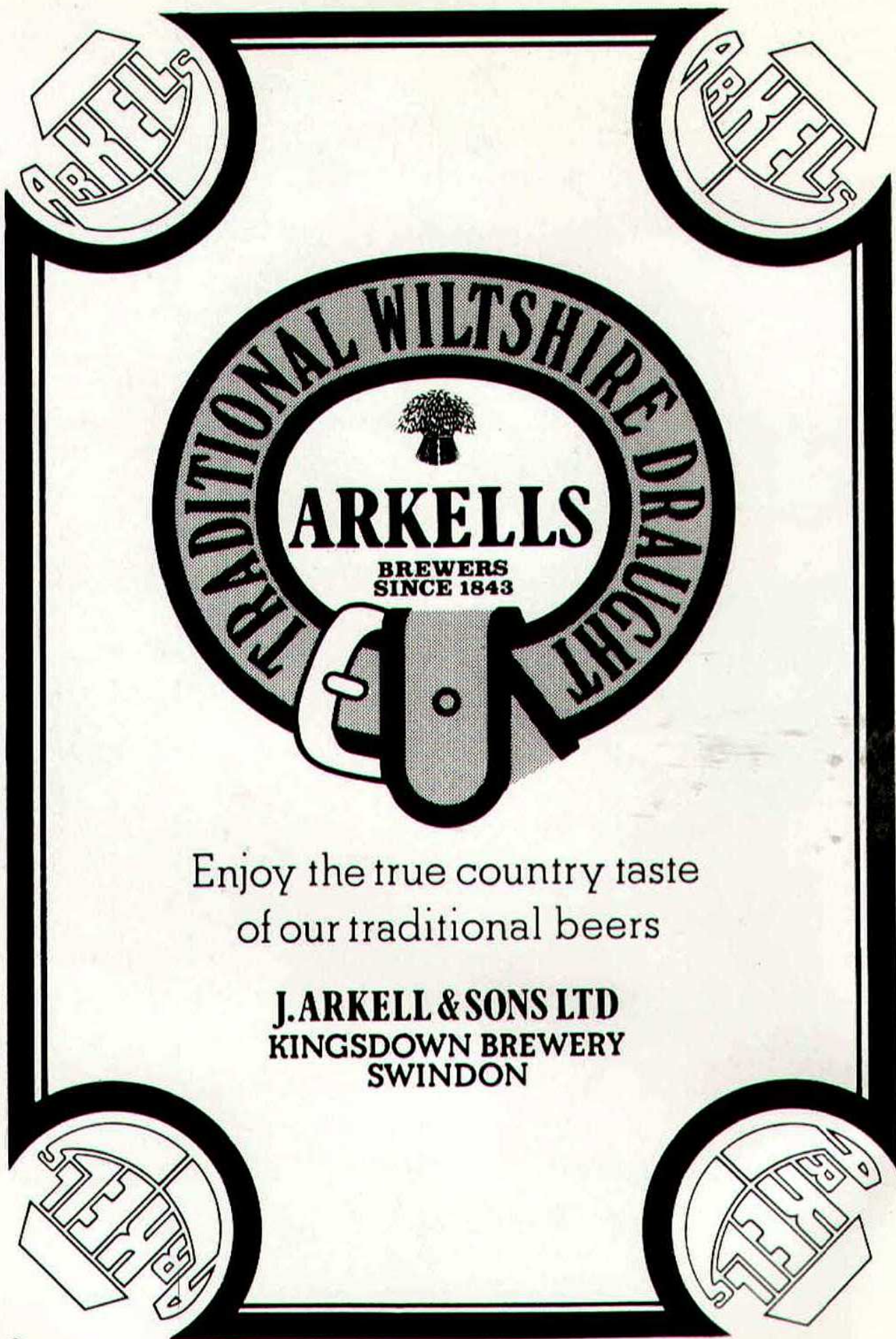




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Bob Smith says.....

I start these notes today with the obvious disappointment of the Aldershot game in our minds. Suffice to say that we let you down especially with our first half display and since then hard words have been spoken and there is now a new resolve amongst the players that that kind of display will not happen again this season and I am confident you will see this attitude on the field today. Many times in these notes I have used the words 'character' and 'consistency' and this is what any team has to have if they are to be successful. It has to be as much a part of the player as his arms and legs and in the remaining twenty three matches our intention is to go flat out in each game.

Over the last two weeks I have engaged a scout in Northern Ireland, Mervyn Brown and while over there, in a match between Porterdown and Linfield, I saw Peter Dornan an athletic and skillful midfield player who hopefully will be joining us at the end of a weeks visit. With a talent in Ireland I am hoping that this will be the first of many good footballers, especially youngsters, who will come over to strengthen the playing staff of this Club.



Once again can I thank everyone who went to Aldershot and end by saying that we hope to make up for it with a good result today.

Bits and Pieces

Last season's performance, in reaching fifth place in Division Three, was Chester's highest position for over forty years - and in drawing no fewer than 22 matches, the club set a new record for this Division. Fourteen of those drawn games were away from home.

Chester's gates this season have averaged 4,550, although two League Cup ties against First Division Coventry City and Norwich City both pulled in around eight-and-a-half thousand. This season the club will lose the 'derby' crowds against nearby Wrexham (promoted to Division Two) - which last term attracted over 28,000 people to the two games.

The late Louis Page, who managed both Swindon and Chester in turn, also made a name for himself as a player - when with Burnley. Normally an orthodox winger, he was once given a chance at centre-forward in an away match - and startled everyone by ramming home no less than six goals! Some twenty-five years later, he left Swindon to take over the manager's seat at Sealand Road and wasted no time in signing the Town inside-forward MICK BETTERIDGE. In his first season at the County Ground after arriving from the Hawthorns,

Mick helped take Swindon to the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup - and played in all nine games. During 1952-53, he was quite successfully switched to a wing-half berth to fill the gap left by the injury to Harry Kaye. Mick made his last appearance for the Town at Shrewsbury on Boxing Day, 1953.

Having now entered February, it seems incredible that some clubs have yet to play at all this this year. Blackpool and Mansfield Town in Division Three are two such clubs. Hull City and Tranmere Rovers have performed just once since Boxing Day and Rotherham United have not completed a League fixture since that date, although the club has managed to fulfil its F.A. Cup commitments. The busiest clubs in the Third last month were Sheffield Wednesday and Watford - who both completed six games. Wednesday's five games in the F.A. Cup tie with Arsenal were largely due to the excellent facilities offered by Leicester City at their Fiblert Street enclosure. Watford, in battling to the semi-final stage of the League Cup, also increased their League points tally by four, to open up a considerable gap at the top of the table.

Mick Betteridge

League Career:

W.B.A	1950/51	2 apps.	
Swindon T.	1951/52	43 apps.	7 gls.
	1952/53	46 apps.	9 gls.
	1953/54	19 apps.	7 gls.
Chester	1953/54	8 apps.	1 gl.
	Total	118 apps.	24 gls.



John Ward talks to

Andy Ford

Andy Ford's involvement with football began with his being mascot for Minehead, his home town team, then in the Western League. His father was Assistant Trainer and Andy himself played for the first team at the age of 16 while still at school. The manager wrote to various League clubs recommending him for trials and every school holidays he went to Bristol City for training but none of this seemed to be leading anywhere. Andy left school at 17 and went for an interview at the waterworks in Bristol. He was accepted for the job but before he could start work his luck changed. Bournemouth had seen him play and offered him terms. Andy sent his apologies to the waterworks and embarked on his career as a professional footballer.

John Bond was then manager at Bournemouth. He spent a fortune on players and kept a first team squad of 25! During Andy's two years with the club it was therefore not surprising that he had to be content with the youth team and the reserves. Not that he minded: "I look on it as my football apprenticeship," he said. "It was all good experience for a young player to play in the reserves at places like Arsenal." What did he think of John Bond? "He was a very good coach. The only regret I have is that I was a bit frightened of him. Maybe I should have had a go at him. He might have taken a bit more notice of me." As it was, after two years at Bournemouth Andy found himself as part of a clear out and with five or six others was given a free transfer.

He heard the news on a Thursday. On the Friday he was a Southend player. "I was very green to sign straight away," he said. "Perhaps I should have waited to see if anyone else came in." Nevertheless he enjoyed his four years at Southend. Much to his delight he went straight into the first team and never left it, ending up being voted Southend's player of the year. He played mainly at left back, which is in fact his favourite position. As a boy he had started on the left wing, because playing in men's teams in local village football they had said "he's only a boy, let's stick him out on the wing." At Bournemouth he had played mostly alongside

the centre half and of course at Swindon he has also played in midfield as well as in the middle of the back four in emergencies.

An important event happened on the domestic front when Andy moved to Southend. While he was with Bournemouth he used to go back to Minehead each weekend to see his girl friend, Jenny. Now seemed a sensible time to get married so they had the wedding one Saturday and Andy started pre-season training with his new club on the following Monday. Jenny is a keen football fan and used to watch all Andy's games. Now they have a nine month old baby and she only brings him to Saturday matches. While he was at Southend Andy became involved in a sports trophy business. He used to go out selling trophies and although he wasn't keen on the idea at first, eventually he became so involved that he began to think that it might be affecting his football, so much time was it taking. Now he merely acts as a contact man setting up players going to other clubs to do business for the company.

After four years with Southend Andy felt that he was entitled to a pay increase in recognition for his services. The money was not forthcoming so Andy went to see the manager to tell him "either I have more money or I go." The next thing he knew was that Swindon had made an offer. Bearing in mind the suddenness with which his transfer from Bournemouth to Southend had been arranged I asked Andy if he was surprised by the speed of events that brought him to Swindon. "Maybe something had been set up behind the scenes in advance. The players are the last people to learn about these things but in the lower Divisions you have to move around to make any money." I wondered if this meant that Andy Ford was already looking for his next move but I was immediately proved wrong: "I was glad to come to Swindon," he said "because I was leaving the Fourth for the Third Division and I was joining a club which looked like it was going places. Now that I've been here eighteen months I can sense that things are soon going to happen."

Talk of the Town by the Chairman

After all the excitement of our transfer talks and then the disappointments culminating in our defeat at Aldershot we start today on the second half of our League programme with the visit from our friends at Chester. With our exit from the Football Association Cup Competition I am sure that Bob and his team will be concentrating on an all out effort to secure one of the three top places in the League table.

Much has been written about our desire to obtain the signature of Mike Channon but surely it must be every Manager's ambition to improve the team if possible. I know that the fee is staggering when one compares the costs against everyday prices and I would be the first to say that, in my opinion, values of the transfer market have gone mad but one has to weigh against the buying figure the selling price and in the football world it will be found that clubs generally balance one against the other. Most transfer fees are met by a down payment and extended payments over an agreed period. We at Swindon are determined to do everything possible to improve our status and if it means that the Board have to take a calculated risk over a period of time to do this then I can assure the public that we shall do so. Part of our gamble of course is that our public will support us in our efforts and of course this means a regular support through the bad as well as the good times.

Our bid for Mike Channon was not a publicity gimmick as many might think but at the same time it does not mean that we have money to spend without thought but it does mean that if our Manager does feel that a player is necessary to ensure the success that we are looking for then we shall back his efforts.

Bob Smith together with John Trollope, Danny Williams, Wilf Tranter and Bryan Hamilton between them covered games in Ireland last week and the outcome could well be the introduction of a player or two to our playing staff. In the football world one cannot have too many connections but the inclement weather over the last few weeks has made it difficult to arrange or even watch games.

The Swindon Schoolboy Shield match against Slough has been arranged on the County Ground for Tuesday next, 6th February. The school officials have had to obtain permission to extend the date of this tie as it is well past the deadline and we hope that we shall be able to use the ground for this very important match for them. We hope that you the public will support your schoolboy team who have reached the last sixteen in the country. Schools football has to be self supporting financially and it is obviously very difficult to be so without our help.

John McLaughlin has spent a few days in hospital and we all wish him a speedy return to fitness.

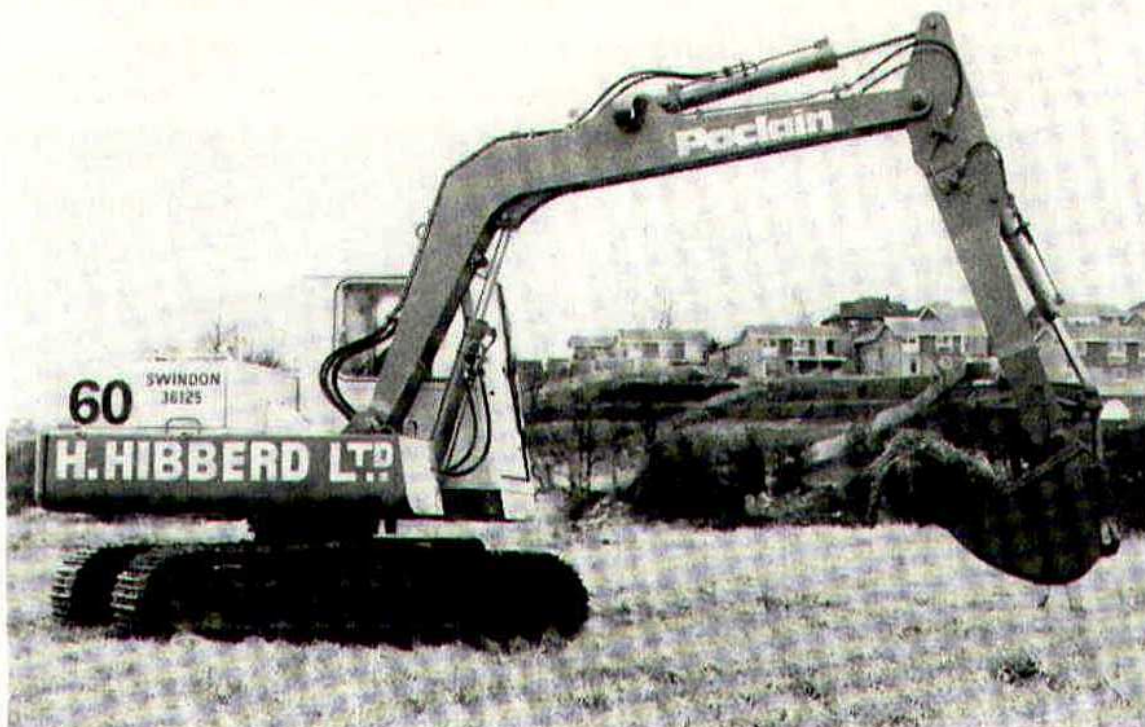
We held a very successful evening in the Rendezvous Club with those supporters who sponsored kit and match balls. Many of them have again sponsored kit for next season and I am sure that many more of you will wish to do likewise and on another page of this programme you will find printed our 'Sponsor a Player' chart. Anyone wishing to help us in this way, and incidentally to join the players in a social evening in the early part of next season, should call or write to Bob Jefferies.

Hoping you will enjoy today's game and thank you for your support.

Here's how the Automobile Association suggest's you travel to Sheffield Wed. F.C.
SWINDON

- Follow signs Oxford A420
- 1.2 A. A. ROAD SERVICE CENTRE (106)
AT roundabout take 2nd exit A361
(signposted to Stow-on-the-Wold)
- 30.1 CHIPPING NORTON
Follow signs to Banbury
- 12.6 BANBURY
Follow signs Coventry A423
- 13.9 SOUTHAM
In 0.6 miles, miles. Turn Right A426
(Signposted Rugby)
- 10.6 RUGBY
Follow signs Leicester
In 6 miles at roundabout follow signs

- The North to join Motorway M1
- 45.3 TROWELL SERVICE AREA
- 27.2 WOODALL SERVICE AREA
- 8.2 JUNCTION 33
Leave Motorway (signposted
Sheffield Centre) then at roundabout
take 1st exit A630
- 1.3 JUNCTION With B6066
In 1.2 miles forward A57 (signposted
City Centre)
- 3.2 SHEFFIELD
Follow signs Barnsley A61 to leave
by Penistone Road
In 2.5 miles Turn Left A616 (sign-
posted Manchester)
Shortly Turn Right into Leppings
Lane (Unclass)
- 2.8 SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY F.C. (on right)



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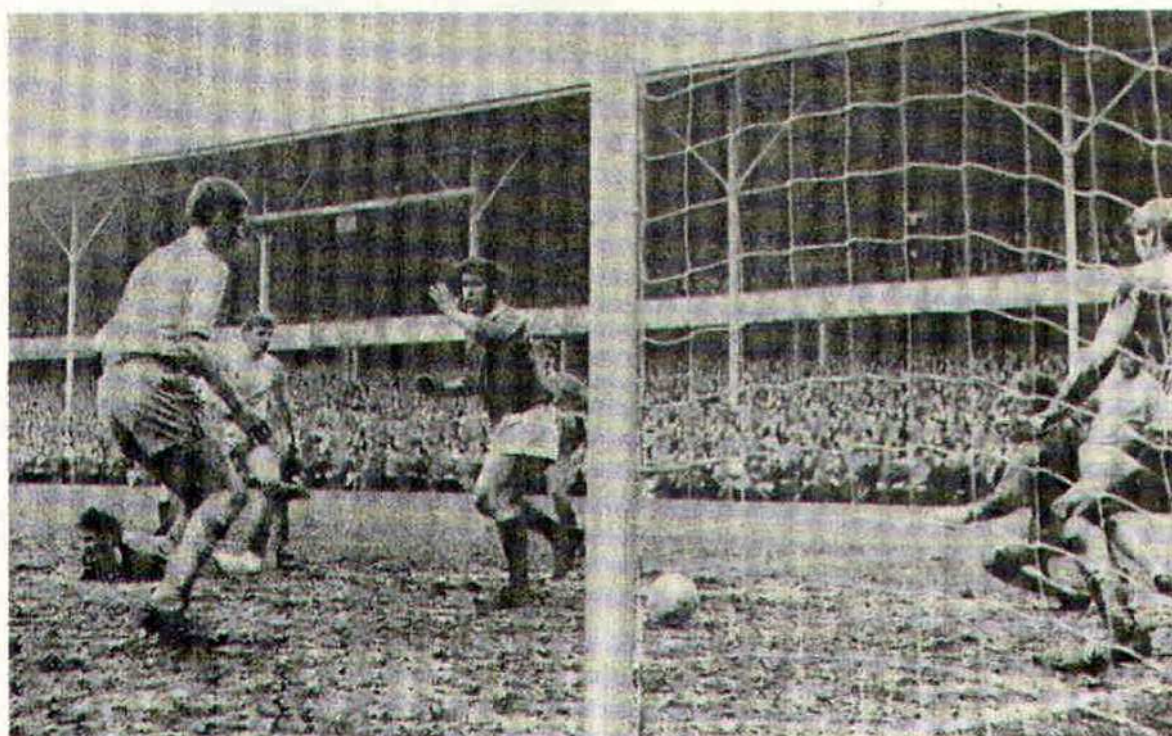
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PIC OF THE PAST

SWINDON TOWN 4 CHESTER 2 (F. A. Cup 4th Round - 24.1.70)



A crowd of almost 22,000 see Chris Jones (partially hidden by John Smith) beat Chester keeper Terry Carling to register the Town's second goal.

DIVISION THREE LEAGUE TABLE.....up to and including Tuesday January 30, 1979

		Home				Away					
	P	W	D	L	F-A	W	D	L	F-A	Pts	Top Goalscorers (Incl. Cup)
Watford	26	9	3	2	30-14	7	2	3	22-15	37	R. Jenkins 28, L. Blissett 22
Shrewsbury T	27	7	6	0	18-6	5	4	2	14-10	34	P. Maguire 12, Ian Atkins 9
Swansea C	23	9	2	1	30-16	4	2	5	12-15	30	J. Charles 14, A. Curtis 14, R. James 14
Gillingham	24	8	5	1	22-11	1	7	2	9-10	30	D. Westwood 8, K. Price 8
SWINDON TOWN	23	10	0	2	22-8	3	2	6	10-17	28	C. BATES 13, P. GILCHRIST 9*
Exeter C	24	9	4	2	26-11	1	3	5	6-12	27	K. Bowker 10, J. Delve 5
Carlisle U	23	5	6	0	16-5	2	7	3	8-10	27	D. Kemp 12
Plymouth A.	24	5	5	1	16-11	4	3	6	20-21	26	F. Binney 20
Rotherham U	22	8	0	3	15-9	2	4	5	11-15	24	D. Gwyther 11, R. Finney 10, T. Phillips 10
Chester	24	7	3	1	20-9	2	3	8	8-22	24	I. Edwards 17, Ian Mellor 9
Southend U	23	6	2	3	17-8	1	6	4	12-15	23	G. Fell 7, D. Parker 7
Chesterfield	23	5	3	3	18-16	2	6	4	12-14	23	R. Fern 10, P. Walker 5
Oxford U	24	5	6	2	14-11	1	5	5	9-18	23	P. Foley 9, J. Seacole 8
Blackpool	22	7	2	2	16-5	2	2	7	7-21	22	T. Kellow 11*, D. Spence 8
Hull C	21	5	4	1	21-8	3	1	7	10-17	21	Keith Edwards 13, B. Bannister 9
Colchester U	23	6	4	1	15-9	0	5	7	7-19	21	B. Gough 12, S. Foley 6
Brentford	25	7	3	3	12-8	0	4	8	7-19	21	A. McCulloch 8, D. Smith 5
Sheffield W.	22	2	6	2	8-9	3	4	5	12-19	20	B. Hornsby 13, R. Wylde 9
Peterborough U	25	4	5	4	13-12	1	5	6	11-22	20	J. Cooke 10*, B. Butlin 7
Bury	22	2	6	2	16-16	1	7	3	11-14	19	D. Gregory 16*, K. Beamish 12*
Mansfield T	23	2	6	2	9-10	2	5	6	13-19	19	K. Bird 4, D. Goodwin 4
Walsal I	24	4	3	4	20-16	2	3	8	14-23	18	T. Austin 9, A. Birch 5, R. McDonough 5
Tranmere R	22	3	5	2	15-13	0	2	10	9-26	13	R. Moore 9, S. Peplow 7
Lincoln C	24	1	5	5	10-20	1	1	11	7-26	10	G. Cockrill 3, G. Hobson 3

*Includes goals for previous clubs this season.

IN TOWN TODAY PROMOTION IS SLIPPING AWAY FROM CHESTER

By Tony Pullein

Chester's promotion hopes, that burned so brightly at the end of November, have dimmed following a run in which they collected only two points from five games and now it seems that their hopes of Second Division football are slipping away from them.

It is no coincidence that Chester's fortunes changed after the tragic injury to striker Ian Edwards who broke a leg at the beginning of November. Ian was Chester's top scorer with 17 goals at the time and he also hit four goals for Wales in a European Championship tie against Malta in October. The former West Bromwich player joined Chester for £20,000 two seasons ago and was hitting his peak form when injury hit. Happily, he has made a remarkable recovery and he is already playing again.

Edwards' injury gave another chance to Ian Howat to lead the attack for a while and player-manager Alan Oakes also signed another forward Peter Sutcliffe from Port Vale in an exchange deal that saw defender or midfielder man Bob Delgado go to Vale Park.

Howat is a Chester discovery who made his first League appearances two seasons ago. Sutcliffe served his apprenticeship with Manchester United though he didn't get a chance in the Reds' senior team. A move to Stockport in 1975 gave him his League opportunity and he moved on to Port Vale in 1977.

Edwards is not the only international on Chester's staff. Goalkeeper Brian Lloyd is another Welsh cap, while his deputy Grenville Millington is a Welsh amateur international. Chester also have several other players of wide First Division experience.

Goalkeeper Lloyd won Welsh under-23 caps in 1968 when he was a Stockport player. He moved on to Southend in 1970 and joined Wrexham during the 1971 close-season. He later won three full Welsh caps and it was in the opening days of this season that he was signed by Wrexham.

Millington made one appearance for Chester in 1968/69 but was freed at the end of that campaign. He went non-League with Rhyl and it was while with them that he played for the Welsh amateur side. Brighton signed him in August 1973 but, before he had the chance to play for them, he returned to his old club Chester.

There are few more experienced players around than player-manager Alan Oakes himself. He set up a new Manchester City record by making 565 League appearances for them, the majority in the First Division. He took part in all City's great successes of the 'sixties and early 'seventies and was picked in Sir Alf Ramsey's

original 40 squad for the Mexico World Cup in 1970. Chester signed him for £15,000 in 1976 and he was appointed player-manager shortly afterwards.

Ian Mellor was a colleague of Mr Oakes at Maine Road, making his Manchester City debut in 1970/71. After making some three dozen senior appearances for the club, he was transferred to Norwich for £65,000 in 1973. Brighton invested a then club record of £40,000 in his transfer a year later and Chester signed him for £20,000 last season.

Yet another former Manchester City man is defender Derek Jeffries who arrived from Crystal Palace during the summer of 1977. Derek won England under-23 honours while at Maine Road and he moved on to Crystal Palace for £115,000 in 1973. He later had loan spells with Peterborough and Millwall.

Doug Livermore opened his League career in the First Division with Liverpool and moved on to Norwich for £25,000 in 1970. After one loan spell with Bournemouth, Doug signed for Cardiff in 1975 and agreed to sign for Chester last season.

Trevor Storton established himself with Tranmere in the late 'sixties and Liverpool signed him for £25,000 in 1972. He didn't get a great deal of scope at Anfield, however, so he joined Chester two years later for what was then a club record fee of £18,000.

Ron Phillips is another player who has many years of top-class experience behind him. He spent several years as Bolton's outside-left before moving to Bury in 1975. Chester signed him last season.

Jim Walker, who can play at left-back or in midfield, made 41 League appearances for Derby County before moving on to Brighton in 1974. Peterborough signed him two years later and he is now in his third campaign with Chester.

Right-back Mark Nickeas spent his early years with Plymouth but did not get a chance in their first-team. After joining Chester, he made his League bow in 1975/76.

Forward Brynley Jones and defender Paul Raynor both joined Chester as juniors and made their debuts in the League eleven two years ago.

Chester have won two away League games this season - at Southend (1-0) and Exeter (1-0). They drew at Bury (1-1), Oxford (0-0) and Sheffield Wednesday (0-0) but were beaten in their remaining away fixtures at Hull (0-3), Colchester (1-2), Gillingham (0-1), Tranmere (2-6), Chesterfield (1-3), Blackpool (0-3) and Peterborough (1-2).

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	4721
	18 Shrewsbury Town	H	2 - 1	Gilchrist, Aizlewood	7317
	25 F.A. Cup 1 March Town	H	2 - 0	Bates, Gilchrist	5633
Dec. 9	Hull City	H	2 - 0	Miller, Carter	5697
16	Enfield (FAC2)	H	3 - 0	Bates, Carter, Gilchrist	5681
26	Swansea City	A	2 - 1	Bates, Gilchrist	16159
30	Watford	A	0 - 2		15292
1979					
Jan. 6	Cardiff City (FAC3)	H	3 - 0	McHale, Kamara (2)	9983
16	Walsall	H	4 - 1	Kamara o.g., Bates, Gilchrist	7282
20	Plymouth Argyle	H	1 - 3	Carter	7780
27	Aldershot (FAC4)	A	1 - 2	Rowland	10913
Feb. 3	Chester	H			
10	Sheffield Wednesday	A			
17	Colchester United (5)	H			
24	Rotherham United	A			
28	Chesterfield	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. 3	Exeter City	H			
7	Chesterfield	H			
11	Exeter City	A			
14	Swansea City	H			
16	Oxford United	A			
21	Watford	H			
24	Peterborough Utd.	A			
May 1	Oxford United	H			
5	Gillingham	H			
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	18(1)	3	3	24(1)
Andy Ford	23	5	4	32
Ray McHale	23	5	4(1)	32(1)
Steve Aizlewood	22(1)	5(2)	4	31(3)
Kenny Stroud	21	5	3	29
Ian Miller	21(2)	4(2)	4	29(4)
Chris Kamara	21(1)	5	3(2)	29(3)
Chic Bates	23(11)	5	4(2)	32(13)
Brian Williams	16(2)	3(1)	1	20(3)
Roy Carter	23(4)	4	4(1)	31(5)
Chris Ogden	22	4	3	29
Russell Lewis	7	2	1	10
Paul Gilchrist	15(6)		4(2)	19(8)
Andy Rowland	5(1)		1(1)	6(2)
John Trollope	3	2		5
Jimmy Allan	1		1	2
Bryan Hamilton	2		1	3

Also appeared: Chris Guthrie (transferred to Fulham) - 9 apps. 2 goals. Dave Cunningham (transferred to A.Villa) - 4 apps.

Football Combination

DATE 1978	OPPONENTS	F	A
Aug. 19	Ipswich Town	A	0 - 4
22	Fulham	H	0 - 0
26	Tottenham Hotspur	H	1 - 3
Sept. 2	Plymouth Argyle	A	0 - 2
9	Leicester City	H	0 - 1
16	Birmingham City	A	1 - 1
26	Bristol Rovers	A	0 - 0
Oct. 7	Hereford United	A	0 - 2
14	Norwich City	A	0 - 4
21	Oxford United	H	2 - 3
24	Luton Town	A	1 - 0
Nov. 4	Orient	A	0 - 3
7	Chelsea	H	0 - 1
11	Ipswich Town	H	0 - 5
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
20	Cardiff City	A	4 - 3
Jan 20	Reading	A	0 - 1
Feb 10	Luton Town	H	
24	Norwich City	H	
27	Hereford United	H	
Mar. 3	Oxford Utd	A	
10	Chelsea	A	
17	Orient	H	
24	Fulham	A	
31	Queens Park Rangers	H	
Apr. 7	Crystal Palace	A	
14	Southampton	A	
18	Reading	H	
21	West Ham Utd	A	
24	Cardiff City	H	
28	Bristol City	H	
May 5	Arsenal	A	
To be arranged:			
	Birmingham City	H	
	West Ham Utd	H	
	Arsenal	H	
	Leicester City	A	
	Bristol Rovers	H	

Football Combination Goalscorers

Gus Gilligan	6
Andy Rowland	3
Paul Collicut	2
Mick Page	2
Nigel Barry	1
Ken Hehir	1
Russell Lewis	1
Brian Williams	1
Dave Cunningham	1
(since transferred to Aston Villa)	

Midland Youth

Aug 24	West Bromwich Alb	A	0 - 4
Aug 29	Leicester City	H	1 - 4
Sep 6	Wolves	A	0 - 5
Oct 12	Derby Co.	A	2 - 4
Oct 19	Coventry City	H	1 - 1
Oct 26	Luton Town	A	1 - 2
Nov 16	Northampton Town	H	1 - 0
Dec 11	Northampton Town	A	1 - 4
Jan 10	Bristol City	H	1 - 0
Jan 17	Coventry City	A	2 - 7
Feb 7	Bristol City	A	
Feb 14	Bristol City	A	
Mar 7	Wolverhampton	H	

MIDLAND YOUTH CUP

Sep 19	Luton Town	H	0 - 1
Sep 28	Luton Town	A	0 - 1

Midland Youth Goalscorers

Gus Gilligan	2
Nigel Barry	2
Mick Page	1
Nigel Willoughby	1
David Wood	1

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NATION WIDE

By Tony Pullein

Bournemouth's new manager Alec Stock is hoping to maintain his wonderful personal record now that he has settled at Dean Court. Each of the four previous League clubs managed by Mr Stock have either won promotion, reached a Wembley final --- or achieved both!

Mr Stock led Orient from the Third to the Second Division and then guided Q.P.R. from the Third to the First Division in successive seasons. Rangers, of course, also became the first Third Division side ever to win a Wembley Cup final when they defeated West Bromwich 3-2 in the 1967 League Cup final.

His next job took him to Luton where he lifted the Hatters from the Third Division to the First. Later he went to Fulham and, in the comparatively short time he was at Craven Cottage, the club appeared in their first-ever F.A. Cup final.

Before making his name as a League manager, Mr Stock made the world sit up as Yeovil's player-manager when they knocked Sunderland and Bury out of the F.A. Cup in the late 'forties. Now all Dean Court fans are hoping the Midas touch of manager Stock will rub off on them, too.

Third Division Shrewsbury Town captured most of the Cup headlines last weekend when they knocked out First Division Manchester City by 2-0 at Gay Meadow. It was a score that flattered troubled City for Paul Maguire, who gave Shrewsbury the boost of a goal after only nine minutes, missed two other easy chances and Shrewsbury were, in many respects, the better footballing side.

The second goal was scored by veteran Sammy Chapman who has now scored in each of Shrewsbury's last five games --- even though he is playing out of position! Chapman occasionally played in midfield in his Nottingham Forest days but he was normally a central defender. He made well over 350 first-team appearances for Forest but scored only a handful of goals.

He moved on to Notts County last season but, in just over a year at Meadow Lane, he hit only one goal and that was in an F.A. Cup tie at

Millwall. Indeed, the F.A. Cup seems to turn him on for, playing in midfield for Shrewsbury, he has netted in each of the last three rounds --- against Doncaster, Cambridge and Manchester City.

Shrewsbury's shock win enabled them to equal a club record by reaching round five, something they previously achieved in 1965 and 1966. Unfortunately, the draw was not as kind as it might have been to them. In round five they have to come south to meet the winners of this week's tie between Aldershot and ourselves. Leicester defender John O'Neill had the shock of his life this week when he was selected for Northern Ireland's full international squad. It's only a matter of weeks since he made his League debut and now he faces the stunning prospect of playing against England at Wembley next Wednesday!

When this season opened, John was half expecting another disappointment. It has been three years since he left his home in Northern Ireland to sign for Leicester but he had not been given a chance in their first-team. Manager Jock Wallace gave him the opportunity this season and Danny Blanchflower was not slow to note his qualities. John is among the 22 from which the Irish team-manager will make his final selection over the weekend.

York City put on a brave display when they visited Nottingham Forest in last Saturday's fourth round F.A. Cup tie but, even on a slippery surface that might have been expected to have acted as a leveler, they were well beaten by the classy League champions.

The game was played on a pitch almost covered in snow, except in the penalty areas, and there was a huge wall of snow piled around the outside of the pitch. This had been cleared from the terracing to enable spectators to watch the game in safety.

The third round tie between Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday didn't quite go into the record books as the longest ever played in the competition proper. Their five meetings spanned a playing time of nine hours --- just 22 minutes short of the record set up by Stoke and Bury in 1954/55.

Wednesday were unfortunate in the second meeting when Liam Brady equalised for Arsenal with only seconds of normal time remaining. But, after five classic encounters, Wednesday manager Jack Charlton had no complaints.

"We mustn't grumble", he shrugged. "We had our moment of Cup glory. Now we must get back to the bread and butter business of improving our League position."

They didn't do a lot to contribute towards that end at Plymouth last weekend, though. Two more goals from Fred Binney, one from the spot, gave Argyle a 2-0 victory and means that they have won every match since the arrival of new manager Bobby Saxton!



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SWINDON

1. J. ALLAN
2. B. HAMILTON
3. A. FORD
4. R. McHALE
5. S. AIZLEWOOD
6. K. STROUD
7. I. MILLER
8. R. CARTER
9. P. GILCHRIST
10. P. BATES
11. B. WILLIAMS
12. A. ROWLAND

at 3.00 pm



NEXT MATCH

Division III

Saturday, 17th February, 79

COLCHESTER UNITED

3.00 p.m.

CHESTER

1. B. LLOYD
2. M. NICKEAS
3. J. WALKER
4. T. STORTON
5. D. JEFFRIES
6. A. OAKES
7. G. FELIX
8. D. LIVERMORE
9. I. EDWARDS
10. R. PHILLIPS
11. P. HENDERSON

Linesmen:

Red Flag - Mr. K.J. GASSER, Stourport-on-Severn. Yellow Flag - Mr. E.G. MORGAN - Merthyr Tydfil

REFEREE:

LESTER C. SHAPTER - Kingskerwell, S.Devon
Commenced refereeing in the South Devon League and graduated through the Western League to the Football League full list. Was linesman for an England v. Italy Amateur International in 1972 and lined a European Cup Winners Cup match in East Germany in 1975.

He is a Police Officer, and played for the British Police team at rugby. His interests are cross-country running and flat green bowls.

KEY OF THE BOARD

- A Gillingham v Blackpool
- B Hull City v Shrewsbury
- C Lincoln v Brentford
- D Mansfield v Oxford Utd.
- E Peterborough v Walsall
- F Plymouth v Tranmere
- G Watford v Rotherham
- H Aston Villa v Queen's Park Rangers
- I Bristol City v Ipswich
- J Chelsea v Birmingham
- K Leeds v Coventry
- L Liverpool v West Brom. Albion
- M Manchester Utd. v Arsenal
- N Middlesbrough v Nottm. Forest
- O Norwich v Bolton
- P Southampton v Derby
- Q Tottenham H. v Manchester City
- R Wolverhampton v Everton
- S Cambridge Utd. v Luton
- T Millwall v Fulham

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