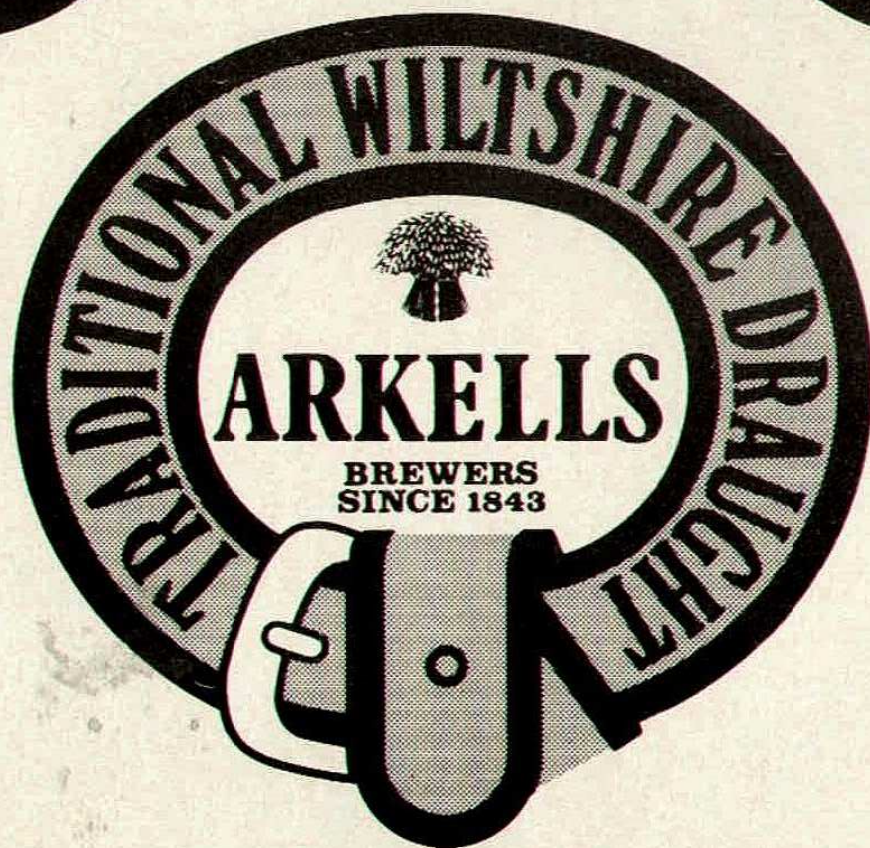


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Bob Smith says.....

My notes before Saturdays game said that we were looking for four points from our next two home matches and we are half way there, having beaten Chesterfield 2-1 on Saturday. Tonight we hope to complete the job in hand by beating Chester who already, at this stage of the season are no strangers to us. Having played Chester twice in the League Cup I am confident we can get the right result tonight. Already this season in the Third Division we are seeing that one team is breaking away at the top of the League and I feel that this is the kind of season where one win a week could take you up four places and a defeat take you down in a similar manner. With this in mind we have concentrated as I have stated before, on being a very consistent hard working side. This is not to say that I want to stifle the flare in our game, this will come the more matches we play, but the good thing at the moment is that we are picking up points by effort and determination which are necessary qualities in any side.

I would make a plea to those many hundreds of people who run onto the pitch after every match and ask you to stop this practice. In the last four years the Club has spent many thousands of pounds in an endeavour to provide an excellent playing surface for our team and the actions of these unthinking people can only harm that surface. This last thing we want at Swindon is to put up fences between the pitch and the terraces, but this may well be the only remedy. So please, leave the ground along the terraces and leave the pitch for the players.

Thank you for coming along this evening to support the team - your encouragement is really invaluable to the players so make sure you cheer them throughout the game.



NEXT MATCH

Saturday 29th September, 1979

Division III

GRIMSBY TOWN

TOWN THROUGH TIME – Goalkeepers – part five

by Paul Plowman

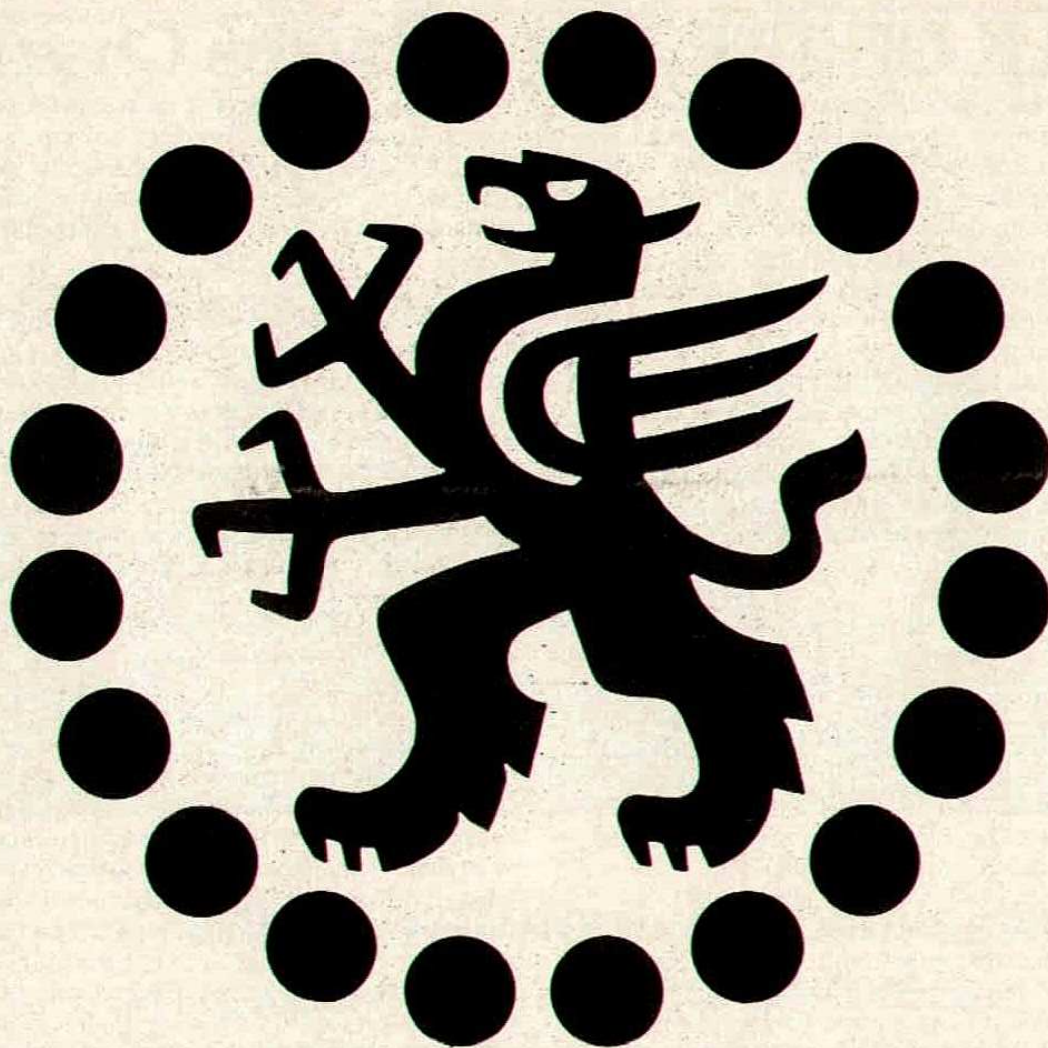
Having no fresh blood to call on, the ever-reliable TED NASH returned to Division Three action and his experience guided the Town through a run of thirteen unbeaten games - during which only three points were dropped. Swindon's league position began to look healthy, for from eighteenth place after the Merthyr debacle, the Town had now been hoisted to fifth. Not surprisingly, Nash kept his place. During the summer of 1929 JACK BOURNE, disenchanted with life in the reserves, disappeared northwards - seeking refuge in the Cheshire League. So when Ted Nash suffered injury in a 0-4 defeat at Walsall towards the end of September, HARRY WEBSTER stepped into the breach. This young keeper, signed from West Bromwich Albion, was given few chances to prove his worth and after his debut was not seen in the first team again until after Nash had been immobilised with a thigh strain in a Third Round Cup-tie with Manchester City. The Town had struggled to hold the powerful northern side and needed an own goal to effect a 1-1 draw at the County Ground - and so, devoid of the services of the now veteran Nash, it was Webster who travelled to Maine Road for the replay on the following Wednesday. City's Johnson got the first of a nap hand as early as the thirteenth minute and poor Harry was eventually buried beneath an avalanche of ten goals. Ted Nash had still not recovered for the following Saturday's trip to Merthyr's Penydarren Park and the youngster thereby recorded his second League game for the Town. Four further appearances were added to his tally at the tail end of the season, but when play resumed after the summer break he was again ousted from his position - not by Nash but by another hardy perennial, HARRY COPE. Nash had been released by the Town in the spring of 1930, but no club was immediately forthcoming with an invitation for his signature. Eventually, Brentford took him on and there he was to succeed Swindon-born Freddy Fox. Fox gained the distinction of playing half a game for England and in later years was to join the Town board of directors. But, to return to Nash's successor, it was a nimble Yorkshireman - signed from Blackburn Rovers - who took up the challenge in August 1930. Like Nash, Harry Cope was on the short side and weighed in at a little over ten stones. His considerable experience as custodian had commenced with Mexborough Town and he had been taken on by Barnsley at a time when Len Skiller was still in goal for Swindon! Cope missed just one outing in 1930/31 when, after receiving a buffeting at West Ham

Stadium (home of the ill-fated Thames), he was forced to stand down. Harry Webster obliged. Shortly before the Town were due to play at Exeter in November 1931, Cope had the misfortune to severely burn his hand in a fire at his home. This necessitated the calling up of reserve SID GILES, an amateur from Cricklade, who acquitted himself well in three games. Giles was to displace Harry Cope from his first-team perch when the Yorkshireman sustained another injury at Fulham in March 1932. Cope was not retained that summer and Giles was left to contest the spot with another new face - that of Leicestershire county cricketer LES BERRY. Giles was to make just five further appearances as a stop-gap replacement when Berry was abruptly relieved of his duties in January 1933. This followed a 1 - 7 hammering at Reading and a home F.A. Cup defeat by Burnley, when he was clearly the guilty party. Having accepted terms to continue as opening batsman for Leicestershire during the forthcoming summer, Barry terminated his soccer activities and again there was a goalkeeping vacancy. It was to be filled by another seasoned campaigner ARTHUR BRIGGS, who was plucked from semi-retirement with Ashton National, a Cheshire County League side. A Geordie, Briggs was on Hull City's books back in the early 'twenties and had then spent eight uneventful years with Tranmere Rovers. Coming to Swindon at a time when a multitude of changes were taking place in an effort to get the club off the bottom rung of the league, Arthur Briggs proved quite sound and undisturbed in the Town side for a run of sixty-three games.

To be continued.



Arthur Briggs in action



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TALK OF THE TOWN by the Chairman

Tonight we meet our friends from Chester for the third time in a few weeks and in fact we return to Chester for the return League fixture on Wednesday, 3rd October. It did look at one time, that tonight's game could have become even more complicated with a transfer to them of one of our players and Mr. Reg Rowlands the Chester Chairman and I are beginning to think that we are on one another's Boards considering the amount of business and time that we have had together recently. Chester have recently built a very modern stand which does incorporate many ideas which have been built into our own and I can appreciate all the problems that they have had with such an undertaking.

A great deal of interest seems to be building up for our visit to Stoke on Wednesday, 26th September and if you are thinking of travelling through our Travel Club, please contact Mick Conley at the Squash Club premises as soon as possible to avoid being disappointed. The kick off is 7.30 p.m. and if one is travelling by road, the route is straight forward being close to the M.6.

Since writing my last notes John Trollope's youngsters continued on their winning ways with a 2-1 home win over Derby County in the Midland Youth League and this win keeps us firmly on the top of this League with seven points out of a possible eight. Coventry City are second at the moment with four points from two games, so it looks as if this fixture could be interesting, as their record to date reads played two, seven goals for and four goals against, while our record reads, played four, with nine goals for a four against. John was playing his third South East Counties game last Saturday against Wimbledon with the hope of keeping his 100% record to date in this League. I hope that you enjoyed the innovation of the band before the game with Chesterfield last Saturday. We have tried pre-match entertainment many times in the past and I wonder whether it is an attraction our supporters would appreciate.

If the climate was right we could do many things on the pitch before a game and in fact what would be more attractive than to stage one of John's South East Counties games this way. I am sure that it would be an attraction, but of course it could not be played if the weather was wet.

Have you put your signature to the Radio Oxford petition yet? And don't forget it isn't only a protest about football coverage but a

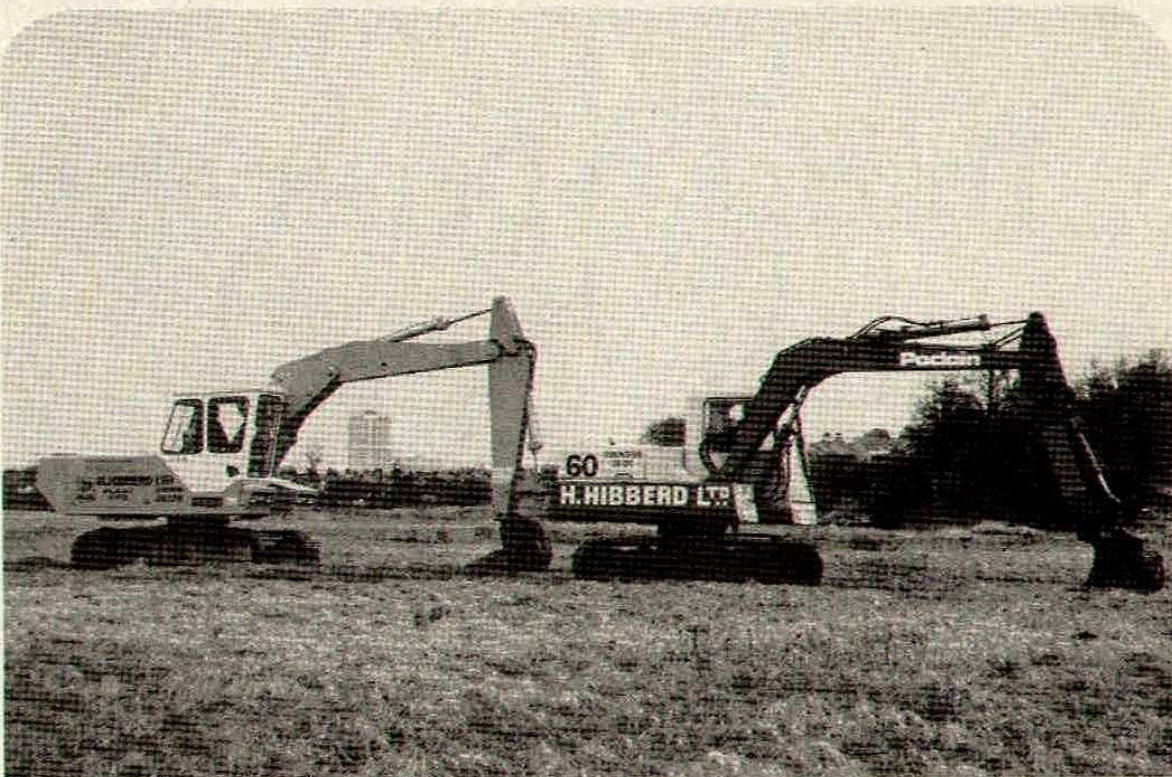
protest against omitting coverage of all sports which Radio Oxford says does not interest sufficient people to warrant a broadcast in comparison to other interests and yet B.B.C.1. allocate the whole of Saturday afternoon to sport.

As Chairman of a professional Football Club, I feel that selfishly we as a Club would benefit if there was no coverage at all on football, but we do not lose sight of the tremendous enjoyment it must give to people who cannot attend the games and there are literally thousands of people who take an interest in all the other sporting activities that are taking place as well as football.

Ron Atkinson the Manager of West Bromwich Albion and a well known figure in our area, who made a name for himself in his playing days at Oxford and then as a Manager of Cambridge United has startled some people by suggesting that our players who play abroad should not be included in our International Sides at least that is what he has been reported as saying. These comments were made with the view that if this ban was made fewer of our top players would be so keen to play abroad and after all, do we want to lose our best players to foreign teams. One paper reporter pointed out that England would be the losers, but Ron's comments were made with his own profession in mind.

There are a lot of people who are always ready to say that we are inferior in the skills of the game in comparison with our foreign competitors and most people would agree that we do not compare favourably with ball skills, but tactically, positional play and in my opinion in finishing we are superior. All nations have periods of rebuilding and we have had these problems and possibly still have them and considering that we as a nation consider our League competition our main target I think that we do very well at International Levels. We also have to take into consideration the fact that our climate is not conducive always to good ball play, but of course I must add that we do have some exceptionally good ball players in our Clubs.

Here's hoping that we all enjoy tonight's game with Chester. Chester are managed by Alan Oakes who played along-side Mike Summerbee when they were with Manchester City and now both of them find themselves as Player/Managers, Mike being in charge of Stockport County.



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After two defeats at Plough Lane, Wimbledon notched their first home league win of the season with a Ray Knolwes goal against Blackburn. But the game ended on a sad note when, five minutes from time, the Don's record signing from Q.P.R., Tommy Cunningham, was sent off.

Rotherham maintained their top of the table position by sending the Town home goalless from Millmoor. For United's Ken Tiler, a close season capture from Brighton, it was only his second goal in some 270 League appearances.

Sheffield Wednesday's fans are still waiting to witness an Owls win at Hillsborough this season.

So far Wednesday have managed just one league point there - yet away from home they have recorded three wins!

Neighbours United have found a new penalty-taker in former Arsenal defender John Matthews. He has taken over from coloured teenager Ian Benjamin who has joined West Bromwich Albion.

Following a bright start to the season, with five straight wins, Southend slipped to a second home defeat within six days when Blackpool were visitors. A Colin Morris penalty was all United could muster against Brian Wilson and Tony Kellow goals for the seaisiders.

Avg Home League Gate

Last Season This

Not including last Saturday's games

Top Goalscorer This Season (Lge & Lge Cup)

11048	114466	Barnsley	Derek Bell, Ronnie Glavin, Glyn Riley 2 each
8643	8554	Blackburn Rovers	Duncan McKenzie 5
5647	4904	Blackpool	Brian Wilson 3
7455	5670*	Brentford	John Fraser, Lee Holmes 2 each
3771	3737	Bury	Dave Gregory 3
5204	4282	Carlisle United	Paul Bannon 2
4022	4537	Chester	Ian Edwards, Peter Henderson 3 each
4756	5807	Chesterfield	Ernie Moss 7
3409	3492	Colchester United	Bobby Gough, Bob Hodge 3 each
4415	3507	Exeter City	Keith Bowker 6
7123	8769*	Gillingham	Ken Price 6
6221	6822	Grimsby Town	Bob Cumming 7
5238	6016	Hull City	Keith Edwards, Gary Roberts 2 each
5157	4971	Mansfield Town	Terry Austin 5
7001	5153	Millwall	Kevin O'Callaghan 5
4373	4645	Oxford United	Paul Berry 5
7779	5877	Plymouth Argyle	Fred Binney 3
7383	7028	Reading	Pat Earles 5
4466	4314	Rotherham United	Rod Fern, David Gwyther 5 each
16369	12319	Sheffield United	Dougie Brown, Alex Sabella 2 each
10817	13405	Sheffield Wednesday	Terry Curran 4
6344	4835	Southend United	Colin Morris 5
7751	8265	SWINDON TOWN	ALAN MAYES 6
3712	3797	Wimbledon	John Leslie 5

* Only one home game played

From the Commercial Office

Good Evening,

Once again we welcome everyone present to the County Ground and hope they will find the visit worthwhile.

Many of you will know that it is only 3 weeks since Chester F.C. last visited us. I wonder how many know that in those 3 weeks approximately £10,000 has been won by lucky people who support our two main fund raising schemes, The new Moonraker Lottery and our Rocket Bingo Tickets. In addition a further £900 has been won by our agents selling our Lottery Tickets.

Congratulations to all those winners but in addition many thanks to all those people who

were not lucky. Thanks to those Agents who sold tickets without a winner. To those agents we say "Keep Selling". To those customers who did not win we say "Keep Buying". Perhaps next week is your lucky week.

One thing is however certain, your support is vital to the club. Swindon F.C. cannot do without your help. If you have not sold or bought our tickets before and would like to know more about it just ring Swindon 42984 or Swindon 31510 or call in at the Pools or Lottery Officer under the "Town End" stand. We will welcome your enquiries.

ERIC MOORE
LOTTERY CONTROLLER

Swindon striker Andy Rowland leaps to get in a goalbound header during Saturday's victory over Chesterfield at the County Ground.



August Match Statistics

LEAGUE CUP August 11	LEAGUE CUP August 14	DIVISION 3 August 18	DIVISION 3 August 21	DIVISION 3 August 25	LEAGUE CUP August 28	DIVISION 3 August 31	Comp. Date
Portsmouth Away 1-1	Portsmouth Home 2-0	Sheffield U. Away 1-2	Reading Home 0-0	Brentford Home 4-0	Chester Home 1-0	Colchester Away 3-2	Opponents Venue Result
Allan	Allan	Allan	Allan	Allan	Allan	Allan	1
Templeman	Templeman	Templeman	Templeman	Templeman	Templeman	Templeman	2
Ford	Ford	Ford	Ford	Ford	Ford	Ford	3
McHale	McHale	McHale	McHale	McHale	McHale	McHale	4
Tucker	Tucker	Tucker	Tucker	Tucker	Tucker	Tucker	5
Stroud	Stroud	Stroud	Stroud	Stroud	Stroud	Stroud	6
Miller	Miller	Miller	Miller	Miller	Miller	Miller	7
Carter	Carter	Carter	Carter	Carter	Carter	Carter	8
Rowland	Rowland	Rowland	Rowland	Rowland	Rowland	Rowland	9
Gilchrist	Mayes	Mayes	Mayes	Mayes	Mayes	Mayes	10
Williams	Williams	Williams	Williams	Williams	Williams	Williams	11
Kamara	Kamara	Gilchrist	Not used	Not used	Not used	Lewis	12
Gilchrist	Mayes	Kamara	9554	6977	6965	Ford (inj.)	Player replaced
9978	9097	11923			2794	2794	Gate
Rowland (31)	Mellor o.g. (75) Carter (77)	Mayes (21)	Mayes (40, 68) Lewis (48)	Mayes (19)	Mayes (26) Rowland (42, 90)	Mayes (26) Rowland (42, 90)	Scorers (mins.)

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Aug. 18 BRISTOL CITY Home 0-4
Ogden; Beattie, Norman; Hughes, Lewis, Henry;
McDonald, Ellery, Wood, Page, Willoughby
Aug. 20 LUTON TOWN Away 1-1 (Hamilton)

Ogden; Beattie, Norman; Trollope, Lewis, Henry;
Abbeley, Kamara, Page, Ellery, Hamilton. Sub: Willoughby
Aug. 25 OXFORD UNITED Away 1-4 (Ellery)
Roberts; Hughes, Willoughby; Norman, Henry, Hamilton;
Abbeley, Kamara, Bates, Gilchrist, Ellery. Sub: Page.

SOUTH-EAST COUNTIES

Aug. 18 CRYSTAL PALACE Home 2-0 (Rustell 2)
Twigger; Baverstock, Munde; Cock, Notton, Westlake;
Rustell, Allen, Rideout, Venn, Blackler. Sub: Harper
MIDLAND-YOUTH

Aug. 20 WEST BROMWICH A. Away 1-0 (Page)
Twigger; Hughes, Norman; Blackler, Henry, Round;
Rustell, Batty, Wood, Page, Willoughby. Sub: Baverstock
Aug. 30 LEICESTER CITY Home 5-2 (Page 5)
Twigger; Baillie, Norman; Hughes, Henry, Round;
Rustell, McKitterick, Wood, Page, Willoughby. Sub: Blackler

Chester put Cup defeat behind them

Chester make their second visit of the season to the County Ground, determined to put their recent League Cup defeat well behind them. Now they come here hoping to maintain their highly-encouraging run of early League results which has made them one of the chief promotion contenders.

A goal by Alan Mayes gave us a narrow 1-0 win here in the League Cup and Alan scored again in the second-leg which was drawn 1-1 at Sealand Road, thus giving us a 2-1 aggregate victory.

One of the happiest features of Chester's play so far has been the return to scoring form of Ian Edwards who netted three times in their opening two League games. Ian, now a Welsh international, hit four goals for his country in last season's European Championship tie against Malta. He was Chester's leading scorer last season with 23 goals.

Peter Henderson, Brynley Jones and Peter Sutcliffe have also appeared in attack. Henderson, who joined the club from Witton Albion and scored seven goals last season, had netted three times this term before the weekend. Jones came through from the junior sides to make his bow in the League team in 1977 and he had notched one goal.

Sutcliffe scored Chester's goal in our 1-1 draw at Sealand Road. He began his career with Manchester United but didn't play League football until joining Stockport County in 1975. Port Vale signed him during 1976/77 and he moved on to Chester last season.

Midfield players include Trevor Storton, Ron Phillips, John Ruggiero and Ian Howat.

Storton emerged with Tranmere Rovers and crossed the Mersey to sign for Liverpool in 1972. Two years later Chester signed him for a then club record fee of £18,000. Phillips made well over 100 League appearances for Bolton, had a loan spell at Chesterfield and was transferred to Bury in 1975. Chester signed him two years ago and he hit 13 goals for them last season.

Ruggiero joined Chester from Brighton during the close-season and scored in his first League game, at Wimbledon, on the opening day of the season. John opened his professional career with Stoke City but actually made his League debut while on loan to Workington in 1975/76. He returned to make a few senior appearances for the Potters before joining Brighton in 1977.

Howat is a Chester discovery who came into the League team three seasons ago.

Derek Jeffries can play either in defence or midfield. He won England under-23 honours in his Manchester City days and was valued at £115,000 when he moved on to Crystal Palace in 1973. Following loan spells with Peterborough and Millwall, he signed for Chester in 1977.

The Chester defence will probably comprise of Paul Raynor, John Cottam, Alan Oakes and Jim Walker.

Raynor made his bow for Chester three seasons back and has played on both sides of the defence. Cottam was another new arrival this summer, transferring from Chesterfield. John played about 100 senior games for Nottingham Forest before moving to Chesterfield in 1976 and also spent loan periods with Mansfield and Lincoln.

Player-manager Alan Oakes distinguished himself both in defence and midfield for Manchester City, setting up the existing club record of 565 League appearances for the Maine Road club. While with City, he was selected for the Football League XI and he was in the original 40 for Sir Alf Ramsey's 1970 World Cup selection, though he didn't get into the final party. Chester signed him as a player for £15,000 in 1976 but, within weeks, he was appointed player-manager.

Walker spent several years with Derby and signed for Brighton in 1974. He moved on to Peterborough in 1976 and, after only a matter of months, signed for Chester.

Goalkeeper Brian Lloyd has played for Wales at full and under-23 levels. He started his career with Stockport County, joined Southend in 1969 and was transferred to Wrexham in 1971. Chester signed him two years ago.

Chester took six points from their opening five League games. They opened with a good 3-2 win at Wimbledon, then scored a home win over Grimsby (3-1). Sheffield United held them to a 1-1 draw at Sealand Road before they suffered their first defeat of the season at Bury (0-2).

They recovered to draw 1-1 at home to Millwall in their next game and last Saturday they faced a pretty tough encounter at Gillingham.

By Tony Pullein

John Ward at the Open Forum

On Monday evening, 3rd September in the Rendezvous Club Swindon Town Manager, Bob Smith gave a virtuoso display answering a bewildering range of questions from "Why didn't you send on a substitute in the Reading game?" to "What is the club policy over a length of contract offered to players?" before more than a hundred supporters at another in the series of Swindon Town's Open Forums.

The proceedings were chaired in his inimitable urbane and good-natured way by the club Chairman, Mr. Cecil Green and the supporting cast included first team coach Wilf Tranter and club secretary Bob Jefferies but the star of the evening was understandably Bob Smith.. Even more assured than on the same occasion a year ago he was in complete command of his audience. He was by turn frank, firm and humorous. To give examples: Without naming players he did not judge players' abilities on just one game but on an accumulation of performances and if an assessment had been made after the Sheffield United match at least three players would have been placed on the transfer list but his actions after that game had been based upon his years assessment. "Don't just sit there and clap" he told someone who applauded a remark that a certain player had not been playing well "you have had half an hour to stand up and make a comment yourself. If you have a point of view have the courage of your convictions to say it out loud". Again, when explaining how the club tried to persuade parents to let Swindon sign their boys as apprentices "first we show them the club hostel so that they know their boy will be well looked after then we show them Danny William's house so that they can see what you can get out of football if you keep your nose clean!"

Not all the questions were about football on the field. One speaker made an impassioned plea for the club to make greater efforts to attract supporters from the outlying areas: perhaps as a first step a change of name to Thamesdown United would help people beyond the boundaries of Swindon to identify with the Club. The verdict of the meeting was not sympathetic to this suggestion.

A number of supporters present felt that potential spectators stayed away from the County Ground because the local paper exaggerated any incident which could be represented as crowd trouble. There had been some sensational reporting of alleged riots at the Portsmouth match which deterred respectable people from attending subsequent games.

Bob Jefferies was particularly indignant that the paper confined football reports to the back page while promoting louts and mindless idiots to the front page, a remark which drew appreciative applause. He described how the Advertiser were upset when he refused to give them a free press ticket for someone to report specifically on crowd trouble at the Reading game. "What crowd trouble?" he had asked. "Oh, we anticipate that there will be some" was the reply. Since the Advertiser were already allocated ten passes to cover the football for various sources Bob Jefferies stood his ground and refused and happily there was no crowd trouble.

The manager returned to the subject of relations with the press when asked how much of what was attributed to him by journalists he had really said "I've had my battles with reporters" said Bob Smith, "The only time I fall out with them is if I am quoted out of context or if they write about rumours or conjectures without first confirming them with me. Of course a reporter should say what he thinks. If he considers that the team is playing badly he is entitled to say so. But a local paper should always try to be optimistic about the local clubs and write about the good things".

In view of what he had just said Bob Smith was asked why he had criticised openly his midfield players in the press after the game against Sheffield United. Was he not lucky that they had not asked for a transfer after reading his remark? The Manager's reply was very revealing, "I hardly ever speak to the press about individual players' bad performances. If I criticise a player I do it to his face in private. Occasionally I make an exception. The game against Sheffield United was the first of a new season and I felt that I had to lay down standards for the rest of the season. I was told off by the Chairman but I knew my actions would have a good effect on the players concerned. As I expected they responded positively and they have been working harder at their game. Above all else I try to have an honest relationship with my players.

Everyone present must have been impressed by Bob Smith's frankness and encouraged by the way in which the Manager and Chairman could acknowledge a difference of opinion in public and yet retain a healthy respect for each other. The display of harmony between board, back-room staff, manager and coach was one of the main features of this Open Forum which I shall return to in a further article. The united front off the field augers well for a successful season.



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SOCCER SCENE by Tony Pullein

Only One Win in 23 Games for Charlton

Disaster struck Charlton again last week when it seemed they were poised for victory at home to Wrexham. They had been holding onto a 1-0 advantage, given to them by a Derek Hales goal in the 37th minute, for almost an hour when the visitors struck twice within a minute to win 2-1.

The men from The Valley then looked back on a run that had seen them win only once in 23 games. That solitary victory, however, was a vital one. They beat Oldham 2-0 at The Valley on the final day of last season to save them from relegation to the Third Division.

But Charlton are still looking for their first away League win of 1979. Since winning 3-0 at Oldham on December 30 last year, Charlton have played 11 away League games without a win.

Ipswich manager Bobby Robson made one of the most controversial decisions of his career when he decided to pull off his England centre-forward Paul Mariner 15 minutes from the end of last week's clash with Bristol City. Ipswich were leading 1-0 at the time and Mariner, Ipswich's top scorer for the past two seasons, was clearly shocked by the decision.

Mr. Robson explained afterwards: "Bristol were showing signs of breaking back into the game and I felt we needed another goal. We had had several chances, and missed them, so I felt a fresh face was needed. Mariner still has one or two weaknesses in his game, which we have spoken about, and he accepted the decision in a sporting manner. I am sure he will play for England again."

Mariner, who was capped five times for England, scored 17 goals for Ipswich last season but had scored only once this term.

Derby County, who had failed to score in 743 minutes of League soccer, hit three in 42 minutes during the second-half of their home game against Arsenal to turn a 0-2 interval deficit into a sensational 3-2 victory.

Rams' manager Colin Addison put it all down to his half-time blast. "I've never torn into players harder," he confessed. "Quite honestly, they were an embarrassment to me in the first-half. We had played for 45 minutes but let Arsenal have the ball for 40 of them. We were two goals down and something had to be done. I had a go at each of the eleven players individually. Not about tactics, but about attitudes. I think it worked. Have a look at the scoreline!"

Derby had failed to score in the final three games of last season --- before Mr. Addison took over --- and had played four League games this season without a goal.

Arsenal, fresh from their wonderful 7-0 League Cup hammering of Leeds in midweek, seemed to be well on the way to another big win by half-time. Then they folded under Derby's pressure and all their manager Terry Neill could do afterwards was to shrug: "We chucked it away. I feel I could give all my players a kick up the backside!"

Reading manager Maurice Evans has been searching for new players this week following a run of disappointing results. Since the club won promotion to the Third Division last May, he has spent £40,000 each on Hughie Cheetham (Crewe), a midfield player, and Gary Heale (Luton), a striker.

But there's little doubt that Reading have been missing their former skipper and centre-back Paul Bennett, who fell into dispute over terms, and was recently transferred to Aldershot for £25,000. Reading also sold their promising right-back Gary Peters to Fulham so a new defender has been high on Mr. Evans' list this week.

One player on his list was Crystal Palace's veteran centre-back Tony Hazell who has 15 years of League experience behind him with Q.P.R., Millwall and Crystal Palace. Now no longer a first-teamer at Palace, Hazell could rise to this latest challenge to pull Reading out of trouble.

Reading were also hoping to sign Gillingham striker Danny Westwood, who had been relegated to the substitute's bench this season.

When Reading previously gained promotion to the Third Division they were relegated at the end of their first season. After losing at Oxford, Reading were bottom of the table with just two points from five games.

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REFEREE:

BRIAN STEVENS (Stonehouse, Glos)

Started refereeing in the Stroud Youth League in 1963 and progressed via the Stroud, Gloucestershire County and Western Leagues to the Football League list. Refereed the England v. Scotland Schoolboy International at Wembley in 1975, England v. Holland Schoolboy International in 1979, and lined a European Cup Winners Cup match in 1977.

A married man, he has two daughters, and is a Toolmaker. His hobbies are skittles and tennis. Referees' Secretary and District Youth League.

Linesmen: Mr. K. F. Bissix, Hanham, Bristol
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TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 18

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