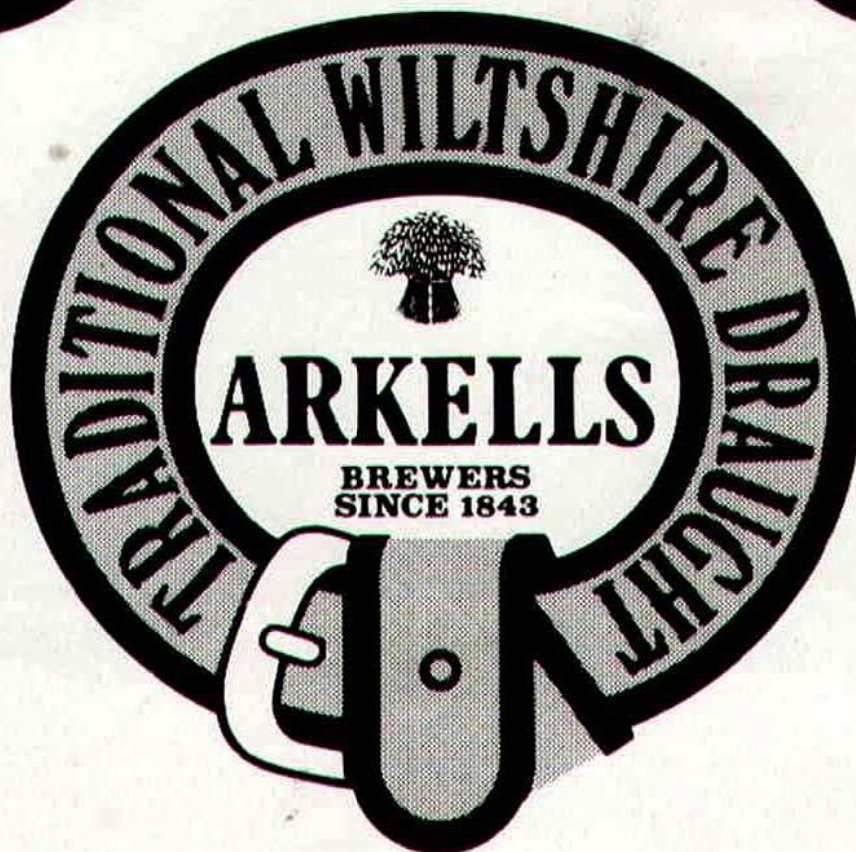




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Bob Smith says.....

These notes were written before our match against Exeter on Wednesday afternoon last, but looking at the results over the last four games prior to that against Exeter we have obtained six points from a possible eight in two home and two away matches and this is the kind of form that we must show from now until the end of the season.

Today's game is obviously a very important one and we have it in our own hands to take points off a team above us in the League. Having already beaten Swansea City away on the 26th December last, we have an opportunity to complete an excellent double. I feel that our players are now gradually getting over the apprehension they have shown in recent matches. All teams fighting for promotion can now see the finishing line and with this in mind we want the players to relax and play the normal game that has brought them the success we have had this season. This is as much a test of temperament as of ability.

John McLaughlin is progressing well after the set back he has suffered with a pulled thigh muscle and I would be very hopeful that he would play for the reserves today. Having just mentioned the reserve team, I would like to congratulate them for the results they have been getting over the last four/five weeks - from fourteen matches they have won five and drawn six. A special vote of thanks should be given to some of the experienced players for the attitude they have shown when finding themselves having a long run in the



reserves, but have still gone out and helped the youngsters in the side to achieve these results - the players in question being Chris Ogden, Paul Gilchrist, Chic Bates, Chris Kamara, Peter Dornan, Bryan Hamilton and Russell Lewis - with players of this calibre at the Club we can't be far wrong.

Once again I would thank you for your attendance this afternoon and would ask you to cheer the players throughout the ninety minutes of the game.

A very Happy Easter to you all and I hope that you will turn up in force at Oxford United on Monday afternoon for yet another very important match.

Haven't we met somewhere before?

The Town's victory at the Vetch Field on Boxing Day was the Swans only home defeat this season and also signalled Swindon's first League victory there for 58 years!

The two clubs first met in the old Southern League set-up in its final season of operation. The game at Swansea took place on October 11 1919 and resulted in a 1-0 win for the home side. The Town won the return on February 21 1920 by a 3-1 verdict, the first two goals coming from top-scorers GEORGE TRAVERS and DAVE ROGERS and the third was added by BERT DAVIES. In the following season, as Football League clubs, the two met at the Vetch on May 2 1921. ARTHUR METCALF, a veteran from the 1914 Cup Final scored the Swindon goal in a 1-1 draw. The return, a goal-less draw, took place just five days later. In 1921-22, the Town achieved the 'double' over Seanssea - winning the away game 3-1 with two goals from TOM PHILLIPSON and one from BILLY BATTY. That victory, on September 24 1921, represented Swindon's last in the League at the Vetch before this season. A week later at the County Ground, HAROLD FLEMING gave the Town both points with the vital goal in a 1-0 victory. TOM PHILLIPSON, who was later the Mayor of Wolverhampton, was on the mark again on December 9 1922 with both goals in a 2-1 home win for Swindon. Three points were taken from the Swans during 1923-24, JACK JOHNSON scoring in the away game, a 1-1 draw and CYRIL DANIEL, who in later years looked after the Town's Colts team, in a 1-0 win at the County Ground.

TOM PHILLIPSON



In more recent years the Town have suffered heavy defeats in League encounters at Swansea, losing all four of the first post-war games there and failing to score in any of them. But at the same time all four corresponding home games produced victories.

A MORRIS JONES goal gave Swindon the points on March 13 1948 and MAURICE OWEN did likewise during the following season. On April 18 1964 13,792 turned up at the County Ground to see BILL ATKINS and DON ROGERS give the Town a 2-1 win and on September 8 of that year a 3-0 victory was due to two more goals from BILL ATKINS and another by ERNIE HUNT. Sadly, both sides were relegated from the Second Division at the end of that season - but the fixture attracted a gate of 15,745. The last meeting of the two clubs here in the League took place on October 22 1966 - and a 4-0 win for the Town helped to push the Welsh club into the Fourth Division at the end of the season. The goals came from DON ROGERS, MEL NURSE (who later rejoined Swansea), DENNIS BROWN and BRUCE WALKER.

BILL ATKINS



SWINDON TOWN v. SWANSEA TOWN

Summary of League Games

At Swindon		At Swansea
0 - 0	1920-21	1 - 1
1 - 0	1921-22	3 - 1
2 - 1	1922-23	0 - 5
1 - 0	1923-24	1 - 1
0 - 2	1924-25	0 - 2

Swindon Score First

At Swindon		At Swansea
1 - 0	1947-48	0 - 1
1 - 0	1948-49	0 - 4
2 - 1	1963-64	0 - 3
3 - 0	1964-65	0 - 4
2 - 2	1965-66	1 - 1
4 - 0	1966-67	2 - 2

John Ward talks to

Andy Rowland

Andy Rowland became thoroughly disillusioned after his first few months with a top League club and thereby became one of the few players - perhaps the only one? - to have walked out on Brian Clough! While he was still an apprentice sheet metal worker with British Rail in his home town, Derby, he played as an amateur at centre half for Derby County. He found everything to do with being a centre half far too regimented and it was tough competing as an amateur against full time professionals so he left to enjoy himself playing centre forward in local league football. So successful was he in this new role that he was picked for the England amateur youth team and scored a hat trick against Scotland. This so impressed his old manager Brian Clough that he was asked to sign on again, this time as a centre forward. He stayed at Derby, playing in the reserves, until soon after Dave Mackay arrived. With Clough he had always been made to feel part of the club but the reserves felt that they were never seen by the new manager. Indeed the story went round that when Bob Smith, then manager at Bury, rang up with an offer for Andy, the manager didn't even know he had a reserve player called Rowland!

Andy spent four seasons at Bury. At first he really enjoyed the taste of first team football although he admits to having been very raw and spent the first season entirely learning. He was scoring goals regularly; how many exactly he's not sure, but thinks there were 24 in one season. He found Bury a small club with a very friendly, family atmosphere but without the appetite for success: if they finished halfway up the Division the directors seemed happy. In Andy's view that is no good for anyone, particularly the players. At the beginning of this season he was anxious to get away because Bury were not prepared to buy players and he saw that they would struggle in consequence. He made it clear to the Chairman that he wanted to go and for a moment it looked as if he would sign for Chesterfield but Bury changed their minds. Next Andy's former manager Bob Smith appeared on the scene and after some strenuous wheeling and dealing persuaded Bury to let Andy go. Andy is not sure how this was achieved. "Maybe he offered them a bit more money. But I think he somehow saw to it that Bury got the replacement for me they were insisting on. He's a very persuasive person," said Andy. His persuasive powers are not the only quality which Andy admires in his manager. "When I was doing well at Bury there were rumours that Manchester City were thinking of

spending a lot of money on me. The boss told me that if anything came of it I should accept the challenge. He was convinced that I could make it in the top grade. Then when he left Bury he made it clear to players like Brian Williams and me that if the opportunity arose he would buy us back. This sort of thing gives you confidence in yourself and he really gets the players wanting to play for him."

Now Andy is happily installed at Swindon, a club which he described, unlike Bury, as "geared to success", with his Scottish wife Christina and two year old daughter Jackie. With a rather sheepish grin Andy admitted to meeting Christina on holiday "at Blackpool of all places!" Looking after Jackie has made it difficult for Christina to watch Andy play as much as she used to but a recent visit to the County Ground has really brought back her taste for football and they now hope that she will be able to come to home games regularly. They move into their house in Lower Stratton in May where Andy will be taking his large and varied collection of records, over 400 singles and plenty of LPs. "I've a very wide taste," Andy admitted. "I've not brought many chart records though. I would like to get some classical records too. I often hear clips on TV or the radio which I like but I'm not really sure what to get."

Apart from music and his home and family Andy is keen on swimming and golf but like all the other players whom I have met recently his thoughts are mostly filled with clinching promotion. The ball did not run kindly for him when he first arrived at Swindon: just as he felt that he was beginning to settle into the team he was badly injured. "I had a blood clot above the knee which they couldn't draw off at the hospital. I've never been in such pain in my life; I could hardly walk." Then when he was fit again the team were playing well and he could not win back his place until he was brought on at halftime in the disastrous cup tie at Aldershot. Anyone who saw the game will remember the fire and determination with which he transformed Swindon's previously lethargic and sloppy display. "This was my chance. I knew I had 45 minutes to prove myself," said Andy. He faces the next few crucial games with the same determination and yet at the same time a relaxed confidence. "These are the most important weeks in the lives of nearly all the players here. If we can't respond by raising ourselves for the final push I shall be very disappointed."

Talk of the Town by the Chairman

Today we welcome the Players and Officials from Swansea City who like ourselves, are fighting for a place in the Second Division and of course today's game is very important to us both.

I have been given an old Swindon Town programme dated 15th November, 1947 and it contains some very interesting items and I am sure will be of interest to so many of our followers today. On this day we were entertaining Bristol City on the County Ground and the price of the programme was two pence in the old currency. The Club notes congratulated the team on winning away at Ipswich on the previous Saturday and Frank Boulton our goalkeeper kept a clean sheet. Frank Boulton keeps active these days on the bowling rinks and of course was a former Arsenal and Derby County keeper. Reg Onslow made his debut in this game at Ipswich and Billy Lucas was mentioned as being a star forward.

The reserve team also received a notice, winning their home game against Luton Reserves and the interesting point made that the reserves attracted another fine gate of well over five thousand spectators. Where has the interest gone today? Apart from running a reserve team we also fielded a colts side and played their matches on Mr. Smith's field in Broome Manor Lane.

Included in this programme was a letter from the now Sir Stanley Rous who was then Secretary of the Football Association, condemning misconduct by spectators. This is over thirty years ago! and I am sorry to say that in some towns it has got increasingly worse.

Mr. Louis Page was our Manager in this era and it seems that supporters made gifts to the Club of clothing coupons to enable Mr. Page to equip the players in a manner that was a credit to the Club.

This is far removed from today's position where clubs fit out their teams with all the latest equipment available.

Swindon's line up against Bristol City for those with long and affectionate memories was so named in those days. Goalkeeper Ferguson, Fullbacks Preece and Emery, half backs, Kaye, Mann and Painter, forwards Dryden, Lucas our Maurice Owen, Paterson and Bain.

The League table at this period of the season found Norwich City on the bottom with

Brighton and Leyton Orient, Notts County and Crystal Palace occupying the bottom places with Q.P.R. Walsall, Bristol City, Bournemouth and Ipswich near the top. How the years have changed the fortunes of some of the Clubs.

Reverting back to today's events, we have embarked on a very ambitious scheme to encourage young local boys to have an active interest in the Swindon Town F.C. St. Josephs Youth Club plan to run six teams including age groups from under twelve upwards and we shall have an active interest in all these teams. The officials of St. Josephs have welcomed our interest and our help and coaching schemes will be held weekly at their premises involving our professional coaches with John Trollope in command. It is hoped that when a boy has been encouraged from such an early age, by the time he is nearly ready to leave school John and his team should be able to ensure the boys of a future with us. Terry Wollen who was John's fullback partner in Bert Heads young team is becoming one of John's right hand men in this ambitious programme.

On Monday evening last the Swindon Town F.C. shareholders passed a resolution to ensure 125,000 - £1 Management Shares to be taken up by the present Board of Directors or by any future Board of Directors of this Club. The Board of Directors will guarantee the value of these shares to the Midland Bank who have enabled us to increase our borrowing for future developments. This increase of shares issued does not alter the voting powers of shareholders, which remain at one vote per shareholder irrespective of the number of shares held.

These notes have been written before our game at Exeter and also our game against Arsenal Reserves on the County Ground, but our reserve team deserve a mention for their fine performance at Crystal Palace on Saturday last. The Palace have a reputation for a very strong reserve side this season.

Our Youths have also been busy, with a good performance against West Bromwich Albion. Although we only drew in this game 0-0, our youngsters certainly deserved to win on the day, and on Thursday last we played against Birmingham City Youth. The result of this game has come after these notes were written.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter and thank you for your attendance today and don't forget to shout for us at Oxford on Monday afternoon.



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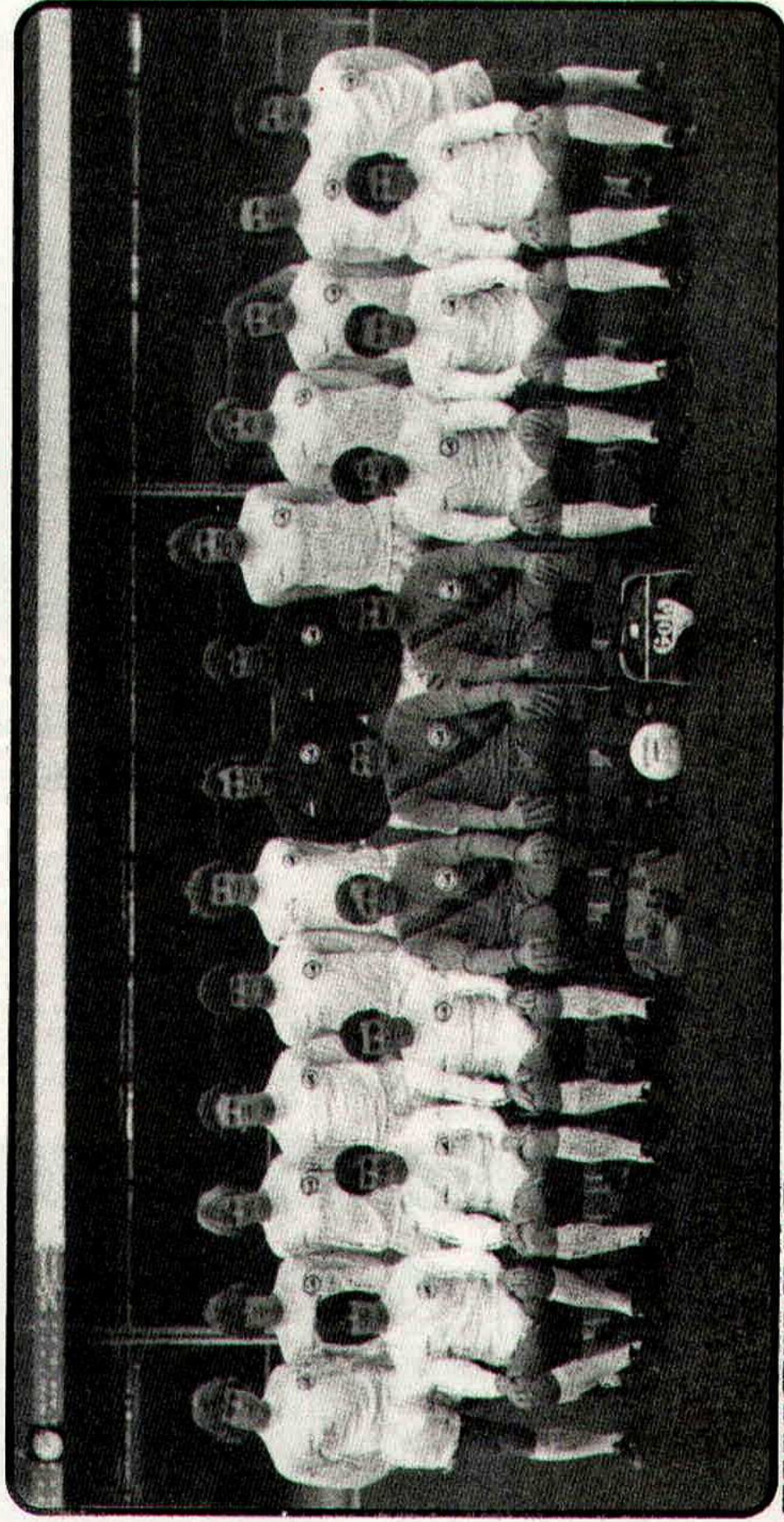
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IN TOWN TODAY



**SWANSEA
CITY**

Back Row (L to R)

C. Medwin, A. James, S. Morris, A. Curtis, P. Boersma, N. Stevenson, G. Crudington,
C. Barber (now left club), A. Waddle, R. James, M. Baker, C. Marustik, P. Reeves.

Front Row (L to R)

J. Charles, L. Phillips, I. Callaghan, T. Medwin (ass. Manager), J. Toshack (Manager),
L. Chappell, T. Smith, D. Bartley, W. Evans.

IN TOWN TODAY

By Tony Pullein

Rarely can any city have welcomed a foreign invasion quite so enthusiastically as Swansea has done. Over the past 15 months or so Vetch Field has been taken over by the Red Army from Liverpool and, as a result, the club has been transformed from a struggling Fourth Division outfit into a throbbing, exciting unit that is now poised to win promotion for the second season in succession.

The transformation really began in March last year when Welsh international striker John Toshack left Anfield to take over as player/manager. The Swans were already on course for promotion to the Third Division when Mr. Toshack took over but his mighty presence made absolutely sure.

Capped by Wales on 34 occasions, Mr. Toshack began his career with Cardiff City, making his League bow in 1965/66. Liverpool paid £100,000 for his transfer in 1970 and he was on three occasions their leading scorer.

Mr. Toshack soon busied himself bolstering his squad with experienced players to slot in with the many talented younger players already on the staff. And you could scarcely find more experienced men than Tommy Smith and Ian Callaghan, both England internationals, who made a combined total of more than 1,100 League games for Liverpool!

Smith played for England at youth, under-23 and full levels and won almost every conceivable honour while at Anfield. One of his greatest moments was scoring the winning goal in the 1977 European Cup final. He retired after that but was recalled by the Reds last season. He made 467 League appearances for Liverpool.

When Callaghan left Liverpool he had set up a new club record for 640 League appearances. He was a member of all their great trophy-winning teams and last season he was recalled to the England team, after an absence of 12 years, to win two more caps and take his total to four.

Mr. Toshack also signed Alan Waddle, another former Liverpool player, from Leicester and Phil Boersma from Luton.

Waddle first won recognition with Halifax Town in 1971 and Liverpool signed him a couple of years later. He didn't get many first-team chances so he joined Leicester for £45,000 last season.

During his early days at Anfield, Boersma was loaned to Wrexham but he returned to make more than 80 first-team appearances for the Reds. Middlesbrough paid £75,000 for him in

1976, he moved onto Luton for £35,000 in 1977 and to Swansea for a similar fee this season.

Yet another summer signing was goalkeeper Geoff Cradgington from Crewe for £20,000. Geoff's first club was Aston Villa but he moved on to Crewe in 1971.

Since this season opened, Swansea have also signed Welsh international defender, or midfield player, Leighton Phillips from Aston Villa for £70,000 and Brian Attley, another versatile player, from Cardiff for £20,000.

Phillips opened his League career with Cardiff in 1968/69 and moved on to Villa for £100,000 in 1974. He has been capped by Wales on 39 occasions. Attley won his place in the Cardiff team in 1974/75.

Add all this experience to the wealth of younger talent, players like Welsh international forwards Alan Curtis and Robbie James, plus play-anywhere Jeremy Charles, and Swansea have a team that, if it does clinch promotion, should more than hold its own in the Second Division.

Curtis, James and Charles all developed in the junior teams. Curtis, who has 12 international caps, scored 17 goals in 1976/77, 34 last season and had 15 before the holiday games this term. James, a regular member of the Welsh under-21 side, won his first full cap this season and had scored 18.

Charles, the son of Mel Charles, can play in almost any position. Two seasons ago he was Swansea's top scorer with 26 goals and he had scored 15 this season.

Other players likely to be seen in the side include defenders Wyndham Evans, who has played more than 300 games for the Swans, Nigel Stevenson and Steve Morris who all came through from the youth team, plus Danny Bartley, a defender who played 99 League games for Bristol City before his transfer to Swansea in 1973.

Swansea have won six away League games -- at Oxford (2-0), Watford (2-0), Bury (1-0), Southend (2-0), Rotherham (1-0) and Tranmere (2-1). They drew at Colchester (2-2), Hull (2-2), Walsall (1-1) and Sheffield Wednesday (0-0).

The Swans were beaten at Chester (0-2), Carlisle (0-2), Chesterfield (1-2), Gillingham (0-2), Shrewsbury (0-3), Brentford (0-1), Exeter (1-2), Peterborough (0-2) and Lincoln (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	2 - 0	McHale, Carter	6036
24	Rotherham United	A	3 - 1	Mayes (3)	5128
28	Chesterfield	A	1 - 1	Kamara	4112
Mar. 3	Lincoln City	H	6 - 0	Rowland (2), Mayes, McHale, Bates, Miller	6649
10	Carlisle United (6)	H	0 - 0		8386
16	Southend United	A	3 - 5	McHale, Mayes, Kamara	4303
Mar. 20	Colchester Utd.	H	1 - 2	Rowland	6768
24	Tranmere Rov.	H	4 - 1	Rowland 2, Mayes, McHale	5678
27	Bury	A	1 - 0	Rowland	3557
31	Gillingham	A	2 - 2	Mayes, Carter	9560
Apr. 3	Exeter City	H	1 - 1	Rowland	7923
7	Chesterfield	H	1 - 0	Carter	6176
11	Exeter City	A			
14	Swansea City	H			
16	Oxford United	A			
21	Watford	H			
24	Peterborough Utd.	A			
28	Hull City	A			
May 1	Oxford United	H			
5	Gillingham	H			
8	Brentford	A			
11	Sheffield Wed.	A			
12	F.A. Cup Final				
15	Blackpool	A			



Ian Callaghan



Tommy Smith

TOWN APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS 1978-79 Up to and incl. Sat. March 3
(Goals in parentheses)

	League	League Cup	F.A. Cup	First Team Total	F. Comb.
Kevin Roberts		1		1	3
John McLaughlin	18(1)	3	3	24(1)	3
Andy Ford	35	5	4	44	1
Ray McHale	35(6)	5	4(1)	44(7)	1
Steve Aizlewood	34(1)	5(2)	4	43(3)	1
Kenny Stroud	33	5	3	41	2
Ian Miller	33(3)	4(2)	4	41(5)	
Chris Kamara	37(3)	5	3(2)	35(5)	4(1)
Chic Bates	31(12)	5	4(2)	40(14)	1
Brian Williams	23(2)	3(1)	1	27(3)	7(1)
Ray Carter	35(7)	4	4(1)	43(7)	
Chris Ogden	22	4	3	29	7
Russell Lewis	7	2	1	10	20(1)
Paul Gilchrist	15(6)		4(2)	19(8)	11(1)
Andy Rowland	17(8)		1(1)	18(9)	11(3)
John Trollope	7	2		9	23(1)
Jimmy Allan	13		1	18	19
Dave Hamilton	12		1	13	9(1)
Alan Mayes	11(7)			11(7)	1(2)
Andy Hatter					3
Brian Hughes					22
Charlie Henry					15(1)
Steve Abbeley					20(1)
Michael Page					26(4)
Nigel Barry					22(1)
David Wood					5
Kenny Norman					19
Jimmy Walters					15
Ken Hehir					6(1)
Peter Dornan					7(1)

Also appeared: Chris Guthrie (transferred to Fulham) 6.3(2).0.9(2).0 Dave Cunningham (transferred to Aston Villa) 2.2.0.4.6(1) Colin Prohett (transferred to Chesterfield) 0.0.0.0.2 Glyn Brown (Thame United) 0.0.0.0.2 Paul Collicutt (transferred to Trowbridge Town) 0.0.0.0.2(1) Steve Lymer (transferred to Witney Town) 0.0.0.0.2 Gus Gilligan (transferred to Trowbridge Town) 0.0.0.0.18(6) Peter Prince (trialist) 0.0.0.0.1 Paul Cox (now with Mangotsfield) 0.0.0.0.2 Wilf Tranter 0.0.0.0.4 Bobby Smith 0.0.0.0.2 Totals include appearances as substitute.

ACTION REPLAY



Swindon's Roy Carter (white shorts), scorer of the only goal of the game against Chesterfield last Saturday, in penalty box action once again.



Almost there - Swindon striker Andy Rowland (left) leaps to head a Brian Williams' corner kick towards the Chesterfield goal - but it was headed off the line during last Saturday's victory at the County Ground.

From the **COMMERCIAL OFFICE**

Welcome once again to the County Ground. Let's hope we see a good match.

We have with us today a party of School-boy Footballers from Calne with some of their parents. They arrived this morning and had a conducted tour of all our facilities followed by lunch in The Rendezvous Club. We hope they enjoy their day with us and maybe come back again sometime. If any other organisation would like to take advantage of our Block Booking plus a tour of the premises, please contact Mr. D. Buswell on Swindon 42984 or our Secretary Mr. R. Jefferies on Swindon 22118.

To all our younger supporters don't forget the Disco in The Supporters Club on Monday Evening with Captain Dayglo admission 50p at the door. All proceeds to the Sponsored Kit Fund.

Our Grand Easter Draw will take place in The Rendezvous Club after today's game. The winning numbers will be published in the next programme, Wednesdays Evening Advertiser and lists of the winning numbers will be distributed to all our collectors. If you miss any of these please ring us on Swindon 42984 or 31510.

Good Luck to Bob and the team this afternoon.

Doug Buswell,
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NATION WIDE

By Tony Pullein

Easter is traditionally the time when promotion is either won or lost and, with Swansea City our visitors today, the pressures really are upon both sides to win. It all adds up to good holiday entertainment for the fans even though it creates tension for players and managers.

For Swansea it is the second season in succession that Easter has shaped their destiny. Last year they did their Fourth Division promotion ambitions a world of good by taking full points from their Easter programme. Now they seek more points in their endeavours to regain their Second Division place which they lost in 1965. Easter has provided some outstanding achievements down the years. Joe Payne created the existing League scoring record with 10 goals for Luton on his debut as a centre-forward in a 12-0 victory over Bristol Rovers at Easter 1936. In 1931 Reading's Alec Bacon crashed six goals into Stoke City's net.

The Fourth Division attendance record was set up at Easter 18 years ago when 37,774 turned up to see Crystal Palace play Millwall.

This Easter is going to be a particularly worrying one for one of the country's famous old clubs, Sheffield United. They went into the holiday programme in grave danger of dropping into the Third Division for the first time in their 90-year history. And manager Harry Haslam faced the first major set-back in a managerial career that has been an almost continual success story.

Relegation for the Blades would leave this Yorkshire city of steel with two Third Division clubs — an unthinkable situation.

Mr. Haslam hasn't given up hope of survival, though. "I always take heart from the experience I had with Luton in 1975," chirped the ever-smiling Haslam. "We were back in the First Division after a long absence but we were struggling and everyone had written us off. To be quite frank, I didn't have a lot of hope myself.

"Then we won three games on the trot and we finished up by taking seven points from our last four games. It looked as if we would be safe for we were one point ahead of Spurs who had a

tough game with Leeds still to play. Unfortunately for us, Spurs won a shock victory to pip us by just one point.

With several games still to be played, Mr Haslam is convinced his team will reach safety. "The situation is nothing like as desperate as it was at Luton then and, if we can get some good results over the holiday, we should be all right."

Mr. Haslam has a reputation for being one of the shrewdest managers in the game. He sold almost a complete team at Luton, when they were hit by a financial disaster, but still produced another winning side.

Earlier this season he swooped to sign Argentinian forward Alejandro Sabella from River Plate F.C. for £76,000. Last summer he secured the transfer of Chelsea striker Steve Finnieston for £80,000 and Arsenal defender John Matthews for £90,000. Les Tibbutt, the Ipswich full-back, joined them for £100,000 last month.

The Blades' main failure this season has been their away form. After winning their first away game of the season at Leicester (1-0), they didn't manage to pick up both points in any of their next 16 away trips in the League and they were even beaten at Fourth Division Aldershot (0-1) in the third round of the F.A. Cup.

Now the city that at one time dominated the English game almost to the extent that Liverpool and Manchester have done in modern times, faces a future with both United and Wednesday in the Third Division — even though they possess two of the finest grounds in the country.

Another club in danger of relegation this Easter is Oldham Athletic. Yet, at one stage last season and during the early weeks of this, they were on the fringe of the promotion running. So what went wrong?

"The disruption caused by the icy weather really hit us badly," explained skipper Ronnie Blair. "We seemed to go right off the boil when we missed so many games. We got out of match practice and we have never quite regained our rhythm."

Blair, the N. Ireland international defender or midfield player, also blames a recent crop of injuries. "We've had key players like Graham Bell (now Preston) and Vic Halom on the sidelines and several other players have taken knocks. So now we find ourselves struggling and there's no doubt that the Easter games will be vital for us."

Newcastle forward Alan Shoulder has been reflecting upon the remarkable changes in his life since last Easter. Then he was recovering from the disappointment of eventual F.A. Cup defeat by those gallant non-Leagueers Blyth Spartans.

Alan was a member of the Blyth team that knocked out Chesterfield and Stoke City, and which was within a minute of victory at Wrexham in the fifth round. Blyth lost the replay and Alan accepted the fact that he would have to return to the mundance and unheralded life of an ordinary non-League player once again.



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SWINDON

at 3.00pm

SWANSEA

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



1. G. CRUDGINGTON
2. L. PHILLIPS
3. D. BARTLEY
4. T. SMITH
5. N. STEVENSON
6. J. CHARLES
7. B. ATTLEY
8. R. JAMES
9. A. CURTIS
10. A. WADDLE
11. I. CALLAGHAN
12. J. TOSHACK

NEXT MATCH

Saturday 21st April

DIVISION III

WATFORD

K.O. 3.00 p.m.

Linesmen:

RED FLAG: Mr. A. E. Garland, Downend, Bristol. YELLOW FLAG: Mr. R. L. Hamel, Bristol.

REFEREE:

PETER G. REEVES (Leicester).

Started refereeing with the Leicestershire County F.A. in 1958, then graduated via the Football Combination to the Football League's full list. Refereed a Texaco Cup Semi-Final in 1973/74, and the following year was linesman at an F.A. Cup Semi-Final. In 1976 he lined a European Nations Cup match in Madrid - Spain v. West Germany. Promoted to the F.I.F.A. panel of referees for Season 1978/79. A married man, with two sons, he is Sales Director for a hosiery company.

KEY OF THE BOARD

- A Blackpool v Tranmere
- B Carlisle v Chester
- C Colchester v Oxford Utd.
- D Lincoln v Peterborough
- E Mansfield v Hull City
- F Plymouth v Brentford
- G Rotherham v Bury
- H Sheffield Wed. v Chesterfield
- I Shrewsbury v Watford
- J Southend v Gillingham
- K Walsall v Exeter
- L Birmingham v Wolverhampton
- M Bolton v Middlesbrough
- N Chelsea v Bristol City
- O Coventry v Bristol City
- P Derby v Nottm. Forest
- Q Leeds v Aston Villa
- R Liverpool v Manchester Utd.
- S Manchester City v Everton
- T West Brom. Alb. v Arsenal

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