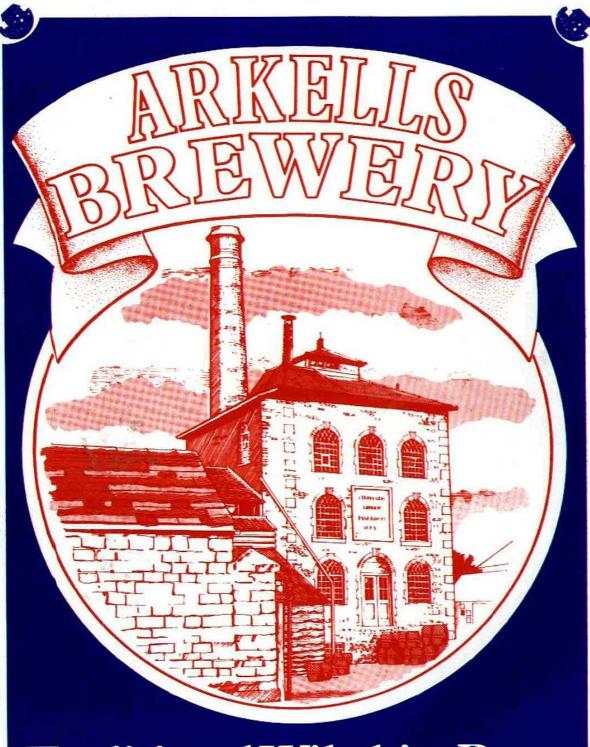
Swindon Town Football Club





BRISTOL ROVERS

at the County Ground, Swindon Saturday, 6th March Kick-off 3.00p.m. Official Match Magazine 35p



Traditional Wiltshire Beers Enjoyapint







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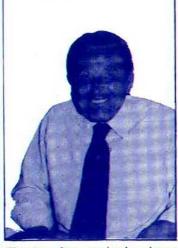
Financial Manager/ Company Secretary: R. A. MORSE

> Team Manager: J. TROLLOPE

Commercial Consultant:

Club Medical Officer: Dr. J. NICHOLAS

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Talk of the Town by the Chairman

The last few weeks has brought speculation about the very existence of several league Clubs and like so many events of such interest, get reported sometimes out of proportion, but there is no doubt that many clubs are fighting to exist because of low attendance and a fall in their subsidiary income against fixed contracts that were agreed in better times. It is easy to be critical after the event, and the changes in contracts agreed with the Players' Union was something that had to be done to bring footballers in line with any other form of employment.

The playing life of a professional footballer is limited to a few years and during this spell he is forfeiting the years when most young men are making their mark either in industry or commerce, and therefore during his years in football he has to hope that he can at least prepare a little for his future. Like all businesses, incomes must at least keep up with expenditures and as we all know this is now the problem of most football clubs.

A recent seminar held in Solihull for all clubs was well attended and the main purpose was to discuss means and ways to attract lost spectators back again. The change of the offside rule was unanimously agreed, the feeling being that the game would flow more without the irritating stoppages and would result in more goalmouth incidents which is the one part of our game that everybody enjoys.

You will have read that to change such a rule, or in fact any rule, has to have the sanction of the Football Association who are the ruling body over all clubs, professional and amateur. Being members of F.I.F.A. also complicates such changes, but if it is vital to our very existence then clubs feels it must be done. Goalkeepers wasting time by rolling the ball forward and backwards to their defenders also call for an alteration to rule. Many changes can be suggested but one has to be careful not to change the concept of our game. Sir Matt Busby and Jimmy Hill were asked to join a special committee to consider these points and I am sure that we can look forward to some interesting changes in the future.

The transfer system which has, over the years, helped many clubs to survive has also been the undoing of some clubs who have been unable to meet their commitments when their fortunes changed for the worse. It was suggested at our seminar that a payment of fifty percent down and the remainder paid within twelve months would be a sensible solution and it must be obvious to all that such an arrangement would bring most transfer fees into a sensible bracket.

When we arrived back at the County Ground after a good performance at Carlisle, we were delighted to learn that our young Reserve Team which comprised nine of our Midland Youth team, had beaten Leicester City by three goals to one. Don, of course, lost several of his under seventeen year olds for the game against West Ham on Saturday morning, but Don's job is to produce potential lads for the senior teams and I know that he is delighted to see them making progress.

On Tuesday, 30 March an Extraordinary General Meeting is being called for shareholders of our club, and the main item of business will be to change our articles to enable a shareholder to have one vote per share held. We shall then increase our share capital limit to two hundred thousand pounds and they will be open for sale to shareholders only if the proposition is passed.

We welcome our visitors from Bristol Rovers today and I know that you will give a special welcome to Brian Williams if he is in their team. Hoping that you enjoy today's game and thank you for your support.

JOHN TROLLOPE

Our last two games have resulted in a home win against Portsmouth and a one each draw away at Carlisle. The Portsmouth game showed a good team performance and we deservedly won by two goals to nil. In the last few games we have had a lot of possession which hasn't resulted in goals, but goals came against Portsmouth. At Carlisle we made a bad start conceding a goal in the first two minutes and, against a side who is top of the league things didn't look too bright at that stage. However, to the lads' credit they got to grips straight away and dominated the remainder of the first half resulting in a deserved equaliser just on half time. The second half was more even but we still had our fair share of the game.

The last two series of games have really tightened the bottom of the table and now that we have got back into the pack, hopefully we shall be able to get the necessary results in the next two games, both at home, to take us a few positions up the table.

A big thank you to the coach load of supporters who travelled to Carlisle leaving Swindon in the early hours of the morning and, because of a breakdown, they did not get back to Swindon until 3.00 a.m. Sunday morning, a very long day for some very loyal supporters.

The Reserve side has had two outstanding results in their last two games, with a two to nil win at Plymouth and a three to one win at home to Leicester City. What makes these results even more special is that due to the number of injuries and the suspension of Mike Graham, the side consisted of a number of really young players and full credit to them.

In the South East Counties league we have had two bad results but this side is not necessarily about results, good ones are a bonus. Our aim with this side is that of a nursery to give our junior players experience and for my staff and I to judge their potential for possible apprentice-ships.

The Supporters' Co-Operative got underway at the Portsmouth game and they had quite a good response to the appeal, but we all hope that the scheme will snowball in the next two home games to enable me to gain the services of another player before the transfer deadline on the 25th March next. I feel that a new face would lift us - we are having a reasonable run and I am sure that one new player will have a good effect.

Another idea put forward to the Co-Operative comes from Mike Wilkinson who owns the Swindon Auctions at The Planks, Old Swindon. He has offered to arrange an auction, the funds from which will be contributed to the Co-Operative Appeal. Hopefully this will take place at the Ground on Easter Monday and further details will be given shortly.

A great night was had by supporters and sponsors alike on Monday last at the "Meet the Players" evening, and I would like to thank all those who have again sponsored the players for their kit for next season. Further on in this programme you will see details of the "Sponsor a Player" scheme and will notice that there are still a few sponsors required and we shall be most grateful to hear from you if you would like to take part in this scheme. Another social evening will be held for these sponsors next season.

Today we welcome the players, officials and supporters of Bristol Rovers and, of course, we hope that the result will be similar to the one played at Eastville earlier in the season.

Finally, may I make an appeal to all of our regular supporters that when they next come to a match they try to persuade just one of their friends to join them. If this could be repeated throughout the remaining matches of the season, many of our problems would disappear and the Swindon Town Football Club would again become a strong and viable organisation - so let our catch phrase for the rest of the season be "BRING A FRIEND"...

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BRISTOL



DAVID WILLIAMS (Midfield) An intelligent 26 year old from Cardiff who qualified as a Schoolmaster before becoming a full-timer four summers ago. His explosive shooting has earned him a reputation for scoring spectacular goals. A fully qualified F.A. Coach. Height 5' 10" Weight 11st 12lbs.

GERAINT WILLIAMS (Midfield) Another teenage starlet introduced to big-time soccer last season. Aged 19, he hails from the famed Rhondda Valley and is a former Welsh Youth international. A creative player and exceptionally strong in the tackle. Height 5'7" Weight 10st 6lbs

IAN HOLLOWAY (Midfield) Yet another promising 18 year old local lad who joined Rovers as an apprentice straight from school and made his debut last season. Now on the brink of establishing himself as a regular. Height 5' 7½" Weight 9st 11½lbs.

MARTIN THOMS (Goalkeeper) Although missing the second half of last season and opening three months of the current campaign with a finger injury, he has already made nearly 200 appearances - an incredible achievement fo a 21-year old. From Senghenydd, near Caerphilly, he has been on many occasions No. 2 to Dai Davies in the Welsh senior side, having already been capped at Youth and Under-21 levels. Height 6'1" Weight 13st.

PHIL KITE (Goalkeeper) Local lad, aged 19, superbly confident and with an ideal build for position. Made his debut last season, while still an apprentice, and proved a more than capable deputy for Martin Thomas. Was also England Youth team goalkeeper last season. Height 6'1½" Weight 14st 7lbs.

DONNIE GILLIES (Full Back) 29 year old former Scottish under-23 international from Glencoe. Snapped up from Bristol City two summers ago for approx £50,000. Played over 200 times for City, whom he joined in 1973 from Morton. A typical Scot who wants to win everything and is dangerous going forward. Height 5'10" Weight 11st 5lbs.

VAUGHAN JONES (Full Back) A poised and talented 21 year old, equally at home in either full back position. From Tonyrefail, Mid. Glamorgan. A former Welsh Youth and Under 21 international, he looks set to enjoy a lengthy career in League soccer. Height 5'9" Weight 11st 11lbs.

KEVIN WESTAWAY (Right Back) A Bristol born 18 year old who was blooded at the end of last season and is expected to shortly challenge strongly for a regular place. Height 5'9" Weight 11st 5lbs.

NEIL SLATTER (Full Back) Apprentice Professional who created a Rovers' post-war record last April when he made his League debut at the age of 16 years 314 days. This stylish teenager from Cardiff is also a current Welsh Youth cap. Height 5'11" Weight 10st 8½lbs.

BRIAN WILLIAMS (Midfield) This enthusiastic 25 year old Manchunian was signed from Swindon Town last summer in a swap deal involving Gary Emmanuel. Expected to bring extra bite to Rovers' middle line. Also had spells with Bury and Queens Park Rangers. Height 5'8" Weight 12st 2lbs.

ROVERS

GARY MABBUT (Utility) Despite developing diabetes, he captained the 1979/80 England Youth team and was called up last season for Under 21 duty. Aged 20, he was Rovers' joint top scorer last season. Bristolian, younger brother of Crystal Palace's Kevin Mabbutt, his father Ray, was a Rovers' star of the 1960's. Height 5'9" Weight 10st 8lbs.

KEITH CURLE (Winger) Still a 17 year old apprentice when "blooded" at the beginning of this season. A local lad with a tremendous turn of pace, on Bristol City's books as a schoolboy. Height 6'0" Weight 11st 9lbs.

MIKE BARRETT (Winger) A 22 year old ball playing winger, equally at home on either flank, signed from Bristol amateur club Shirehampton two years ago. With Bristol City as a schoolboy, he has now gained a reputation as one of the most subtle wingers outside the First Division. Height 5'10" Weight 10st 10lbs.

SHAUN PENNY (Striker) This 23 year old, a record breaking scorer for England schoolboys six years ago, was snapped up in 1978 from his only previous club, Bristol City for £20,000. He is quick off the mark and has a keen eye for the half-chance. Height 5'8". Weight 10st 13lbs.

STEVE WILLIAMS (Striker) From Barry in South Wales who made his debut last season when still a 17 year old apprentice professional. Also won Welsh Youth caps last season. Height 5' 10" Weight 10st 10lbs.

PAUL RANDALL (Striker) A goalscoring sensation when Rovers plucked him from the obscurity of Western League football in 1977, he was subsequently sold to Stoke City for £200,000 at Christmas 1979. Rovers' fans are paying the £55,000 fee required to bring him back to Eastville last January and are hoping he will cure the goal-famine that afflicted the club in their later Second Division years. Height 5'11" Weight 12st 12lbs.

ARCHIE STEPHENS (Striker) Another prolific scorer in Western League soccer, with Melksham Town last season. Rovers took a £1,000 gamble with this 27 year old who was playing in parks football in his home-town of Liverpool three years ago, and it looks like paying a rich dividend for he is rapidly proving himself at top level. Height 5'11" Weight 12st 7 lbs.



TIM PARKIN (Centre Half) Mature 23 year old, recruited in the summer from crack Swedish club Malmo for a give-away £15,000, who has brought stability to Rovers' back-four. Born at Penrith in Cumbria, he served his soccer apprenticeship with Blackburn Rovers before going to Sweden early in 1980. Height 6' 1" Weight 12st 10lbs

MARK HUGHES (Centre Half) Promising 19 year old with a sound pedigree, being a cousin of Emlyn Hughes, and whose elder brother, Wayne, plays for Cardiff City. From Port Talbot, he is already a regular first choice and is in the current Welsh Under-21 squad. Height 5' 11" Weight 11st 8lbs.

ERRINGTON KELLY (Striker) Rover's latest signing from the non-league ranks. Aged 23, he was born in St. Vincent in the West Indies, moved to Coventry as a boy. Played for amateur club V.S. Rugby last season, joined West Midland League Club Ledbury Town in the summer and was transferred a month later for £1,000. Height 5'8" Weight 11st 7lbs.

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HONDA IN NORTH WILTSHIRE

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

Once again welcome to the home of Swindon Town F.C.

I use the "Home" deliberately because I like to think that any Football Club is a family affair. A family made up of parents and offsprings. I see the directors and playing staff as the parents and the various supporting groups, such as the Supporters Club & Commercial Office as their offsprings. As with any family each has it's part to play in a happy and successful family.

With this in mind I am pleased to see the birth of the new member of the family in the formation of the Supporters Co-operative. A happy event indeed. Made up as it is with true and dedicated supporters may it get the support it deserves.

Whilst at that meeting of the fans when the Cooperative was formed I received the impression that little was known by the supporters themselves of the activities of the Commercial office. itself.

Regarding this I say, as the Commercial office is a member of the family. It is not a secret society, and any genuine supporter who would like to know more about our activities then contact me at the Commercial office and I shall be pleased to answer any question thay care to make.

Yours in support of THE TOWN'

Eric Moore

KEY OF THE BOARD

- A Bristol City v Oxford Utd.
- B Chester v Wimbledon
- C Exeter v Burnley
- D Huddersfield v Gillingham
- E Lincoln v Brentford
- F Millwall v Doncaster
- G Plymouth v Carlisle
- H Portsmouth v Walsall
- I Reading v Preston N.E.
- J Chelsea v Tottenham H.
- K Leicester v Shrewsbury
- L Q.P. Rangers v Crystal Palace
- M West Brom. Alb v Coventry
- N Birmingham v Manchester Utd
- O Ipswich v Everton
- P Liverpool v Brighton
- Q Manchester City v Arsenal
- R Middlesbrough v Wolverhampton
- S Notts Co. v Southampton
- T Swansea v Stoke

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE TABLE up to and including Tuesday March 2, 1982

	*	Home	9			AV	vay			Avge Home	
	P	WD	L	F-A	W	D	L	F-A	Pts	Lge, Gate	Top Goalscorers (incl. Cup)
Carlisle Utd.	26	11 2	1	25-10	4	2	6	12-15	49	4,119	Bob Lee 11, Bryan Robson 10
Fulham	27	7 5	1	23-11	6	4	4	19-16	48	6,107	Gord Davies 17, Dean Coney 14
Chesterfield	28		2	23-12	5	2	6	14-15	48	4,988	Phil Bonnyman 10, Martin Henderson 7
Burnley	28	7 5	2	22-13	5	5	4	19-19	46	4,877	Steve Taylor 12, Billy Hamilton 10
Oxford Utd.	26	7 3	3	17-10	5	4	4	18-17	43	4,844	Keith Cassells 21, Andy Thomas 15
BRISTOL ROVERS	30	9 3	4	25-20	3	4	7	12-21	43	5,853	Paul Randall 10, Archie Stephens 10
Walsall	29	8 4	4	26-15	3	5	5	11-13	42	4,014	Don Penn 9m Richard O'Kelly 6
Southend Utd.	28	75	3	20-14	4	4	5	13-13	42	5,077	Keith Mercer 7, Terry Gray 5
Millwall	28	7 2	5	23-16	4	6	4	17-19	41	5,133	Nick Chatterton 13, Dean Horrix 10
Reading	30	7 5	4	28-25	4	3	7	15-24	41	3,884	Neil Webb 9, Kerry Dixon 6
Lincoln C	28	65	3	23-12	4	5	5	17-17	40	3,476	Tony Cunningham 11, George Shipley 11
Gillingham	27	7 3	4	29-21	4	3	6	11-17	39	5,252	Dean White 13, Ken Price 10
Brentford	29	4 4	6	11-10	7	2	6	19-19	39	5,730	Keith Bowen 7
Plymouth Arg.	30	7 4	4	24-15	2	5	8	13-23	36	4,700	Jeff Cook 11, John Sims 10
Huddersfield T.	29	63	5	24-17	3	5	7	15-21	35	7,544	Peter Fletcher 14
Newport Co.	28	5 5	3	14-10	3	4	8	18-23	33	4,516	John Aldridge 8, Tommy Tynan 6
Portsmouth	29	5 6	2	18-10	2	6	8	15-26	33	9,328	Bill Rafferty 11
Bristol C	28	4 5	5	15-17	4	4	6	13-16	33	6,602	Mick Harford 14
Doncaster Rov.	27	7 1	5	20-15	2	5	7	16-27	33	6,153	Richard Dawson 8, Alan Warboys 7
SWINDON TOWN	28	5 3	6	21-21	3	6	5	12-18	33	5,908	Roy Carter 9, Andy Rowland 7
Exeter C	28	7 2	4	27-25	2	4	9	20-35	33	4,416	Tony Kellow 16
Preston N E	28	5 5	4	12-12	3	3	8	14-24	32	5,490	Alex Bruce 12
Chester	28	28	3	13-15	4	1	10	14-27	27	1,934	Gary Simpson 8, Terry Cooke 5
Wimbledon	27	5 3	5	16-18	2	3	9	17-34	27	2,694	Steve Ketteridge 8, John Leslie 7

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BRIAN HUGHES	Derek Elston 19 The Willows Little Harrowden Wellingborough	Sandra Cobern Rosalyn Garfield 126 Hathaway Rad Upper Stratton	Mrs j & Mr K Chilcott 34 Ash Walk Warminster	G. G Burrows 16 Purlyn Acre Marlborough
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TOWN THROUGH TIME:

haven't we met somewhere before?

by paul plowman

Having not seen Rovers at the County Ground for almost thirteen years, it seems hardly possible that this is the 64th League 'derby' between the clubs since the formation of the Third Division in 1920. Prior to that year, of course, there were many Southern League battles between Swindon and their Eastville rivals.

The first ever meeting in league combat was on November 11 1899 when Rovers defeated the Town 7-2 in Bristol. But Swindon gained some consolation in the return recording a single goal victory here on March 17 1900. The Town team on that occasion was: Menham; Shutt, Smith (Alec); Richardson, Logan, Henderson; Sharples, Anthony, Green, Smith (Billy), Coupar. Jimmy Sharples scored the goal.

On Good Friday in 1910, the day before Swindon were due to play their F.A. Cup Semi-Final tie against Newcastle United, a league fixture at Eastville had to be fulfilled - so it was decided to send the reserve eleven down to Bristol! For two men, Billy Boland and Teddy Hornby, it was the only league appearance of their careers - and they performed heroically, holding the Rovers to a goalless draw.

The clubs met again for a Christmas feast of goals in 1913, twelve hitting the target in the two games. Rovers won 5-2 in Bristol on Xmas Day, but damage was minimal for on the following afternoon the Town demolished their opponents by five clear goals and went on to win the Southern League championship that season. The entire Swindon forward line of Bob Jefferson, Harold Fleming, Freddy Wheatcroft, Archie Bown and Tommy Bolland found the net, watched by a record 9,713 crowd. Receipts totalled just over three hundred pounds!

Under the auspices of the Football League, goals have been plentiful in these 'derby' encounters. Every game at Eastville has produced a goal and only two of the thirty-one played at the County Ground have been scoreless. In April 1927, Rovers won 5-3 here and more recently, in October 1965, the Town battled back from a two-goal deficit inside the first twenty minutes to edge a 4-3 victory. A crowd of 18,065 saw Eric Weaver, Roger Smart (twice) and Dennis Brown score for Swindon. The highest gate for the fixture here was 24,459 on April 3 1953, whilst a similar figure was recorded at Eastville for the return three days later.





The Town's 4-1 victory in Bristol earlier this season equalled the club's highest win on that ground - achieved twice previously, the last occasion being as long ago as December 1928!

TOP: Harold Jarman scores the only goal in Rovers' 1-0 win here in January 1967.

BELOW: Rovers' keeper Laurie Taylor is powerless to stop a Don Rogers effort in the 2-2 draw in April 1969.

Both Harold Jarman and Don Rogers played in over 400 League games for their clubs, Rogers scoring 150 goals and Jarman 130.

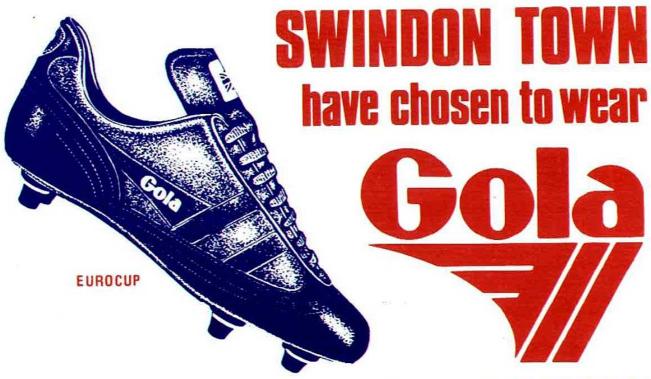
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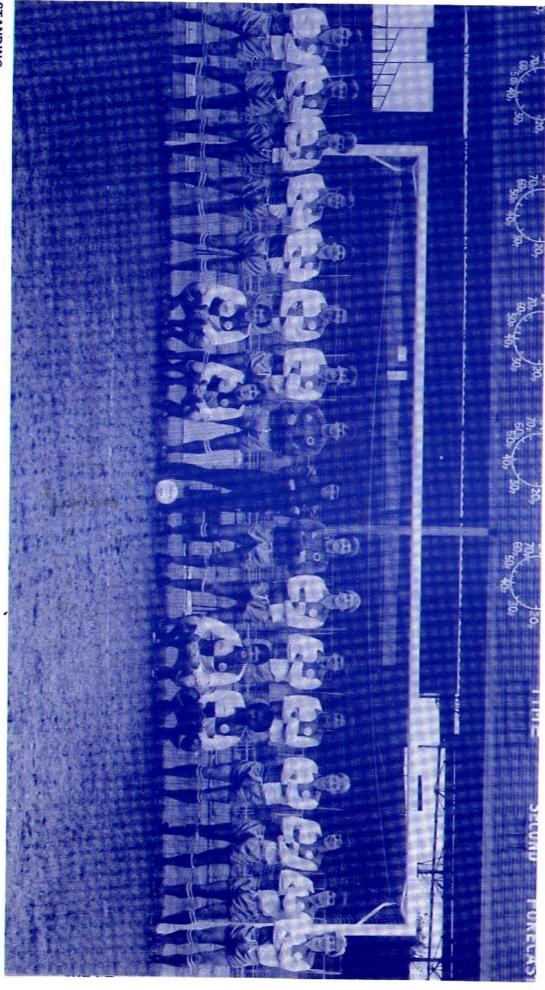
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Bristol Rovers



STANDING:
Shaun Penny, Gary Mabbutt, Kevin Westaway, Steve Williams, Donnie Gillies, Aidan McCaffery, Paul Randall, Martin Thomas, Bobby Gould, (Manager) Phil Kite, Tim Parkin, Mark Hughes, Keith Curle, Archie Stephens, Mike Barrett, Vaughan Jones, Ian Holloway.
KNEELING:

David Williams, Geraint Williams, Brian Williams, Errington Kelly.

John Ward talks to Kevin Baddeley

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

Kevin Baddeley is or at any rate was the one who got away. Born and brought up in Swindon he played regularly for Swindon Schools and yet went to play for Bristol City. I asked how this had come about. "When I looked at Swindon Town I saw that in those days not many youngsters seemed to get into the First Team" was his reply. "I had just finished school and Bristol City offered me an apprenticeship. I could have gone to Bristol Rovers as well but City were in the First Division then so that was that."

Kevin lived in the Bristol City Hostel while he was an apprentice and moved into digs when he turned professional. He made his league debut in the Second Division against West Ham after three First Team appearances in the Anglo-Scottish Cup. The manager was pleased with his performance but said that as the next game was against Bristol Rovers, at the tender age of 18 Kevin was a little too inexperienced for the rigours of a local derby. Although this led to a spell in the Reserves he was training with the First Team and was looking forward to a good fortune under Alan Dicks - a manager whom Kevin says he really respected.

Worried about the future

All too soon however from Kevin's point of view Alan Dicks was sacked and Bobby Houghton arrived in his place. It was an unsettling experience: although he had two years of his contract to run the new manager made it clear that Kevin did not fit in with his plans. "We were all worried about our own futures", Kevin commented. The recent events have proved how right they were!

During the summer Bristol City went on tour in France. When they returned the manager asked to see Kevin and John Trollope was there. Encouraged by what he had seen of young players like Charlie Henry now getting a First Team chance Kevin had no hesitation in signing for Swindon. Nor has he had any regrets: "There is a good mixture of ages here" he said. "The atmosphere is really good". (And this was said in the middle of a string of bad results.) I asked how he had reacted to being dropped earlier in the season after such a good start. "I was left out because the manager felt he needed the experience of David Peach, I can't moan about that; it is a perfectly understandable explanation. I was determined to do my best in the Reserves and keep on hoping for another chance."

Learning about the game.

Kevin prefers to play at left back but can adjust his balance to the right side if required. He considers his pace and the fact that he is two footed to be the main strengths of his game and he is working on his heading and tackling.

Kevin lives with his parents in Upper Stratton; his father is a Swindon Season Ticket Holder and one of his keenest critics. Apart from football Kevin enjoys swimming and playing snooker. He is an avid reader of football biographies, just having finished one on Emyln Hughes. "It's a good way to learn more the game" he said. Come to think of it another good way to learn about the game for a full back is to play for a club managed by John Trollope. Kevin was ready to acknowledge the debt; "I pick up something from him just about every day," he sald.

Next Match

Tuesday next,

9th MARCH 1982

Division III

WALSALL K.O. 7.30 p.m. Les Sollis and Simon Matthews are making a sponsored walk today from Burford to the County Ground in aid of the Supporters Co-Operative they hope to do a lap of the ground before today's match. If they manage it give them a big cheer.

Picture Parade...



Alan Knight in the Portsmouth goal saves cleanly from Swindon's Howard Pritchard during the Town's 2 - 0 win.



Portsmouth goalkeeper Alan Knight dives to save a Kenny Stroud shot as Roy Carter closes in during the Town's last win at the County Ground.

Colin Benson spotlights

It was like a dream come true when Paul Randall stepped out of the shadows of the Western League to blaze a goalscoring trail across the soccer field of the Second Division.... "Paul got off to a fantastic start and his goals helped put Bristol Rovers on the map," says manager Bobby Gould and he should know.

The experienced Gould formed a lethal partnership with the six foot teenager in that season of 1977-78 and they proved the scourge of many a defender as between them they blasted 30 of Rovers 61 League goals that season. Gould scored ten and Randall 20, in just 28 appearance, the tall handsome newcomer was Rovers top hit shot, and the news of his prolific scoring habit was soon circulating on the soccer grape vine.

But Randall was much more than just a goalscoring hero to the Eastville fans, he was a magnetic personality which instantly appealed to the terraces. The rapport between him and the supporters was something special, something to be treasured.

The following season Randall maintained his form and once more finished as Rovers top marksman with 13 goals, and this despite the fact that he made only 21 appearance before being transferred to Stoke City in December 1978.

On the 30th December that year he made his debut for Stoke against Notts County, but because the Potters already had Brendon O'Callaghan and Garth Crooks in their front-line attack, Paul was asked to change his style somewhat.

He scored only five goals in 20 games and although Stoke finished third, to win promotion to the First Division, Paul was not enjoying the same success he had with Bristol.

Mind you when the then Rovers manager Bobby Campbell agreed to the £180,000 deal it had caused uproar. The fans never forgave him for selling their idol and in the long run it cost him his job.

As it happens it did not work out too well for Randall either. If the First Division he netted just twice in 20 games, the Stoke fans became disillusioned and Paul increasingly found himself playing in the stiffs as Crooks and O'Callaghan were prefered.

"It became obvious that things were not going to work out for me when the gaffer, Alan Durban,

PAUL RANDALL

started buying players for my position" says Paul. He discussed the matter with Durban who agreed to let him go if a club came in for him - "I never dreamed it would be Rovers."

But Rovers it was who looked to their adopted son for the inspiration to pull them out of a desperate run. The only snag was that the East-ville club were skint and could not afford the fee. Incredibly it was Stoke City who came to their aid and although they wanted £75,000 for his return they agreed to drop the price to Rovers by another £20,000, and accept a down payment of just £10,000. . . . The deal was signed sealed and delivered.

"It is funny" says Paul. "I was away two years but I still always felt part of Bristol Rovers." The fans felt the same way too, in fact Randall was as much in the local news during that two year stint as he was when a player at Eastville.

His return triggered off a wave of enthusiasm though Rovers were anchored solidly at the bottom of the league table. His comeback game was against Bristol City on 28th January 1981 and he was to finish last season with just three goals from 15 games.

The hoped for miracle did not transpire as Rovers were relegated. Then this season things did not develop too well and by the turn of the year Randall had scored only three times as Rovers struggled to regain form. Then in January Bobby Gould returned as manager and things began to happen.

"Personally I was bitterly disappointed that Paul did not prove a stronger force in the First Division because he certainly has the ability," revealed Mr. Gould. "Perhaps the Stoke City style of play did not suite him, however on returning to Bristol Rovers as manager I was very very pleased that he was back at Eastville."

Since Gould's return Paul has netted a further ten goals back to his old average so it seems that the two men are good for each other: "I am perhaps more aware of the service he needs" says the Rovers boss modestly.

One tends to forget that this former supermarket employee has only been in the League for four years. "He still has a lot to offer and we will not be seeing the best of hime for another two years yet" says Gould; "when he has learned the game."



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Mon. March 15th	Brentford	1700	3.00
Sun. March 28th	Millwall	1130	3.30

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TODAY'S TEAMS

SWINDON

		Leagu	0.6
			Goals
1	JIMMY ALLAN	300	-
2	CHARLIE HENRY	57	2
3	KEVIN BADDELEY	15	1
4	GARY WILLIAMS	24	3
5	RUSSELL LEWIS	123	5
6	KENNY STROUD	293	16
7	BRIAN HUGHES		
8	ROY CARTER	179	27
9	PAUL RIDEOUT	35	10
10	ROY GREENWOOD	46	6
11	HOWARD PRITCHARD	14	

THE RESERVE TO SERVE				
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		Leagu	e* Goals
		Uhha.	Cours
1	PHILIP KITE	21	-
2	STEPHEN BAILEY	4	-
3	GARY MABBUTT	116	9
4	DONNY	56	-
5	TIM PARKIN	24	1
6	MARK HUGHES	53	1
7	MICHAEL BARRETT	46	5
8	DAVID WILLIAMS	250	42
9	ERRINGTON KELLY	3	-
10	PAUL RANDALL	91	46
11	BRIAN WILLIAMS	23	1

	2.0	
Brian Hughes	43	4
Mike Graham	19	1
Andy Rowland	134	51
Craig Moores	2	_
Steve Abbley	19	_
Ken Beamish	2	_



Neil Slatter	21	_
Keith Curle	14	2
Archie Stephens	24	9
Geraint Williams	37	1
Vaughan Jones	87	3
Martin Thomas	156	_
Shaun Penny	58	12
Ian Holloway	2	_
Kevin Westaway	2	-

The exact numberings of both teams will be announced over the PA system to enable spectators to insert the relevant numbers prior to the kick-off.

REFEREE:

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MR. COLIN DOWNEY (Hounslow, Middlesex) Commenced refereeing with Middlesex F.A. in 1965 and has progressed via Spartan and Rothman's Isthmian Football Leagie list. Refereed an Anglo-Italian semi-professional tournament in 1976, also the Middlesex County Senior Charity Cup Final. Has also refereed other League and County Cup finals. In 1977 was Linesman in the second round U.E.F.A. Cup

RED FLAG: MR. R. B. BANNING - (Basingstoke)
YELLOW FLAG: MR. R. G. SMITH - (Oxford)