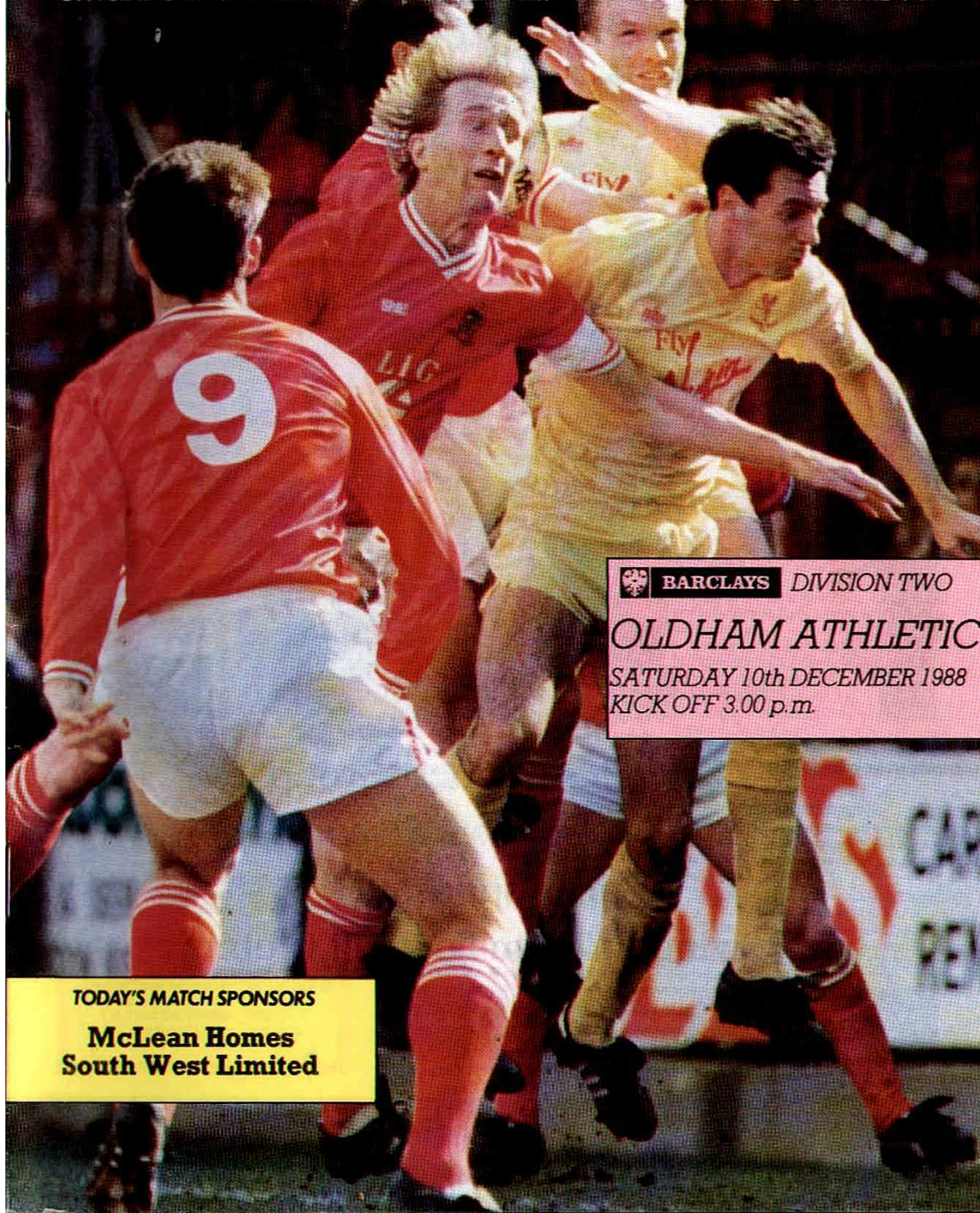


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DIVISION TWO

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER 1988

KICK OFF 3.00 p.m.

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All contributions published in this programme do not necessarily reflect the view of Swindon Town Football Club.

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



YE OF LITTLE FAITH!

In my column in the programme for our last home match against Walsall, I mentioned that some people were becoming unduly dismayed at recent results.

Since then single goal wins against Walsall and Shrewsbury Town have given us a return of six points and probably given our recent critics the best answer.

Letters published in the local newspaper have given the impression that Swindon Town were heading for a return to the Fourth Division instead of being comfortably placed in a mid-table position in the Second Division!

WELL DONE LADS

After four successive defeats the players at the County Ground have responded in magnificent fashion. The matches against Walsall and Shrewsbury Town were, using that well worn cliché 'six pointers'.

Well, they took six points from both matches and it was a pleasing experience for David Geddis to return to his former Club and score the only goal of the match at Shrewsbury last Saturday.

'CHIC' A BIG HELP

This season I have added to 'Chic' Bates responsibilities here at the County Ground and his experience and the way in which he is able to work with players enables me to spend more time looking for players and sizing up any forthcoming opposition.

'Chic' is an experienced man not only in terms of having played first class football, but also in the fact that he has been a Coach and Manager at this level. I believe that his influence and methods will be of great benefit to Swindon Town in the future and his influence was brought to fruition in our last two matches.

KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR THE FUTURE
I did not see the Walsall match because I

**THE
MANAGER'S
VIEW**

BY

Lou Macari

was away watching a First Division game with the view that one or two players with one team in question could become available.

That may not be in the immediate future but if and when they do, we shall be well prepared as to their capabilities if we decide to make a move for them. Only three days later I had the opportunity to watch one of the teams in action again.

Along with 'Chic' I also covered a match in the Central League to view a player that I thought might be useful for us if we encountered injuries or a loss of form, but the player was immensely disappointing in this particular game.

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND
DON'T FORGET THE FA CUP DRAW**
In welcoming Oldham Athletic to the south of England today, may I wish everyone a Happy Christmas. I know for a lot of you it is time for a 'shut down' for a two week period and you have plenty of spare time on your hands.

We have some attractive holiday matches in prospect so ask your friends to come along to our games during the holiday period. Don't forget to tune into this evenings FA Cup draw at 11 o'clock. We could do with having a glamorous Club to visit the County Ground. Not many guesses as to whom I am hoping Swindon Town draw in the Third Round?

A CLEAN SWEEP!
Last Saturday it was a pleasant experience to return to the County Ground from Shrewsbury and find we had made it a clean sweep.

Our League team had won 1-0 at Shrewsbury. Our Reserve team won 2-1 at West Ham United and our Youth team had defeated Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 away. All three wins away from the County Ground. Can't be too bad can it? Keep cheering.

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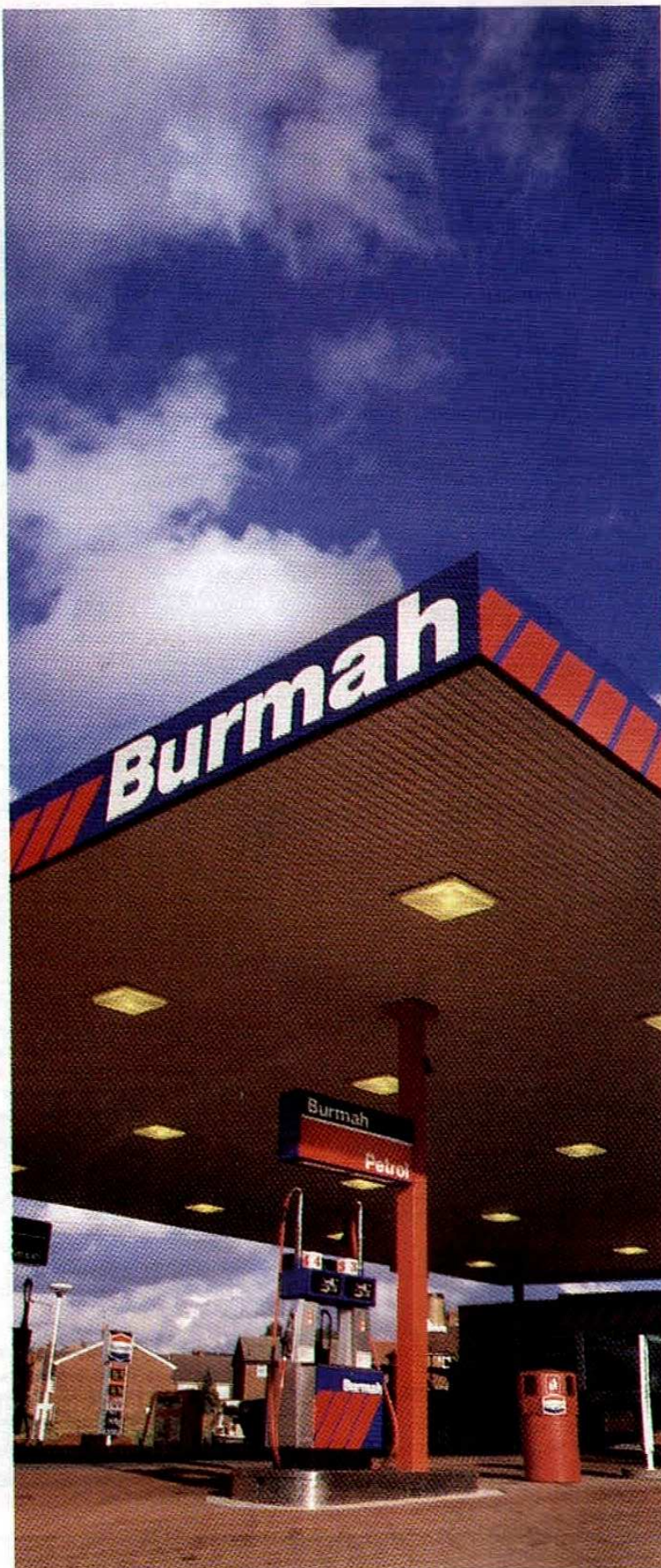
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THE GOVERNMENTS FOLLY

The 'Town's' two League wins in a row for the first time since the start of October, have been completely overshadowed by details of the identity card scheme being laid out by the Government.

The Police Federation, the Clubs and supporters themselves have all made their opposition clear and between them have easily the most detailed knowledge of what actually goes on both inside and outside a football ground.

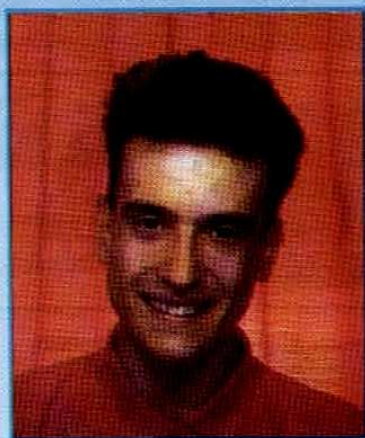
Expert opinion disagreeing with their own has never bothered this Government, so it seems certain that supporters will officially be second class citizens, identified by name and number, by the end of the season. A Prime Minister and Sports Minister who ignore the facts of crowd violence can see the Identity Card idea solving the supposed problem. All that the experts can see are disadvantages and some potentially dangerous ones at that.

A Boxing Day local derby with huge queues outside a small ground seems to be one of the many situations ignored as the Government rush to do something about a problem which has recently come under far more control. A breakdown or overload in the computer controlling entry to the ground as kick-off approaches, brings the possibility of a fatal surge towards the turnstile. It is plain to see who should shoulder the responsibility of a death in those circumstances.

THE LEADING LIGHT FROM DARKEST LUTON

An obvious leading light in this game of cards is Luton's David Evans, himself a Tory M.P. The instigator of three evils at Kenilworth Road, banning away fans, laying a plastic pitch and the dreaded I.D. cards, comments that

SCOTT FREE



by Michael Scott

football is the only event where spectators turn up a mere ten minutes before the start and should arrive much earlier. He also says that there is no way that the same would happen at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, what a comparison! But just the sort of thing to be expected from someone who probably views the game from the warmth of an executive box. Any longer wait than ten minutes on a freezing terrace in mid-winter is like some terrible torture treatment to those of us without his dubious privileges.

Ironically the financing of the new scheme may hit Luton harder than most if they have to replace their existing card entry system. The Government's intention seems to be that either the Clubs or the fans (or both) should pay for something that neither agree with and which has been legally forced onto them.

HEADING FOR AN EASTERN BLOC EXISTENCE

The likelihood of dozens of less affluent Clubs going to the wall is a very strong one, with the demise of the Football League not too far distant. But of course should your Local Club go bust, you won't be able to use your new found casual status anywhere else. In its efforts to destroy the game at every level, the Government wants to deny the right of the casual supporter to go to whatever ground he likes. Perhaps the Kiev Reds flag at Watford had it right, as the average fan seems to be heading for an Eastern Bloc existence.

In the vain hope of changing the Governments mind it is the duty of everyone with an interest in the game to make their opinion known. Accepting what the Government throws at us now will bring terrible problems for football in the future. What seems to have escaped the powers that be is that football is a source of great entertainment to millions and the minimal violence that attempts to cling to it is being eradicated inside the ground by the game itself.

COMING TO VALLEY PARADE, SIR

Before the bill goes to a parliamentary vote, I would like to invite Swindon's M.P., Simon Coombs, to experience a football supporters lot at first hand. This would enable him to make his decision properly without just toeing the party line. An away game with its many inconveniences would be better, but a home fixture may still serve to open his eyes to what really happens at a football ground on an average Saturday afternoon. Perhaps after such an experience, he would then agree with Jimmy Greaves who said recently in a rare flash of intelligence that "we're safer in a football ground than walking the streets".

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Southern and moved in 1972 to Chatsworth House,
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October 1973 saw the acquisition of John McLean
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TODAY'S MASCOTS



From Oldham

Name Donna Marie Callan
School . Bishop Lovett Middle School
Ryde, Isle of Wight
Age 10 years
Favourite team Oldham Athletic
2nd favourite team . Oldham Ath. Res.
Favourite player Tommy Wright
Favourite other player Andy Rhodes



From Swindon

Name Simon Hennell
School Northview School,
Highworth
Age 9 years
Favourite team Swindon Town
2nd favourite team Liverpool
Favourite player Fraser Digby
Favourite other player Steve Foley

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THE CHAIRMAN Speaking

BRIAN HILLIER



HAVE A MERRY TIME... BUT...
This afternoon will be my last opportunity to wish all of our supporters a Merry Christmas. Just one word of warning, please don't make it too 'Merry' especially those of you who hold a driving licence.

It is also an opportune time to wish the players and the staff of the Football Club the yuletide greetings. I am sure you have enjoyed their efforts, on and off the field, for the past twelve months. We all hope that we provide the best possible present to all of you - maximum points from our Christmas and New Year fixtures.

THANK YOU

Last Saturday we deviated from our normal pre-match preparations when we were the guests of Mr. David Talbot of Silk Restaurant at Bridgnorth.

This very kind gentleman made the facilities of his restaurant available to the team and the Directors of the Club as a kind gesture. A life long Swindon Town fan, it was his way of saying 'thank you' for all the pleasure he had derived from seasons of supporting Swindon Town Football Club.

THANK YOU NIGEL

Continuing on the theme of the yuletide festivities, may I remind all of you that you can join us in a Carol Service at the Central Church next Thursday evening.

I would like to thank our Club Chaplain, the Rev. Nigel Sands, for once again arranging the service. Nigel, who is a devoted football fan, at both the Palace and the County Ground shrine, is always willing to make the

required arrangements. I simply don't know how we could do without his services in this respect. Thank you Nigel and a Happy Christmas to you and yours.

TENSION

What a welcome three points Steve Foley's goal brought us in our last home match. Tension is part and parcel of the game, but in the week preceding that match you could sense that there was an extra dimension within the Club.

Confidence is a big factor with sportsmen and they all require a degree of 'Lady Luck'. Really no different to a batsman at cricket, the first run after a few noughts to his credit brings the confidence flowing back. It is just the same with our players. A few wins will boost their confidence and set the adrenalin racing.

MIKE AND ERNIE

HTV's 'Flashback for the Fans' certainly brought the memories back for those of us who could remember the days of Ernie Hunt and Mike Summerbee a few weeks back.

This excellent programme revives golden days and both those former Town players have not lost their youthful nature. Always ready with a quip and a smile they were certainly two of the finest players to have donned a Swindon Town shirt.

Just a tip for Roger Malone, what about John Trollope - 770 League appearances for one Club and an appearance at the Palace. Not Selhurst but Buckingham to meet the... sch... you know who?

Danny Williams would be as interesting as anyone to have along as well, Roger. Over to you?

DON'T FORGET

The holiday period will shortly be with us and we have some outstanding games. West Country rivals, Plymouth Argyle, travel up from Devon for our Boxing Day confrontation and on the last day of this month we have a highly attractive match with visiting Manchester City.

If that match is half as exciting as the 4-3 clash in favour of the Main Road Club last season we shall all be in for another treat.

Can I ask you all to purchase North Stand seats for these two matches in plenty of time and avoid disappointment. At holiday time there is always a higher than normal demand and it also eases the pressure on our office staff. Christmas for all of them is normally work and they are unable to enjoy the holiday time in normal fashion unless we are playing away. You can all help them by making it a 'buy a ticket in plenty of time' situation.

OLDHAM ARE WELCOME

For our last pre-holiday fixture at the County Ground I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone from Boundary Park.

To their Chairman, Ian Stott, who is a member of the League Management Committee and his fellow Directors. To Joe Royle and his players, the staff of the Northern Club and to their supporters. You are all welcome and a Merry Christmas to you all...

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NOTICE BOARD

WILTSHIRE CONSTABULARY OLDHAM SUPPORTERS WELCOME TO SWINDON

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.

TRAVEL CLUB NEWS

The Travel Club will be running coaches to the following matches:
Saturday 17th December 1988, Bradford City
Depart County Ground at 8.45 a.m. Fare £8.50

Monday 2nd January 1989, Portsmouth
Depart County Ground at 11.45 a.m. Fare £4.50

Bookings are taken from members only but membership is still available for the remainder of the season at the cost of £2.00. For details pop in and see us in our office situated at the rear of the North Stand. We are open from 0730 - 1000 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday evenings and both before and after on match days. Alternatively ring us on (0793) 611499 (24 hour answerphone).

Stuck for Christmas pressy ideas? Easily solved! Call in on the Travel Club bookshop and see the enormous range of books and programme we have on offer. There's something for every football fan here!

Congratulations to Robert May (membership no. 1218) who won the Travel Club's FREE membership draw in November. Robert's prize was a free trip of his choice in November or December.

Finally, a 'Very Merry Christmas' to each and every one of our members from all of us on the committee.

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SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB WISH ALL OF THEIR SUPPORTERS THE SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Town End £50.90

Shrivenham Road/Stratton Bank

Adult £45.20 Child/OAP £28.30

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.

Motorcyclists - keen rates for your mean machine!
Hill House Hammond Insurance Brokers Tel: Swindon 618158.

A SECOND LOOK

A LOOK AT THE SECOND DIVISION SCENE

CARLTON IN HOT WATER

Carlton Palmer, West Bromwich Albion's new skipper, was told he would be disciplined by the Club following his 40th minute sending off at **Portsmouth** last Saturday.

The 23-year-old midfield player was shown the red card by Surrey Referee Paul Alcock for a retaliatory foul against Pompey midfielder Barry Horne.

Player-Manager **Brian Talbot** said after the 0-0 draw against Portsmouth, "Carlton will be disciplined by the Club. I don't accept what he did."

"He retaliated after believing a foul against him should have been awarded the other way. It could have cost us the match. If we had 11 players on the field in the second half we might have won."

KEEP YOUR MONEY, STEVE?

Walsall players could well be blowing the chance of picking up a **£75,000** bonus at the end of the season.

They have been promised the money by Steve Rochefort from local company Colourvision if they score 76 League goals. At present they are well behind schedule.

LOAN STAR!

Loan star **Colin Clarke** returned to his former Club **Bournemouth** in triumph. Colin came on as a substitute eight minutes into the second half and with almost his first kick scored against **Blackburn Rovers**.

Colin then set up the winner by feeding **Luther Blissett** for his sixth strike in 10 days since joining the Club for **£60,000** from **Watford**.

ECSTASY AND DESPAIR

One Manager in the height of ecstasy and another in the depths of despair at **Fellows Park** last week.

New **Leeds United** boss **Howard Wilkinson** celebrated his Second Division Manager of the Month award by leading his team to their tenth game without defeat since he took over.

That is the Elland Road Clubs best run for ten years. For **Tommy Coakley** pressure is beginning to mount for **Walsall** have won just **once** in the last **seventeen** games.

WAITING IN THE WINGS

Steve Harrison approaches his first anniversary as **Watford** Manager with an up-beat message to the **Vicarage Road** fans. "The future is very exciting" said Steve. He also added that besides the exciting 19-year-old **Tim Sherwood** he also has three other teenagers in the wings!

Former Town star **Dave Bamber** almost cost the Vicarage Road Club points when he gave away a penalty for hand ball. Luckily for **Watford** **Tony Coton** was able to save **Sunderland** defender **John McPhail's** spot kick. The match ended in stalemate at 1-1.

LIVING UNDER A SHADOW

Ian Wright, the highly rated **Crystal**

Palace striker, has revealed that he is living under the shadow of asthma. The 25-year-old rated, in the £1 million class, says he suffers from the complaint following a cold. Ian is comforted by the knowledge that he was 14 years of age when he last had a serious bout.

NO CHARITY

FROM THE V.A.T. MAN?

Ian Handysides the **Birmingham City** player who had to quit football because of a brain tumour, has been hit by a **£6,000 V.A.T.** bill. Ian's testimonial last week raised over **£35,000**.

V.A.T. is charged on testimonial money over £22,000 and Ian could also face a bill for police charges.

Chelsea received a yellow card from the Football League this week when they were found 'technically guilty' of an approach for **Blackpool** physio-therapist **Bob Ward**.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE - DIVISION II

	P	W	HOME			A	W	AWAY			Pts
			D	L	F			D	L	F	
Watford	19	6	1	2	19	7	4	3	3	12	34
Chelsea	19	5	2	2	17	8	4	4	2	16	33
Blackburn	19	6	1	2	19	11	4	2	4	14	33
Manchester City	19	5	3	1	16	11	4	3	3	8	33
Portsmouth	19	6	3	1	19	7	2	4	3	10	31
West Bromwich Albion	19	5	2	2	14	9	3	5	2	13	31
Plymouth	19	6	2	1	20	6	2	2	6	8	28
Ipswich	19	4	2	4	15	13	4	1	4	12	27
Bournemouth	19	6	1	3	13	6	2	2	5	9	27
Barnsley	19	5	3	1	16	8	2	3	5	9	27
Stoke City	19	5	3	2	15	10	2	3	4	6	27
Leeds United	19	4	3	2	13	8	2	5	3	9	26
Leicester	19	4	4	1	11	7	2	4	4	12	26
Crystal Palace	18	5	4	1	17	9	1	3	4	11	25
Sunderland	19	4	6	0	16	8	1	4	4	8	25
Swindon Town	18	4	3	1	13	7	2	4	4	11	25
Hull	20	4	5	1	14	8	2	1	7	11	24
Oxford	19	5	3	2	19	11	1	2	6	9	23
Bradford	19	3	5	2	11	9	2	3	4	9	23
Oldham	19	4	5	1	21	12	1	2	6	9	22
Brighton	19	4	1	4	14	11	1	1	8	10	24
Shrewsbury	19	1	5	4	8	13	2	3	4	5	11
Walsall	19	2	3	5	12	12	0	5	4	5	13
Birmingham	19	2	2	5	10	16	1	3	6	5	21

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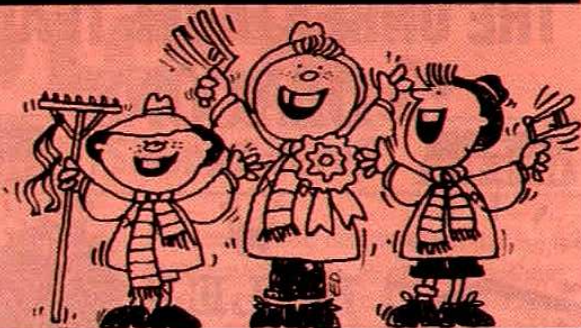
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JUNIOR ROBINS



One of the most worrying things about the proposed Government legislation on membership schemes is the effect it may have on enabling us to bring visiting parties to the game. It seems unlikely that the scheme in some form will not come into operation. However, it is essential we try to limit the damage it will do to our efforts to develop the right sort of behaviour at football matches, by encouraging groups of young people to come to the Ground and sit side by side with opposition supporters in rivalry but friendship, which is what sport should be all about. I am sure if you, the Junior Robins and your parents write to their local M.P.'s it will help us to get the necessary

exemption to enable our present schemes to continue.

Next Thursday sees the Club's Annual Carol Service. The Junior Robins will be involved helping take the collection and doing one of the readings. Do come along and lend your support even though it is unlikely the service will receive the press attention that the first such service back in nineteen twenty eight received. The local paper gave it some eighteen column inches in a report! If the press in general started giving this sort of event more coverage and less to the activities of a few hooligans, I am sure society would benefit.

Today, Mr Mike Underdown and the Salisbury Boys Squad are our

guests. This morning, they will have been attempting to gain revenge for their 3-0 defeat in the E.S.F.A. Gillette Trophy. Let us hope they see an entertaining game and have some happy memories to take back to Salisbury.

Birthday congratulations go to: Matthew Mead of Commonweal School, 14 on the 1st December. Neil Hosey of Moredon Junior School, 10 on the 4th December. Jamie Gabb of Kingsdown School, 12 yesterday. Michael Sandwell of Even Swindon who is 11 today. Mark Elsander also of Even Swindon who will be 10 on Tuesday.

OUR NEXT OPPONENTS

On our return to the Second Division the first match we played was to **Bradford City**. We return to **Valley Parade** next Saturday hoping to gain compensation for our opening day of the season 2-1 defeat. The Yorkshire Club have since that August day lost the talents of both **John Hendrie** to **Newcastle United** and **Stuart McCall** to **Everton**.

Goals have been difficult to come by for **Bradford City** at **Valley Parade** this season in League matches. They have an indifferent home record where their only success at home has been against **Shrewsbury Town** when **Ian Olmondroyd** scored the only goal of the match and a 2-1 win against **Portsmouth** with **Andy Thomas** and **Lee Sinnott** their marksmen.

Manager **Terry Dolan's** team have been forced to share the points at home on no fewer than five occasions. Those drawn matches resulted from a goal-less match with **Stoke City** and included two 1-1 encounters

with **Blackburn Rovers** and **Leeds United**. Former **Oxford United** and **Newcastle United** midfielder player **Andy Thomas** and **Lee Sinnott** were the respective goal scorers. Their other drawn matches have ended with 2-2 scorelines. First against **Chelsea** with both goals being scored by **Ian Olmondroyd**. Last Saturday they were forced to share the points in a 2-2 draw with bottom placed **Birmingham City** twice coming from behind due to goals from **Mark Leonard** and substitute **Paul Jewell**.

Two southern Clubs have inflicted defeats upon the Yorkshire Club at **Valley Parade** this season - **Crystal Palace** and **A.F.C. Bournemouth** both Clubs recording a 1-0 victory.

Our Boxing day visitors, **Plymouth Argyle**, have won two matches away from **Home Park**. Last Saturday's 2-2 draw at Ipswich was their second draw on away territory, both matches having a similar scoreline. The evergreen **Tommy Tynan** and **Nicky Marker** scored in their 2-2 draw at **Walsall**. At Portman Road last week, new signings **Greg Campbell** and **Mark Stuart** scored the **Pilgrim's'** goals.

Tommy Tynan was on the mark in the

Devon Club's 1-0 wins at **Birmingham City** and **Oxford United**. They have failed to score in four of their away defeats at **Watford** (0-3), **Leicester City** (0-1), **Chelsea** (0-5) and **Portsmouth** (0-2).

Nicky Marker was the consolation goalscorer in a 3-1 defeat at **Barnsley** while full back **John Brimacombe** netted in a 4-1 reverse at **Crystal Palace**.

Manager **Ken Brown**, who succeeded **Dave Smith** at the commencement of this season, recently added **Mark Stuart** to his squad for a £150,000 fee. The former Charlton Athletic winger was bought for the purpose of supplying the evergreen **Tommy Tynan** with a regular supply of crosses to add to his immensely impressive goalscoring record. **Kerry Brown**, the son of the Manager and former Swansea striker **Sean McCarthy** were the only additions to the Home Park squad since the arrival of the former Norwich City boss in Devon, prior to **Mark Stuart's** arrival. The most recent addition to the Home Park Club's squad has been **Greg Campbell** the son of Chelsea Manager **Bobby Campbell**. **Greg** has just returned after a spell abroad.

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HELPING THE GAME

The Football Trust receives £9 million annually from the Spotting-the-Ball competition run by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettlers 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

SAFETY FIRST

Football grounds in England and Wales have reached their highest ever level of safety thanks to the £23,671,425 invested by the Football Grounds Improvement Trust since 1975.

Almost every League club has been assisted with essential safety work and further substantial sums have been spent to enable them to improve facilities. In the past year alone FGIT grants to Football League clubs totalled:

	£
Safety	2,254,723
Improvements	770,561

In addition to its safety programme, FGIT has also allocated £1.5 million to build or improve family and disabled facilities at League grounds during 1988.

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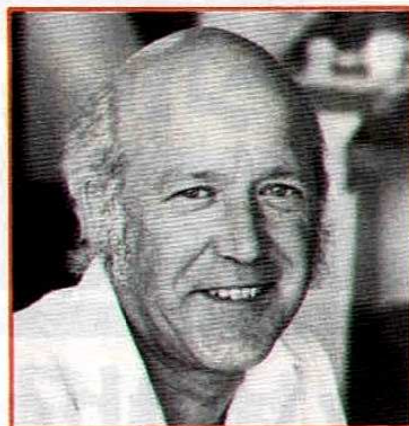
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TAKING THE *Opposite* VIEW

OLDHAM



by Dave Eaton



Back Row (Left to Right): Neil Edmonds, Gary Hoolickin, Ian Marshall, Glenn Keeley, Mike Flynn, Mike Cecere, Chris Blundell.

Middle Row (Left to Right): Ronnie Evans (Kit Manager), Billy Urmson (Coach), Andy Ritchie, Frank Bunn, Paul Turner, Andy Rhodes, Roger Palmer, Willie Donachie (Player/Coach), Ian Liversedge (Physiotherapist).

Front Row (Left to Right): Mike Milligan, Andy Barlow, Gary Williams, Denis Irwin, Joe Royle (Team Manager), John Kelly, Tommy Wright, Earl Barrett, Tony Philliskirk.

Oldham Manager Joe Royle, the former England centre forward, came within a whisker of leading the Club back into the First Division two seasons ago, for the first time since 1923. Under normal circumstances their final position of third place in the Division 2 table would have guaranteed them promotion.

However, the new system of only two up and play-offs denied them of a place back in the top flight when they lost to a late Leeds goal in the play-off semi-finals.

This disappointment seemed to have a lasting effect and for the first half of last season Oldham struggled towards the foot of the Division 2 table.

At the beginning of December they lay in

deep trouble in 21st place. Gradual recovery saw them eventually move up the table to safety, and finally finish in tenth place. This season has seen Oldham once again struggle for points.

When these notes were penned they had only won five out of 19 League games and were in 20th spot with 22 points. Only one of those victories has been away from home. That came early in the season at Manchester City when Roger Palmer netted a hat-trick in the 4-1 win. Since then Oldham have only managed two draws in seven further away trips.

Formed in 1894, Oldham were elected to the Football League thirteen years later and, between 1907 and 1922, enjoyed a highly

successful period. They finished as runners-up in Division 2 during the 1909/10 season and runners-up in Division 1 five years later. They were relegated from the top flight in the 1922/23 season... and are still trying to regain that status 60 years or so later.

Since then they have, over the years, plummeted all the way down to the Fourth Division, spending two spells there – the last between 1969 and 1971.

In between Oldham carried off the Division 3 (N) title in 52/53 and ended as runners-up in the Fourth in 62/63. A third place in Division 4 in 1971 began the start of the upward trend again. Three years later 62 points – a margin of just one point over Bristol Rovers and York City – gave them the Third Division crown. They were promoted to the Second and have remained as a member of the Division since.

MEET THE MANAGER AND PLAYERS

Joe Royle (Manager). Appointed Manager of Oldham in July 1982. Almost led them back to the First Division during the 1986/87 season. Enjoyed a distinguished playing career as a prolific goalscorer, capped six times by England. His Football League Clubs include Everton, Manchester City, Bristol City and Norwich.

Andy Rhodes (Goalkeeper). Born Doncaster. Started his career with Barnsley where he made 60 first team appearances before moving to Doncaster Rovers in 1985 for a £25,000 fee. He made over 100 appearances for Doncaster before joining Athletic in March 1988 for £55,000.

Denis Irwin (Defender). Born Cork, Ireland. Began his career as an apprentice with Leeds United in 1982. Made over 80 appearances for them before joining Athletic on a free transfer in June 1986. Quickly established himself as a first team regular and has made over 80 appearances for Athletic in

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two years at the Club. An Eire Under-21 International.



• **Andy Rhodes**

Willie Donachie (Defender). Born Glasgow. The 37 year old signed for Athletic on a free transfer from Burnley in July 1984. A vastly experienced defender who won over 35 caps for Scotland, he appeared in over 400 games for Manchester City before going over to join Portland Timbers in the North American Soccer League. On his return he had spells with Norwich and Burnley before joining Athletic. Was appointed Player/Coach in July 1985.

Earl Barrett (Defender/Midfield). Born Rochdale. Signed from Manchester City for £35,000 in November 1987 making his Athletic debut against Plymouth Argyle. The 21 year old started his career on a YTS scheme with Manchester City where he made four first team appearances. A versatile player, is equally at home in midfield or defence and made 15 first team appearances for Athletic last season.

Andy Barlow (Defender/Midfield). A local, the 23 year old signed for Athletic in July 1984 making his first team debut against Birmingham City in August 1984. A versatile player equally at home in midfield or defence, he has currently clocked up over 120 appearances for the Club.

Mike Milligan (Midfield). Born Manchester. Signed for Athletic in 1986 and made his first team debut against Liverpool in the Milk Cup in October 1985. A tigerish midfielder player, the 22 year old quickly established himself in the first team and has currently made over 80 appearances for Athletic.

Ian Marshall (Defender). Born Liverpool. Started his career with his hometown club Everton, making his debut against West Bromwich Albion in 1985. Signed for Athletic in March 1988 for a £100,000 fee.

Mike Flynn (Central Defender). Born Oldham. Started his career as an apprentice with Athletic in July 1985. Graduated through the Youth and Reserve teams before making

his first team debut against Bradford City in August 1987, and made 28 appearances last season. Toured Brazil in the close season as a member of the England Under-20 International Squad.

Roger Palmer (Midfield). Born Manchester. Signed from Manchester City for £70,000 in November 1980. A skilful attacking player with an impressive goalscoring record. He has made over 300 appearances and scored 100 goals for Athletic. Netted a hat-trick in Oldham's 4-1 victory at Manchester City early this season.

John Kelly (Midfield). Born Bebbington. Signed for Athletic in November 1987 from Swindon Town for a fee of £35,000. Made his debut against West Bromwich Albion in the Simod Cup. Started his career with Tranmere Rovers before moving on to Preston North End for £50,000. After making 130 first team appearances and scoring 27 goals he was surprisingly given a free transfer and signed for Chester City where he spent two seasons before moving on to Swindon Town in the summer of 1986.

Andy Ritchie (Forward). Born Manchester. Signed for Athletic for £50,000 from Leeds United in August 1987. Started his career as an apprentice with Manchester United where he made 33 first team appearances and scored 13 goals. Was transferred to Brighton in 1980 for £650,000. He made 89 appearances for the Seagulls before moving to Leeds United in 1983 in exchange for Terry Connor. A firm favourite with the Athletic fans, he was voted 'Player of the Year' by both the Supporters and The Junior Latics Club last season when he finished joint leading goalscorer with 20 goals.



• **Andy Ritchie**

Tommy Wright (Forward). Born Fife. Signed from Leeds United in October 1986 for £80,000. During his time at Leeds he became a consistent goalscorer, scoring 28 goals in 90 League and Cup appearances and headed the goal scoring records in



• **Roger Palmer**

1984/85 season. Quickly established himself in the Latics first team where he has made over 70 appearances and scored 20 goals.

Frank Bunn (Striker). Born Birmingham. Signed for Athletic for £90,000 in December 1987, making his debut against Bournemouth. Started his career at Luton Town where he made 61 appearances and scored 11 goals before moving to Hull City for £40,000 in the summer of 1985. He was their leading scorer in his first season scoring 14 goals.

Tony Philliskirk (Forward). Born Sunderland. Started his career at Sheffield United at the age of 19, making his first team debut against Plymouth Argyle in October 1983. Made almost 70 first team appearances for United and scored 26 goals, before joining Athletic in June 1988 for £25,000. An England Schoolboy International.

Gary Williams (Midfield). Born Bristol, son of former Latics player Alun Williams. Started his career at his hometown Club Bristol City where he made 108 League and Cup appearances before moving on to Portsmouth, Swansea and Bristol Rovers eventually making his debut for Latics against Huddersfield Town in December 1985. Missed most of the 1987/88 season with a bad knee injury.

Mike Cecere (Forward). Born Chester. Signed for Athletic as an apprentice in November 1985. Graduated through the Youth and Reserve teams making his debut against Bradford City in January 1987. Made 18 First Team appearances last season scoring three goals.

Peter Skipper (Midfield). Born Hull. Signed this season for a fee of £40,000 from his hometown Club Hull. Made his debut for Hull in March 1979 and went on to make a further 22 appearances in two seasons. Spent a short period on loan to Scunthorpe before joining Darlington in 1980/81. Missed just one League game for the north eastern Club in two seasons before rejoining Hull in summer of 1982. In a further six seasons at Hull he hardly missed a first team game.

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JOE A TOP FLIGHT MANAGER

Good afternoon and welcome to the County Ground, especially to our visitors from Lancashire, Oldham Athletic. The lads from Boundary Park are not too far below the Town, so a keenly contested encounter can be anticipated.

One thing this match enables me to do is to cause acute embarrassment by using this appalling joke – will Athletic come out on top or will Swindon be able to 'Oldham'. – Yes, I know, but read on, it gets worse. Oldham have, without doubt, a top flight Manager in Joe Royle, a great striker in his playing days and well known in these parts for his association with Bristol City. He's apparently turned down offers to join bigger Clubs, it would be his just reward if Oldham reached Division One. I hope they do, but perhaps they'll leave their promotion push until after today's game.

AN IMPROVEMENT

Things have improved of late as far as the Town's results are concerned. Two successive one-nil victories have increased confidence among those who follow the Club and David Geddis will have been delighted to get his first goal for Swindon on his old Gay Meadow stamping ground. The gap between top and bottom is narrow in Division Two, so a successful run can quickly push a side up the table. There's a lot at stake then for the two teams today with that in mind.

ONE OF OUR PILOTS WAS MISSING!

On a personal note the Shrewsbury game was the first Town match I hadn't seen since December 2nd 1984, a one-

nil defeat at Darlington. I had to remain close at hand due to the impending addition to the Morgan strike force. At the time of writing these notes (that's a phrase I've heard before) the new arrival still hadn't signed on but negotiations are continuing. The demands have been made by the target but I had to draw the line at three feeding bottles, I felt the finances weren't up to it.

WELL CONE THE HAMMERS AND CRAWL BACK FROM WHERE YOU CAME FROM

Further afield, the performance of Paul Ince in the Littlewoods Cup for West Ham against Liverpool was one of the highlights of the season so far. The Hammers as a whole tore the mighty Reds apart and showed just how they can be beaten. But something slightly amazed me in the wake of that result. An article appeared in a national Sunday newspaper concerning the young Mr. Ince and his private life. I will not give the author of that article credence by describing in further, but it was a pointless intrusion into Paul Ince's past which was nobody else's business. I cannot believe the public good is served by heaping embarrassment on a young man at what should have been the best time of his life. I hope the 'journalist' Tim Willcox crawls back under the stone from whence he came.

WELL DONE STEVE

On a happier note, the recent 'Sports Review of the Year' on BBC television brought back the memories, good and bad, of 1988. Steve Davies, who won the 'Personality of the Year' title is a fine ambassador for the sport of snooker

and his achievement in winning the World Snooker title for the fifth time helped earn him his deserved recognition. But one performance will always remain with me from the twelve months just past. It came in the fourth test at Headingley between England and the West Indies. Batsman Alan Lamb had a severe leg injury but returned to the crease in an effort to hold the Caribbean masters at bay. Wincing with pain at every delivery, he eventually succumbed and his wicket fell. But he'd shown great courage and resilience in that innings and earned respect from all those who watched his struggle. If only the rest of the England team had learned from his example.

TALES FROM THE SUNDAY LEAGUE

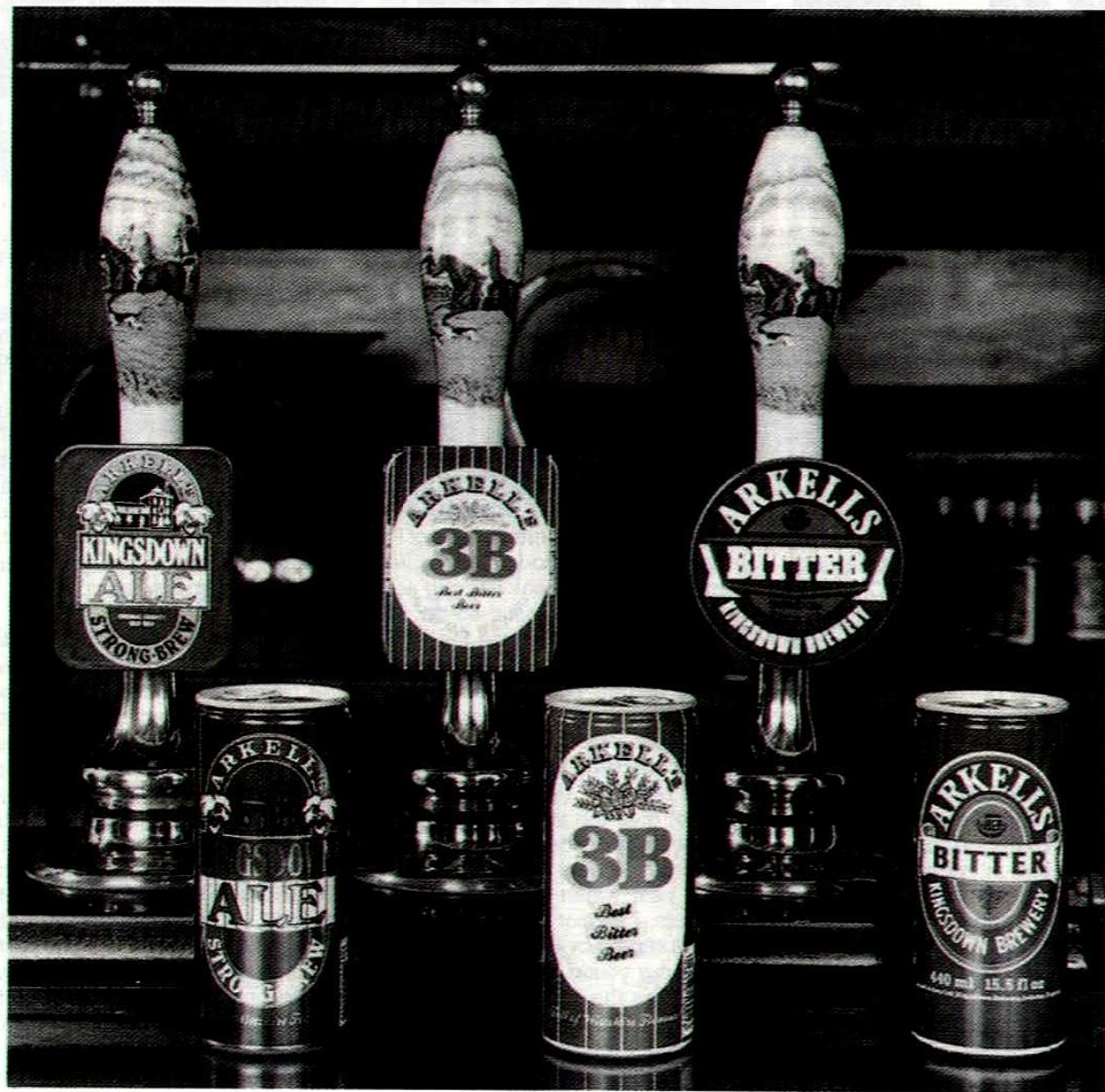
Finally to tales from the Sunday League, a report on football at the grass roots level, and you can't get more grass roots than G.W.R.F.C. A great performance against Top Cue gained a point in a 2-2 draw, but the following week brought an 8-2 drubbing from Risters. I have no excuses but the sudden leak in our luxury changing rooms (a caravan with a hole in the roof) didn't help. This made our playing kit damp before the start and so we could not perform at our peak. Another problem encountered was entering the caravan in the first place, the padlock had rusted and had to be forced open with a screw driver. It's fun at this level of football, I wouldn't want sunken baths and sauna baths. Well, I might be persuaded.

So, back to the matter at hand, Swindon Town versus Oldham Athletic. Let's enjoy a good and peaceful game of football. Oh, have a wonderful Christmas.

Stay tuned.

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FOOTBALL COMBINATION & YOUTH TEAM NEWS

'SAINTS AND SINNERS'

Our South East Counties Youth League team once again found Southampton their 'bogey' team when they met in a Second Division fixture at Lydiard park on Saturday November 12th when they were held to a 1-1 draw.

Town Youth team Manager John Trollope reported "It was a game we should have deservedly won. Our approach and application was excellent, playing with a great deal of thought. If we had taken more care and a degree of willingness to put a final touch to our good approach play we would have won convincingly.

Southampton took the lead against the run of play through Lee Luscombe but within minutes we equalised when a free kick by Nicky Summerbee was deflected wide of the 'Saints' goalkeeper.

A sound display by their goalkeeper and our wayward finishing saw the winning goal elude us."

John was probably more satisfied from this match than any this season when he concluded by saying, "we played some of our best football of the season with Paul Hunt outstanding. While we enjoy favourable results more importantly several players are showing improved form."

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

Substitutes: Griffiths (for Quinn in 67th min.) and Walker.

SUNK WITHOUT TRACE AT THE NAVAL BASE!

Our Youth team seem set to follow the example of the seniors in Cup games when they made their exit from the FA Youth Cup at the first attempt. A 4-2 defeat at Portsmouth on Monday November 14th was a big disappointment.

John Trollope summed up the set back by stating, "This was our most important game of the season but we simply did not rise to the occasion. Our application was below normal and we allowed Pompey to take the initiative right from the kick-off. Only two or three players gave the right kind of effort throughout the game. We were outplayed in every department."

Portsmouth built up a four goal lead through Darren Anderson in the fifteenth minute, Darryl Powell (2) and Micky Ross (penalty), completing this four goal burst by the fifty-first minute. Our Youth team reduced the arrears with late goals from Neil Quinn and Tony Hammersley.

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

Substitutes: Spalding (for Lea in 71st min.) and Walker.

ROBIN DEFEATS THE CANARY!

The long trek to East Anglia became a worthwhile exercise for our Reserve team when they defeated Norwich City 2-1 in



• **Duncan Shearer** - returned to goalscoring form after recovering from injury in our Reserve team's 2-1 win at Carrow Road against Norwich City.

their 'Ovenden Papers' Football Combination fixture at Carrow Road on Tuesday November 15th.

Jeremy Goss gave the 'Canaries' the lead with a twenty five yard shot past an unsighted Nicky Hammond. The Town line-up showed Ross Maclaren and Leigh Barnard in the centre of defence and Paul Bodin playing a sweepers role.

The Town equalised with a well placed 24th minute header by David Geddis from Ross Maclaren's free kick. Two minutes later Duncan Shearer put our Reserve team into the lead with a shot on the turn. In the second half Norwich City exerted a lot of pressure but with Nicky Hammond in great form the Town retained their lead to record their second away win of the season.

Team: McLoughlin, Marshall, Barnard, Maclaren, Bodin, Tomlinson, Simpson, Shearer, Geddis, Viveash.

Substitutes: G. Morgan and Summerbee.

TONY IS A HIT AT THE PALACE!

Our successful Youth team continued their fine form in a 1-0 win away to Crystal Palace on Saturday November 19th in their South East Counties League Division Two fixture.

John Trollope the Town's Youth team Manager reported, "It was an evenly contested match and the result could have gone either way. It was satisfying that we gave a good team performance. Both teams had goalscoring opportunities to win the match. It was due to wayward finishing and fine goalkeeping that kept the scoreline to one goal. After a goal-less first half, we began to dominate by playing good football. It was during this period of domination that Nicky

Summerbee supplied a cross which the Palace keeper, under challenge from Lee Spalding, allowed the ball to run loose and Tony Hammersley scored the only goal of the match."

John concluded, "It was a good away result achieved by a good approach to the game and in working hard for each other."

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

Substitutes: Lea (for Spalding in 69th min.) and Walker.

'NOT QUITE ONE OVER THE EIGHT!'

Our Allied Counties Youth team romped to an easy 8-0 win against Maidenhead United in their League Cup match on Wednesday November 23rd.

Town Youth team Manager John Trollope reported on this rearranged fixture, "It was our biggest win of the season despite the frost bound conditions which made life difficult for the players."

John added, "We adapted ourselves to the tricky conditions and simply played the ball in the direction we were facing. In such conditions you rely heavily on the simple and early ball, good midfield support and good support from the man off the ball."

The Town goal scorers were Richard Walker (2), Mike Macari, Mark Lea, Chris Cooper, Lee Spalding, Paul Trollope and Simon Sperring one each.

John summed up the result in apt fashion, "A real team performance."

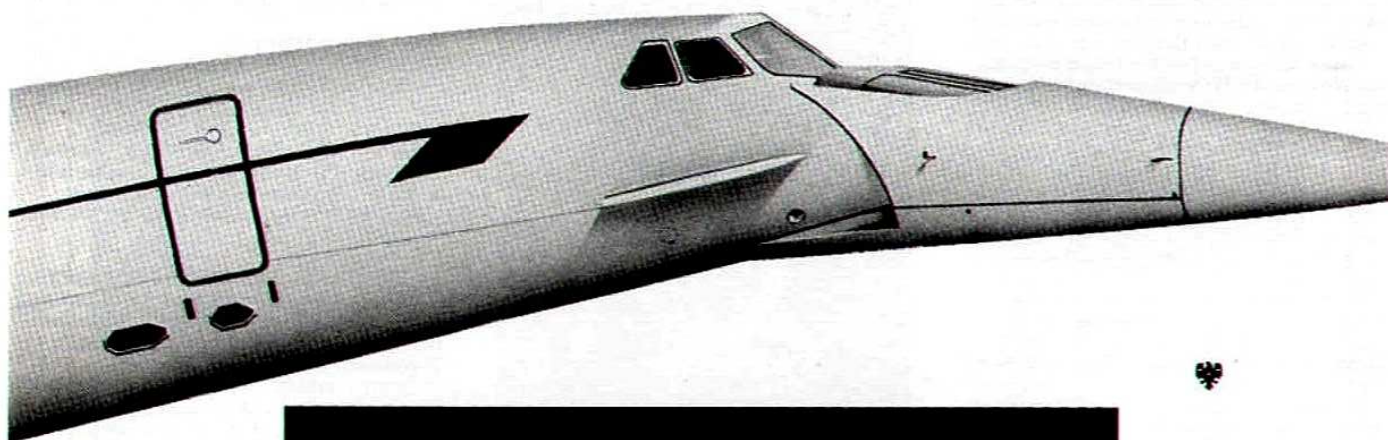
Team: Lovegrove, Spalding, Barnard, Graham, Murray, Quinn, Walker, Trollope, Macari, Cooper, Lea.

Substitutes: Dixon (for Cooper in 65th min.) Sperring (for Quinn in 67th min.)



• **Richard Walker** - The Midland born mid-field player scored twice in our 8-0 League Cup win against Maidenhead United.

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COMPETITION CLOSING ON 31ST JANUARY 1989.

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MEMBER OF IMRO

NEWS Desk

DEFENCE OF THE SHIELD

Swindon Town continue their defence of the **Wiltshire Premier Shield** when we travel down to **Melksham Town** next **Tuesday, December 13th** to meet the **Great Mills Western League** outfit in what is a re-run of last seasons final. The kick-off is at **7.30 p.m.**

CELEBRATING

On Sunday November 27th, Town Coach **Andy Rowland** took a team to **Southbrook Recreation Centre** for the official opening of **Penhill's** new **£70,000** Club house and stand.

Andy took a team of **past** and **present** players, including **Billy Tucker, David Moss, Colin Calderwood** and **Nicky Hammond**. The **3-2** scoreline for **Andy's** team completed the scene on two years fund raising and finding grants for the new facilities.

THE LOWEST!

The attendance of **5,328** that witnessed our last home match against **Walsall** was our lowest crowd since we returned to the **Second Division** last season. The previous lowest gate was the **6,585** who watched the match with **Brighton and Hove Albion** on **September 24th**.

MIDLAND YOUTH CUP RESULTS

In the **Second Round** of this competition the four matches produced results:

Leicester City 4 Derby County 2
Birm'ham C. 0 North'ton T. 1
Notts County 2 Nottingham F. 3

We were due to meet **Shrewsbury Town** at **Gay Meadow** on **Wednesday** last, **7th December**.

A VISIT FROM THE MIDLANDS

Our Midland based scout **Harry Mainey** brought a team of young players to the Club on **Monday November 28th**, to

NEWS Desk

meet **John Trollope's** young players who make up our **Allied Counties Youth League** team. The match was played on the **County Ground** extension with a **4-2** scoreline.

SWINDON,

BUT NOT SHREWSBURY PLEASE!

David Talbot, who played host to the team and Directors before last Saturdays away match at **Shrewsbury**, sponsored the matchball at **Gay Meadow**. In actual fact **David** made an unusual request to the **Shrewsbury Town Commercial Manager**, asking for the ball to be signed by all of the **Swindon** players and not **Shrewsbury's**!

David was born in **Yorkshire**, but his love affair with **Swindon Town** began in **1960** when his father, a bank manager with **Nat West**, moved to nearby **Cirencester**.

David's day was made perfect with the help of another **David** - **Jeddis** who scored the only goal of the match against his former Club **Shrewsbury Town**.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Three Town players celebrate their birthdays during this festive month. **Bobby Barnes** reaches his **26th** year on the **17th**. **Phil King** will have the key of the door on the **28th** when twenty-one candles are placed upon his cake!

On the day we meet **Manchester City** at the **County Ground** on **Saturday, December 31st** stalwart central defender **Tim Parkin** will be **31** years of age.

AN EXCELLENT REPORT!

We recently received a report on our programme of last season from the **City of London School**. It is the eighth successive year they have run a **General Studies Course** for **'A'** level students

NEWS Desk

on Association Football.

We received **excellent's** for **Cover Design, Club News, Visitors** and **Facts and Figures**. We were also marked **excellent** for **Design, Reading** and **Colour Content**.

STATISTICALLY MINDED?

For those of you who are interested in statistics related to crowd attendances **Walsall** brought **303** supporters to the **County Ground** on **Saturday, November 26th** among the crowd of **5,328** who watched this **Barclay's Second Division** fixture.

There were **95** people present when we played **Watford** at the **County Ground** three days later on **Tuesday, November 29th** for our 'Ovenden Papers' Football Combination fixture. Those few supporters witnessed a highly entertaining **3-3** draw.

REMAINING FIXTURES AT CLUB LEVEL BEFORE CHRISTMAS?

As previously mentioned we meet **Melksham Town** in an away fixture on **Tuesday, December 13th** in the **Wiltshire Premier Shield**. The kick-off is **7.30 p.m.**

Next **Saturday, December 17th** we are away to **Bradford City** in a **Barclay's League Division Two** fixture. The kick-off at **Valley Parade** is **3.00 p.m.**

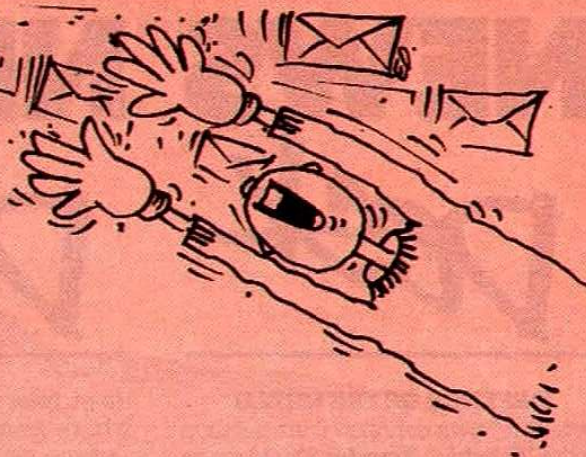
Our Youth team travel to **Northampton Town** next **Saturday** for their **South East Counties League Division Two** fixture.

On **Monday, December 19th** we meet **Reading** in an **Allied Counties Youth League** match to be played at **Hungerford Town F.C.** The kick-off is at **7.30 p.m.**

Our final 'Ovenden Papers' Football Combination fixture before the yuletide festivities is on **Tuesday, December 20th** when we entertain **Brighton and Hove Albion** at the **County Ground** with a **2.00 p.m.** kick-off.

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IN OFF THE POST



Drove Road
Swindon

Dear Sir,

I am writing to thank you for selling tickets for our Bonfire & Firework Display last Saturday 5th November at the Polo Ground.

I am pleased to tell you that conditions were ideal, with a mild day and evening, and we had an attendance somewhere in the region of 7,000 people. We hope to make a net profit of £8,500 approximately, and this will all go to local charities. This is probably our best profit for fireworks ever.

We are very conscious that it could not have been achieved without the excellent pre-sales which were achieved, and we are extremely grateful for your efforts in this respect. Please thank all your staff and pass on the gratitude of all of us in the Lions Club.

Yours very sincerely,
Geoff Murray
President.

Ipswich Town
FC Supporters
Portman Road
Ipswich

Dear Mr Buswell

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the arrangements you made on our behalf last weekend for the visit 'behind the scenes' at the County Ground. It was most interesting and we would like to thank your Chief Steward, Mr George Sims, for giving up his time to take us round.

At the same time, many of our supporters, both individually and through their branches, have expressed their appreciation of the friendliness extended to them by the staff at Swindon Town FC and by the police. Of course, from our point of view the result went the right way, but it might easily not have done!

Once again our thanks.

Your sincerely
G W H Dodson
Hon Sec

Parklands
Malmesbury

Dear Sir,

I am sending you a copy of the letter I sent to the Football League about the Leicester City game.

I have received a reply from the Football League and they have assured me that the matter is being examined and that Mr Moreton's performance will be carefully monitored in the coming weeks and months.

Yours Faithfully,
Melony Edwards.

I am writing to you after witnessing the match between Leicester City and Swindon Town, at Filbert Street on the 28th October 1988.

As a supporter, who rarely misses a match, home or away, I see the different standards of today's referees. I would like to be the first to admit, that match officials are only trying to do their job, and are only human, and like the rest of us, are always likely to make the odd mistake.

However, after watching the above match, I wonder whether these are genuine mistakes, or whether we have an 'Italian Style' fixing racket, operating in our own Football League.

As you will probably already know, the half-time score at the aforementioned match, was 3-0, in favour of Swindon Town. As a football supporter, I would not like to think what was happening during the half-time interval, in the match officials room, but the referee who came out for the second half, only seemed to have one objective in mind - not to allow Swindon Town to win this match.

From the moment he blew his whistle, virtually every decision went the same way, some of which were almost laughable, since when have penalties been awarded for fouls **three yards outside** the penalty area?

And have we gone back to the days of the great Dixie Dean, when centre forwards get away with bundling goalkeepers over the goal-line?

The sort of refereeing I witnessed during the second half of this match, is an insult to the game of football and to the intelligence of football supporters (without whom, the game of football would soon die.)

This sort of refereeing, succeeds only in bringing shame and **violence**, to the game of football.

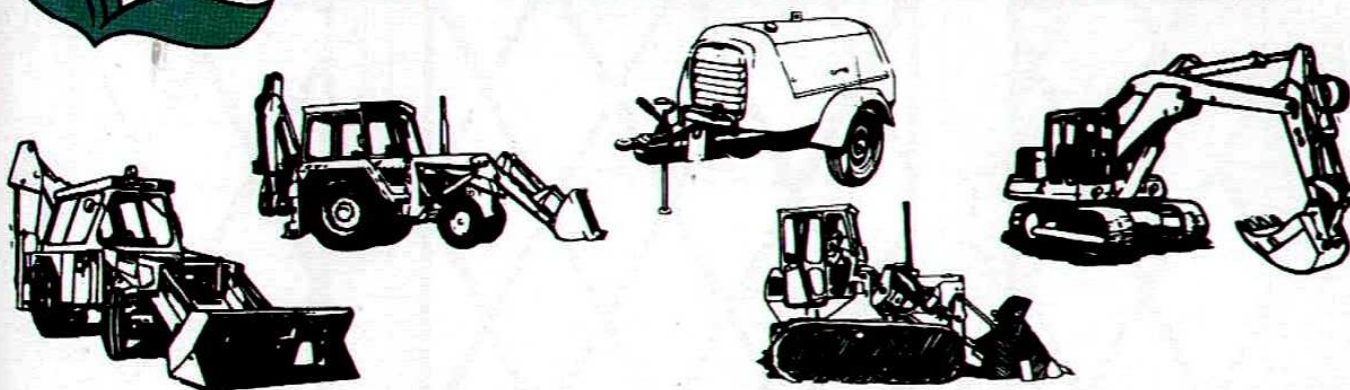
The referee in question, is Mr Kelvin Morton, of Bury St-Edmonds, and I am sure that if you succeed in watching a video recording of this match, you will agree with me, in never allowing this man to referee a competitive football match again.

I, for one, who has watched well over two hundred soccer matches, feel very strongly on this matter and will most certainly, **never** pay to watch another match with this official in charge.

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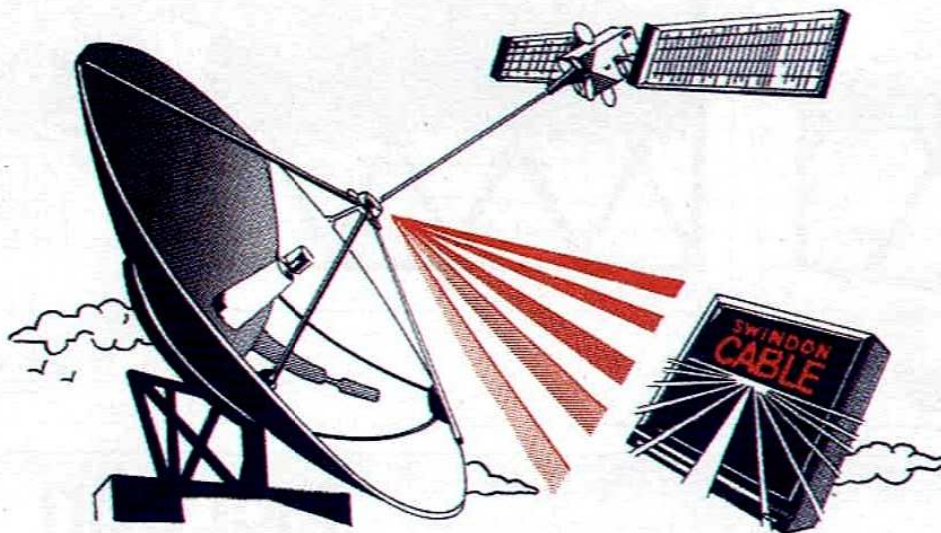


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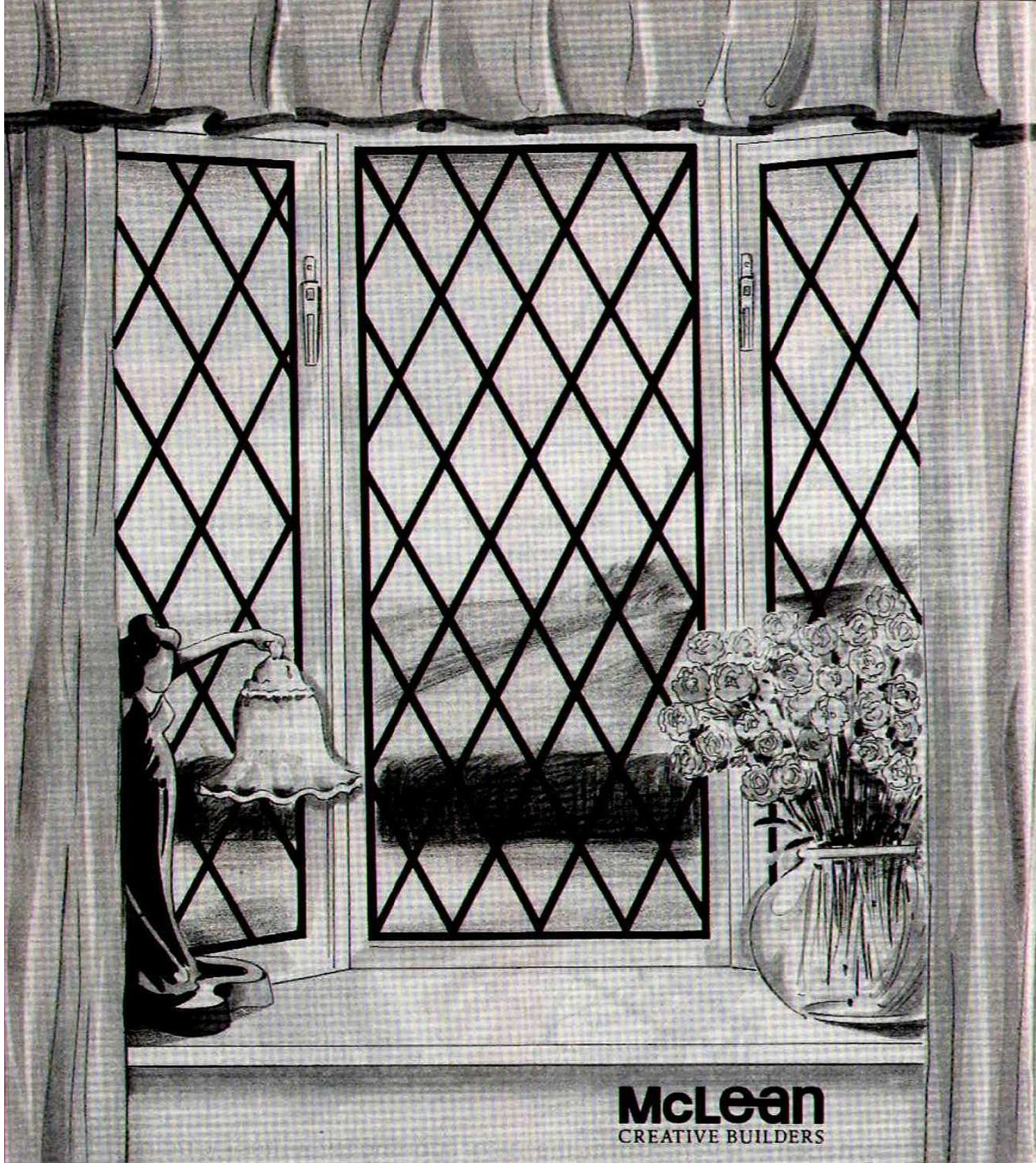
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**Admit it, you're beginning
to feel at home already.**

VIEWPOINT

WHAT A DAY

What a day it was for the former 'Shrewsbury Town' contingent when we won at Gay Meadow last Saturday.

It is always a position most players hope to find themselves in when a game is completed against their former Club. A great feeling for David Geddis who scored our goal and also 'Chic' Bates.

THEY DON'T COME ANY BIGGER THAN RANGERS

My career began with one of the big names of football - Glasgow Rangers. They don't come any bigger than the Glasgow teams.

I suppose my time at Ibrox was somewhat frustrating. In two years with the Club I was unable to break into the first team but on reflection there was no disgrace in not reaching senior level with the number of players included in the squad.

A GAMBLE

John Greig was the Manager of Rangers in my time at Ibrox. I was born in Edinburgh and every Scottish schoolboy wants to play for one of the big firm teams if he can.

When I joined Glasgow Rangers I knew that I was taking a gamble. Any young player with Rangers or Celtic knows that he faces the same problem that any young hopeful faces at Liverpool. Eventually I was given a free transfer and I then had to sit back and wait for any offers that came my way.

GRAHAM'S SUCCESS DID NOT SURPRISE ME

At that time of my career I did not know where life would lead me! Carlisle United wanted to take me on

No. 10 ROSS MACLAREN

trial but Jock Fulton arranged for me to join Shrewsbury Town.

I moved south and joined Graham Turner who was then the Manager at Gay Meadow. The step was different to say the least! At Ibrox everything is done for the players, clothes, boots, you name it, but Shrewsbury was a different kettle of fish! Speaking of Graham Turner, it is nice to see him achieving success with Wolves. Graham was a good Manager, ambitious, but in my humble opinion, better suited to Clubs with no real money to spend. He tried his luck at Aston Villa but his recent experiences at Molineux tend to confirm my view.

'POMPEY' IN, BUT IT WAS DERBY FOR ME

Transition is part of every players career and eventually I left Shrewsbury to join Derby County. At that time I believed that Portsmouth were interested in me.

Anyway it was the Baseball Ground that was the next stop for me. Arthur Cox, the County Manager, has a hard man reputation, but I always found him to be a fair man if you did not step out of line. For a central defender it was ideal to work with Roy McFarland as coach. Roy was good at organising the defence and how we should use free kicks to good advantage.

I AM A CENTRAL DEFENDER
The only reason that I wanted to leave Derby County was because



● Ross Maclaren

they were determined to find someone to play alongside England defender Mark Wright.

Derby wanted me to play at full back but I know that my best position is in the centre of the defence. I became unsettled and it eventually led me to signing for Swindon Town.

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE SWINDON

It is an open secret that I have recently asked for a move, but believe me I hope it is a decision I do not have to face up to.

Really all I want to do is to play regular first team football. That is every players ambition. After appearing on a regular basis in the First Division, you can imagine that Reserve team football is no good for me. I like it here, this is a good Club and my wife Nicola, along with my two children, Ian (3 years old) and Kirsty who is just nineteen months of age, would love to settle in Wiltshire. That is what I really want and I just hope things work out for us as a family. I am prepared to battle to keep my place and I would like to thank you for your support.

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LOOKING AT SOME GREAT *Ghats Ghats Ghats*

● Swindon Town Chairman, Mr. Brian Hillier, is seen presenting the Sony October Player of the Month award to Charlie Henry.



● The Swindon Town Travel Club Secretary Ann Alder presents a cheque to Dr. John Nicholas and Kevin Morris, the Club Physiotherapist. The cheque for £1,156 will be used to buy an ice machine for the Medical Room.

Included in the photograph, left to right, are: Kevin Morris, Mick Lewis, Sue Snow, Dr. John Nicholas, Chris Hook, Janet Smith, Paul Plowman, Ann Alder and John Cook.



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● The Town's recent signing, David Geddis, challenges for a high ball with a Walsall defender. An anxious Steve White watches this aerial battle.

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ISTICS • STATISTICS •

SWINDON TOWN 1988/89

DATE	OPPONENTS	V	Attd	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	5,328	1-0	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Calderwood	Foley (1)
3.12.88	SAT SHREWSBURY TOWN	A	3,626	1-0	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Calderwood	Foley
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									

LIVE - T.V. MATCHES

For your information the live television matches scheduled to date are as follows:

Sunday 11th December 1988

Liverpool v Everton ITV

Tuesday 27th December 1988

Norwich City v West Ham United ITV

Sunday 1st January 1989

Manchester United v Liverpool ITV

Monday 2nd January 1989

Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur (5 p.m.) ITV

Sunday 8th January 1989

F.A. Challenge Cup, 3rd Round Proper BBC

Sunday 15th January 1989

Everton v Arsenal or

Tottenham Hotspur v Nottingham Forest ITV

Sunday 22nd January 1989

Millwall v Norwich City or

Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa or

West Ham United v Manchester United ITV

Sunday 29th January 1989

F.A. Challenge Cup, 4th Round Proper BBC

Sunday 5th February 1989

Derby County v Southampton or

Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur ITV

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STATISTICS • STATIST

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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 870606
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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*	Arkel's 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	Skurays Ltd., Drove Road, Swindon	J. Tremlin, Coped Hill Service Station
Calderwood	Henry	White	Barnes*	Geddis	Shearer*		
White	Henry	Maclaren	Geddis	Shearer	Barnes	The Plumb Center, Swindon	Carters Supermarket, Faringdon
White*	Henry†	Maclaren	Geddis (1)	Shearer*	Simpson†		

* and † denotes substitute and player substituted

HICKMAN GOALSCORING LEAGUE

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

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SHORT & SWEET

MULTI-MILLION PART-TIMERS!

Saudi Arabia, who met England in the new multi-million pound King Fahd Stadium in Rydal last month, have a First Division of 12 Clubs. Players in the Saudi League are part-time.

JUST LIKE TARMAC?

the Saudi's used to roll oil in the desert sand to make a playing surface - it was similar to playing on tarmac. No one can celebrate with champagne in Saudi. Drinking is strictly prohibited by the Saudi's Islamic religion.

SHEIK - JIM, BILL, RONNIE AND BILLY!

There have been numerous British Managers who have tried their luck in the land of oil sheiks. They include Jimmy Hill, Bill McGarry, Ronnie Allen and Billy Bingham. Their best international achievement came when Saudi Arabia reached the Olympic soccer finals in Los Angeles in 1984.

AN ACT OF KINDNESS!

Altrincham's ball sponsor in their First Round F.A. Cup tie with Lincoln City last month was... former Manager Jeff Johnson, who they had only just sacked after four games.

WE DID TELL THE F.A.

Nottingham Forest blamed Graham Kelly, Chief Executive of the F.A., when he failed to report that Steve Hodge and Des Walker would be unavailable for England's match against Saudi Arabia. Forest claimed he was told in the dressing room after their match with West Ham the previous Saturday!

MONEY TALKS

England turned down fixtures in Italy and Monaco to cash in on a £45,000 offer from the oil rich Saudi's to play in Riyadh. Hungary and East Germany were rejected as possible Wembley opponents.

ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL?

England goalkeeper Peter Shilton claimed the taxman owes him £20,000. Earning around £160,000 last year he claimed he had overpaid the Inland Revenue when he was transferred from Nottingham Forest to Southampton in 1982. Tax officers demanded a cut of £75,000 when he left. Shilton claimed it was a gold handshake, he also received an £80,000 signing on fee from Southampton. The case went to court and Peter won.

MIND, THERE WERE ALEX, BOBBY AND DANNY

The Wallace brothers became the first members of the same family to play together in the First Division since 1910. That was when Alex, Bobby and Danny Steel lined-up for Spurs against Bradford City.

DAN, ROD AND RAY, BAD LUCK CLIVE

Danny Wallace and his twin brothers Rodney and Raymond made soccer history when the three of them turned out for Southampton in their First Division match at the Dell against Sheffield Wednesday. There was one Wallace brother missing - Clive Wallace who is their 26-year-old brother.

NINE FROM TWELVE!

England have scored just nine goals from their twelve internationals in 1988. Yet in their last two fixtures the previous year they hit their opponents net 12 times - scoring eight against Turkey and four in Yugoslavia. Of this years matches England have won three, drawn six and lost three.

THE YOUNGEST

Eamonn Collins, the 23-year-old mid-field player now with Gillingham, was the youngest-ever player to appear in a peace-time senior game when he played for Blackpool against Kilmarnock in the Anglo-Scottish Cup in 1980. He was just 14 years and 323 days.

UPPER BRACKET

Nottingham Forest have recently unveiled plans that they hope to introduce at the City Ground. Their £300,000 business suite in their executive stand will have 300 seats and be ready next season.

JOHN'S SCHOOLDAYS!

Two mottoes loom large in the make-up of Millwall boss John Docherty... his old school maxim, 'Nothing without work' and that of his former Club Cambridge United... 'United in endeavour'. Those two ethics have provided the solid foundation for Millwall's successful start to their debut season in Division One.

BOBBY TAKE A LOOK AT THE SUPPOSEDLY WEAKER SIDE!

There's nothing wrong with the England football team - and that's official. The England women's soccer team that is England's football-playing women have been awarded 'Sportswomen of the Year Team Award'. The England side won the Little World Cup in Italy last July and have lost only two of their last 10 internationals.

WILD TURKEY BOURBON

Former Scunthorpe United striker and England cricketer Ian Botham is now declining any alcohol in his fight to regain full fitness. At a recent charity event while guests were downing Britain's strongest drink, Wild Turkey Bourbon, Ian refused to let any liquid pass his lips.

SCOTT THE YOUNGEST!

Today is the Second Round of the F.A. Cup and Kettering fielded the youngest ever player to appear in the Cup. Former Swindon Town keeper Scott Enderby, 15 years and 279 days, against Tilbury in 1977.

ALMOST DOUBLE FIGURES

Did you know that former Scotland striker Ted MacDougall holds the honour of scoring the most goals in one English cup tie! Supermac hit nine for Bournemouth against Margate in 1971!

ONLY ONE SURVIVOR

Did you know that from the original fifteen teams in the first F.A. Cup in 1871-72 only Scottish Second Division Club Queens Park survive in the senior game?

ONLY FOUR!

Non League Clubs usually struggle to make the late rounds of the F.A. Cup and only four have reached the Fifth Round. They are: Telford United in 1985, Blyth Spartans (1978), Yeovil Town (1949) and Colchester United in 1948.

WATCH OUT RICK WAKEMAN

A.F.C. Bournemouth Manager Harry Redknapp played the tubular bells in a charity concert at the South Coast resort's Winter Gardens last month in aid of the Children in Need fund.

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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. Ross Maclaren
9. Charlie Henry
10. Steve White
11. David Geddis
12. Duncan Shearer
14. Bobby Barnes

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

Team Changes

1. Andrew Rhodes
2. Dennis Irwin
3. Earl Barrett
4. Peter Skipper
5. Ian Marshall
6. Mike Milligan
7. Roger Palmer
8. John Kelly
9. Frankie Bunn
10. Andy Ritchie
11. Tommy Wright
12. Andrew Barlow
14. Tony Philliskirk

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TEAM IN THE MIDDLE

Referee: J. A. Moules
Linesman Red Flag: J. B. Cox
Linesman Yellow Flag: P. M. Flye
Reserve Official: B. R. Ledbury

NEXT AT HOME

'Ovenden Papers'
Football Combination
Tuesday December 20th 1988
BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION
Kick-Off 2.00 p.m.



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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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