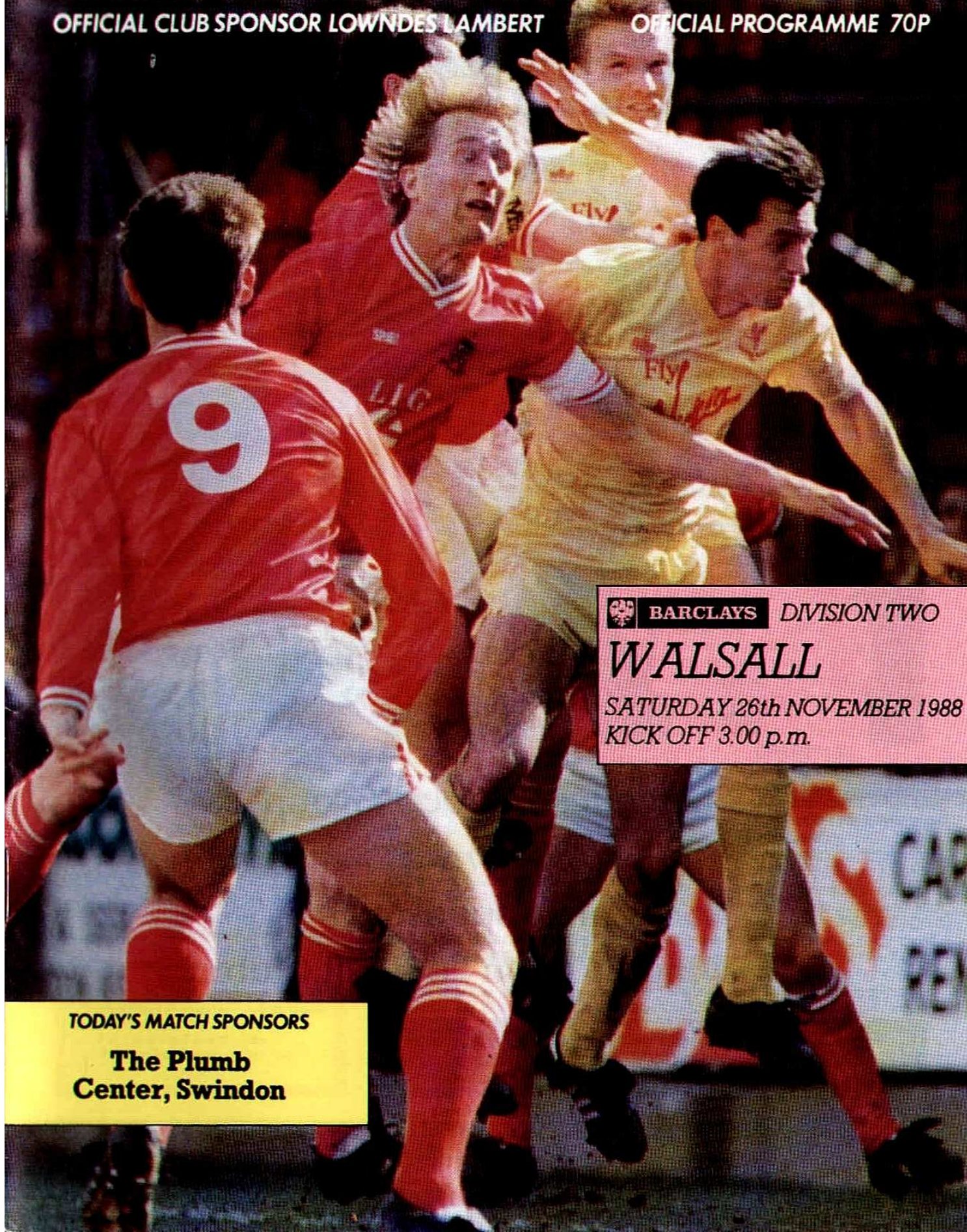


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BARCLAYS DIVISION TWO

WALSALL

SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER 1988

KICK OFF 3.00 p.m.

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HONOURS

Division 3 Promotion	
Play-Off Winners	1986/87
Division Four Champions	1985/86
Football League Cup	
Winners	1969
Semi-Finalists	1980
Anglo Italian	
Cup Winners	1970
International League Cup	
Winners Cup	
Winners	1969
Division Three Runners Up	1962-63, 1968-69
F.A. Charity Shield Finalists	1911
F.A. Youth Cup Finalists	1964
F.A. Cup Semi-Finalists	1910, 1912



WE NEED TO FACE REALITY!

We have recently faced setbacks in our matches that have brought a few pundits to the forefront in ringing a few alarm bells about our prospects in the Second Division.

A few facts must be established, we have not yet reached the half way stage of the season, so why the sudden dismay? All Clubs face temporary setbacks. We have had three seasons of success. Swindon Town have no divine right to expect that to continue. Watford have spent a near £1 million on their team due to the fact that they have a millionaire chairman at the helm in Elton John. Without Elton they would struggle. We have no such benefactor. Here at the County Ground we do not have vast sums to spend and the Second Division is a tough existence. I am sure many of the older supporters among you can vouch for that, for Swindon Town have always found life difficult in this division. Some of my predecessors, Bert Head, Danny Williams, who left for Sheffield Wednesday after taking this Club to promotion, the late Fred Ford, Dave Mackay, a fellow Scot, and Les Allen all knew how difficult a task it was to be among some of the bigger spenders.

I ask all of you to understand that we are in a division that this Club is not accustomed to, a brief flirtation, yes, but no predigree and the job is hard. Patience is said to be a virtue, we will need to show that on and off the field for the remainder of this season.

**TWO VERY IMPORTANT MATCHES
- WALSALL AND SHREWSBURY**

There is no doubt that we have slipped a little too near the bottom positions in the League table for

**THE
MANAGER'S
VIEW**

BY

Lou Macari

comfort and therefore it is important that we collect maximum points from our next two matches.

Starting with today's match with Walsall and then our visit to Shrewsbury next Saturday we face two Clubs struggling below us in the League table.

If we can deprive both Clubs of points then it would make life more difficult for them and a lot easier for Swindon Town. Maximum effort should ensure that we do ourselves justice.

ONLY OURSELVES TO BLAME

We start today's match without Jon Gittens and he will be missing, through suspension, for the next two matches also.

With Steve Foley and Tommy Jones forced to miss a match through suspension recently we have been presenting ourselves with a self inflicted handicap. We must ensure that we do not have to lose players for trivial reasons. Mistimed tackles happen to every player but verbal nonsense with officials is a certain loser and players should know better.

CHRISTMAS,

A TOUGH PROPOSITION

I had a glance at our Christmas and New Year programme the other day and realised what a tough fourteen day period we faced.

A West Country derby with Plymouth Argyle at the County Ground followed by Manchester City, then a trip down to Portsmouth for good measure and then the Third Round of the F.A. Cup! Life is not easy as I have already stated, this season we really know what Second Division football is about. Let's all pull together and ensure we keep this high grade of football at the County Ground.

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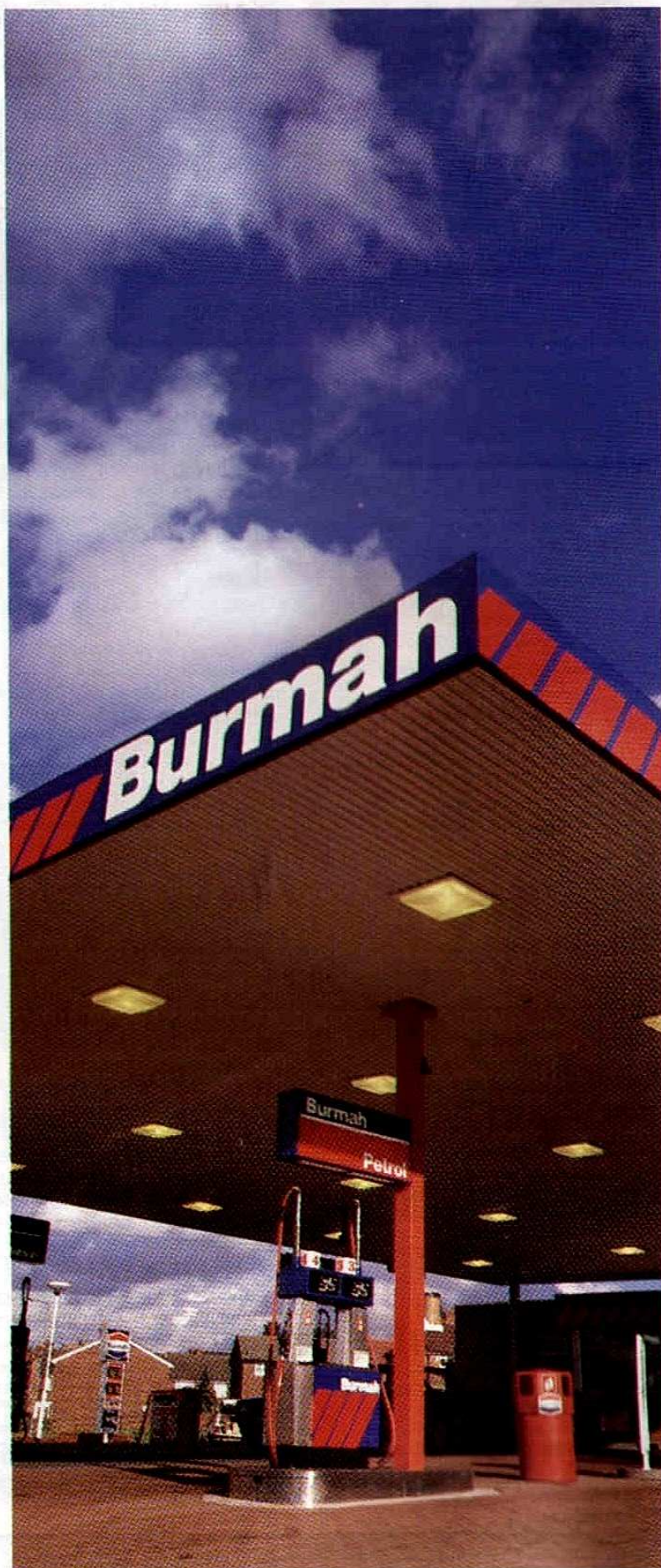
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A NIGHTMARE OR NOT?

This season is fast turing into a nightmare, as the 'Town' struggle to play for a full ninety minutes.

The home game with Ipswich brought a three goal comeback by the East Anglians and raised more doubts about our defensive capabilities.

The trip to Stoke last Saturday was another catalogue of disaster as a dubious penalty was cancelled out by Tom Jones only for Peter Beagrie to bamboozle the 'Town's' backline to create City's winner. The fog that faced us on the return journey must have also shrouded the 'Town' penalty area for the last ten minutes as a good come back was ruined and an outside chance of victory was thrown away. One redeeming factor of the Stoke game was the loyal 'Town' fans reaction to Chris Kamara and his recognition of their support. Chris appears to have settled in well in the capital of China, showing himself to still be gifted midfielder with a fierce tackle and crisp pass.

CLOUGHIE v CAPTAIN BOB

The heavyweight battle of the century seems to be on at last, not Tyson v Bruno but Clough v Maxwell.

The Derby Chairman has once again shown his complete lack of footballing knowledge and commonsense. At last someone within the game is prepared to take Maxwell on at his own game, through the courts. A victory for the Forest Manager can only be good for the game, daring to suggest that 39 year old Peter Shilton is "getting on a bit" hardly warranted Maxwell's hysterical reaction. By suggesting that Derby County fans give Clough "a big thumbs down" next time he visits the Baseball Ground is incitement

SCOTT FREE



by Michael Scott

of the worse kind and is hardly the comment of a responsible Club Chairman. Maxwell's multi Club dealings should have landed him in trouble a long time ago, his latest outburst surely merits some kind of disrepute charge.

PERSIL WHITE

Such action seems only to be threatened against those who genuinely know the game. Viv Anderson's autobiography has caused a storm in a footballing world that seems to think that only the Persil white side of the game can ever be on show. Controversy is what the modern game thrives on, without it the terraces would be left even emptier.

The 'big' revelations by 'honest' Viv seem to be that he cheats the referee every now and then and would hack a forward down if he was clean through on goal.

Do any of Anderson's critics really believe that his comments

are big news to those of us on the terraces?

IT HAPPENS ALMOST EVERY SATURDAY?

Every game, on every ground, on every Saturday is a catalogue of cheating that is waiting for a player to break through and be chopped down. Supporters may not be around when any significant decisions are made, but we're not blind to the games shortcomings either. Objections to his comments seem to be based on the fact that they present the game in a bad light at a difficult time in its history. With legislation being passed by a majority of MP's who know nothing about, nor care about football, no amount of bad publicity will harm it any more and good publicity will just be ignored anyway.

CAN WE ENJOY A CHRISTMAS BONANZA?

With our current slip in form, the four games between now and Christmas take on a great importance. Today's visitors, Walsall, always provide tough opposition at Fellows Park, but they can also usually lay on torrential rain to drench us into submission. Hopefully this afternoon will be full of sun as the 'Town' register a convincing home performance.

Next Saturday we visit the sleepy (or sleeping) town of Shrewsbury, another game we must secure a result from to prevent this season from turning into an unnecessary struggle. Last seasons game hardly matched the name of the venue, we can expect the Shrews to offer the same sort of fierce opposition, so restraint would seem to be in order. Bans due to dissent are not going to help our cause, perhaps before long we'll finish a game without notching up anymore unnecessary penalty points.

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Charlie Henry

Charlie will be presented with his
award prior to today's match by
Jonathan Secker of the Swindon
Sony Centre. Well done Charlie.

★ ★ ★

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Please do not forget to get your
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Draw takes place 20.12.88.

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TODAY'S MASCOT



From Swindon

Name Ian Holton
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Favourite player Jimmy Quinn
Favourite other player
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THE CHAIRMAN

Speaking

BRIAN HILLIER



CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

Following the debacle of the Seoul Olympics it was pleasant to hear that football received a clean bill of health from the Football Association after a decade of random drug testing.

It proves that our national game sets an example, a win at any cost does not apply in this game. A ten year drug test has been in operation since 1978. Doctors have been arriving, unannounced, at League matches and selected players at random. Almost 2,000 players have provided urine tests, those samples have been analysed and not ONE was proved positive. The samples have been sent to the Drug Control and Teaching Centre at Kings College, London. Even reserve matches were among those tested!

A FURTHER DELAY

Unfortunately following an inspection by the Clubs consultants and architects - Husband and Co., it was decided to defer the meeting of the Safety Committee due to make an inspection of the Stratton Bank until a later date.

It is imperative that the work is to the standard required by the Safety Committee and I'm afraid that until that standard of work is to everyones satisfaction we cannot

reconvene the meeting. We had hoped to have the Stratton Bank area open for todays fixture with Walsall but in the interest of safety we have decided to ensure that all safeguards have been complied with.

DISCIPLINARY POINTS

When players are forced to miss matches due to disciplinary action then the Club suffers.

Swindon Town Football Club cannot afford to have players missing from matches. They can be so important for the future outcome of this Club. Referees have been harsh on many occasions but there have been specific instances when we have not helped ourselves. We simply cannot afford to have key players absent. Now is the time for each individual, to take a clear look at what the outcome will be for Swindon Town Football Club, if we continue to have players absent for any length of time.

RECENT RESULTS

Our results in recent weeks have been disappointing. We lost to Hull City, Norwich City and Ipswich Town within the space of a seven day period and yet all three matches could have been won!

We missed countless goalscoring opportunities at Hull City, we played well enough against the First Division leaders Norwich City and virtually threw the points away in our last home match with Ipswich Town. There was very little wrong with our game in all three matches and that is how we must view these setbacks. I am sure with a few minor adjustments both Lou and 'Chic' will have us back on the winning trail. What we must not lose sight of is that this is a highly competitive division where you cannot afford to relax. The stakes are high and each year certain Clubs find their way to the First Division, that is an attraction that ensures a highly competitive streak.

PRE-CHRISTMAS BLUES

Last Saturday we suffered our fourth consecutive defeat when we lost 2-1 to Stoke City. Today may well see one of our lowest attendances of this season, particularly with Christmas looming on the horizon and thoughts turning to Christmas shopping.

I would like to thank all of you who attend this afternoon's match. You are, without a lot of doubt, our real hardcore supporters. The 10,000 that travelled to Crystal Palace eighteen months ago for our play-off decider against Gillingham have dwindled. The euphoria of success attracts those surplus people, but the true Swindon Town fans will be here today. Thank you.

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Swindon Police are asking for your co-operation following the final whistle.

Please remain quietly in your enclosures until home fans have been dispersed away from the ground - probably a wait of some five to ten minutes. This will allow you to leave to board your coaches or get to your cars without interference from rival fans.

As a word of advice to supporters in particular, the removal of favours - i.e. Scarves, Rosettes, etc., is a sensible precaution.

Coaches will be parked nearby as you leave the ground and we may escort supporters to the Railway Station.

Police arrangements have been made to help you.

Why not buy a Season Ticket as a Christmas Present?

With the F.A. Cup Third Round Draw due shortly you could be forced to miss an all ticket match if we were to be drawn against a top First Division Club at the County Ground.

Prices after today's match are:

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SWINDON TOWN F.C. CAROL SERVICE

Swindon Town Football Club's fourth annual Carol Service has been arranged to take place at the **Central Church**, corner of Victoria Road and Groundwell Road, Swindon, on **Thursday 15th December at 7.30 p.m.**

As usual, several members of the Football Club will be taking part in the service and, of course, all supporters are welcome to attend.

SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL PROGRAMME FAIR Sunday 11th December 1988 in the Supporters Social Club County Ground, Swindon Town F.C. 11.00 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

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FOOTBALL WATCH

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This can be done by isolating the trouble-makers in the ground and reporting to the Police anything concerning the planning and commission of football related crimes. The Police in the West Midlands will take positive steps to eradicate unacceptable behaviour at Football Grounds in their area and they have asked us to let our fans know that they seek our co-operation in - **helping to ostracise and eliminate the hooligan element in football.**

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A SECOND LOOK

A LOOK AT THE SECOND DIVISION SCENE

PERRY'S OUT FOR THE SEASON

Perry Digweed the **Brighton** goalkeeper, will not play again this season after suffering a serious groin injury against **West Bromwich Albion** ten weeks ago. Perry who is 29, lost four pints of blood after being accidentally kicked. He spent several weeks in hospital and has already undergone one operation.

MONEYBAGS WATFORD CONTINUE TO SPLASH OUT

Watford continued their spending spree last week by taking their outlay to nearly **£1 million** in five months, when they splashed out **£150,000** on **Neil Redfern**.

The Crystal Palace 23-year-old midfield player who cost the Selhurst Park Club **£80,000** from **Doncaster Rovers** eighteen months ago had already turned down offers from **Hull City** and **Reading**.

ROCK ON TOMMY

A typical goal from **Tommy Tynan** - his 15th of the season - booked **Plymouth Argyle's** second away League success in their bid to climb away from the lower reaches of the Second Division at **Oxford** last Saturday - it was the veteran strikers 33rd birthday!

ONLY EIGHT IN THIRTEEN - WALSALL

Today's visitors **Walsall** lost their fifth consecutive game when they lost **2-1** to visiting **Blackburn Rovers** at **Fellows Park** last Saturday.

Walsall have only scored eight goals in their last 13 games - and two in their last five. Their goal last week was due to the courtesy of a **Scott Sellar's** own goal. Former **Birmingham City** striker **Andy Kennedy** scored twice as his team-mates set relegation nerves jangling for **Tommy Coakley's** men.

A STEELE-JACKETT!

Watford boss **Steve Harrison** took 45 minutes to work out his battle plan in last Saturday's **1-1** draw at **Shrewsbury** - and young **Tim Steele** appreciated every minute.

The 21-year-old winger had a field day in the first half, hammering home a beautiful goal before **Steve Harrison** wrapped a jacket around him - in the shape of defender **Kenny Jackett**.

Watford eventually produced a great equaliser when former **Town** striker **Dave Bamber** chipped the 'keeper from the edge of the area.

A LEAKY DEFENCE

Despite the fact that **Ipswich Town** had beaten the **Town** **3-2** the previous week. The East Anglian Club demonstrated why Manager **John Duncan** had been scouring the country for a new centre-half over the past few weeks last Saturday. Their **3-2** defeat at home to struggling **Brighton** prompted the **Ipswich** boss to blurt out, "Our defending was disastrous."

HARRY SEES RED

Bournemouth boss **Harry Redknapp** was not impressed by promotion seeking **Manchester City's 1-0** win at **Dean Court** last week! **Harry** was furious, "We slaughtered them. When they scored it was their first kick of the game."

JOIN THE AA OR THE RAC?

Chelsea lost their way but still won a point in an unusual late, late show. The **2-2** outcome was a double sickener for hosts **Bradford City**.

First the kick-off was delayed for several minutes when the **Chelsea** team coach became lost on route from the overnight hotel just fifteen minutes away!

CURRIE NOT SO HOT!

David Currie wasn't so hot from the penalty spot last Saturday as **Barnsley** slumped to a **3-0** defeat.

The crucial save by **Portsmouth's** keeper **Alan Knight** denied **Barnsley** a possible lifeline when they were **2-0** down. Missed penalties are giving **Barnsley** boss **Allan Clarke** a headache. Although the culprit said, "I'm happy to keep taking them if the boss wants me to."

STILL UNBEATEN!

A defiant **Howard Wilkinson** was proud of his **Leeds** battlers when they earned a **2-2** draw at **Oldham** last Saturday.

"We are not in the business of surrendering to anyone, **Oldham** are a very good footballing side and we had to close them down and stop them playing."

The new **Elland Road** chief has yet to see his new team beaten in the League.

LATE BLUES

Birmingham City must be wondering what they have to do to win. Victory was snatched from them just seconds from the final whistle against **Hull City** at **Boothferry Park** last week. **Kevin Langley** had given the 'Blues' the lead but they were pegged back by the prolific **Keith Edwards** who was once again on the target for 'the Tigers'.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE - DIVISION II

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	Pts
Portsmouth	17	6	2	1	19	7	2	4	2	9	11 30
Watford	17	5	1	2	17	7	4	2	3	11	11 30
Blackburn	17	5	1	2	16	10	4	2	3	13	12 30
Manchester City	17	4	3	1	14	10	4	2	3	8	6 29
Chelsea	17	4	2	2	15	8	3	4	2	13	11 27
West Bromwich Albion	17	4	2	2	9	6	3	4	2	13	10 27
Stoke	17	5	3	1	15	7	2	3	3	6	11 27
Ipswich	17	4	1	4	13	11	4	1	3	12	10 26
Crystal Palace	16	5	3	1	17	9	1	3	3	8	11 24
Sunderland	17	4	5	0	15	7	1	4	3	8	11 24
Barnsley	17	4	3	1	11	6	2	3	4	9	16 24
Bradford	17	3	4	2	9	7	2	3	3	9	11 22
Leicester	17	3	4	1	10	7	2	3	4	11	18 22
Oldham	17	4	4	1	20	11	1	2	5	9	15 21
Bournemouth	16	4	1	3	6	4	2	2	4	7	11 21
Hull City	17	3	5	1	9	6	2	1	5	10	16 21
Plymouth	16	4	2	1	14	6	2	1	6	6	20 21
Oxford	18	4	3	3	19	15	1	2	5	8	14 20
Leeds United	17	3	3	2	9	8	1	5	3	6	11 20
Swindon Town	16	3	3	1	12	7	1	4	4	10	17 19
Shrewsbury Town	17	1	5	3	8	12	2	3	3	5	9 17
Walsall	17	2	3	4	12	9	0	5	3	5	12 14
Brighton	16	3	1	4	11	11	1	1	6	8	16 14
Birmingham City	17	1	2	5	9	16	1	2	6	3	19 10

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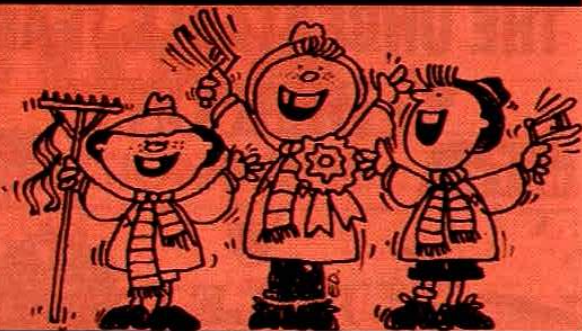
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JUNIOR ROBINS



Firstly congratulations are in order for young Junior Robin, Richard Kennedy, who has been accepted as a 'Norwich Ranger' at U-14s grade. We wish him every success and will keep you informed of his progress. Richard keeps goal for the 'Transplant' Junior Robins team at U-13s.

JUNIOR TRAVEL CLUB

Last Saturday (19th) we travelled to Stoke City at the invitation of the Junior Potters.

These early mornings, especially the dark ones, require a 'Special' loud alarm clock.

The executive coach left the County Ground at 7.30 a.m. Draft! no videos on board and Mick Lewis forgot to bring his of the 1923 Cup Final (no he's not that old). A quiet journey despite the lack of entertainment, never mind, Ash Patie is doing a 'roaring' trade at the drinks machine (quite the housewife) he tells us he does it all the time at home.

Arrive Stoke 9.45 a.m., weather cold and misty, the streets around the ground are quiet and deserted, coach parked we all stretch our legs with a conducted tour of the ground, given by Diane Richardson. Having been told not to touch any kit etc. we find Chris Kamara's number 4 shirt 'swopped' with their goalkeepers, on reflection perhaps it would have been to our benefit to leave it that way.

Time to board the coach for the Sports Ground, but just time enough to invade the Souvenir Shop. Sandra C. purchases number 3 millionth football mug. Where does she put them all, (next issue) perhaps a competition to find out where!

A 'Round' Robin of (pardon the pun) football matches on the astro turf followed with the Junior Potters. Teams made up of well known countries such as Albania (where have we heard that name before) and Luxembourg. Scotland became the eventual winners (better news though, in our games England did beat Albania).

1.00 p.m. left Sports Centre for lunch at the Royal Plough Motel, a mere free kick from the ground.

After a marvellous lunch it was time to set off for the afternoons match.

That ninety minutes is now history and just one more statistic for the records, how marvellous it would have been to have gone away with three points to round off a perfect days outing, never mind, look out Walsall we need the points.

Our sincere gratitude and thanks to our hosts, Stoke Junior Potters, in particular David Capper, Diane and their helpers for such a wonderful day out, I'm sure a statement shared by all who travelled that day.

Your chance to win a Rothmans Football Yearbook, kindly donated by the Reverend Nigel Sands, comes with today's competition. All you have to do is to write to Nigel, care of the Club, explaining why you support Swindon Town and who your favourite player is. Try to get your entries in quickly as we hope to have the prizes presented in time for Christmas.

Our November meeting saw a record attendance and a very worthwhile session as Fitzroy Simpson and Adrian Marshall helped our old friend, Chris Kirkland, demonstrate some of the finer points of the laws. A big thank you to all three as their words were obviously taken in. This was clear when I had the pleasure of refereeing one of the Junior Robins games the following Saturday. How nice it is to go through a game without being asked 'Is it direct?' when you have awarded a free kick and are standing with you hand in the air!

Birthday congratulations go to:

James Hobbs of Wallingford who is 14 today and to Jamie Fuller of Hemel Hempstead who will be 11 next Tuesday.

OUR NEXT OPPONENTS

It will be a nostalgic return to **Gay Meadow** the home of **Shrewsbury Town** for 'Chic' **Bates**, **Ross MacLaren** and **David Geddis** next Saturday. All three have spent a period with the Shropshire Club.

Ironically **Shrewsbury Town** met **Oldham Athletic** in a **Second Division** fixture recently. The **Boundary Park** Club are our next visitors to the **County Ground** on **Saturday December 12th**. The outcome of this match was a goal-less draw.

Shrewsbury Town's only success at **Gay Meadow** had been an emphatic **3-0** victory over **Leicester City** with **Alan Irvine** (2) and **Alan Finlay** their goalscorers.

Four Clubs have forced **Shrewsbury Town** to share the Points at **Gay Meadow**. **Sunderland** and **Walsall**, today's visitors, participated in goal-less encounters. **West**

Bromwich Albion also shared the points in a **1-1** draw, with new Town Striker **David Geddis**, the **Shrewsbury Town** marksman. Last Saturday they were held to another **1-1** draw by high flying **Watford** with **Tim Steele** their first time goalscorer.

Both **Ipswich Town** and **Hull City** recorded resounding victories at **Gay Meadow**. **Ipswich Town** thrashing the home team **5-1**, former Chelsea defender **Doug Rougvie** scoring **Shrewsbury's** consolation effort. **Hull City** scored a convincing **3-1** win at **Gay Meadow**. **Shrewsbury Town** full back **Richard Green** scoring for the home team.

Oldham Athletic are the next visitors to the **County Ground** on **December 12th** and they will be seeking their second away win of the season unless they are successful away to **Plymouth Argyle** this afternoon.

Manager **Joe Royle's** team began the season with a bang recording an outstanding **4-1** win at **Manchester City** in which former Maine Road favourite **Roger Palmer** rocked his former team mates with a hat-trick.

Mike Milligan was the other **Boundary Park** Club goalscorer. Their only other away point of the season came in a **1-1** draw at **Portsmouth** with summer signing **Frankie Bunn** from **Hull City** the goalscorer. The 'Latics', had suffered five successive defeats before the welcome point at **Fratton Park**. The **Northern Club** had lost **3-1** at **Blackburn**, where an **Ian Marshall** penalty was their only consolation. A **2-0** defeat at **Valley Parade** followed against **Bradford City**. Despite a brace from **Frankie Bunn** at **Roker Park**, **Joe Royle's** men conceded the points in a **3-2** defeat. It was the irrepressible **Frankie Bunn** who scored **Oldham's** only goal in a **3-1** defeat only three days after our magnificent **3-2** victory at **Vicarage Road** against **League leaders Watford**. **Oldham** failed to register a goal in their **2-0** defeat at **Brighton**.

Last Saturday **Oldham** were involved in a four goal thriller with fast improving **Leeds United** at **Boundary park**. Inevitably **Roger Palmer** and **Frankie Bunn** were their Goalscorers.

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HELPING THE GAME

The Football Trust receives £9 million annually from the Sporting-the-Ball competition run by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters and spends it all on projects which benefit football throughout the United Kingdom.

Since 1979 it has been committed to the development of the game at every level and its broad and varying initiatives have ranged from essential safety work at Tottenham to social work at Toxteth; refurbishment at Wembley to repairs at Welling; closed circuit television at all League clubs to community facilities at Oldham Athletic; transport improvements at Sheffield Wednesday to storm damage in the South East of England; from policing costs at Hull City to an artificial pitch at Hyde United.

1988-89 will see The Football Trust increase its commitment by investing further sums in closed circuit television, transport facilities for supporters and projects to bring Football League clubs closer to their local community.

WARNING

At the beginning of the season more than 110 League grounds in England, Wales and Scotland will be equipped with CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION which has been funded by The Football Trust.

It is there to increase crowd safety and to help the police. Recording facilities enable film and photographs to be taken of disorder, which may subsequently be used in a court of law.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

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	£
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Improvements	770,561

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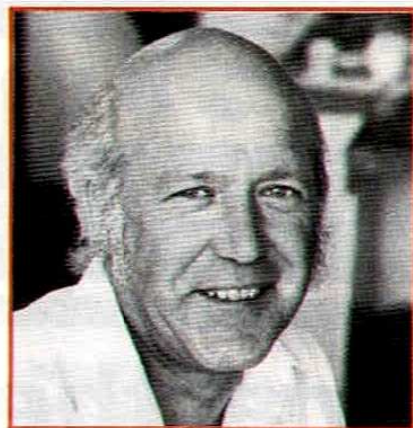
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TAKING THE Opposite VIEW

WALSALL



by Dave Eaton



Back Row (Left to Right): Tom Bradley (Physio), Alex Taylor, Chris Marsh, Mark Jones, Andy Dorman, Mark Rees, Mark Goodwin, Ray Train (Res. Team Manager).

Middle Row (Left to Right): Dean Smith, Kenny Mower, Phil Hawker, Steve McIlhargey, Howard Pritchard, Fred Barber, Willie Naughton, Trevor Christie.

Front Row (Left to Right): Paul Jones, Keith Bertschin, Graeme Forbes, Tommy Coakley (Manager), Gerry Sweeney (Assistant Manager), Peter Hard, Craig Shakespeare, Mark Taylor.

In their centenary year, Walsall Football Club returned to the Second Division, after an absence of 25 years.

It took the 'play off' system though to enable them to clinch promotion. After maintaining a place against the promotion front-runners throughout the 1987-88 season, they finally had to accept third place with Sunderland and Brighton achieving automatic promotion.

In the 'play off' semi-final, Walsall defeated Notts County 4-1 on aggregate to set up a tough clash with Bristol City in the final. Walsall achieved a resounding 3-1 first leg victory at Ashton Gate, and promotion seemed a formality. But in the second leg at Fellows Park, Bristol City bounced back

with a surprise 2-0 victory to ensure a replay.

By winning a penalty shoot-out Walsall ensured that the match would be played at Fellows Park, and this time they made no mistake, racing into a 3-0 lead after 19 minutes, and another goal in the second half gave the Saddlers a 4-0 victory amidst scenes of great jubilation amongst their supporters.

The hero of that final match was David Kelly, who scored a hat-trick and had emerged as one of the hottest properties in English Football.

It was inevitable that Kelly's goalscoring flair would attract the interest of the big city Clubs, and in the face of fierce competition from several other First Division Clubs, West

Ham United finally secured his services in July 1988 for a reported fee of £600,000.

Walsall's last spell in the Second Division lasted for only two seasons - 1962-63 and 1963-64 - but the Saddlers do not expect any repetition, and with the prospect of moving into a brand new stadium in 12 months time, they firmly believe that they are on the brink of an exciting new era.

The Club was founded in 1888 as an amalgamation of two Clubs, Walsall Town and Walsall Swifts. In 1892 they became founder members of the Football League Second Division, and missed promotion to the First Division by 4 points in 1898-99.

After failing to gain re-election in 1901, they spent 20 years in the non-League wilderness before joining the newly formed Third Division North in 1921. They alternated between the Southern and Northern sections of the Third Division until the reorganisation into Third and Fourth Division in 1958.

Walsall's most successful period came under the management of Bill Moore, when, in successive seasons, 1959-60 and 1960-61, they moved from the Fourth to the Second Division.

Alas, after only two seasons, they returned to Division Three, and after missing promotion to Division Two by only four points in 1978, the following season saw them being relegated to the Fourth Division. After heading the Division for most of the 1979-80 season they finished as runners-up to Huddersfield Town and so once more regained their Third Division status.

Over the years Walsall have earned themselves a reputation as a formidable Cup fighting machine. Their most famous F.A. Cup triumph was a 2-0 win over Arsenal, who were then regarded as the greatest Club side in the world, in January 1933.

The nearest they came to winning one of the game's major trophies was in the 1983-84 season. They reached the semi-final of the Milk Cup, however, a first Wembley appearance was denied them by Liverpool who, after a 2-2 draw at Anfield, won the second leg 2-0 and so ended Walsall's dreams of glory.

Does your dog reduce your household insurance premiums?

The Saddlers have experienced more than their share of traumas over the years. In 1986 a proposed ground sharing scheme with Birmingham City at St Andrews was defeated following fierce opposition from the local community.

Shortly before the 1986-87 season the Club was 'taken over' by London businessman Terry Ramsden. He injected new ideas and enthusiasm into the Club, but his own business commitments prevented him from spending sufficient time at Fellows Park. As a result, in March 1988, the Club was again sold, this time to a consortium led by Leeds businessman Mauric Miller.

MEET THE MANAGER AND PLAYERS

Tommy Coakley (Manager). Born Bellshill. This is his first taste of Football League management. His playing days were spent with Motherwell, Arsenal, Detroit Cougars in North America, and finally Morton. Then it was on to Chelmsford and Essex Senior League Club Maldon Town whom he led to the Championship in 1984-85, at the time Terry Ramsden was Chairman. In 1985-86 he steered Bishops Cleeve to seventh place in the Vauxhall Opel League Premier Division, and to the First Round of the F.A. Cup before moving to Walsall. He is only the third Manager in Walsall's history to achieve promotion for the Club.

Fred Barber (Goalkeeper). Signed from Everton in December 1986, for a fee reputed to be over £90,000. Follows in the finest traditions of past Walsall goalkeepers such as Bert Williams, Phil Parkes and Mark Wallington. He was rated one of the best goalkeepers in the lower divisions.

Mark Taylor (Fullback/Midfield). Signed professional forms in July 1984 after graduating from the junior ranks. His polished performances during the past two seasons have attracted the attention of several First Division Clubs.

Kenny Mower (Fullback). A Walsall born player who joined the Club as an apprentice in 1977 and made his League debut at Rotherham two years later. He quickly made the left back position his own, proving himself a model of consistency. His loyalty to the Club was rewarded by a testimonial being granted to him in 1986/87, during which time he made his 300th League appearance.

Graeme Forbes (Central Defence). Team captain, a dominating and uncompromising central defender. He began his career with Lochee United before moving to Motherwell. Made over 200 appearances for them before joining Walsall for £80,000 in September 1986.

Peter Hart (Central Defender). A former Huddersfield Town apprentice. He helped the Leeds Road Club to win the Fourth Division Championship in 1980, before joining Walsall for £65,000 in August that year. A model professional who is a credit to his profession both on and off the field.

Phil Hawker (Central Defender/Midfield). Former English Youth International. He is equally at home in a midfield or defensive role. He started his career with Birmingham City, for whom he made 38 League appearances, before moving to Walsall in March 1983.



• Paul Jones

Paul Jones (Midfield). A local youngster who joined Walsall as an apprentice before signing professional forms in September 1983 on his 18th birthday. A utility player, he has represented the Saddlers in a variety of roles. He has already made over 100 appearances for the Saddlers.

Graig Shakespeare (Midfield). A stylish performance, with a cultured left foot, and a free kick expert. He signed professional forms in October 1981 after service his apprenticeship with the Saddlers. Made his debut in September 1982, and quickly established himself as a regular member of the team. He possesses one of the hardest shots in Football.



• Peter Hart

Alex Taylor (Midfield). A close season signing from Hamilton for a reported fee of £90,000. He has also played for Dundee United. An influential member of the Hamilton side that gained promotion to the Premier Division of the Scottish League. Walsall did well to secure his services in the face of competition from several First Division Clubs.

Mark Jones (Midfield/Defender). Former apprentice who signed professional forms in 1986 and made his first team debut in a Littlewoods Cup tie versus Mansfield in August 1986. He will be seeking to establish himself in the First Team during the 1988-89 season.

Howard Pritchard (Forward). A goalscoring winger. He joined Walsall from Gillingham for a reported £20,000 in July 1988. He started his professional career with Bristol City in 1976, before spending two seasons with Swindon Town, and then returning to Ashton Gate. He has represented Wales, and in January 1988 he scored a hat-trick while playing for Gillingham against Walsall.

Keith Bertschin (Forward). Signed from Sunderland for £30,000 in July 1988. Joined Ipswich from Barnet and was part of Ipswich's F.A. Youth Cup winning side of 1975. Capped by England at Youth and Under-21 level. He joined Birmingham for £100,000 in 1976. Has also seen service at both Norwich and Stoke. In a career spanning over 400 games, he has scored over 100 goals.

Trevor Christie (Forward). He was signed from Manchester City in October 1986 for £30,000. Has proved himself a consistent goalscorer in a career that has also seen him play for Leicester City, Notts County, Notts Forest and Derby County.



• Willie Naughton

Willie Naughton (Forward). A Scottish left winger in the classical tradition. He was signed from Preston N.E. for £35,000 in March 1985. He signed professional forms with Preston in 1980, and went on to make nearly 200 appearances for them.

Chris Marsh (Forward). Signed professional forms in July 1988 having graduated from the YTS Scheme. Made League debut, versus Rotherham, in 1987-88 season.

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A BAPTISM OF SORTS

Good afternoon and welcome to the County Ground where it's hello to old friends from up the M5, Walsall. The Saddlers had a great 1987/88 season and defeated Bristol City, shame, in the promotions play offs to gain a place in Division Two for the first time.

It's been a tough baptism for the Staffordshire side but I'm sure things will be okay and it's great to see such a homely outfit in the Second Division, your presence here is welcomed.

THE DANGER ZONE

And so to the events of the past fortnight or so. Two further defeats have placed the Town in the danger zone at the wrong end of the table making victory today essential. Ipswich Town came here and took away the points with that two goal burst in the final three minutes. There were, without doubt, mistakes made and a relatively comfortable victory was turned into a painful loss. Seven days later a trip to the raw cold of the Potteries ended in a defeat once again. Nobody in the crowd or on the field could hazard a guess as to why a penalty was awarded against Jon Gittens, but George Berry accepted his birthday present with glee. A fine fight back saw a lovely equaliser by Tommy Jones, once again though Swindon fell to a late goal.

SUPPORTERS ARE CONCERNED

The situation is worrying, there was much discussion among supporters on the journey home regarding the current run and genuine concern was shown. Let's hope today sees a change in fortune.

COULD BE IMPROVED

In a wider sense I was disappointed by the decision by the BBC not to show a live First Round FA Cup tie. Its package of highlights on the Saturday night was impressive, but I believe it was a missed opportunity to show the country that there is life outside of Division One.

Perhaps the great stars would not have been on show, only joking, but the compensation would have been an all too rare glimpse of the magic that is the FA Cup to the smaller Clubs. The non-League scene is attracting more and more attention. It should have been reflected by a live game including a side from outside of the Football League.

WAITING FOR THE GIANT!

The situation will not change until Round Three when FA Cup matches will be live and I dare say the so called giants will be screened. Time perhaps to contact the television stations and seek a change of heart. Des Lynam seems such a nice chap I'm sure he'd listen.

CRICKET LOVELY CRICKET

Meanwhile in the world of cricket, remember those hot summer days, no neither do I, the West Indies have continued in their all conquering ways in their current tour of Australia. A crushing nine wicket victory in the first test in Melbourne put the Aussies in their place and perhaps put England's defeat here last season by the Windies in perspective. The side from the Caribbean are without doubt the best in the world and good enough to crush any test side.

England of course have to improve but let's judge that against Australia here next season in what should be a close Test series.

WHERE ARE WE?

Now to answer a question that has been put to me on many occasions over the past fortnight. GWR is only available on VHF receivers. I know those of you who have medium wave radio's in your cars will not be able to tune our way and it's more than a little frustrating, but the future de-regulation of the airwaves meant that such decisions had to be taken. Meanwhile Brunel Radio is booming out on GWR's old medium wave frequencies.

ONLY ON A SUNDAY

Finally to the regular review of a humble Sunday League side. G.W.R.F.C. took another point against Mildenhall at Fairford in a 1-1 draw. It was a classic encounter full of exciting attacking football between two well matched sides. Unlike our 6-2 defeat at the hands of Honda a week later on a pitch which was situated on the coldest part of England. Overnight snow and a biting wind made me think seriously about my sanity, especially as one of our side confessed to arriving home at 3.40 a.m. that very morning. Hang on, I'll recommend him for the England side. Still it's good fun even if the brass monkey wore an anorak. Thanks also the Westbury FC for their hospitality when we lost gracefully to their Over-35s side. If the Town aren't playing why not pop down to Meadow Lane? You'd be sure of a warm welcome.

Settle back then for today's match, let's enjoy, as always, a good peaceful game of football. Stay tuned.

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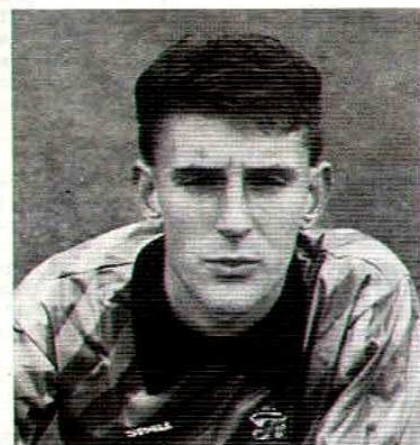


● **Mark Lea** - who opened the scoring in our 3-0 win against **Peterborough United** in the **Midland Youth Cup**.

ON THE MIDLAND YOUTH CUP TRAIL AGAIN!

A 3-0 win against **Peterborough United** on Monday October 31st in the First Round of the Midland Youth Cup ensured we entered at the Second Round of the competition where we now travel to **Shrewsbury**.

The London Road Club saw **Paul Hunt** in fine form and he was always a source of danger to the **Peterborough** defence. **Mark Lea** put the Town Youth's ahead when he chipped the ball over the head of **Marshall**, the home team's goalkeeper, in the 25th minute following good combination between **Paul Hunt** and **Nicky Summerbee**.



● **Paul Thompson** - who has been in fine form for our Youth team this season.

With a single goal lead the Town Youth team had to survive early second half pressure but good defence, in which **Alex Graham** played well, kept them at bay.

It was the lively **Paul Hunt** who put the Town further ahead in the 66th minute when he rounded keeper **Marshall**. Three minutes later he scored again when **Tony Hammersley** took **Richard Morgan**'s pass, saw his shot parried and then put the ball into the empty net. **Paul Thompson** in the Town goal was forced to make a brilliant save in the seventy fifth minute from **Lea Burrows** to keep the scoreline at an impressive 3-0 victory.

A display summed up by Town Youth Manager **John Trollope**, "After a slow start this was a hard working performance and a deserved win."

Team: Thompson, Lea, Graham, Quinn, Sandrey, Murray, Hammersley, Trollope, Summerbee, Hunt, Morgan.

Substitutes: Walker and Griffiths.

MORE CUP SUCCESS

The Town's Youth team continued their fine Cup form with an emphatic 5-1 win against **Ruislip Manor** in an **Allied Counties Youth Football League Cup** win on Wednesday November 2nd at **Ruislip**.

Town Youth team Manager **John Trollope** in his report of the match said, "We started this match with a goal in the third minute when, from a free kick, **Mark Lea** set up **Mike Macari** who scored with a great cross shot. Although not playing particularly well, we went further ahead when **Lee Spalding** and **Richard Walker** combined well down the right for **Paul Trollope** to score with a hard low drive. **Paul Trollope** then set up **Mike Macari** to score the third. A slip on defence saw **Ruislip Manor** reduce the arrears. **Matthew Holt** then put us further ahead and then **Michael Macari** completed his hat-trick when **Richard Walker**'s shot was parried by the **Ruislip** goalkeeper."

Team: Thompson, Spalding, Braidwood, Quinn, Murray, Graham, Holt, Trollope, Macari, Lea, Walker.

Substitutes: Payne (for **Graham** in 65th min.) **Sawyer** (for **Braidwood**) in 70th min.)

A VITAL VICTORY

This top of the table clash turned out to be a vital win for the Town Youth team in their quest for **South East Counties League** honours. They took maximum points from their Second Division clash with **Luton Town** at **Lydiard Park** on Saturday November 5th and therefore moved three points clear of their nearest rivals.

Town Youth team Manager, **John Trollope**, was justifiably a proud man with his teams

efforts as he stated, "In an evenly contested game **Luton Town** took a fifth minute lead.

We were level within five minutes when **Nicky Summerbee** equalised from a **Paul Hunt** pass. It was **Paul Hunt** himself who put us ahead when the **Luton** keeper failed to hold a **Tony Hammersley** shot."

Paul Hunt put the Town further ahead when, after chasing a long ball into the **Luton** penalty area and touching the ball past the **Luton** custodian, he was brought down and then scoring from the resultant penalty to make the interval score 3-1"

John added that the fact there were no second half goals was due to missed chances and fine goalkeeping. Overall **John** was pleased with the vital win. "It was a pleasing performance coming from behind through hard work and playing good football and we therefore thoroughly deserved our win."

Team: Thompson, Lea, Graham, Quinn, Sandrey, Murray, Hammersley, Trollope, Summerbee, Hunt, Morgan.

Substitutes: Walker and Holt.

OVER A £1,000,000 TALENT ON DISPLAY
Despite the fact that there was over £1 million's worth of striking talent on view in our 'Ovenden Papers' Football Combination match with **Southampton** at the County Ground on Tuesday November 8th the game resulted in a goal-less draw.

With former Town striker **Paul Rideout** and Northern Ireland International striker **Colin Clarke** in the **Southampton** line-up and **Duncan Shearer** in the Town line-up it was ironic the match ended without a goal!

Andy Rowland the Town Coach said in his report of the match, "We dominated for a long period but we were unable to make our possession count in the way of goalscoring opportunities. When we were able to create an opening we were either off target or the shots were easily saved by 'Saints' goalkeeper **Tim Flowers**. It was **Ross Maclaren** who came nearest to scoring when he saw his shot hit the inside of the post. **Duncan Shearer** just failing to make contact with the rebound.

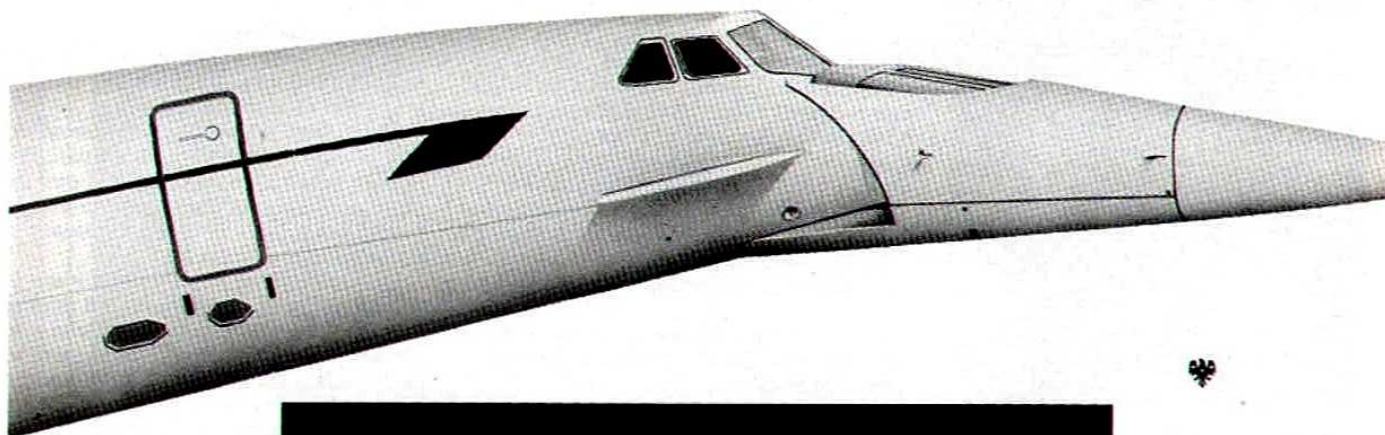
It was **Paul Rideout** who came nearest to scoring for the visitors when he twice went near."

Andy concluded, "It was deadlock with no player appearing to be able to break the strangle-hold.

Team: Hammond, McLoughlin, Bodin, Braidwood, Maclaren, Foley, Jones, Simpson, Shearer, Coyne, Viveash.

Substitutes: Morgan (for **Coyne** in 65th min.), **Tomlinson** (for **McLoughlin** in 65th Min.).

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COMPETITION CLOSES ON 31ST JANUARY 1989.

••••• **YOU'RE
BETTER OFF
TALKING TO
BARCLAYS**

MEMBER OF IMRO

NEWS

Desk

DAVID DECIDES TO CALL IT A DAY

Town full back **David Barnett** has followed in the footsteps of Dean Casserley and decided to quit the ranks of full time professional soccer. **Dave** has now entered the world of commercialism and we wish him well in his new life-style. Both Dean and Dave had moved from trainee contracts to full time status this year.

BAD LUCK FOR LIAM

Liam Dixon joined the Club during the summer months with high hopes of a flying start to his career. A minor setback saw the early weeks of the season with injury providing frustration for **Liam**. Kevin Morris our physiotherapist reports some good news from the young Town striker.

Liam started back in full training this week. After having some problems in the lumbar region of the spine.

The outcome being that **Liam** underwent a spinal manipulation under general anaesthetic. The subject of the manipulation is essentially to stretch the muscles and loosen the joints. At this moment in time he is pain free and glad to be back in full time training.

DID YOU NOTICE?

In the First round of the FA Cup several Swindon Town old boys were on the mark. **Martin Ling** scored for **Southend United** in their 3-1 defeat at Bristol City. **Jimmy Gilligan** scored the third goal in **Cardiff City's** convincing 3-0 win at **Ninian Park** against Hereford United.

Former Town defender **Russell Lewis** opened the scoring for **Kettering Town** in their 2-1 home win against **Dartford**.

Two former Town players were on the mark in the **Swansea City** and **Northampton Town** tie. **Bryan Wade** scored the third goal for the Welsh Club in their 3-1 win, while **Steve Berry** was on target for the 'Cobblers'.

EVERPRESENTS

Before this afternoon's match with **Walsall** we had played 16 Second Division fixtures and there have been six players who have appeared in each of those matches. They are **Bobby Barnes**, **Fraser Digby**, **Jon Gittens**, **Dave Hockaday**, **Phil King** and **Steve White**. That figure becomes one less this afternoon with **Jon Gitten's** enforced absence through suspension.

AN AMAZING MAN!

This afternoon loyal Swindon Town fan **John Menham** watches Swindon Town in action for the 400th time in competitive matches!

Amazingly **John** has not missed a game since

NEWS

Desk

Wednesday March 19th 1980 when the Town met **Chester** at **Sealand Road**. It was a rare occasion when the Travel Club did not run a coach.

John would like to know just how many Cup matches he has seen home and away - since that fateful March day. Sadly **John** has kept a record of the League games but not the Cup matches, so come on Town fans, help to fill the void in **John's** records.

John's amazing devotion to his first love - **Swindon Town** becomes even more awesome. He had not missed a home match at the County Ground since September 1969 when his devotion to the cause began when **Oxford United** were the visitors.

Can anyone tell **John** how many matches he has seen at home since that day almost twenty years ago! The statisticians among you can write to **John C/o Swindon Town F.C.** We will be only too pleased to pass any letters or information onto this amazing man. Many of you will know that **John** is confined to a wheelchair and he puts most people to shame with his cheerful spirit and undying enthusiasm to a great Club and a great game. Well done **John** from all at the County Ground.

'OVENDEN PAPERS' FOOTBALL COMBINATION ATTENDANCES

The attendances at our Reserve team matches this season have been meagre to say the least. The 2 p.m. midweek kick-off times are probably the most contributory factor to the poor attendances. For the record, to-date, they have been as follows: **West Ham United 54, Arsenal 57, Reading 114, Southampton 124.**

VISITING SUPPORTERS

The attendances for our Barclays' Second Division fixtures would be considerably less if we deleted the support that our opponents bring to the County Ground. A look at the following statistics give you an insight into those figures, there were 3,699 fans from **Portsmouth** in the attendance of 11,443.

A total of 505 supporters travelled from the South Coast to support **Brighton and Hove Albion** among the 6,585 present. For our Littlewoods Cup tie with **Crystal Palace** there were 453 in support of the **Selhurst Park Club** in a crowd of 7,064.

Obviously both **Chelsea** and **Leeds United** were anticipated to have high numbers in support and despite the restrictions of 'all ticker' being imposed upon them. They both returned high figures of 1,526 and 1,465 respectively in attendances of 11,927 and 9,234.

Birmingham City despite their bottom of the table position still brought 513 fans from the Midlands. For our last home fixture against **Ipswich Town** the east Anglian Club brought 761 across country.

NEWS

Desk

The attendances for these two matches were 6,937 for the **Birmingham City** fixture and 7,246 for the visit of **Ipswich Town**.

Can we anticipate high figures in support of the opposition during the remainder of our Second Division campaign? **Plymouth Argyle** are renowned for a high percentage of travelling support. The fact that our fixture with the **Home Park Club** is at Christmas and the match is virtually a local 'derby' for the **Devon Club** should ensure a good following.

Manchester City with **Oxford United** figure high in the statistics. League positions will dictate whether **Sunderland**, **Leicester City** and the Northern Clubs **Blackburn Rovers** and **Bradford City** bring high numbers south with them.

Providing **West Bromwich Albion** maintain their recent fine form they will be well represented. Current League leaders **Watford** are guaranteed to bring a high contingent of **Vicarage Road** regulars here in April. It is almost inevitable they will be involved in the promotion stakes. It is difficult to imagine **Hull City**, **Shrewsbury Town** or **Barnsley** bringing high numbers to the County Ground. **Stoke City** will bring good support to our penultimate match if they can push themselves into a play-off drama.

ALL LEVEL

In the battle for the **John Stevens Trophy** our players shared the honours when their golf match ended all-square at 2½-2½ when they took on the **Broome Manor Golfers**.

ON LOAN AGAIN

Former Town utility player **Denny Munde** is now on loan to **Yeovil Town** of the **GM Vauxhall Conference League**. **Denny**, who moved to the County Ground from **Queens Park Rangers**, was given a free transfer at the completion of the 1986/87 season. He then moved to **Salisbury City** before lining up with the **Dean Court Club**. **Denny** was previously on loan to **Weymouth** earlier this season.

STARS ON SHOW

The **Gloucestershire County Cricket Club** versus **Swindon Town** match in aid of **Andy Braxington's** benefit saw three former **Bristol City** players lining up for the Cricket Club. They were **Chris Garland**, **Geoff Merrick** and **Tony Ford**. Among the County Cricket Club players on view were **David Graveney**, **Andy Braxington**, **Kevin Jarvis** and **Andy Stovold**.

The **T.C.C.B.** asked for **David Lawrence** and **Jack Russell** to be omitted due to a proposed tour of **New Zealand** for the England team in January. A decision on this tour was expected to be announced this week.

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IN OFF THE POST

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WS10 0TL

Dear Sir,

Could you please put in this request in a match-day programme? I am looking for a copy of 86-87 Swindon v Walsall (postponed edition 14/2). I am willing to pay £2.50 for a copy.

I also have a number of Swindon H/A's for sale. Any person interested should send 20p for list. I look forward to any offers.

Yours faithfully,
R. Joyce



Eastridge Estate Office
Ramsbury, Marlborough, Wilts.

Dear Doug

I thought you might be amused to see James leading out the Eton team at the Kobe Stadium in Japan. They managed to win that match 1-0 but did not do so well on the sand pitches, they found it quite different to playing on grass.

The Eton team are having a good season and have only lost a couple of their 12 matches so far.

With best wishes and many thanks for all your help

Yours Sincerely,
Sir Seton Wills

9 Eashleigh Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 3EE

Dear Sir

I have the following scrapbooks for sale and would be grateful if you can include this in your next available feature of 'In Off The Post'.

FOR SALE!

Ten Scrapbooks – All of Swindon Town F.C.

1 book covering season 1966/7, 1967/8 and 1968/9 (features only Cup matches, but includes 1969 League Cup Final.

2 books covering season 1969/70

3 books covering season 1970/71

2 books covering season 1971/72

1 book covering season 1976/77

1 book covering season 1977/78

Please note: These scrapbooks will **not** be sold individually. The person who offers the highest amount by 30th November, 1988 will have the first chance to buy these scrapbooks.

Also: over 300 matchday programmes (mostly Swindon Town F.C.) will be given to the buyer.

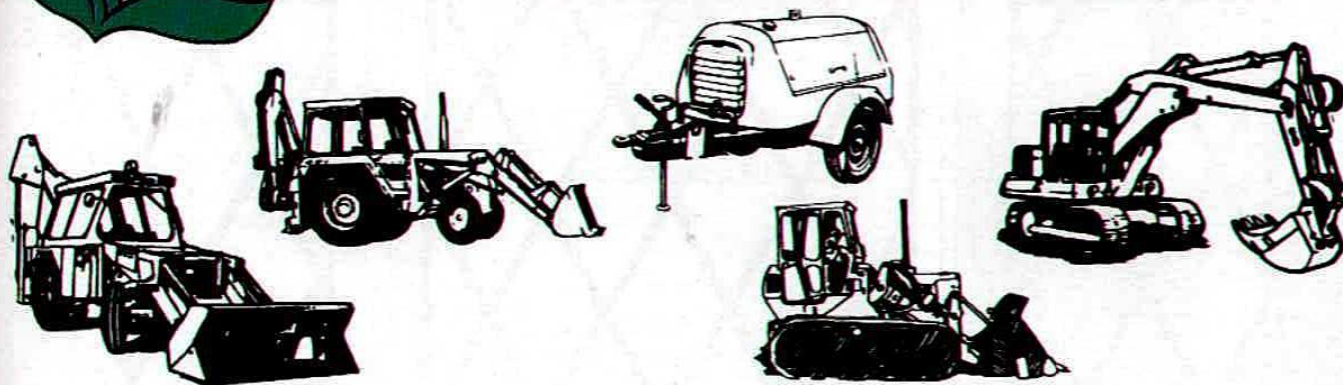
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Yours faithfully,
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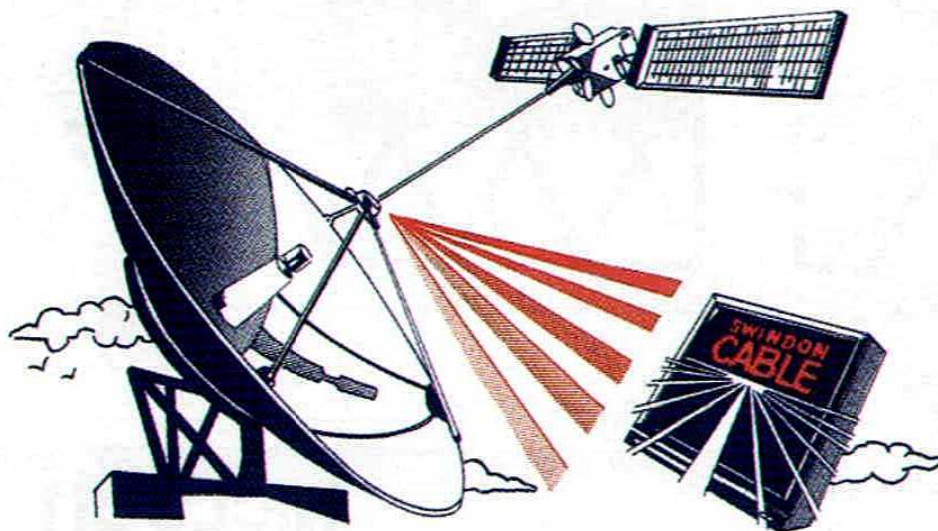


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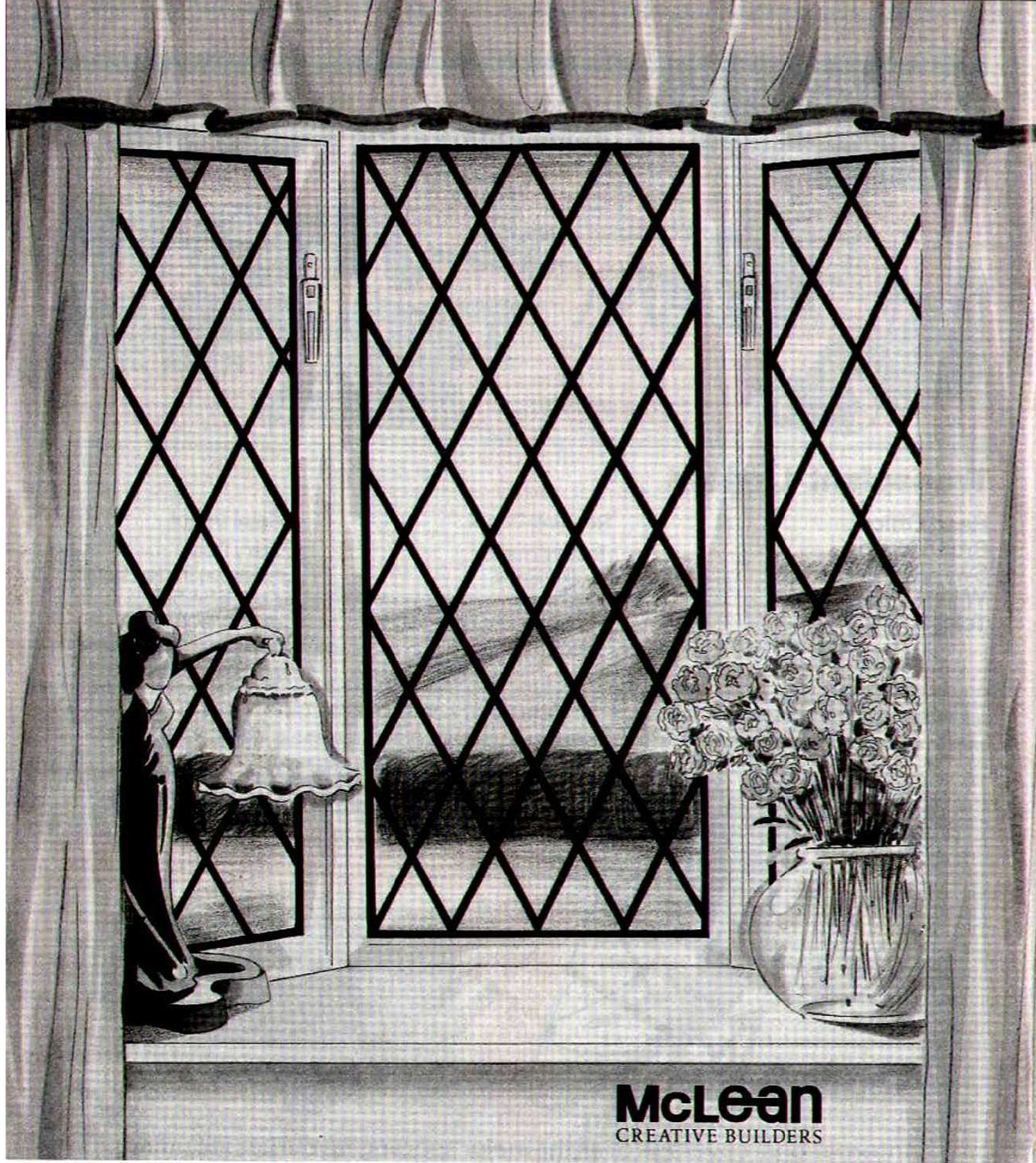
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VIEWPOINT

WE ARE NOT WORRIED

Although many of you may have been disappointed with our recent results I can assure you that as far as the players are concerned there is no need to be worried about relegation.

It is far too early for anybody to be even thinking of going to the Third Division. It was only five games ago that people were saying we could even gain promotion. At that stage we were in the top third of the Second Division League table and it was easy to say we could go up. So it is just as easy to say we might be relegated now we are in the last third of the League table.

NOT DOWN TO FITNESS

As usual, when results are not going any teams way, there are people who say we are not as fit as they imagine we should be. Another easy statement to make when we are conceding goals in the dying minutes of a match.

Really it is nothing to do with fitness. This week we went on a six mile run and most players recorded their best times at the distance! Now if we were unfit, how could we have achieved that? No, really it is down to a lack of concentration at vital times and I must be totally honest and say I have been as guilty as anyone else in this respect. We just have to learn to concentrate a lot more.

ONE FROM ANY NUMBER!

I am often asked who I fancy to gain promotion from this season's Second Division. Well, Chelsea have im-

No. 9 BOBBY BARNES

pressed me but if you took a look at last seasons League table at this stage would you have forecast that Millwall would have been doing as well this season?

That proves how difficult it is to prove anything before it happens. Two or three wins can hoist a Club up the League table but this is a tight Division and will remain so.

WE HAVE TO LEARN TO ADAPT

We have missed Dave Bamber and Jimmy Quinn with their height up front this season and playing the long ball was more to their liking than perhaps the players we have at the Club this season.

We have had to modify our play to suit the different players used this time because simply hitting high balls to shorter players is a waste of time.

In a lot of matches we have looked effective and the results will come. All new players are affected by a change of Club and need time to settle but goals will come from the players here.

PLAYING AT THE TOP

All professional players like to play at the top and I began my career with West Ham United and I make no secret I would love the opportunity to return to the First Division.

You would be correct in asking why I have not done so yet. That is my fault



• Bobby Barnes

for it is no use me denying that I need to be more consistent in my play.

WE CAN STILL MAKE THE PLAY-OFFS

I believe that reaching the play-offs is not beyond us. It is admittedly beyond us to reach the two top positions but not the immediate positions behind the leaders.

What we have to do is quickly string some results together and then we can start climbing the League table. While I am writing this column we are experiencing nights of hard frosts. Conditions that no player enjoys. By the time you read this perhaps we shall have milder conditions. Icy patches make matches and results a lottery. May I appeal to you to get behind the lads, we appreciate your support and after all we have provided entertainment and success in the last season or so. It's not too much to ask for your help when things are going against us. Keep behind us and we will soon climb the League table.

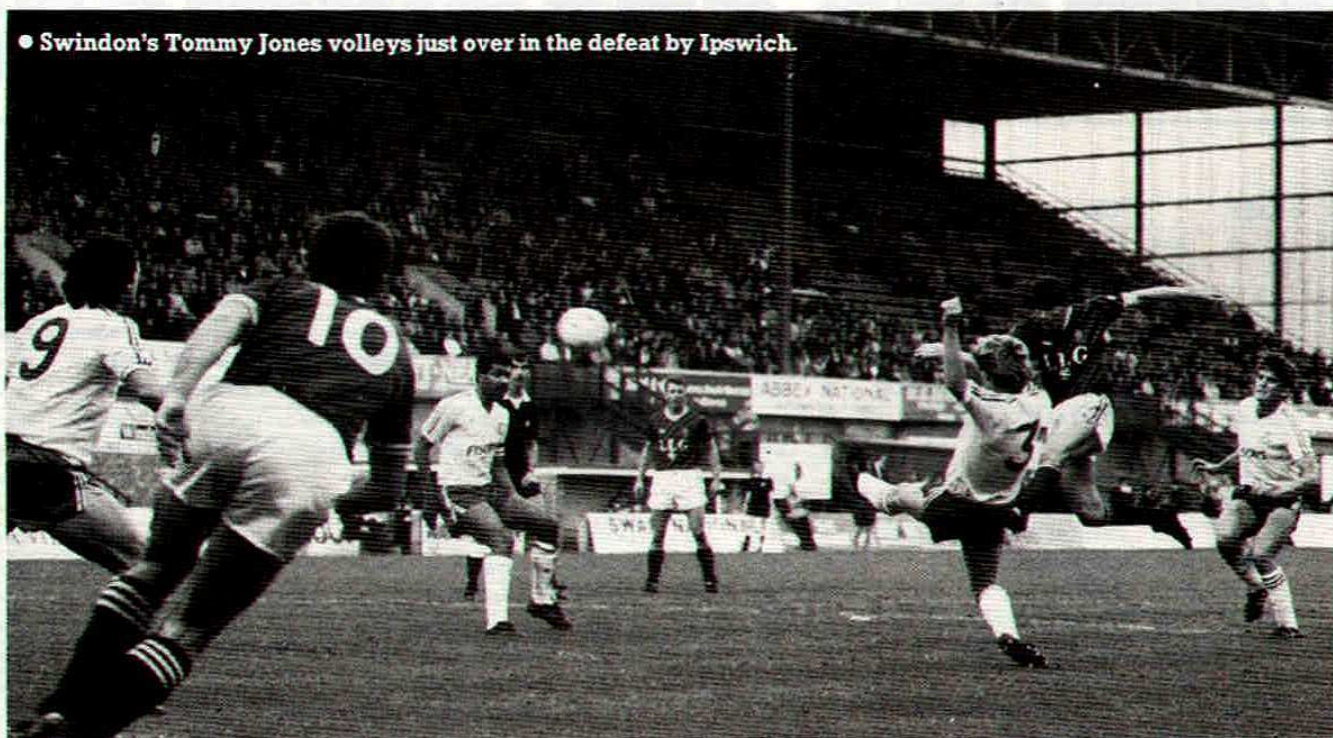
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LOOKING AT SOME GREAT *Goals Goals Goals*



Lowndes Lambert UK Ltd.

● Swindon's Tommy Jones volleys just over in the defeat by Ipswich.



● Swindon's goalgetters against Ipswich – Jon Gittens (right) and Charlie Henry.



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ISTICS • STATISTICS •

SWINDON TOWN 1988/89

DATE	OPPONENTS	V	Attnd	Result	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29.8.88	MON BARNSELEY	A	6,034	1-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Parkin	Gittens	McLoughlin
3.9.88	SAT WEST BROM	A	7,512	1-3	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Parkin	Gittens	Bodin
11.9.88	SUN PORTSMOUTH	H	11,443	1-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Calderwood	Gittens	Foley (1)
17.9.88	SAT BLACKBURN ROVERS	A	7,622	0-0	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Parkin	Calderwood	Foley
20.9.88	TUE A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH (7.45)	H	8,055	3-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren (1)(p)	Calderwood (1)	Gittens	Foley
24.9.88	SAT BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	H	6,585	3-0	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Calderwood (1)	Gittens	Foley
27.9.88	TUE CRYSTAL PALACE (7.45) (LOC1)	H	7,064	1-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
1.10.88	SAT WATFORD	A	11,657	3-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones (1)	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
5.10.88	WED OXFORD UNITED	A	9,398	1-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin (1)	Gittens	Foley
9.10.88	SUN CHELSEA	H	11,927	1-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	McLoughlin	Gittens	Foley
12.10.88	WED CRYSTAL PALACE (8.00) (LOC1)	A	6,015	0-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Gittens	Henry	Jones	Foley
16.10.88	SUN LEEDS UNITED	H	9,234	0-0	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
22.10.88	SAT SUNDERLAND	A	13,520	0-4	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
26.10.88	WED LEICESTER CITY (7.45)	A	9,754	3-3	Digby	Hockaday	King (1)	Jones	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
29.10.88	SAT BIRMINGHAM CITY	H	6,937	2-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
5.11.88	SAT HULL CITY	A	5,192	0-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
9.11.88	WED NORWICH CITY (SIMOD CUP)	A	5,014	1-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Parkin	Gittens	McLoughlin
12.11.88	SAT IPSWICH TOWN	H	7,246	2-3	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Gittens (1)	Foley
19.11.88	SAT STOKE CITY	A	9,339	1-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones (1)	Parkin	Gittens (1)	Foley
26.11.88	SAT WALSALL	H									
3.12.88	SAT SHREWSBURY TOWN	A									
10.12.88	SAT OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H									
17.12.88	SAT BRADFORD CITY	A									
26.12.88	MON PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (3pm)	H									
31.12.88	SAT MANCHESTER CITY	H									
2.1.89	MON PORTSMOUTH	A									
14.1.89	SAT BARNSELEY	H									
21.1.89	SAT CRYSTAL PALACE	A									
5.2.89	SUN OXFORD UNITED	H									
11.2.89	MON CHELSEA	A									
18.2.89	SAT SUNDERLAND	H									
25.2.89	SAT LEEDS UNITED	A									
28.2.89	TUE LEICESTER CITY (7.45)	H									
4.3.89	SAT IPSWICH TOWN	A									
11.3.89	SAT HULL CITY	H									
14.3.89	TUE BIRMINGHAM CITY	A									
18.3.89	SAT A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH	A									
25.3.89	SAT WEST BROM	H									
27.3.89	MON PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A									
1.4.89	SAT BLACKBURN ROVERS	H									
4.4.89	TUE BRADFORD CITY (7.45)	H									
8.4.89	SAT MANCHESTER CITY	A									
15.4.89	SAT WATFORD	H									
22.4.89	SAT BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION	A									
29.4.89	SAT WALSALL	A									
1.5.89	MON SHREWSBURY TOWN	H									
6.5.89	SAT STOKE CITY	H									
13.5.89	SAT OLDHAM ATHLETIC	A									
T.B.A.	CRYSTAL PALACE	H									

This afternoon we play our **355th** Second Division fixture of which we have won **113**, drawn **100** and lost **144**.

During three periods in this division we have scored **462** goals and conceded **512**.

Overall our Football League record in seasons of **Second**, **Third** and **Fourth** Division soccer reads, before today's fixture, as follows: played **2,700**, won **1,024**, drawn **692**, lost **987** and we have scored **4,027** goals and conceded **3,920**.

With **six** matches left during **1988** our League record during the last twelve months reads as follows: played **36**, won **9**, drawn **14**, lost **13**, goals for **50**, goals against **49**.

During the past twelve months we have collected a total of **41** points from a possible maximum of **108**.

★ ★ ★

A total of **61,427** spectators have witnessed our **seven** League matches at the County Ground this season. An average of **8,776** for each match.

The aggregate of spectators for our **nine** away matches in the Second Division this season totals **80,028**. An average of **8,880** for every away match.

A total of **159,548** spectators have watched our League and Cup games this season, home and away.

The overall average for our matches this season home and away is **8,397**.

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STATISTICS • STATIST

8	9	10	11	12	14	Match Sponsor	Ball Sponsor
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Calderwood	Shearer*	White (1)	Barnes	Henry*	Coyne†		
Bodin*	Shearer	White	Barnes	Henry*	Barnard	Bluebird Toys PLC, Swindon	Roy Warren and Family, Lambourn
Gittens	Shearer	White	Barnes	Henry	Bodin		
Parkin	Shearer*	White†	Barnes (1)	Henry†	Bodin*	Myson Heating Ltd. Travis and Arnold PLC	The Blunsdon House Hotel
Parkin	Shearer	White (1)	Barnes (1)	Henry	McLoughlin	Texaco Ltd., Swindon	Kissocasion, Male/Female Kissograms 870806
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Calderwood	Shearer (1)	White*	Barnes (1)	Maclaren	Henry*		
Calderwood	Shearer	White	Barnes	Maclaren	Henry		
Calderwood	Shearer (1)	White	Barnes*	Maclaren	Barnard*	Arkelle Brewery	Emery McLaven Orr
Calderwood	Shearer	White	Barnes*	McLoughlin	Barnard		
Calderwood	Shearer*	White	Barnes	Maclaren	Henry*	Mr. C. Puffett, Multi Agg Quarries Ltd.	David Norcliffe and Ben Ryan
Calderwood*	Barnard	White	Barnes	Henry*	Maclaren		
Calderwood	Henry (1)	White (1)	Barnes	Maclaren	McLoughlin		
Calderwood	Henry*	White (2)	Barnes	Geddis*	McLoughlin	Clarion Shoji (UK) Ltd.	Mr Ron Franklin, The Rat Trap, Swindon
Calderwood	Henry	White*	Barnes	Maclaren	Shearer*		
Calderwood	Henry	White (1)	Barnes*	Bodin	Shearer*		
Maclaren	Henry (1)	White	Barnes	Calderwood	Shearer	Skurveys Ltd., Drove Road, Swindon	J. Tremlin, Coped Hill Service Station
Calderwood	Henry	White	Barnes*	Geddis	Shearer*		

* and † denotes substitute and player substituted

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE

Division Two

Swindon Town	13	9	3	1	31	18	21
A.F.C. Bournemouth	14	8	1	5	25	19	17
Oxford United	13	8	1	4	21	20	17
Brentford	12	7	2	3	25	14	17
Luton Town	12	6	3	3	32	17	15
Wimbledon	12	7	1	4	29	20	15
Crystal Palace	13	6	2	5	30	17	15
Southampton	11	4	4	3	24	15	14
Brighton & Hove Albion	13	3	5	5	18	19	12
Colchester United	13	4	3	6	23	25	11
Bristol City	11	2	6	3	13	14	10
Reading	14	4	-	10	21	46	8
Northampton Town	11	2	3	6	20	31	7
Tottenham Hotspur	13	3	1	9	20	37	7
Bristol Rovers	13	3	1	9	13	33	7

HICKMAN GOALSCORING LEAGUE

Steve White	7
Bobby Barnes	3
Duncan Shearer	3
Colin Calderwood	2
Charlie Henry	2
Tommy Jones	2
Steve Foley	1
Jon Gittens	1
Phil King	1
Tim Parkin	1
Ross Maclaren	Penalty

The Plumb Centre, Swindon	Carters Supermarket, Faringdon
McLean Homes South West Limited	Punch Press Tooling Ltd., Techno Trading Est.
Brothers Petroleum, Fairford, Allied Dunbar	Cliff Jones, Wessex Aluminium
M.S. Group, Wholesale News and Books Dist.	South Marston Country Club
Travis and Arnold PLC, A Harman and Son	Mr G Groombridge, Bath Road Garage
Oxford and Swindon Co-Operative Society	Hale & Hutchings Masonry, (0793) 727355
Dreweatt Neate, Chartered Surveyors	Auto Electrix, Swindon 511643
The Holiday Inn, Swindon	Mr G Williams, The Ring Cafe, Cavendish Sq.
Burmah Petroleum Fuels Limited	Mr Raynor, Unimill Engineering, Swindon
Action Plant Ltd	C.H. Baxter and Son, Wholesale fruit and veg
Roy Allen Supplies, Swindon	Punch Press Tooling Ltd., Techno Trading Est.
Metalite Engineering Ltd., Swindon	Elmina Envelopes, Commercial Stationers
Crosby Doors Ltd., Swindon	Keith Lodge Industrial Roofing, Malmesbury
Real Fire Heating Centre, Swindon 612060	Mr A Done
F Green and Son, Coal Merchant, Lambourn	Miss Helena Chadwick

reduction in the cost of household insurance.
ask for the 50 Plus Policy.

SHORT & SWEET

YOUR F.A. CUP DATES

The dates for the F.A. Challenge Cup competition from today will be as follows: Second Round 10th December 1988, Third Round 7th January 1989, Fourth Round 29th January 1989, Fifth Round 18th February 1989, Sixth Round 18th March 1989, Semi-Final 15th April 1989, Final 20th May, Wembley Stadium.

TV DATE?

With regard to replays in the Fifth and Sixth Round of the F.A. Cup they have to be scheduled for the following Wednesday to provide at least one replay for television.

ADVERTISING

Did you know that shirt advertising is allowed up to a maximum of 32 sq inches (200 sq. cms) on players clothing. In televised matches Club may bear advertising on behalf of one sponsor only per person.

POSTPONED MATCHES

Postponed matches in F.A. Cup ties originally scheduled for Friday, Saturday or Sunday must be re-arranged for the following Monday and then on or before the following Thursday with a further attempt on or before the following Monday.

SAVOY, HILTON OR RITZ?

Luton Town, Oldham Athletic and Preston North End are allowed to play F.A. Cup ties on their artificial playing surfaces as long as they allow Clubs adequate opportunity to train on the artificial pitches and the visiting Club can claim a maximum of two nights hotel expenses.

YES... BUT,

In the F.A. Cup a player on loan is ineligible to play unless permission is given by the loaning Club in writing and a copy is submitted to the Secretary of the Football Association.

F.A. CHALLENGE CUP COMMITTEE

The F.A. Challenge Cup Committee consists of twelve personnel. One Swindon Town Director is a serving member, Mr Lionel Smart. The other members of the Committee are W.T. Annable Esq., F.A. Brown Esq., W. Fox Esq., W.G. McKeag Esq., Dr. J. O'Hara, F. J. Peart Esq. (from Wilts F.A.), P. Rushton Esq., I.A. Scholar Esq., S. Seymour Esq., T.W. Shipman Esq. and A.L. Smith Esq.

FROM THREE TO SIX

The BBC will be televising a match from Rounds 3 to 6 live on Sundays in the F.A. Cup. No ITV company will be given access to any match, whether or not it is to be televised by the BBC.

PAYING THE PRICE

Membership fees for Second Division Clubs range from 50 pence to £15.50. The average fee is £2.50. Swindon Town charge 50 pence.

SEASON TICKETS

Season tickets for Second Division Clubs range from a low of £60 to top of the range £230. The average low price is £83.40; the average high price is £147.90.

PRICE OF A CUPPA?

Average prices of catering around the Second Division is: Tea - 28 pence, Coffee - 33 pence, Cola - 40 pence, Meat Pies - 58 pence, Cnspis - 19 pence, Mars bars - 21 pence, Kit Kat - 20 pence, Polos - 9 pence.

SOME FREE, SOME NOT

Second Division Travel Clubs provide free membership, others charge a fee, some fees include identity cards, others do not.

DISCOUNT

The average discount on Season tickets for Senior Citizens among Second Division Clubs range from a low of 25% to a high of 54%. The average discount is 38%.

THOSE PERCENTAGES

When ITV made their final offer to the Football League Clubs of £11,000,000 per season - for four years, the money was divided across the Four Divisions in percentage terms of 75% for the First Division, 12½% for the Second and 6¼% for both the Third and Fourth Divisions. ITV are committed to increase the fee each year to reflect inflation and at the end of the contract to renew at a figure not less than that currently agreed.

ON A CONTRACT

Most Clubs have contract caterers in the Second Division for their food and drink bars. At one Club supporters provide the service and one Club self caters.

OH DAVE, THOSE BONES WOULD HAVE ACHED AFTER!

Darlington boss - Dave Booth, out of action for eight years - was so short of players when his team were due to meet Crewe on September 17th he tried to register himself. The League refused because he had a testimonial at Grimsby.

PERHAPS JOHN KNEW HIS REAL VALUE

Former Swindon Town full-back John Neal introduced Pat Nevin to English soccer when Chelsea signed him in 1983 from Clyde. The £95,000 deal was completed in July of that year. His move to Everton in July this year for a price of £925,000 was the highest valuation placed on a player by a tribunal.

A WINNERS MEDAL FOR

DAVID GEDDIS. Did you know that new Town signing David Geddis played in the following Ipswich Town line-up that won the 1978 F.A. Cup Final 1-0 on May 6th against Arsenal: Cooper, Burley, Mills, Osborne (Lambert), Hunter, Beattie, Talbot, Wark, Mariner, Geddis, Woods. Roger Osbourne was the Portman Road Club scorer.

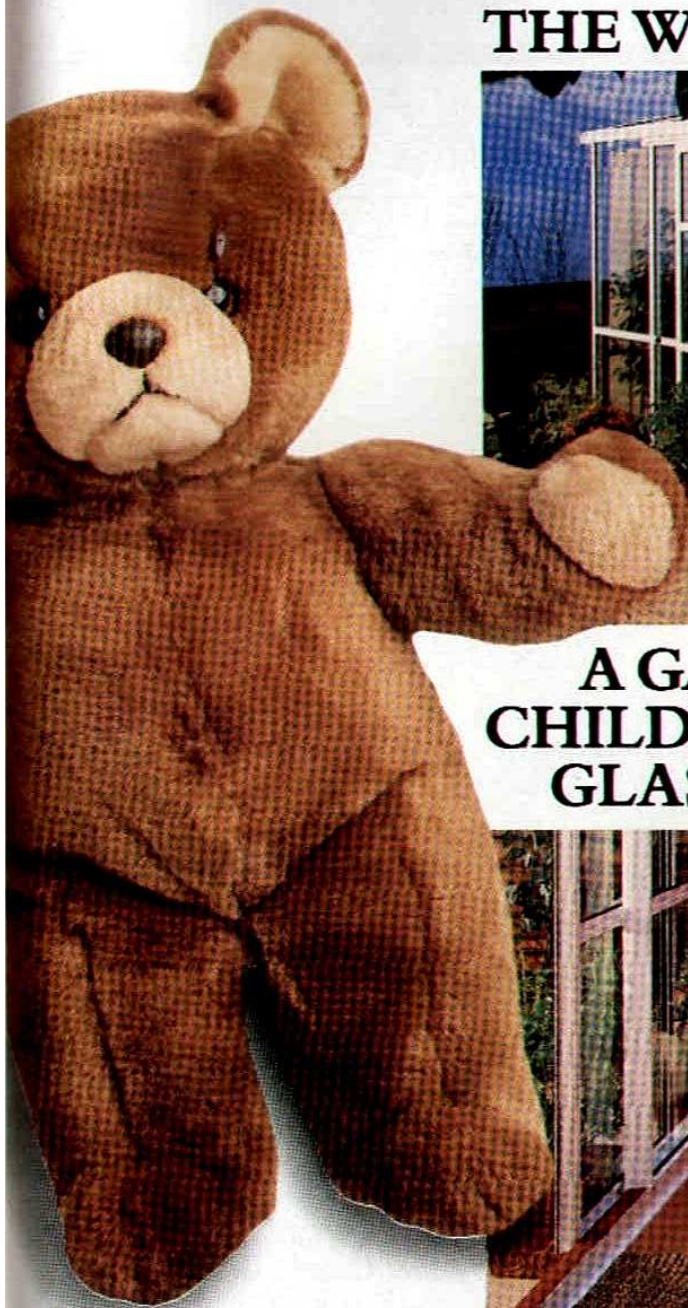
THE TV DETAILS

The details of the agreement are that every First Division Club will receive an annual fee of £200,000, with a further £145,000 to the home team and £45,000 for the away team when matches are shown 'live'. No Club may be featured 'live' at home more than three times each season.

A SLIP UP BY ROTHMANS

Tony Cottee's £2m move to Everton solved the mystery of 18 goals that went missing from his career record two years ago! The mistake occurred after he had scored 20 League goals for West Ham United in 1985-86. Rothmans Football Yearbook apparently dropped a nought in their calculations and credited only two goals to his total.

THE WESSEX CONSERVATORY.



A GAMES ROOM FOR THE CHILDREN WITH TOUGHENED GLASS FOR SAFETY'S SAKE.



Yes, a Wessex Conservatory is a superb place for children to play.

Not just because it's light and airy but, with toughened glass, it's as safe as houses.

It also makes an extra living room for all the family.

A room that needs the minimum of maintenance because it never needs a lick of paint, just the occasional wipe.

And, because it has a unique glazing system, it controls ventilation and keeps the weather at bay.

Another unique feature, a glass treatment called "Clear-Shield," not only makes the glass easy to clean but also helps it stay clean.

What's more, they carry a ten year guarantee and they're also made to measure.

You see, we specialise in making individual conservatories and never toy around to convert standard models.

Most people can see through that little game.

So, for further details, contact Wessex Aluminium Limited, Hawksworth, Swindon SN2 1TT. Telephone: (0793) 644633.

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Tailor-made by the specialists

TEAM CHECK

SWINDON TOWN

Team Changes

1. Fraser Digby
2. Dave Hockaday
3. Phil King
4. Tommy Jones
5. Tim Parkin
6. Colin Calderwood
7. Steve Foley
8. Steve White
9. Charlie Henry
10. Leigh Barnard
11. Bobby Barnes
12. Duncan Shearer
14. David Geddis

WALSALL

Team Changes

1. Fred Barber
2. Mark Taylor
3. Kenny Mower
4. Craig Shakespeare
5. Graeme Forbes
6. Peter Hart
7. Andy Dornan
8. Paul Jones
9. Trevor Christie
10. Dale Banton
11. Howard Pritchard
12. Mark Rees
14. Keith Bertschion

Match Sponsors:
THE PLUMB CENTER
(SWINDON)

Carters Supermarket, Faringdon
milne is your
Match Ball Sponsor



TEAM IN THE MIDDLE

Referee: B. Hill
Linesman Red Flag: D. C. Clark
Linesman Yellow Flag: C. Hill
Reserve Official: W. C. Tanner

NEXT AT HOME

'Ovenden Papers'
Football Combination
Tuesday November 29th 1988
WATFORD
Kick-Off 2.00 p.m.



WARNING TV SURVEILLANCE

This ground is equipped with
**CLOSED CIRCUIT
TELEVISION**

Installed with the help of a grant from the Football Trust. It is there to increase crowd safety and to help the police. Recording facilities enable film and photographs to be taken of disorder, which may subsequently be used in a court of law. The Football Trust is funded entirely by the pools companies Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters from their Spotting-the-Ball competition.

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F.C. and Many Other Leading League
Clubs

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FROM THE OFFICIAL CLUB SHOP.
OPEN 9.00 to 12.00 2.00 to 5.00 DAILY