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## Chairman's Comments



Today we welcome to the County Ground the Directors, Players and Supporters of Exeter City and I hope that we all enjoy as interesting game as we did when visiting Exeter last October where I felt we gave one of our best displays of the season despite the fact that we only came away with a 1-1 draw.

We are also pleased to have with us this evening the Members of the Cheltenham Racecourse who are paying us a return visit in return for the hospitality extended to the Club and it's Season Ticket holders when visiting Cheltenham for a meeting last October. Our thanks go to our Director Mr Nick Arkell and Mr Ed. Gillespie for organising and making possible the exchange visits.

On the playing side we welcome David Cole to the County Ground, David having joined us from Swansea City for the remainder of this season. We also welcome David Caldwell who has come to us on a months loan from Mansfield with a view to a permanent transfer if things work out for both of us.

Our last home game against Rochdale, which resulted in a 2-1 win for us with Colin Gordon getting both valuable goals, left our visitors feeling somewhat robbed due to one or two refereeing decisions but I thought that overall we thoroughly deserved to win the game.

Last Tuesday evening at Torquay, surely a bogey side to us at the moment, we came away with a point but quite honestly with the balance to play throughout the game we had enough possession to have won.

In contrast to Torquay, we failed to maintain our winning sequence at Stockport last Friday evening when in a close and well fought encounter Stockport ran out 2-1 winners to end a five match winning sequence against them.

Also last week our Youth side went out of the F.A. Youth Cup Competition when they gave a dissappointing performance in a replay after playing so well and earning a 1-1 draw at Coventry. Never the less these lads must be praised for

going so far in the Competition.

Since writing my notes for the Rochdale programme we have attended the public meeting when the Council debated our rent arrears and it was encouraging for the Policy and Resources Committee to authorise officers of the Council to get back round the table with us and endeavour to reach an agreement whereby the Athletic Club, when using their new track now being constructed along side the ground in the County Ground extension, share some of our facilities in return for us getting a reduction in the payments to be made on the North Stand. We shall also be putting other ideas and posibilities to them to bring this to a satisfactory conclusion for both sides.

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Our Junior Robins meetings seem to be fated. With bad weather leading to the closure of many schools and sheet ice outside the main stand we decided to our Quiz Evening. However hopefully by the time you read these notes meeting will have taken place

yesterday.

The Evening Advertiser have kindly agreed to sponser a Junior Robins Scrap Book competition. I am meeting Mr Wheare, the Editor to discuss rules and prizes and full details will appear in the next programme. In the mean time get busy with scissors and paste. I am sure whether you win or not in years to come you will find great fascination looking back at your scrap book to the European see how Champions were once a humble Fourth Division side.

A second Newsletter has now gone out to schools. Copies of it are available at the Club Office and Doug Woodman's Swindon Town Sports Shop. The Newsletter contains details of the trip to Wembley and some of our forthcoming activities. It also has a short questionaire which it would be helpful if you could complete and return to me via the Club Office. Only if you tell us what you are interested in can we try to organise events which will be popular.

One event I certainly hope will get a big response is one being organised by the Supporters Co-operative. This

Sponsored Fun Run for Under 16's which will be held on Sunday 31st March at 10am. There are prizes for the rastest runners and for those who raise most sponsership money. I am sure many Juniors Robins will want to take part. Entry forms are available from the Club Office. If you are a Junior Robin and decide to enter please put JR after your name in brackets (I promise we won't think you are from Dallas) .

It is often said that the more you know about something the more interesting it becomes. I am sure this is true about football. Far too many spectators only see one team and show no interest in their opponents. By taking a positive interest in the sides you are playing you can double your enjoyment, particularly when your own side is not playing well. Here are a few points I think all real supporters should know about their team's opponents:

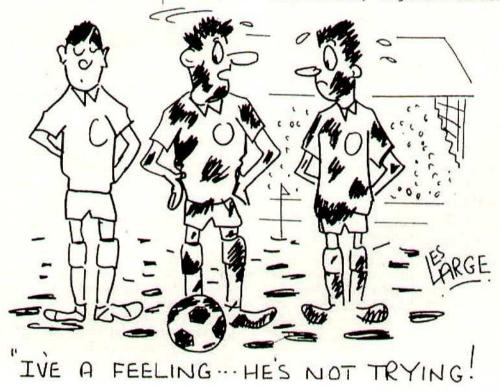
What is their ground called? What colours do they normally play in? What is their change strip? What is their nickname?

Who is their top goalscorer?

What position are they in the League?

See how many of these you know about tonight's opponents Exeter City. How many can you find out? Why not keep a book as a record of the matches you watched and put this information in it?

Dick Mattick, Organiser Junior Robins.



### WELCOME TO EXETER CITY

### BY DAVE KING

With a new manager Jim Iley installed, 5-0 thrashing of Tony Barton's Northampton Town, the evening of August 25th last year must have seemed an idyllic period for the followers of City. The depression brought about by the previous seasons relegation from Division Three which saw the 'Grecians' create unwanted Club records such as: The Lowest number of League victories in a season, the fewest points registered in a season and the lowest total of goals scored at home. Must have prompted the thought that a quick return to Division Three may occur.

Only one win in the following eight League matches soon brought the stark reality of the problems to be faced if the Club were not to languish too long in the League's basement Division. With a team rebuilding process under way Manager Jim Iley's problems can be compared to Lou Macari's. Team surgery needed and a lack of character in away matches that has seen City record only one victory from their

twelve League games.

At home Exeter have beaten Northampton (5-0), Scunthorpe and Southend (2-1), Torquay (4-3), Aldershot (3-0) and Halifax (1-0). They shared the points in four successive one all draws with Chester, Swindon, Darlington and Rochdale, along with goalless draws with Mansfield and Hereford. Bury and Crewe (2-0) and Peterborough (1-0) have provided the three home defeats. Away from St James Park a solitary victory at Colchester (4-3), with one all draws at Aldershot and Hartlepool have provided the only points gained. Defeats at Blackpool (0-3), Wrexham (0-2), Southend (0-1) and Chesterfield (1-5) came in the first six away fixtures and have been followed by successive defeats at Stockport (0-1), Tranmere (2-3), Port Vale (1-5), Northampton (2-5). Included in this evenings team will be:

Goalkeeper JEFF WOOD the former Charlton Athletic player who made his debut in the opening match of the season at home to Northampton Town and has kept

his position ever since.

Full back KEITH VINEY is now in his third season with the Club, after joining 'The Grecians' on a free transfer from his home town Club Portsmouth in 1982. The former Fratton Park apprentice made 166 League appearances for Pompey scoring three goals in his seven seasons with the Club. Twenty seven year old Keith made his

100th League appearance for City in our 1l draw at St James Park last October. Keith's only goal this season came from the penalty spot in the 35th minute of their 1-1 draw at home to Chester on October 13th. Ever present this season.

Former Arsenal apprentice DANNY O'SHEA spent one week training with Bristol City pre-season before joining City after his free transfer at the end of last season. six appearances made for the Highbury Club in 1982/83, and nine on loan to Charlton Athletic last season. Danny who will be 22 years old on March 26th has scored only one goal this season two minutes from time in the home match with Aldershot on January 29th. Ever present in League matches this season.

Nineteen year old NICK MARKER was born at Budleigh Salterton. A Club apprentice, Nick has missed only the away match Northampton this season. While his only goal to date came a fortnight ago in the second leg of the Freight Rovers Trophy tie with Newport County at St James Park. This season should see Nick make his one

hundredth League appearance.

Scotland Under 21 International JIM McNICHOL joined City last summer, holder of seven Caps, he was given a free transfer at the end of last season by Brentford. Glasgow born, the former Ipswich Town apprentice failed to make the Portman Road Club's League team and joined Luton Town in 1976. Twenty six year old Jim made fifteen appearances for Hatters before joining Brentford on a free transfer in 1978. In six seasons at Griffin Park Jim made 155 appearances scoring twenty two goals in League matches for the London Club. Jim has been ever present this season for City scoring his first goal for City in the 78th minute of a 2-1 home win against Scunthorpe on September 8th. His only other goal came in the 5-2 defeat at Northampton on January 5th.

London born MARTIN LING made his debut for the Club on the opening day match of last season in a 1-0 defeat at home to Walsall on August 27th. Eighteen year old Martin made 29 League appearances last season. Martin scored the first goal of his League career with the 20th minute effort in City's last home game with Halifax Town, the only goal of the match.

Twenty nine year old TREVOR MORGAN joined the Club on a free transfer from Bristol City last November. Making his debut in the home match with Crewe on December 1st. Trevor scored his first goal for City on December 21st in a 2-1 defeat at Tranmere. He entered League football when he joined Bournemouth for £3,000 from Leytonstone and Ilford. Trevor made 53 League appearances for the Dean Court Club in his first spell scoring thirteen goals. A £10,000 transfer to Mansfield was short lived for after scoring six goals in

twelve matches he returned to the South Coast Club for his second spell in 1982. Trevor's second spell with Bournemouth totalled eighty eight League matches in which he scored 33 goals after Mansfield had accepted their £10,000 fee back. Last season Bristol City invested £12,000 for his services, his five goals in fifteen League matches enabled the Ashton Gate Club to clinch promotion.



Back Row: Left to Right. Martyn Rogers, Graeme Kirkup, Jim McNicholl, Roy McDonough, John Sims, Jim Iley (Team Manager), Nick Marker, Ray Pratt, Danny O'Shea, Symon Burgher, Phil King.

Middle Row: Malcolm Musgrove (Chief Coach), Steve Neville, Martin Ling, Keith Viney (Capt), Steve Harrower, Frank Howarth, Mike Radford (Youth Development Officer).

Front Row: Neville Crocker, Michael Lane, Andy Phillips, Darren Clifford.

### On the ball



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### FOCUS ON FOUR

### BY DAVE KING

Although the season was brought to a temporary halt in recent weeks, due to the disruptive influence of the elements. It has meant no halt to the comings and goings, here at the County Ground. With Leigh Barnard on a months loan to this evening visitors Exeter City, Ian Muir and Mark Dempsey returning to Brighton and Manchester United respectively after breif stays. Two more newcomers in David Cole from Swansea City and David Caldwell from Mansfield Town have joined the County Ground staff.

David Cole has signed a contract to the end of this season, the former Vetch Field defender had made eight League and Cup appearances for the Swans after being signed by the now deposed Colin Appleton. His successor the former Manchester City boss John Bond did not see him as part of his future plans. That enabled Lou Macari to step in and secure his signature.

David Caldwell is initially on a months loan from Mansfield Town, Dave have been on loan to Carlisle United previous to joining us here at the County Ground. In future programmes we shall feature his career to date.

Our sixth consecutive away defeat at Blackpool marked the debut of David Cole. With only two goals scored in those matches and averaging less than a goal each match. It is not too diffictult to see where the problem exists. Missed chances by Gary Nelson, Peter Coyne and Colin Gordon cost us dear at Bloomfield where the overall fighting performance deserved a better reward. The loss of form that seems to have affected the team in away matches is in direct contrast to the results that have been witnessed in home matches. Hopefully the poor form will have been arrested during the past week at Torquay United and Stockport County.

of soccers mysteries is the continued poor form of some Clubs in away matches. It is usually attributed to strange surroundings and crowd influence in bias towards their own team. That maybe on some grounds particularly in higher Divisions. But it is difficult to see how the low crowds of a thousand or so at Halifax, Rochdale etc, can influence very little. Players are continually visiting the same grounds each season so the surroundings are not that unfamiliar.

Character comes to the fore on away grounds and it is understandable, that

managers often ensure that scouting visits include away matches, in their scrutiny of players performances before making any move in the transfer market.

Since the innovation of substitutes being allowed in League soccer, there can be little doubt that one of the most successful tactical switches was made in the second half of the Hartlepool and Peterborough United match on February 9th. When John Wile the Peterborough Manager decided to introduce Errington Kelly into his attack, to break the goalless deadlock that had existed. The recently out of favour Errington soon proved a point and won three! Scoring two goals in the last fifteen minutes, with Ray Hankin adding a third to give the London Road Club a 3-0 away win.

Hereford United striker Stewart Phillips received a silver salver from Club Chairman Peter Hill, to mark his achievement of becoming the first Club player to make one hundred consecutive League appearances, since the Edgar Street Club were elected to the Football League in 1972. Stewart has not missed a League match since November 1982.

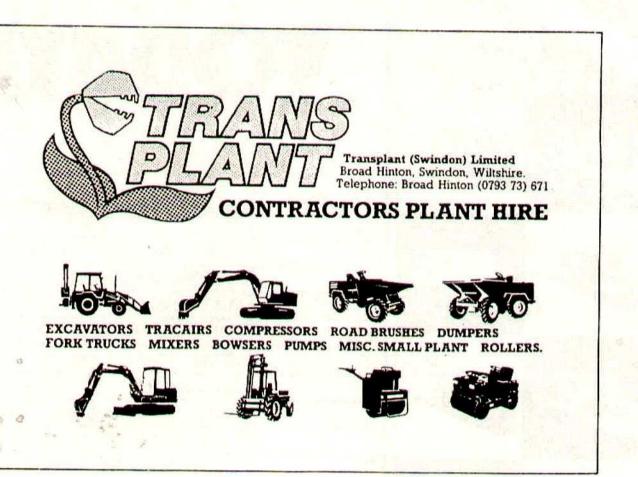
Southend United who have been hovering on the brink of bankruptcy have ensured their future by mortgaging their Roots Hall ground for £800,000. The cash will help to wipe out debts of nearly three quarters of a million.

What a contrast in fortunes for two former Coventry City team mates, Mark Hateley and Tom English. While Mark is flourishing with Milan and England, his former striking partner Cirencester born Tom, who after spells with Rochdale and Third Division Plymouth Argyle has now signed non contract forms for Colchester United on a monthly basis. He is currently in the East Anglian Clubs reserve line up!

Torquay United can now boast having one of the tallest and smallest players. For their new midfield signing from Wolverhampton Wanderers Paul Dougherty is a particularly diminutive figure at 5'0". In comparison to goalkeeper Ken Allen at 6'4".

Southend United have signed striker Mickey Welsh on trial from Isthmian League Club Grays Athletic. United winger Alan Rogers is seeking a transfer.

The first attendance of below one thousand for a League match this season was recorded when a total of 914 watched Halifax Town's 2-1 home victory over



managerless Tranmere Rovers on February 12th.

The spate of missed penalty kicks in our Freight Rovers Trophy match with Torquay United would have been more acceptable if Paul Batty, Andy Rowland and Colin Bailie had been fortunate enough to have shared the experience our Wembley skipper of 1969, Stan Harland encountered when he HEADED a penalty kick goal for Bradford City against Tramere Rovers on April II 1962. He did it from a rebound after goalkeeper John Heath had fisted out the shot.

For sure Colin Gordon will always remember our last visitors Rochdale with fondness. For after scoring on his debut in this seasons away match with the Spotland Club, he followed his initial success with two more in our return fixture with the Lancashire Club.

Port Vale failed in a bid to sign Dale Roberts the former England Youth International defender from Third Division Club Hull City on loan.

Blackpool still remain the only Fourth Division Club unbeaten at home following their 1-0 victory over Southend United. A record that only Oxford United and Millwall can equal in higher Division. Only Halifax Town and Fulham from Division Two are yet to participate in a drawn

match on their own ground this season.

Colchester United striker Tony Adcock scored his second hat trick of the season when he netted all three of the Layer Road Club's goals in a 3-1 win over promotion seeking Chesterfield on February 22nd. Tony's previous hat trick came on the opening day of the season in a 3-3 home Essex draw with neighbours Southend match watched by several representatives from First and Second who saw Division Clubs the prolific goalscorer take his total of goals for the season to twenty eight in League and Cup matches.

Follwing the off field activities concerning the Clubs future how good it was to return to the prime concern playing soccer. It is now upto the players to prove that through honest endeavour they will attract larger crowds with improved results. While substantial investment is required, it must never be forgotten that only players can fill football grounds. We have seen in the past what support can be realised, although those figures are improbable in the near future, it surely is a long term proposition that one day they may be witnessed again hopefully!

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# TODAY'S

	SWINDON TOWN	TEAM CHANGES
1	SCOTT ENDERSBY	
2	CHRIS RAMSEY	
3	COLIN BAILIE	
4	LOU MACARI	
5	NIGEL GRAY	
6	DAVID COLE	
7	DAVID HOCKADAY	
8	ANDY ROWLAND	
9	COLIN GORDON	
10	DAVID CALDWELL	
11	CHARLIE HENRY	
12	PETER COYNE	

#### Referee:

Mr J. Ashworth (Rutland).

#### Linesmen:

Red Flag: Mr G.R. Ashby (Worcester). Yellow Flag: Mr B. Norman (Stroud).



# 5 LINE-UP

	EXETER CITY	TEAM CHANGES
1	JEFF WOOD	
2	GRAEME KIRKUP	1-
3	KEITH VINEY	
4	DANNY O'SHEA	
5	NICKY MARKER	
6	JIM MCNICHOLL	
7	MARTIN LING	
8	STEVE HARROWER	
9	TREVOR MORGAN	3.
10	RAY PRATT .	
11	LEIGH BARNARD	
12		

Next Match:
Canon League
Bury
Kick Off 7.30pm.

### REFEREE:

ASHWORTH, JIM - Air traffic controller. Married with two children. Commenced refereeing in 1967 and progressed via Football Combination. Enjoys golf, reading and watching most sports. Linesmen European Cup match in 1983 and referee for Kentish Cup the same year.

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The state of the s

## A MAN OF ALL SEASONS"cont...

### BY DAVE KING

In the two and a half years that our Administrative Manager and Secretary Bob Jefferies spent in the Royal Navy he was a Ships' Writer, responsible for wages, personnel records and the typing of Ships' documents. The experience coupled with his formative years employed by British Rail gave Bob the ideal background and qualifications to enter the world of soccer administration.

When it was suggested to him that some considered the Club was overstaffed in administration, he quickly pointed out that besides himself and his secretary Barbara there were no other full time employees concerned in the running of the Club. Ron Morse the former Secretary was now employed part-time three and a half days a week concerned with the Company Accounts and he is assisted on two days a week by a retired person.

I asked Bob if he would give the previous eight days of his diary so that it would give me a fair indication of the hours he had worked in the past week. It coincided with the F.A. Cup tie with Dagenham and followed like this:- Monday November 19th he arrived at the ground at 8.45, travelled later in the day to Dagenham, after a morning in the office, eventually reaching home 00.15am. Tuesday November 20th 8.45am - day of Directors Board Meeting, home at 7.30pm. Wednesday November 21st 8.45am day of the F.A. Youth Cup tie v Newport County, home at 9.15pm. 22nd, 8.45am Thursday November evening meeting with Swindon Lions to discuss last Novembers firework spectacular and plan this years display for 1985. Friday November 23rd 8.45pm - a working day by most peoples standards, home at 5.30! Saturday November 24th 8.15am match day v Aldershot earlier than usual because of a ground inspection, after the match home at 6.00pm. Monday November 26th 8.15am Cup Replay with 10.00pm. Tuesday Dagenham - home at November 27th 8.45am travelled to Reading in connection with the proposed transfer of Lawrie Sanchez with the Club Chairman, arrived home at 8.45pm.

Each morning he receives between twenty and thirty letters and documents in the post. Bob views with the same degree of dismay what we all feel about the Club's present status. He stressed that, as the town of Swindon was growing, in fact per population faster than any town in Europe,

so the support of the Club had declined. His thoughts on this were that people now had some many atternatives to devote to their leisure time compared with his early days when radio was the only link for the average person whereas they were now able to watch television from the comfort of their centrally heated home on Saturday afternoon. Golf, squash, the motorway and eating out were other options open to the average person so football must contend. Bob feels that the media do football no favours with continual high-lighting of soccer hooliganism, instead concentrating on the football scene as a whole. He quickly stressed that season has been trouble free at the County Gound and a place where families can come in safety.

On the subject of television he considers that live TV is better than highlights and it is really a case of give and take in the continual dialouge between the various parties.

On the subject of television he considers that live TV gives a more accurate view of soccer than does recorded highlights but the question of a new TV agreement would only be settled with both sides accepting the principle of give and take in the continual dialogue between both parties.

The decline in the fortunes of the club has been a slow process over many years, a decline that has not been arrested. This season we were not in the second round of the F.A. Cup for the first time in many seasons and we did not progress further than the first round in both the Milk Cup and Freight Rover Trophy. The facilities of the club merit a place in a higher Division and the fact that there was no League opposition within a 40 mile radius coupled with the rising population of the catchment area makes it difficult to understand the lowly position Football League. However, with a necleus of new Directors, management and staff he desperately hoped for better things.

Did he consider the Clubs public relations exercise was as thorough as possible? Perhaps not but in past years the Club had approached forty or more newspapers in the country areas with a request to run bulletins of interest and had appointed liaison officers to assist in this area but there was little responce.

Regarding the Town evening newspaper he considered Clive King did all he could within his powers to promote the Club and considered his reports to be in the main fair to the Club. Bob wished the Club could be afforded the opportunity to reply to letters of critisicm in the Evening Advertiser but appreciated that this was outside the scope of Mr King. The Club had good relations with Ian Seymour, the HTV Sports Reporter, particularly when the town of Swindon is considered to come within the coverage area of Central TV who were not really concerned with Swindon Town on a day to day basis. So the Club were grateful to HTV for their coverage when they did not come within the area

afforded to the Bristol Clubs.

Often consulted by other Secretaries for his thoughts on various footballing matters it occurred to me had Bob ever considered leaving the Club for another post? Only once was the answer, the time of the Don Rogers transfer to Crystal Palace when Bob was offered the vacant post of Secretary at that Club. Whilst he was considering the offer the change of Chairman and a much publicised wind of change prophesied at Selhurst Park deterred him and Bob remained. Swindon born, a lifelong supporter, eighteen years service to the cause, how could he really leave? The Club benefited.

### PHOTO CALL BY DAVE EVANS



Charlie Henry and Colin Gordon combine to head for goal against Rochdale.

### COMMERCIAL BREAK

### BY DOUG BUSWELL



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Seen before going into dine at our 4th Sporting Dinner are Brian Hiller, Denise Jackson of Swindon Car Auctions, Tommy Docherty, Canon Reg Smith and Mr John Jeffcoat also at Swindon Car Auctions who once again kindly sponsored the dinner.



Colin Gordon (not in picture) is denied his hat-trick by the goalpost in the Town's 2-1 win against Rochdale.

### ELASHBACK

### BY MIKE SKINNER

10 YEARS AGO - MARCH 1975

Swindon started the month with a trip to Ewood Park on the 1st, but came away on the wrong side of a 2-0 score-line, and gained a similar defeat at Colchester three days later in front of 4,041, some 10,000 less than at Blackburn. Also that week David Munks left for Exeter, and John Trollope recieved a set of six silver goblets from the Club to mark his 600th League appearance. Then, on the Saturday, Swindon gained two more valuable promotion points with a 3-0 home win over Walsall. John McLaughlin made it 1-0 after only four minutes, Colin Prophett and David Moss adding the other two after the break to push Swindon into 6th place. However, Joe Butler collected a knee injury that was to keep him out for the rest of the season, and so to strengthen the side Mike Dillon was signed on loan from Spurs, making his debut as substitute for Hugh MacLean in the following Saturdays game at Watford, which the Town lost 1-0. Mick McGrovern went out on loan to Aldershot in the same week.

The following Tuesday, the 18th, Swindon gained a point from the 0-0 draw at Bury before entertaining Crystal Palace on the Saturday. 11,545 were present to see fellow promotion contenders Palace take an early lead, only for Peter Eastoe to equalise 15 minutes from time. Then followed two away games, at Peterborough on the 29th with a 0-0 draw in front of 7,364, and at Bournemouth two days later where Eastoe scored to give Swindon another point.

100

20 YEARS AGO - MARCH 1965

A surprise start to the month when snow forced the postponement of the home game with Northampton on the 6th, only the second to be called of this season. Seven days later it was a trip to seventh placed Ipswich where both sides missed chances, although much credit went to the keepers for keeping clean sheets. But it could have been different as in the last few minutes Ernie Hunt found himself clean through, but after beating the keeper with a skilfully placed shot could only watch as it was cleared off the line by a defender. Even so the point lifted Swindon up three places in the table to 17th, but not for long as the home game with

Plymouth on the 20th saw Swindon go down 2-3 in front of 12,175 - Roger Smart and Mike Summerbee getting the Towns brace.

The following Tuesday second placed Northampton were the visitors, boosting the crowd to 17,686, and the game ran true to form when the visitors went 2-0 up by half-time, but Swindon staged a secondhalf come-back with Hunt and Summerbee leveling the score within two minutes of the re-start, Hunt and Don Rogers adding the winning goals. However it was a win at a price for Hunt, Summerbee, and Bill Atkins all collected injuries to keep them out of the side for the next game - a Friday night visit to Bolton. But a Dennis Brown goal nine minutes from time gave Swindon a share of the points and kept them in 16th place.

30 YEARS AGO - MARCH 1955

Saturday 5th March, and Swindon entertained bottom Club Walsall to a 2-2 draw. David Gibson's 42nd minute goal left it all square at half-time, but disaster struck in the second-half when Sam Burton was knocked cold with 23 minutes left on the watch. George Hunt took over the keepers jersey as Swindon played out the game with 10 men, Harry Williams getting Swindon's second in the 70th minute to gain a valuable point. One week later the Town travelled to Bristol City, who were sitting at the top of the table. Not surprisingly Swindon registered their 14th defeat of the season as City stormed home by three goals to nil.

During the following week the Directors announced that Manager Maurice Lindley's contract would not be re-newed at the end of the season. This was more a reflection on the Clubs financial position than Lindley's ability as a manager, as no replacement would be made - team selection being left to a committee of Directors and trainers. It was also announced that the playing staff would be cut, and any players benefits would depend on the financial position of the Club when they were due - hardly the right preperation for Saturdays game with second placed Leyton Orient. Despite that, a credible 0resulted, but the following Saturdays game at Brighton saw Swindon go 3-1, Maurice Owen scoring the consolation half-an-hour from the end in front of 8,645.



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# LOU MACARI

You will have read in the paper and seen on the television, reports regarding the club's plight in its debts to Swindon Corporation. I would like to appeal to all those people who came to the County Ground in past years for the matches against big clubs such as Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur etc., 32,000 of you for some matches, to come along to the County Ground for two or three of our forthcoming games to indicate that although you do not wish to be regular supporters you wish the facilities to be retained to give yourselves the opportunity to see these games against 1st Division opposition. Also if you did this the additional revenue would help us pay off the debt.

Today we welcome Exeter City to the County Ground with, of course, Leigh Barnard in their side, he being on loan to them for one month. The last match at Exeter earlier in the Season was one we

all want to forget, although it ended in a draw. We had so many chances to win the match that I am sure soccer mad Jim Iley, boss of Exeter City, would be the first to admit it should have been a cricket score. Since then, however, he has re-shaped the Exeter side into a much better looking outfit. The height and strength of Trevor Morgan up front to play along side leading goalscorer, Ray Pratt, is alone a partnership to be reckoned with. If our side has half as many chances · tonight as we had at Exeter, I am quite sure we shall continue our impressive home record.

I would like to ask all of those supporters on the Shrivenham Road Terrace to ignore the gesture made to them by Garry Nelson on the occasion of our last home match, this will not happen again.

Many thanks for your continued support and please give the lads every encouragement throughout the game.



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# **FACTS AND FIGURES**

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DATE 1984

### BEHIND THE SCENES

### BY BOB JEFFERIES

In my last article I gave a few of the revised dates of our postponed games and to bring you up to date here are a few more. Firstly I told you that the Canon League fixture versus Hartlepool United would take place on the County Ground on Sunday, 31st March, kick off 3.00 p.m. I have since received a phone call from the Football League stating that a live match is to be televised on that afternoon and we have therefore agreed to try as an experiment a 11,00 a.m. kick off on that day. Other fixtures are as follows:

Football Combination				
Thursday, 25th April, 1985	Charlton Athletic	Home	7.00	p.m.
Thursday, 2nd May, 1985	Arsenal	Home	7.00	
Thursday, 9th May, 1985	Brighton & Hove Albion	Home	7.00	
South East Counties Junior Le	ague			
Saturday, 20th April, 1985	Bristol Rovers	Home	11.00	a.m.
Saturday, 27th April, 1985	Crystal Palace	Home	11.00	
	* * * * * * *			

Also I wrote in my last notes of Mr. Mike Spooner of Frome who was enquiring about car sharing to our games. I have now heard from Mr. John Lodge of Westrip, Stroud who tells me that he travels to all home and some away games and he would be pleased to offer a lift to one or two supporters from the Stroud area. Anyone interested please drop me a line.

The Football League are to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reduce Pool Betting Duty in his Budget on 19th March next. This will mean that football clubs would have an extra source of income to make ground improvements, to provide facilities for the local community and to employ promising young players. Will you write to your MP now and support football. Write to him at the House of Commons, London. SWIA OAA.

We are receiving some critisicm that we are not letting people know about the availability of shares in the Club, especially at this difficult time when we are experiencing complaints from the local authority regarding our obligations to that body. As a private Company, as opposed to a public one, we are not permitted to advertise in anyway that shares are available for sale. However, I am sure that Ron Morse, our Company Secretary, would be pleased to talk to anyone regarding ways of assisting the Club in this field.

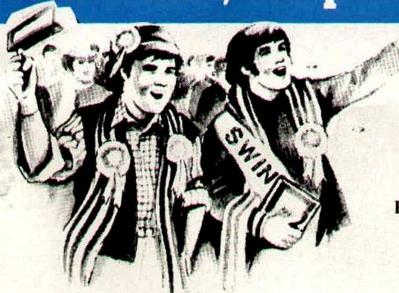
The loan periods of Mark Dempsey from Manchester United and Ian Muir from Brighton and Hove Albion have expired and Lou Macari has decided not to extend these temporary transfers for a further month. He has however brought David Caldwell to the Club on loan from Mansfield, David having played his first game for us at Torquay last Tuesday evening.

Mr. A. Thorne, Chairman of Millwall Football Club has written to the Sports Editors of both London Weekend Television and the British Broadcasting Corporation to complain that no coverage is given at half time particularly on Saturday afternoons to the Third and Fourth Division matches and pointed out that full time results are also on occasions omitted when games are played in the evenings. I consider that Mr. Thorne has a justifiable complaint for I am sure that most of you are interested in this information when the Club are playing away from home and not everyone has the Ceefax option available to them.

The Football Leaque have sought the views of Clubs, through the regional meetings, on the introduction of two substitutes, to bring the League into line with Scotland and with Europe. There were mixed views amongst the Clubs, the biggest obstacle being that of finance for it would mean of course paying the extra player both appearance money and bonuses. For those Clubs with reserve teams it might also necessitate employing one extra player. The League have been trying to introduce this inovation for the last two years and my guess is that it will be adopted sooner or later.

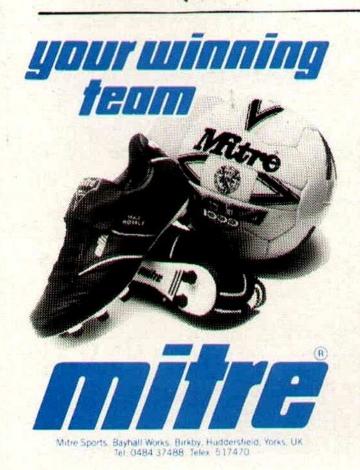
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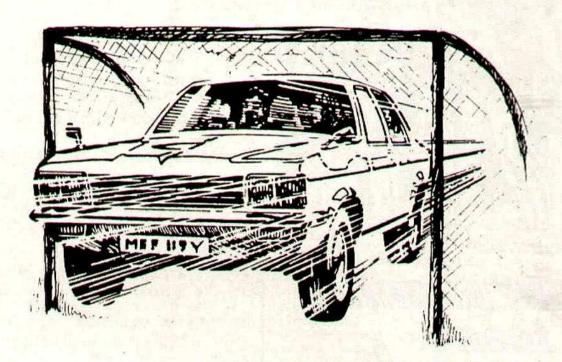
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