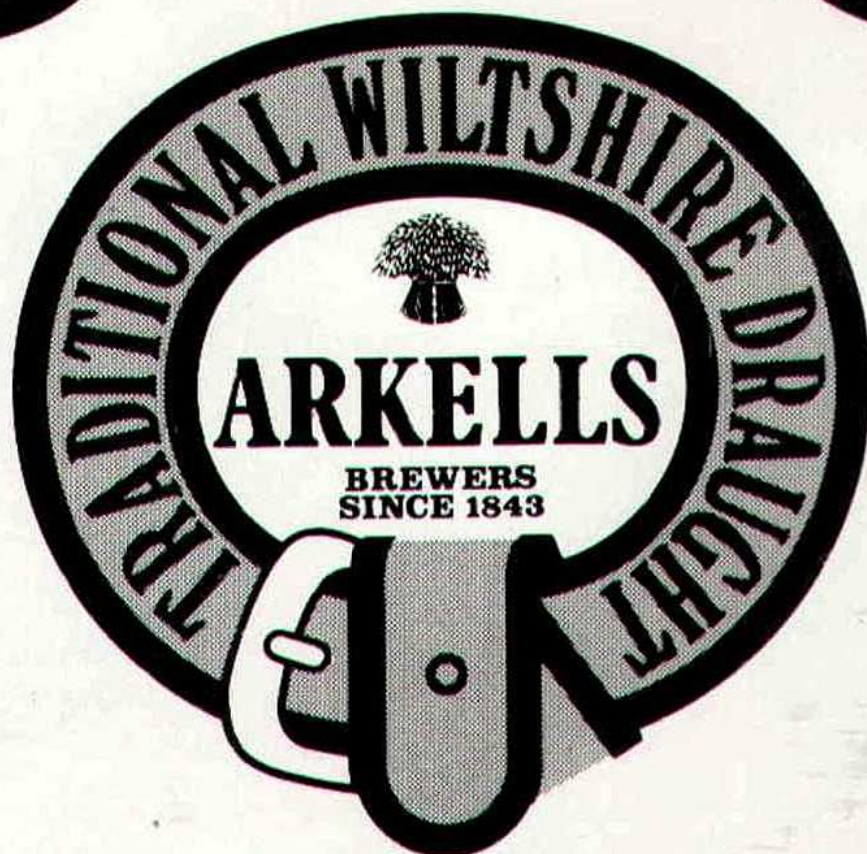




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Club Medical Officer Dr. J. Nicholas

## Bob Smith says.....

First of all I must apologise for not writing in the last programme against Hull City, but at the time the notes were required by the printers I was moving home to my new house in the country. I am settling down nicely and as a city boy who has spent most of his life in that type of environment, I am looking forward to living a rural life very much indeed.

Following our successful run of home wins people are beginning to talk to me of records, but in point of fact the breaking of records is not my prime concern, in fact, when clubs are creating records, such as that that Nottingham Forest have just achieved, I am sure they are not aware of it at the time - they are concentrating on negotiating each hurdle as they come to it and that must be our objective to negotiate that next hurdle and be successful at it and if records are set in the doing of this then all well and good.

Another question I am constantly asked is how I keep the members of the squad happy who are unable to break through into the first team. The players concerned are accepting the situation in the right spirit although they are itching to get their chance whether through injury or loss of form. I am sure that it augers well for the club that the captain in a successful international side in the European Nations Cup competition against Bulgaria, is patiently awaiting his league debut for this club.



Today we welcome Enfield who will be much stiffer opposition than that of March Town who we met in the first round. Danny Williams has watched them play and reported to me upon their performance and I can assure you that we shall treat them with the equal respect we would show to any visiting league club. It is not luck or coincidence that the same four or five non league clubs regularly appear in the league list of names competing in the first round of this cup competition. They are there on merit and because of the quality of the players they have in their squads. Enfield is one of these teams.

Once again I would ask you to give our players every encouragement throughout the ninety minutes of this game and I repeat my firm belief that we are all, players and supporters alike, members of the Swindon Town 'Team' and your effort is of paramount importance.



# ***Bits and Pieces***

The F.A. Cup First and Second Rounds, as we know them today, were introduced for the 1925-26 season. That December brought Kent League side Sittingbourne to the County Ground. Swindon romped to a 5 - 0 half-time lead and added a further two after the break. FRANK RICHARDSON was top scorer with four, taking his tally of Cup goals to eight for the season. The Town's other goals came from BERT DAVIES (2) and BERT DENYER.

Another Kentish side came here, in the shape of Dartford, on December 9 1933 - and it took a first-half penalty by the Town's TOMMY ARMSTRONG to separate the sides.

As a Southern League club, Swindon were involved in many exciting tussles in the old Second Round, when none of the First Division sides were exempted as is the case now. Arsenal, then Known as Woolwich Arsenal, came here on February 4 1911 and were defeated 1-0, BOB JEFFERSON scoring the all important goal. Twelve months later Notts County, also in the First Division at that time, came to the County Ground and had no luck either, losing 0-2 goals by HAROLD FLEMING and FREDDY WHEATCROFT. Swindon's last F.A. Cup tie as a non-League club was one of the few defeats suffered at this stage. A mammoth 67,054 crowd packed Stamford Bridge as Chelsea beat the Town 4-0 on January 31 1920.

It was the turn of Torquay United to visit Swindon in 1951-52 and the teams shared six goals - the Town's marksmen being MAURICE OWEN (2) and WILLIE MILLAR. The replay at Plainmoor went to extra-time without the deadlock being broken and the decider took place at Ashton Gate, Bristol on January 2. A 12,241 crowd saw MAURICE OWN add to first-half goals by ROY ONSLOW and JIMMY BAIN to give Swindon a 3-1 victory and a Third Round tie at Cardiff. On December 6 1958 the Town received Norwich City here at the County Ground. The Canaries held Swindon to 1-1 draw

and earned a money-spinning home tie against Manchester United with a single-goal victory in the replay at Carrow Road on the following Thursday.

The Town were drawn against the 'Gingerbread' men of Grantham at the Midland League Club's London Road ground in 1965/66. Despite a goalless first period, Swindon cruised to a 6-1 win after the interval with goals from ERIC WEAVER, MEL NURSE, DENNIS BROWN, ROGER SMART (2) and KEITH EAST. The clubs met again in the same round, at the same venue, on December 7 1968. Again there was no scoring before the break, but second-half goals by CHRIS JONES and JOHN SMITH gave the visitors a 2-0 victory.

Weather conditions prevented Swindon's tie with Ashford Town from kicking off until the new year in 1967. DON ROGERS opened the scoring, and later added a second, and DENNIS BROWN, BRUCE WALKER and WILLIE PENMAN also contributed to a 5-0 scoreline.

In 1975/76 it was a late penalty by DAVE MOSS that gave the Town a win at Hendon and a ticket to the Third Round.



**ERIC WEAVER**

who set the Town on the road to victory at Grantham thirteen years ago.



# Enfield Football Club – Potted History

Originally known as Enfield Spartans, the club was formed in 1893 and the following year they entered their first competition the Tottenham and District Junior Alliance, after renting a field near Baker Street at £4.10s a season.

Seven years after they were founded, they amalgamated with another Enfield side playing in Cherry Orchard Lane, adopted the name of Enfield Football Club and entered the North Middlesex League.

In 1912 they became founder-members of the Athenian League joining the Isthmian League in 1963. Enfield have been playing at their present home in Southbury Road since 1936.

Enfield who won the Athenian League Championship in 1962 and 1963 have been Champions of the Isthmian League six times. These six triumphs have come in two spells with the first hat-trick of titles coming in 1968, 1969 and 1970 and the second in the last three years.

Enfield have appeared at Wembley four times in the Amateur Cup Final - a competition which ended in 1974, in 1967 and 1970 Enfield won the Cup, while in 1964 and 1972 they had to settle for being beaten finalists.

Enfield's record home win came in the F.A. Cup Competition during the 1959/60 season when they defeated Hoddesdon Town 15-0, while the Club's best away win was against Ilford 10-0 in the Isthmian League during the 1965/66 season.

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Here's how the Automobile Association suggest you travel to Swansea City F.C. on Boxing Day.

- SWINDON  
Follow signs Chippenham A420  
In 4 miles join Motorway M4 (signposted South Wales).
- 43.2 SEVERN BRIDGE TOLLBOOTHS  
Cross Severn Bridge M4 signs Newport
- 21.5 JUNCTION 28 (A48)  
In 4.1 miles End of Motorway.  
Forward A48
- 11.6 CARDIFF  
Follow signs Merthyr, Pontypridd A470
- 4.1 JUNCTION WITH M4  
Branch left (signposted M4) then at roundabout follows signs Port Talbot to join Motorway M4.
- 11.8 JUNCTION 35  
Leave Motorway and at roundabout take 1st exit A473. In 3 miles at roundabout take 2nd exit A48  
6.7 miles farther at roundabout take 2nd exit to join Motorway M4 (signposted Port Talbot)
- 14 JUNCTION 38  
Forward (signposted Swansea)
- 2.7 JUNCTION WITH A4107  
In 2.3 miles End of Motorway
- 2.6 MOTORWAY TERMINAL ROUNDABOUT  
Take 2nd exit A48
- 1.1 BRITON FERRY ROUNDABOUT  
Follow signs Swansea (A483)  
In 0.7 miles at roundabout take 1st exit A483 By Fabian Way enter
- 6.0 SWANSEA  
Follow signs Mumbles, Gower A4067 to leave by Oystermouth Road. Take 3rd turning right into Paxton Street Unclass. Over X roads into Wilham Street for
- 0.8 SWANSEA CITY FOOTBALL CLUB  
(on Left)

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## THE BOXING DAY MATCH AT SWANSEA CITY

will be an all-ticket match and terrace tickets will be available price £1.00. Juniors will be able to purchase a reduced price ticket on production of their 'Junior Supporter Pass' and Swansea inform that this pass must also be shown with the entry ticket on entering the ground. No tickets will be available on the day of the match.

The Supporters Club are running a special train to this match at 11.45 am. — £3.00

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# Talk of the Town by the Chairman

It is with pleasure that we welcome the players and officials of Enfield Football Club, the present leaders of the Isthmian League. Enfield have the proud distinction of having introduced the Compton Brothers of International fame to the Arsenal Football Club and everyone in the football world must know of their prowess both in the football and cricket scenes.

All clubs have their moments of glory and Enfield have certainly had theirs over the years but we shall do our best today to prevent them from adding to this list.

Ron Howell, a prominent member of their side, you will remember as a former player of ours and since leaving us has also played for Tooting and Mitcham, the side that drew with us on the County Ground and went on to defeat us in the replay so Ron will be full of optimism to repeat this performance.

Since writing my last notes when I mentioned the fact that the reserve team were picking up useful points we have played at Bristol City where we drew 0-0 and at home against Southampton who we beat 3-2. Both of these clubs, being from the first division, make these performances even more praiseworthy because usually these clubs hold a bigger staff of experienced players obviously very keen to impress in their games. What a pity that so few people support these games.

Owing to the dispute with the journalists the Evening Advertiser has not been able to give us the usual publicity that we get under normal circumstances but under obvious difficulties we must congratulate them on producing the local paper and keeping the public in the news with our movements of importance.

Kevin Roberts has been doing well for Weymouth Football Club in the Southern League and in fact saved a penalty in their 4 - 0 away win last Saturday which kept them on top of the League table.

I am sure our supporters will wish David Cunningham every success with Aston Villa and we do also because it was not our wish to part with David but sometimes a move is beneficial to a player when personal problems arise. David has previously spent a month with Peterborough but with the club changing Managers it looked as if he would return to us until this new offer from Aston Villa came along. It is strange how different Managers view the capabilities of players and what suits one doesn't necessarily suit another.

Today is the last opportunity for you to collect your tickets for the game at Swansea on Boxing Day because we have to return all unsold tickets on Monday next. This game is all ticket and there are only ground tickets on sale.

I have received several enquiries regarding membership of the Rendezvous Club and some people seem to be under the impression that this is a 'closed shop' but this is not so and Mrs. Coppock will be pleased to receive applications, the membership fee per annum being £1.50. The Supporters Club and Squash Club are also open for membership and any applications for these clubs should be made to Mr. Jack Conley. The membership fee for the Supporters Club is £1.00 per annum and this also includes members to use the facilities of the Squash Club.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we are now selling reduced priced season tickets, the details of which are printed on the inside back cover of this programme. Would be purchasers are reminded that season ticket holders are guaranteed a ticket to all home cup ties and are granted free entry to reserve matches. What a nice Christmas present this would make for any of our supporters.

Hoping you will enjoy today's game.





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# IN TOWN TODAY



Back Row (L to R): M. Janes, M. Wright, R. Howell, K. Searle, T. Gibson,  
T. Moore, D. Shea, K. Elley, N. Glover, J. Knapman  
Front Row (L to R): S. King, T. Bass, J. Bishop, T. Jennings (capt.),  
M. O'Sullivan, J. Tone, J. Johnson (coach),  
T. Hardy (Manager), D. Jones (Trainer).

## ENFIELD



# IN TOWN TODAY ENFIELD CUP HEROES SEEK ANOTHER SCALP

By Tony Pullein

Three members of Enfield's Cup-battling squad come to the County Ground this afternoon hoping that F.A. Cup history will repeat itself. Coach John Johnson and players Ronnie Howell and Nicky Glover were all with Tooting & Mitcham when they drew here in January 1976 and then knocked us out in the replay!

For our part, we shall be hoping that that sort of lightening will not strike twice in the same place but we appreciate that Enfield have a very fine side with a great Cup reputation. Last season, for instance, they scored their first-ever Cup victories over Football League clubs when they won 3-0 at home to Wimbledon and then won 2-0 on Northampton's ground.

That victory put them into the third round of the F.A. Cup for the first time in their history. This season Enfield came into the F.A. Cup in the fourth qualifying round and won 6-2 away to Gorleston. They then beat Wealdstone 5-0 in the first round, also away.

Indeed, Enfield have played in eight cup-ties, of various sorts, this season and they have been drawn away from home for every one of them!

Enfield, who have appeared in the competition proper on numerous occasions, were also well known as Cup giants back in the old amateur days. They reached the F.A. Amateur Cup final on four occasions, winning the trophy twice.

They have been champions of the Isthmian League for the past three seasons, having won the title six times in all, and they are currently heading the table once again.

Enfield have only one player with Football League experience and he is the aforementioned Ronnie Howell who was, of course, a one-time Swindon player. Ronnie began his League career with Millwall in 1966/67 and was transferred to Cambridge United in 1970. He then spent one season in the Southern League with Kettering before we gave him his League come-back chance in 1972/73. He made 25 League appearances for us that season before moving on to Brighton at the completion and it was at the Goldstone Ground that he played his last season of League soccer. He then joined Tooting & Mitcham and was transferred to Enfield in 1977.

Howell is one of four players from whom the midfield selection will be made. The others are Tony Gibson, John Bishop and John Knapman.

Gibson, who was a member of the Enfield side beaten by Hendon in the 1972 Amateur Cup final at Wembley, is now in his second spell with Enfield, after leaving for a while to play for Ilford.

Bishop has also played at Wembley. He went there for the final of the FA Challenge Trophy with Southern League Hillingdon in 1971.

Indeed, it seemed that Tony had done enough to win the trophy when he put Hillingdon 2-0 ahead against Telford United in the first-half. But Telford struck back, hit three second-half goals and won the game. He is now in his third season with Enfield.

Knapman is another player who once left the club — he went to Walthamstow Avenue — and he returned last season.

The forward line is likely to be selected from Keith Searle, Stevie King, Tony Bass and Nicky Glover.

Glover was one of the men who came here with Tooting in 1976 and it was his goal, in fact, that pulled the game out of the fire. We looked home and dried with a 2-0 lead and only four minutes to go. Then Glover scored and Tooting derived the heart to net another just a minute later to earn a replay. Nicky joined Enfield last season and has an outstanding goalscoring record for the club.

Searle, Enfield's top scorer with 17 goals this season, has now netted more than 100 goals since his arrival from Wycombe Wanderers in 1975. Keith claims an extra-ordinary record — he now has seven Isthmian League championship medals, including one for each of the last five seasons. He got two with Wycombe and has been in Enfield's championship side for the past three seasons.

King is a 23-year-old winger who joined the club from Leytonstone and he is constantly being watched by League club scouts. Bass is a giant of six foot, two inches, who is particularly good in the air. Last season he scored 32 goals for the club.

Goalkeeper Terry Moore is another Enfield player to have appeared at Wembley. He was in the Bishop's Stortford I team that beat Ilford 4-1 in the last of the F.A. Amateur Cup finals in 1974. He later moved on to Walthamstow and linked with Enfield last season.

The back four is likely to comprise of Mark Wright, who was with Millwall as an apprentice until three years ago, John Tone, Tony Jennings and Keith Elley. Tone has switched from a midfield role to defence and has played more than 200 games for the club. Jennings, the club captain, goes even better, with 300 matches since his arrival from Hendon. Elley was with Spurs as a junior and is now in his second spell with Enfield, after a brief period with Leytonstone.



# DIVISION 3 - 1978-79

Date	Opponents	Ground	Score	Scorers	Attendance
Aug. 12	Portsmouth FLC1	A	0 - 0		9261
15	Portsmouth FLC1	H	4 - 2	Aizlewood, Miller, Williams, Guthrie	7165
19	Bury	H	2 - 1	Bates, Miller	5428
21	Tranmere Rovers	A	1 - 1	Carter	2150
26	Shrewsbury Town	A	0 - 0		2672
30	West Ham FLC2	A	2 - 1	Miller, Guthrie.	19672
Sep. 2	Mansfield Town	H	1 - 0	Bates	6195
9	Walsall	A	1 - 4	Williams	5024
12	Brentford	H	2 - 0	McHale, Bates	6685
16	Plymouth Argyle	A	0 - 2		6099
23	Blackpool	H	0 - 1		6609
27	Chester	A	0 - 2		3556
30	Sheffield Wednesday	H	3 - 0	Bates, Rowland, Gilchrist	5857
Oct 3	Peterborough FLC3	A	1 - 1	Aizlewood	6132
6	Colchester United	A	2 - 3	Gilchrist, Bates	3324
10	Peterborough FLC3R	H	0 - 2		7674
14	Rotherham United	H	1 - 0	Bates	4476
17	Peterborough United	H	3 - 1	Bates 2, Carter	4352
21	Lincoln City	A	3 - 0	McLaughlin, Williams, McHale	2982
28	Carlisle United	A	0 - 2		5141
Nov 4	Southend United	H	1 - 0	Gilchrist	5647
	11 Mansfield Town	A	1 - 0	Bates	
	18 Shrewsbury Town	H	2 - 1	Gilchrist, Aizlewood	
	25 F.A. Cup 1 March Town	H	2 - 0	Bates, Gilchrist	
Dec. 2	Chesterfield	A	Postponed		
9	Hull City	H	2 - 0	Miller, Carter.	
	16 F.A. Cup 2 Enfield	H			
	23 Exeter City	H			
	26 Swansea City	A			
	30 Watford	A			
1979					
Jan. 1	Oxford United	H			
6	Brentford (3)	A			
13	Walsall	H			
17	League Cup SF				
20	Plymouth Argyle	H			
24	League Cup SF				
27	Blackpool (4)	A			
Feb. 3	Chester	H			
10	Sheffield Wednesday	A			
17	Colchester United (5)	H			
24	Rotherham United	A			
Mar. 3	Lincoln City	H			
10	Carlisle United (6)	H			
16	Southend United(LCF)	A			
24	Tranmere Rovers	H			
27	Bury	A			
31	Gillingham (SF)	A			
Apr. 7	Chesterfield	A			
11	Exeter City	A			
14	Swansea City	H			
16	Oxford United	A			
21	Watford	H			
24	Peterborough Untd.	A			
28	Hull City	A			
May 5	Gillingham	H			
10	12 F.A. Cup Final				

## FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS (TOTALS INCLUDE APPEARANCES AS SUB)

Goals in parentheses	Lge.	FLC	FAC	TOTAL
Kevin Roberts		1		1
John McLaughlin	16(1)	3	1	20(1)
Andy Ford	19	5	1	25
Ray McHale	19(2)	5	1	25(2)
Steve Aizlewood	18(1)	5(2)	1	24(3)
Kenny Stroud	19	5	1	25
Ian Miller	17(2)	4(2)	1	22(4)
Chris Kamara	17	5	1	23
Chic Bates	19(9)	5	1(1)	25(10)
Brian Williams	12(2)	3(1)		15(3)
Roy Carter	19(3)	4	1	24(3)
Chris Ogden	18	4	1	23
Russell Lewis	5	2		7
Paul Gilchrist	11(4)		1(1)	12(5)
Andy Rowland	5(1)			5(1)
John Trollope	3	2		5
Dave Cunningham	2	2		4
Jimmy Allan	1			1

Also appeared: Chris Guthrie (transferred to Fulham) - 9 apps. 2 goals.



# Football Combination

DATE 1978	OPPONENTS	F	A	APPEARANCES (Goals)			
Aug. 19	Ipswich Town	A	0 - 4	J. Allan	16	D. Wood	4
22	Fulham	H	0 - 0	A. Hatter	3	R. Lewis	14(1)
26	Tottenham Hotspur	H	1 - 3	J. Trollope	17	K. Norman	10
Sept. 2	Plymouth Argyle	A	0 - 2	B. Hughes	15	P. Gilchrist	4
9	Leicester City	H	0 - 1	C. Henry	9	D. Cunningham	6(1)
16	Birmingham City	A	1 - 1	P. Colicutt	17(2)	G. Brown	2
26	Bristol Rovers	A	0 - 0	S. Abbeley	11	J. Walters	9
Oct. 7	Hereford United	A	0 - 2	M. Page	19(2)	K. Hehir	6(1)
14	Norwich City	A	0 - 4	N. Barry	18(1)	K. Roberts	2
21	Oxford United	H	2 - 3	P. Cox	2	J. McLaughlin	1
24	Luton Town	A	1 - 0	A. Gilligan	16(4)	B. Williams	4(1)
Nov. 4	Orient	A	0 - 3	S. Lymer	2	P. Prince	1
7	Chelsea	H	0 - 1	B. Hamilton	6	A. Rowland	8(1)
11	Ipswich Town	H	0 - 5	Also appeared: C. Prophett (transferred to Chesterfield) - 2 apps. Wilf Tranter - 4 apps., Bobby Smith - 2 apps.			
18	Tottenham Hotspur	A	1 - 3				
21	Plymouth Argyle	H	1 - 3				
25	Queens Park Rangers	A	1 - 1				
Dec. 2	Crystal Palace	H	2 - 2				
9	Bristol City	A	0 - 0				
12	Southampton	H	3 - 2				
16	West Ham United	H	Postponed				
20	Cardiff City	A					
30	Arsenal	H					

## THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION

### Tables

Table of Results to Wednesday, 13th December 1978 (Not inclusive)

	Pld	Won	Dwn	Lost	Goals		Points
					For	Agst	
Tottenham Hotspur	21	18	3	0	64	22	39
Norwich City	19	14	2	3	52	16	30
Ipswich Town	18	12	4	2	40	16	28
West Ham United	18	10	5	3	42	19	25
Southampton	18	10	5	3	31	17	25
Chelsea	18	9	4	5	35	23	22
Queens Park Rangers	16	9	4	3	31	21	22
Fulham	19	8	5	6	31	23	21
Bristol City	19	7	5	7	32	35	19
Arsenal	16	6	6	4	34	23	18
Bristol Rovers	18	6	6	6	25	34	18
Plymouth Argyle	20	7	3	10	27	35	17
Crystal Palace	19	4	8	7	32	36	16
Oxford United	18	5	5	8	25	30	15
Luton Town	18	6	2	10	21	32	14
Leicester City	18	4	5	9	19	24	13
Cardiff City	18	4	3	11	23	37	11
Birmingham City	18	2	6	10	10	25	10
SWINDON TOWN	20	2	6	12	14	40	10
Hereford United	17	3	3	11	18	42	9
Reading	16	3	3	10	23	48	9
Orient	18	3	3	12	18	50	9



# F.A. CUP FIRSTS

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Tottenham Hotspur was the first Southern club to win the Cup when they beat Sheffield United in 1901. Spurs were then members of the Southern League and so were the first and only non-League club to carry off the trophy.

King George V was the first reigning monarch to attend a Cup Final. He saw Burnley beat Liverpool at the Crystal Palace in 1914.

David Jack (Bolton Wanderers) scored the first goal in a Wembley Cup Final. This was in 1923 when the crowd broke in to see the Wanderers beat West Ham United 2-0.

Extra time was first played in the Cup Final in 1877. Wanderers and Oxford University were drawing 0-0 at full-time, but Wanderers scored twice in extra time.

The first hat-trick in an FA Cup Final was that scored by William Townley for Blackburn Rovers v Sheffield Wednesday in 1890.

The first FA Cup Tie under floodlights was a replay between Kidderminster Harriers and Brierley Hill Alliance on 14 September 1955.

The first FA Cup Tie to be televised other than the Final - was Charlton Athletic and Blackburn Rovers, 5th Round, 8 February 1947.

## HAT-TRICKS BY THIRD DIVISION PLAYERS THIS SEASON

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Aug. 12	Richard Finney	3 goals for	Rotherham United v. Hartlepool (FLC)
Aug. 15	Robbie James	3	Swansea City v. Newport County (FLC)
Aug. 22	Ross Jenkins	3	Watford v. Blackpool
Sep. 2	Derek Spence	3	Blackpool v. Carlisle United
Sep. 2	Keith Edwards	3	Hull City v. Chester
Sep. 12	Dave Gwyther	3	Rotherham United v. Swansea City
Sep. 23	Fred Binney	3	Plymouth Argyle v. Sheffield Wednesday
Sep. 23	Ross Jenkins	4	Watford v. Oxford United
Oct. 13	Ronnie Moore	3	Tranmere Rovers v. Chester
Oct. 28	Ian Edwards	3	Chester v. Brentford
Nov. 25	Bobby Gough	3	Colchester United v. Oxford United (FAC)
Nov. 25	Ross Jenkins	3	Watford v. Dagenham (FAC)



# From the **COMMERCIAL OFFICE**

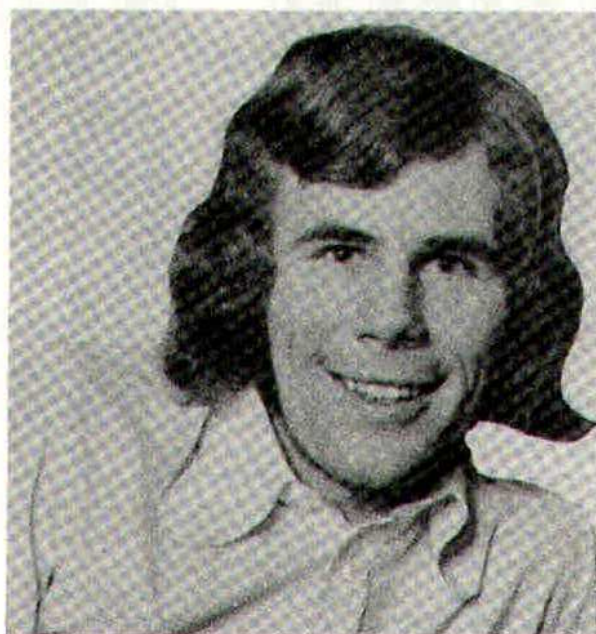
Good afternoon once again, welcome to Enfield. Having played in the Isthmian League for a number of years I know that this match will be no pushover.

Our Lottery and Bingo competitions will operate as normal over the Christmas and New Year period. We are still looking for people to help us by selling a few tickets each week. No expense is incurred and a commission on all sales plus a bonus on winners is payable. So why not help the Club and help yourselves at the same time. Interested? Ring Swindon 31510 or 42984 for details.

Also required half time Jackpot ticket sellers to help sell our tickets at all Home matches. If you would like to help contact The Commercial Manager on Swindon 31510.

Good Luck to the team today, here's hoping their fantastic home form continues.

**DOUG BUSWELL**  
Commercial Consultant



## **WELCOME BACK, RON**

RON HOWELL today makes a second return to the County Ground - where he appeared 25 times in Swindon's Second Division side during the 1972-73 season. When he was last here, he helped Tooting and Mitcham United fight back from two goals down to force a replay - which his side won 2-1.

So good luck Ron - after today!

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# NATION WIDE

By Tony Pullein

Chelsea were this week holding a crisis meeting to iron out a new policy to save the club from relegation. Last Saturday's 1-0 defeat by Aston Villa was their seventh home defeat of the season and it left them in a perilous position at the bottom of the First Division table.

No one can accuse Chelsea of lack of enterprise. Indeed, it was their grandiose plan to make their fans the most comfortable in the land -- the erection of their multi-million pound grandstand -- that caused the grave financial problems of a couple of years ago.

Chelsea sold their training ground and cut back all the way round and by this summer had satisfied creditors that the club was once again a viable proposition. Only then were they given permission to sign new players and manager Ken Shellito invested £165,000 in striker Duncan McKenzie.

Injuries took their toll, too. At one stage both recognised first-team goalkeepers Peter Bonetti and John Phillips were out together and young Bob Iles, bought from Weymouth for £10,000 during the summer, was given his chance.

Soon after the season began, giant centre-back Micky Droy was seriously injured and is expected to be out at least until the New Year, during these difficult days Chelsea actually made a bid to lure Johann Cruyff out of retirement! It was a serious bid but the player, tired of the pressures of competitive football, prefers to play only friendly games these days.

The next move was to bring top European coach Miljan Miljanic, former manager of Real Madrid and the Yugoslav national team, over to Stamford Bridge to study the club in depth. He was offered the post of technical advisor but declined the offer this week.

This put a question mark over the future of Mr. Shellito, who has been with the club since his schooldays. There were suggestions that he might this week be given the services of a top coach or that he should go into a joint managerial partnership with a man who has already made his name as a manager.

Chelsea are unable to buy any more players until they have first sold existing members of the staff to raise cash. Kenny Swain was

expected to join Aston Villa for £100,000 this week and it was still possible that Chelsea might be forced to sell their prize asset, England midfield man Ray Wilkins.

The sale of Wilkins might conceivably raise the sum of £400,000, in spite of his loss of form this season. With the cash from Swain's sale, Chelsea would then be in a position to buy two, or possibly, three experienced players who might pull them out of their current crisis.

Yet another bold move by Chelsea was the re-signing of former favourite Peter Osgood, who recently returned from a spell in the United States. Osgood will probably make his re-appearance in the Chelsea side at Middlesbrough today.

London rivals West Ham United are one of the clubs who could take Chelsea's First Division place next season but they received a set-back at Wrexham last weekend when they went down 3-4. It was the first time the Hammers had conceded four in a game this season.

Even without Welsh international outside-left Mike Thomas, Wrexham were in killer mood with young John Lyons hitting his first hat-trick in top-class football. Two of his goals came from penalties.

West Ham's visit drew Wrexham's biggest crowd of the season -- 15,787.

In spite of the fact that they have scored seven goals, and collected maximum points, from the two games since Thomas left, Wrexham seemed determined to find a replacement from outside and this week they were hoping to complete the transfer of Birmingham's 20-year-old left winger Steve Fox for £95,000.

Wrexham have been playing good football all season but until recently they had not been scoring many goals. Now manager Arfon Griffiths seems to have solved that one, the Welshmen are creeping nicely up on the promotion challengers. After last Saturday's victory, they were only two points behind West Ham -- with a game in hand.

There is an inherent fear at the Racecourse, however, that promotion too soon to the First Division could prove disastrous. Though their football is of First Division quality, Wrexham are this season enjoying their first-ever campaign in higher than Third Division circles and it is feared that the administration and the general structure of the club is not yet ready for life at the very top.

Ideally, Wrexham would like to be in a similar position in three years time.

Now that Nottingham Forest's record-breaking run of 42 consecutive undefeated League games has come to an end, it leaves Everton -- the only unbeaten team in the Football League -- with the opportunity of going for two records of their own.

Today Everton are at home to Leeds United and, if they avoid defeat, it will be their 19th League game of the season without defeat.





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# SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER 1978

SWINDON TOWN

at 3.00pm

ENFIELD

1. C. OGDEN
2. J. MCLAUGHLIN
3. A. FORD
4. R. MCHALE
5. S. AIZLEWOOD
6. K. STROUD
7. I. MILLER
8. R. CARTER
9. P. GILCHRIST
10. C. BATES
11. C. KAMARA
12. B. WILLIAMS



1. T. MOORE
2. M. WRIGHT
3. J. TONE
4. T. JENNINGS
5. K. ELLEY
6. J. KNAPMAN
7. R. HOWELL
8. T. GIBSON
9. K. SEARLE
10. J. BISHOP
11. S. KING
12. T. BASS

NEXT MATCH  
Saturday, 23rd December

Division 3

EXETER CITY

K.O. 3.0 p.m.

LINESMEN: RED FLAG: Mr. A.S. Montacute - Yeovil. Yellow Flag: Mr. R.C. Sibley - Tilehurst.

## REFEREE:

**ALEX J. HAMIL, (Wolverhampton)**

Commenced refereeing in 1959 and via local leagues, Midland Combination and West Midland League reached the Football League line and full list in 1973. Refereed the West Midland Cup (1972) and Birmingham Senior Cup (1973) Finals. Lined the Scotland v. Ireland International in 1976, with other matches in Italy, Wales v. Ireland in 1978.

Married, and with one son, he is a Senior Foreman in Government workshops.

## KEY OF THE BOARD

- A A.P. Leamington v Torquay
- B Barnsley v Rotherham
- C Carlisle v Hull
- D Doncaster v Shrewsbury
- E Leatherhead v Colchester
- F Maidstone v Exeter
- G Portsmouth v Reading
- H Swansea v Woking
- I Tranmere v Sheffield Wed.
- J Watford v Southend
- K Wimbledon v Bournemouth
- L Arsenal v Derby
- M Aston Villa v Norwich
- N Bristol City v Liverpool
- O Everton v Leeds
- P Ipswich v Bolton
- Q Manchester Utd. v Tottenham H.
- R Nottm. Forest v Birmingham
- S Southampton v Coventry
- T Wolverhampton v West Brom. Alb.

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