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# Manager's Notes

Today we welcome Swindon Town to the Vetch Field. Like ourselves, they are enjoying a successful season and today's game promises to be one of the most entertaining here for some time.

Moving away from football slightly, the last couple of days in the Toshack household have been really hectic. Cameron, aged 8, Sally - 6 and Craig - 4 have kept Mum and Dad extra busy and with all due respect to the players of Swindon, it is nice to get down to the Vetch today, if only for a rest!!!

I must take this opportunity of wishing you all the compliments of the season and thanking you for your support during the last ten months.

I spoke earlier about my three children. Perhaps you will be interested to know that in the New Year, three of the player's wives are expecting their first children. Messrs. James, Curtis and Waddle are not only leading marksmen on the field, but they are proving productive off the park as well!!

Incidentally, I can now reveal the reason why I have played a large percentage of games in defence this season. Every time I named a player to play up front, not only did he score on the field, but his wife became pregnant as well. As much as we enjoy our three, I don't think Sue could cope with four, so Robbie and the two Alans are more than welcome. I'm sure you will join me in wishing all three couples best wishes during what will be an exciting time for them.

I would like to finish by drawing your attention to the problem of crowd behaviour. It has been brought to my attention that the last time Swansea and Swindon met at the Vetch, there was a lot of bother from both sets of supporters. Remember, any aggravation you cause as individuals reflects on the club you support. I'm sure that officials of Swindon will agree with us here at Swansea, this is something we can all do without.

Good luck, TOSH

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# IN OPPOSITION TODAY

### **SWINDON TOWN**

Swindon - in the opinion of a growing number of experts - are on their way back towards the Second Division. Under manager Bob Smith and with the shrewd advice of Danny Williams (who managed them when they won the League Cup in that historic 1969 Final) in the background, they are strongly placed in the promotion race.

At fourth place (with a game in hand) going into the Christmas programme, they have every chance of making up further ground and it is worth noting that they have taken three points from four from the team immediately above them, Shrewsbury. After a blazing start to the season with just one League defeat in their first five games and League Cup victories over Portsmouth and West Ham, they suffered a temporary loss of form. The last three games in September were all surrendered without a goal being scored and there was a disappointing League Cup exit on their own pitch against Peterborough. Since then, however, Swindon's form has been impressively consistent. In another sparkling surge of form and confidence, they have failed to win only one of their last eight League games. That run of 14 points out of 16 has made Swindon a major threat to Watford, Swansea and Shrewsbury and sent interest soaring once more in Wiltshire - where the town once throbbed with football excitement during their League Cup victory and the years of Second Division football which followed. Swindon's away form has been steady. They have won at Lincoln and Mansfield and taken a point each time from trips to Tranmere and Shrewsbury - but their 'goals for' record of eight will not be enough to satisfy the managerial team of Smith and Williams.

Chris Guthrie, a regular marksman last season, has moved to Fulham but Chic Bates - a goalscorer who sprung into the headlines with Stourbridge during their run to the 1974 Welsh Cup final during which they beat the Swans - has come from Shrewsbury and done well. So far Bates has scored 11 first team goals and is still a threat in any opposing penalty area.

# PEN PICTURES

STEVE AIZLEWOOD (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.

PHIL BATES (Forward). Known as Chic he comes from West Bromwich but spent seven years as a part-time Southern League player before signing for Shrewsbury in 1974. Made 160 League appearances for Shrewsbury being top scorer for two seasons before signing for Swindon in January, 1978. Made a further eleven appearances for Swindon last season.

BRIAN WILLIAMS (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 appearances for Q.P.R. last season before signing for Swindon in June 1978.

IAN MILLER (Forward). Ian comes from Perth but he first played League football for Bury making 9 full appearances and a number as substitute. He moved to Nottingham 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.

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# PEN PICTURES ~ Continued SWINDON

ROY CARTER (Midfield). Roy who comes

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 1976. Signed for Swindon in December
1977 having made 64 League appearances
for Hereford and had made 18 more for
Swindon by the seasons end.

ANDY FORD (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 clubs 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.

KENNY STROUD (Midfield). Ken is a Londoner but has been with 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 that he gained a regular place in the team. Ken has 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.

CHRIS KAMARA (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 mid-field.

RAY McHALE (Midfield). Ray comes from Sheffield and made his League debut for Chesterfield in season 1971/72. After 123 League games he signed for Halifax 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.

JOHN McLAUGHLIN (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 at midfield.



Back Row, Left to Right: John McLaughlin, Chris Kamara, Steve Aizlewood, Colin Prophett, Jimmy Allan, Roy Carter, Kevin Roberts, Russell-Lewis, Andy Ford, Chic Bates, Chris Guthrie. Front Row, Left to Right: David Cunningham, Kenny Stroud, Brian Williams, Bobby Smith (manager) lan Miller, Ray McHale (Captain), Gus Gilligan.

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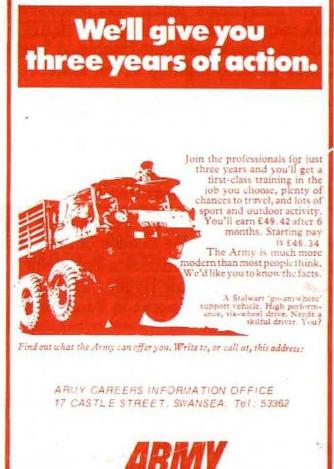


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from LES CHAPPELL

First of all, let me wish everyone of you a Merry Christmas and a properous New Year, and may I say that we at Swansea City hope that we can continue to produce the kind of football you love to watch.

When Christmas time comes around, it is a time for family get-togethers, eating, drinking and really enjoying ourselves. But spare a little thought for the professional footballer who goes out on Boxing Day to try to entertain the thousands of people who are having a marvellous time. They play two, maybe three games, in a short period of time, so they have to discipline themselves. No late night parties, no drinks, no extra turkey, and to the disappointment of their wives and children, they sometimes spend Christmas away from home. But if they manage to achieve a maximum six points - it's all been worth while. The players are happy and you, the supporters are happy. Being away at Christmas and Easter is not very pleasant, but it has to be done to help achieve our objective.





### Swans could have trio for Under-21 clash

by "Outsider"

It is very good news for both this club and Welsh football that a Wales v. England Under-21 international is to be played at the Vetch Field in February. Interest is running so high here now that this game is certain to pack in a large crowd - and there should be a considerable local contribution to the Welsh side.

Jeremy Charles is a certainty . . . the question that Wales manager Mike Smith has to resolve is who plays with him. It has long been the view of Swans player-manager John Toshack that the cause of Welsh football will be very well served when Jeremy, Robbie James and Alan Curtis link up in the same national side. This could very well be that moment.

Manager Smith can employ two over-age players and this rule takes care of the age barrier - if it is in the back of his mind to operate this attacking plan. As a man noted for his flexibility and constant search for new formations, I believe that he may well see this game as a golden chance to see if the partnership 'gells' as well in international football as it does at club level.

Robbie did well enough as an outright front man when he won his first cap against Malta: but everyone is well aware that his most effective role lies in making those 30 yards runs during which he can pick up the pace and momentum to finish with a shot of blinding power and accuracy.

By the same token, the breaks of Jeremy on the other flank which have produced so many other outstanding goals will be made that much more confidently in his first international match (outside Youth football) if he knows that Robbie is working alongside. The same applies to Alan Curtis working right up at the front.

The inspiration of a central attacking triangle of pace, power, savage shooting plus brilliant control stands a great chance of working that much more effectively if all three teammates are pushed into the firing line at the same time.

The game brings an attractive representative match to the Vetch Field - a much needed extra boost now that all the full internationals are automatically destined for either Ninian Park or Wrexham.

The Vetch had been an international venue for so long that the sudden cutting off of fixtures left a void. Travelling to Cardiff to see an international match does not, it must be admitted, work so well for Soccer as it does for Rugby. Interest tends to drain away and the result is that those who follow Soccer in West Wales have given less and less support to international fixtures.

This match can change that slide and provide a vital bridge in the international planning of Mike Smith. He was faced with a gap last from the recent match against Turkey until the vital European Championship clash against West Germany next May: now he has the chance to slot some more pieces into place.

As well as the prospects for Swansea's players which this match opens up, it provides the stage for a host of players whom Smith has been anxious to assess in the red shirt of Wales.

Crystal Palace, top of the Second Division, have, for instance, two first team regulars in striker Ian Walsh and defender Peter Nicholas. There is a young Welsh goalkeeper, Mark Kendall, currently playing in Tottenham's First Division side; teenage defender Mark Aizlewood is thriving in Second Division football at Luton; Wayne Hughes is making outstanding progress at West Bromwich and could play at centre-half; Gwyn Thomas is proving an aggressive front man at Leeds.

There still remains some doubt whether Under-23 or Under-21 football is best suited for the progress of Welsh players - but, as long as one or the other is maintained, it forms an essential part in the production of successful football in competitions such as the European Championship.

It may well prove that none of the youngsters on duty against England here in February (apart from the two over-age players whom Smith is virtually certain to use) will be in the senior squad for the Five European Championship and British Championship matches to be played in the four weeks between early May and early June. But at least a major task will be accomplished by manager Smith in taking stock of progress and knowing where he goes in the immediate future.

So far Wales have done very well indeed in these Under-21 matches. Last season, there was a 1-0 win over Scotland; the season before a 0-0 draw against England and a 2-3 defeat in Scotland. There have been none of the heavy beatings which hit Under-23 football in its early years - and this, in itself, reflects impressive progress.



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A married man with two sons, he works in the printing industry. Helps with coaching and running a local junior team, with help and advice to young referees.

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# **Down Memory Lane**

with.

BRINLEY E. MATTHEWS (Author of the Swansea City Story)

League football came into its own following the Armistice in 1918 and Swansea Town were elected to the First Division of the Southern League. Luton, Southampton, Queens Park Rangers, Millwall, Portsmouth, Crystal Palace, Norwich and Swindon were part of this division.

It was on Saturday, October 11th, 1919 that the Railwaymen visited the Vetch Field and provided a sparkling game with the result in doubt right up to the call of time.

A remarkable display by Jock Denoon, the Swansea goalkeeper helped considerably to a home victory with the only goal of the match being scored by Brown after 10 minutes.

Included in the Swansea team were Denoon, Robson, Durman, Hewitt, Evan Jones (Captain), Sheldon, Jock Weir, Tich Evans, Ogley and Harris. Travers, Kay, Davies, Jefferson, Bolland, Lockhead and Rogers formed part of a strong Swindon side.

It was 44 years later that the teams clashed again in league football but on that occasion it was in Division Two. On December, 7th, 1963, Swindon visited the Vetch Field. Swindon who had won promotion the previous season were considered the shock team of the second division and lay fourth in the table. On the other hand the Swans were not doing too well and their win by three clear goals could not have come at a more opportune time. Man of the match was Todd who scored his hat trick.

Swansea Town: Dwyer; Evans (R), Hughes; Davies (P), Purcell, Williams (H), Jones (B), Draper, Todd, McLaughlin, Evans (B).

Mrs. Gwenda Griffiths, Nicholas and Helen would sincerely like to thank the Board of Directors, Players and Staff of Swansea City A.F.C., the Board of Directors and Players of Everton F.C., Swansea Sportsmen's Club, Swansea City Vice-President's Club, the Committee of the Testimonial Fund, all Clubs and individuals who donated to the Fund; and last, but not least, the General Public for supporting the match.

Many, many thanks ro everyone.

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Leave Swansea via Jersey Marine by-pass on to M4. Using M4 and A48, by-pass Cardiff and continue until signpost M50 Midlands which connects with M5 and M6 Northbound. Leave M6 at Junction 10 (Walsall). The ground is situated just off the motorway at Fellows Park, Walsall, telephone Walsall 22791.

# SWANS FACTS

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### TERRY MEDWIN

Almost exactly 22 years after leaving the Vetch Field, Terry Medwin is back again: this time as assistant manager-coach, working in partnership with John Toshack.

"Yes, it is good to be back," he says, "but I would not have left Norwich City for any other club bar this one. Norwich was a First Division club improving all the time and it was a very pleasant place in which to live and work."

"It was a mixture of my friendship and professional associations with John; a love of the club that brought me into the game and wanting to join in what I see as an exciting future here which persuaded me to come home."

The link between the two men who head Swansea's campaign on the pitch started at Cardiff 12 years ago when Terry was appointed in charge of youth and reserve team football at Ninian Park. At that time, Swansea's player-manager was a rising prospect there and he played under the direction of Terry.



Then they went their separate ways: John to Liverpool and Terry to Fulham where he spent seven years as a coach and chief scout. Yet the association continued because John was now an established Wales international while Terry was coach-trainer to the national side. "We found we shared each other's ideas about how the game should be played. We were even in agreement about training methods with a special emphasis on working with the ball almost all the time - now very much the modern method. Those training ideas which John and Terry have brought to the Vetch Field staff during the season have struck an instant response. "An outstanding relationship and understanding has developed between us and the players. We are all on the same wavelength."

"I will always be on the bench during matches and I think that it is important to have someone standing back taking a detached view when the manager is in the thick of the game." Terry certainly made the most of his own opportunities. After winning three Wales caps here during the 1950's, he became one of the great figures in the triumphant years of Tottenham Hotspur. He has a League Championship medal and an F.A. Cup winners medal to show for his years at White Hart Lane - plus another 28 caps.



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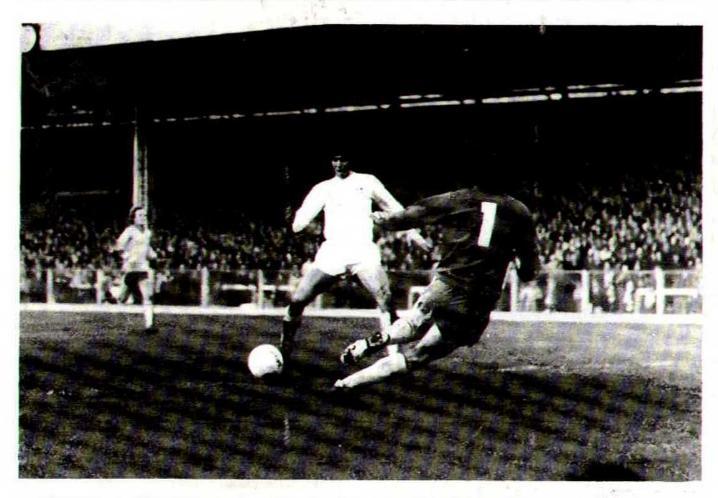
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JEREMY CHARLES regained the lead (2-1) with this terrific goal in the match against Sheffield Wednesday at the beginning of the month.



# Introducing MARK BAKER

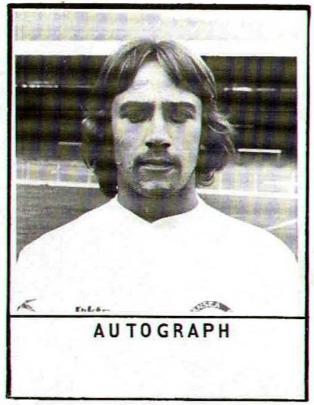
Mark was capped for the Welsh Schools Under-19 team when he was still only 16 years-of-age and playing for local Senior League side, Waun Wen.

During that close season, the Swans were holding youth trials and Mark approached John Toshack to ask him if he could have a game. After the match was over, Tosh invited Mark down to the Vetch and he was so impressed by what he saw in further games that he invited him to sign professional forms. By this time Mark had reached his seventeenth birthday.

He showed so much ability playing in the Youth team that he soon came under the expert eye of Les Chappell and very quickly became part of the Welsh League team playing in the Premier Division and so far this season he has scored thirteen goals.

Mike Smith, the Welsh Team manager was as impressed as John Toshack had been and appeared to have no hesitation in selecting young Mark for the Welsh Youth team on two occasions so far.

During the first half of this season the Swans have had to struggle to field a full strength team owing to injuries on a number of occasions. Tosh rewarded Mark's industry by selecting him for his first full match against Mansfield Town in October and he justified Tosh's confidence in him by scoring two goals in a Swans 3-2 victory.



He does not assume that, because everything has gone right for him so far, being a professional footballer is easy - he has enough common sense to appreciate that he has a long hard grind in front of him before he can lay claim to what he hopes will be a permanent place in the first team.

His family consists of Mum, Dad and sister Laura who is fourteen years of age. Since Mark has been a member of the Vetch Field staff they have all become ardent soccer fans who never miss a game when the white shirt of Swansea takes the field.

According to Mum, Mark has a terrific appetite with a special preference for steak and chips.

Mark's favourite past-time is playing snooker and although not claiming to be another Doug Mountjoy, he still pots a good black. His future plans include playing for Wales at senior level whilst representing Swansea in the First Division.



TOSH scores his second goal in the match against Sheffield Wednesday.

### **Half Time Scores**

# League Table

THIRD DIVISION

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В	Bury v. Rotherham		20	0	6				5	3		100	_	28
C	Chester v. Carlisle	Shrewsbury Swindon	10	4	0	1	1	6	2	2		100	-	27
_		Gillingham	20	3		1		9	4	4	2	_	14	23
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E	Exeter v. Walsall		20	4	-	ŏ		5	1	6	3			22
F	Gillingham v. Southend	Rotherham	120	7	ŏ	3			,	4	1			22
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G	Hull City v. Mansfield	Southend	20	6	1	3		7.00	0	7				20
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L	Brighton v. Cardiff	Oxford Utd	20	3	5	2			1	5	4			18
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