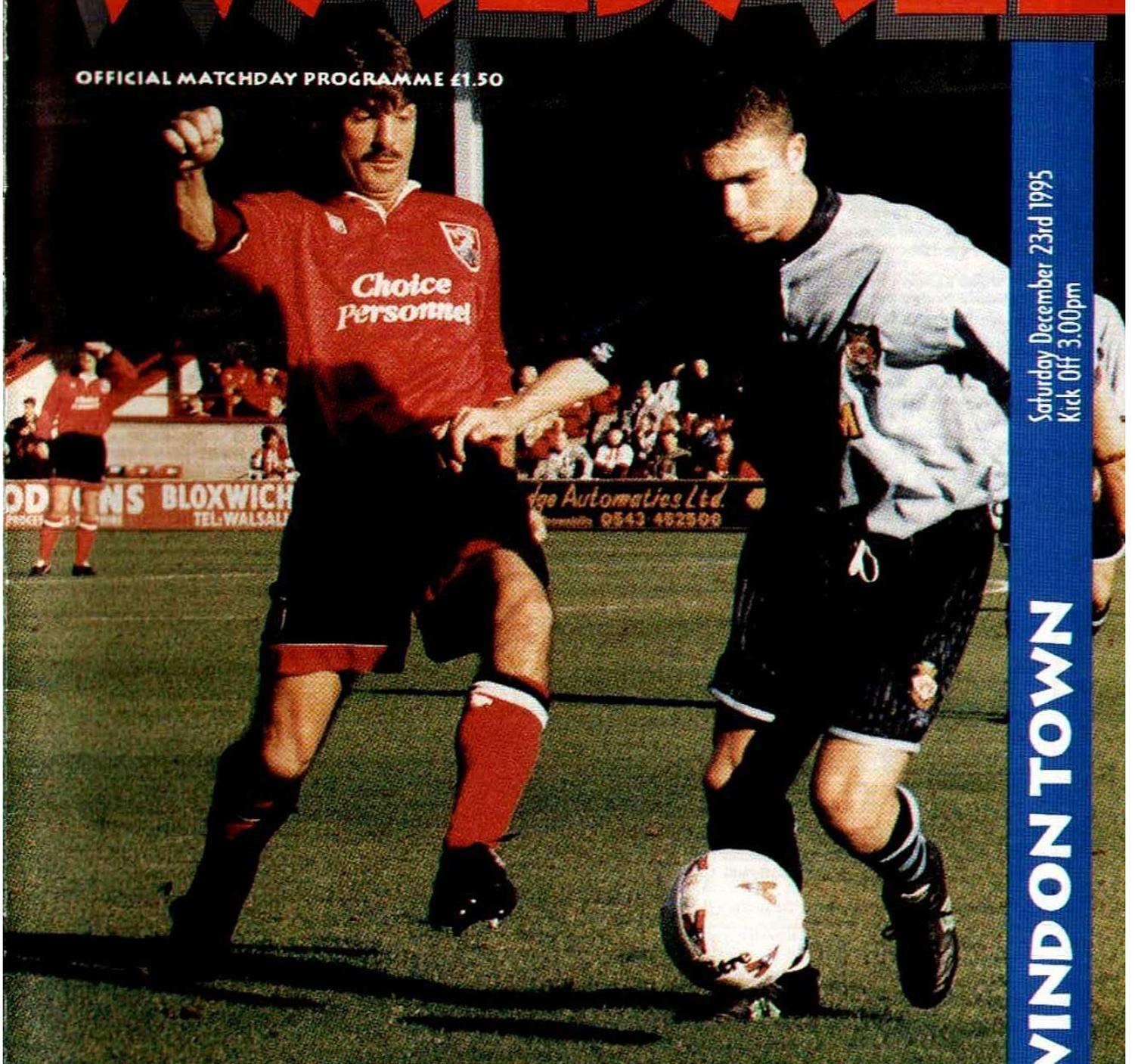


WALSALL

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £1.50



Saturday December 23rd 1995
Kick Off 3.00pm

SWINDON TOWN

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DIVISION TWO

Previous League Meetings

Walsall v Swindon Town

DIVISION THREE (NORTH)

1927/28

Walsall 1 (Robson) Swindon 2 (Eddlerston, Morris)
Swindon 5 (Morris 3, Roberts, Eddlestone) Walsall 0

1928/29

Walsall 1 (Attwood) Swindon 1 (Roberts)
Swindon 5 (Eddlestone 2, Morris 3) Walsall 1 (Lane)

1929/30

Walsall 4 (Eyres 2, Walters, Murphy) Swindon 0
Swindon 3 (Dent, Roberts, Morris) Walsall 1 (Walters)

1930/31

Walsall 2 (Mays, Eyres) Swindon 2 (Richardson, Stansfield)
Swindon 4 (Morris 2, Cruickshank, Whipp)

Walsall 3 (Eyres 2, Walters)

1936/37

Walsall 5 (Bates 3, Woolhouse, Bradford)
Swindon 3 (Cookson, Fowler)

Swindon 3 (Jones 2, Cookson) Walsall 0

1937/38

Walsall 2 (Bate, Evans) Swindon 3 (Lucas 2, Morton)
Swindon 1 (Morrall) Walsall 1 (Shelton)

1938/39

Walsall 5 (Alsop 4, Bambrick) Swindon 0
Swindon 1 (Francis) Walsall 4 (Alsop 3, Buttery)

1946/47

Walsall 0 Swindon 1 (Lucas)
Swindon 4 (Stephens, Emery, Williams) Walsall 1 (Walsh)

1947/48

Walsall 1 (Wilshaw) Swindon 0
Swindon 0 Walsall 3 (Lishman 2, Kelly)

1948/49

Walsall 0 Swindon 1 (Dawson)
Swindon 2 (Cowie, Bain) Walsall 1 (Chapman)

1949/50

Walsall 0 Swindon 0
Swindon 4 (Cowie 2, Wheeler, Jackson)

Walsall 3 (Devlin, Dearson, Foulkes)

1950/51

Walsall 1 (Millard) Swindon 0
Swindon 1 (Lunn) Walsall 1 (Hughes)

1951/52

Walsall 0 Swindon 1
Swindon 1 (Owen) Walsall 1 (Holding)

1952/53

Walsall 1 (Bridgett) Swindon 2 (Owen 2)
Swindon 1 (Betteridge) Walsall 2 (Bridgett, Duggins)

1953/54

Walsall 0 Swindon 1 (Bain)
Swindon 3 (Lunn, Betteridge, Bain) Walsall 0

1954/55

Walsall 1 (Morris) Swindon 2 (Owen, Onslow)
Swindon 2 (Gibson, Williams) Walsall 2 (Dorman 2)

1955/56

Walsall 4 (Richards, Morris, Walsh 2) Swindon 0
Swindon 1 (Gibson) Walsall 2 (Walsh 2)

1956/57

Walsall 1 (Leverson) Swindon 2 (Owen, Edwards)
Swindon 1 (Edwards) Walsall 2 (Dorman, Brown)

1957/58

Walsall 1 (Hodgkisson) Swindon 1 (Edwards)
Swindon 2 (Richards, Edwards) Walsall 3 (Faulkner, Taylor, og)

DIVISION THREE

1960/61

Walsall 2 (Richards 2) Swindon 1 (Woodruff)
Swindon 1 (Jackson) Walsall 0

1965/66

Walsall 5 (Riley 2, Satchwell, Taylor 2) Swindon 0
Swindon 0 Walsall 0

1966/67

Walsall 1 (Gregg) Swindon 1 (Rogers)
Swindon 3 (Rogers 2, Terry) Walsall 2 (Taylor, Baker)

1967/68

Walsall 3 (Murray 2, Taylor) Swindon 2 (Harland, Rogers)
Swindon 3 (Rogers, Nurse, Penman) Walsall 0

1968/69

Swindon 1 (Noble) Walsall 0
Walsall 0 Swindon 2 (Rogers 2)

1974/75

Walsall 2 (Buckley, Atthey) Swindon 0
Swindon 3 (McLaughlin, Moss, Proppett) Walsall 0

1975/76

Walsall 1 (Buckley) Swindon 1 (Eastoe)
Swindon 5 (Anderson 3, Moss, Syrett) Walsall 1 (Buckley)

I'M LOOKING FORWARD

Swindon Town are the best team in the Second Division. So says Walsall defender Adrian Viveash, and he should know, having spent nine happy years at the County Ground.

Today they sit proudly on top of the table, but dreading any slip with the impressive Crewe Alexandra outfit breathing down their necks, just two points behind.

Adrian knows a great deal about Swindon, so Walsall fans will be hoping he can use that knowledge to help his new team beat the leaders and extend their unbeaten run to six games.

How good are the

Christmas 1994."

Born in Wootton Bassett, about eight miles from Swindon, Adrian joined the club as a trainee in July 1986 when Lou Macari was manager. He played there under five managers - Macari, Ossie Ardiles, Glen Hoddle, John Gorman and Steve McMahon.

"When I first went to Swindon I was a striker, then I began to play more on the left side," he recalled.

"But Ossie Ardiles said he saw me more in a defensive role when he joined the club. I told him I would give it a go and I played a lot of games there when he was manager."

Paul Marston talks to Adrian Viveash

Paul is from the Birmingham Pool, Evening Mail & Sports Argus

opposition? "They have a lot of experience in the side and some very good players," he explained. "They have quality, and can knock the ball around well, just as Walsall can."

"It is one game I am particularly hopeful we win because it will be a good test for us and we shall have to play well to get anything out of the game."

"I enjoyed my career at Swindon, but I lost two years there with broken legs. I broke my right leg in a Reserve game against Arsenal, then did it again in a pre-season match, and I was out of action until

Adrian had two spells on loan to Reading when Mark

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL SUPPORTERS

Spectators are reminded that it is a criminal offence to run on the pitch, to use abusive language or threatening behaviour.

Bescot Stadium is covered by Close Circuit Television.

Offenders will be identified and prosecuted.

In addition, the Club will impose a life ban on anyone misbehaving, from attending matches at Bescot Stadium.

J.W. Bonser - Chairman.

1976/77

Walsall 2 (Taylor, Buckley) Swindon 0
Swindon 2 (McHale, Anderson) Walsall 2 (Dennehy, Buckley)

1977/78

Walsall 2 (Serrella, Dennehy) Swindon 0
Swindon 2 (Stroud, Moss) Walsall 3 (Buckley, Austin, og)

1978/79

Walsall 4 (Birch 2, Austin, King) Swindon 1 (Williams)
Swindon 4 (Kamara, Bates, Gilchrist, Serrella og) Walsall 1 (Austin)

1980/81

Walsall 2 (Penn, Rees) Swindon 1 (Miller)
Swindon 3 (Carter, Mayes, Greenwood) Walsall 1 (Buckley)

1981/82

Walsall 5 (Buckley 2, Loveridge, Rees 2) Swindon 0
Swindon 2 (Greenwood, Lewis) Walsall 2 (Penn, Caswell)

1986/87

Walsall 1 (Kelly) Swindon 0
Swindon 0 Walsall 0

1987/88

Walsall 2 (Rimmer, Pritchard)
Swindon 2 (Shearer, Calderwood)
Swindon 1 (Foley) Walsall 0

McGhee was boss then after Jimmy Quinn had taken over. There was talk of a permanent move, but a fee could not be agreed.

He went to Plymouth Argyle pre-season, taking part in two trial games, but at the time Swindon were talking in terms of a fee of between £200,000 and £300,000.

Adrian returned, spent the first month

TO THE SWINDON GAME TODAY



of the season with Barnsley on loan, but they bought Peter Shirliff from Wolves so he went back to Swindon again.

Because of their financial position, Swindon decided to give the defender two weeks notice, and at the time Walsall General Manager, Paul Taylor, was in touch with Town's Chief Scout Les O'Neil about Brian Kilcline.

When Taylor realised Viveash was available, he moved quickly, invited him to Bescot and he played against Fulham and Wrexham before signing for a month. He made such a good impression he was soon given a contract to the end of the season.

His reaction so far? "As a team we have got to be more consistent," he said. "When we are good, we are very good, but when we are off ... we are quite a way off.

"As we play more together we shall develop that consistency at Walsall. There are some excellent players here, men who could play at a higher level than the Second Division.

"We are not out of reach of the promotion play-off positions, and all we need to do is string two or three wins together to shoot up the table.

"I am really looking forward to the Swindon game today, though it will seem strange playing against them."

Since Adrian joined the Club, Walsall have won seven matches, drawn three and lost three. He has scored one goal, in the Auto Windscreens Shield tie against Wycombe Wanderers when the Saddlers won 5-0.

He has formed a new central defensive partnership with Derek Mountfield who, of course, played against his former club, Carlisle United, last week.

Adrian is married to Emma and the couple have a 19-month-old son, Harley. They met in a Swindon night club after the Robins had won a play-off final against Sunderland.

Happy Christmas Everyone.

SWINDON'S GREAT NAMES

Even in their Southern League days Swindon Town had some outstanding players, amongst them inside forwards **Granville Morris**, who partnered the legendary **Bill Meredith** in the Welsh national team and **Harry Fleming**, who won 11 England caps and was possessed of what was reckoned one of the greatest body swerves the game has known.

Between the wars **Tommy Phillipson** was an eager young striker who moved on to give great service to Wolves and ended his career with us while **Harry Morris** got well over two hundred goals in the late twenties and early thirties. As the Second World War approached **Ben Morton** got lots of goals while future Welsh international **Billy Lucas** (who was with Swansea after the war) provided the craft in midfield.

After the war **Alf** and **John Stephens** were one of the relatively few pairs of twins to play in the same Football League team while **Maurice Owen** was beginning a 6-season career that saw him giving great service up front for many years and later in defence. Prewar Arsenal and Derby County goalkeeper **Frank Boulton** and long-serving **Sam Burton** were outstanding goalkeepers and former Chelsea winger **Jimmy Bain** had a substantial spell on the left wing.

John Neal, later to star for Aston Villa, was a key defender of the 1950's while **Bob Edwards** had a few prolific seasons up front, but it was in the 1960's that Swindon unearthed a welter of exciting talent that included longthrow expert **Bobby Woodruff** and battling striker **Ernie Hunt**, both of whom moved to Wolves and **Mike Summerbee** who moved to fly down the Manchester City wing. **Peter Downsborough** followed in the tradition of long-serving goalkeepers and **Don Rogers** stayed long enough to get the vital goal that won the 1969 League Cup final against Arsenal.

Through it all **John Trollope** played for two whole decades in defence while in goal both **Jimmy Allan** and **Jimmy Barron** had spells in goal and **Peter Eastoe** and **Dave Syrett** were prolific strikers who later had short spells with us. **David Moss** and **Evor Anderson** had some prolific bursts up front. **Chris Kamara** ruffled a few feathers in midfield and as we move into the 1980's **Andy Rowland** kept scoring goals as did **Duncan Shearer** a few years later and as we move into the 1990's **Nicky Summerbee** followed the footsteps of his father Mike from Swindon to Manchester City and **Craig Maskell** and **Jan Fjortoft** netted freely before moving on to Southampton Town and Middlesbrough respectively.

SAFETY NOTICE

SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS ACT 1975 and 1987

In the interests of spectator safety the following conditions apply at Bescot Stadium and must be observed at all times:

- Glasses, bottles, drink cans, canisters, knives, darts, tools, fireworks, cameras, flagpoles or any other article likely to cause injury are not permitted to be brought into the stadium.
- Encroachment onto the playing area is forbidden.

Any spectator acting in contravention of these conditions is liable to arrest or ejection. Close Circuit Television is in use and any spectator seen acting in a disorderly manner is likely to be arrested or ejected from the ground.

In the event of an emergency, instructions will be given over the Public Address system. Spectators must follow the instructions given in a calm manner. You will be assisted by Stewards/Police Officers.

The Family Section of the Highgate Stand and an area of the H.L. Fellows Stand have been designated as NO SMOKING areas. Compliance with the NO SMOKING area signs is requested.

The conditions mentioned above are intended to improve your enjoyment of the game in a safe and secure environment.

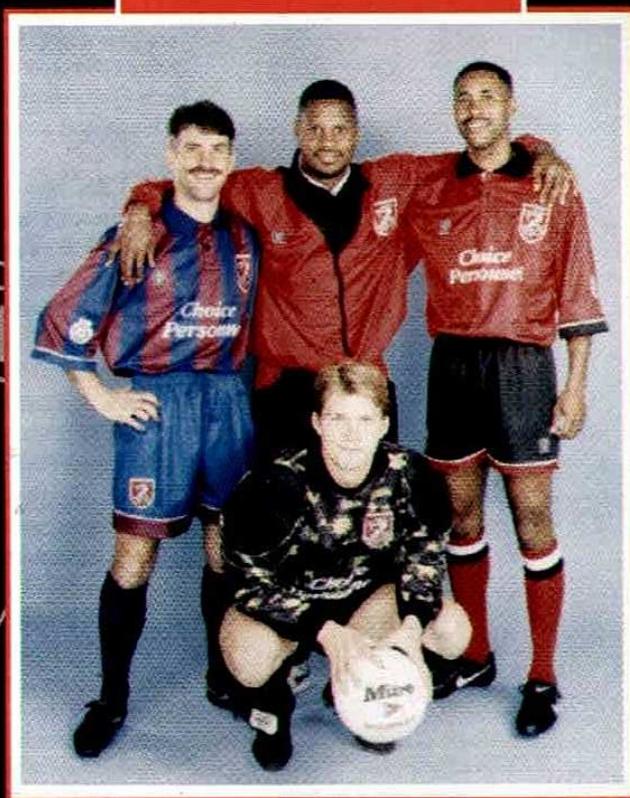
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TOWN CENTRE- Unit 5, The Arcade, Bradford Street, Walsall.

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STADIUM- Bescot Stadium, Bescot Crescent, Walsall.

OPENING TIMES- Thurs-Fri 9.00am-4.30 pm

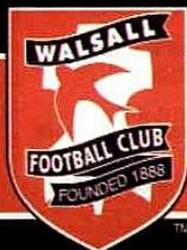
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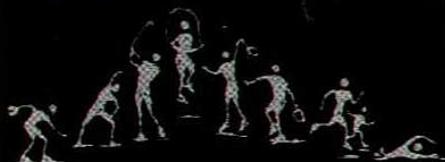
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It is doubtful whether any F.A. Cup tie this season will contain as much drama, thrills and action as our Second Round Replay against Torquay United.

Twelve goals in one game made it a real feast for supporters. While they may have enjoyed it, it certainly was not a night for defenders.

To be fair conditions underfoot favoured attackers. We had experienced some heavy frosts followed by a thaw. However, the ground just underneath the surface remained frost bound. This added to the difficulties being experienced by defenders, and may have been a contributory factor leading to some of the goals that were conceded at both ends.

Probably, all of us experienced the full range of emotions during the evening. I must admit that when we were trailing on two occasions I felt that we were going out of the competition. Perhaps the most traumatic moment came near the end of 90 minutes, when Torquay came within an ace of scoring a dramatic winner, with a shot that hit the inside of our post, bobbed across the goalline, before hitting the other post and bouncing clean.

The main thing is that we came through, and it is Walsall that go through to the Second Round.

The match certainly provided spectators with great entertainment, which can hardly be said for the Brighton v Fulham match broadcast 24 hours later on SKY-TV. The match finished goalless after extra time, and was stale in comparison with our cup tie.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Walsall supporters and their families a Very Happy Christmas, and let us hope that your enjoyment of the Festive Season will be boosted by some good results during the next 10 days.

Have a thought for the players when you are tucking into your wine and mince pies on Christmas Day afternoon. They, of course, have to exercise strict control over their dieting and drinking habits!

We will all be working on Christmas Day. The day before a game is important for players in respect of their preparation. Too much eating and drinking can have a detrimental effect on a players performance. Just keep a close eye on games during the next few days, and see if you can spot anyone who is running around with too many chocolates in his stomach.

We shall prepare thoroughly and professionally in our games. A training session on Christmas Day will be followed by a trip to Rotherham later in the day, and an overnight hotel stay.

This is a holiday routine accepted by professional footballers, who accept that they have to work at a time when the rest of the country is enjoying itself.

Self discipline for athletes is essential. If they are loose and sloppy in their preparation, it will show in their eventual performance.

Hopefully, our result over the holiday period will equal those of last year when we enjoyed great success in the sequence of games over Christmas and the New Year.

A warm welcome to Swindon Town, a club that I have great admiration for. This season the quality of their football has set a standard for all Second Division clubs to seek to emulate.

I am pleased for Swindon Manager, Steve McMahon, who has clearly brought some of his Liverpool experience into the Second Division.

I am sure that we can look forward to another entertaining and interesting game.

Thank you for your support. Enjoy the game.

Chris Nicholl

UP FRONT with Chris Nicholl - Sponsored by David Lloyd Leisure plc

HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The Directors, Management, Players and Staff at Bescot Stadium extend our best wishes for a Happy Christmas to all Saddlers supporters and their families.

Have a marvellous time and let us hope that the results from our Christmas fixtures add to your enjoyment of the Festive Season.

TRAVELLING TO ROTHERHAM

A reminder that our Boxing Day fixture at Rotherham on Tuesday kicks off at 3.00pm.

For Saddlers supporters seated accommodation is available in the Millmoor Lane Stand, Adults £9.50 and Junior's & OAP's £6.00. Terrace accommodation is available at the Railway end, £7.00 for Adults and £4.50 for Juniors/OAP's.

TRIP TO CHESTERFIELD NEXT SATURDAY

We say goodbye to 1995 with an away game at Chesterfield the team that we pipped for automatic promotion last season.

The match kicks off at 3.00pm. Saddlers supporters will be accommodated in the Cross Street end of the Ground.

Admission prices are £7.00 for the uncovered Cross Street terrace, and £8.00 for the covered Cross Street wing stand. There are no concessions for Juniors or Senior Citizens.

FAREWELL TO BILL STARKEY

Bill Starkey was part of the matchday scene at Bescot Stadium. He acted as a Steward for the Club for many years both at Fellows Park and Bescot Stadium.

In more recent seasons he has been doorman for the Directors Lounge, where he carried out his duties on a voluntary basis.

He loved Walsall Football Club. His last match was two weeks ago against York City, despite feeling unwell.

Within hours he suffered a heart attack, and subsequently died. He will be sadly missed at Bescot Stadium. To his widow,

family and friends we send our sincere condolences, with the assurance that Bill will not be forgotten at Walsall Football Club.

BESCOT STADIUM RECEPTION OFFICE

Please note that the Bescot Stadium Office will be closed throughout the Christmas week until Friday 29th December.

It will be open on Friday from 9.00am to 4.30pm., and on New Years Day from 11.00am.

Usual Office hours will resume on Tuesday 2nd January.

THE FOOTBALL SHOP

The Football Shop will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, but open throughout the rest of the week from Wednesday 27th December, 9.00am to 5.00pm. It will be closed on New Years Day.

STANLEY'S RESTAURANT CLOSED DURING CHRISTMAS WEEK

Stanley's Restaurant will be closed for lunches throughout Christmas week.

However, places are still available for the New Years Eve Party next Sunday at £32.50 each. The evening includes choice from 6 course a la carte menu, licensed bar to 1.00am., and dancing to music provided by our resident DJ in to the early hours.

Bookings are also being taken for the pre-match 4 course carvery meal served in Stanley's Restaurant from 1.00pm on New Years Day prior to the match versus Hull City. Price is £13.95 per person.

Reservations for Stanley's Restaurant can be made on Walsall 725753.

BESCOT STADIUM SUNDAY MARKET TO OPERATE THROUGHOUT CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Great news for last minute Christmas shoppers. There will be a Christmas Eve Sunday Market at Bescot Stadium tomorrow 9.00am to 4.30pm.

Also, the Sunday Market will be in operation next Sunday on New Years Eve.

AVOID WASTED JOURNEYS

We shall be keeping a close

eye on the weather throughout the Christmas period. If inclement weather threatens the matches at Rotherham or Chesterfield we shall provide an up-to-date information service on SADDLERS HOTLINE 0891 555 800.

Our advice throughout these winter months is, before you set out for games, always consult SADDLERS HOTLINE 0891 555 800 which we shall keep constantly updated with news about pitch conditions.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR WIGAN F.A. CUP TIE

Our Third Round F.A. Cup tie versus Wigan Athletic will be played at Bescot Stadium on Saturday 6th January, kick off 3.00pm.

Usual First Team prices apply. The match will not be all ticket. However, tickets can be purchased in advance from The Football Shop in Walsall Town Centre and at Bescot Stadium.

Season Ticket holders have until 3.00pm on New Years Day to reserve their seats for this game.

In the event that a replay is required it will be played at Wigan on Tuesday 16th January, kick off 7.45pm.

The League match at Notts County scheduled to be played at Meadow Lane on Saturday 6th January has been postponed. A midweek date for the rescheduled game is still to be arranged.

BIRMINGHAM SENIOR CUP

We have been given an Away draw in the Birmingham Senior Cup Third Round with a trip to Burton Albion on Tuesday 9th January, kick off 7.30pm.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE EGM NEXT FRIDAY

All 72 Clubs in the Football League meet next Friday to discuss the proposed 5 year TV deal with BSkyB TV. It is one of the most vital meetings ever called by the Football League.

For the TV deal to go ahead it needs the support of all clubs.

If all clubs cannot agree on how the money from the TV deal should be distributed it could threaten the very existence of the Football League as we know it today.

Let us hope that common sense prevails, and that an agreement is hammered out that all Club's can support. The alternative is too terrible to contemplate.

BOSMAN CASE POSES ANOTHER PROBLEM FOR FOOTBALL

The Judgement made in the European Court last week, upholding the initial judgement made in the Basman case seems to throw into doubt the continuation of the transfer system as we know it.

We are still waiting for guidance from the Football League concerning it's real implications for English clubs.

On the face of it, once a player reaches the end of his contract he will be able to join another club, without his present club having any right of compensation. This would spell disaster for those clubs who rely on transfer income to keep themselves solvent.

However, some newspaper reports suggest that the ruling only applies where players are moving between different EEC countries, and that the domestic game would not be affected.

We shall just have to wait and see. One thing is certain however, whatever the outcome Walsall Football Club will survive because we have diversified our activities to the extent that we do not have to rely solely on football related income. There are a lot of clubs not in that fortunate position, and in the worst scenario, one can see quite a few clubs going out of business and others going part time.

50/50 DRAW RESULTS

The result of the 50/50 Draw at the Walsall versus Torquay United match on Tuesday 12th December was, as follows:

1st Prize: £226.77. No. 625.

Winner: John Lee, Tipton.

2nd Prize: £25.00. No. 1376.

Winner: Mr. w. Rudge, Bilston.

3rd Prize: £25.00. No. 2002.

Winner: Helen Parsons, Bloxwich.

The 50/50 Draw continues today. Tickets will be on sale inside and outside the Stadium 50 pence each. The results will be announced at half time, and winnings can be collected from the Reception Office immediately after today's game.

WELCOME TO OUR MATCH SPONSOR - CALDMORE AREA HOUSING ASSOCIATION

A big welcome to today's Match sponsor, Caldmore Area Housing Association, whose Chief Executive is non other than Walsall F.C. President, Barrie Blower.

Caldmore A.H.A. has played a very important role in the town in providing sheltered housing, renovating old properties, and providing rented accommodation for people who otherwise may well have been homeless.

They have given great support to Walsall Football Club in recent years. We hope that Barrie and his guests have a wonderful afternoon at Bescot Stadium, and that the two teams provide an exciting game to celebrate the start of the Festive Season.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR MATCHBALL SPONSORS - P.J. ARNOLD LTD

A warm welcome to our Matchball Sponsors, P.J. Arnold Ltd., a company that have given great support to our commercial activities during the past couple of seasons.

This Darlaston based firm provide an excellent painting and decorating service for domestic and commercial properties. They will be pleased to provide a free quote for your next decorating job. Simply telephone Tracy on 0121 568 6260 for assistance.

We hope that Paul, Tracy and their guests have an enjoyable afternoon at Bescot Stadium today.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR MATCHDAY MASCOT - JACK BULLOCK

Today we welcome 6 year old Jack Bullock as our Matchday Mascot. Jack his sponsored by his father, Mr. John Bullock, and comes from the Fullbrook area of Walsall.

We hope that Jack enjoys this early Christmas surprise of being mascot, and that he proves lucky for the Saddlers today.

Thank you for your support. Enjoy the game.

Roy Whalley.



WALSALL FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED
Bescot Stadium, Bescot Crescent,
Walsall WS1 4SA.
Telephone: 01922 22791
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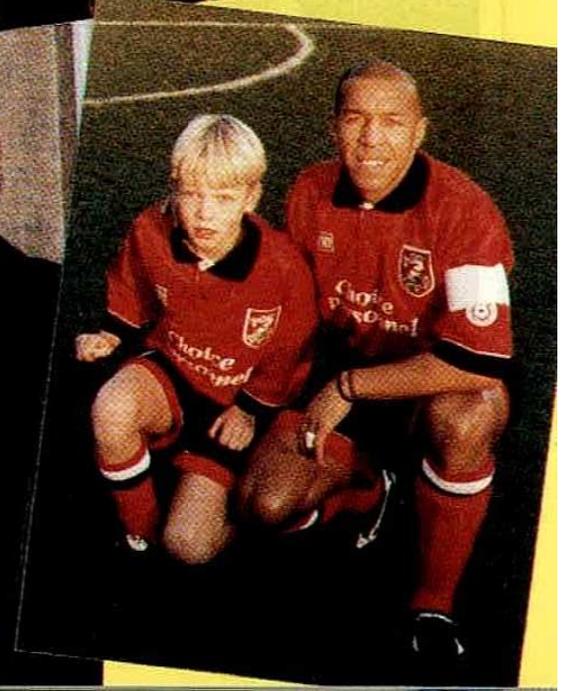
AND HOPE THAT YOU ENJOY THE GAME

18 Caldmore Green, Walsall, West Midlands WS1 3RL.
Telephone: 01922 614505. Fax: 01922 30389.





It was certainly Martin O'Connor's day against York City with his 'Man of the Match' awards. Left - top to bottom: Martin with the Match Sponsors - Derwent Marketing, middle, in the Swifts Club presenting their 'Banks's' award to one of their members, and below with the Matchball Sponsors Banks's Brewery. Below: young Christopher Smith having a ball presented to him for his birthday by Kevin Wilson and bottom, Martin with our mascot that day Chris Clayton.



MATCH REPORT

WALSALL 2 YORK CITY 0

Endsleigh League Division Two
Saturday 9th December 1995

Martin O'Connor stepped in as emergency striker, when Kyle Lightbourne's groin injury failed to respond to treatment, and he won the Man of the Match Award for his non-stop display of powerful aggressive running and shooting. He did not manage to score but he was the inspiration for the rest of the team and it was a comprehensive victory which had all the scoring opportunities been taken could have been closer to a 6-0 scoreline than the final 2-0 total.

The opening goal came in the 32nd minute as Darren Bradley swung over a corner which Viveash met with a powerful header. Kiely could only parry the ball away and before the defence could recover Derek Mountfield tucked away his first goal for the Club. Wilson went close soon afterwards but his shot was just inches wide of the right hand post.

The second goal came on 38 minutes as again Bradley stroked a superb 30 yard pass to Marsh in acres of space on the edge of the area and he showed great skill and composure to turn and chip Kiely from 20 yards as the ball lobbed neatly into the far corner of the net. York threatened to pull back a goal as Walker made several good saves from Pepper, Matthews and Barnes. But with O'Connor in sparkling form, hitting the post with a 68th minute free kick, and John Keister, Darren Bradley and Chris Marsh all on top form it was never going to be easy for our visitors who had to be on constant alert to prevent us scoring again. Martin Butler and Kyle Lightbourne did come on late in the game for Wilson and O'Connor to save them from tiring for the Torquay replay in midweek. The win pushed us up to 14th in the table and gives us some valuable breathing space. If we can carry this form into the Swindon match we may just raise a few eyebrows and spring a shock on the runaway League leaders, when a bumper crowd is expected.

Walsall: Walker, Ntamark, Rogers, Viveash, Marsh, Mountfield, O'Connor, Bradley, Keister, Wilson, Houghton. Subs Lightbourne for Wilson (84), Butler for O'Connor (84), Watkiss (not used).

York City: Kiely, McMillan, Hall, Pepper, Tutill, Barras, Matthews, Jordan, Barnes, Baker, Stephenson. Subs Bushell for Pepper (59), Murty for Baker (59), Peverell (not used).

Attendance 3,193

Goals 1-0 Mountfield (32)

2-0 Marsh (38)

Referee Mr S W Mathieson - Stockport

Reported by Don Martin and Michael Cheadle

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

On behalf of The Officials and Committee Members of The Supporters' Clubs may I wish The Directors, Management, Staff, Players and Supporters of Walsall Football Club a Very Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year. For many supporters, myself included, three points today would be an excellent early Christmas Present.

CHRISTMASTIDE ATTRACTIONS AT "THE SADDLERS' CLUB"

At the time of writing some tickets are still available for the following attractions although none are left for the New Year's Eve Party, and the Boxing Day Evening Dance.

This evening, December 23rd - **Grand Christmas Cabaret Show** featuring Comedian Stan Pinton, Lady Vocalist Kristie Charles, Male Vocalist Paul Emmanuel, Jason Resident Duo etc.

Commence 8.00pm. Tickets £3.00.

Tomorrow, December 24th - **Christmas Eve Party with The Paul Stereo Roadshow.** Tickets £3.00. Commence 8.00pm. Late extension applied for.

Christmas Day - **Lounge Bar** open 11.30am-1.30pm and 8.00pm-10.00pm.

Wednesday, December 27th - **Tea Dance** 1.30pm-4.30pm. Admission £1.00.

Friday, December 29th - **Bingo.** Free Admission, Cash Prizes. Commence 8.15pm. **Pantomime "Robinson Crusoe"** presented by Jenco Promotions. Commence 7.30pm. Tickets £3.00. Accompanied children £1.50.

Saturday, December 30th - **Ballroom & Sequence Dancing** to "The Breeze & I" (Live Band), 8.00pm-11.30pm. Admission £1.50.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Saddlers' Club Members are asked to please **renew their Membership for 1996 as soon as possible.** This can be done by presenting their 1995 card to The Duty Doorman whenever The Club is

open except immediately before a Home Match. The 1996 Renewal Fee is £3.50 and £2.00 for Senior Citizens. New Members will be able to join on Monday evenings commencing in mid-January.

"AWAY TRAVEL"

Tuesday, December 26th. **Rotherham United Fare £7.50.** Departure 12.00 noon. Departure time refers to Bridgeman Street, Walsall. Passengers can also board the coaches at Bloxwich, Leamore, Pleck, The Stadium and The Delves. Please book this afternoon at The Travel Office at the rear of The Saddlers' Club.

THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB "MAN OF THE MATCH AWARD"

After The Match against York City on December 9th I had the pleasure of presenting the Award to **Martin O'Connor** in The Saddlers' Club Lounge. The winner in the game against **Torquay United** on Tuesday, December 12th was **Chris Marsh.** Congratulations to both players. Supporters are invited to visit the Saddlers' Club after the final whistle today for a welcome drink, see the scores from other matches, see the presentation of our Award and maybe have a word with this afternoon's Winner and other members of the team.

SADDLERS' CLUB BADGES AND 1996 DIARIES

Saddlers' Club Badges can be obtained today from the Saddlers' Club and The Travel Office price £2.50 each. Despite promises from the suppliers the 1996 Diaries are not available at the time of writing but they should be on sale this afternoon price just 50 pence in the club and The Travel Office. A Badge and/or a Diary could make an extra Christmas Present for any Saddlers' Supporter.

AGAIN A "HAPPY CHRISTMAS" EVERYONE

Bernard Johnston.

LADIES LINE

Hope you have all recovered from the cup-replay now! It took me a while that's for sure. I don't think we'll ever see a game like that again. At half-time I was wondering what BBC1 would show as highlights as apart from two goals, I thought it was quite mediocre. However, by the end of the match I bet they were really pleased that they chose to bring the cameras to Bescot. You can never accuse Walsall of being boring! Kyle Lightbourne changed the game when he came on as substitute and showed what a good player he is, scoring twice. I must admit to feeling quite sorry for Torquay as they gave everything and even pulled a goal back when they were 6-3 down. Hopefully they can avoid the dreaded drop to the Vauxhall Conference next May - I think they stand a good chance if they continue to play like that.

It was pleasing to get a point at Brunton Park last Saturday as we came away empty handed last season. We missed out on doing the double over the Third Division Champions though, having already beaten them 2-1 here in September. Derek Mountfield must have been relieved that he was able to play against Carlisle after limping off in the Torquay game. As soon as he left them and joined us he must have scoured the fixture list to see when we were playing them. I was glad to see that Carlisle's top-scorer David Reeves was suspended and couldn't line up against us. He always seems to score when he plays at Walsall.

Good to see Chris Marsh break his goalscoring duck against York in our 2-0 home win. Then he managed to notch a further two in the amazing game against Torquay. Lets hope he weighs in with a few more before the season finishes. Derek Mountfield also scored his first goal for the Saddlers in the York game of course.

This afternoon we have a very attractive match with leaders Swindon Town. It will be a big test for the lads but one I'm sure they will relish. It is always nice to beat the team making the running. Swindon have had a tremendous start and look perhaps too strong for this division, having suffered two successive relegations. They are bound to hit a sticky patch however, so it will be interesting. Christmas is a busy time for footballers but lets hop we have a good one picking up plenty of points.

Happy Christmas.

Bianca Middleton.



Welcome

SWINDON TOWN



Back Row: Wayne Allison; Paul Bodin; Shaun Taylor; Fraser Digby; Mark Seagraves; Andy Thomson; Peter Thorne.
 Middle Row: Ian Culverhouse; Kevin Horlock; Jason Drysdale; Stephen Finney; Dean Hooper (on loan to Peterborough United);
 Mark Robinson; Luc Nijholt (no longer with the club); Ty Gooden; Edwin Murray.
 Front Row: Martin Ling; Wayne O'Sullivan; Andy Rowland (First team Coach); Steve McMahon (Player/Manager);
 Ross MacLaren (Reserve team Coach); Jonathan Trigg (Physiotherapist); Jamie Pitman; Ben Worrall.

Now in his second year at the helm, Steve was of course in charge when County went down last season but he shows every sign of leading them straight back up again in what is still his first full season in management.

Born in Liverpool in 1961 he graduated via Liverpool schools football to make his First Division debut for Everton as a 19-year-old in 1980/81 and immediately became a first team regular. After four seasons as a key figure in midfield at Goodison Park he moved to Aston Villa in 1983 but then just two seasons later moved back to his home city to play for Liverpool.

In his first season with the Reds he won an FA Cup and League Championship medal and got another winners medal two



seasons later. By that time he had won his first England cap and to complete a remarkable five seasons at Anfield he gained an FA Cup winners medal in 1989, and another First Division medal in 1990.

He moved to Manchester City in December 1991 and stayed there just over three years until moving to Swindon Town as player/manager in November 1994. He played in 19 games before the end of last season to take his career aggregate to 595 appearances but was unable to save the Robins from relegation.

He has now passed the 600 mark and may well be in the team today. Still a powerful midfielder with one of the firmest tackles in the game, Steve is an inspiration both on and off the field.

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Endsleigh



Swindon Town come here today for their first-ever visit to Bescot and are still holding on to the top of the table berth they have held all the season.

While they have only lost two League games this season they drew 1-1 at home with Wrexham last Saturday and have in fact had not too good a run in recent weeks.

LAST SEASON

Swindon Town kicked off last season back in Division One after just one season in the Premier League and despite a scarcity of goals only lost one of their first seven games and were in the top five up to the end of October. They soon went out of the Anglo-Italian Cup but put together a remarkable Coca Cola Cup run that took them through against Charlton Athletic, Brighton, Derby County and Millwall before going down 4-3 on aggregate to Bolton Wanderers in the semi-final.

At the end of the old year however, they went 12 League games without a win and this plunged them into a relegation rather than a promotion battle. After beating Marlow in the third round of the FA Cup they went out to Watford in the fourth round and inbetween the two legs of the Coca Cola Cup semi-finals they picked up only two League points and were then in 22nd place. A 5-2 win at West Bromwich Albion raised their hopes of staying up, but three defeats in a row, without scoring, at the end of April, was the final blow and though they beat Notts County 3-0 and drew at Wolves in their last two games they were still six points short of safety in the final reckoning.

Norwegian Jan Fjortoft, who had moved to Middlesbrough in March, got 26 goals before his move, while Peter Thorne, who came from Blackburn Rovers in February, got 11. Midfielder Mark Robinson missed only six games and fellow midfielder Joey Beauchamp and goalkeeper Fraser Digby missed just seven.

THIS SEASON

They kicked off the season with a Stephen Finney goal at Hull City to give them a 1-0 win, but then

lost the next game at Cambridge United in the Coca Cola Cup 2-1 with Ty Gooden being the scorer. A 3-0 home win over York City followed with two goals from Stephen Finney and one from Paul Bodin from the penalty spot. The home leg with Cambridge United resulted with a 2-0 win to see them through to the next round with the goals coming from Joey Beauchamp and Kevin Horlock. A

win at Carlisle United followed with Edwin Murray getting the goal and then a 1-1 draw with Oxford United at home with Wayne Allison scoring. A 2-0 win at Brentford followed with Wayne O'Sullivan and Finney netting and then Allison scored their goal in a 1-1 home draw with Chesterfield. Two 4-1 wins were next on the agenda, the first at home over Bradford City with Mark Robinson, Allison, Harlock and Finney on the target, and the second was at Bristol Rovers when Harlock got a hat-trick and Shaun Taylor the other.

They lost the two legs of the Coca Cola Cup-tie with Blackburn Rovers 3-2 at home when Allison and Finney were on the target again and 2-0 at Blackburn. In between they beat Rotherham United at home 1-0 with Gooden scoring and lost their first League game to the odd goal of seven at Wrexham when Allison netted twice and Gary Thorne the other. At home against Bristol City saw them win 2-0 with goals from O'Sullivan and

Allison. A visit to Brighton resulted in a 3-1 win with Finney 2 and Harlock scoring but these were followed by a 1-1 draw at Torquay United in the Auto Windscreens Shield, Martin Ling being the man on target. Then games against the two teams beneath them resulted in a 2-1 home win over Crewe Alexandra with



Ian Culverhouse

Allison and Finney netting and 3-1 at Notts County with Taylor 2 and Bodin being the men with their scoring boots on that day. October ended with a 0-0 draw at Bournemouth and this was followed by another draw, 1-1 at Blackpool, Finney again being on the target. A 2-0 win at Colchester United in Auto Windscreens

Shield with Finney netting again with Thorne being on target also. Then a 4-1 win over Cambridge United in the FA Cup with Harlock 2, Finney and Paul Allen scoring. A 1-1 win at Stockport County, Allison on target again, was followed with their first League home defeat at the hands of Shrewsbury Town and then another 1-0 defeat at Hereford United in the Auto Windscreens Shield.

December started with a 2-0 FA Cup win over Cardiff City with Allison and Finney on the target yet again and Finney again scored twice at Rotherham United to give them a 2-0 win, before last Saturday's 1-1 draw at home to Wrexham when O'Sullivan got his name on the scoresheet in the 76th minute.

THE PLAYERS

GOALKEEPERS

The man currently holding the number one spot is Fraser Digby who started out his career with Manchester United although he did not make the first team and had loan spells at Oldham Athletic and Swindon before joining them permanently and has now over 400 appearances. The other man in contention who has made 6 appearances this term is Frank Talia, an Australian who was signed in November from Blackburn Rovers and has also had a loan spell with Hartlepool United and an earlier

SWINDON TOWN

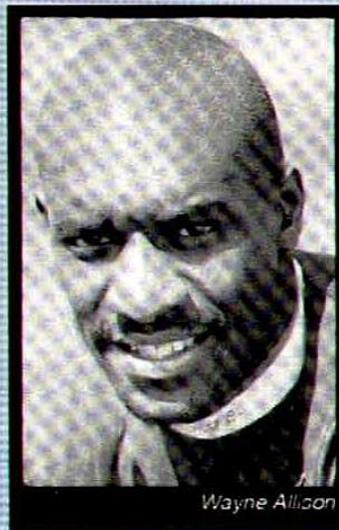
spell this season with Swindon.

DEFENDERS

Regular number three is Paul Bodin who is a Welsh international and is in his second spell at the County Ground. His first was when he was signed from Newport County for £25,000 in 1988 and this time being signed from Crystal Palace the club to whom he left Swindon for £550,000. Shaun Taylor is also a regular in the Swindon defence. He was signed from Exeter City in 1991 for £200,000 and has just signed a new contract to keep him at the County Ground until 1997. Mark Seagraves is a strong defender who was signed from Bolton Wanderers for £100,000 in June. A former Liverpool apprentice and had a loan spell with Norwich City before joining Manchester City in 1986 and then moved to Burnden Park in 1990. Northern Ireland international Kevin Horlock joined them from West Ham

United on a free transfer in 1992.

Wayne O'Sullivan has missed only a handful of games this term, a former trainee he has progressed well at the County Ground and was selected for the Eire under-21 side against Latvia in October. Mark Robinson is a regular in the the Swindon side this season. A former West Bromwich Albion apprentice but after making his League debut with them moved to Barnsley and was then transferred to Newcastle United in 1993 for £450,000, but then moved to Swindon in July 1994 for a club record fee of £600,000. Edwin Murray joined Swindon as a



Wayne Allison

another former trainee who made his League debut towards the end of last season.

FORWARDS

Wayne Allison joined Bristol City for £475,000 from Bristol City for whom he was their top scorer last season. An apprentice with Halifax Town he moved to Watford for £250,000 in 1989 and the following year to

SWINDON TOWN LANDMARKS

- 1881 Founded
- 1894 Became founder-members of the Southern League.
- 1896 Moved to present County Ground.
- 1907 Played in the FA Cup for the first time.
- 1910 Reached the semi-final of the FA Cup, losing to Newcastle United.
- 1911 Southern League Champions.
- 1912 Reached the FA Cup semi-final again.
- 1914 Southern League Champions.
- 1920 Founder-members of Division Three
- 1921 Beat Luton Town 9-1 in Division Three (South)
- 1927 Harry Morris finished the season with 48 goals.
- 1933 Survived a re-election application.
- 1956 Survived a re-election application.
- 1957 Survived another re-election application.
- 1958 Final place of fourth in Division Three (South) to qualify for the new Division Three.
- 1963 Promoted to Division Two.
- 1965 Relegated to Division Three
- 1967 Reached the last eight of the FA Cup.
- 1969 Promoted to Division Two and won the League Cup, beating Arsenal 3-1 at Wembley
- 1970 Won the Anglo Italian Cup.
- 1974 Relegated to Division Three.
- 1982 Relegated to Division Four.
- 1986 Promoted to Division Three.
- 1987 Promoted to Division Two via the Playoffs
- 1990 Won promotion to Division One but relegated immediately for alleged financial irregularities.
- 1993 Promoted from the renamed Division One to the Premier League, via the Playoffs.
- 1994 Relegated to Division One.
- 1995 Relegated to Division Two.

schoolboy in 1988 and signed professional in 1991 and has recently broken into the first team again. Jason Drysdale is a current member of the squad who is a former England youth international who signed in March this year for a fee of £340,000 from Newcastle United. Ian Culverhouse was signed from Norwich City last December for a £250,000 tribunal fee. He was a former Spurs apprentice but only made one full appearance for them and moved to Norwich where he appeared in their side in the UEFA cup last season.

MIDFIELDERS

Former Wycombe Wanderers midfielder Ty Gooden signed after a successful trial period in 1993 and has scored twice this season to date. Paul Allen signed from Southampton after previously being with West Ham United and Spurs as well as loan spells with Luton Town and Stoke City and is a member of the renowned footballing family. Jamie Pitman is a former trainee and signed professional in July 1994 and had recently signed a new contract to take him through till next season. Ben Worrall is

DID YOU KNOW

SWINDON TOWN

- When Swindon Town won the Fourth Division Championship in 1985/86 they had an 18 point margin over second place Chester City.
- Swindon Town share with Aldershot the distinction of being the first teams to win promotion via the playoffs, Swindon going up from Division Three and Aldershot from Division Four in 1986/87.
- Paul Rideout was just 16 years and 107 days old when making his debut for Swindon Town against Hull City in Division Three in November 1980.
- Swindon Town and Bolton Wanderers hold the record for Football League Cup replays, their 1989/90 tie requiring three replays before Swindon won through 2-1.
- Swindon Town were 2-0 down after just ten minutes of their Division Three (South) game against Boumemouth in January 1926, but went on to win 8-2 with Frank Richardson netting four times.
- Though relegated from the Premier League at the end of 1993/94 Swindon were the only team to score as many as four goals against champions Manchester United in League games that season.
- Harry Cousins played his last League game for Swindon Town at Notts County in 1947. Twenty four years earlier he had played for Chesterfield as a 16 year old triallist on the same ground.

SADDLERS' FIXTURES & FACTS



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OPPONENTS	Score	LP	Att	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
AUGUST				HOME GAMES IN BOLD TYPE						
12-STOCKPORT COUNTY	0-2		4884	Walker	Evans	Daniel	Ryder	Marsh	Watkiss	O'Connor
15-BRENTFORD CCC Rd1,1L	2-2		2405	Walker	Evans	Daniel	Ryder	Marsh	Watkiss	O'Connor
19-Shrewsbury Townog	2-0	13	4019	Walker	Evans	Daniel	Watkiss	Marsh+	Palmer	O'Connor
22-Brentford CC.Cup Rd1,2L	2-3		3149	Walker	Evans	Daniel	Watkiss	Marsh	Palmer	O'Connor
26-BRISTOL ROVERS	og 1-1	12	4851	Walker	Evans	Daniel	Watkiss	Marsh	Palmer	O'Connor
29-Crewe Alexandra	0-1	16	4377	Walker	Evans	Daniel	Watkiss	Marsh	Palmer	Keister
SEPTEMBER										
6-Burnley	1-1	16	8778	Walker	Evans	Daniel	Watkiss	Marsh	Palmer	Keister
9-SWANSEA CITY	og 4-1	13	3788	Walker	Evans	Daniel	Watkiss+	Marsh	Palmer	O'Connor
12-OXFORD UNITED	2-2	11	3905	Walker	Evans	Daniel	Watkiss	Marsh	Palmer	O'Connor
16-Brentford	0-1		3149	Walker	Evans-	Daniel	Watkiss	Marsh+	Palmer	O'Connor
23-York City	0-1	16	3541	Walker	Evans	Daniel-	Watkiss	Marsh+	Palmer	O'Connor
30-CARLISLE UNITED	2-1	14	4214	Wood	Evans	Daniel	Watkiss	Marsh	Palmer	O'Connor p
OCTOBER										
7-PETERBOROUGH UNITED	1-1	15	3768	Wood	Evans	Daniel	Watkiss	Marsh+	Palmer	O'Connor
14-Wycombe Wanderers	0-1	18	4724	Wood	Evans	Rogers	Watkiss	Marsh+	Palmer	O'Connor
17-Fulham AWS Rd1	5-2		1315	Wood	Evans	Rogers	Roper*	Marsh	Viveash	O'Connor+
21-WREXHAM	1-2	20	4020	Wood	Evans	Rogers	Viveash	Marsh	Palmer	O'Connor
28-Bristol City	2-0	16	5475	Walker	Evans*	Rogers	Viveash	Marsh	Palmer	O'Connor
31-Bradford City	0-1	19	4310	Walker	Ntmark	Rogers	Viveash	Marsh	Watkiss	O'Connor
NOVEMBER										
4-AFC BOURNEMOUTH	0-0	18	3626	Walker	Ntmark	Rogers	Roper	Marsh	Watkiss	O'Connor
7-WYCOMBE WANDERERS AWS1	5-0		2582	Walker	Ntmark	Rogers	Viveash	Marsh	Mountfield	Keister
10-Burnley FAC Rd.1	3-1		8525	Walker	Ntmark	Rogers	Viveash	Marsh	Watkiss	O'Connor
18-Brighton & Hove Albion	3-0	16	4976	Walker	Ntmark	Rogers	Viveash	Marsh	Mountfield	O'Connor
25-BLACKPOOL	1-1	17	4458	Walker	Ntmark	Rogers	Viveash	Marsh	Mountfield	O'Connor
28-BRIGHTON AWS Rd2	1-2		3458	Walker	Ntmark*	Rogers	Viveash	Marsh	Mountfield	O'Connor
DECEMBER										
2-Torquay United FAC Rd 2	1-1		3552	Walker	Ntmark	Rogers	Viveash	Marsh	Mountfield	O'Connor
9-YORK CITY	**	14	3193	Walker	Ntmark	Rogers	Viveash	Marsh	Mountfield	O'Connor*
12-TORQUAY FAC Rd2ply	AET H3 3	8.4	3203	Walker	Ntmark	Rogers	Viveash	Marsh 2	Mountfield*	O'Connor
16-Carlisle United	1-1	16	5308	Walker	Ntmark	Rogers	Viveash	Marsh*	Mountfield	O'Connor
23-SWINDON TOWN										
26-Rotherham United										
30-Chesterfield										
JANUARY										
1-HULL CITY										
8-WIGAN ATHLETIC FA Cup 3										
13-SHREWSBURY TOWN										
20-Stockport County										
27-CREWE ALEXANDRA FA Cup Rd 4										
FEBRUARY										
3-Bristol Rovers										
18-NOTTIS COUNTY										
17-Oxford United. FA Cup Rd 5										
20-BURNLEY										
24-BRENTFORD										
27-Swansea City										
MARCH										
2-ROTHERHAM UNITED										
9-Swindon Town. FA Cup Rd 6										
16-CHESTERFIELD										
23-Hull City										
30-Peterborough. FA Cup Semi-Final										
APRIL										
2-WYCOMBE WANDERERS										
6-BRISTOL CITY										
8-Wrexham										
13-BRADFORD CITY										
20-AFC Bournemouth										
27-Blackpool										
MAY										
4-BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION										



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DIVISION TWO TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon Town	20	12	5	2	36	15	42
Crewe Alexandra	20	12	4	4	40	22	40
Notts County	20	11	4	4	32	17	38
Blackpool	20	10	5	5	31	21	35
Burnley	21	9	7	5	35	27	34
Wrexham	20	8	8	4	32	23	32
Chesterfield	20	9	5	6	31	23	32
Shrewsbury Town	20	10	2	8	30	26	32
Wycombe Wanderers	20	7	9	4	28	22	30
Stockport County	21	7	8	6	25	21	29
Bradford City	20	8	4	8	28	33	28
Oxford United	20	7	7	6	27	22	28
Bournemouth	20	8	4	8	22	26	28
Bristol Rovers	20	7	5	8	21	29	26
Peterborough United	21	6	7	8	27	31	25
WALSALL	20	6	7	7	23	18	25
Carlisle United	21	5	7	9	27	33	22
Bristol City	20	5	7	8	20	29	22
York City	20	6	3	11	23	32	21
Rotherham United	21	5	6	10	23	35	21
Swansea City	21	4	8	9	22	35	20
Brentford	20	5	5	10	16	26	20
Brighton & Hove	20	4	3	13	17	34	15
Hull City	20	2	8	10	16	32	14

DIVISION TWO GATES

	Highest	Lowest	Average
Swindon Town	13,041	7,748	10,282
Burnley	10,478	8,079	8,744
Carlisle United	8,003	4,459	6,263
Bristol City	7,734	4,408	6,086
Bradford City	9,748	4,310	6,077
Stockport County	8,463	4,070	5,958
Notts County	6,725	4,005	5,710
Bristol Rovers	7,825	4,241	5,583
Brighton	7,808	4,230	5,459
Oxford United	7,731	4,271	5,421
Blackpool	7,301	3,877	5,226
Brentford	7,878	4,104	5,128
Wycombe Wanderers	5,637	3,617	4,733
Bournemouth	6,362	3,894	4,711
Peterborough United	5,618	3,817	4,650
Chesterfield	5,490	3,419	4,433
Hull City	6,525	3,288	4,289
Walsall	4,884	3,153	4,076
Crewe Alexandra	4,512	3,272	3,986
York City	4,684	3,101	3,608
Wrexham	4,296	2,939	3,492
Rotherham United	3,754	2,739	3,180
Shrewsbury Town	4,019	2,186	2,977
Swansea City	3,498	1,788	2,638

PONTINS

Stockport County
Bury
Wigan Athletic
Carlisle United
Wrexham
Walsall
Shrewsbury
Rochdale
Doncaster Rovers
Chesterfield
Scarborough
Darlington
Lincoln City
Scunthorpe
Chester City

ACTS - SEASON 1995/96

	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Goalscorers in Bold								
Watkiss	O'Connor	Ntmark	Lightbourne	Wilson	Bradley	Butler	Rogers	Wood	Substitutes + 5 G *
Watkiss	O'Connor	Ntmark	Lightbourne	Wilson	Bradley	Rogers	Butler	Keister	
Palmer	O'Connor	Ntmark	Lightbourne	Wilson	Bradley	Houghton+	Rogers	Wood	
Palmer	O'Connor	Ntmark	Lightbourne*	Wilson	Bradley	Houghton*	Rogers	Wood	
Palmer	O'Connor	Bradley	Lightbourne	Wilson	Houghton	Butler	Ryder	Keister	
Palmer	Keister	Bradley	Lightbourne	Wilson	Houghton	Ntmark	Ryder	Woods	
Palmer	Keister	Bradley	Lightbourne*	Wilson+	Houghton's	Butler*	Ryder+	Ntmark's	
Palmer	O'Connor	Bradley	Lightbourne	Wilson*	Houghton's	Rogers+	Butler's	Butler*	
Palmer	O'Connor	Bradley	Lightbourne	Wilson	Houghton+	Ntmark+	Rogers	Butler	
Palmer	O'Connor	Bradley	Lightbourne's	Wilson	Houghton	Butler's	Ntmark+	Ryder-	
Palmer	O'Connor	Bradley	Lightbourne	Wilson	Houghton	Ntmark+	Rogers-	Butler	
Palmer	O'Connor p	Bradley	Butler+	Wilson*	Ntmark	Lightbourne+	Houghton*	Rogers	
Palmer	O'Connor	Bradley*	Butler	Wilson	Ntmark	Rogers	Keister*	Lightbourne+	
Palmer	O'Connor	Bradley	Butler	Wilson	Lightbourne	Ntmark+	Keister	Roper	
Vivessh	O'Connor+	Keister	Butler 2	Wilson	Lightbourne	Ntmark+	Palmer*	Rollo's	
Palmer	O'Connor	Bradley	Butler*	Wilson	Lightbourne	Ntmark*	Keister	Roper	
Palmer's	O'Connor	Bradley+	Lightbourne	Wilson	Houghton	Watkiss's	Ntmark*	Butler+	
Watkiss	O'Connor	Bradley	Lightbourne	Wilson	Houghton	Butler	Roper	Keister	
Watkiss	O'Connor	Bradley*	Butler+	Wilson	Houghton	Keister*	Lightbourne+	Smith	
Mountfield	Keister	Bradley*	Lightbourne 4+	Wilson's	Houghton	Richards*	Smith+	Butler's	
Watkiss	O'Connor	Bradley*	Lightbourne+	Wilson	Houghton's	Roper*	Keister+	Butler's	
Mountfield	O'Connor	Bradley*	Lightbourne	Wilson	Houghton 2+	Keister*	Butler+	Roper	
Mountfield	O'Connor	Bradley+	Lightbourne*	Wilson	Houghton	Butler*	Roper	Keister+	
Mountfield	O'Connor	Bradley	Lightbourne+	Wilson	Houghton	Keister*	Butler+ 5	Karr's	
Mountfield	O'Connor	Bradley	Butler*	Wilson	Houghton	Lightbourne*	Roper	Wood	
Mountfield	O'Connor*	Bradley	Keister	Wilson+	Houghton	Watkiss	Butler*	Lightbourne+	
Mountfield*	O'Connor	Bradley	Keister+	Wilson	Houghton	Watkiss*	Lightbourne 2+	Wood	
Mountfield	O'Connor	Bradley	Lightbourne	Wilson	Houghton	Butler*	Keister	Palmer	



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Answers:- Across 1. Mielwood, 5. Elliott, 6. Thistle, 9. Estoma, 10. Tonic, 12. Walton, 13. Foster, 15. Lions, 18. Ukraine, 19. Refugee, 20. J League, 21. Newport
 Down: 1. Mollerwell, 2. Decham, 3. Platt, 4. Korea, 7. Shotton, 8. George Best, 14. Muhren, 16. Oates, 17. Slugs

PONTINS LEAGUE DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stockport County	14	10	2	2	34	19	32
Bury	16	10	1	5	32	22	31
Wigan Athletic	13	8	3	2	28	16	27
Carlisle United	13	7	4	2	22	5	25
Wrexham	14	8	1	5	37	23	25
Walsall	14	7	2	5	23	23	23
Shrewsbury	14	6	4	4	30	22	22
Rochdale	15	5	5	5	38	33	20
Doncaster Rovers	14	5	3	6	22	24	18
Chesterfield	14	5	3	6	29	26	18
Scarborough	15	4	3	8	13	31	15
Darlington	15	3	4	8	16	29	13
Lincoln City	14	3	4	7	15	26	13
Scunthorpe	13	3	1	9	25	46	10
Chester City	16	1	4	11	16	35	7

MELVILLE YOUTH LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aston Villa	16	11	4	1	41	14	37
Coventry City	14	9	2	3	36	23	29
Leicester City	13	8	3	2	44	24	27
Notts County	13	8	2	3	27	16	26
WALSALL	14	6	5	3	28	22	23
Birmingham City	12	7	2	3	25	23	23
Mansfield Town	13	7	1	5	27	24	22
Derby County	15	5	4	6	21	19	19
WBA	16	5	4	7	17	31	19
Wolves	13	4	5	4	20	20	17
Stoke City	14	5	2	7	28	32	17
Northampton Town	12	5	1	6	15	16	16
Port Vale	10	4	3	3	17	15	15
Lincoln City	13	3	5	5	15	21	14
Peterborough United	8	3	3	2	11	8	12
Notts Forest	13	2	3	8	12	22	9
Shrewsbury Town	16	2	0	14	16	54	6
Grimsby Town	10	1	2	7	6	15	5

Table as at the 2nd December 1995

PONTINS LEAGUE

AUGUST		
Wed 16-LINCOLN CITY	2-1	Butler; Houghton.
Wed 23-Chesterfield	2-1	Smith; Richards.
Wed 30-BURY	0-3	
SEPTEMBER		
Wed 6 Wigan Athletic	3-5	Butler 2; Bentley.
Wed 20-CARLISLE UNITED	1-0	Butler.
Wed 27-Chester City	3-1	Williams; Butler 2.
OCTOBER		
Wed 4-Rochdale	1-0	Lightbourne
Wed 18-Scunthorpe United	4-1	Roper 2; Smith 2.
Wed 25-DONCASTER ROVERS	0-0	
NOVEMBER		
Wed 8-Scarborough	1-2	Butler.
Wed 15-STOCKPORT COUNTY	0-2	
Wed 29-ROCHDALE	5-5	Kerr 2; Butler 3.
DECEMBER		
Wed 5-Carlisle United	0-2	
Wed 13-CHESTER CITY	1-0	Butler.
Wed 20-Darlington		
JANUARY		
Wed 3-SHREWSBURY TOWN		
Wed 10-Lincoln City		
Wed 17-CHESTERFIELD		
Wed 24-Bury		
Wed 31-WIGAN ATHLETIC		
FEBRUARY		
Wed 14-SCARBOROUGH		
Wed 21-Stockport County		
MARCH		
Wed 13-Shrewsbury Town		
Wed 20-DARLINGTON		
Wed 27-SCUNTHORPE UNITED		
APRIL		
Wed 24-WREXHAM		
MAY		
Wed 1-Doncaster Rovers		

All matches will kick off at 7.00pm.

MELVILLE MIDLAND YOUTH LEAGUE

AUGUST		
Sat 12-Grimsby Town	3-0	Derry 3
Sat 19-LEICESTER CITY	1-1	Keates.
Fri 25-Lincoln City	1-1	Platt.
SEPTEMBER		
Sat 2-MANSFIELD TOWN	2-1	Platt; Keates.
Sat 9-Northampton Town	0-3	
Sat 16-Wolves (L.C. Rd 1)	2-2	Keates; Platt.
Sat 23-Notts Forest	3-2	Bentley 2; Keates.
Sat 30-PETERBOROUGH	2-2	Bentley; Platt.
OCTOBER		
Tues 3-DERBY COUNTY	1-0	Ricketts
Sat 7-Port Vale	3-3	Derry 2; Rickett.
Sat 14-WOLVES LC RD 1rply	0-3	
Sat 21-Stoke City	0-4	
Fri 27-Mansfield Town	0-2	
NOVEMBER		
Sat 4-Wolves	2-2	Keates; Platt.
Sat 11-WEST BROMWICH ALBION	6-0	Thomas 2; Keates; Rowland; Ricketts; Derry.
Sat 25-BIRMINGHAM CITY	4-1	Platt 2; Ricketts; Davies.
DECEMBER		
Sat 2-SHREWSBURY TOWN	1-2	Norris.
Sat 9-Coventry City		
Sat 16-COVENTRY CITY		
JANUARY		
Sat 6-Derby County		
Sat 13-GRIMSBY TOWN		
Sat 27-Leicester City		
FEBRUARY		
Sat 3-LINCOLN CITY		
Sat 10-NORTHAMPTON TOWN		
Sat 17-Notts County		
Sat 24-NOTTS FOREST		
MARCH		
Sat 2-Peterborough United		
Sat 9-Aston Villa		
Sat 16-PORT VALE		
Sat 23-Shrewsbury Town		
Sat 30-STOKE CITY		
APRIL		
Sat 6-WOLVES		
Sat 13-West Bromwich Albion		
Sat 20-ASTON VILLA		
Sat 27-Birmingham City		
MAY		
Sat 4-NOTTS COUNTY		

Home games are played at Aston University Playing Fields, Birmingham Road, Walsall, kick off 10.45am.

Ashton Gate for £300,000. He has netted 10 goals this season to date. Steve Finney is Swindon's top scorer this season with 15 after joining County on a free transfer from Manchester City in the summer. Signed from Blackburn Rovers in January Peter Thorne netted four goals in pre-season games but has only made a few appearances since. Former Wolves player Andy Mutch is still at Swindon but has not been included in the side this season to date.

SWINDON'S BEST SEASON

Swindon Town had had the galling experience of winning promotion to the Premier League via the playoffs of 1990 only to be denied taking up their place because of alleged financial irregularities. They then spent two seasons finding their feet again in the Division Two that became Division One, just avoiding relegation in 1991, but only just missing out on a playoff place in 1992.

They kicked off 1992/93 with everyone wondering whether they had the resources to mount another playoff challenge, but they did sign one tried and tested striker who had just scored 16 goals in a season for Reading. Soon Craig was scoring in five successive games as Swindon kicked off with only one defeat in their first ten League and Cup games.

Craig's winning goal at West Ham in late October lifted them to second place and though they went out of the Coca Cola Cup to Oldham in the next game they maintained their League form until December when postponements were a factor in them not picking up a single point.

They went out of the F.A. Cup to QPR early in January but then picked up the pace again in Division One and a six game unbeaten run left them in third place in mid-March. A few ups and downs followed including a remarkable 6-4 win at Swindon around Easter time after being 4-1 down. Despite failing to win any of their last four games they still finished fifth and after a 5-4 aggregate win over Tranmere Rovers in the semi-finals of the playoffs they found themselves at Wembley again.

There they took a 3-goal lead against Leicester City, lost it but then snatched the winner when Paul Bodin converted a penalty six minutes from time. Colin Calderwood and Shaun Taylor played in every League game in defence and Maskell, Mitchell, Taylor and Bodin all netted double figures. Sadly before Swindon really did take up their Premier League place manager Glenn Hoddle had moved to Chelsea and Colin Calderwood to Spurs. They stayed up for only one season but it was still a glorious journey getting to the Premier League.

FORMER SADDLER THE MAN IN CHARGE TODAY

STEVE BAINES

In his playing days Steve was a no-nonsense defender, who occasionally got into trouble with referees. There is no danger of that happening today - he is the referee after a remarkably quick graduation from the junior ranks to the Football League list since hanging up his playing boots in 1986.

Born in Newark in 1954, he joined Nottingham Forest as an apprentice, played just two League games for them and then moved on to Huddersfield Town in 1975, Bradford City in 1978 and ourselves in the summer of 1980. Alan Buckley was our player-manager at the time and Steve made his debut in the 2-0 defeat at Reading on the opening day of season 1980/81. He scored on his home debut four days later in a 3-1 win over Burnley and held his place for most of that season, playing at the heart of the defence alongside either Dave Serella or Peter Hart.

He was loaned to Bury for a spell in 1981/82 but returned to play regularly in the last two months of that season as we just avoided relegation to the old Division Four. All in all he played in 50 games and scored five goals before moving to Scunthorpe United in the summer of 1982 and to Chesterfield in the summer of 1983. He played in 154 games in just over three seasons with the Spireites and then retired prematurely because of an arthritic complaint.

This has not prevented him from becoming 'Referee of the Year' in the Chesterfield district in 1988/89 and reaching the Vauxhall Conference in 1992 and the Football League in 1994.

STAR VISITOR Wayne Allison

Strong in the air and on the ground Wayne has been described as the complete striker and he certainly has a good scoring record with the three clubs with whom he has spent most of his Football League career.

Born in Huddersfield in 1968, he graduated via the Halifax Town junior ranks to make his debut for them in Division Four in 1987. He made an impressive start with four goals in his first eight games and he got 30 goals over a 2-year period before joining Watford for £250,000 in the summer of 1989.

He played only seven times in his one season with the Hornets in the old Division Two and failed to score but they still made a profit on him as he moved to Bristol City for £250,000 in the summer of 1990 for £300,000. They had just climbed into what is now Division One and after a steady but unspectacular start he came good with 20 goals in 1993/94 and 13 last season.

But then moved last summer to Swindon Town, who had been relegated alongside City and he has scored steadily, his ten goals so far taking his career tally to 40. His enthusiasm and good movement off the ball make him a handful for opponents and he had helped bring out the best in Steve Finney in his first full season of League football.



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PLAYED FOR BOTH SIDES

BEN WOOLHOUSE

This lanky longstriding winger was very much part of the scene here in the late thirties and he then moved to Swindon Town in the last season before the war.

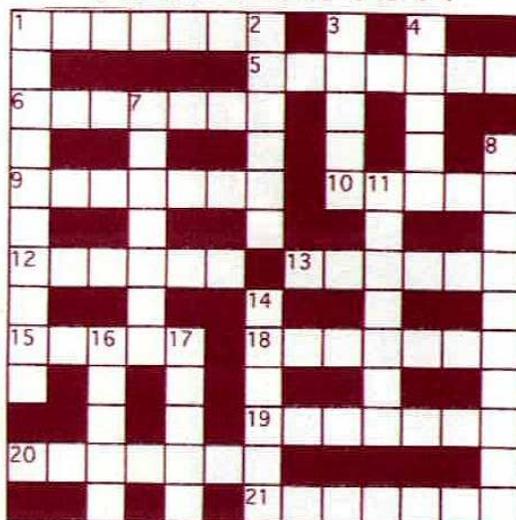
Ben was born in 1906, the son of a Sheffield Wednesday and Bansley player of the 1890's and after short spells with Birmingham City and Southend United in the late twenties it seemed he was not likely to make an impact in League soccer when he drifted into non-League with Loughborough Corinthians in the Birmingham League.

There however he impressed to the extent that he was signed by Bradford City in May 1930. He had two useful seasons with them then moved to Coventry, but was in and out of the team in 1932/33. Our manager of that time Billy Slade was a former Coventry man and Ben was just one of numerous players that he wooed over from his former club. The excitement of our win over Arsenal in January 1933 was still in the air when Ben stepped out for his debut for us in the opening game of 1933/34 at York. He was on the right wing and marked his home debut a week later with one of the goals in a 5-0 win over Chester City.

He played in every game of 1933/34 and scored 11 goals from the right wing position and from then on played occasionally on the left wing or in an inside forward position though his pace, swerve and ability to cross the ball fitted him best for the flank position. He laid on many a goal for Gilbert Alsop and by the time he was released in 1938 his cross shots had brought him the very healthy tally of 46 goals in 203 games. In that last pre-war season of 1938/39 he was with Swindon Town but played just five games before the onset of war effectively ended his career. He continued to live and work in the Midlands and died in the 1970's.



JUST FOR FUN



DOWN

1. Scottish Premier League club once managed by Ian St. John (10)
2. Norwich City's manager who was sacked at the end of the 1994/95 season (6)
3. The only England player to score during Euro'92' (5)
4. North _____, the surprise team of the 1966 World Cup when they defeated Italy 1-0 and took a 3-0 lead against Portugal in the quarter-final (5)
7. Captained Oxford United to League Cup success in 1986 (7)
8. European Footballer of the Year in 1968 (6,4)
14. Dutchman who scored a penalty for Ipswich in the 1983 FA Cup Final (6)
16. Luton Town starlet, whose father is a member of Showaddywaddy (5)
17. Mansfield Town's nickname (5)

ACROSS

1. Manager who was the subject of a hit record by Andy Cameron in "78" (7)
5. Lost an historic High Court battle against Dean Saunders in 1994 (7)
6. One of the founder members of the Scottish Second Division, but quit after just one season after finishing bottom of the league (7)
9. Baltic country where the team Norma Tallinn play (7)
10. England semi-pro cap who is now a kingpin in Villa's defence (5)
15. _____ & Hershaw, non-League club which knocked Clough's Brighton out of the 1973 FA Cup (6)
18. Country of origin of Manchester United's winger, Kanchelskis (7)
19. Replaced the umpire as the senior match official (7)
20. Japan's premierships (1,6)
21. _____ County, lost 33 of their 46 Division Four matches during 87/88 season and were relegated to the Vauxhall Conference (7)

ANSWERS ON THE CENTRE PAGES



**GOALSCORERS
IN ACTION
AGAINST
YORK CITY.**

*Top:
Derek Mountfield
scores his first goal
for
the Saddlers.
Middle & below:
the other scorer in
the
game - Chris Marsh
getting forward.*



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May I first take the opportunity to wish all our Supporters particularly the Juniors a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year on behalf of the Walsall Football Club Community Programme.

On Wednesday of this week we had the Christmas Party in the Saddlers Club for people who attend the Tea Dances there every Wednesday. We had a great time and I think an enjoyable time was had by everyone. A big thank you to everyone who helped organise the event.

On Thursday of this week I took the players to the Children's Ward at the Manor Hospital. All the professionals went along, we gave a ball to all the young children, as a present and the players then went around to sign them. All the Balls were all donated by the Club Sponsor, Choice Personnel. Steve Salt came with us. I am sure he was impressed with the thrill all the players gave to the children with their visit, and hopefully it brought some cheer into their lives at this time of year having to be in hospital.

Enjoy the match.

Mike Kearns

One hears so many complaints of football today being dominated by money, by defensive tactics, by outside bodies as contrasting as television and the police rather than clubs and fans that it is refreshing when despite it all the spirit of football suddenly reasserts itself.

Our second round F.A. Cup replay between with Torquay United on a dark damp Tuesday evening 13 days before Christmas did not on paper look likely to shake the earth on its axis. The reward - a home game against Wigan Athletic in round three was not of the type that would have sent clubs into special training in between welters of television interviews. There was no question of the game being all ticket or of fans wanting to see the game being unable to squeeze into it despite the fact that our plush Bescot Stadium these days has a capacity of under 10,000.

Yet this was the game that had people talking up and down the country even in a week when England failed to impress once again, the gallant Republic of Ireland bowed out of the European Championship and the hyped up move of Mark McGhee from Leicester City to Wolves at a total cost of an estimated £2.5 million to Wolves, all battled for attention in the news media.

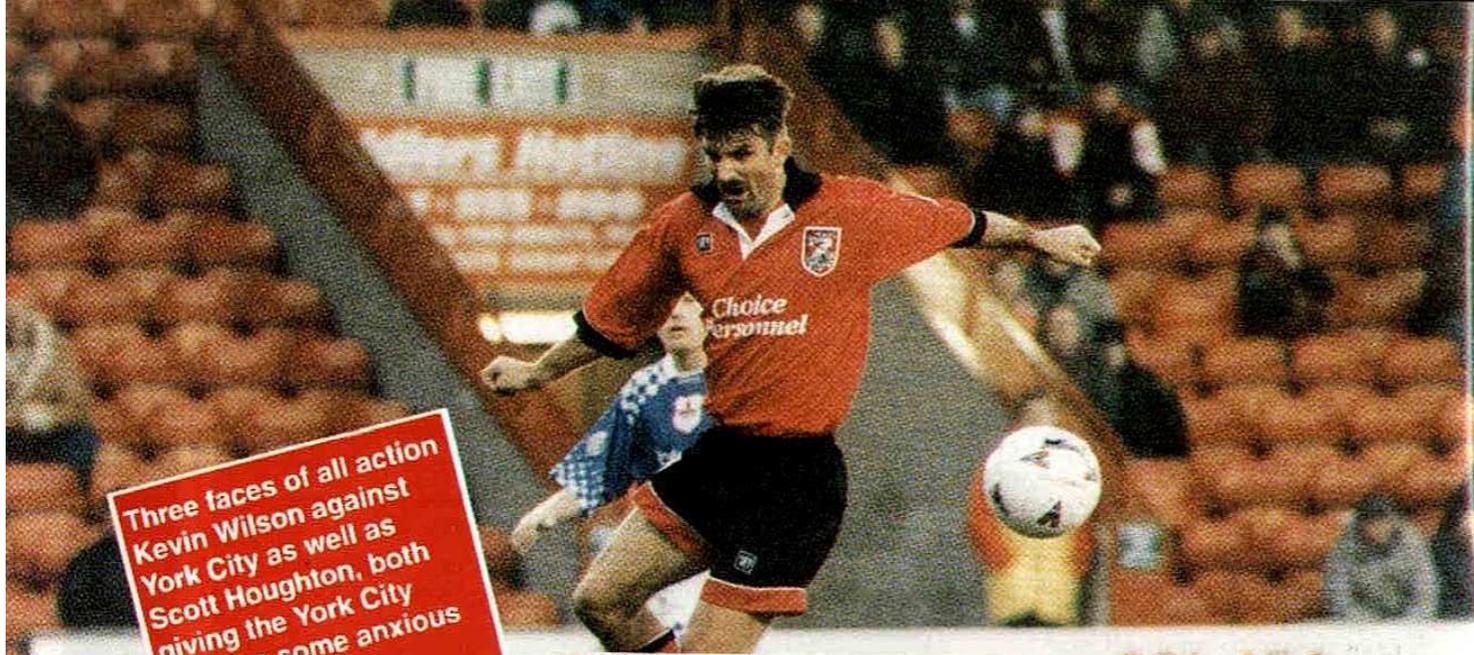
In fact when the final score of Walsall 8 Torquay United 4 flashed up on far more teletexts than there had been fans at the game many thought an error had been made, particularly those who had seen almost an hour earlier that at full time the score was 3-3. Any who had heard a match report at that stage had learned that Torquay had been desperately unlucky not to score a last minute winner in normal time and so it seemed likely that either the home side or the visitors would snatch an extra time winner or else the game would be settled in a penalty shoot out.

How then could it happen that suddenly two 'little' teams produce six goals in half an hour and a total of twelve in a game to make the statistically inclined hunt out the fact that whilst bigger aggregate scores in games (for instance the Tranmere 13 Oldham 4 on Boxing Day 1935 and the Charlton 7 Huddersfield 6 on December 21st, 1957) have occurred most of these have been quite a long time ago.

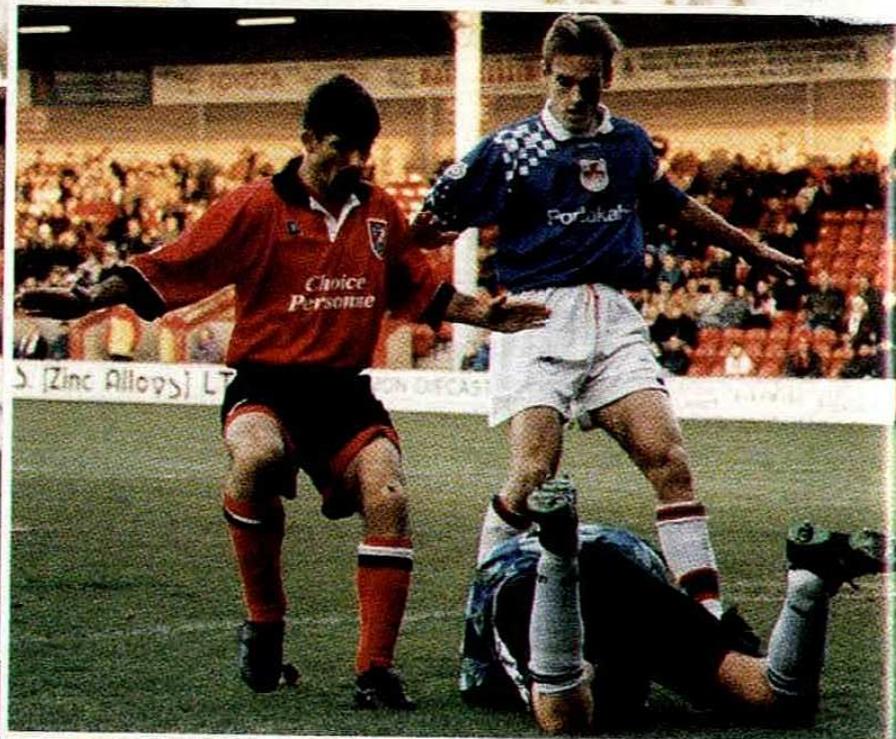
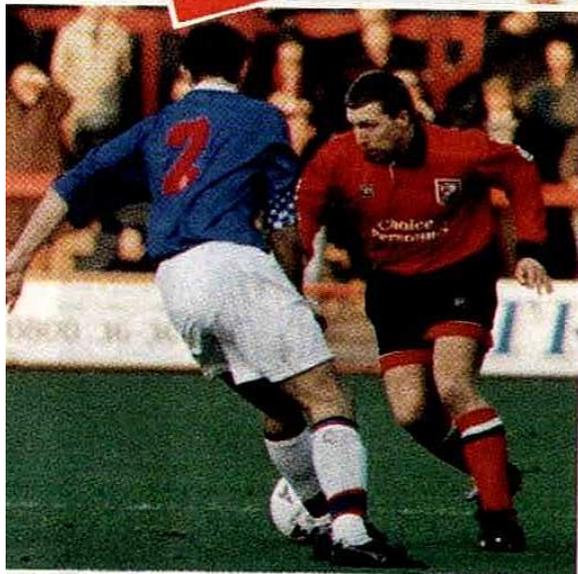
Is it perhaps something that happens in December with unpredictable pitches? Is it that the game at Walsall involved two teams who have had a few defensive problems this season (Torquay had conceded 8 goals to Scunthorpe United in October and Walsall have given away a number of late goals) Is it that just occasionally teams adopt a 'score at all costs and just hope that you get more than your opponents' attitude. Maybe there is some truth in all of those ideas. But it's surely more than that. Is it not that the spirit of football sometimes shines through in all its glory. And the fans, despite the fact that many these days have to sit when they would rather be standing, just love it.

from Geoff Allman.

SOCCER TOPIC



Three faces of all action Kevin Wilson against York City as well as Scott Houghton, both giving the York City defence some anxious moments.



30 YEARS AGO

In a lively Friday evening game on December 17th, 1965 we went down 4-2 at home to second place Hull City in Division Three. On a rainsoaked Fellows Park Ian Butler put the visitors ahead as our defence with Mick Evans making his debut at left back took a little time to settle. We then had the ball in the net twice, but both were disallowed for fouls before George Kirby provoked visiting keeper Maurice Swan into nudging him in the penalty area and Allan Clarke stroked home a spot kick.

After the break Ian Butler netted twice within three minutes to complete his hat-trick and when Chris Chilton made it 4-1 after 57 minutes it looked to be only a matter of how many the visitors would score. Ken Satchwell operating down the drier right flank raised our hopes briefly with some good runs and from one of these he was upended in the area and Allan Clarke netted a second penalty to complete the scoring.

Walsall: Carline; Harris; Evans; Summers; Bennett; Atthey; Satchwell; Clarke; Kirby; McMorran; Taylor.

Hull City: Swan; Davidson; Butler (D); Jarvis; Milner; Simpkin; Henderson; Wagstaff; Chilton; Houghton; Butler (I).

Attendance: 8,010.

On the following day Swindon Town's game with Millwall was postponed and they stayed a point ahead of us just above midtable, their team at that time including Mel Nurse and John Trollope in defence and Roger Smart in midfield and Don Rogers up front.

We beat Brighton & Hove Albion 2-0 at Fellows Park on December 20th, 1975 to climb to eighth place in Division Three. New signing Alun Evans from Aston Villa showed some neat touches in a goalless first half, but the game seemed to be moving towards a goalless draw until Alan Buckley netted a tremendous individual goal with just six minutes to go and then latched on to a misplaced backpass to get another with four minutes to go.

Walsall: Keams; Fry; Harrison; Robinson; Hynd; Taylor; Dennehy (Birch); Andrews; Wright; Buckley; Evans.

Brighton & Hove Albion: Grummitt; Kinnear; Wilson; Machin; Rollings; Burnett; Fell; O'Sullivan; Binney; Martin; Mellor.

Attendance: 5,435.

On the same day Swindon Town lost 2-1 at Chester City with Trevor Anderson netting and they were now next to Mansfield Town at the bottom of Division Three.

20 YEARS AGO

We were without a game from December 14th, 1985 until December 28th as our game at Swansea City was postponed because the home side were being allegedly wound up and our Boxing Day game at Derby County's Baseball Ground was called off on account of a waterlogged pitch. When we did get back into action on the 28th we had the unusual experience of scoring in the very first minute through Gary Childs then seeing former Wolves man equalise just before halftime with a shot that skidded on the icy ground past Steve Cherry and then when it seemed we have to be satisfied with one point David Kelly got a lastminute winner.

Walsall: Cherry; Hart; Mower; Shakespeare (Kelly); Brazier; Hawker; Childs; Cross; Daley; Elliott; Naughton.

Lincoln City: Naylor; Strodder; Redfeam; Daniel; West; Richards; White; Turner; Latchford; Cooper; McGinlay.

Attendance: 4,493.

We were now tenth in the old Division Three with Wolves bottom after crashing 4-0 at home to Derby County and Swansea City (whose winding up was called off a few days later) and Lincoln City next to them. Swindon Town meanwhile gained two useful Christmas season wins with Charlie Henry getting the matchwinner against Hereford United and Colin Gordon at Torquay United. Off the field our Chairman Ken Weldon had moved to Birmingham City and Jack Harris took over here.

10 YEARS AGO

EARLY DAYS

SEASON 1938/39

War clouds were gathering as we kicked off the new season hoping for an improvement on the previous campaign when we had had to apply for re-election to Division Three (South) alongside Gillingham.

Newcomers in the lineup for the opening game at Brighton were defenders George Beeson from Aston Villa and Norman Male from West Bromwich Albion, defender Cliff Godfrey from Cardiff City, inside forward Arthur Buttery (ex-Hednesford, Wolves and Bury) and striker Joe Hill from Stockport County, and former Irish international striker Joe Bambrick from Chelsea.

Joe netted in the game at Brighton but we went down 3-1 and in fact failed to win any of our first 13 games. Sadly too within a few weeks of the start of the season our Chairman and generous benefactor H.L. Fellows died. The whole town mourned a man loved and respected by all, who had shared in the triumph of the win over Arsenal in 1933 and had time and again kept the club going on rainy days.

Happily the F.A. Cup again saw us playing as a different team. We beat Carlisle United 4-1, Clapton Orient 4-2 and Newport 2-0 before drawing at Notts County before winning the replay 4-0 on an unbelievably muddy pitch. Gilbert Alsop who had been shrewdly signed from Ipswich in November got all four goals that day as we moved into the fifth round of the F.A. Cup for the first time ever.

Though we lost our fifth round tie 3-0 at Huddersfield the 33,543 gate brought a welcome boost to our coffers and from then on our League form improved. A diminutive winger from Oakengates Johnny Hancocks had forced his way into our side and by April we were playing some of the best attacking football we have ever produced. An incredible 23 goals were scored in our last five home games with Gilbert Alsop at one stage getting four hat-tricks in five games including one in a 5-0 win at today's visitors Swindon Town.

Alas our dreadful early season form meant that despite this tremendous rally we still just failed to avoid a re-election application. This time we went cap in hand with Bristol Rovers having finished just two points behind Clapton Orient (as they were then).

Ironically only today's visitors Swindon scored more than us at home - they got 53 and we got 47.

Gilbert Alsop got 29 goals in 34 games and Joe Bambrick 20 in 41 while most appearances were made by Ken Tewkesbury in goal and Charlie Bulger on the left wing, both played 37 games. The young Bert Williams played five games in goal while the young Johnny Hancocks got 10 goals in 37 games on the right wings. Both moved to Wolves after the war and shared in our neighbours' greatest-ever days.

Geoff Allman.

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evin Wilson's twelfth goal of the season and the 190th of his career earned us a

welcome point at Carlisle United on Saturday on a ground where we have lost only twice in our last seven visits.

After a lean start to the season the Cumbrians are now pulling themselves together and have lost only two of their last nine League and Cup games.

Midst all the euphoria of us scoring eight goals in an FA Cup-tie for the first time since we beat Dresden 11-0 in 1896/97 few people noticed that we conceded four goals in a game for the first time since the Leeds United FA Cup-tie last January when we went down 5-2 at Elland Road, also after extra time. It was also the first time one of our League or cup games had produced 11 or more goals since we lost 8-5 to Burton Swifts in Division Two on February 24th, 1894. The last time twelve goals were scored in an FA Cup-tie with us was when we beat Warmley 12-0 at Chuckery in November 1890.

No game at Bescot or Fellows Park ever produced 12 goals, though some of us older fans recall a Birmingham Combination game in 1951/52 when we beat Darlaston 9-5 at a time when our first team were heading for

a re-election application and our reserves were scoring goals galore.

Two goals from Shrewsbury's darren Rowbotham helped the Shrews to extend their unbeaten run to 12 games and to 7 wins in a row in League games. It also took Darren's score to 9 this season and 108 in his career.

Shock result on Saturday was Hull City's 1-0 win at York City with a late goal from Paul Fewings, this being their first away win since May and their first away win since May and their first League win anywhere since beating Blackpool at Boothferry Park in late August.

They still have lots to

have one of the hottest properties in the division in former Brighton striker Kurt Nogan whose goal at Swansea took his tally to seven in his last five games and 20 this season.

Rotherham United are another struggling side at the moment, losing 1-0 at Peterborough United on Saturday as they failed to score for the fourth game in a row and failed to win for the eleventh game in a row. Saturday's defeat was only their second in their last seven visits to London Road. Swindon Town are not looking quite as secure as they were at the top, their 1-1 draw with Wrexham last weekend being the

place, ending County's run of nine games without defeat.

Meanwhile Bristol Rovers' lowest gate of the season 4,051, saw them beat Oxford United 2-0 with Marcus Stewart getting both goals to take his season's tally to 13 and Bournemouth also had their lowest gate of the season (3,638) to see them beat Stockport County 3-2 with Steve Jones getting his twelfth goal of the season.

Another regular goalscorer, Blackpool's Tony Ellis, took his season's tally into double figures in his side's 4-1 win over Bradford City, this being 'Pool's fourth successive win as they climb to fourth place in the table. Midfielder Andy Watson was also on the mark, twice in fact, to take his tally to three in two games after failing to score this season prior to December.

Interestingly enough both Ellis and Watson scored in the corresponding fixture last season.

Glancing briefly at Division Three it is interesting to see the battle of the top two, Chester City and Preston North End, ending 1-1 at the Deva Stadium, while bottom place Torquay United played out a goalless draw with Scarborough just four days after their sensational 8-4 defeat in that FA Cup replay at Walsall.

Geoff Allman.

NEXT at BESCOT HULL CITY

**Endsleigh League Division Two
Monday January 1st 1996
Kick Off 3.00pm.**

Hull City, who come here on New Year's Day, have won just two League games this season up to the time of writing, beating Blackpool 2-1 in August and winning 1-0 at York City last Saturday. Homegrown Richard Peacock and Paul Fewings have both been on the mark recently.

do in the New Year however if they are to avoid relegation. Brighton have shown signs of better days since Jimmy Case took over though Swansea City have just played eight games without a win and on Saturday crashed 4-2 at home to Burnley, who are now fifth in the table after five games without defeat and

fourth game in the last six which they have failed to win and they are now only two points ahead of Crewe Alexandra who gained a vital 1-0 win at Notts County on Saturday and this helped to put behind them recent successive League defeats by Oxford United and Blackpool and it took them above County into second

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SOCCER REVIEW

Christmas football: there's nothing to match it. When I think of Christmas, pictures flash through my mind of stars, stables, shepherds, blokes with beards bearing odd gifts - and a green looking geezer on the terraces at Old Trafford chuntering the previous day's extravagances onto the bloke in front (who, accordingly, was full of something less than seasonal cheer). In short I get nostalgic. Apologies, but I'm going to share it with you.

My Yuletide footballing memories start with the plethora of footballing presents that my long-suffering mum was obliged to inform Father Christmas were going to be essential for her ongoing peace and quiet. The first such gift I can recall was a football game comprising 22 little men, half of them in blue and half in red who stood, not in boots, but stick-on plastic suckers of the type that were also to be found on the ends of my arrows ("hello, Mr John-son!"). Each player was sunk into a well on a green plastic 'pitch', which had a white plastic goal inserted at either end. The ball rolled into the various wells, and by pulling the player back and letting it go the ball could be fired across the pitch faster than Tony Daley with a cracker up his rear. In this game it was quite remarkable how prolific the goalkeepers became in the goalscoring stakes!

Having mastered this (and discarded it for lengthy periods in favour of two old pennies and a sixpenny bit, aka shove ha'penny) we moved on to magnetic

football. Two teams of little men (as ever red and blue, which was a severe irritation if your favourites happened to play in old gold) had swapped their rubber suckers for magnets and they skated across a board which was supported on little legs. Their movements were controlled by long plastic rods with magnets on the end that were scratched frantically under the 'pitch' by the opposing managers (i.e. big brother John and myself). There were three severe shortcomings. The first was trying to locate the appropriate player 'blind' by trial and error movements of the rod. The second was that the two opposing players had magnets of opposing polarity, so that a particularly gifted performer could be a real sod and 'repel' the opposition far more overly than anything V.Jones could ever imagine. Lastly the game was all too readily terminated by a mighty whack with the rod when things weren't going well and tantrums prevailed. Players scattered, match abandoned.

Ah! but then la piece de la resistance: Subbuteo. At last a game which demanded real skill, was open to minimum abuse - and which allowed one's colour prejudices to prevail. Quite why I favoured Drmcondra set I'm less than clear. Anyway, I'd reached sophistication (and I knew by now that the present hadn't come from the North Pole!). John and I played countless games, all studiously recorded in hardback books, which I still possess. (Daft, really - but they do serve the purpose of confirming to my son how good I was then, even if I'm not quite jo dextrous when we

play with HIS set!) The drawback in those days was the goalkeeper, who was controlled by a piece of wire shoved into a hole in his base, as it were. In no time the hole became enlarged and the loose wire would drop out at the most inconvenient times - usually when my brother had hit a long range scorcher from four inches. These days Peter's keepers are moulded onto the control stick. And so, just like real goalkeepers in the face of marauding centre-forwards, they have it easy.

But the best footballing present I ever got was my goalkeeping kit: a green jersey, green shorts and green socks, just like my hero Fred Davies. Mind you, Fred didn't have to make do with gardening gloves. I daresay that he didn't go to bed in his kit either.

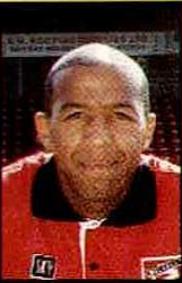
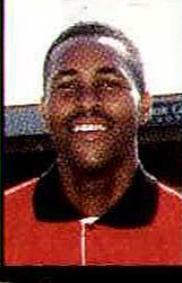
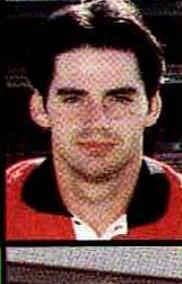
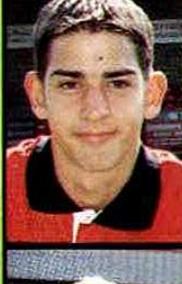
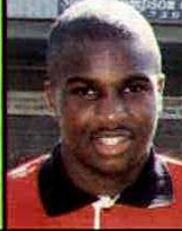
But those were the days when fans really did have proper footballing Christmasses. It hadn't been many seasons earlier when chaps would go to watch their heroes stuff the opposition on Christmas Day whilst their womenfolk stuffed the turkey. And even when I was a lad it was still the norm for clubs to play one another at one ground on Boxing Day, and the opponents pad next day. Odd things happened. In 1963 Blackburn went to Upton Park and gave West Ham an assing 8-2. Straight back to Ewood Park - and the Hammers won 3-1!

Happy thoughts- happy days - and may I wish you happy times and a very peaceful new year.

Charlie Bamforth



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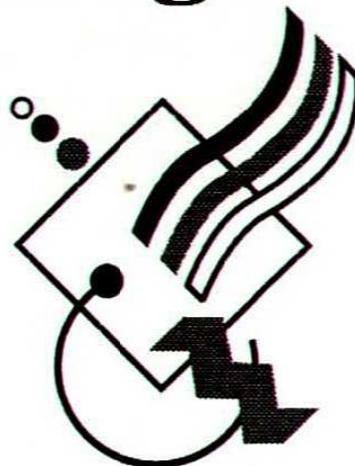


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Our first December 23rd game was in our second season in the old Division Two in 1893 when we beat Northwich Victoria 3-0 at West Bromwich Road with David Copeland, Ron Cook and Bill McWhinnie getting the goals. We were still in Division Two six years later when beating Lincoln 3-1 at what was then known as the Hillary Street ground with Mike Connor (2) and Bill McAulie on the mark.

It was Birmingham League fare however by December 23rd, 1905 when George Holt's goal earned us a point at Crewe's Gresty Road. Our first December 23rd then followed in 1911 at Stourbridge as we went down 4-2 with both goals from Harry Price. It was then another 17 years before we found ourselves going down 2-1 at Accrington on December 23rd, 1922 with a goal from Jack Walton, the only one he scored in the course of over 70 games in midfield.

We were again in Division Three (North)

when winning 1-0 at Hartlepool on December 23rd, 1933, Harry Willes getting the matchwinner and by the time we played on December 23rd

won a Friday evening game as Tony Richards dived to head a first half winner, watched by a 10,702 gate. Just one season later we won a

to avoid games so close to Christmas Day. It will be interesting to see what gates are like today.

In the wider world the inventor Richard Arkwright was born on December 23rd, 1732 and the actor Maurice Denham on December 23rd, 1909. The Dutch artist Vincent Van Gough cut off his own earlobe on December 23rd 1888

December 23rd

ON THIS DAY

again war had descended and we were going down 5-3 to Wolves at Fellows Park with Wally Brown, Gilbert Alsop and Tommy Wood scoring in front of a 5,448 gate. Happily we were not far off VE Day when on December 23rd, 1944 we won another Regional game 2-0 at Port Vale with goals from George Boonham and Jack Ratcliffe.

The first postwar December 23rd game was in 1950 with Johnny Devlin snatching a matchwinner at Southend. And so to December 23rd, 1960 and a 1-0 win over Bury which turned out to be vital in our Third Division promotion season. They were above us in the table at the time and we

Second Division game 2-0 against Derby County, George Meek and Colin Taylor netting in a Saturday afternoon game watched by 9,641 fans.

We were again successful at Gillingham on December 23rd, 1967 with Harry Middleton getting the only goal of the game at a time at which we were looking a sound bet for promotion, only for an alarming decline to set after Christmas. It was 1-0 again on December 23rd, 1972, this time against Bournemouth at Fellows Park with a Johnny Woodward matchwinner.

Remarkably enough we have not played on December 23rd since then, the general tendency being for clubs

just two years after the novelist William Thackeray had died on December 23rd, 1886. The original strongman Charles Atlas died at the age of 79 on December 23rd, 1973 while on December 23rd, 1922 the first regular radio broadcasts were transmitted. Also on this day in 1834, Joseph Hanson patented his horse-drawn cab in London, he was also known for his work as an architect and designed the Birmingham Town Hall. QPR trainee Richard Hurst may not be known to many people outside London but this six foot goalkeeper is just about the only present day player who has a birthday today - and he is 19 years old.

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