



**SWINDON TOWN**  
**v**

**WATFORD**

OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE 15p





Enjoy the true country taste  
of our traditional beers

**J. ARKELL & SONS LTD**  
**KINGSDOWN BREWERY**  
**SWINDON**



# Swindon Town Football Company Limited

Registered Office County Ground Swindon

President **Mr. W. J. Castle**

Chairman **C. J. Green**

Vice-Chairman **C. Cowley**

Directors **C. Day, A. W. Done, W. Dore,**

**M. W. Earle, T. J. Kearsey, L. Smart,**

**R. Stephenson, G. Whittock**

Administrative Manager/Secretary **R. J. Jefferies**

Telephone No. 22118

Financial Manager/Company Secretary

**R. A. Morse**

Team Manager **R. W. Smith**

Commercial Consultant **D. Buswell**

Club Medical Officer **Dr. J. Nicholas**

## Bob Smith says.....

After our defeat against Swansea City, I must congratulate the players for the way that they came back to get two points against Oxford United on Easter Monday. This display was full of character and good football and but for the experience of Milkins, the Oxford keeper, we may well have scored another three goals. Every successful side has to be able to bounce back after a result has gone against them and we as a team have worked on this by taking each game on its own merit, in other words we totally concentrate on one match at a time and whether the result be a good or bad one we then start preparing for the next match. Watford who we play today have proved that they have these qualities and I am sure that the game will be a very exciting one. From a footballing point of view the match at Watford was one of our best displays, although we were unable to score and today we hope to put that right. We all realise how important the result this afternoon can be, but I have told the lads that whatever happens - win, lose or draw, I want them to concentrate on playing football and to give a good performance.

On Wednesday we took a very young side to Salisbury in the First Leg of the Wiltshire Professional Shield and we came away with a creditable no score draw which gives us an excellent chance, when we play the second leg, of winning back the trophy. Considering that five apprent-



ices and one school boy player were all in the side, it makes the result even more satisfactory.

Your support both against Swansea City and Oxford United was greatly appreciated by both the players and management, so let us repeat the same again today. Thank you for coming along this afternoon and please give the lads loud vocal encouragement throughout the period of the match.



# Bits and Pieces

Swindon has had more League battles with Watford than with any other club, today being the 86th meeting of the two since 1920. If one takes into account Southern League matches before this date, then this is the 116th clash, the first being at Cassio Road on September 15 1900 when the teams drew 1 - 1. The Town's first victory over Watford was not until February 1903 when Frank Becton, who had gained Football League representative honours whilst with Preston North End, scored twice in a 3-0 home win. Between 1908 and 1915 Swindon rattled up twenty-eight goals in home matches against Watford. The best scoring feat during this period was that by ARCHIE BOWN who got all six in a 6-0 victory here on April 6 1915 - and the accent on goals was to continue.

ARCHIE BOWN



There was a 5-3 victory here for the Town in April 1926, a 5-2 win at Watford the following year and a 1-6 reverse at the County Ground in February 1936. At Vicarage Road in December 1934, there were no less than eleven goals, the Town finishing on the wrong end of a 4-7 score-line. Alan Fowler scored a hat-trick that day and still ended up on the losing side! January 1947 saw Maurice Owen score a hat-trick on his League debut as Swindon stormed to a 5-0 win - and he got another in September 1951 when the Town recorded an incredible 7-1 away victory. But the goal count has tailed off in more recent years and no more than three have occurred during any League encounter between the two clubs since February 1963, when six were shared at Vicarage Road.

With the passing of Swindon's own local football paper earlier this season - yet another bites the dust at the end of this month. After April 28 London's last remaining classified evening football paper will disappear from the streets.

Roy Carter, the Town's newest penalty taker, appeared in full flight on the coloured cover of Watford's recent home programme for the Colchester game.

Swindon's former striker HOWARD GODDARD now with Newport County - recently reached the twenty-goal mark for this season, thereby passing his previous best tally of eighteen scored during 1977/78. The blond forward, born just the other side of the Wilts/Hants border, made only ten full League appearances for the Town and failed to find the net. But he has now linked up with the former Swansea raider Kevin Moore and ex-Wednesday man Tommy Tynan to form a useful strike force - and should easily pass Eddie Woods' 21 goals in 1974/75 to become the highest scorer in a season for Newport since Laurie Sheffield bagged 29 some fourteen years ago.

HOWARD GODDARD





# John Ward talks to

## Alan Mayes

Alan Mayes is a Londoner. When you see the way in which he darts into the penalty area and then without warning or even any perceptible backlift unleashes a fierce, left-footed shot on goal from the unlikeliest of angles you may think that you are watching a typical piece of Cockney cheekiness. You would not be far wrong because Alan, like John McLaughlin, was born in Edmonton, only just out of the sound of Bow Bells if there is a strong southerly wind.

He had wanted to be a professional footballer for as long as he can remember. The first club to show an interest in him was Queens Park Rangers. They advised him to stay on at school to take his O Levels before signing him as an apprentice in the summer of 1971. After four years with the club however he had become rather disillusioned. With the talented forward line which QPR had in those days there was little chance of a first team place for Alan in spite of some successful seasons in the reserves; so at the age of twenty one he moved on to Watford.

### WATFORD AND ELTON JOHN

Alan recalls that he has always scored goals. It was the ones which he scored for Watford over three seasons which brought him into the public eye. I asked Alan what it was like being part of the show-biz set up which one inevitably associates with Watford as a result of Elton John being chairman. "Elton John was always there," said Alan. "On Saturdays he was just like any other excitable fan. He was always ready to talk to the players. He used to come into the dressing room a lot and it was Elton this and Elton that. This changed though with the new manager [Graham Taylor]. He made us call him 'Mr. Chairman' instead of 'Elton' and treat him just like any other chairman of a football club so we never got that close." Alan has a great deal of respect for what he left behind at Watford: "When we won promotion from the Fourth Division last year we were very professional, very hard to beat. If there was any lack of flair we compensated for it by our work rate."

In spite of having a good season personally last year - he scored sixteen goals in 36 games - Alan was not entirely happy. He prefers to

play as an out and out striker but the manager wanted him to play wide on the wing. It never really worked. Swindon made an offer at the beginning of this season but Alan decided to stay put. I asked why. "It was a good set up at Watford. I enjoyed being part of it, quietly. I had a long talk with the manager. He said that my best chance of regular first team football at Watford was to play wide. This was where my long term future lay. So I decided to really give it a go." When Swindon made a second approach however a few weeks ago Alan gave a different reply. I asked why he had changed his mind. "The second time I was out of the side and that didn't look likely to change. I was disappointed in a way but I was convinced I wasn't really a winger. I was impressed by Swindon when they played at Watford. One reason for coming was that I thought they had a great chance of going up. I shall be really sick if Watford go up and we don't!"

### TROPICAL FISH

Alan is married and is living with his wife Marian and their fifteen month old daughter Michelle in a rented flat in Lechlade. Marian is another of the Swindon wives who is extremely keen on football but finds it difficult to watch because of the young baby. Perhaps the club could be persuaded to run a creche? I asked Alan what the family thought of the move. "Everything has gone all right," he said. "The biggest problem we had was with the tropical fish. I've got twelve in a big tank. I'm not sure why I began to collect them but it's relaxing just to sit and watch them." "That's because Alan can't afford a television!" explained Andy Rowland who had just joined us. Alan ignored the interruption and continued with the story of his fish. "It was very complicated bringing them down here. We had to put each fish in a plastic bag full of water, then wrap each one in newspaper and put them all in a polystyrene box to keep them warm. But now that they have arrived they certainly seem to enjoy the Swindon water!"

In the programmes for the remaining two home games this season John Ward will be talking to Swindon's two players from Northern Ireland, Bryan Hamilton and Peter Dornan.



# Talk of the Town by the Chairman

Once again we welcome one of our rival teams challenging for promotion along with ourselves.

Looking back on our Easter programme we were delighted to get maximum points from our two away games, but naturally disappointed to lose our home game with Swansea.

It was so pleasing to see so many supporters at this game, which proves that there is still a very great interest in our Club, and like most supporters of football clubs, they do look for success that we all look for.

I feel that promotion places in our league will not be finalised until the very end of the season, due to the fact that there are so many games to be played which is affecting the promotion challenges.

This season has seen more competition for promotion in all leagues except the First Division, than we have had for years. The First Division challenge of course is different than in other Divisions, but the rewards for the top few are very great because of the opportunities to play in Europe.

The wisdom of having a strong First Team squad has been appreciated by us, because of our injury troubles through the system of the League, which sometimes means a player missing a game, because of the points awarded against players over the season.

The difficulty which a club can find itself in due to the points system, is not always due to persistent bad behaviour of the player, but can result in receiving cautions for very ordinary fouls. Before referees take me up on this statement, what I mean is, that there are infringements of the rules due to bodily contact very often when going up for a high ball and players do receive the yellow card for such infringements. Most clubs suffer the same way and so I suppose one could say this even things up, but it is a pity when a team is depleted because of these circumstances.

Television coverage has hit the headlines again and League clubs seem to be taking the blame for not accepting the B.B.C. and I.T.V. terms which are for a period of four years, without an inflation clause written into the agreement. The clubs have unanimously accepted the terms for a two-year agreement and in view of the

fact that it is the club selling their own product, I cannot see clubs giving in to the television authorities on this one, but I hope for the sake of the sick and infirm people who enjoy the game on the 'box', that an agreement will be made.

We have so many fixtures to fulfill before the end of the season that it is difficult to keep our public up to date with all our re-arranged games.

I list here a few of the home games.

On Monday afternoon kick off at 2.15 p.m. we play the Wolves Youth side on the Shrivenham Road Training Ground. Cardiff reserves on the County Ground on Wednesday, 25th April, kick off at 7.30 p.m. Derby County Youths on the Shrivenham Road Training Ground on Thursday, 26th April, kick off at 2.15 p.m. Bristol City reserves on the County Ground on Saturday, 28th April, kick off 3.00 p.m. Oxford United, Division III on the County Ground, Tuesday, 1st May, kick off 7.30 p.m. Luton Town Youth on the Shrivenham Road Training Ground, Thursday, 13th May, kick off 2.15 p.m. Orient reserves on the County Ground, Monday 7th May, kick off 7.30 p.m. and Bristol Rovers on the County Ground, Thursday, 17th May, kick off 7.30 p.m.

I hope that this keeps you up to date, but of course some of these games may be changed at the last moment.

On Wednesday last we played the first leg of the Wiltshire Professional Shield Final and drew 0-0 at Salisbury with a side composed of our young apprentices, but strengthened with our Manager, Bob Smith and Coach, Wilf Tranter and Peter Dornan.

The return match at the County Ground is not arranged yet and as you can see from the dates I have given here, it is going to be a problem to find a date suitable to both clubs.

The County Association very often rely on these kind of fixtures to help the finances.

I remind you again not to leave the Club Dinner Dance 22nd May to the last minute before contacting Bob Jefferies re tickets.

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

## LEAGUE DIVISION THREE ..... up to and including Tuesday April 17 1979

	Home				Away				
Watford	40	13	4	3	40	20	8	6	Ross Jenkins 35
Swansea C	41	14	6	1	52	29	7	4	Robbie James 20
Gillingham	39	13	7	1	35	15	4	9	Danny Westwood 16
Shrewsbury T	38	10	8	0	25	7	6	9	Paul Maguire 14
<b>SWINDON TOWN</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>CHIC BATES 15</b>
Carlisle U	42	9	10	1	29	12	4	12	Dave Kemp 21
Exeter C	39	13	6	3	35	16	2	8	Keith Bowker 11
Southend U	41	10	5	5	29	16	4	9	Derrick Parker 9
Colchester U	40	11	2	1	27	14	3	7	Bobby Gough 17
Hull C	37	9	8	2	30	12	6	2	Keith Edwards 20
Chester	41	11	8	3	40	19	2	6	Ian Edwards 21
Brentford	40	12	4	4	32	17	3	5	Andy McCulloch 11, Steve Phillips 11
Plymouth A	41	10	7	3	34	22	4	4	Fred Binney 26
Blackpool	39	11	4	4	31	12	4	4	*Tony Kellow 17
Oxford U	40	9	7	5	24	18	2	9	Jason Seacole 10
Sheffield Wed	37	6	8	3	19	12	4	8	Brian Hornsby 16, Rodger Wyde 16
Rotherham U	36	11	2	6	23	19	3	6	Dave Gwyther 16
Bury	38	5	9	5	30	27	3	9	*Ken Beamish 21
Chesterfield	38	9	5	7	34	32	2	6	Rod Fern 13
Walsall	40	7	6	7	34	29	3	5	Alan Birch 10
Mansfield T	36	3	8	4	16	17	4	8	*Terry Austin 16
Peterborough U	38	6	6	7	20	21	3	5	*Joe Cooke 13
Lincoln C	38	4	7	6	17	23	2	4	Glenn Cockerill 6
Tranmere R	39	4	10	5	23	23	0	4	Clive Evans 9

\*Includes goals for previous clubs this season.





Do you require

**Tracked or Wheeled Excavators**

**Tracked or Wheeled Shovels**

**Tractors and Scrapers**

**Bulldozers**

**Tipper Lorries**

**Low Loaders**

***THEN HIRE FROM***

**H Hibberd Ltd**

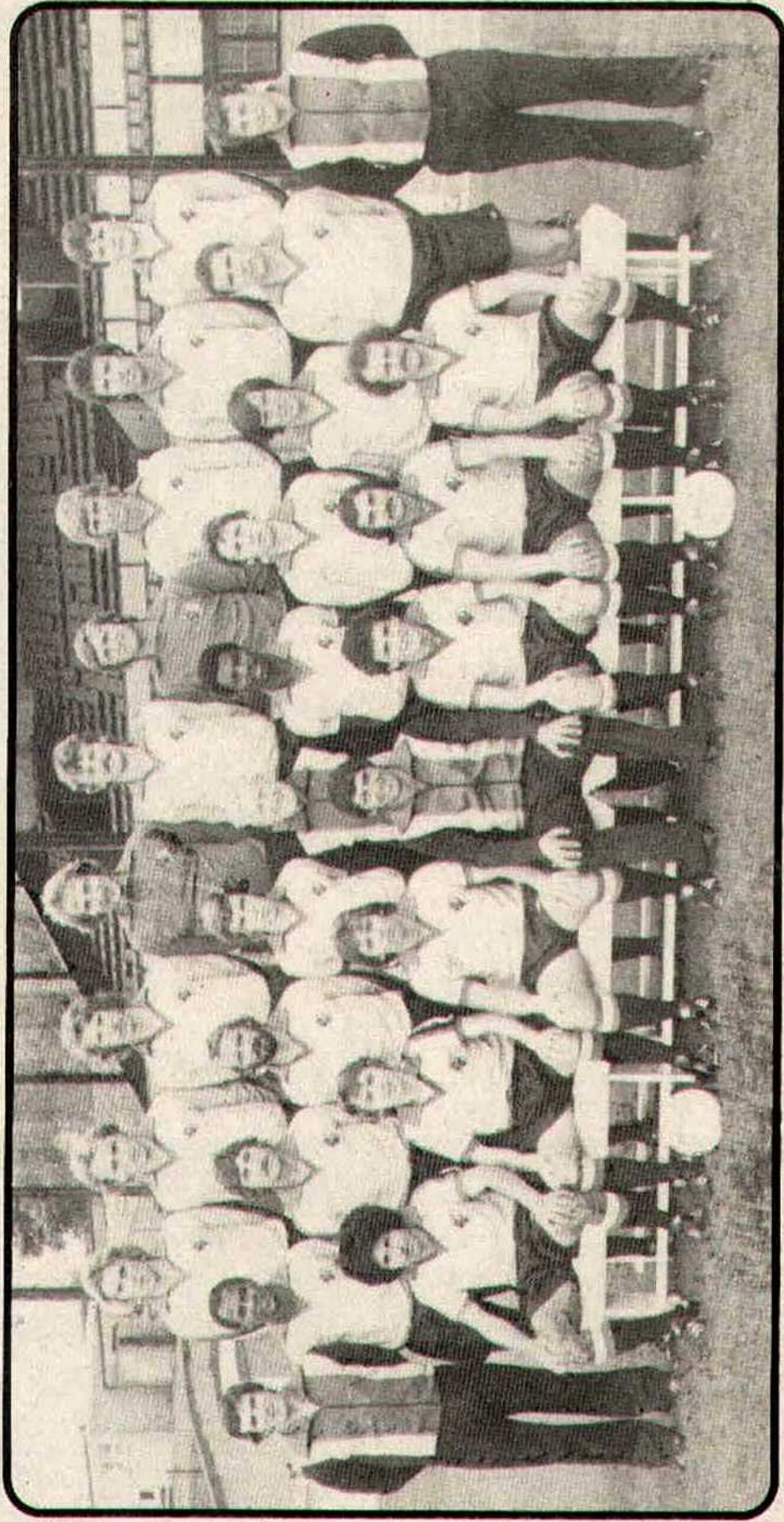
**PLANT HIRE CONTRACTORS**

29 Newport Street, Swindon

Tel: Swindon 36125 or 23876



# IN TOWN TODAY



## WATFORD

Back Row (L to R) Keith Mercer; Trevor How; Sam Ellis; Steve Sherwood; Ian Bolton; Andy Rankin; Ross Jenkins; Alan Garner; Steve Terry.

Middle Row (L to R) Dave Butler (Trainer/Physiotherapist); Keith Cassells; Bobby Downes; Roger Joslyn;

Keith Jackett; Pat Molloy (Physiotherapist); Luther Blissett; Keith Pritchett; Alan Mayes; Albert McClenaghan; Tom Walley (Trainer/Coach)

Front Row (L to R) Steve Emmanuel; Brian Taylor; John Stirk; Graham Taylor (General Manager); Paul Kerfin; Dennis Booth; Brian Pollard.



# IN TOWN TODAY

Though Watford have been leading the Third Division table for much of the season they are not quite certain of promotion yet. Indeed, when they lost 0-3 at home to Colchester and then drew 1-1 at Shrewsbury over Easter, there was still a possibility that they might miss out on promotion altogether.

That would indeed be a tragedy because Watford, by general consensus of opinion, are one of the most entertaining and attractive teams in the Third Division. But their players are human too, and like others involved in the pressures at the top they have been showing signs of nerves.

The Hornets won 16 of their first 24 League games and at that stage held a lead of eight points over the fourth club in the table. But, by last Monday evening, they had managed only four victories in 15 League outings and the gap had been narrowed to just two points.

What's more, their lethal scoring partnership of Ross Jenkins and Luther Blissett at last seems to have been rumbled by the opposition. With 35 goals, Jenkins is still the country's leading scorer and 25-goal Blissett is not far behind, yet these two have managed only three goals between them over their last seven games.

Jenkins was Watford's leading marksman last season, too, when he hit 18 goals. He first emerged with Crystal Palace and he was transferred to Watford for £30,000 in 1972, since then he has been a persistent goalscorer. Blissett got his first opportunity in the Watford senior side in 1975/76 and, though this is his first full season in the first-team, his scoring form has been so sensational that he is already an England under-21 international.

It may be as well to ignore Watford's recent lapses for there can be no doubt that they are one of the finest teams in the Third Division and they still have a wonderful chance of following last season's Fourth Division championship success with further promotion this term.

Watford showed their quality in their club record-breaking run to the semi-finals of the League Cup this season. They pushed aside Brentford by a massive 7-1 aggregate score in the first round and then recovered from a 0-1 deficit to oust Second Division Newcastle 2-1.

Their best performance came at Old Trafford where they shocked the mighty Manchester United to a 2-1 defeat. They then won at Exeter

## WATFORD ARE NOT THERE YET

and beat one of the leading Second Division clubs Stoke City, after a replay, to earn a semi-final tie against Nottingham Forest. They finally met their match and went out 1-3 on aggregate to the eventual winners.

Manager Graham Taylor has made three major signings since pulling the club out of the Fourth Division last season, two of them defenders. During the close-season he paid Ipswich £30,000 for right-back John Stirk and, during the early weeks of this season, he smashed the club record payout when investing a massive £200,000 in Leicester's central defender Steve Sims.

The other new arrival was midfielder Ray Train, signed from First Division Bolton for £50,000.

The defence normally lines up with Stirk, Sims, Ian Bolton and Keith Pritchett in the back four.

Stirk played only a few games in the Ipswich senior side but has now settled in at right-back for Watford. Sims served his apprenticeship with Leicester and had been a regular member of their first-team for two seasons. He was also picked for the England under-21's.

Bolton made his League debut for Notts County in 1972 and later served Lincoln on loan. Watford signed him in 1977. Pritchett was a Wolves' reserve and had to await a transfer to Doncaster before getting his chance in League soccer in 1973. Q.P.R. signed him in 1974 but he got a free transfer to Brentford two years later. He stayed only a short time at Griffin Park before transferring to Watford.

Former Everton and England under-23 international Andy Rankin usually retains the goal-keeping position but Steve Sherwood, the former Chelsea player, came in when he was injured.

Newcomer Ray Train plays in midfield with Alan Garner, Roger Joslyn and either Brian Pollard or Keith Mercer.

Garner previously played for Millwall and Luton and was transferred to Watford for £20,000 in 1975. Joslyn started with Colchester and then served Aldershot before his £22,000 transfer to Watford in 1974. Pollard, a former England youth cap, was signed from York City last season while Mercer developed in the junior teams.

Bobby Downes, previously of W.B.A., Peterborough and Rochdale, is another contender for a place in midfield.

By Tony Pullein



# SPONSOR A PLAYER

	Playing Strip £10.50	Football Boots £18.00	Track Suit £17.00	Training Boots £15.00
Steve Aizlewood	Lorna, Richard & Ian Jones, 1 Commercial St., Cheltenham.	Away Match Supporters		
Jimmy Allan	◀ Orchard Garage, Hyde Rd., Blunsdon ▶			
Chic Bates	Margaret Archer, Sarah Hill & Denise Howard	An Anonymous Supporter		
Roy Carter	Mr. & Mrs. A.E. Vaughan 34 Kingsdown Caravan Park	Mr. John Freeman Crouch Farm Highworth	Mr. & Mrs. Alder 3 Abingdon Rd. Tubey, Abingdon,	Mr. & Mrs. A.E. Vaughan 34 Kingsdown Caravan Park.
Andy Ford	Mr. & Mrs. A.E. Vaughan 34 Kingsdown Caravan Park.			Mr. & Mrs. A.E. Vaughan 34 Kingsdown Caravan Park.
Paul Gilchrist	Away Match Supporters	Mr. & Mrs. E. Spearey, 6 Wyvern Ave., Calne.		
Brian Hamilton	Peter Strutt, 1, Barn Street, Marlborough.			Mr. John Ward, 18, Nelson Place, London N.1.
Chris Kamara	Miss K. Bush, 21 Liddiards Green, Ogbourne St. George.			
Ray McHale	Stewart Ball, Penn Hill Farm, Calne.	The Lamb Inn West Hanney	The Lamb Inn West Hanney	
John McLaughlin	Away Match Supporters	Anita, Hilary & Dianne Niblett, Rose Cottage, Chalford.		Ann, Valerie & Annette
Ian Miller	Away Match Supporters			Mr. K. House, Kingston Polytechnic
Chris Ogden	Mr. J. Lambert Mr. A. Stokes Miss S. Dodge	Mr. J. Niblett, Rose Cottage, Marie Hill Chalford.	Dave Hollister, 63 Stafford St. Swindon	Miss H. Deverill, 13 Langford Grove Swindon
Andy Rowland	Mr. S. Mahoney, 18, Sciutos Caravan Park Camborne			Mr. T. Hermon, 9, St. Ives Road, Grove, Wantage
Kenny Stroud	◀ Rayner's Car Breakers, Wootton Bassett ▶			
Brian Williams	Away Match Supporters			
Alan Mayes	Mr. D. Elston 19, Six Willows, Little Harrowden, Wellingborough.	◀ Mr. K. Smith, 1 Porch Cottage, Weston under Penyard, Ross on Wye. ▶		



# Bill McCracken

## (1883-1979)

Earlier this year, football lost one of its longest and most faithful servants in Bill McCracken - who died in January just a few days short of his ninety-sixth birthday.

He began his career in 1901 with the Distillery club in Belfast, his place of birth, and having already represented his country at full back, joined Newcastle United in 1905. With that club he won two League Championship medals, an F.A. Cup-winners medal and two Runners-up medals - all in the space of four years between 1907 and 1911. He went on to make nearly four hundred League appearances, later partnering Frank Hudspeth at full-back. The two developed a ploy to catch opposing forwards offside under the old rules - which stipulated that three players, not two, should be between the attacker and the goal-line when the ball is played. A shrewd reader of the game, McCracken practiced this manoeuvre to a fine art and the eventual change in the offside ruling in 1925 is accredited by many to his tactics. By this time, though, he had already retired from playing and had taken up the appointment of manager at Hull City, in which capacity he won his last cap for Ireland in 1923.

During the Second War he was in charge at Aldershot and consequently obtained the services of many star players of the era who happened to be stationed there in the Army. There were Denis Compton (Arsenal), Jimmy Hagan (Derby), Cliff Britton, Tommy Lawton, Joe Mercer (all Everton), Tommy Walker (Hearts) and Stan Cullis (Wolves), to name but a few.

Bill McCracken had had a long and successful playing career, but was to spend even longer in the game as scout, first to Millwall and later to Watford and was still active in this occupation well into his nineties.



THE FIRST  
SWINDON PROGRAMME FAIR

WILL BE HELD AT  
THE COUNTY GROUND ON  
MAY 6th (SUNDAY)

10.30 to 2.30

Admission 20p (Juveniles 10p)



# ACTION REPLAY



Swindon defender Steve Aizlewood leaps into the air as the ball beats both him and Swansea goalkeeper Crudgington at the County Ground last Saturday.



Swindon's Bryan Hamilton beats the advancing Swansea goalkeeper Crudgington to head just wide-but was judged to have handled the ball giving a free kick to the visitors, who won 1 - 0 at the County Ground last Saturday.



# From the **COMMERCIAL OFFICE**

Our "Grand Easter Draw" was held in The Rendezvous Club after the Swansea match and the winning numbers were:

1st £500 No. 03079 2nd £200 No. 29805  
3rd £100 No. 13869

PLUS 20 prizes of £10 22429, 11287,  
08286, 16533, 14047, 03560, 06640,  
16317, 15849, 31453, 12113, 26133,  
01384, 01526, 29880, 16846, 30218,  
28018, 20486, 25393.

Our thanks to everyone who supported this draw. All winning claims to the Pools Office.

On Sunday May 6th we are having a "Programme Fair". This will be the first of its kind in Swindon and will be held on the North Stand Gallery commencing 10.30am. To all of you who collect programmes I am sure there will be something of interest for you to see and buy. Admission 20p. Children under 14 years old 10p.

The close season is almost upon us but our Lottery and Bingo Competitions must go on. I am once again appealing to you to help by becoming an Agent for our com-

petitions. Commission is payable on all sales plus a bonus on winning tickets sold. If you can sell just ten tickets to your friends and workmates fill in the form below and return to the Pools Office.

Doug Buswell  
Commercial Consultant

Swindon Town Football Club

I would like to become a Lottery/Bingo Agent.

Name .....

Address .....

Tel No. ....

I am over 16 years old

Signature .....

S.T.F.C.  
Commercial Office,  
County Ground,  
Swindon. Swindon 31510/42984

## CARTERTON BUILDING SUPPLIES LTD.

1 & 2 The Parade,  
Burford Rd., Carterton, Oxon.

## HYGENA KITCHEN SPECIALISTS

Large stocks held of QA & White Space Units  
all at Minimum 25% Discount

Carterton 841665

Carterton 841904



# NATION WIDE

By Tony Pullein

There's an old saying in football that a good Easter often clinches promotion and this could prove to be the case for Gillingham, who looked in distinct danger of disappearing from the promotion reckoning as the holiday games approached. But maximum points from two games put them in a wonderful position to win promotion to the Second Division for the first time in their history.

Yet it looked like a case of history repeating itself for the Gills as they approached Easter with a run of four games without a win. They had been poised for promotion last season, too, until going into decline at around the same time.

But Gillingham prepared for the crunch holiday fixture list by defeating Walsall 3-1 on the Tuesday prior to Easter. On Easter Saturday they pulled off one of their finest performances of the season when winning 1-0 at Southend.

The irony of that game was that the only goal should have been scored by Danny Westwood who was a junior player with Southend until being released about six years ago. He then joined Q.P.R. and moved on to Gillingham in 1975. The Gills completed a very happy Easter by whipping Colchester 3-0 on Monday before their best crowd (12,030) of the season. Shrewsbury player-manager Graham Turner would have wished for more than the three points his side collected from three games. Yet, considering their opponents included Watford and Swansea, the Gay Meadow club shouldn't grumble.

They were a goal down at Swansea until Ian Atkins popped up with a second-half equaliser and they were more than a little fortunate in their home game with Watford when Luther Blissett missed a glorious chance for the visitors with not even the goalkeeper to beat! With the score at 1-1, Blissett dribbled around goalkeeper Ken Mulhearn but delayed his shot too long, enabling Mulhearn to recover and make a brave save at his feet.

Shrewsbury's goal was scored by Trevor Birch, his first for the club since his £40,000 transfer from Liverpool shortly before this season's deadline. But Ian Bolton equalised for Wat-

ford within a minute and that was how the score remained.

Biggest disappointment for Shrewsbury was their inability to extract more than a single point from their local derby at Chester, which ended goalless.

Has our luck changed at long last? That's what Portsmouth fans were asking themselves after Pompey's 2-1 victory at Newport on Easter Monday. It was their first away win since Boxing Day and was the first stroke of good fortune to go their way for some while. It also brought a happy climax to what had been a frustrating Easter.

With manager Jimmy Dickinson still recovering following his heart attack, the players were hoping to send good news to his bedside. But a 0-2 defeat at Reading on Good Friday effectively ended their promotion hopes.

Their only holiday home game had Wimbledon as the visitors. Once again Lady Luck was against them. A Jeff Hemmerman header in the last minute looked a certain goal until the Dons' goalkeeper Ray Goddard brought off an "impossible" cat-like leap to save. The game ended 0-0 and Hemmerman, who had scored 13 goals by Christmas but has netted only once since, is wondering what he has to do to end his jinx.

Tony Funnell, who scored his first goal for Gillingham in their 3-0 victory over Colchester, may shortly be joined at the Priestfield stadium by his former Southampton team-mate Trevor Hebbard. The Gills paid the Saints £50,000 for Funnell just before this season's transfer deadline and they have been receiving reports of Hebbard.

Plymouth Argyle, no doubt looking for support for top-scorer Fred Binney, are also keen to sign Hebbard who was the player who came into the Southampton side this season as successor to Ted MacDougall, who moved on to Bournemouth.

Plymouth manager Bobby Saxton has been worried about lack of cover should any injury befall Binney who scored his 26th goal of the season in Argyle's 2-1 Easter victory over Brentford. His next highest scorers were Gary Megson and Brian Johnson who had scored only six apiece.

Oxford United, who earlier made an unsuccessful bid to sign Cardiff's 21-year-old Scottish defender Gerry Byrne may as yet complete the deal. The player has made it known to Cardiff manager Richie Morgan that he feels the time has come for him to be playing regular first-team football.

Wigan Athletic's first Easter as a Football League club could scarcely have been happier. The Springfield Park club took four points from three games and still had a chance of breaking into one of the promotion places.

They showed their fighting qualities after trailing 0-3 early in the second-half at home to Port Vale. But they stormed back with five goals to win 5-3!





# CASTLE'S

Office and Bakery

4 and 5 MARKET STREET SWINDON

Telephone 22017

Specialists—

Birthday Cakes : Wedding Cakes : Dairy Cream :  
Pastries : Crusty Bread : Buns : Rolls : Sponges



## RIMES OF SWINDON

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AGENTS

FOOTBALL EXCURSIONS

LUXURY COACH HIRE

Dep. from  
County Ground

Tuesday 24th April  
Saturday 28th April

Peterborough  
Hull

09.30 £2.25  
08.00 £3.50

All starting from County Ground Car Park.

SERVICE DIRECT TO THE GROUND

ALL SEATS NUMBER AND RESERVED

Book now at

102 Commercial Road,  
Swindon.  
Telephone 27113

or

46 Cricklade St.,  
Cirencester.  
Telephone 3479

or any Rimes Booking Agents

Match Ball

donated by

Provident Life Association  
of London Ltd.  
266, Bishops Gate, London  
Established 1877

PENSIONS — ESTATE PLANNING  
MORTGAGE FUNDS AVAILABLE  
Phone

Local Senior Inspector  
A. M. Gibbs F.L.I.A.  
Swindon 30302





# SATURDAY 21st APRIL 1979

SWINDON

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. P. BATES
12. B. HAMILTON

at 3.00pm



NEXT MATCH

Tuesday 1st May, 1979

DIVISION III

Oxford United  
K.O. 7.30 p.m.

WATFORD

1. A. RANKIN
2. J. STIRK
3. K. PRITCHETT
4. D. BOOTH
5. I. BOULTON
6. A. GARNER
7. B. POLLARD
8. L. BLISSETT
9. R. JENKINS
10. R. JOSLYN
11. B. DOWNES
12. To be named

Linesmen:-

Red Flag: Mr. T. ATKINS - Exeter Yellow Flag: Mr. J. BYLES - Oxford

## REFEREE

**DEREK W. CIVIL** - Birmingham

Commenced refereeing in 1955, and via Worcestershire Combination, Football Combination and Football League line, qualified for the full list in 1969. Has refereed the F.A. County Youth Cup Final in 1971/72, and was linesman in a European Cup Quarter Final (1972) also Scotland v. Switzerland in 1975/76.

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.

For High Class Central Heating, Plumbing  
Painting and Decorating  
Electrical Installations and Repairs

## NORTH WILTS

Sanitary and Heating Co. Ltd.

NEWPORT STREET, SWINDON

Telephone: 35373

## KEY OF THE BOARD

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