

Welcome you to the County Ground

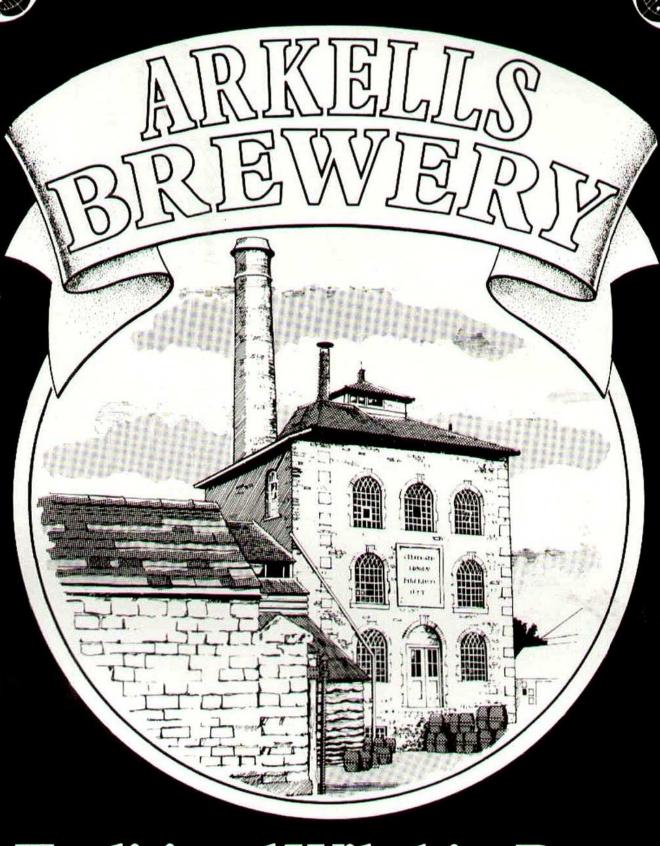
Today's visitors

ALDERSHOT

Division IV
Saturday April 7th

GROUNDING CROSERS OF SWINDOWS FRI

Official Programme 40p



Traditional Wiltshire Beers Enjoyapint







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From the desk of Ken Beamish



Today we welcome the players, officials and supporters of Aldershot Football Club, a team that is pushing for promotion at this time, but, hopefully, this afternoon we can dent their ambition by taking three points from them.

Since my last notes, we have had three away games, at Millwall in the Associate Members' Cup, and at York and Halifax in the League. As it turned out, all of the results were disappointing, although our Millwall performance deserved better rewards. The games at York and Halifax were victories for the more aggressive and determined teams and these are factors that, if we are to be a force in the future, we shall have put put into our game, for it is a known fact that the Fourth Division is not all about skilful football.

The game at Halifax was a particular example when, for 60 minutes of the game, we were totally dominated by their aggression and, although we put more passing movements together, their more forceful play produced dividends. It was not until the last half hour of the match that we showed our own determination and aggression, forcing Halifax to defend doggedly, for we were encamped around their penalty area during that period.

Having learnt our lesson from that fixture, it is that approach that I am expecting from the players in today's game, for there is no way any of my teams are going to just play out the remainder of the season.

I would like to add my congratulations to the Swindon Town Boys on the tremendous performance and victory and good luck to them in the two-legged final of the English Schools Gillette Trophy.

It was nice to see the Reserves achieve a resounding victory against our local rivals, Reading, last Saturday, with an excellent performance from our trialist, Matt Stock. We are at the moment in negotiations with the lad, but it is very difficult to compete with the wages being earned by a player who is receiving part-time wages playing football, plus a full-time wage in the building trade.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support this afternoon, and would like to emphasize that, although we can earn nothing this season, your support for the remainder of the season is extremely vital if we are to compete in providing a team that is going to achieve promotion for us. If our attendances drop then obviously the standard of players employed is going to be controlled by the consequential reduction in income from our games. So please keep supporting us and, if it is at all possible, try to influence others to join you. Have an enjoyable afternoon.



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

This afternoon we welcome the players, officials and supporters from Aldershot F.C. We expect to see good support from Aldershot today as they are in with a good chance of promotion to Division III. If our previous experience against top clubs is continued we can look forward to an exciting contest and we hope a reversal of the result at Aldershot earlier this season when after being a goal in front we finally lost by 2-1, the second Aldershot goal coming from a penalty for hands.

Since our last home game against Crewe, we have played 3 away games, 2 in the league and 1 in the A.M. Cup, losing all 3 games. I cannot say we played well in any of these games and as I've said so many times we have skill but lack consistancy and effort. At York, the runaway league leaders, our players individually were every bit as good as theirs the difference being that York played with more aggression and a will to win.

It is a pity that the recent excellent games at the County Ground attracted so few spectators. The Swindon v Rotherham Schoolboys Semi-Final replay which Swindon won by 3 goals to 2 was an example of honest endeavour, a lot of skill and above all, great excitement. We wish the boys every success in the final which is a two legged match, the first being played at Swindon on a day to be announced. Make sure you come and tell your friends, you are assured of a great game.

On Saturday last our Reserves played and beat Reading Reserves by 5 goals to 1 and thus was one

of the best games I've seen at the County Ground all season, that is to say, with the exception of the Cup games. The result was remarkable in that Reading having no first team game, played several players from their first eleven.

You may have read that Bristol Rovers have "poached" another of our Competitions Staff and there have been harsh words between the Rovers administration and myself.

Earlier in the season, Bristol Rovers induced Mike Lewis to leave us and work for them and now they have taken one of our top agents Tony Woods by offering him a far greater basic wage. I do not consider this to be an act of a friendly neighbour and whereas in a commercial business staff are of course, free to work for whosoever they wish, I consider poaching from a neighbour is a mean and dastardly trick.

To remind you again of our Sporting Dinner on Monday April 30. There are some tickets left so hurry and get yours now, it will be an interesting evening you must not miss.

Finally another date for your diary is April 14. That day we have been honoured to stage the English Schools Smiths Food Trophy for under 18's, when England play Scotland. These boys are the stars of the future and the games usually provide us with some first class football.



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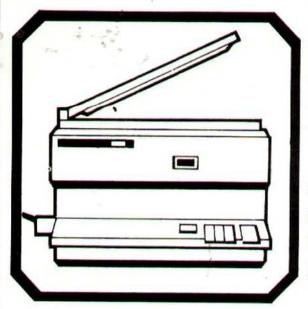
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present their

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on MONDAY 30th APRIL, 1984

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Mr. Jimmy Hill, Mr. Julian Wilson & Mr. Mike Rafter

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Ninety-Niner Crossword devised by David Peck

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ACROSS

- 1. 'County' player who kicked off his career with a debut goal for Orient in 1981. (4, 6)
- 7. The symbol on Brentford's badge for a while.
 (3)
- Former coach put in the driving seat at Port Vale this season. (5)
- 9. England is Scotland's 'auld ---'. (5)
- A roof-worker who left Rotherham in 1968 or another who joined them in 1979. (5)

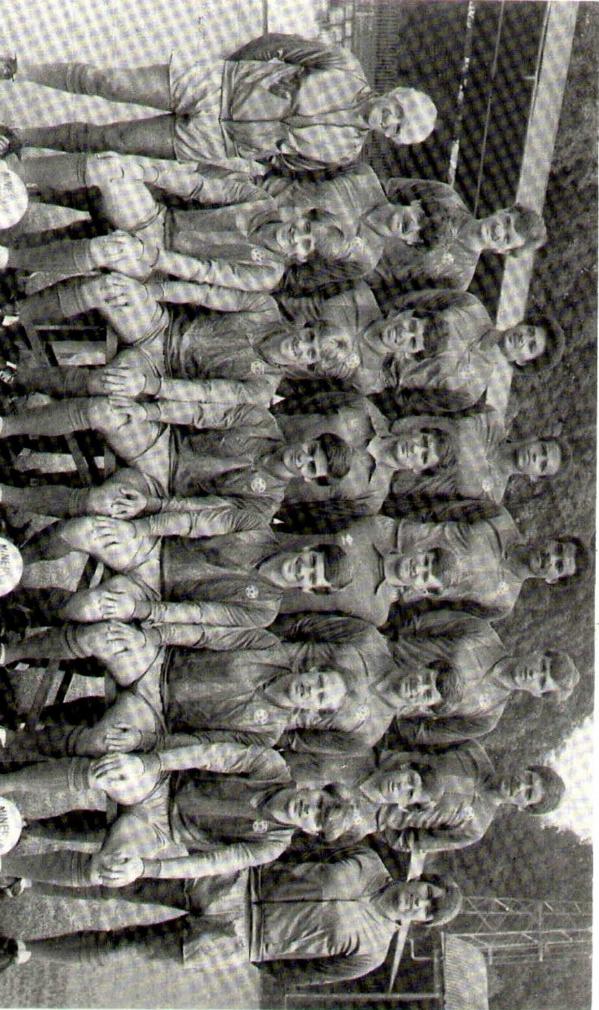
- Its loss ended Gordon Banks' England career.
 (3)
- 'County' player who became a country player with England in Australia in 1980. (10)

DOWN

- Scottish club whose record victory is also the best-ever British result. (8)
- 2. Shared the spoils. (4)
- Peruvian (an anagram of Ari Mineos) who is one of the elite few men to have hit a hattrick against England. (9)
- 4. The nickname of Southend United. (9)
- 5. Of which the toss-winner has a choice. (4)
- Dead-ball situation in which a pre-planned manoeuvre can be tried out. (3, 5)
- 10. One of Mansfield Town's colours. (4)
- 11. --- finalist starts like 3 DOWN. (4)



ALDERSHOT



BACK ROW (Left to Right): Giorgio Mazzon; Dale Banton; Chris Ampofo; Les Lawrence; Don Souter; Peter O'Sullivan. MIDDLE ROW (Left ro Right): John Anderson (Trainer); Joe Jopling; Clive Day; Doug Hatcher; David Coles; Ian Gillard (Player/Coach); Ian McDonald; FRONT ROW (Left to Right): Len Walker (Manager)

Stuart Robinson; Brian Lucas; Colin Fielder; Paul Shrubb; Les Briley; Glen Burvill.

Introducing....

From The Recreation Ground

Aldershot, well known as the home of the British Army, could well be celebrating a campaign victory of a different kind come May. By then the Town Football Club will know their playing destiny for next season. That they visit the County Ground this afternoon on the threshold of promotion to Division 3 has come to many as a surprise in this seasons promotion stakes.

Whether they achieve promotion or not will be basically in their own efforts over the remaining fixtures they have to complete, for some are with other promotion challengers. After todays game they have to visit local rivals Reading, also prominent in the chase for honours, and included in their remaining home fixtures are visits from Blackpool, Colchester and York City all striving to reach the higher division. The other matches are with Darlington at home, Bury, Rochdale and Chesterfield in away fixtures.

Aldershot are the third youngest club in the Football League, formed in December 1926. If they gain promotion they will be entering Division 3 for the first time in eight seasons, having been relegated in 1976 after three seasons in the higher division.

The man leading this seasons determined effort is manager. Len Walker who was appointed to the post in April 1981. Before the last two home matches Len has been busy collecting honours on behalf of his club for in February he was named Divisional manager of the month, and last Saturday was presented with the Canon goalscoring monthly award for February. Len has served in a managerial capacity with Darlington, but most of his career has been spent with the Recreation Ground Club for whom as a player he played 450 League matches.

This season in home matches the Shots have been invincible after losing their first two home matches of the season to Hereford United (1-4) and Bury (1-2). Since then they have remained unbeaten in seventeen League matches, chalking up wins over Swindon (2-1), Bristol City (1-0), Northampton (1-0), Peterborough (3-2), Rochdale (2-1) and Chesterfield (2-1), this win over the Saltergate Club on December 31st signalled a run of seven consecutive home wins over Hartlepool (2-1), Torquay (3-1), Mansfield (7-1) and 5-2 wins over Halifax and Chester. The last two Saturdays have seen a home win over promotion rivals Doncaster Rovers (2-1), and a setback last Saturday with dropped points in a 0-0 home draw with Crewe, on no fewer than three occasions the woodwork saving Crewe from defeat. At home points have also had to be shared with Wrexham in a 1-1 draw, Tranmere and Stockport by similar score, and a goalless draw with Reading on Boxing Day which attracted the Shots highest attendance of the season to date 6,270.

Away from the Recreation Ground six away wins have been obtained coming from 1-0 wins at Torquay, Hartlepool and Darlington, victories at Chester and Peterborough by 2-1, with the 4-1 success at Northampton, the seasons highest so far.

Aldershot's only incursion into the transfer market prior to the transfer deadline was to obtain midfield player Steve Berry on loan from Portsmouth, where he has made 30 First Team appearances, he has played in the last two matches for Aldershot following the two match suspension now served by Glen Burvill, but he was substituted in last Saturdays 0-0 draw with Crewe by Brian Lucas.

The rest of the squad that Len Walker is hoping will clinch promotion for Aldershot in the ensuing weeks is:- Goalkeeper David Coles who has played in every match this season except the opening day fixture with Hereford United. He was signed on a free transfer last summer from Mansfield, where his only League experience was the three matches he had played for the Field Mill Club, David was a former Birmingham City apprentice.

The back four has taken on a settled look in the last few matches, although an attack of mumps had led to Paul Shrubb missing the Crewe match last weekend. Paul and Clive Day have shared the No. 2 shirt most of the season, twenty eight year old Paul was signed from Brentford in the 1982 close season after making close on two hundred appearances for the Griffin Park Club, has made 24 league appearances this season.

Former Fulham player Clive Day was signed in the close season, a former Craven Cottage apprentice he made 14 appearances for the London Club, and a similar amount while on loan to Mansfield from Fulham. Clive has played in 22 league matches this season, but before the Doncaster match had been substitute for 9 consecutive games. The Central Defenders in the last ten matches have been Joe Jopling and Don Souter, after being released by Barnsley at the end of last season after 24 First Team appearances; Don a former Ipswich apprentice, returned South to link up with the Shots, and this season has played in 30 of their league matches. His central defensive partner Joe Jopling is now in his second spell with the Club. 32 year old Joe is a veteran of over 400 first team appearances, making 43 of these in his first spell with the Club, before a £30,000 transfer took him to Leicester. Three matches for the Filbert Street Club, and six on loan to Torquay were all Joe played before his return to Aldershot for a fee of £13,500. Has played over 350 games in his second spell with the Club, Joe has played in 15 League matches to date, earning a recall to first team duty when former Bournemouth defender Paul Compton was transferred to Torquay.

Another player to earn a recall to the first team duty is player/coach lan Gillard who has played in the last ten league matches, he had originally played in the first six of the season. The former England Internationa is now in his second season with the Club after moving from Queens Park Rangers. Joining the London Club as an apprentice lan went on to make nearly 500 first team appear-

"Andy-and the County Ground Connection"

It would not be appropriate to let the season fade away without paying tribute to Swindon Town's most versatile player Andy Rowland. One of the amazing aspects of Andy's career is the connection he has in some way or other had with the County Ground and its personnel, past, present and future during his seasons in football.

Since joining us from Bury in September 1978 for a fee of £80,000 he has given the Club sterling service. During this season Andy has been called upon to perform many functions, captain, emergency goalkeeper in an injury crisis, a situation he has been asked to cover before, and when another injury left us without Mike Graham it was again Andy who answered the need and how magnificently he responded, and in recent weeks when the goals from Jim Quinn and Alan Mayes dried up it was Andy who reverted to his original role to answer the call from manager Ken Beamish, and not to forget that he came on as substitute for Dave Hockaday against his old Club Bury earlier this season.

The versatility of Andy must be a managers dream, his quiet authorative and studied approach has brought him many admirers among Town fans in the seasons he has spent with the Town. Many descriptions befit Andy, but one factor above all is fitting to describe Andy and this is loyalty. For consider when Andy arrived we were a prominent Third Division Club, to soon reach a League Cup semi-final, one match, yes, 90 minutes away from Wembley, fancied to eventually gain promotion to Division 2, alongside many fine players who appeared in Town colours in Andy's early County Ground days.

That they came and left, that all our hopes and dreams were to evaporate is now recent history, and with the Club now in a mid table Fourth Division position, Andy remains. No one can deny that Andy, one of the League's most consistent goalscorers, could have left in the traces of others and have achieved success, but Andy Rowland remained, he saw the Club's fortunes wane and maybe any aspirations that existed in his own, and the Club's hopes of promotion.

Andy will probably appear in front of us today, and I am sure you and I hope that he will continue to have faith that he can play a part, wherever it may be in improving our Club's fortunes.

A detailed look at Andy's career shows he was born in Derby on September 8th 1954. He joined Derby County, then a First Division Club, as an amateur and was capped at Youth International level for England, but his progress at Derby County was not to include appearing in the Derby first team.

In the same season that Andy gained Youth honours the men at the helm of Derby County were none other than Brian Clough and Peter Taylor. It was during that season, 1973-74, on October 15th that Clough and Taylor were to resign from Derby, to be replaced on the 23rd of

that same month by two former County Ground employees in Dave MacKay and Des Anderson, this was the first connection Andy was to encounter in an association with the County Ground. On the playing staff of Derby County at the time were eight Internationals, David Nish, Roy McFarland, Colin Todd and Alan Hinton of England, Alan Durban and Terry Hennessy of Wales, along with Archie Gemmill and John O'Hare of Scotland. The only remaining players on that seasons staff still connected with League football are Roy McFarland now assistant to Peter Taylor at the Baseball Ground, both of course departed and returned to County from those times. Brian Clough is now manager of nearby Notts Forest but still resides in Derby, Steve Powell is a long serving player still with the Club, Colin Todd recently joined Oxford United from Notts Forest. Roger Davies has just departed from Darlington, John Sims is with Torquay United, while John McGovern is now manager of Bolton Wanderers and Alan Durban is the recently deposed manager of First

Andy was to leave the Baseball Ground in August of 1974 to join Bury whose manager was Bob Smith, later to accept a similar appointment here, also on the Bury staff at that time was Brian Williams, in his second season with Bury. At the end of the previous season Bury had just released lan Miller on a free transfer, Ian had made nine full appearances with six as a playing substitute, such are the twists and turns of those who seek their future in the world of football. Andy's connections with the County Ground were continuing although unknown to all they were futuristic.

Division Sunderland.

The connection continued with the County Ground for Andy, when he played his first League game here, and also his first League goal when Bury defeated us here 2-0 before a crowd of 6,441. Billy Rudd scored from the penalty spot to complete the Lancashire Clubs first day win of the new season. No wonder Andy developed a liking for the County Ground, that season Andy was to net eleven goals for Bury.

The following season 1975-76 Andy was to appear in all of Bury's League matches, in fact this is the only season Andy has made maximum appearances scoring twenty one goals in League and Cup. He was to miss only one League match the next season and again he scored twenty one goals in all competitions, it was during this season that Andy was to score his first League hat trick in a 4-1 home win over Peterborough on Sept. 25th before 4,926, all the goals coming in the second half, Alan Woolfall was the other Bury scorer.

Andy's last full season at Gigg Lane brought a further fifteen goals, fourteen in the League, Andy making forty one appearances during that 1977-78 season.

A little known fact about Andy is that while at Bury he was adept at penalty taking, netting two in each season of 75-76, 76-77 and 77-78.

The following season 1978-79 was to see the end of Andy's association with the Lancashire Club, for after seven league games and two in the League Cup, bringing a goal in each of the competitions, Andy was to follow manager Bob Smith to the County Ground. A bid of £80,000 was accepted by Bury and Andy was to begin his days in front of the County Ground regulars.

Andy was to leave behind a future association later to materialise at the County Ground for the man Bury signed from Port Vale to replace Andy was none other than Ken Beamish, later to become Andy's manager at the County Ground. Ken scored seventeen goals for the Gigg Lane Club that season. An inauspicious debut in a 0-1 home defeat with Blackpool before 6,607 was hardly the beginning Andy could have desired, included in the Blackpool team that day was Dave Hockaday. It was not long before Andy scored his first goal for Swindon, it coming in his second home match in a 3-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday before a crowd of 5,857, Chic Bates and Paul Gilchrist the other scorers. That same season Andy was to return to his former Club Bury and score the only goal of the game on

March 27th, to give the Town victory. Andy finished with fourteen goals in his first season, thirt-

een in the League.

The next season was to herald the most prolific of Andy's career alongside his co-striker Alan Mayes. The pair were to score twenty eight goals each in a memorable season; poor Bury Andy's old Club were to suffer a 8-0 defeat here at the County Ground with Andy netting twice. The 7,685 present saw Ray McHale with (2), Alan Mayes (2) and one each from Chris Kamara and Bill Tucker complete the rout.

Thirteen goals followed for the Club in 198-81 including three from a hat trick in a 5-2 home win over Sheffield United. Only eight came from an injury hit season of 1981-82, when Andy was restricted to twenty seven League games, his experience was sadly missed in a season of relegation. A return to form last season saw Andy score twenty goals, sixteen of them in the League. A hat trick against todays visitors Aldershot in a 4th Round FA Cup win when we won 7-0 was the highlight. This season has seen Andy's versaility brought to the fore and long may be career continue to flourish.

INTRODUCING...FROM THE RECREATION GROUND continued

ances including European Football. Played for the Under 23 team before gaining full caps against West Germany, Wales and Czechoslovakia in 1975. Ian is now 33 years old.

The midfield berths are occupied by 27 year old Les Briley, a £40,000 signing from Wimbledon in 1980, a former Chelsea apprentice, he had to move to Hereford United to appear in League football, making 66 appearances at Edgar Street, before a £16,000 transfer took him back to London to join Wimbledon. Playing 75 matches for Wimbledon, joining Aldershot for a fee of £43,000, has now made over 150 appearances for the Club and has played in 29 league matches this season. Much travelled Ian McDonald now 30 years old is the midfield architect of most of Aldershot's midfield play, and takes their penalty kicks, besides a high percentage of corner and free kicks. He joined Aldershot three years ago in an exchange deal from York City, his first Club was Barrow, after 38 matches he was transferred to Workington in a £3,000 move, after 45 games he was bought by Liverpool for £35,000, never to appear in the Anfield first team he joined Mansfield for £19,000. After 70 first team games at Field Mill he joined York City, making nearly 200 appearances at Bootham Crescent before joining todays visitors. Another midfield occupant is former Tottenham apprentice Giorgio Mazzon, who made only 6 first team appearances at star studded White Hart Lane. Giorgio 23 years old joined Aldershot in the close season, has only missed one league match to date. Up front Dale Banton is, along with Ian McDonald, the only ever presents this season. A former West Ham apprentice, 22 year old Dale is now in his second season with the Club, scoring 29 goals last season, and has scored 18 this, Dale appeared in only five games for the Upton Park Club.

Les Lawrence was signed on a free transfer from Port Vale last summer, and is the clubs leading scorer with 20 goals. Has rediscovered his earlier form which brought him 53 goals for Torquay in just over 800 games for the Devon Club. With only eight games in Port Vale colours, his only other appearances in the league have been 14 with Shrewsbury for whom he made his league debut here at the County Ground as a playing substitute. Along with Dale Banton, Les has formed a duo that is only second in goal output to York City's Keith Walwyn and John Byrne. Les has made 30 league appearances.

Another former West Ham apprentice Glenn Burvill makes up the attack, he scored four goals in a 7-1 home win over Mansfield on February 4th, the second Aldershot player this season to accomplish this feat, for Les Lawrence did likewise in a 5-2 home win over Chester last month. Glenn has made 26 league appearances this season, just finished a two match suspension.

Local born Brian Lucas, who has played over 100 games for the Club, has made 20 league appearances this season, scoring 5 goals.

Earlier this season, on September 27th we lost 2-1 at the Recreation Ground to goals from Dale Banton and an Ian McDonald penalty, with Alan Mayes netting our reply in front of 2,644. The half time score was 2-1.

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SURVEY ON DIVISION IV BY DAVE KING

There was plenty of activity in the transfer market before last months transfer deadline and these were the deals affecting Fourth Division Clubs: Promotion chasing Doncaster Rovers were the most active spending £135,000 on three players signing defender John Philliben from Stirling Albion where he made 35 appearances in the Scottish Second Division last season . . Celtic Reserve midfield player Jim Dobbin these two signings coming to a combined £100,000 . . Billy Bremner then spent £35,000 on Alan Brown the Shrewsbury striker . . and added a free transfer singning to his squad signing Paul Gregory from Chesterfield . . . fellow promotion contenders Blackpool were also busy paying Second Division Huddersfield Town £25,000 for Kevin Stonehouse and signing Sunderland player Nigel Walker who promptly scored a hat trick for the Seasiders on his debut at Northampton Town League leaders York City spent £20,000 on obtaining Keith Houchen from Orient the only other transfer involving fees were the sale of Alan Birch to Rotherham from Chesterfield for £25,000 and Hereford United signing Swansea midfield player Paul Maddy for £15,000 players who moved on free transfers were Gary Worrall to Peterborough from Manchester United, with whom he had spent a month on loan and David Wakefield who moved from Darlington to Torquay United those players and Clubs involved in loan deals were . . Derek Hall Coventry City to Torquay, who also signed Ian Arkwright from Wrexham on loan . . . Mansfield signed lan Juryeff from Southampton Reading signed Terry Bullivant from Brentford on Ioan Rochdale made two signings in Paul Heaton and John Humphreys from Oldham Athletic Peterborough were involved in two loan deals signing striker Errington Kelly from Coventry City, he also scored on his debut for the Posh netting in their 4-0 home win over Halifax Town, and letting Colin Clarke move to Gillingham on loan . . Darlington secured Mike Angus on Ioan from Southend Steve Berry joined Aldershot from Portsmouth and Crewe took Ian Bishop from Everton on loan . . . as did Northampton in signing Ray Train from Oxford United Mark Forster moved to Darlington from Leicester City.

We were not involved in any transfer deadline activity, despite speculation of our interest in Steve Massey of Hull City and their interest in Alan Mayes. Two of our former players were involved in transfer moves with Glenn Cockerill moving from Lincoln City to Sheffield United for a fee of £40,000, and Peter Eastoe who had been recalled to West Brom from Leicester City and had only played in one Reserve match at Blackburn, was then the subject of a loan deal with Huddersfield Town.

Ian Andrews who was on loan to us from Leicester City was recalled by the First Division Club just prior to the deadline and the reason became obvious 48 hours later when they sold their Reserve goalkeeper Mark Grew to Ipswich Town for a fee of £60,000. The loan of Nigel Gray to Third Division Club Brentford has been extended

until the end of the season. A former player of ours has just returned from France and signed for Southern League Club Gloucester City, he is Mark Thompson who appeared in our Reserve Team a few seasons ago.

Martin Dobson moved on a free transfer from Burnley to Bury to take over as player manager with the Lancashire Club after making over four hundred and fifty appearances in his two spells with the Turf Moor Club, besides making two hundred and twenty five with Everton.

Les Chapman is the caretaker manager of Rochdale when Jimmy Greenhoff became the sixth manager to leave a Fourth Division Club since the start of the season.

One of those deposed managers former Reading manager Maurice Evans has been appointed Chief Scout and Youth Development Officer of Third Division Oxford United, while Doncaster Rovers have appointed David Blakey the former Burnley, Leeds and Everton Scout to do a likewise job for them.

Bristol City striker Glynn Riley has been warned to cool down his goal celebrations by the Football Association following a complaint after the key promotion game against todays visitors Aldershot, he had leapt onto the railings behind one of the goals, giving an emotional salute after scoring the winning goal.

We failed to have any players featured in the Division Four team selected by the professional Footballers Association, the side was:- Jones (York), Price (Hereford), Greenall (Blackpool), MacPhail (York), Richardson (Reading), I. Snodin (Doncaster), Harvey (Hereford), Quow (Peterborough), Senior (Reading), Byrne (York), Walwyn (York). Darlington centre half Dave Barton has been forced to retire from football because of a knee ligament injury. He had joined Darlington last summer after spending eight years with Newcastle United.

Because of their financial troubles Torquay have had to let their goalkeeper John Turner join Alliance League Club Weymouth. It was only four years ago that John was transferred to Chesterfield from Torquay for a fee of £80,000. 29 year old John returned to the Devon Club on a free transfer two seasons ago.

The Canon goalscoring monthly award for March was won by Hereford United with 18 goals, other totals were Blackpool and York City 16 each, Tranmere 12, Bristol City, Chester and Crewe 11 each, Chesterfield 10, Aldershot, Hartlepool and Peterborough 9 each, Halifax and Reading 8 each, Mansfield, Rochdale and Torquay 7 each, Doncaster, Stockport and Wrexham 6 each, Colchester and Northampton 5 each, Bury and Swindon 4 each and Darlington 3.

Our defeat at Halifax last week enabled the Yorkshire Club to complete the double over us for the second successive season, we had already suffered the same fate this season in our matches with Chesterfield and could concede the double to Wrexham if we lose there later this month. Swindon's Simon Gibson (left) in command during the Town's victory over Crewe at the County Ground.

Bottom Left

Crewe goalkeeper Stuart Naylor punches a corner clear from the head of Swindon's Simon Gibson, watched by Town players Charlie Henry (No 2) and Dave Hockaday (No 7).

Top Right

Andy Rowland hits the side netting unabling to stop the Wilts FA Centenary Shield match against Trowbridge from being decided on penalties.

Bottom Right

Crewe's Steve Davis heads the ball away preventing any danger from Town skipper Andy Rowland (left).





Photo Call BY DAVE EVANS







Behind the scenes

by Bob Jefferies

I am sure we would all wish to congratulate the Swindon Boys team for their excellent win in the semi-final of the English Schools Association Gillette Trophy for under 15s here at the County Ground last Thursday evening. The lads showed great determination and skill and I am sure, if they carry that forward into the final of the Competition, they will come through victorious. By the way, the final is played on a home and away basis. One of the greatest strengths of these lads is their terrific commitment to their game and what a pity it is that this quality is so often absent in the professional game. We so often hear the word 'character' used in our game but my interpretation of this word means the willingness to give one hundred per cent effort in earning one's wages, nothing more. People in every walk of life have the character to work hard for their living but, in this game, it seems to call for a special mention by the use of what is probably the most overworked word in the football dictionary. I well remember in the days of Messrs. Harland, Burrows, Downsborough, Trollope, Butler, Noble etc., if the team were defeated away from home, on the return journey the team coach travelled in silence, each player being immersed in his own private meditation, considering what had gone wrong. Because of such commitment and dedication, the team was a successful one and I venture to say that so it is with the Swindon Boys - they are determined to achieve success and are working hard for it and it is to be hoped that this drive is carried forward into their professional careers.

The final tie, here at Swindon, has not yet been decided but hopefully it will take place in the week commencing 7th May.

Whilst on the subject of schoolboy soccer, I would remind you that the Under 18 International match, England versus Scotland it to be staged here on Saturday, 14th April, the game kicking off at 3.00 p.m. Prior to the match the Wiltshire County Smith's Food 6-a-side semi-final and final ties will take place for your pre-match entertainment and these games will commence at 1.20 pm. The Swindon Youth Band will also play for your entertainment.

John Camkin, Chief Executive of the Football League Executive Staffs' Association tells us that for the first time representatives of the Association, i.e. Managers and Secretaries, sat down last month to discuss common problems with Referees. The Association is worried that the ever growing total of cautions is causing grave harm to the image of the game in the eyes of you, the public. Every Sunday, our newspapers tell us of games in which endless free-kicks and cautions have spoiled the enjoyment of spectators. Additionally, cautions are beginning to debase the validity of the major competitions. So many players have to serve match suspensions in the latter weeks of the season that major issues of Championships, Cups, promotion and relegation can be affected by this one factor.

Last season more than 5000 cautions were issued to first teams alone and is likely to exceed 6000 this season and yet, in the opinion of almost every experienced judge, the game is far less violent and less bad-tempered than at any time in the past. The whole sorry trend started some twelve years ago when the League issued directives to referees to re-act severely to minor as well as major transgressions of the laws of the game. Since then, a whole new generation of referees have been appointed who believe that this rigorous attitude is the only way to control a match. Basically, our sympathies must lie with the officials, for, although not part of the professional structure of the game, they are invariably dedicated to the improvement of their personal performance and almost all their leisure time is spent in achieving this aim. Clubs, in most instances, have made similar commitments. They fine players who are guilty of dissent and other blatant indiscretions.

So how do we restore some sort of sanity to onfield discipline? One essential must be a greater dialogue between referees, players and Managers to ensure that each understands the other's problems and work to a common aim. In cricket, rugby, hockey and almost every sport, one could mention the controlling officials fraternise freely with players, coaches and Directors. Can English football be the only one in step?

In addition, those tactics and devices design to gain advantage by fooling a referee, must be eliminated from the game.

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ACROSS

- Andy Sussex
- 7. bee
- 8. Rudge
- 9. enemy
- 12. Tiler
- 13. eye
 14. Devonshire

DOWN

- 1. Arbroath (36-0)
- 2. Drew
- 3. Seminario (1959)
- 4. Shrimpers
- 5. ends
- set piece
- 10. blue
- 11. semi

YOUTH TEAM FEATURE SPONSORED BY



Featuring the Youth Team

The Reserves have played four games since the last programme, losing two, drawing one and winning one. The two defeats were at Bristol Rovers who fielded a very experienced side and at Reading in bad conditions. Last Saturday saw our best win of the season with a 5-1 home win over Reading. Not only was it a fine result but the football played coupled with some excellent finishing was good to watch. If we could have produced 75% of this good football in other games, we would not find ourselves at the bottom end of the table. Our draw came at Charlton last Tuesday in a very entertaining game where the score could so easily have been 6-6. More performances like the last two should see us collect enough points to avoid re-election.

The South East Counties side have only played one game, this being in the Semi-Final of the Junior League Cup against Wimbledon. Those people who came along to watch must have wondered how we were at the top of the League for our perform-

ance on the day was well below what we have been producing in other games this season. Having defeated them a few weeks earlier, perhaps we were too complacent or were overawed playing on the County Ground. Whatever the reason, we deserved to be beaten on the day. I can only hope this acts as a spur to the lads to go on and win the League starting today at second placed Brentford.

Congratulations must go to the Swindon Boys U15 team who reached the final of the Schools Trophy by beating Rotherham 3-2 in an exciting game on the County Ground. Every lad gave 100% effort and played the game keenly but fairly and the result was in doubt right up to the final whistle. Most of the team have already joined us, in readiness for next season and we look forward to keeping them together and progressing into our South East Counties side. We wish them the best of luck in the final and they certainly deserve a good crowd for the home leg.

John Trollope







Swindon Schools Football Association

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by kind permission of the Directors

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| Colin Bailie | 2 | Clive Day |
| Kevin Baddeley | 3 | lan Gillard |
| Paul Batty | 4 | Les Briley |
| Simon Gibson | 5 | Don Souter |
| Mike Graham | 6 | Joe Jopling |
| David Hockaday | 7 | Steve Berry |
| Gary Emmanuel | 8 | Dale Banton |
| Andy Rowland | 9 | Les Lawrence |
| Alan Mayes | 10 | Ian McDonald |
| Gary Nelson | 11 | Giorgio Mazzon |
| Jim Quinn | 12 | Brian Lucas |
| | | |

REFEREE:

MR. HOWARD W. KING (Merthyr Tydfil) Began refereeing in 1967 in Merthyr Tydfil local leagues and progressed via the Welsh League to the Football League List. Officiated as linesman in a Wales v. Eire friendly match in 1979; in a U.E.F.A. Cup Quarter-Final in 1980, and refereed Holland v. Cyprus World Cup qualifying game in 1981. - World Cup qualifying game in 1981.

A married man with one son, he is a factory worker and is interested in cricket, rugby, gardening and wine-making. Appointed to the F.I.F.A. panel of referees in 1980.

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(Christchurch)

YELLOW FLAG: MR. R. G. SMITH

(Middle Barton, Oxford)

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