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TOMM

Three points out of four from our last two league matches is a step in the right direction, and one which we hope will continue.

And a better time cannot be more than in the seven days commencing this Saturday, for in that time we pull in three league games.

Two at Field Mill and one away, and if we can pick up five points out of the six, then, there should be a great improvement in our league placing, and certainly in the confidence of the team.

Confidence, we believe, is one of our major problems of the moment, and one which a few good results can influence substantially.

According to all reports, we were perhaps a little fortunate to come away from Lincoln with both points —one each would perhaps have been a more judicious outcome—but that is football.

And we did in fact create the clearer chances without putting more than one away, although that is a failing with which we are all too familiar this season.

And, as we have said on many previous occasions, "if you can't put away the chances, then you will never win matches," although there is the consolation that at least openings are being created. If they weren't then the situation would be really desperate.

In the end it was Dennis Martin who scored the vital winner at Sincil Bank six minutes from the end, and in a period when we had taken a firm crip on the game after weathering a pretty ferocious 15 minutes or so when Lincoln threw everything they had at us.

Full marks to the defence then, and in particular to skipper Kevin Bird and Mick Saxby who did so much to keep rhe lads ticking over.

Not forgetting Rod either, but that almost goes without saying.

And really, once the goal had gone in, we never looked likely to surrender even one point.

Our luck deserted us (temporarily we hope) on Tuesday when we visited Turf Moor in the second leg of our Anglo-Scottish Cup semi-final, and another meeting with Second Division Burnley.

The result was most disappointing, for the general opinion appears to be that we deserved to get into the final.

Here again, we threw away a great opportunity of making the second leg, by not making full use of our first-leg opportunities.

At Turf Moor we played exceptionally well and it was pleasing to see Dave Syrett getting back on the "goal standard."

In the second half we defended superbly with Kevin, Mick and Rod once again in good form—but not forgetting the others.

Stalemate in the extra time, and then what is really an unsatisfactory situation of penalty decisions.

When full-back Derek Scott hit the post—and we had put our previous seven spot kicks away we were already celebrating.



But the referee ordered the kick to be retaken, and Scott made no mistake, and unhappily Dennis Martin, who had set up our goal chance in rhe first half, had his penalty saved.

Billy Rodaway made certain with his—and as far as we were concerned that was that.

Nevertheless, congratulations to Burnley in the final which will have the added flavour of being a local derby with their neighbours Oldham Athletic.

To-day we extend a welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Swindon Town.

No need to remind you that our former manager Danny Williams is still involved with Swindon, now as Football Executive, after being moved "upstairs" following a spell as manager.

Mr. Bob Smith, the former Bury and Port Vale manager, is now in charge of team affairs at the City Ground.

Swindon are doing quite well this season, and well up with the leaders in the division, and already they have a 1-0 decision over us earlier in the campaign.

They have recently seen changes in their playing staff with the transfer of striker Chris Guthrie to Fulham, and a replacement in the former Bury striker Andy Rowlands. Three matches in seven days is our stint in the next week.

After Swindon to-day, we take on Tranmere Rovers on Monday night at Field Mill, kick off 7.30 p.m., in the match which was postponed on September 11th because of our Anglo-Scottish Cup commitments.

Then we travel to Southend for our Friday night meeting with Southend United.

A tough seven days indeed, from which we are hoping for a sizeable points return.

F.A. Challenge Cup—1st Round Proper MANSFIELD T. v SHREWSBURY T. Saturday, 25th November, 1978 Kick off 3.00 p.m.

West Stand will be reserved seating and tickets will go on sale on Thursday, 16th November.

Season ticket holders usual seat will be reserved for purchase until Wednesday, 22nd November.

100 Club Members tickets will be forwarded by post. Bishop Street Stand will not be reserved seating but season ticket holders can purchase a ticket of admission. Ground admission is pay at the turnstile.

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LIMITED

THIRD DIVISION SCENE

by Tony Pullien

Now Nisbet has done it all !

When Hull defender Gordon Nisbet scored their second goal in the Tigers surprise 4-0 victory over Watford last Saturday, he must have considered that he has achieved almost everything possible in football. Though he has been in League football for the best part of ten years, Gordon had never previously scored a goal.

Nisbet s career has taken some extraordinary twists. When he made his First Division debut for West Bromwich in 1969 he was a goalkeeper! The next time he appeared in Albion s first team he was a rightback. In 1972 he played for the England Under-23 side as a defender. Gordon joined Hull two seasons ago.

Their set-back at Boothferry Park was Watford's worst defeat since September 1976 and ended a run of four successive victories.

Watford s defeat meant that Shrewsbury, who were involved in a dour goalless home draw with Carlisle regained the leadership of the division. Shrewsbury are now unbeaten in nine games though they have dropped a point in each of their last three home matches Brentford manager Bill Dodgin recently invested a club record £35,000 in Luton defender Jim McNicholl who was once a reserve player with Ipswich. Even at Luton he didn t get many chances because he was usually understudy to Paul Futcher and he made little more than a dozen League appearances for the Hatters over two years. Since joining Brentford, however, Jim s career has began to blossom and he was recently picked for the Scottish under-21 side.

Gillingham drew their biggest League attendance (21,329) since April 1976 for last Saturday's visit of star-studded Swansea City. The Gills nullified the dual threat of former Liverpool players John Toshack and Alan Waddle in the middle and ended up winners by 2-0 It was a victory that took Gillingham into fourth place, only one point behind the Swans.

At the other end of the table poor old Lincoln City fell to their fourth consecutive defeat when going down 0-1 at home to the Stags. The Imps haven't won since the opening day of the season and now look back on a sad run of 15 matches without a win.

Blackpool suffered their first-ever home defeat as a Third Division club when going down to the rapidlyimproving Sheffield Wednesday 0-1 at Bloomfield Road. Wednesday's goal was scored by Brian Hornsby. Team up with ...

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INTERSPORT

Blackool who participate in the first round of the F.A. Cup for the first time this season, kick-off with what should be an easy home tie against Lincoin City.

Blackpool are one of six former winners of the trophy to figure in round one this year, the others being Sheffield Wednesday, Bradford City, Huddersfield, Bury and Portsmouth.

It will bring back nostalgic memories for fans of Workington and Southport — both of which were voted out of the League over the past couple of years if they should have won their mid-week fourth qualifying round replays. If successful, Workington will travel to Rotherham in round one while Southport will visit another non League side, Altrincham, with the chance of meeting one of their old League colleagues at the next stage.

Plymouth manager Malcolm Allison was back in the news last weekend when he complained bitterly that the two goals, by which Colchester beat Argyle 2-1, were both offside.

Swindon, who come to Field Mill to-day, should have made certain of victory over Southend in the first-half but both Chris Kamara and Paul Gilchrist missed open goals in the dying moments of the half. Gilchrist later atoned for his miss by scoring the only goal in the 69th minute.

Swansea City have certainly gained rich rewards for their enterprise in signing such big names as John Toshack, Tommy Smith and Ian Callaghan for their attendances are already more than 50 per cent up on last season which ended with their promotion from the Fourth Division.

Vetch Field League gates this season have averaged 12,579 compared with last season's figure of 8,108.

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Front Row (left to right): David Cunningham, Kenny Stroud, Brian Williams, Bobby Smith (Manager), Ian Miller, Ray McHale (Captain), Gus Gilligan'

Away form worries Swindon by Tony Pullein

Club

Crest

Swindon may be tucked in nicely behind the serious promotion chasers, but it's a position they hold largely due to their home performances. So far they have managed only one win away, and that was against bottom dogs Lincoln City (3-0).

This is an old failing that new manager Bobby Smith inherited when he took over in the summer. In an endeavour to improve things, he has made several new signings.

He went back to Bury, the club he managed a year ago, to sign striker Andy Rowland for £80,000 hoping he would add to the goals power of Chic Bates. So far Rowland has scored only one goal for his new club but it can't be long before he starts to hit the sort of form that made him Bury's leading scorer for the past three seasons with 21, 21 and 15.

Bates is another proven goalscorer and he is currently Swindon's top marksman with nine goals. He was first seen banging them home for Stourbridge and later became a top scorer with Shrewsbury before he joined Swindon last season.

Mr. Smith signed another of his old Bury colleagues when he paid Queens Park Rangers £55,000 for winger Brian Williams. Rangers signed him from Bury last season after he had played a storming game against them the previous year in a League Cup tie but he didn't get many chances at Shepherds Bush. He has scored three times so far for Swindon.

Swindon have an abundance of midfield players and their selection should come from Paul Gilchrist, Ray McHale, Chris Kamara, Ian Miller and Roy Carter.

Gilchrist was another close-season signing, coming on a free transfer from Portsmouth. Yet it's little more than two years since Paul was a member of the triumphant Southampton side that defeated Manchester United in the F.A. Cup final at Wembley.

Miller is another of the club's summer signings, arriving from Doncaster for a £25,000 fee plus player Micky French. Ian can play in attack or midfield.

The defence has been fairly settled with yet another newcomer, Chris Ogden, in goal. Chris was signed from Oldham during the last close-season.

The back four is likely to comprise of John McLaughlin, Steve Aizlewood, Ken Stroud and Andy Ford. Aizle Wood, in fact, switched successfully to centre-forward for some of Swindon s League Cup ties, when Rowland was cup-tied, and held his place there for a while. This allowed young Russell Lewis to be recalled to the side at centre-back.

Apart from their win at Lincoln, Swindon have collected only two other away points from drawn games at Tranmere (1-1) and Shrewsbury (0-0) back in August. Their other away trips have all ended in defeat at Walsall (1-4), Plymouth (0-2), Chester (0-2), Colchester (2-3), and Carlisle (0-2).

It was this frustrating failure in away games that probably cost Swindon promotion last season. They failed to win any of their first 11 away games and it wasn't until mid-January that they broke their duck at Portsmouth, who were one of the struggling sides

At that stage they had a fine home record, with only one defeat, and they still had an outside chance of promotion. In the end, however, their earlier lack of away success proved too big a burden and they eventually had to settle for tenth place.

In many respects their record this season is almost identical. In spite of their away failures, Swindon have been beaten only once at home in the League, by Blackpool (0-1). They have won all their remaining seven home League games.

They did lose at home in the League Cup, though. After gaining a 4-2 aggregate victory over Portsmouth in round one, they amazingly managed to win away at West Ham (2-1) in the next round. Then they drew 1-1 at Peterborough, only to lose the replay 1-2 on their own ground.

Obviously, Mr. Smith realises that his team's failings will not go away without any positive action so we can expect to see some kind of change, either in outlook or in tactics as they seek their second away League victory to-day. Swindon are very ambitious to regain the Second Division place they lost in 1974 — the year they ended with the worst away record in the country!

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'How about that for luck' Ernie Moss seems to be saying as the equaliser is in the net to give Stags a share of the points against Colchester whilst their No. 3 looks on in despair.



(Top) Lincoln's deputant goalkeeper punches clear as Ernie Moss tries to get in behind the defence (Below) Dave Syrett on hand in another packed goalmouth incident at Sincil Bank last Saturday.

introducing

AIZLEWOOD, Steve (Defender). Steve started with home-town Newport County in 1969 and made 191 appearances for them before joining Swindon in March 1976. Had made 71 League appearances for Swindon to the end of last season and is a former Welsh under 23 International.

ALLAN, Jimmy (Goalkeeper).

Born in Inverness he was signed from Brora Rangers in October 1970 as an apprentice and on full forms nine months later. Although he made his debut in September 1971, it was not until 1976/77 that he became established in the side. Had made 158 League appearances at the end of last season.

CARTER, Roy (Midfield).

Roy who comes from Torpoint, Cornwall, played part-time Western League football with Falmouth before joining Hereford in the summer of 1975. He quickly established himself in the side there and played in the team that won promotion to the Second Division in 1975/76. Signed for Swindon in December 1977 having made 64 League appearances for Hereford and had made 18 more for Swindon by the seasons end.

FORD, Andy (Defender).

Andy comes from Minehead and started his career with Bournemouth although he did not reach their League team. A move to Southend in 1972 led to a place in that club's League side and he made 135 such appearances before moving to Swindon at the start of last season. He made 33 appearances last season mostly at left back where he has taken over from the long serving John Trollope, but he has also played in midfield and as a central defender.

GUTHRIE, Chris (Forward).

Chris made only 5 League appearances for his home town club Newcastle but he became a regular member of the Southend side following his transfer in 1972/73. After 107 appearances and twice being leading scorer he moved to Sheffield United in the summer of 1975 but never settled and was transferred to Swindon 58 games later in the summer of 1977. Chris made 38 appearances for Swindon last season and plays a traditional centre-forward role. KAMARA, Chris (Midfield). Chris comes from Middlesbrough but made his League debut for Portsmouth in September 1975 as one of a number of young players given a first team chance by that Club due to financial problems. Those problems forced Portsmouth to sell Chris to Swindon just before last season after 56 League games and he has since played 40 more for Swindon. A few of these have been as deputy centre forward, but he is at his best attacking from Midfield.

McHALE, Ray (Midfield).

Ray comes from Sheffield and made his League debut for Chesterfield in season 1971/72. After 123 League games he signed for Halifax Town where he was top scorer in one season although a midfield player. He did not miss a single match before signing for Swindon in September 1976 after 86 games. Ray made 81 League appearances for Swindon to the end of last season and usually plays as the link man in midfield although he likes to get forward and has a hard shot that made him the regular penalty taker last term.

McLAUGHLIN, John (Defender). John, a Londoner, made his debut for Colchester in season 1971/72 but after winning England Youth honours and 66 League games he moved to Swindon in December 1973. Had made 177 League appearances for Swindon to the end of last season mostly at right back, but he also had quite a lot of experience in midfield.

PROPHETT, Colin (Defender). Colin comes from Crewe and his first professional club was Sheffield Wednesday for whom he made 113 League appearances. In 1973 he moved to Norwich but only stayed until September 1974. He made 34 First Division appearances, before his move to Swindon for whom he had played 154 games at the end of last season. Club Captain for the past two seasons and a fixture at Centre Back during that time.

ROBERTS. Kevin (Goalkeeper). Kevin is from Bristol and was a part-time player until he signed for Swindon from Welton Rovers in March 1977. Made two first team appearances last season.

STROUD, Kenny (Midfield).

Swindon

Ken is a Londoner but has been wirh the Club since he was an apprentice and is now one of the longest serving players at the Club. Although signed as a professional in 1970 and made his League debut in 1971/72 it was not until 1974/75 that he gained a regular place in the team. Ken had made 154 League appearances to the end of last season, mostly in midfield but he enjoys playing as a central defender, when the need arises.

TROLLOPE, John (Defender).

John Trollope is locally born and has been with the Club since he was an apprentice making 737 League appearances to the end of last season nearly all at left back. Last season he passed the old record for one club domestic appearances in this country, retired from the first team to take up the job of Youth Manager, was voted player of the year by the readers of the local newspaper and was awarded the M.B.E.! He remains in training as cover and could still beat Jimmy Dickenson's League appearance record for a single club player.

WILLIAMS, Brian (Midfield). Brian is from Manchester and played 148 games for Bury until present Swindon Manager Bobby Smith sold him to Q.P.R. during the 1977 close season. He made 22 First Division appearancea for Q.P.R. last season before signing for Swindon in June, 1978.

MILLER, Ian (Forward).

lan comes from Perth but he played League football for Bury making 9 full appearances and a number as substitute. He moved to Nottm. Forest but did not make the first team until a further move to Doncaster Rovers in August 1975. He became a regular first team player there before his transfer to Swindon who had been interested in signing him for a number of months in the 1978 close season.

LEWIS, Russell (Defender).

Russell comes from Blaengwynfi and was signed from Welsh League football in the early part of the 1976/77 season. A Young player who had made 6 League appearances to the end of last season in central defensive roles.

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A brief history of Swindon Town Football Club

This year marks the 96th in the History of the Swindon Town Football Club. The nucleus of the early playing staff was provided by a team known as the Spartans, the Captain of which was Prebendary W. B. Pitt. With a collection of players from the local amateur sides of the day, he formed a team and friendlies were organised, home games being played at Bradford's Field where railings protected spectators from a quarry at one end of the pitch. Unfortunately, at least one fan is known to have fallen into the quarry whilst a game was in progress! Fourtean matches were played in the 1883/84 season, ten being won—with a goal average of fifty-three against eight. The venue for home matches was switched to Vickery's Field for a short while until the move was made to the Croft.

The Town first gained recognition in the football world when Burnley, Tottenham and Manchester City were all defeated in the Cup run of 1909/10. Swindon fell to Newcastle United in the semi-final. This stage was reached again only two years later when Barnsley won through to the Final at the second attempt. Sandwiched between, in 1911, was the first of two Southern League championship wins, giving the Club the right to meet the Football League champions, Manchester United in the Charity Shield, and Swindon was defeated by eight goals to four. First place was attained again-on goal average this time-in 1914. With the entire Southern League First Division Swindon Town was elected to the Third Division of the Football League in 1920 and started with a bang! Luton Town was defeated in the first match by nine goals to one, a margin of victory the Club has been unable to surpass in League games to this day. In 1926, Harry Morris joined the Club and netted 47 goals in his first season, amassing 216 in only 260 appearances before joining Clapton Orient in 1933.

After a post war boom assisted by the consistent goal scoring of Maurice Owen, the club fell upon hard times in the mid fifties applying for re-election to the League in two consecutive years, 1956 and 1957. When Bert Head took over as Manager towards the end of 1956, he began a Youth Policy which produced such talent as Ernie Hunt and Mike Summerbee and Don Rogers. Blended with the experience of players such as Sam Burton and Maurice Owen-each playing for fifteen seasons-Swindon Town reached the Second Division for the first time in 1963. After an impressive start in the higher sphere-nine games without defeat-the Town ended the 1963/64 season in a modest 14th place and when Danny Williams arrived in 1965 he found the Club back in the Third In four years he moulded a side which Division. brought about the finest achievement in the history of the Club-the winning of the Football League Cup at Wembley on March 15th, 1969, coupled with the regaining of Division Two status less than two months later. Swindon secured fifth place ar the end of 1969/70 -the highest League position ever attained-and became the first winners of the Anglo-Italian Cup by defeating S. S. Napoli in Naples by a 3-0 margin.

After making his 400th League appearance for the Club in October, 1972, Don Rogers left Swindon for a club record fee. In 1974 the Town left stranded at the bottom of the Second Division when Danny Williams returned. Peter Eastoe, brought to Swindon for another Club record fee after a loan period in 1973 notched 26 League goals in 1974/75.

Efforts to regain a Second Division place at the first attempt fell short of the target by just two points.





	Ap	pearance	es	Goals	
		League	F.A.	F.A	Shre
and the second	League	Cup	Cup	League Cup	Wat
Allen, R.	11	1		2	Swa
Arnold, R.	15	2			Gilli
Bird, K.	15	2		3	Swi
Coffey, M.	2	1			Che
Curtis, R.	6	2			Sou
Foster, B.	15	2			Carl
Foster, C.	1				Che
Goodwin, D.	12			3	Colo
Groome, N.					She
Hodgson, G.	6	2			Exet
Martin, D.	12	2		3	Plyn
Miller, J.	13	2		2	Roth
McClelland, J.	15	2			Blac
Moss, E.	8			2	Hull
New, M.		i inte			Wals
Phillips, I.	3	1997			Pete
Saxby, G.	5				Bury
Saxby, M.	15	2		1	Oxfo
Syrett, D.	12	2		1	Mai
Wood, I.		1			Bren
Johnson, S.	-				Tran
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LEAGUE-Division III											
	P	W	D	L	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Shrewsbury T.	16	4	4	0	4	3	1	19	10	23	
Watford	16	6	0	2	5	0	3	37	21	22	
Swansea C.	16	7	1	0	2	2	4	32	23	21	
Gillingham	16	5	2	1	1	6	1	21	14		
Swindon T.	16	7	0	1	1	2	5	20	17	18	
Chester	16	6	2	0	1	2	5	21	20	18	
Southend U.	16	6	0	2	0	5	3	25	17	17	
Carlisle U.	16	4	4	0	0	5	3	16	11	17	
Chesterfield	16	5	1	3	1	4	2	23	21	17	
Colchester U.	16	5	3	0	0	4	4	19	20	17	
Sheffield W.	16	2	4	2	3	3	2	15	1000	17	
Exeter C.	16	5	3	1	1	1	5	20	17	16	
Plymouth A.	15	3	2	1	3	2	4	21	19	16	
Rotherham U.	16	5	0	3	1	4	3	17	17	16	
Blackpool	16	6	1	1	1	1	6	16	22	16	
Hull C.	16	3	4	1	2	1	5		19	15	
Walsall	16	3	3	2	2	2	4	1	24	15	
Peterborough U.	15	3	5	0	1	2	4	19	23	15	
Bury	16	1	5	2	1	4	3	1000	21	13	
Oxford U.	16	2	4	2	1	3	4	13	21	13	
Mansfield T.	15	1	4	1	2	2	5	17	21	12	
Brentford	16	5	0	3	0	1	7	14	23	11	
Tranmere R.	15	2	5	1	0	1	6	18	27	10	
Lincoln C.	16	1	3	4	0	Ó	8	9	33	5	

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EIGHT	Martin Martin Martin Martin	Martin 1 Martin 1	Martin Mass Martin Moss	Moss 1 Moss Moss Moss 1	Moss				Doncaster Rovers Grimsby Town Halifax Town Hull City	Lincoln City Chesterfield Middlesbrough Middlesbrough	Notts County Rotherham United Scunthorpe United
SEVEN	Miller Miller Miller Miller	Miller Miller 1	Miller Allen Miller Miller	Saxby G Saxby G Miller Saxby G Miller	Miller				Doncas Grimsb Hull C	Lincoln Chester Middles Middles	Notts Rother Scuntho
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Football League Date Opp	Aug. 12 S 15 Tu 19 S 21 M 26 S	Sept. 2 S 9 S 11 M	16 S 23 S S 30 V V	0ct. 7 S 14 S 17 Tu 21 S 28 S	Nov. 4 S 11 S 17 F 25	Dec. 2 S 16 S 23 S 26 Tu 30 S	1979 Jan. 1 M 5 F 20 S 27 S	8110 m	Mar. 3 S 9 F 24 S 26 M 31 S	Apr. 7 S 14 S 16 M 17 Tu	and the second second



Mansfield Amber Shirts, Blue Shorts

- 1 Rod ARNOLD
- 2 Bob CURTIS
- **3 Barry FOSTER**
- 4 Gary SAXBY
- 5 Mick SAXBY
- 6 Kevin BIRD
- 7 Johnny MILLER
- 8 J. McCLELLAND
- 9 Dave SYRETT
- 10 Dave GOODWIN
- 11 Denis MARTIN
- 12

Chris OGDEN
 John McLAUGHLIN
 Andy FORD
 Andy FORD
 Ray McHALE
 S. AIZELWOOD
 Kenny STROUD
 Kenny STROUD
 Ian MILLER
 Roy CARTER
 John GILCHRIST
 Chic BATES
 Chris KAMARA
 Russell Lewis

Swindon T.

Red Shirts, White Shorts

THURSDAY'S LINE-UP Read STAN SEARL'S Match Report and the BILLY BINGHAM Column Exclusively every week in 'CHAD'

REFEREE

Bert L. NEWSOME (Broseley, Shrops.)

Started refereeing whilst in the Army then progressed through local Shropshire Leagues, Midland Intermediate and Central Leagues to the Football League. Refereed the 1975 England v Wales Youth International, and lined the France v. Spain International—in Paris—in 1961. Officiated in Italy for the 1972 Anglo-Italian competition and also at the Bayern Munich v Anderlecht European Super Cup in 1976, and also England v. Wales Youth International.

He is a New Towns Information Officer and his interests are gardening, home decorating, cooking, antiques and most sports but especially squash.





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