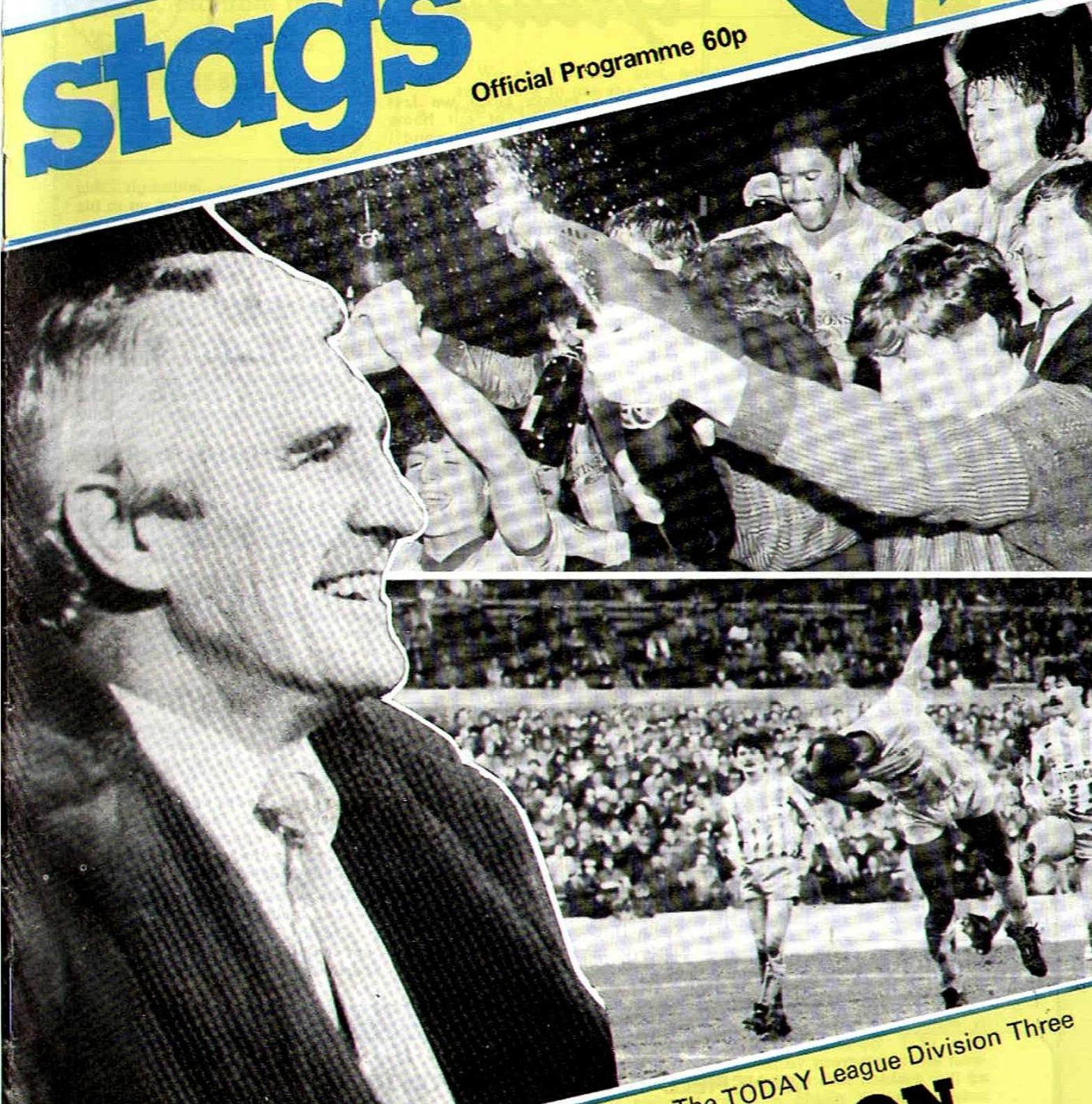


# stags

Official Programme 60p



Today's Visitors — The TODAY League Division Three  
**SWINDON**  
Saturday, 8th November, 1986. Kick-off 3.00 p.m.



## MANSFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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Front cover picture by  
courtesy of "Chad."

# Ian Greaves...



It is a month since we last  
appeared in front of our home  
fans, here at Field Mill — and I  
think that everything is set just  
right for an excellent game.

Today's visitors Swindon Town,  
like ourselves, promoted at the  
end of last season, have made a  
good start to life back in Division  
Three, and find like ourselves in a  
challenging position to climb even  
further up the division.

It would have been so easy for  
the fortnight's gap in our fixtures  
to have lost our momentum.

But fortunately the lads buckled  
down to bring points back from  
the two most recent away games  
at Rotherham and Bristol City.

The two postponements have  
also created an imbalance between  
our home and away fixtures.

We have completed eight away  
games — but only five so far at  
Field Mill, so it is important that  
we take full advantage of the  
outstanding home matches if we  
are to maintain our position at the  
top end of the table.

Naturally we were most dis-  
appointed that we allowed a two-  
goal advantage to slip away at  
Millmoor last Saturday.

But I must say that the entire  
team showed tremendous character  
on Tuesday evening, particularly in the second half  
when we really had to battle and  
fight to keep a very well earned  
point.

I can tell you I was very proud  
of my team, and for once I am  
going to depart from my usual  
practice, and comment on the  
performance of one player...  
Kevin Hitchcock.

Kevin turned in one of the best  
goalkeeping displays I have seen

this season — although this  
deserved praise must not go to his  
head.

After all he is paid to do the job  
and he certainly did that at  
Bristol.

One of the most worrying  
aspects at the moment is our  
growing injury list.

For the Bristol match I had only  
13 players available — and we  
picked up more injuries during the  
90 minutes, although hopefully  
most of the sufferers will have  
recovered in time for today's  
affair.

Our long-term injuries are  
slowly on the mend, and I am  
hopeful that both Neil Whatmore  
and Roddie Collins will be in  
action with the reserve side  
against Notts County this morning.

Gary Pollard had an operation  
on his knee earlier in the week,  
but only a minor one, and should  
be back in action within a couple  
of weeks.

Paul Garner's long-standing  
problem however is still causing  
problems and he has been sent  
for specialist treatment in an  
effort to regain his fitness.

What I can say is that when  
these players with injury problems  
do get back to fitness, they will  
have every opportunity to show  
their paces the moment they are  
available again.

But we can only wish them well  
— and a quick recovery.

Finally, can I say how much I  
am enjoying my work with the  
current squad of players.

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# Club Scene

We are sure that you, our supporters are just as pleased as we are to see the team back in action at Field Mill after two postponements inside a week saw us without a home league fixture for a month.

Attractive opposition however to mark our return to home waters, in Swindon Town, managed by the former Scotland and Manchester United star Lou Macari.

Not forgetting either that their team captain is Colin Calderwood who, of course, learned his trade with us here at Mansfield.

Swindon clinched the Division 4 championship when they visited Field Mill at the back end of last season and fought out a 1-1 draw.

Naturally we will be hoping to go one better on this occasion to keep us in the challenging position at the top end of the table.

While we were picking up a valuable point at Ashton Gate at the expense of Bristol City last Tuesday evening, Swindon were going down 2-1 to visitors Bristol Rovers.

So Swindon will be hoping to regain winning ways this afternoon at our expense.

We too will be looking for three points so an epic battle is in prospect.

A new date for your diaries is Tuesday, 25th November, when our postponed game with Newport County will be played.

As yet we have not been able to arrange a new date for the outstanding match with Blackpool.

It seems that we are in for a very busy November this season with three home and four away games scheduled.

We have already travelled to Rotherham and Bristol with visits to Darlington and Walsall still to come.

Swindon today, Newport and Bolton Wanderers provide our home games in this period with Bolton on the 22nd and of course Newport on the 25th as we have already mentioned.

Can we take this opportunity to offer belated congratulations to Neil Whatmore whose wife Gillian presented him with a son some three weeks ago — a brother for Natalie.

A task which we undertook in our Newport programme which, of course, was not published.

We suppose that everyone's thoughts are beginning to turn at this time of the year to Christmas — and Christmas presents.

Always a problem are these stocking fillers — so can we suggest a visit to our club shop where there is an excellent selection of possible gifts to delight, not only the youngsters, but the mums and dads as well.

And don't forget, every little on the financial side, helps the club in what is a very difficult financial period.

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In the event of an F.A. Cup replay Mansfield Town v. Darlington, Tuesday, 18th November, kick-off 7.30 p.m. Usual admission charges. Admission by payment at the turnstiles on the day of the match. Season ticket holders will be admitted at 20% reduced rates to obtain the concession season ticket holders must present at the turnstile match ticket No. 24 together with appropriate amount of cash. (No ticket no concession).

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# STAGS RESERVES

The current injury problems surrounding our club does not only affect our senior side — it is an ongoing thing which stretches not only to our reserve side, but to the youth section as well.

Sending out a full side has been extremely difficult of late, and we have found it necessary on more than one occasion to use trialists to fill in the ranks.

It is important, of course, that we utilise the reserve fixtures in the Midland Intermediate League to give match practice to the senior players who are not currently — or only occasionally — in the senior team, such as Craig McKernon and Les Robinson.

Then there is the need for the likes of Neil Whatmore and Roddie Collins to be in the line-ups on their way to regaining full fitness after a prolonged spell on the sidelines.

Nicky Anderson, who made history with a 10 seconds appearance as substitute for

the first team at Chester, has also joined the ranks of the injured.

He is on crutches at the moment suffering from a very bad ankle ligament problem.

Of our other youngsters Mark Place and Gareth Price, who has a broken bone in a foot, are also among our non-available players.

The constant chopping and changing of our reserve side has not helped our recent results.

We went down 3-0 at Aston Villa, drew with Walsall, and had a couple of reverses in the League Cup losing 2-1 at Peterborough and 5-2 at Nottingham Forest.

In our Midland Youth Cup game against Forest at the City Ground we again lost out this time by a 4-0 margin.

This morning we were away at Notts County after a rearranged midweek meeting with Chesterfield.

# YOUTH TEAM

Our search for young players with the potential of a successful professional football career is being stepped up.

Already we are getting an increasing flow of youngsters seeking trials with Mansfield Town.

And we have been entertaining teams on our Tuesday and Thursday evening training sessions from areas in Nottinghamshire and from the South Yorkshire area with the search for new talent very much in mind.

So far we have very successfully concentrated on the local area but are now planning to spread our net even further.

For it becomes increasingly important that we discover our own talent as the financial stresses increase.

Now we are in Division 3 the next aim must be the Second Division and if this is to be achieved, then we must find youngsters capable of reaching that grade.

So far we have several successes in the youth policy to our credit.

Craig McKernon, Les Robinson, Simon Coleman, Nicky Anderson are all rated as possible first-team regulars in the future.

We must ensure that the conveyor belt of young talent does not dry up.

The involvement of Football League Clubs with the local community is to be stepped up after a conference at Lilleshall recently.

The Schools of Excellence are to be extended and schools are to be encouraged to arrange coaching courses in conjunction with the local League club.

At Field Mill we have now been staging coaching courses for youngsters for some time.

The most recent, sponsored by the CHAD was in the October mid-term school holidays, and like all the others, had a waiting list of would-be participants.

Our next will be held during the Christmas holidays and early application to take part is advised when it is advertised.

Our two most recent Notts Combination results were a mixed bag. We lost 1-0 at home to Sachiel Sports and defeated Kimberley Welfare 1-0 at Kimberley.

One scheduled match was postponed late on, but we are hoping to meet Bilthorpe Welfare away this afternoon.

Don't forget that our home matches are played on the practice pitch here at Field Mill, spectators would be very welcome.

# NEWS ON 3

## by Harry Yelland



### LITTLEWOODS CUP

Walsall's 3-2 defeat at Millwall meant they lost their second round tie 4-2 on aggregate and also ended the Third Division's interest in the competition.

### TRANSFER NEWS

- ★ Mark Jones of Newcastle United has gone to SWINDON TOWN for £25,000.
- ★ CARLISLE'S much travelled striker Alan Mayes has joined BLACKPOOL.
- ★ Southend United have paid £20,000 for SWINDON'S Martin Ling.
- ★ Coventry City have signed ROTHERHAM'S UNITED'S midfielder Dean Emerson, 23 in a swap deal involving City pair Andy Williams and Gareth Evans.
- ★ Sheffield United's Tony Philliskirk has joined ROTHERHAM UNITED on a month's loan.
- ★ BLACKPOOL'S midfielder Ian Britton has left the club to join neighbours Burnley on a free transfer.
- ★ Trevor Christie has joined WALSALL from Manchester City for £30,000 after just two months at Maine Road.
- City pocketed £100,000 and Christie in the pre-season deal which took Mark Lillis to Derby, but the former Notts County man made only ten appearances.
- ★ Watford have signed for the second time former England Under-21 defender Steve Sims for £50,000 from NOTTS COUNTY.
- Sims, 29, was transferred to Notts for the same fee in September 1984, and returns as player-coach.
- ★ WIGAN ATHLETIC paid £40,000 for CHESTER'S Welsh international defender, Andy Holden.
- ★ FULHAM have turned down a transfer request by England Under-21 striker Dean Coney.
- ★ Barnsley have rejected YORK'S bid for striker Stuart Gray.

### CHESTER'S TAX BILL

Chester City have been saved from closure. The club was due in the High Court last Monday after failing to pay £74,000 they owed the Inland Revenue. Fortunately, they raised the cash and are now safe until the end of the season at least.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Phil Hughes the BURY goalkeeper who made his international debut for his country Northern Ireland in the European

Championship match against England at Wembley. Phil who has the hard task of replacing the great Pat Jennings, performed well despite the 3-0 scoreline in England's favour.

### DEBUT GOAL

Trevor Christie scored on his debut for Walsall, but could not prevent his side going down to a 3-1 defeat at the hands of the leaders, Middlesbrough.

### ERNIE CELEBRATES

Ernie Moss celebrated his birthday a day early at Swindon recently when he scored his club's goal in their 2-1 defeat. The Chesterfield veteran is now a healthy 37.

### MANAGER OF THE MONTH

Bournemouth's Harry Redknapp was the Bell's Manager of the Month for October.

### CLAIM BY ROVERS

Bristol Rovers want £2,000 compensation from the League after the late postponement of their game with Darlington, who had ten players ill last Saturday.

## H.Y's FOOTBALL GOSSIP

### EX-STAGS IN THE NEWS

- ★ Steve Taylor has joined Preston North End from Rochdale for a £20,000 fee.
- ★ Former Nottingham Forest centre-half Dave Needham has resigned as manager of Kettering Town after their 8-0 defeat at Sutton United.
- Ex-Stag Arthur Mann and Billy Jeffrey have taken control in a caretaker capacity until a new appointment is made.

### LINCOLN SCRAP PLANS

Lincoln City's plans for an ambitious new stand have been scrapped. Rising costs have made construction impossible.

### BILLY HAMILTON RETIRES

Northern Ireland and Oxford United striker Billy Hamilton has announced his retirement after an 18-month crippling knee injury.

Billy will be best remembered for his fine performances in the 1982 World Cup in Spain for Northern Ireland.

### IN THE MONEY

Newcastle United, one of the few League clubs in the black, have made a profit of over £500,000 for the second year running!

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## SUPPORTERS CLUB

First of all may I say how pleasing it was to see yet another of our younger players make an appearance for the first team. I am of course referring to Nicky Anderson who came on as substitute away at Chester. Though his appearance was one of the shortest a player has made for the Stags, we certainly hope it isn't going to be too long before we see Nicky playing for our first team again.

I was very sorry to hear of the damage caused to Taggs coaches at Chester, but credit must go to Taggs for continuing to take our supporters to away games, for which I am sure you are all most grateful.

Now that Christmas will soon be upon us, raffle tickets are available from the commercial office for our Christmas prize draw (to take place on 21st December), at 25p per book.

MELANIE BROWN (Secretary).

## Join the Club

Fill in the form below or send details on a piece of plain paper to :-

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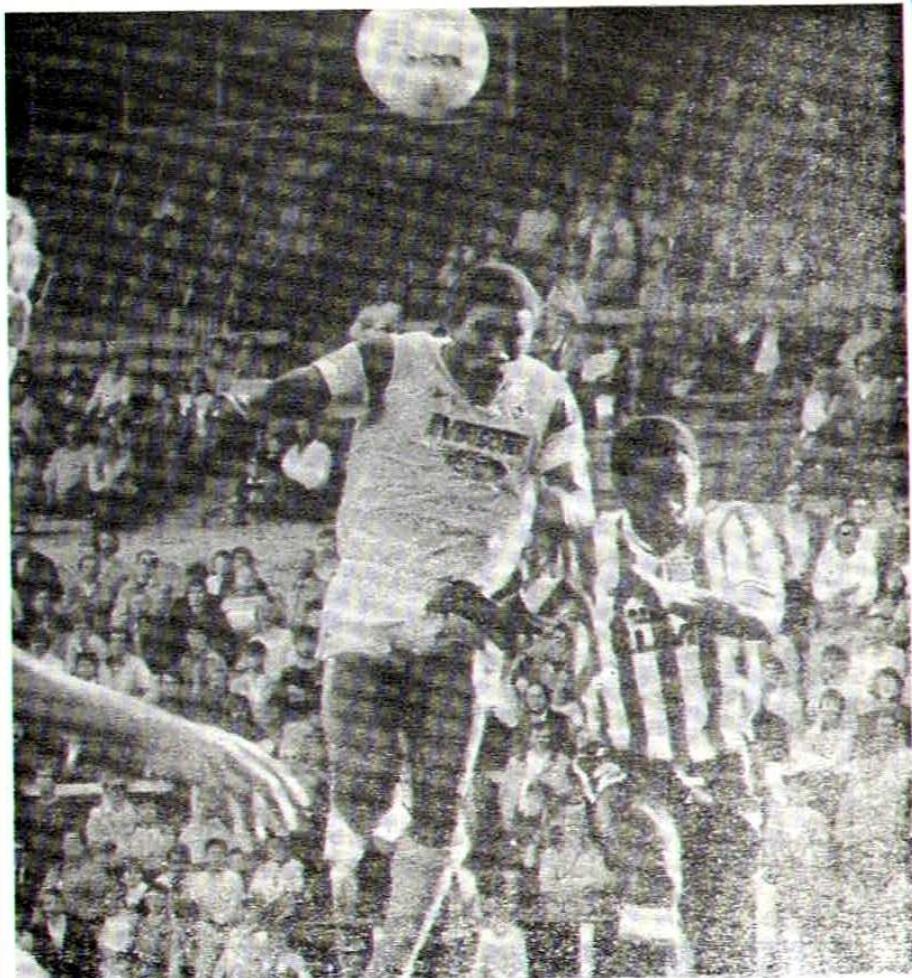
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*Heads it's mine ... Neville Chamberlain leaps high to try and meet a right wing cross as the Stags pressed forward against Brentford.*

## Action v Brentford

*Pictures courtesy of Chad*

*Three in a row...teenager Ian Stringfellow tucks away his winner against Brentford at Field Mill, his third goal in as many matches.*



# Today's visitors . . .



**Back Row (left to right) :** Mark Gardiner, Steve White, Jimmy Gilligan, Chris Kamara, Tim Parkin, Kenny Allen, David Bamber, Charlie Henry, David Cole, Colin Calderwood, Chris Ramsey.

**Front Row (left to right) :** Alan McLoughlin, Mark Hughes, Jamie Reynolds, Dave Hockaday, Andy Rowland (Player/Coach), Kevin Morris (Physiotherapist), Lou Macari (Team Manager), John Trollope (Assistant Manager), Peter Coyne, Martin Ling, Leigh Barnard, Bryan Wade.

## Some facts and figures — by Harry Yelland

**Chairman :** B. Hillier

**Manager :** Lou Macari

**Colours :** Red Shirts with White Pinstripe, White Shorts, Red Stockings

**Honours :** Div. 3 Runners-up 1962-63 and 1968-69, Div. 4 Champions 1985-86, FA Cup semi-finalists 1910 and 1912, League Cup —winners 1968-69, Anglo-Italian Cup — winners 1970.

**Year Formed :** 1881    **Club Nickname :** 'Robins'

**Record Win :** 10-1 v. Farnham United Breweries FA Cup 1925

**Most League Appearances :** 770 John Trollope, 1960-80

**Most Capped Player :** Rod Thomas, 30 for Wales

**Most League Goals (Career) :** 216 Harry Morris 1926-33

**Most League Goals (Season) :** 47 Harry Morris, Div. 3 (S) 1926-27

**Ground :** County Ground

**Capacity :** 25,000

**Record Attendance :** 32,000 v. Arsenal FA Cup 1972

**Last Seasons Position 1st (Div. 4) Champions**

### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The clubs have met on 36 occasions in the League and the Stags have only won 7 times so lets hope that figure can be improved on today.

The last time the Stags beat Swindon was back in season 1982-83, here at Field Mill, by one goal to nil. On that day the goal was scored from the penalty spot by John Dungworth.

**MOST RECENT MEETINGS :** (Mansfield's scores are always given first).

Season	Division	Home	Away
1979-80	3	1—1	1—3
1982-83	4	1—0	0—4
1983-84	4	2—2	1—1
1984-85	4	0—0	0—1
1985-86	4	1—1	1—2

### CURRENT FORM :

- v. Middlesbrough (Away) L3 L 0—1
- v. Wigan Athletic (Home) L3 W 3—1
- v. Southampton (Home) LC D 0—0
- v. Fulham (Away) L3 W 2—0
- v. Chesterfield (Home) L3 W 2—1
- v. Port Vale (Away) L3 W 4—3
- v. Darlington (Away) L3 D 0—0
- v. York City (Home) L3 W 3—1
- v. Bristol Rovers (Home) L3 L 1—2

# SWINDON

**DAVE HOCKADAY (Defender).** Born 9/11/57. The versatile former Blackpool player who moved to the County Ground from the Bloomfield Road Club in the close season of 1983, proved a revelation in the Full Back role he fulfilled in the second half of last season. Dave made 34 appearances and three substitute appearances in the Towns championship winning line-up of last season.

**CHRIS RAMSEY (Defender).** Born 28/4/62. The former Bristol City and Brighton Full Back joined the County Ground staff on loan initially. Lou Macari secured his permanent transfer in December 1984. Chris who suffered an unfortunate injury while appearing in the 1983 Brighton v. Manchester United F.A. Cup Final at Wembley, made up for the disappointment of collecting a losers medal by collecting a Fourth Division Championship medal with Swindon Town last season. Chris missed only three League matches last season as Swindon collected their first League title.

**TIM PARKIN (Defender).** Born 31/12/57. Joined the County Ground staff from Bristol Rovers in July for a Football League Tribunal fee of £27,500. The tall commanding Central Defender had made 219 League appearances for Rovers. Tim moved to the Bristol Club from Malmö (Sweden). Rated at £50,000 by Bristol Rovers prior to his move to Swindon, Tim had been 'Player of the Year' in successive seasons with the former Eastville Club. He originally made his Football League debut with Blackburn Rovers for whom he made 13 League appearances.

**COLIN CALDERWOOD (Central Defender).** Born 20/1/65. Without doubt Colin proved to be Lou Macari's outstanding signing as he built his championship winning team in the summer of 1985. The former Mansfield Town Defender attracted a lot of attention from First Division clubs last season with his brilliant displays. Stranraer born, Colin, was the only Swindon Town player to make the 46 maximum League appearances as Swindon collected their first ever League Championship title. Colin rightfully won the 'Player of the Year' award in his first season with the club.

**CHRIS KAMARA (Midfield).** Born 25/12/57. Chris rejoined the club for a second spell in Aug. 1985 from Brentford for a £12,500 transfer fee. Absent through injury in the first half of last season the former Portsmouth apprentice made 19 League appearances and one as substitute, scoring one League goal. Chris is one of the few players in the Football League to have played for

two League clubs in different spells—Portsmouth and Swindon. Chris made 183 First Team appearances in his first spell with the club.

**STEVE WHITE (Striker).** Born 2/1/59. Steve was surprisingly given a free transfer at the end of last season by Bristol Rovers. After scoring sixteen goals for the former Eastville club last season, Lou Macari fought off opposition from several Third Division clubs to obtain his signature in July. Steve was in his second spell with Rovers having been transferred to Luton Town for a fee of £200,000 in 1979. He later played for Charlton Athletic before his return to Bristol Rovers.

**LEIGH BARNARD (Midfield).** Born 29/10/58. Leigh recaptured the form that he displayed in his first season with the club after signing from Portsmouth in July 1982 in the Town's championship season. The previous season, Leigh had the unusual distinction of playing for Exeter City on loan against Swindon, while the situation was reversed when the two clubs met in the return fixture, Leigh then appearing for Swindon. Signed on a free transfer from the Fratton Park club, his enthusiastic approach has been a refreshing attitude in previous seasons of struggle. Leigh made 37 League appearances last season with one as substitute scoring three goals. Leigh spent a brief period on loan with Peterborough United while with Portsmouth.

**DAVE BAMBER (Striker).** Born 1/2/59. Joined the club from Portsmouth for a fee of £15,000 in March 1986 after an initial period on loan. Previously with Blackpool, Walsall and Coventry City, he brought a dimension to the team in the final matches leading to the Fourth Division Championship that had perhaps been lacking following Peter Coyne's early season injury. The fact that he scored nine goals in the latter part of last season contributed greatly to the clubs championship title.

**JIMMY GILLIGAN (Striker).** Born 18/2/56. Jimmy was the first of Lou Macari's summer signings in his bid to strengthen his line-up in preparation for Third Division soccer. Jimmy moved to the County Ground in June for a £31,500 transfer fee from Grimsby Town. Jimmy had only been with the Blundell Park club for one season following his £100,000 transfer in the previous summer of 1985 from First Division Watford. Jimmy who found his opportunities limited at Vicarage Road due to the form of the much vaunted Luther Blissett and John Barnes, will hopefully replace the goal scoring prowess of the departed Colin Gordon, who moved to Wimbledon, in the Town attack this season.

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## SCORECHART

	Half time	Full time
A Blackpool v. Rotherham		
B Bolton v. Newport		
C Bournemouth v. Carlisle		
D Bristol Rovers v. Bury		
E Chester v. Brentford		
F Darlington v. Middlesboro		
G Fulham v. Bristol City		
H Notts County v. Walsall		
J Port Vale v. Wigan		
K York v. Chesterfield		
L Coventry v. Forest		

	Half time	Full time
M Everton v. Chelsea		
N Leicester v. Newcastle		
O Man. City v. Aston Villa		
P Norwich v. Tottenham		
Q Oxford v. Man. United		
R QPR v. Liverpool		
S Sheffield Wed. v. Soton.		
T Birmingham v. Oldham		
U Derby v. Ipswich		
V Portsmouth v. Bradford		
W Hereford v. Lincoln		

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# STAGS FACTFILE

Home matches and  
scorers in heavy type

† Player withdrawn  
\* Substitute Used



## Opponents

	ATT'D	F	A
Aug. 23 Sat	<b>DONCASTER R.</b>	...	
26 Tue	Walsall L.C.C. (1)	A	3.966
30 Sat	Darlington	A	3.942
Sept. 2 Tue	<b>WALSALL L.C.C. (1)</b>	H	2—1
7	<b>CHESTERFIELD</b>	H	0—1
13 Sat	Bristol Rovers	A	2.043
16 Tues	Bury	A	4.771
20 Sat	<b>AFC BOURNEMOUTH</b>	H	3.069
27 Sat	Carlisle Utd.	A	2.802
30 Tues	<b>GILLINGHAM</b>	H	0—0
Oct. 4 Sat	York City	A	2.023
11 Sat	<b>BRENTFORD</b>	H	2.841
18 Sat	Chester	A	2.817
Nov. 1 Sat	Rotherham Utd.	A	3.045
8 Sat	<b>SWINDON T.</b>	A	4.135
15 Sat	Darlington (F.A.C.)	A	3.453
22 Sat	<b>BOLTON WDRS.</b>	H	1—0
25 Tues	<b>NEWPORT C.</b>	A	1—0
29 Sat	Walsall	A	1—0
Dec. 6 Sat	FA Cup Round 2	A	1—0
13 Sat	Fulham	A	1—0
21 Sun	<b>WIGAN ATH.</b>	A	1—0
26 Fri	Notts County	A	1—0
27 Sat	<b>MIDDLESBRO.</b>	H	1—0
Jan. 1 Thur	<b>PORT VALE</b>	H	1—0
3 Sat	Bolton Wdrs.	A	1—0
11 Sun	Doncaster R. (3)	A	1—0
17 Sat	<b>DARLINGTON</b>	A	1—0
25 Sun	Chesterfield	A	1—0
31 Sat	<b>BRISTOL R. (4)</b>	A	1—0
Feb. 7 Sat	<b>BURY</b>	H	1—0
14 Sat	AFC Bournemouth	A	1—0
21 Sat	<b>CARLISLE U. (5)</b>	H	1—0
28 Sat	Gillingham	A	1—0
Mar. 3 Tues	<b>ROTHERHAM U.</b>	H	1—0
7 Sat	Blackpool	A	1—0
14 Sat	<b>CHESTER (6)</b>	H	1—0
17 Tues	Newport County	A	1—0
21 Sat	Brentford	A	1—0
28 Sat	<b>YORK CITY</b>	A	1—0
April 4 Sat	Swindon Town	A	1—0
11 Sat	<b>BRISTOL C. (SF)</b>	H	1—0
18 Sat	Port Vale	A	1—0
21 Tues	<b>NOTTS COUNTY</b>	A	1—0
25 Sat	Wigan Ath.	A	1—0
May 2 Sat	<b>WALSALL</b>	H	1—0
4 Mon	Middlesbrough	A	1—0
9 Sat	<b>FULHAM</b>	H	1—0

To be arranged : Blackpool (H)

1986-87	Opponents	Kearney	Cham'lain Cassells
Aug. 23 Sat	<b>DONCASTER R.</b>	Kearney	Cham'lain Cassells
26 Tue	Walsall L.C.C. (1)	Kearney†	Cham'lain Cassells†
30 Sat	Darlington	Foster	Foster
Sept. 2 Tue	<b>WALSALL L.C.C. (1)</b>	Foster	Foster
7	<b>CHESTERFIELD</b>	Foster	Foster
13 Sat	Bristol Rovers	Foster	Foster
16 Tues	Bury	Foster	Foster
20 Sat	<b>AFC BOURNEMOUTH</b>	Foster	Foster
27 Sat	Carlisle Utd.	Foster	Foster
30 Tues	<b>GILLINGHAM</b>	Foster	Foster
Oct. 4 Sat	York City	Foster	Foster
11 Sat	<b>BRENTFORD</b>	Foster	Foster
18 Sat	Chester	Foster	Foster
Nov. 1 Sat	Rotherham Utd.	Foster	Foster
8 Sat	<b>SWINDON T.</b>	Foster	Foster
15 Sat	Darlington (F.A.C.)	Foster	Foster
22 Sat	<b>BOLTON WDRS.</b>	Foster	Foster
25 Tues	<b>NEWPORT C.</b>	Foster	Foster
29 Sat	Walsall	Foster	Foster
Dec. 6 Sat	FA Cup Round 2	Foster	Foster
13 Sat	Fulham	Foster	Foster
21 Sun	<b>WIGAN ATH.</b>	Foster	Foster
26 Fri	Notts County	Foster	Foster
27 Sat	<b>MIDDLESBRO.</b>	Foster	Foster
Jan. 1 Thur	<b>PORT VALE</b>	Foster	Foster
3 Sat	Bolton Wdrs.	Foster	Foster
11 Sun	Doncaster R. (3)	Foster	Foster
17 Sat	<b>DARLINGTON</b>	Foster	Foster
25 Sun	Chesterfield	Foster	Foster
31 Sat	<b>BRISTOL R. (4)</b>	Foster	Foster
Feb. 7 Sat	<b>BURY</b>	Foster	Foster
14 Sat	AFC Bournemouth	Foster	Foster
21 Sat	<b>CARLISLE U. (5)</b>	Foster	Foster
28 Sat	Gillingham	Foster	Foster
Mar. 3 Tues	<b>ROTHERHAM U.</b>	Foster	Foster
7 Sat	Blackpool	Foster	Foster
14 Sat	<b>CHESTER (6)</b>	Foster	Foster
17 Tues	Newport County	Foster	Foster
21 Sat	Brentford	Foster	Foster
28 Sat	<b>YORK CITY</b>	Foster	Foster
April 4 Sat	Swindon Town	Foster	Foster
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21 Tues	<b>NOTTS COUNTY</b>	Foster	Foster
25 Sat	Wigan Ath.	Foster	Foster
May 2 Sat	<b>WALSALL</b>	Foster	Foster
4 Mon	Middlesbrough	Foster	Foster
9 Sat	<b>FULHAM</b>	Foster	Foster

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STAGS EVERY FRIDAY



	THE TODAY LEAGUE — DIVISION THREE					
	P	W	D	L	F	A
Gillingham	14	9	4	1	19	7
Middlesbrough	15	8	5	2	28	14
Bournemouth	14	8	3	3	21	16
Blackpool	14	7	4	3	28	15
Notts County	15	7	4	4	26	16
Swindon Town	14	7	3	4	25	21
Mansfield Town	13	5	7	1	16	11
Dorcaster	15	6	3	6	22	20
York City	15	6	3	6	20	25
Bristol City	13	5	5	3	20	11
Chesterfield	15	6	2	7	24	30
Wigan	15	6	1	8	26	29
Bristol Rovers	14	5	4	5	18	19
Carlisle	15	5	4	6	15	20
Fulham	15	4	5	6	20	25
Brentford	14	5	2	7	18	22
Bolton	15	4	4	7	22	23
Walsall	14	4	4	6	25	29
Port Vale	15	3	5	7	22	26
Newport	13	3	5	5	22	24
Bury	14	3	4	7	17	21
Chester	15	1	10	4	13	21
Darlington	13	3	4	6	15	23
Rotherham	15	3	3	9	13	26

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# What the papers say . . .

RARELY do clubs from the lower reaches make the national headlines — apart from where there is a financial crisis.

But little Fourth Division Wrexham did just that with their superb 0-0 draw in Spain in the European Cup winners Cup.

Dixie McNeil's men stunned Europe with their sterling work at Real Zaragoza and rightly earned the praise of Fleet Street and co.

The 'News of the World', for instance, focused on how Zaragoza helped Wrexham keeper Chris Pearce regain fitness for the cup tie by treating him for a trapped neck nerve.

Mike Langley in the 'Sunday People' was also full of praise for the little Welsh club, but pointed out many quirks surrounding the tie.

He stated that Wrexham had an English manager, English players, an English-speaking crowd and play in the English League.

Meanwhile other British clubs were frozen out of European competition, while Wrexham escaped because they won the Welsh Cup.

He said: "Television cameras may censor the unique feature of the ground . . . It's a pub in the corner where, alone in the League these dry days, drinkers on a balcony can watch matches."

Nevertheless, despite these and several other unjust anomalies, he wished the £32,000 Fourth team well against Zaragoza—their Chilean striker Yanez cost more than Wrexham have spent on players in 20 years!

The World's number one player, Diego Maradona, has revealed a desire to play in the Today League.

Argentina's World Cup hero, who now makes a living in Italy, could come to England in 1988 when his current contract expires.

The 'Sunday Mirror' claimed that the little striker made his wish after taking part in a testimonial for his national colleague Ossie Ardiles at Spurs.

Apparently Ardiles' successful time in the British game convinced Maradona that he too could make the transition.



Former Nottingham Forest star Tony Woodcock is having a tough time in his second spell at West German club Cologne.

Four months ago he rejoined Cologne for a cut price £140,000, but the manager was sacked after the club were left languishing at the bottom of the league.

Now the new boss has decided to play with just two strikers — and the former England marksman comes third best to the Allofs brothers, Klaus and Thomas.

The 'Sunday People' claimed that West Germany "buzzed with talk that he's for sale" . . . but Woodcock was quoted as saying "as far as I am concerned there's no problem."



Liverpool supremo Kenny Dalglish came under fire from the usually quiet Chris Lawler — once the Reds popular full back and a major part of the backroom staff at Anfield during last season's double winning triumph.

Lawler is bitter about his sacking in the summer and the fact that he did not even learn about the upheaval from manager Dalglish.

He told the 'News of the World': "I've been kicked out for no apparent reason other than my face doesn't fit in the dynasty Kenny Dalglish is creating.

"You learn to be hard in football and I know Liverpool can be ruthless, but I've never felt so bitter."

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10. Keith CASSELLS
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