

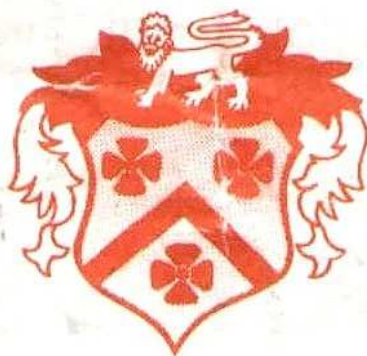


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BEST WISHES TO THE POPPIES TODAY

PETER DENYER

Manager's Notes

I'm writing these notes in the absence of Dave Needham, whom we welcome back from a weeks business trip in South Africa.

Please welcome too Swindon Town, to what promises to be a most exciting tie. This is the type of game in which we must gauge our progress. If we have any aspirations of entering the Canon League in the next few seasons then we must impress against higher opposition like Swindon.

We approach this match after two disappointing results, at Runcorn and Northwich, losing both 4-0 after such promising first half performances was to say the least disheartening. I feel I must apologise to those supporters who made the long coach journeys to Cheshire, for disappointing them as well. We must now prove that we CAN be a professional 'outfit' by bouncing back today with a win. We seemed to miss Dave so much, and with the injury to

Frank Murphy and Geoff Bantons knees, it underlines the fact that we need to bolster our first team squad with some quality players.

The reserves continued their good performance in the East Midlands Alliance League with a 4-0 win over Corby Gainsboro reserves on Saturday. They've proved they can still score goals even without the services of top scorer Greg Shelton and striker Sean Diver, who have both made encouraging strides into the first team squad.

There is one face in particular in the Swindon Squad that I would like to welcome to Rockingham Road this afternoon. That of Leigh Barnard, with whom I spent my apprenticeship days at Portsmouth back in the '74/'75 season. I wish him and his team all the best of luck today but I hope they don't go home with too much of a smile on their faces tonight.

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WELCOME TO.. SWINDON TOWN

Few would argue that the finest hour in the club's history came at Wembley's Empire Stadium on that spring afternoon in 1969 when, at 5.45, Stan Harland held the Football League Cup high above his head amid tumultuous applause from some forty thousand Swindonians. It signified the first honour for the Town in over fifty years since the Southern League championship (then equivalent to the Third Division) had been secured in 1911 and again three years later. Second-best had to be sufficient on other occasions — runners-up in Division Three in 1963, semi-finalists in the F.A. Cup in 1910 and 1912, runners-up in the Charity Shield in 1911 — but March 15 1969 stands as the pinnacle of achievement. By then, almost ninety years had elapsed since the birth of soccer in Wiltshire.

Swindon's first major success in the F.A. Cup came in 1907-08, which coincided with the arrival of an exciting twenty-year old who was destined to become an England international, Harold Fleming. First Division Sheffield United were beaten at Bramall Lane in a replay and the Town's share of Cup proceeds that year allowed them to lay the first terracing on the County Ground's grass embankments. Another fine Cup run in 1910 saw Swindon dump Crystal Palace, Burnley, Tottenham and Manchester City out of the competition in reaching the semi-final stage. Newcastle United finally halted their progress on Easter Saturday at White Hart Lane, winning 2-0.

Swindon again battled through to the semi-finals in 1912. Stamford Bridge was also the venue on this occasion and the opposition came in the form of Second Division Barnsley. The game, a goalless draw, was far from a show piece, with the inelegant tackling of the northerners taking the upper hand over the more delicate skills of Fleming & Co. — in fact treatment meted out to Harold was such that it took him fully ten months to recover from his injuries. With neither he nor dead-ball expert Billy Tout available for the replay at Meadow Lane, Swindon missed a penalty and missed out on the chance of appearing in an F.A. Cup Final, going down by a goal to nil.

After the break between 1939-1945 a lengthy run in the F.A. Cup — to the Fifth Round kept the crowds coming in. In 1947-48 and in the following season there was a further increase, with almost 350,000 people passing through the County Ground turnstiles.

The club reached the F.A. Cup Fifth Round in 1967, where they frightened the lives out of championship-chasing Nottingham Forest. Capacity crowds saw a goalless draw at the City Ground and the replay here — when Bruce Walker crashed home a last-minute equaliser to force extra-time. The Town finally succumbed in a third game at Villa Park.

During the 1969-70 season in the F.A. Cup the quarter-finals were reached for the first time since 1924.

SCOTT ENDERSBY (Goalkeeper). Born Lewisham. Former Ipswich apprentice who moved to Tranmere Rovers for whom he had made his league debut against Hereford United in September 1981. Spent two seasons between the post for Tranmere before joining Swindon in May 1983.

CHARLIE HENRY (Defender). Born Acton. Former apprentice who signed professional in February 1980 and made his league debut as substitute at Reading in September of that year. Most of his 93 league appearances to the end of last season have been at right full back, but he can also play in the centre of the defence.

COLIN BAILIE (Defender). Born Belfast. A former apprentice he made his league debut at Oxford United in April 1982 and established himself in the first team last season with assured displays in both full back positions. Had made 27 League appearances to the end of last season.

PAUL BATTY (Midfield). Born Edlington. Paul served his apprenticeship at Swindon and made his league debut against Crewe Alexandra in September 1982. He went on to make 39 league appearances last season and is a very promising player who makes up for his lack of height with all round determination.

MIKE GRAHAM (Defender). Born Lancaster. Mike began with Bolton Wanderers making his debut at Manfield in March 1978. He made 46 appearances for Bolton before signing for Swindon in July 1981. Had made 76 league appearances for Swindon to the end of last season mainly playing beside the centre half but can also play in midfield or at full-back.

DAVE HOCKADAY (Forward). Born Sedgefield. Dave's only previous club was Blackpool for whom he made his league debut in September 1976 at Notts County. He went on to make around 140 appearances for Blackpool before joining Swindon in the 1983 close season. Fast and tricky winger.

GARY EMMANUEL (Midfield). Born Swansea. Gary began with Birmingham City making his debut at Stoke City in January 1975. He played 71 First Division games for the Blues moved to Bristol Rovers in December 1978 and added 65 league appearances there before his transfer to Swindon in the 1981 close season. A hard working player who was held back by injury last season but had made 69 league appearances for the club by its end.

ANDY ROWLAND (Forward). Born Derby. Andy served his apprenticeship at Derby County but his league debut (which was actually at Swindon) came after a transfer to Bury in August 1974. He was three times leading scorer at Bury and played 174 league games for them before his transfer to Swindon in September 1978. A

Welcome to Swindon cont.

consistent goalscorer (but also the club emergency goalkeeper) he had made 186 league appearances for the club at the end of last season.

ALAN MAYES (Forward). Born London. Now in his second spell with Swindon, Alan began with QPR but his league debut came after a move to Watford and was against Port Vale in November 1974. He made 133 appearances for Watford plus 10 on loan to Northampton Town before signing for Swindon in February 1979. Although at Swindon for less than two years, he made 89 league appearances and struck up a good partnership with Andy Rowland. He joined Chelsea in December 1980 and made about 70 league appearances for them before re-joining Swindon in July 1983. Mobile forward very quick in the penalty area.

LEIGH BARNARD (Midfield). Born Worsley. Served his apprenticeship with Portsmouth and after making his league debut against Exeter City in September 1977 went on to make 79 league appearances for Pompey. He also played 4 matches on loan to Peterborough but moved to Swindon in June 1982. Was ever present last season and is seen to best advantage on the left of midfield.

GARY NELSON (Forward). Born Braintree. Joined Southend United from school and made his league debut as substitute against Colchester United in October 1979. He made

around 100 appearances for Southend before his move to Swindon in August 1983.

JIMMY QUINN (Forward). Born Belfast. Signed from Osurestry Town in December 1981, he enjoyed a rapid rise from parks football to his league debut as substitute against Walsall in March 1982. A tall forward who is good in the air his opportunities have been limited but he made 18 league appearances by the end of last season.

KEVIN BADDELEY (Defender). Born Swindon. Served his apprenticeship with Bristol City and made his league for City but he established himself in Swindon's First Team shortly after his transfer in July 1981. Had made 65 league appearances to the end of last season and likes to overlap when he can. Can play in either full back position but usually on the left.

SWINDON'S MANAGER - KEN BEAMISH Appointed in April 1983 after a spell as Caretaker Manager. He joined the club in the summer of 1981 as player coach after a career as a central forward that took him to a number of different clubs.

He started and finished his playing career at Tranmere Rovers, but also played for Brighton, Blackburn Rovers, Port Vale and Bury and made 2 league appearances for Swindon in the 1981/2 season. A prolific scorer as a player, he starts his first full season as Manager with a number of new players of his own choosing.

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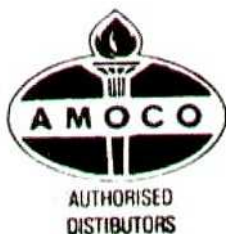
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The Tie They'll Never Forget

by David Thorpe, Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph.

A few months ago Maurice Marston pondered what a small world it sometimes seems when he noticed Mike Summerbee was an immediate neighbour at a small holiday complex in Portugal.

Diplomatically he didn't remind him that their paths had crossed twice in the space of five days 22 years ago when Marston was a veteran right-back for Kettering Town and Summerbee an embryonic Swindon Town right winger taking the first steps of a career which would earn him almost every honour in the game.

But his pleasant surprise turned to incredulity when it turned out that Kettering's first round opponents in this season's competition should again be Swindon.

And he wasn't the only member of that 1961 Poppies team to have his memory bank stirred into action when the draw was announced.

In the Yorkshire mining village of Staniforth Ted Smethurst put down his paper and stared at two action shots framed on his living room wall, visual reminders of the hero's part he played in the 2-2 draw in Wiltshire.

John Ritchie, whose goal in the 3-0 replay triumph helped persuade Stoke City to beat a queue of League clubs for his signature, shouted the news to wife Shirley as she prepared tea in their Newcastle-under-Lyme home — and immediately planned a rare soccer outing.

Former England inside-forward Johnny Morris, whose skills on a frozen surface taunted Swindon in the second game, broke off from his duties as assistant-secretary of the Manchester Golf Alliance to recap on one of his last great performances.

And down in Sussex Jack Froggatt, perhaps the most warmly remembered of all Kettering managers, eased back into the armchair where he has done much of his recovering from a recent heart-attack and broke into the broad smile that was one of his trademarks.

Every member of that team with the exception of George Armour enjoyed Football League careers before or afterwards.

Yet even at this distance the two matches stand out as being special to all of them.

As Ritchie, now running his own pottery

wholesale business, explains "To play against a team like Swindon when I was a young lad with Kettering was no different to the feeling I got when going to Wembley with Stoke City a few years later."

Even Froggatt and Morris, with their England caps, have a warm spot for the cold November when Kettering beat Football League opposition for the first time in their history.

Neither of them will be on hand to see their modern-day counterparts, as Froggatt's lion heart is not as healthy as it once was — he has recently had to retire from the licensing trade — while Morris has lost interest in football, damning it as "too boring".

Both, however, expressed a desire to have their good wishes conveyed to the 1983 Poppies, each adding the identically worded message that "I always watch for their results."

Smethurst is only kept away by his own football commitments. At 45 he's still the regular first team keeper of South Cliff in the Scarborough and District League.

Otherwise he'd be on his way down the A1 to meet up again with two former team-mates who have pledged to make a special journey — Ritchie and Armour.

Armour ("Ted is always the first to ring me after the bells have rung in the New Year") has less distance to cover than most as he is now a superintendant at the Corby tubeworks.

Marston, of course, still lives and works locally after shaking Kettering Town to its foundations by ending half a century of involvement with his resignation from the burden-carrying post of secretary last year.

Skillful Bernard Shaw, left-half against Swindon, is general manager of a sectional building company in Peterborough and much more interested in table tennis (he plays in the Peterborough League) and golf (like Morris he has a six handicap) than soccer.

But all that's known of full back Norman Lawson and winger Hughie Morrow is that they returned to their native Wales and Nuneaton for retirement.

And none of their team-mates has heard, in the last 20 years, of the men who got the all important goals at Swindon, Londoners Terry Curran and Norman Golding. Manager Wally Akers died last year.

TEAM CHECK

Kettering Town

Colours: All Red

- 1 Steve Humphries
- 2 Iori Jenkins
- 3 David Beavon
- 4 Glyn Chamberlain
- 5 David Needham
- 6 Dave Pownall
- 7 Eddie McGoldrick
- 8 Peter Denyer
- 9 David Hofbauer
- 10 Frankie Murphy
- 11 Geoff Banton
- 12 To be announced

OFFICIALS

Referee
B. T. STEVENS
(Stonehouse)

Linesmen
A. FENN
(Nuneaton)

L. L. WATSON
(Coventry)

Swindon Town

Colours:

- 1 Scott Endersby
- 2 Charlie Henry
- 3 Colin Bailie
- 4 Paul Batty
- 5 Simon Gibson
- 6 Mike Graham
- 7 David Hockaday
- 8 Gary Emmanuel
- 9 Andy Rowland
- 10 Alan Mayes
- 11 Leigh Barnard
- 12 Garry Nelson
- 13 Jimmy Quinn
- 14 Keven Baddeley

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Right	KETTERING TOWN	Left
Colours: Red and White Shirts, White Shorts		
1 SMETHURST		
2 MARSTON		3 LAWSON
4 SHAW	5 FROGGATT	6 ARMOUR
7 MORROW	8 MORRIS	9 RITCHIE
		10 CURRAN
		11 GOLDING

Referee:
F. P. CLARKE
Coventry

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Linesmen:
D. C. WELLS
Luton
A. H. GOODFELLOW
Leicester

11 JACKSON	10 HUNT (R)	9 McPHERSON	8 HUNT (E)	7 SUMMERBEE
6 WOODRUFF		5 OWEN		4 MORGAN
	3 TROLLOPE		2 JONES	
	1 BURTON			

Colours: Blue Shirts, White Shorts

Left: **SWINDON TOWN** Right

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Saturday November 26th

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Wednesday November 30th

v

RUNCORN

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KETTERING TOWN YOUTH

v

CORBY YOUTH

Monday November 21st K.O. 7.30 p.m.

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SUPPORTERS CLUB

Well, the excitement of the F.A. Cup is upon us once again and today we share it with the players, supporters and officials of Swindon Town. We hope their visit with us will be an enjoyable, but not too profitable one, and that the final whistle will see Kettering Town going through to the 2nd round.

Saturday November 26th is a date for you to remember, as this is when we will be holding our disco/buffet at the Rifle Band Club, Havelock Street, Tickets for which are now on sale. Priced at only £1.50, they can be bought at the Supporters Club Shop before and during today's game and any Social Club members who require tickets can buy them in the Social Club bar before and after the game.

If you haven't yet bought your "colours", red & white panel hats, scarves and rosettes can be purchased at the supporters club as well as a wide range of souvenirs, programmes and badges. Apologies now to Michael "Jasper" Barrett, Gordons young son and right hand boy for failing to mention in previous issues that he helps out in the shop at every first team match. Sorry Michael, but you've got your name in print at last, (P.S. Mine's a pint).

TRAVEL CLUB NEWS

In the event of a draw this afternoon all travel arrangements will be announced after the game and in the local press. One match has already been arranged and details are as follows.

SCARBOROUGH Saturday 3rd December Dept. 9.30 a.m.

Prices	T/C Members	Non Members
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O.A.P.s & Jnrs.	£5.50	£6.00

All bookings should be made at the Supporters Club shop or by ringing Dave Barrett, Kettering 518783.

KETTERING TOWN JNRS U15 F.C.

In a recent friendly the juniors played at old "A" team select XI and were beaten 8-0, goals coming from the magic feet of John Sellars (3) Dick Munns (3) and Gordon Livsey (2). The magic by the way was used to keep so many old legs going so long. Well done old timers.

The following Sunday we visited Ise Lodge United for a league match and revenged an earlier defeat by winning 2-1 with goals from Stephen Buckby (sub) and Richard Fletton. On Sunday November 27th we entertain F.C. Aztec at Rockingham Road, K.O. 2.30 p.m.

The Chairman of Kettering Town Football Supporters Club, Mrs. Christine Barrett, wishes to thank everyone for the wonderful cards and flowers that she received during her recent stay in hospital. Christine is now out of hospital and looking forward to resuming her committee work. Good to have you back Chris.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Reserves Review

Sixteen year old David Johnson scored with a powerful header on his Reserve team debut against Ashley Rovers. Shaun Diver scored the other two in our 3-0 Junior Cup win.

We welcome back to the club two ex youth team players who have quickly made a big impression in the Reserves. Willie Kelly was signed from Corby Hazeltree as a left side mid field player but with Greg Shelton and Shaun Diver on first team duty he has been filling in up front effectively. He and Andy Pawluk were the scorers in our recent 2-2 draw against Irthlingborough Rangers.

Terry O'Keefe showed all his old flair and celebrated his return to the club with two well taken goals in last weeks 4-0 home win. Chris Childs netted the other two, one of which was a rare but excellent header.

Youth team skipper Tommy Manson recently recovered from his ankle ligament injury returned to the fray in last weeks friendly against Kingsthorpe Beclive.

A below par first half saw us two down at half time in this match but a second half revival saw us run out 4-2 winners. Left back Ben Williams scored two, Tom Manson converted a penalty and fifteen year old Shane Marlow completed the scoring with his first goal for the club.

News of John Sellars, who left us to join Manchester United this season is encouraging. John has been scoring goals regularly for United Under 17 side and last week was substitute for their under 18's.

I am sure many of you will remember Dave Longhurst who played on the right wing for our youth team two years ago. Dave left us to take up an apprenticeship with Notts Forest and is regularly getting good write-ups for his performances in their reserves.

Today's Reserve team match is at Brixworth where ex Poppies manager Colin Clarke is expected to be amongst the opposition.

EAST MIDLANDS ALLIANCE (TOP 6)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Points
KETTERING NOMADS	12	8	2	2	32	12	18
CORBY LOCO'S	11	7	3	1	26	16	17
KETTERING TOWN RESERVES	10	6	4	0	34	10	16
FISHER F.C.	12	5	5	2	18	12	15
STAMFORD R.O.B.	13	6	3	3	17	12	15
GRETTON	9	6	1	2	25	9	13

Commercial News

Today we forget the trials of our weekly league programme as we welcome the directors, officials and players of Swindon Town to Rockingham Road for our F.A. Cup game. This is a match to which I have been looking forward ever since the draw was made.

It gives me a chance to meet once again my good friend Doug Buswell and his wife Enid. Doug has recently rejoined Swindon as Commercial Manager after a spell with Chesterfield and as organiser for a clubs pool in the Oxford area. Doug and I were together at Oxford United for some six years in the days when our previous manager was club captain, during the years when Oxford, who as you all know as the Poppies old rivals when known as Headington United rose from the Southern League to the Second Division of the Football League. We will no doubt have much to discuss over a pint tonight which ever way the result today goes.

My connections with Swindon don't end there as Bob Kearsey now a director of our visitors was for a time my chairman at Oxford. No divided loyalties for me though I am a Ketteringite now (if only by adoption).

On our own commercial side we are now showing increased ticket sales on our lottery. My thanks to all agents for this and also to my two "caravan" ladies in the town centre.

When in town visit us at the caravan for not only do we sell lottery tickets, we also have a nice line in teddy bears of many leading clubs suitable for Xmas presents, programmes, copies of the F.A. non league annual, and of around football at 30p our own non league monthly magazine.

We now have a 10p ticket which we are sharing with other clubs and organisations to our mutual financial benefit, so if you are a member of any bone-fide organisation and would like more details call in at the office after the match or phone me on Kettering 522653 any evening.

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NEWS DESK

If todays game ends all square the replay will be at the county ground Swindon on Tuesday next, kick off 7.30 p.m. There will not be tickets on sale at Kettering as it is felt there will be sufficient accommodation both for stand and terrace supporters.

Xmas Dance

Organised by our Vice Presidents club at the Royal Hotel, Kettering on Thursday December 8th, tickets price £2 including a chicken buffet, are selling fast so make sure of joinig us at what I am sure will be a good night for all Poppies fans by obtaining your tickets from any of our V.P.'s or from myself.

LOOKING BACK

A look at Kettering's post-war exploits against Football League opposition in the F.A. Cup reveals some interesting statistics. Today's match against Swindon is the 18th occasion since the war that we have been paired with Football League opposition yet we have only met eleven different clubs. Swindon become the seventh club to have met us twice. This will actually be our 24th post-war Cup tie against Football League opposition because we have drawn on six occasions. "Experts" often say that the non-Football League club has to win at the first time of asking: in the replay the Football League club will be more determined and less complacent. Well, Kettering have defeated Football League opposition on four occasions and each of those was in a replay — two at home and two away. We've only lost two replays against Football League opposition and both of those were at home, so if today's result is a draw we shall have an opportunity to extend our record of never having lost a replay away to a Football League team!

Our first encounter with Football League opposition after the war came in 1951 with a 3-0 defeat at Bristol Rovers. The 1951-52 season was the first F.A. Cup campaign since 1935-36 that we had not been drawn against Peterborough United. Indeed for four consecutive seasons, from 1946 to 1949, it was the Midland League giants who dumped us out of the competition.

Our failure at Eastville in 1951 was followed two years later with the same result at Leyton Orient. It was to be another seven years before we would get another crack at Football League opposition. Three times in the intervening years our ball went into the velvet bag with the Third Division clubs but on each occasion we failed to be paired with a Football League side. In 1954 we crashed at Northern League Bishop Auckland, in 1958 an heroic draw at Peterborough was followed by an even more memorable home replay defeat and in 1959, Southern League newcomers, Margate, took us back to Kent to finish us off. In 1960 the First Round draw sent us Wycombe Wanderers where Harry Walden headed the winner that gave us our first post-war appearance in the Second Round. Third Division Reading proved too strong for us winning 4-2.

In the 1961-62 campaign a home victory over Heanor Town earned us a trip to Swindon. The tie was approached with the usual optimism but as the Wiltshire side were in the top half of the Third Division it was obviously one of the toughest draws possible. Fifteen minutes from time Swindon were cruising home 2-0, but a goal from Norman Golding and a late penalty from Terry Curran sent the visiting supporters in the 12,577 crowd into ecstasy. The replay provided us with our first, and (so far) biggest, win over a Football League side. A 61st penalty from Terry Curran opened the scoring, the same player got the second 16 minutes later, and in the dying stages, after Norman Golding had had a goal disallowed, John Ritchie wrapped it up with the third. Beating Swindon ought to have been enough incentive to win the replay anyway, but the Second Round draw had produced: Northampton Town v Swindon Town or Kettering Town and the knowledge that we would have a tilt at the Cobblers added to the excitement of that November evening. The Cobblers, riding high in the Third Division, proved to have too much strength for us and the 18,825 County Ground crowd witnessed a comfortable 3-0 home win.

In 1963 we were drawn at home to Millwall in the First Round: it was the first time since 1926 that we had been drawn at home to a Football League side. On that occasion 8,603 spectators had paid £512 13s 0d to see Third Division (South) Coventry City win 3-2. The Millwall game was watched by a disappointing 4,681 crowd who saw a disappointing game against the struggling Third Division side. A 1-1 draw meant a replay at the Den and, after a postponement, the night of Monday November 25th 1963 became one of the highlights of Kettering's history. The record books show Armour 2 and Daidy as the goalscorers in a 3-2 victory but the written word cannot do justice to the performance and the emotions of that evening at Cold Blow Lane. The Second Round brought us our first ever encounter with a Fourth Division side but it had only been two seasons since we had last visited Oxford. Headington (as most of us insisted on calling them, as this was their name until 1960) were only in their second season in the Football League and going to the familiar Manor Ground didn't quite seem like visiting a Football League ground. The match was a close affair which Oxford won 2-1 and provoked a lot of discussion about the officials' interpretation of the offside law.

A year later we were drawn away to Millwall in the First Round. Inevitably our return there produced anti-climax with the Londoners winning a dreary game 2-0. Kettering's fortunes slumped over the next few years and it was not until 1968 that we next qualified for the competition proper. And it was no glamour tie that came out of the bag — away to Falmouth Town or Waterlooville. Eventually Waterlooville won through which certainly made travelling easier and killed all the grandiose plans to charter aircraft. The Hampshire League side gave us several scares but we held out for a 2-1 victory. There was no glamour tie in the Second Round but a home match against fellow Southern League Dartford gave us a great chance of making our first appearance in the Third Round. That chance was taken in fine style as the Kentishmen were caned 5-0 but what a disappointment the draw was, when on the Monday morning the players huddled round a transistor before setting off for a

Southern League encounter at Margate: Bournemouth or Bristol Rovers away. In the event we paid a return visit to Eastville where Mick Reed's equaliser gained us a replay and a place in the Fourth Round draw. By the time the replay took place we knew that no dream match was awaiting us — just a trip to Second Division Bolton Wanderers. And what a disappointment the replay was. Twenty minutes from time we were 1-0 up and the ball was on the penalty spot. We missed. Ten minutes later Rovers equalised and in the 89th minute an own goal sent the West Country side on their way to Bolton.

One year later a lack-lustre performance at home to Swansea Town meant a 2-0 win for the Fourth Division promotion candidates. In 1971 a home defeat against Barnet in the First Round ended our interest, but in 1972 after a campaign which had started at Spalding on September 2nd, Ron Atkinson's men were rewarded with a trip to Walsall. At freezing Fellows Park Roy Clayton scored a 2nd minute opener for us but early into the second half the Third Division side were 3-1 up and looked to be well in control. Ron sent on Colin Harrington and the big winger caused havoc down the right flank and created goals for John Pawley and Clayton. Kettering had risen to the occasion at Fellows Park but seemed overawed in the Rockingham Road replay. In front of a much bigger crowd, numerous chances went begging and Walsall's 2-0 half-time advantage gave them the leeway they wanted, although Pawley pulled one back in the second half.

Big Ron wanted a Football League scalp before he left Kettering and 1974 provided his last chance. By the time we were drawn to visit Swansea it was virtually certain that he would be moving to Cambridge. Not only did Swansea present him with his last chance but also as good a chance as any non-Football League side is likely to get, for the Swans were in the Football League's spurious re-election zone. The Vetch Field was waterlogged on the Saturday and many Kettering fans were unable to make the trip to South Wales on the following Tuesday. Instead, many gathered at Rockingham Road to watch Southend dumped out of the F.A. Youth Cup and listen to regular score flashes from Swansea. There was some disappointment and surprise when it was learnt that the home team had equalised Graham Atkinson's first half goal. But that emotion was tempered by the prospect of the replay on the following Monday. If Graham Atkinson had been blessed with the gift of foresight he might not have scored at Swansea. That was the last goal he would ever score. Early in the replay his leg was broken in what some euphemistically described as a late tackle. It was over a year before he could walk without crutches; the perpetrator still plays football at the highest level. This incident cast a black cloud over our 3-1 win in which Pawley and Clayton again got on the scoresheet and were joined by penalty king, Roger Ashby. The Second Round took us to Southern League Champions Wimbledon who were in a different class to Swansea and beat us 2-0. After that they went to First Division Burnley and won 1-0 to earn themselves two matches against Leeds United.

'The Doog' was undeniably a controversial character and whatever anyone may say about him, he certainly led us on an exciting Cup run in the 1976-77 season. A First Round visit from Oxford produced a 1-1 draw thanks to an equaliser from Alan Merrick and meant another trip to the Manor Ground. Kettering dominated the first half of the replay; the home side were totally bewildered by our reluctance to kick the ball as far upfield possible as quickly as possible. Instead we patiently kept possession and waited for the opening. It came in the 72nd minute and it was Dougan himself who scored. The last 18 minutes seemed to last a lifetime for Kettering were down to nine fit men and the pattern of play changed dramatically but we held out to earn a Second Round tie at home to Tooting & Mitcham from the Isthmian League. A late goal from Clayton disposed of them and again we were in the Third Round. Again we were disappointed. Fourth Division Colchester were to visit us. They were a good Fourth Division side — they won promotion that season, and ended our F.A. Cup interest with a 3-2 victory in a game in which we might have done better if close penalty and offside decisions had gone our way. Careful scrutiny of the BBC video recording of this game suggested that we may have had a good case.

In the six seasons that have elapsed since that match there has not been a great deal of Cup fever in Kettering despite qualifying for the First Round on five occasions. In 1977 there was the Tilbury farce when our win there was over-ruled because the F.A. decided that a man that they had selected to play in an F.A. representative XI wasn't actually eligible to play in this country at all. In 1979 we went back to Reading and again lost 4-2, although we enjoyed a half-time lead. In 1980 it took three matches to settle our First Round clash with Maidstone, perhaps the vital moment of this struggle was when we lost the toss for the venue of the second replay. A First Round victory over Boston United in 1981 and a home tie with Blackpool should have generated plenty of excitement but the bad weather which caused the game to take place three weeks after the scheduled date seemed to take the edge off the fixture which turned out to be a disappointing 3-0 defeat. Last season we returned to Walsall with a team which only the loyalist of fans expected to do anything. The only disappointing aspect of the game was the 3-0 scoreline; we did well enough to lose much more respectfully than that.

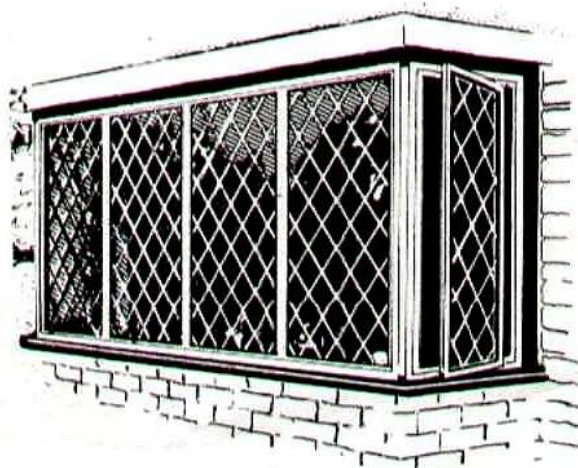
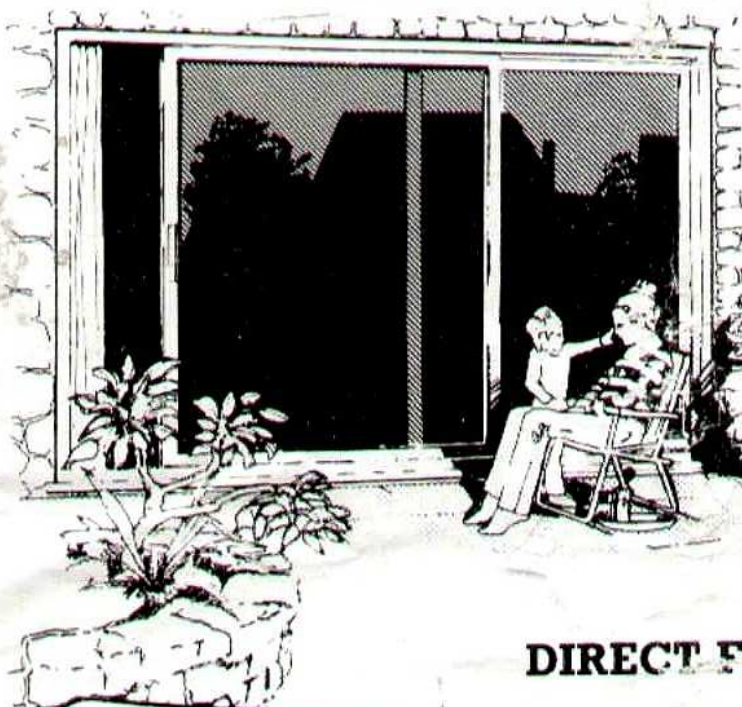
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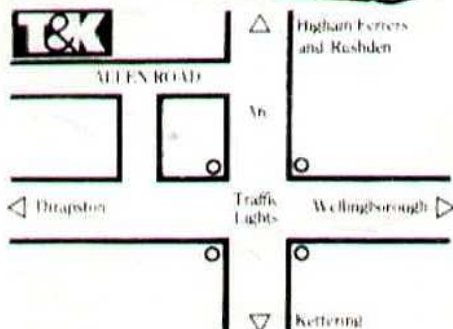
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