Peters
8. 9.34	1-1	Peters
22. 2.36	4-1	Fowler, Wells 3
28.12.36	1-2	Hetherington
27.12.37	0-0	
18. 3.39	4-2	Wilcockson, Barraclough, Morton, Jones, E.

TRANSFERS SINCE 1920

R	Frank Richardson (1926)
E	Ted Braithwaite/Hector Girvan (1929)
A	Frank Richardson (1930)
D	Frank Wildman (1936)
I	Jeff Gulliver (1951)
N	Jimmy Johnston (1952)
G	Bill Parker (1953)
	Pat Terry (1967)

S The highest pre-war attendances were 18,764
W at Reading on Boxing Day, 1924 and 18,760 at
I at Swindon thirteen years later.
N Strange though it may seem, the gate receipts
D in 1937 were nearly forty pounds less — at a
O mere £1,035!

*LEAGUE SUMMARY :	W	D	L	F—	A
Pre-War at Swindon	8	3	3	26-	13
Pre-War at Reading	1	3	10	12-	33
Post-War at Swindon	10	9	2	36-	17
Post-War at Reading	6	4	11	28-	37

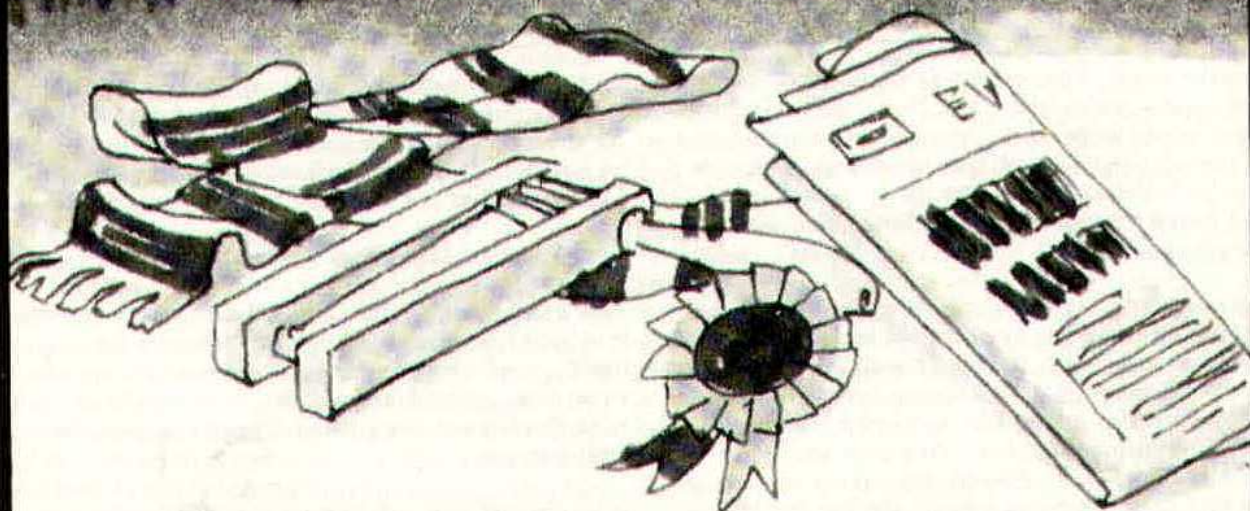
* Up to end of last season

OVERALL SWINDON SUCCESS RATE : 49.29%

TOTAL : 25 19 26 102-100

At Reading	Gates	At Swindon	Gates
22. 3.47	3-3	Lucas, Emery, Paterson	16,505
22.11.47	3-2	Owen 2, Jones	20,838
30. 4.49	0-0		18,881
17.12.49	3-4	Simner 2, Jones	16,033
14.10.50	1-3	Owen	23,400
23. 4.52	0-2		11,330
1. 5.53	1-4	Millar	7,131
19. 4.54	1-3	Beards	12,378
29. 1.55	1-2	Bull	8,740
26.11.55	1-0	Edwards	8,189
13. 4.57	0-1		5,969
29. 3.58	4-0	Micklewright 2, Skull, Kelly	17,135
21. 3.59	1-3	Skull	10,864
5. 3.60	0-3		11,586
3.12.60	1-1	Summerbee	9,543
2. 3.62	1-1	Hunt E.	14,052
8. 3.63	2-1	Hunt E. 2 - 1 pen.	16,008
1. 4.66	2-0	Rogers 2	13,758
24. 9.66	1-2	Brown	9,064
4.10.67	1-2	Rogers	17,867
9.10.68	1-0	Smart	17,451
16.11.46	2-2	Paterson, Ithell	18,534
10. 4.48	1-1	Owen	16,876
6. 4.49	1-1	Jones	16,590
20.8.49	2-0	Dawson, Owen	24,379
3. 3.51	1-1	Lunn	21,485
12. 4.52	2-0	Millar, Owen	17,984
13.12.52	2-0	Lunn, Ryder	9,496
16. 4.54	1-0	Johnson	12,743
4. 5.55	2-0	Williams H. own goal	5,147
7. 4.56	0-0		7,397
1.12.56	3-2	Edwards 2, Gibbs	10,257
14.12.57	1-1	Richards	14,418
1.11.58	2-0	Kelly, Corbett	19,837
17.10.59	0-4		14,706
25. 2.61	1-1	Hunt E.	9,703
13.10.61	4-1	Hunt R., Hunt E., Darcy 2	17,301
20.10.62	1-1	Hunt E.	16,345
6.11.65	5-0	Lawton, Rogers 2, Brown 2	15,627
4. 2.67	0-1		16,964
24.10.67	5-1	Penman 2, Terry 2	17,240
27. 8.68	0-0	Harland	16,765

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But How Did It All Start?

by Tony Pullein

Penalty Ref!! Few games go by without one or two vociferous appeals like that. And, over the years, many important issues have been decided by penalty kicks. Yet, though the spot kick is now an integral part of the game, how many fans know how or when this killer-kick was introduced?

Imagine the situation before the penalty-kick was invented. Two minutes are left for play. The winning goal is flashing towards the top corner of the net. Desperately, a defender throws himself at the ball to punch it over the bar. The referee awards a free kick two feet from the goal-line. Eleven apponents line up on the line and it is quite impossible for the attacking side to score.

Such incidents were very common before the penalty kick was introduced in 1891. A foul close to goal was far less dangerous than one 12 yards out simply because the kicker could be crowded out. Earlier, in 1881, a rule had been introduced giving referees power to award a goal when defenders prevented a score by unlawful means but this was rescinded a year later following arguments and near-chaos over disputed decisions.

The Irish F.A. proposed the penalty-kick and this was written into the laws in June 1891. For several years players had to make an appeal (similar to present-day cricket requirements) before a referee could award a penalty and, even then, the spot-kick we know to-day was still unknown.

The original penalty area ran twelve yards from the goal-line for the complete width of the field and penalty kicks were taken at a point along the line closest to where the offence had taken place. When the first penalty was awarded to Wolverhampton against Accrington Stanley on September 14, 1891, there were no markings and the referee had to estimate the position. But Heath, Wolves' centre-forward, still scored.

Since then many vital issues have been affected by penalties. Most poignant of all concerned Cardiff City in 1924.

As Cardiff's Welsh international forward Len Davies placed the ball on the spot at Birmingham on the last day of the season he knew that, if he succeeded, Cardiff would win the League Championship for the first time in their history.

Alas for poor Davies, he missed!

The score remained 0-0 and, had Davies scored, it would have prevented Huddersfield's famous hat-trick of championships for it was the Yorkshire club who squeezed ahead of Cardiff to take the first of their three Championships on goal-average.

And Cardiff still await their first title success.

Two years after that, Manchester City missed a penalty in their last match with Newcastle. It cost them the point which would have saved them from relegation.

In 1945 Kilmarnock's left-half White had to take a penalty kick seven times against Partick. The first six had to be retaken because the goal-keeper moved the seventh was saved by the 'keeper'!

Colombian referee Esteban Rojas awarded 14 penalties in one League game. Local fans considered only two were justified and the referee was subsequently suspended, an addendum to his punishment being that he should write an essay on penalty rules.

Peter Doherty, the famous Irish international inside-forward, once shook the defence by passing the ball from the penalty spot; a colleague ran in to score. This is perfectly legitimate provided that all the attacking side stand behind the ball, and none moves to within ten yards of it, before it is kicked.



•DANNY'S DESK•

On Tuesday evening last we gained a very welcome two points against Grimsby Town following a very spirited come back at Gillingham on Saturday last. I am sure that those who travelled to Kent must have been thrilled by the outcome. Although I was not present myself, I was proud by the team's effort; the way in which they surmounted a two nil deficit to draw and, indeed, almost snatch victory makes me firmly believe that, given the breaks a team might enjoy, promotion to the Second Division is still not out of the question. One heck of a job I grant you, but we are not yet out of the reckoning.

I must apologise to our Youth Team supporters this season because we are not able to give a regular fixture programme, this is because of the bad weather we have been experiencing we are never sure on what days we are going to play and on what ground. However, whenever possible we will endeavour to keep you informed as I know that many of you like to follow the lads in the Midland Youth League. This is a league where the lads are able to play opposition of their own age and in which trailists can

show their potential in competitive matches where winning is not the ultimate. In this League I would, I think, rather see our boys play good football and lose than play rubbish and win because I believe that youth must be taught to play good football and it is only out on the field that they can put into practice what they are taught. Emphasis on results in this League is not always correct, but don't get me wrong — I like to win, but at youth level it is the way you win which will give you a better chance in producing better footballers and that is what a youth policy is all about.

Now to this afternoon's match and a warm welcome to Maurice Evans and his Reading lads who are going through a difficult spell at the present time. I hope that the game will be an entertaining one and that we will collect maximum points to put us in good heart for the tough away match against Shrewsbury Town a week from tomorrow.

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We are still accepting bookings for Pontins Holidays so if you are still undecided as to where to go for your holiday why not contact us.

Good Luck to Danny, Frank and the boys. Tonight let's hope for two more points.

Golden Goal Winners v Lincoln

1st Goal Mr. G. Maslen, 9 Wainbridge Cres., Pilney.

Last Goal Mrs. Moss, 81 Scholfield Ave., Witney.

Golden Goal Winners v Grimsby

1st Goal Paul Sheeran, 118 Goddard Ave., Swindon
2nd Goal Mr. Weston, 18 Redcliffe St., Swindon.

Week 19

2 winners each receive £17.50
Mr. Withers, 4 The Lynchfield, Wanborough
Mr. Legge, 34 Shepherds Way, Cirencester.

Football Treble Winners

Week 18

2 winners each receive £17.50.
Mr. Matthews, 3 Orchard Site, Wootton Bassett
Mr. Sharpe, 24 Manor Gns., Warminster

Week 20

One winner receives £35.00
Mr. Copp, 13 Chickerell Rd., Swindon.

Doug Buswell,
Pools Manager.

Our third Mystery Man is assisted by seven current players who all started this season with Third Division clubs and whose names are all somewhere in the grid below. The first of the seven can be found by starting at the top left and moving horizontally or vertically one square - but **not** diagonally. Each of the seven names consists of twelve letters and each christian name starts with a "B". When these seven names have been taken out, somewhere in the grid will be left fifteen letters which, when re-arranged, give you the name of the Mystery Man.

A further clue to the identity of the Mystery Man is that he played for both Reading and Swindon Town in the first ten post-war seasons and never scored a goal - unlike the other seven players in the puzzle who have all scored goals for Third Division clubs this season.

Write the name of the Mystery Man only, together with your own name and address, on a postcard and send to:

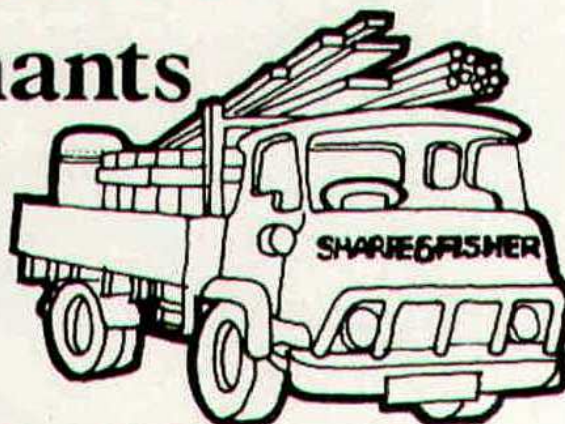
MYSTERY MAN No. 3
SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
COUNTY GROUND
SWINDON SN1 2ED

Closing date is Friday 18th March.
The first two correct entries will each receive £5.

D	R	N	A	V	I	S	H	Y
B	I	A	E	M	K	L	Y	K
R	L	L	N	A	L	R	C	U
Y	L	R	O	P	I	R	R	H
B	A	C	R	T	I	B	A	B
S	S	H	O	F	I	G	H	L
N	U	N	A	I	R	W	T	U
R	O	H	C	R	B	E	B	R
E	R	F	J	Y	L	I	N	R
Y	C	F	E	T	L	I	B	O

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FRIDAY 11th MARCH 1977

SWINDON

- 1 Barron
- 2 Dixon
- 3 Trollope
- 4 Stroud
- 5 Aizlewood
- 6 Prophett
- 7 Moss
- 8 McLaughin
- 9 Syrett
- 10 McHale
- 11 Anderson
- 12 French

at 7.30p.m.



Referee:

Mr. T.P. Bosi - Wolverhampton

Linesmen:

Mr. L.A. Fricker - Whitchurch
(Bristol)

Mr. G.W. Storey - Bridgewater

READING

- 1 Death
- 2 Peters
- 3 Drysdale
- 4 Bowman
- 5 Hetzke
- 6 Moreline
- 7 Earles
- 8 Williams
- 9 Hiron
- 10 Carnaby
- 11 Dunphy

REFEREE BOSI, Terrence P. (Wolverhampton)

Commenced refereeing in 1957 after an injury ended his amateur playing career. Graduated via Wolverhampton Amateur and Works League, Midland Combination and West Midland Regional League to Football League in 1967. Has refereed Boys' International (United Kingdom v. Belgium) and line appointments in European Cup, Home Internationals and F.A. Challenge Trophy (Wembley).

A married man with one son, he is a Sales Representative (Midlands area) for a Plywood Importer. Has played in Amateur Cup and for Bomber Command during National Service. Is a member of Wolverhampton Referees' Association also Wolverhampton Charity Cup Competition. A keen club cricketer and golfer.

FUTURE GAMES

Tuesday, 15th March, K.O. 7.30 p.m.
Football Combination
WEST HAM UNITED

Saturday, 19th March, K.O. 3.0 p.m.
Football Combination
CHELSEA

PONTIN'S

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