



DIVISION THREE

Swindon Town

v

PORTSMOUTH

Official Programme

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NEWS & VIEWS

It gives us real pleasure to welcome once again our friends from Portsmouth, now far removed from the famous club so many of us remember in the season following World War 2.

The magnificent period when they were worthy champions of Division 1 in successive seasons 1948/49, 49/50. Unfortunately their fortunes have changed, no longer the Proud Pompey Chimes, but a grand club struggling for existence. We wish them well, and are quite sure they will overcome their troubles and become one of the leading clubs again.

The big names of yesteryear have all gone, and the First Team squad is mostly composed by teenagers.

Recently there has been a change of leadership. Jimmy Dickenson, so long the stalwart and loyal servant of the Club, has taken over the Managership, after being Secretary for several years! Promoted to Trainer is former England centre-forward Ray Crawford.

In charge of the Youth Team he has produced a crop of real good youngsters many of whom may be in the team today - Peter Cahill, Peter Ellis, Peter Denyer, Chris Kamara, David Puller and Clive Green an 18 year old who was still at school in the summer.

The last time we played Portsmouth in the League (Division 2) was on Saturday 9th March, 1974. The day which incidentally manager Danny Williams returned to his old club.

Unfortunately we were defeated 1 (McLaughlin) to 2, after being two goals in arrears. Just glance at the two teams and compare them with the names on the programme today. Remember this was only just over three years ago. SWINDON: Sprately, McLaughlin, Trollope, Butler, Potter, Munks, Moss, McGovern, Compton, Syrett, Jenkins. PORTSMOUTH: Best, Roberts, Collins, Piper, Hand, Lewis, Marinello, McCann, Davies, Wilson, Mellows.

We of course were relegated at the end of the season. Portsmouth finished in 15th place, one point below Aston Villa. The three clubs promoted from Division 2 that season were Middlesbrough, Luton Town and Carlisle.

The following season Portsmouth again came to the County Ground and defeated Swindon 0 - 1 in the First Round of the League Cup.

Portsmouth proved to be a real "Bogy" team for us in Cup-ties, as the previous season we were defeated in the FA Cup 0 - 1 after a 3 - 3 draw at Fratton Park.

Last season Portsmouth was relegated to Division 3, along with Oxford United, and York City, all three clubs have found the going hard, and are in low positions, well within the relegation zone.

Today's game could revive poignant memories for some of our supporters (I'm sure it will for the present chairman).

It was the last game of Season 64/65. It was either Swindon or Portsmouth for relegation. We played at Southampton in the afternoon, and lost 1 - 2.

Portsmouth played at Northampton in the evening and drew 1 - 1. It was indeed Jimmy Dickenson's last appearance. So Swindon was relegated.

The result of tonight's game may well decide which club is relegated. Portsmouth or Northampton. Strange how fate takes a hand.

This is our last League Fixture of the season, and may we thank all of our supporters, who have turned up to watch the games.

It has been an up and down season, with some real highlights and many disappointments, especially at the end. May next year show a great improvement. I wonder if I might suggest the Sports Paper changes its name Pink (incidentally white in colour) to a more appropriate one, which gives us the signal to go straight-ahead forward.

Talk of the Town

By the Chairman

To-night we are pleased to welcome Portsmouth who have now made certain of Division III football next season. We know just how Mr. Deacon and his Board feel and it would have been the last straw if they had failed to survive after so much hard work all this season to keep their heads above water financially when things certainly looked stacked against them. Portsmouth have had a wonderful following this season in spite of their struggle and this must auger well for the future.

We shall certainly be looking for two points to-night to finish the season in a respectable league position and then look forward to progress for next season.

Whilst talking of next season our prices for Stand Season Tickets are:-

NORTH STAND	£26.00
Juniors & Senior Citizens	£15.00
SOUTH STAND	£24.00
Juniors & Senior Citizens	£13.00
RENDEZVOUS BOX	£30.00
Juniors & Senior Citizens	£18.00

These new prices compare with present day prices of Division III and IV of this season without taking into consideration the new increases that Clubs will have to make.

We do try to keep our prices low in the hope that our support will merit it, but any speculation or team building depends in the end on the income the Club receives.

It was very satisfactory to be told that we, Swindon Town, had been placed third for our Everton Programme lay-out. This was for outstanding publications for the season in a National ballot. I would like to say that our programme lay-out and contents is the work of our Bob Jeffries and I am sure that everybody who buys our programme will join me in saying 'Well done'.

On Thursday evening we play our last game at the County Ground against the British Police Association. This is their final warm up game before competing in the European Police Championship to be held in Norway in July. This should prove to be an entertaining evening and I hope that you all will try to support this game. As you know Don Rogers has had to postpone his Benefit Match against Queens Park Rangers which had been arranged for next Monday because of a re-arranged League game to which Queens Park Rangers are committed.

Don is now having his Benefit Match in the very early part of next season and I am sure that we shall look forward to the new date and give it our full support.

The month of June is full of meetings of importance to the future of football, including the Annual General Meeting of the Football League when the final decision of League Clubs will be known on the controversial subject of freedom of players to move to other Clubs on the completion of existing contracts and the method of compensation to the selling Club. The Football Association also holds its Annual General Meeting in June and the Associate Member Clubs of the 3rd and 4th Divisions are hoping to see a rule changed which will allow greater representation for their members than is allowed under the present rules.

Talking of changes, I read in our local paper in a letter written to the Advertiser, that the writer although seemingly approving of our interest in Astro turf said that I had never shown interest in the balloon type cover for football pitches such as that at Leicester. I would like to point out that several Directors visited Leicester City when they first introduced this form of cover and of course envied them, but apart from the cost it has proved to have many snags. One of the snags is the problem of ventilation depending upon the type of soil that one has. Another snag is the man-handling costs when a quick decision has to be made to erect or otherwise. We have very close contacts with Leicester City and they say that although it has many advantages, it also has so many snags that it is not used as often as one would like it to be. Many big Clubs such as the Arsenal and Everton have tried underground heating without 100% success and Leicester's experiment has not been repeated by any other Club. I am not saying that we would not like the opportunity of such protection but at the moment we do feel that the costs would be unjustified.

As these are my last programme notes for this season may I thank you all for your support and I would ask you to try to get a friend to come with you next season and this will help us to improve our standards.

I hope you will enjoy to-night's game.



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OUR VISITORS

PORTSMOUTH

by Tony Pullein

GRAHAM LLOYD (Goalkeeper) Graham spent several seasons at Liverpool as a reserve goalkeeper when Ian St John was a player at Anfield. When Mr. St John took over as Motherwell manager, he signed Graham and later took him to Portsmouth.
League Record: Liverpool nil aps; Motherwell 9 aps; Portsmouth 72 aps.

PHIL ROBERTS (Defender) Phil is a Welsh under-23 international who began his career with Bristol Rovers. Portsmouth paid £52,000 for him in 1973 and, though he lost his place this season, he was recalled when Jimmy Dickinson took over as manager.
League Record: Bristol Rov 175(1) aps. 6 gls; Portsmouth 117(1)aps 1 gl.

PAUL CAHILL (Defender) Paul has been appearing in the centre of the defence, though his old position was left-back. A former Coventry player. Paul didn't make the Sky Blues' senior side. Portsmouth signed him two seasons ago.
League Record: Coventry nil aps, Portsmouth 79(1) aps. 1 gl.

STEVE FOSTER (Defender) Steve began as a centre-forward and was given his chance in Pompey's League eleven last season. He didn't make a tremendous impression, however, until switching positions and now he is a commanding figure in the centre of the defence.
League record: Blackburn 246 (1) aps; Portsmouth 135 (3) aps., 3 gls.

BILLY WILSON (Defender) Billy established himself as a League player with Blackburn Rovers for eight years and transferred to Portsmouth for £15,000 in 1972. Recently recalled by Mr. Dickinson.
League record: Blackburn 246 (1) aps; Portsmouth 135 (3) aps., 3 gls.

KEITH VINEY (Defender) Keith was another of many youngsters who got their chance in the League last season. Originally a central defender, he has now settled at left-back. He had the misfortune to concede an own-goal which gave Grimsby both points recently.
League record: Portsmouth 39 (3) aps., 1 gl.

CHRIS KAMARA (Midfield) Chris was another of Pompey's youth players to be thrown into senior duty last season. He soon settled, however, and has held a regular place since.
League record: Portsmouth 54 (7) aps., 5 gls.

PAUL GILCHRIST (Midfield) Paul, a member of Southampton's F.A. Cup winning team last season, joined Pompey before the transfer deadline. Once with Charlton, he served Doncaster before going to Southampton in 1972.
League record: Charlton 5 (2) aps; Fulham (loan) nil aps; Doncaster 22 aps., 8 gls; Southampton 96 (11) aps., 17 gls. Portsmouth 14 aps., 1 gl.

NORMAN PIPER (Midfield/Defender) Norman began his career with Plymouth, gaining several England youth caps in his early days. He was later picked on four occasions for the under-23 XI. Portsmouth signed him in 1970 and he switched from midfield to defence.
League record: Plymouth 215 aps., 35 gls; Portsmouth 285 (1) aps., 51 gls.

CLIVE GREEN (Midfield) Clive won his chance in Pompey's League eleven this season, quickly making an impression with some powerful displays in midfield.
League record: Portsmouth 24 (5) aps., 2 gls.

PETER DENYER (Forward) Peter, yet another of the young players blooded last season, has scored seven goals this season and is now Portsmouth's second-highest scorer.
League record: Portsmouth 41 (5) aps., 6 gls.

DAVE KEMP (Forward) Dave is Pompey's top scorer with 14 goals. He made an explosive start to his League career with Palace, hitting nine goals in his first 11 games last season. A former Chelsea junior, Dave played for Maidenhead, Wembley and Slough before joining Palace in 1975 and Pompey this season.
League record: C. Palace 32 (3) aps., 10 gls; Portsmouth 28 aps., 13 gls.

MICK MELLOWS (Forward) A player of considerable experience, Mick is a former England amateur international. Once with Sutton United, Mellows played League football as an amateur for Reading in 1970/71 but then went back to non-League football until Pompey signed him in 1973.
League record: Reading 14 (2) aps., 2 gls; Portsmouth 130 (7) aps., 16 gls.

MAITLAND POLLOCK (Forward) Maitland began with Walsall but moved on to Luton in 1974 for £10,000. Portsmouth signed him last summer and he has been holding down a position on the wing.
League record: Walsall 1 (1) aps; Luton 3 (3) aps; Portsmouth 39 (1) aps., 6 gls.

QUIZ (Answers on page 9)

- Q.1. Which former Town winger is now registered under a different name with another Football League Club?
- Q.2. How many times did Swindon meet Shrewsbury in season 1960-61?
- Q.3. Maurice Owen scored a hat-trick on his League debut - against which club?
- Q.4. Which amateur international forward played in Swindon's League side in 1956?
- Q.5. Which former Swindon forward was a school-master at Oxford?
- Q.6. Who was the Hampshire wicket-keeper who played wing-half for Swindon?
- Q.7. Who broke his leg in the Town's opening League game of 1964-5?
- Q.8. Which centre-forward played his only First-team game for Swindon in the Cup defeat at Hastings?
- Q.9. Which player of Hungarian parentage was with Swindon in 1951?
- Q.10. How many players with the surname Jones have played League games for Swindon since the war?

MIDLAND YOUTH LEAGUE

Table of Results

LEICESTER CITY - CHAMPIONS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester City	16	11	02	03	48	15	24
W.B.A.	16	07	05	04	19	16	19
Swindon Town	15	08	02	05	26	21	18
Birmingham City	16	08	02	06	26	22	18
Coventry City	14	07	04	03	32	32	18
Northampton	16	05	03	08	28	39	13
Derby County	16	02	08	06	19	24	12
Wolves	14	03	03	08	15	27	09
Bristol City	15	03	01	11	21	38	07

MIDLAND YOUTH LEAGUE CUP MATCHES

FINAL PLACINGS.

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Derby County	04	03	00	01	12	07
Northampton	04	02	00	02	06	04
Swindon	04	01	00	03	05	12
W.B.A.	04	03	01	00	10	02
Coventry	04	01	01	02	05	07
Birmingham	04	00	02	02	03	09
Leicester City	04	03	01	00	10	00
Wolves	04	02	01	01	09	03
Bristol City	04	00	00	04	02	18



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Back Row: (left to right)

Middle Row: (left to right)

Front Row: (left to right)

B. Eames, P. Ellis, K. Viney, N. Piper, P. Roberts, B. Wilson

R. Crawford, S. Foster, P. Bennett, P. Figgins, G. Lloyd, C. Green,
M. Mellows, M. Pollock

B. McGuinness, C. Kamara, P. Cahill, G. Neave, I. St. John,
B. Hunter, G. Graham, P. Denyer.

PORTSMOUTH

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QUIZ (Answers)

- A.1. Graham French now plays for Southport as Graham Lafite.
- A.2. Eight. Football League - twice. Football League Cup - three times, F.A. Cup - once, Football Combination - twice.
- A.3. Watford.
- A.4. Roy (Johnny) Agar.
- A.5. Mick Betteridge.
- A.6. Ralph Prouton.
- A.7. Norman Oakley.
- A.8. Don Tilley.
- A.9. Nick Nagy.
- A.10. Seven. Bobby, Chris, Eddie, Freddie, Ken, Morris, Roy.

PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS

Swindon v Portsmouth

PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS

*FULL LEAGUE RESULTS (Swindon score first)

At Portsmouth		At Swindon	
12.12.20 1 - 1	Rogers	(11,000) 1. 1.21 5 - 2	Davies 2, Denyer 2 Batty
14. 1.22 3 - 1	Denyer 2, Weston pen.	(9,461) 31.12.21 0 - 0	
30. 3.23 1 - 4	Denyer	(13,401) 2. 4.23 3 - 0	Wareing, Fleming, Johnson
30. 4.24 1 - 4	Daniel	(18,000) 1. 4.24 0 - 0	
16.12.61 2 - 2	Hunt (E), Atkins	(13,990) 19. 8.61 1 - 3	o.g.
31. 8.63 4 - 1	Atkins, Summerbee, o.g. Smart	(21,975) 21.12.63 2 - 0	Hunt, Stevens
19. 9.64 0 - 5		(12,501) 23. 1.65 0 - 0	
25.10.69 1 - 3	Smart	(18,623) 3. 3.70 3 - 1	Noble 2, Jones
12. 4.71 2 - 0	Peplow 2	(10,987) 12. 9.70 2 - 1	Noble, Horsefield
1. 4.72 2 - 1	Noble 2	(12,157) 27.12.71 3 - 1	Bunkell, Rogers 2
26.12.72 1 - 1	Noble	(7,941) 23. 9.72 1 - 1	Rogers
27.10.73 1 - 3	Treacy	(11,819) 9. 3.74 1 - 2	McLaughlin

*LEAGUE SUMMARY

	W	D	L	F - A
Home	6	4	2	21-11
Away	4	3	5	19-26
TOTAL	10	7	7	40-37

*Up to end of last season

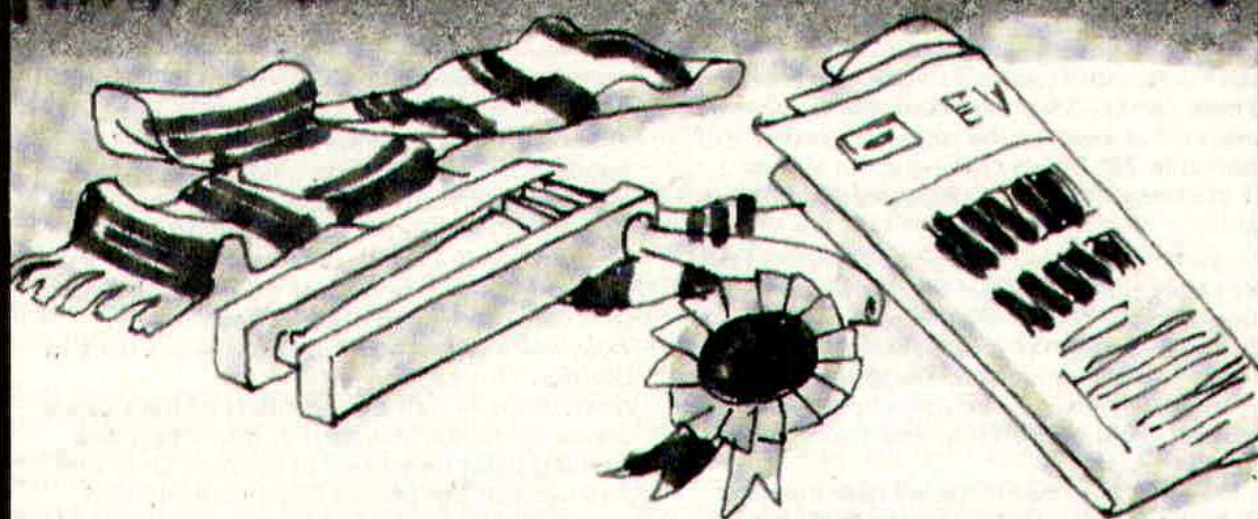
SWINDON'S SUCCESS RATE: 56.25%

DIVISION THREE LEAGUE TABLEup to and including Saturday May 14th

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Av. Home Gate	Aggregate	Home Attendance
														FINAL PLACINGS	
Mansfield Town	46	17	6	0	52	13	11	2	10	26	29	64	8396	1. Brighton	462,473
Brighton & H.A	46	19	3	1	63	14	6	8	9	20	26	61	20107	2. Crystal Pal	366,292
Crystal Palace	46	17	5	1	46	15	6	8	9	22	25	59	15925	3. Sheffield Wed	319,827
Rotherham United	46	11	9	3	30	15	11	6	6	39	29	59	6672	4. Portsmouth	266,169
Wrexham	46	15	6	2	47	22	9	4	10	33	32	58	9200	5. Wrexham	211,620
Preston North End	46	15	4	4	48	21	6	8	9	16	22	54	7785	6. Mansfield	193,111
Bury	46	15	2	6	41	21	8	6	9	23	38	54	5292	7. Preston	179,057
Sheffield Wed.	46	15	4	4	39	18	7	5	11	26	37	53	13905	8. SWINDON*	168,423
Lincoln City	46	12	9	2	50	30	7	5	11	27	40	52	7140	9. Lincoln	164,237
Shrewsbury Town	46	13	7	3	40	21	5	4	14	25	38	47	4976	10. Rotherham	153,460
Gillingham	46	11	8	4	31	21	5	4	14	24	43	44	5475	11. Reading	150,520
Chester	46	14	3	6	28	20	4	5	14	20	38	44	4320	12. Peterborough	136,945
Tranmere Rovers	46	10	7	6	31	23	3	10	10	20	30	43	3269	13. Northampton	132,244
SWINDON TOWN	46	11	6	5	44	30	3	9	11	20	42	43	7655	14. Walsall	126,293
Walsall	46	8	7	8	39	32	5	8	10	18	33	41	5491	15. Gillingham	125,942
Peterborough Utd	46	11	4	8	33	28	2	11	10	22	37	41	5954	16. Bury	121,734
Oxford Utd.	46	9	8	6	34	29	3	7	13	21	36	39	4926	17. Chesterfield	120,539
Chesterfield	46	10	6	7	30	20	4	4	15	26	44	38	5240	18. Shrewsbury	114,469
Port Vale	46	9	7	7	29	28	2	9	12	18	43	38	4356	19. Oxford	113,315
Portsmouth	45	8	9	6	28	26	3	5	14	22	40	36	11572	20. Grimsby	100,268
Reading	46	10	5	8	29	24	3	4	16	20	49	35	6544	21. Port Vale	100,202
Northampton Town	46	9	4	10	33	29	4	4	15	27	46	34	5749	22. Chester	99,373
Grimsby Town	46	10	6	7	16	47	2	3	18	16	47	33	4359	23. Tranmere	75,040
York City	46	7	8	8	25	34	3	4	16	25	55	32	2757	24. York	

* Tonight's gate to be added

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Who'd be a Manager?

by Tony Pullein

When Portsmouth decided to suspend their manager Ian St. John they took the number of managerial changes in the last year up to a remarkable 38! That's coming up to almost half the League clubs making a switch within a year.

Who gains by all these changes is still not clear. Very rarely does a club sacking its boss at a critical stage of the campaign reap any dividends and it is something of an indictment upon the way football is run that the great majority of managerial changes place among the unsuccessful clubs in the Third and Fourth Divisions.

Mr. St. John, who had achieved near miracles with his young players at Fratton Park, can take some consolation from the fact that his hero, Bill Shankly, was considered a failure as a manager after ten years in the lower Leagues. After moving to Liverpool he becomes a legend. If Mr. St John decides to keep in the game he may find equal fame one day.

If the policy of sacking the manager immediately anything goes wrong really had any long-term value then the clubs who changed bosses most often should be the most successful. In fact, exactly the opposite applies.

Darlington, who recently went through five managers in about two years, were always struggling yet, now that they have found some stability in this department, they have enjoyed one of their best seasons in years, finishing on the fringe of the Fourth Division promotion race.

Southport have had four managers since last May! Consequently, they are about to apply for re-election for the second successive season and gates at Hall Avenue have been down to the 800 mark in recent weeks.

Though the vast majority of managers are sacked, a few go of their own accord. Johnny Giles (West Bromwich) resigned because he doesn't like the way English League clubs are run and, studying the list of managerial casualties this season, one can scarcely blame him for getting out while he retains his sanity.

Only one of the clubs who sacked their manager within the last twelve months has won anything this term - Wolves, whose Sammy Chung retained the team created by his predecessor Bill McGarry.

If we look around at the truly successful clubs we find they are the ones whose managers have been excused the various bad runs all must

expect - - Liverpool, Manchester United, Aston Villa, Leeds, etc.

There's a moral there somewhere, surely? Some clubs seem to make a habit of sacking really outstanding managers. Which club in its right mind, you might ask, would boot out such managerial giants as Malcolm Allison and Billy Bingham? The answer is Plymouth Argyle who recently sacked another good man in Tony Waiters and now find themselves back in Division Three.

When virtually half the members of the League decide to change managers within a year one wonders what they hope to achieve. Only one club can win the League Championship and only one can win the F.A. Cup.

Building a successful team is a long-term project, three years being the absolute minimum of time required to start from scratch. Yet so many clubs fire their boss when he is on the point of finding a successful team simply because he may not in three years have won anything.

If the policy of firing the manager had proved successful there would at least be some reason for understanding the attitude. But it has proved conclusively over and over again that this system just doesn't work. One allegedly failed manager is inevitably followed by another. Why?

Because it is not the managers who are wrong - it is the clubs, who make a habit of putting the boot in, that have their heads in the sand. In hoping most sincerely that a great club like Portsmouth avoids the drop into Division Four this year, one cannot help but point out this fact that the great former England wing-half Jimmy Dickinson is their fourth manager in as many years. During that time they have plummeted from a potential First Division side to one that is currently on the brink of the Fourth. That's scarcely progress.

No man is more steeped in tradition of Portsmouth than Jimmy Dickinson. He still holds the all-time record for the most appearances for one club (764 League for Portsmouth) and he later became their public relations officer and secretary.

If anyone can haul Pompey out of trouble it is Dickinson. But, when he looks around at what is happening at so many clubs around the country, even he must wonder if his 32 years of unstinted services to Portsmouth F.C. will ultimately be judged, and remembered, by what he may, or may not, achieve in a few months as their manager.

As this is the last game of the season I would like to offer the thanks of all the Club for their support throughout the season - the police, gatemen and stewards, members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, catering staff, souvenir shop staff, programme sellers, the Swindon Town Girls, ballboys and in case I have forgotten anyone, all those without whose help the games would not be possible. But most of all thanks to you, our loyal supporters, thank you for following us throughout a very mixed and finally disappointing season and let us all look forward to a more successful season in 1977/78.

SEASON TICKETS – SEASON 1977-1978

Applications will now be accepted for Season Tickets for next season and the prices are as shown below. The price for Ground Season Tickets has not yet been decided, but as soon as a decision has been made, it will be publicised. It should be noted that Season Tickets, **including those for the Ground**, will cover admission to all Division III and Football Combination matches played on the County Ground, Swindon. The form below may be used to make your application.

SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL COMPANY LTD., COUNTY GROUND, SWINDON. SEASON TICKET APPLICATION FORM – SEASON 1977/78.

(One form for each ticket please – **all applicants** should submit a completed form when purchasing their ticket)

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- NOTES. 1. If this application is made by post, **please enclose a stamped addressed envelope** for the return of your ticket.
2. Season Tickets cover admission to League Home Matches and Football Combination Matches - all other Matches to be paid for.
3. Existing Season Ticket Holders' seats will be reserved until 31st JULY, 1977.

Do you wish to take advantage of the EASY PAYMENT PLAN during the Summer months?
YES/NO.

If YES, enclose £ as initial deposit.

If NO, your application must be accompanied by a remittance to cover the full cost of the ticket. CASH/CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDER for £ enclosed.

I am a Senior CITIZEN (please provide proof if this is the first application)

OR

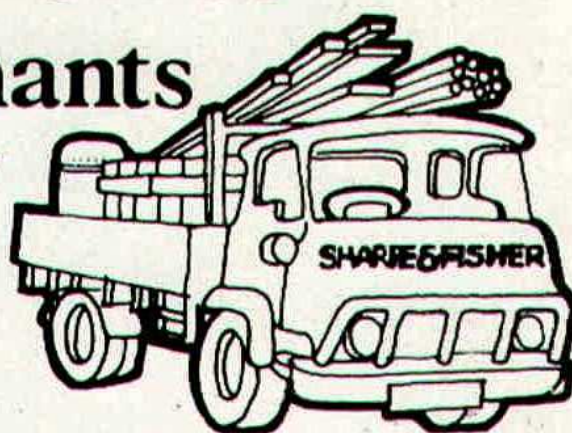
I am a Junior under the age of 16 (Please provide proof).

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Cheque
P.O.

Signed

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TUESDAY 17th MAY 1977

SWINDON

Kick Off 7.30 p.m.

PORTSMOUTH

1. Allan
2. Dixon
3. Trollope
4. Stroud
5. Aizlewood
6. Prophett
7. Moss
8. McLaughlin
9. Syrett
10. McHale
11. Anderson
12. Taylor



Referee: Mr. M.V. Sinclair (Guildford)
Linesmen:-
Red Flag: Mr. E.J. Attwood, Radstock
Yellow Flag: Mr. R.B. Banning, Basingstoke

1. Lloyd
2. Roberts
3. Wilson
4. Kamara
5. Denyer
6. Cahill
7. Piper
8. Kemp
9. Gilchrist
10. Green
11. Mellows
12. Ellis

Referee:

MALCOLM V. SINCLAIR (Guildford)

Started refereeing in the Isle of Wight in 1959, then moved to Guildford later. Graduated via the Surrey Senior League and Football Combination to the Football League list. Refereed in the Anglo-Italian Tournament of 1971 in Italy and has lined two F.A. Cup Semi-Finals — in 1968 and 1970 — also a European Cup match in Russia in 1973.

A married man, with two daughters, he is a Bricklayer, and enjoys watching cricket. He is Chairman of the Guildford Referees Society.



Next Match:—

Thursday, 19th May 1977

Swindon Town

v

United Kingdom Police XI

K.O. 7.30 p.m.

Adults 35 p

Children & O.A.P. 20p.