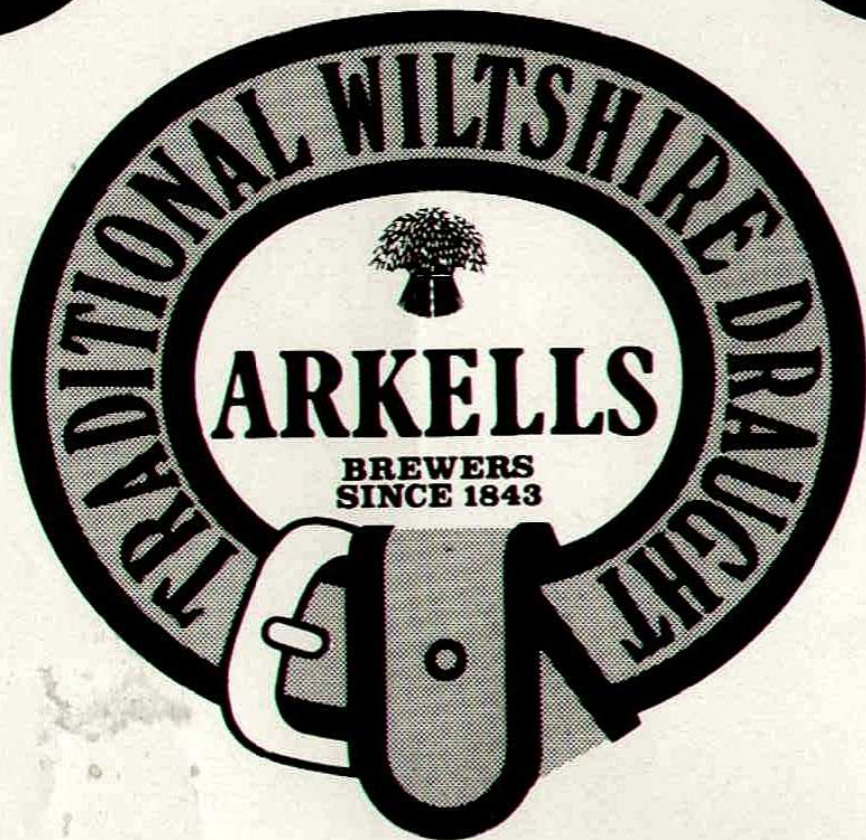


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Talk of the Town by the Chairman

Today we welcome the Players and Officials from Wimbledon Football Club on their first League appearance at the County Ground. Wimbledon have done very well in league football since their promotion, from non-league football gaining promotion quickly from the Fourth Division.

The excitement of our cup tie football is now behind us, but the thoughts of our supporters are still on the magnificent performance put up by our team. We all realize how important it is to our Club to win promotion and to obtain this, and we know that Bob Smith will do anything in his power to keep the momentum flowing.

Through all the excitement of the cup ties came the problems to the supporters, both home and away, and to the unfortunate people that travelled many miles to support their team, only to find that they were unable to gain admission or perhaps could see very little of the game when they did gain admittance, we can only pass on our apologies. We at the County Ground will do everything in our power to try and improve our match arrangements, when the next season cup ties are with us, and we can only hope that clubs like Tottenham and the Wolves, will have learned from these experiences.

I have received a letter from Mr Congell of Melksham who says that there were three coaches with our supporters from Melksham who were left outside the ground at Wolverhampton, and I would suggest that as many of those people as possible write to the Wolverhampton Football Club and complain of the treatment they received. It can only do good because it will enlighten the powers to be to the fact that these games should be all ticket.

Our Vice Chairman, Mr Charles Cowley, travelled to Coventry last week to join a seminar on their underground heating system, and came away

with a lot of useful knowledge of the advantages etc. of their system which we shall be discussing at our next Board Meeting.

On this same day, we attended a group meeting of clubs held in Bristol where we discussed, among many items, the future of football in the eighties, and there were many interesting ideas out forward. I cannot see many changes being accepted by Clubs quickly, as the history of changes in the Football League are few and far between.

One of the suggestions concern Reserve Team Football on a regional basis, but again, this depends very much on the individual club and where they are playing their Reserve Team football at the moment. We are in one of the strongest Reserve leagues in the Country playing in the London Combination and would not be in favour of playing in anything less favourable in strength. We have and are spending a lot of money on our Youth policy trying to grade our young players through different leagues of different age groups and strengths.

John Trollope is having a very successful season to date with his under seventeen age group being on top of the South East Counties league at the time of writing these notes, and his Midland Youth team, an under-nineteen age group are more than holding their own with fifteen points from twelve games.

With Bob Smith being away with his team in Marabella for a few days, he has asked me to apologize to you for the absence of his usual Club article in today's programme.

To our Squash Club members, I apologize on behalf of our Club, for the awful state of our Courts, and I have been promised that work will be put in hand this coming week to rectify this position. We are going to put in air vents to improve the air circulation to get rid of the present fungus that soon collects on walls. We are then going to paint the walls and court lines to bring them back to standard. The dressing rooms are also due for an upgrading.

cont. over

Town through time-

The Team Manager—Part One by Paul Plowman

Who once said that eighty of the 92 League managers were unsuccessful - that unless you win promotion, the League championship or one of the Cups, you are a failure? Today, with much rolling of managerial heads, he could well be right. On the other hand, a manager can possess all the qualities to succeed, but his best laid plans can go awry when he is entirely at the mercy of the twelve players he has chosen at kick-off time. The problem and pleasures of selecting those players to represent the club out on the field have not always rested with the individual now termed 'team manager'. In the early days of professionalism, responsibility was laid at the door of the directors - but as time progressed team selection became less of a committee decision and gradually came to sit fairly and squarely on the shoulders of one man. This man, more often than not, had to combine this task with the duties of club secretary. Thus the label 'secretary-manager' was quite prevalent at one time.

The most successful of managers through the years have tended to come from the ranks of the 'average' or undistinguished player. Few, if any, great players have found continued glory in football management. Perhaps the greatest manager of all time was Herbert Chapman. On the field he led Huddersfield Town to three successive League championships in the 'twenties then took Arsenal to Wembley three times in five years - and would have seen them emulate Huddersfield in the League treble had he lived long enough. Off the park, his ideas were years ahead of his time - the white ball, numbers on shirts and playing under floodlights. Yet Herbert Chapman never made it as a player, injury having forced him into premature retirement. Earlier, Tottenham had had the benefit of his services but he was unable to break into the first team - and some time before that he was here at Swindon, making all of three Southern League appearances for the Town during the autumn of 1899.

At the County Ground at that time, Len Dodson was assisting the board in matters appertaining to the playing staff but he was soon to be succeeded by a man who was to devote over forty years of his life to the club - SAM ALLEN. Born in West Bromwich on January 2 1868, Sam came to Swindon in 1893 when he joined the Great Western Railway Works and was elected to the Town committee in June 1895 - soon after the club had relinquished amateur status. Sam was already well known in football circles being a referee of some repute and he later ran the line



at many notable F.A. Cup Ties. He was appointed secretary on a part-time basis in June 1902 (continuing his G.W.R. employment) at a salary of ten shillings per week. It was a time of crisis at the County Ground. The Town had just finished bottom of the Southern League, had scored just sixteen goals all season and had lost every single away game. Sam was equipped with twenty pounds a week for the paybill and had to distribute it amongst fourteen professionals plus trainer Fred Wiltshire! Terms were offered to just four of the existing players and Sam went out to make some more than useful acquisitions in a bid to inject life into the Town's ailing fortunes. Centre half Charlie Bannister, who was to make over 200 League appearances, came from Lincoln. Goalkeeper 'Tich' Hemmings made the short trip from Chippenham Town and stayed nearly ten years. Sam also found a goalscorer in Jimmy Poppitt from Wolves and later in the season brought back to Swindon the experienced centre-forward Frank Becton. The Town managed to finish twelfth out of sixteen but things could only improve. In 1904 Sam captured another leader in Freddy Wheatcroft from Derby and although neither Wheatcroft nor Bannister chose to stay long, he later enticed both of them back. His purchase of Billy Tout from Bristol East late in 1905 was a key piece in his jigsaw for the future. To be continued.

cont. from Page 3

On Thursday last, Doug Buswell held his 100th Lottery Draw in the Rendezvous Club, and Doug and his staff can feel proud of their achievements to date, which have enabled Bob Smith to progress with his team and given us the incentive to look ahead.

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



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John Ward talks to Kevin Roberts

"I don't like taking snap decisions," said Kevin Roberts. If confirmation were needed there is the fact that it is only after going out together for eight and a half years that he and his fiancée have decided to get married!

When he left school in Bristol Kevin went to work for Lloyds Bank. (Incidentally do Swindon hold a record with these former bank staff on their books, the others being Ian Miller and Billy Tucker?) "I was at four branches in four years and I hated it! I thought of becoming a trainee accountant but my branch manager talked me out of it. It was so boring being part of a small team doing the same job over and over again." But, reluctant to make a sudden change, he stuck it out until eventually forsaking banking for a job in the Council's rates office. "There were a hundred and twenty of us in the same office; the atmosphere was tremendous and I really enjoyed it."

Meanwhile from school until he was twenty Kevin was playing in goal for Bristol Portway and enjoying that too. "The difference between 'amateur' and 'professional' football is that you can choose who you play with," he explained. "If a newcomer arrives and he doesn't get on with the established players at the club it doesn't matter how good he is, he soon moves on." During this time he was, as it were, waiting for a League Club to show an interest. He had not been impressed with the youth policy of either of the two Bristol clubs and eventually he moved on from Bristol Portway to Welton Rovers. It was there at the age of twenty one that he received an offer from Swindon Town. Why did he decide to become a full-time professional when he was enjoying his job and his football? "I was getting on a bit in football terms. I was determined to give it a try and enjoy it, even if it only lasted for two years. Turning professional" he added with a nice touch of irony "was one of my more impulsive acts!"

Kevin readily acknowledges that since that day life has not exactly been a bed of roses. When Bob Smith arrived as manager Kevin realised that he had to impress the new boss. He played well in the pre-season tour of Scotland and in a League Cup game at Portsmouth but at the crucial moment admits to having had "a stinker" in a friendly against West Ham. Chris Ogden appeared and Kevin found himself Third choice goalkeeper.

1978/79 proved a difficult time for him: "I was training but not playing. It was all very

frustrating." He spent four months away on loan, one month with Grimsby, then in the Fourth Division, and three with Weymouth. How did a young West countryman react to being uprooted suddenly for a spell on the bracing East coast? "I was sweating a bit at the thought of meeting a group of people whom I didn't know but as soon as I arrived I felt one of the lads at once. They went out of their way to make me feel welcome and George Kirby (then number two to John Newman and now manager) was a great character. Grimsby is quite an attractive place and the hotel was nice. All the players at Grimsby trained together: there was no split between first team and reserves. It was one happy family working and laughing together."

Weymouth too was a personal success. An original one month loan was extended to three and the prospect of first team football convinced Kevin that his future lay there but the deal between the two clubs fell through. There was further uncertainty in store: Kevin went to Halifax on a week's trial. The snow came down so he could not play any matches. Injuries meant that Halifax needed a goalkeeper urgently so they signed a local player whom they knew in preference to the untried Kevin. His experience in Halifax was the reverse of Grimsby. "It's a bleak place when you come out of the railway station, especially in the snow. And they weren't friendly like they were at Grimsby." One positive result of Kevin's travels is that he goes out of his way to try and make trialists and youngsters arriving at Swindon feel wanted.

At the end of last season Kevin's contract came to an end. He had lost weight as a result of the trials and tribulations which he had been through. He retired to the solace of his large record collection - he has wide tastes which range, depending on his mood, from the classics to Wings and Paul McCartney - for a long hard think about what he ought to do. "I came to the conclusion that I had messed around for a year. Now I decided that I was going to prove that I could play. There were three goalkeepers at Swindon. If one had to go it wasn't going to be me!" Initially a more satisfactory arrangement for him was made whereby he and Chris Ogden played alternate games in the reserves. Now with Chris's departure for Rotherham Kevin has the reserve team place to himself and with it regular football. "Whoever it's for and whatever else is happening I really enjoy three o'clock on a Saturday afternoon out on the pitch. After all I went through I have more confidence this season. There's even a touch of arrogance about my play. I was too quiet before. I am very happy with the way things are going now."



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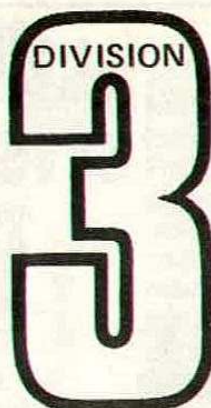
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There were plenty of goals for the 23,433 crowd at Hillsborough. Chesterfield, with a 1-0 advantage at the interval, fell behind with just five minutes left but Geoff Salmons popped in a late equaliser to make it 3-3. Wednesday's total of 54 League goals is now the best in the division.

Colchester recorded their ninth away League - unequalled in any division - with two goals in five minutes at Barnsley. Steve Dowman claimed his first goal of the season and Eddie Rowles got the other. Barnsley replied seven minutes from time through a Ronnie Glavin penalty.

Plymouth's Dave Kemp, returning after a lengthy injury lay-off, came on as substitute at Blackpool and scored his eleventh goal of the season in Argyle's 3-1 win. He netted again at Wimbledon

on Tuesday, a late penalty, but this time his side was on the wrong end of a 3-1 scoreline. The Dons' leading scorers John Leslie and Steve Parsons both scored within a minute to put the South London side into a commanding two-goal lead with only fifteen minutes gone.

Millwall slipped to a 0-1 defeat at Hull and have now collected only three points in six games since the turn of the year. Keith Edwards got City's winner in the second half. Mansfield scored twice in a League game for the first time since November. Top scorer Terry Austin was back on target, his first since December 15, and he also set up the second for new man Brian Pollard. But two defensive errors let in Reading's Pat Earles and Mike Kearney for a point.

LEAGUE TABLE up to and including Tuesday February 19, 1980

	Home					Away						Avg Home	
	P	W	D	L	F - A	W	D	L	F - A	Pts	Lge Gate	TOP GOALSCORERS (incl. Cups)	
Grimsby T.	32	12	1	3	33-15	5	4	7	14-18	39	8,859	Bob Cummings 15, Kevin Kilmore 11	
Colchester U.	32	6	8	2	26-16	9	1	6	19-23	39	3,825	Trevor Lee 14, Bobby Gough 11	
Sheffield U.	31	11	2	3	30-14	5	3	7	21-28	37	16,112	Jeff Bourne 11, Barry Butlin 7	
Sheffield W.	30	7	4	5	27-17	6	6	2	27-20	36	16,236	Terry Curran 15, Mark Smith 11	
Chesterfield	30	11	4	0	34-11	3	4	8	15-23	36	6,842	Ernie Moss 16, Alan Birch 13	
Blackburn R.	30	7	4	3	17- 9	6	4	6	17-16	34	7,702	Andy Crawford 12*, Duncan McKenzie 10	
Exeter C	32	9	4	4	26-18	4	3	8	18-34	33	4,180	Keith Bowker 13, Steve Neville 10	
SWINDON TOWN	27	9	2	2	31-10	4	3	7	16-24	31	8,494	ALAN MAYES 24, ANDY ROWLAND 21	
Oxford U.	31	7	4	5	26-16	3	7	5	17-23	31	4,649	Paul Berry 10, Peter Foley 10	
Millwall	29	10	3	2	32-16	2	4	8	11-24	31	6,196	John Lyons 15, John Mitchell 9	
Chester	28	8	4	1	19-10	3	5	7	18-27	31	3,884	Ian Rush 11, Peter Henderson 8	
Plymouth A.	32	9	5	2	30-15	2	3	11	17-31	30	5,680	Dave Kemp 12*	
Brentford	31	7	4	5	28-21	4	3	8	21-31	29	8,498	Steve Phillips 10, Jim McNichol 8	
Gillingham	29	5	6	2	16-10	4	4	8	18-25	28	6,742	Ken Price 16, Danny Westwood 8	
Reading	28	9	3	2	29-13	1	5	8	12-32	28	6,462	Mike Kearney 15, Pat Earles 14	
Rotherham U.	28	9	0	5	27-18	3	3	8	15-28	27	6,948	Richard Finney 13, Rod Fern 8	
Carlisle U.	27	8	4	2	29-13	2	2	9	12-24	26	4,608	Phil Bonnyman 12, Paul Bannon 11	
Barnsley	29	7	3	5	20-17	3	3	8	12-27	26	11,541	Ronnie Glavin 16, Derrick Parker 11*	
Southend U.	30	7	2	6	23-17	3	3	9	11-24	25	4,314	Terry Gray 7	
Blackpool	31	7	3	6	31-29	2	4	9	14-27	25	5,728	Tony Kellow 11, Stan McEwan 11	
Hull C	30	5	6	3	18-15	1	7	8	14-34	25	5,889	Keith Edwards 11	
Wimbledon	28	4	4	5	19-18	4	4	7	12-23	24	3,777	John Leslie 15, Steve Parsons 10	
Mansfield T.	30	6	6	3	23-16	0	4	11	9-23	22	4,652	Terry Austin 17, Steve Taylor 8	
Bury	29	7	3	5	26-15	2	0	12	9-31	21	3,613	Steve Johnson 8, Craig Madden 8	

*Includes goals for previous clubs this season

From the Commercial Office

We are pleased to welcome a party of young football enthusiasts from Holt (near Trowbridge) Under-15 and Under-13 teams who have come to the County Ground today under our Group Booking Scheme. We hope that these young lads enjoy themselves, and of course learn a few things to improve their own games.

Support from the country areas has always been strong at Swindon and will be encouraged even more with this type of outing. Ring SWINDON 31510 or 42984 if you have an organisation who would like to visit us for a future match, and also see behind the scenes with a morning guided tour of the ground.

Since last June when I joined the staff of the Commercial Office it has been possible to increase our activity in these country areas with the promotion of the lottery and other competitions, as I am based at Bradford-on-Avon. We have been able to recruit many more new agents in the quite large area south of Swindon where many of you good supporters live, and to keep you fully informed about our fund raising activities (for example, our lottery winning numbers are now printed weekly in the Bath

Evening Chronicle reaching a wider country readership).

But new agents and helpers are always required. Give us a ring or call at the Pools Office before or immediately after a match and you could become another of the new country agents who help our fund-raising to grow. If you live north of Swindon ask for Dave Rideout who is the new Commercial Assistant operating in that area. Remember you can make money as well because generous commissions are available.

On Thursday we held our 100th Moonraker Lottery Draw at the Rendezvous Club, and once more £3,000 was given away in prizes, plus the normal £300 in agents bonuses. This means that since the lottery was commenced a total of £330,000 has been won. This could not have been possible without the great help provided by all agents, and everyone at the Commercial Office would once more thank all of you for your continued efforts.

DAVE COOPER
Commercial Assistant

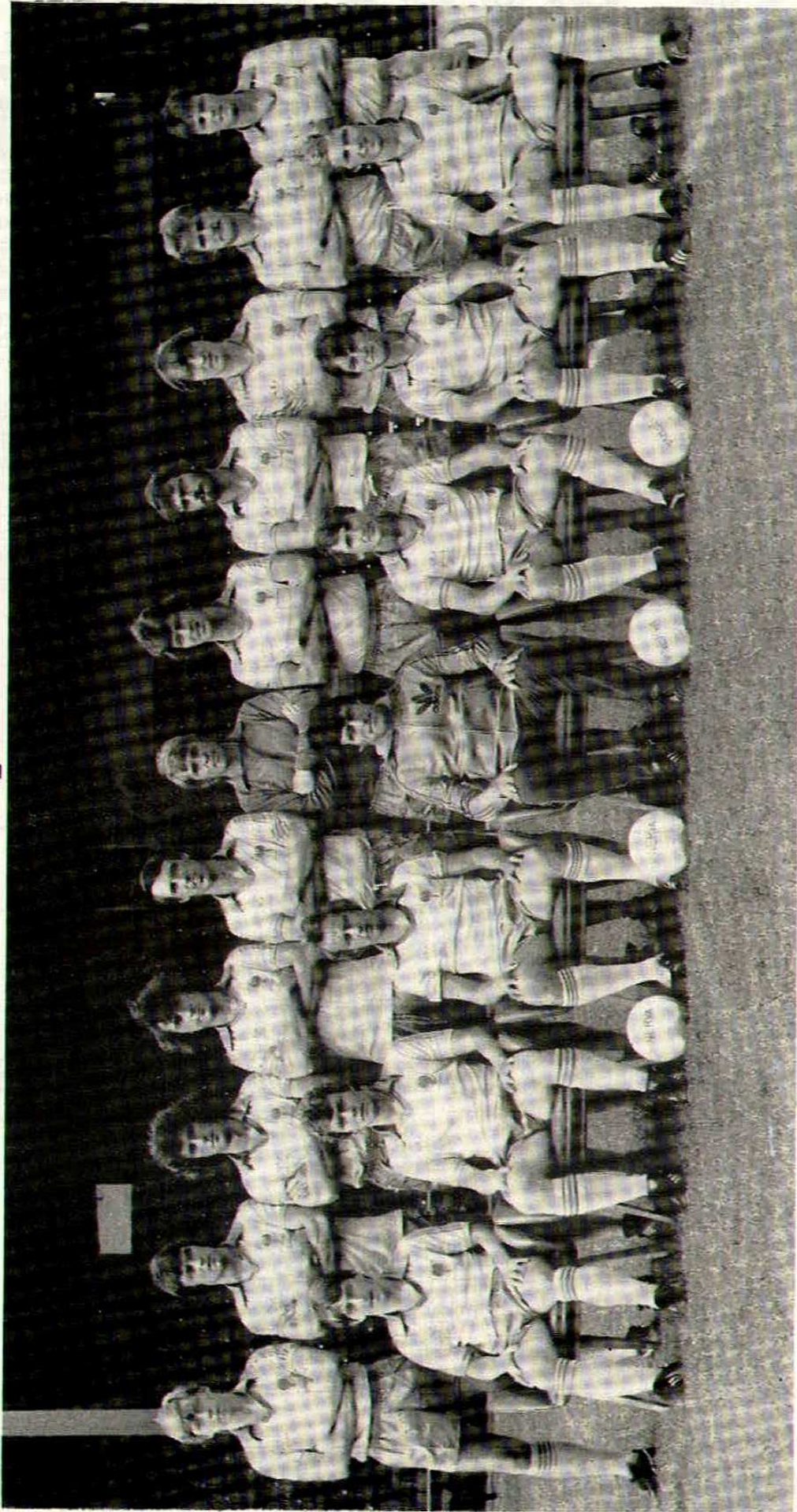
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In Town Today: WIMBLEDON



BACK ROW:

W. Downes, R. Knowles, P. Denny, S. Parsons, A. Cork, R. Goddard, S. Jones, P. Bowgett, T. Cunningham, S. Perkins, S. Ketteridge.

FRONT ROW:

S. Galliers, T. Eames (not now with the Club), L. Briley, D. Gradi (Manager), J. Leslie, C. Richards, P. Haverson (not now with the Club).

WIMBLEDON MAKE A FIGHT OF IT

Having risen from the Southern League to the Third Division of the Football League in only two seasons, Wimbledon have found the going rather tough and they now face a very stiff task if they are to avoid relegation. But victories in successive games last week - against Brentford (a) 1-0 and Gillingham (h) 1-0 - showed they intend to make a fight of it.

They certainly got the season off to a morale-boosting start when they crushed Aldershot - one of their closest challengers for promotion last season - by 2-1 at Plough Lane in the first-leg of the League Cup.

They also won the second-leg, 2-1 away from home, and then proceeded to defeat Second Division Orient in an exciting climax in the next round. Both legs ended 2-2 and Wimbledon eventually won 5-4 on penalties with goalkeeper Ray Goddard the hero as he saved Orient's fifth penalty and then scored the decider himself.

The Dons then beat Plymouth 1-0 in a replay before losing at home to us (1-2) in round four.

Manager Dario Gradi, having made a number of signings during the course of last season, was not over-active in the market during the summer. He made only two major signings - left-back Steve Jones, from Walsall, and midfielder man Craig Richards, from Q.P.R.

Jones is also a former Q.P.R. player. Like Richards, he did not play in their League eleven but he got his chance last season after moving to Walsall.

Jones went straight into the side though Richards had to await his chance. Jones came in on the left side of the back four: Steve Perkins, Paul Bowgett, Tommy Cunningham and Jones.

Mick Smith, a recent £12,000 signing from Lincoln, has now replaced Bowgett, while Les Briley has come in for Perkins.

Perkins was signed from Q.P.R. last season. He began with Chelsea but was not given a chance in the first-team. At Q.P.R. he made a couple of First Division appearances.

Bowgett was signed from Tottenham and was given his first-team debut on the opening day of this season. Cunningham was a reserve player at Chelsea but he got his chance in League football in 1976/77 after moving to Q.P.R. Wimbledon paid £45,000 for him last season.

Newcomer Mick Smith entered League soccer with Lincoln two seasons ago. Briley cost the

Dons a then club record fee of £16,000 when he left Hereford two seasons ago. Originally he was a reserve player with Chelsea but he moved to Hereford in 1976 and made his debut for them in the Welsh Cup Final against Cardiff.

Goalkeeper Ray Goddard is now with his fourth London club. He didn't get into Fulham's League team but made his debut after joining Orient in 1966. Shortly before signing for Millwall in 1975, he spent a short period on loan to Scottish club Morton. Wimbledon signed him during the latter part of 1977/78.

Steve Galliers, Ray Lewington, Mark Dziadulicz, Steve Ketteridge and Wally Downs have all played in midfield while Steve Parsons, Alan Cork and John Leslie usually form the attack.

Galliers spent over three years with Blackburn Rovers, then went non-league with Chorley. Wimbledon signed him two seasons ago.

Lewington played more than 80 League games for Chelsea but he left Stamford Bridge in February 1979 for a spell with the U.S. Wimbledon signed him this season.

Dziadulicz began with Southend United but didn't play in their League eleven. He made his bow after signing for Wimbledon last season. Ketteridge came under Mr. Gradi's charge at Derby County and one of the manager's first actions, after taking over at Wimbledon, was to take Steve to Plough Lane.

Downs made his opening League appearances in the closing three matches of last season and has been a fairly regular member of the midfield this season.

Parsons was once with Fulham but then signed for Walton & Hersham. He joined Wimbledon in the middle of 1977/78 and has scored nine goals this season.

Cork, top scorer with 25 goals last season, has netted eight times this term. He began with Derby, didn't get into the first team and was loaned to Lincoln in 1977/78. Wimbledon signed him in February 1978.

Leslie joined the club originally as an amateur and in 1977/78 he hit 13 goals. Last season he scored 19 times and he has hit 12 goals this term.

Paul Denny has been recalled to the attack for a few games this season. He made a few League appearances for Southend in 1976/77 but he was given a free transfer at the end of that season, when Wimbledon signed him.

Tame Statistician

Dr. B. E. Cooper

The Football League! Do you remember the football league? That's the competition that starts in August one year and finishes in May in the next year. Today's match is the 28th March of the 46 we play in the 3rd division. Remember now? That's it - if we finish in the top three we play in division 2 next season. It's all coming back to you now isn't it? I have to admit that I enjoyed all the marvellous cup excitement although I felt we deserved better luck in both. Oh well back to the League. Bobby Smith, who incidentally is my manager of the month also, makes it clear regularly that the league is his highest priority. I am sure the team has not forgotten the league either.

Where are we in the league then? The direct answer is we are eighth. However, how do we allow for the fact that we have 5 games in hand over the leaders Grimsby and at least 3 games in hand over all other teams above us. Where are we really.

Those who have read some of my articles in previous seasons will remember that I place great importance on comparing the number of points to the number of games played. For example Swindon's 31 points from 27 games is better than Exeter's 33 points from 32 games. Have a look at the top of the 3rd division with this comparison in mind.

	Played	Points	Difference
Grimsby	32	39	7
Colchester	32	39	7
Sheffield U.	31	37	6
Sheffield W.	30	36	6
Chesterfield	30	36	6
Blackburn	30	34	4
Exeter	32	33	1
Swindon	27	31	4

As a better judge of teams performance I prefer to place teams in order on the difference between points and games. It is clear that with the current table the order would be much the same with only Exeter dropping down the table. Some weeks the difference can be very marked with the order changing considerably. I submit that the order based on difference is a better indication of true position. Viewed in this way we can say that allowing for games played we (and Blackburn) are three points adrift of the leaders.

I have computed my usual forecast of the number of points we can expect at the end of the season. This takes into account our performance so far and relates this to the performances of the teams we still have to play. The forecast is for 54 points. I have drawn my usual diagram showing progress so far this season with the forecast to the end of the season shown as a line of arrows. I invite you to plot the teams progress for future games as they take place. I am sure you will find that their actual performance will be above the forecast line I have drawn. It will need to be if we are to win promotion. If we repeat our standard of play we have demonstrated in cup matches I am sure we will win promotion. Let us start with a good game today.

REVISED FIXTURES

Fri. 29	February	Southend Utd	A
Tues. 4	March	Millwall	A
Sat. 8	March	Blackpool	H
Tues. 11	March	Carlisle Utd	H
Fri. 14	March	Hull City	A
Wed. 19	March	Chester	A
Sat. 22	March	Mansfield Town	H
Tues. 25	March	Chesterfield	A
Sat. 29	March	Blackburn Rovers	A
Tues. 1	April	Millwall	H
Sat. 5	April	Exeter City	A
E.Mon. 7	April	Oxford Utd	H
Sat. 12	April	Carlisle Utd.	A
Tues. 15	April	Rotherham	H
Sat. 19	April	Gillingham	H
Tues. 22	April	Colchester Utd	H
Sat. 26	April	Bury	A
Sat. 3	May	Barnsley	H

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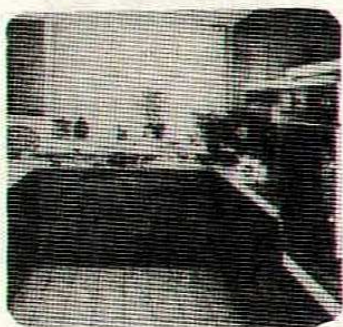
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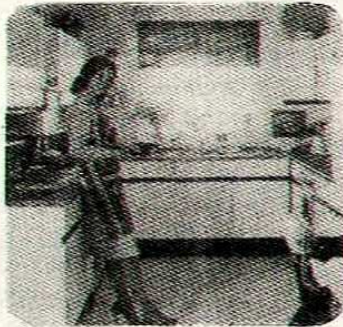


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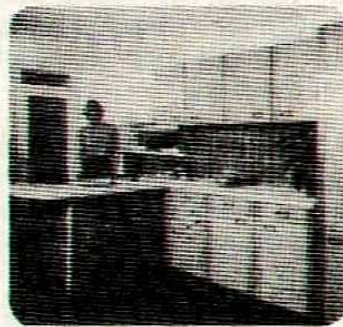


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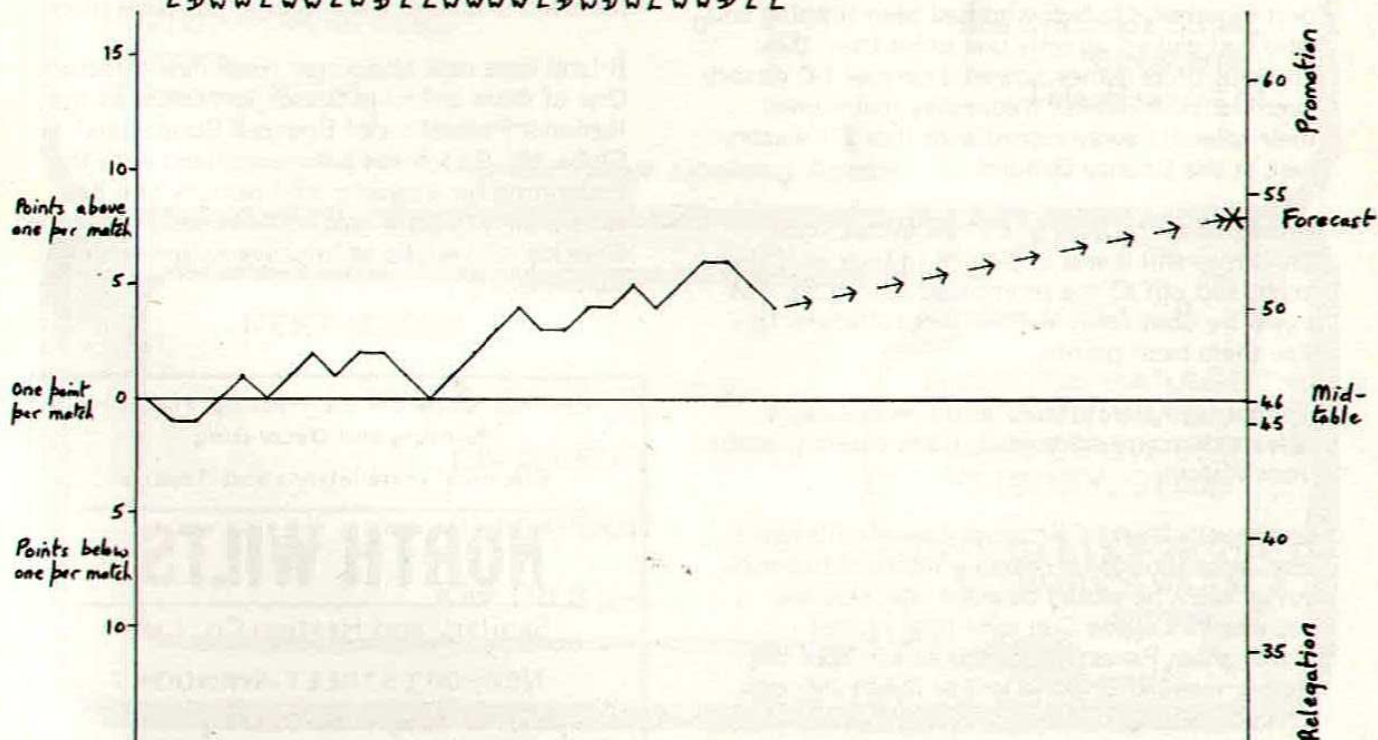
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Soccer Scene by Tony Pullein

WHY KEEGAN IS PREPARED TO LOSE MONEY

Kevin Keegan's astonishing decision to join Southampton next season will cost him a lot of money. But he's reached a stage in life where cash is of little importance and he has developed other priorities.

Why Southampton when he could have had his pick of any club in the world? Keegan explained: "Lawrie McMenemy locked me up in this hotel room and subjected me to the closest marking I have ever known in my career!"

Smilingly, he added: "I suppose you could say it was a case of gentle persuasion. Southampton are now a major club and, with the 1982 World Cup coming, I think it will be better for me to be playing in English football. I have already said I want to captain England when we win the World Cup in Spain."

"Of course the decision will cost me money. But that's not everything. My main consideration is to see my family enjoy their lives. Another consideration is that our daughter will soon be of school age and it will be better for her to be brought up in England."

When Saints' skipper Alan Ball heard the news, he joked: "This is going to mean competition. I suppose I'll have to start training again."

Victories by both Sheffield clubs revived hopes that this once-famous pair can still gain promotion together. United, who had been slipping and who had picked up only one point from their previous three games, scored a narrow 1-0 victory over Mansfield whilst Wednesday maintained their splendid away record with that 2-1 victory here at the County Ground.

United had won only one of six games since Christmas and it was beginning to look as if they might slip out of the promotion reckoning. But a goal by Scot John McPhail was sufficient to give them both points.

Wednesday have suffered fewer away League defeats than any other club in the country, apart from Walsall.

Liverpool's David Fairclough knew in his heart that, even though he scored a fabulous hat-trick at Norwich, he would be out of the side for last week's League Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest. As expected manager Bob Paisley recalled England striker David Johnson when he was fit.

Though Fairclough has scored many vital goals for the Reds, this was his first hat-trick in the senior side. "Undoubtedly, this is the greatest day of my life," beamed the carrot-headed striker. "It's something I have always dreamed of doing."

Fairclough was not to be denied, however. Even though Forest won the tie on aggregate Fairclough saved Liverpool's two-year unbeaten home record with an equaliser in injury time. He also came on as substitute to score both goals in Liverpool's 2-0 F.A. Cup victory over Bury last Saturday.

Bristol City chairman Stephen Kew gave manager Alan Dicks a wonderful vote of confidence last week. "He will stay with the club even if we are relegated," declared Mr. Kew. Mr. Dicks has been at Ashton Gate since 1967 and is already the longest-serving manager in the Football League. Now he is to sign a new ten-year contract.

Mr. Dicks responded philosophically. "We shall battle very hard to stay up but, if the worst happens, then I shall want to be around to get us back again," he said.

The Bristol boss had hoped to sign a new striker but the asking price for the man he wanted was £500,000 and beyond City's means. Mr. Dicks also tried to buy back from Coventry Gary Collier, the centre-back sold to the Sky Blues for £350,000 last summer. City offered a similar fee but Coventry turned it down even though Collier has been unable to command a first-team place.

Bristol have now appointed three new directors. One of them is Archie Gooch, president of the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs. Mr. Gooch has been associated with the Federation for a quarter of a century and has sat on many government committees. At Ashton Gate his role will be to improve liaison with supporters.

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CARTER**7** Ian
MILLER**8** Chris
KAMARA**9** Andy
ROWLAND**10** Alan
MAYES**11** Brian
WILLIAMS**12** Chic
BATES**REFEREE:**
MORRIS R. BAKER (Wolverhampton)

Commenced refereeing in Wolverhampton Amateur League, then through West Midland (Regional) to Football League. Has officiated in an England v. Scotland (Amateur) International, also a Hungary v. Austria match.

A married man with two sons, he is a Director of a tool-making concern, and his hobbies are Tennis, Swimming and Walking. Serves on a committee to raise money for the welfare of Senior Citizens.

Linesmen:

Red Flag: Mr. G. KNIGHT (Bristol) **Yellow Flag:** Mr. A.S. MONTACUTE (Yeovil)

WIMBLEDON**1** Ray
GODDARD**2** Les
BRILEY**3** Steve
JONES**4** Steve
GALLIERS**5** Mick
SMITH**6** Tommy
CUNNINGHAM**7** Steve
KETTERIDGE**8** Steve
PARSONS**9** John
LESLIE**10** Alan
CORK**11** Ray
LEWINGTON**12**

- A Brentford v Blackpool
- B Carlisle v Hull City
- C Chester v Exeter
- D Chesterfield v Grimsby
- E Gillingham v Barnsley
- F Millwall v Oxford Utd.
- G Plymouth v Blackburn
- H Reading v Sheffield Utd.
- I Sheffield Wed. v Rotherham
- J Arsenal v Bolton
- K Coventry v Southampton
- L Crystal Palace v Everton
- M Derby v Tottenham H.
- N Leeds v Brighton
- O Liverpool v Ipswich
- P Manchester Utd. v Bristol City
- Q Middlesbrough v Stoke
- R Norwich v Wolverhampton
- S Nottm. Forest v Manchester City
- T West Brom. Alb. v Aston Villa

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23

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