

SWINDON TOWN

ISSUE NO. 19

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CLUBCALL

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SWINDON
TOWN
F.C.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26TH 1997
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Kick-Off 7.45pm



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Design: NICK PRESCOTT
Produced & Printed by:
PIA ADVERTISING & MARKETING LTD.
(01635) 35546
PIA COLOUR PRINT LTD.
(01635) 582706

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welcome to swindon town

A warm welcome to Trevor Francis and his Birmingham City side for tonight's re-arranged Division One match.

The game was scheduled to have taken place on February 15th but Birmingham's FA Cup tie with Wrexham took precedence.

Unfortunately the St Andrews side were knocked out by the giant killing Welshman and tonight we will be aiming to send Birmingham home with a similar dose of the blues!

On Sunday City slipped to a 2-1 home defeat at the hands of Port Vale to add to the tale of woe.

Macca returns to Maine Road

Steve McMahon returned to his former club Manchester City on Saturday and left disappointed after seeing his side slump to a 3-0 defeat.

Former Town players Kevin Horlock and Nicky Summerville were among the scorers as City cruised home following the 34th minute dismissal of Peter Holcroft.

"It was always going to be tough but with ten men it was impossible," the Gaffer said afterwards.

Charlton next

Don't forget that there is more action here at the County Ground on Saturday when Charlton Athletic are the visitors.

We went down 2-0 at their place earlier in the season so the time has come to put the record straight.

Swindon to stage international

The County Ground will be the venue for a prestigious Under 21 international between England and Switzerland on Tuesday April 1st, kick-off 7.45pm.

England Under 21 Head Coach Peter Taylor said: "The support from the South West has always been tremendous and I hope fans will flock to the game."

And Swindon Town's Chief Executive Steve Jones added: "It has been over 10 years since we last staged an England Under 21 international here and I'm delighted the national team are finally returning to Swindon for what promises to be a great match."

Details of ticket prices will be released shortly.

Another month for Marlon

Talented defender Marlon Broomes has been granted an extension to his loan spell here at Swindon.

The 19 year old centre back has impressed since coming to the Club from Blackburn Rovers and manager Steve McMahon is delighted he has been allowed to stay a little longer.

"He is a great prospect who has improved with every game he has played for us."

Birmingham were the team he supported as a youngster so tonight's tussle promises to be a bit special for the likeable lad.

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the manager

Steve McMahon says

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It was always going to be difficult at Maine Road on Saturday with so many suspensions and injuries so Peter Holcroft's dismissal made our task almost impossible.

Peter had an opportunity to make a name for himself on his debut but in the end he just let himself and the rest of the team down after a moment of madness.

It was sheer stupidity and to be honest it has happened to us too many times this season.

With 10 men it was backs against the wall, a real uphill battle and we had no real chance - it brought memories of our FA Cup tie at Everton flooding back.

On a personal note it was a great feeling to get such a wonderful reception from the City fans but I would quite happily have swapped that for three points and a hostile reception.

In the end too many players had an off day and it is important that we bounce back to form tonight against Trevor Francis' Birmingham City side.

They've been going through something of a sticky patch and it just goes to show that spending millions of pounds doesn't guarantee success.

It's all about judgement and at the moment Trevor's team just don't seem to be able to get things right.

Saying that they still have a very good side and on their day they can beat anyone in the league. But there again you could say that about any team in Division One - including ourselves.

Hopefully tonight I'll have a few more players to choose from and it will be a real boost to have Scott Leitch and new signing Darren Bullock available after suspension.

Darren signed for us late

last week and I was delighted to finally bring him here because I'm certain he will do a tremendous job for us.

He's a winner and I'm confident he will soon become a real favourite with the fans. Be sure to make him feel welcome with a good reception tonight on his home debut.

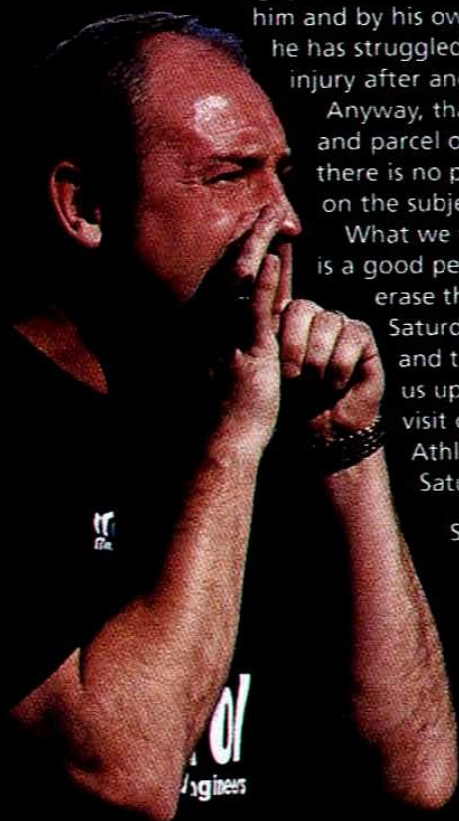
The other major news to report is that Marlon Broomes will be staying with us for another month on loan from Blackburn but Jason Drysdale has gone on the transfer list by mutual consent.

Things just haven't worked out for him and by his own admission he has struggled with one injury after another.

Anyway, that is just part and parcel of football so there is no point dwelling on the subject.

What we want tonight is a good performance to erase the memory of Saturday's defeat and that should set us up nicely for the visit of Charlton Athletic on Saturday.

See you there!



Steve McMahon

today's visitors

This afternoon we welcome the players, supporters and staff of Birmingham City Football Club to the County Ground. We hope that everybody enjoys the match and has a safe journey home after the game.

After the rich promise of the summer - when prodigal son Trevor Francis returned to manage the Blues, and several big name signings made their way to St. Andrews - this season has been something of a disappointment for Birmingham.

Even the high profile captures of the likes of Steve Bruce (from Manchester United), Paul Furlong (Chelsea), Barry Horne (Everton), Mike Newell (Blackburn) and Gary Ablett (Everton), have failed to light the Blues' touchpaper and send City soaring into the promotion race.

Although the St. Andrews comings-and-goings have quietened down since the heady days of Barry Fry's revolving door transfer policy, City have still been involved in the odd flurry of market activity.

Most recently, this has seen Swedish international Anders Limpar arrive on loan from Everton until the end of the season, striker Nicky Forster transfer in from Brentford (£750,000) and defender Kenny Brown from West Ham (£75,000). Going the other way have been defenders Gary Breen (to Coventry, £2.5m) and the veteran John Frain (Loan to Northampton).

Star of the season so far for Blues has been local lad Paul Devlin, who has shaken off the threat of all the big money signings to lead the way in City's goalscoring charts.

Having beaten several of the promotion favourites - including Bolton, Wolves and Palace - as well as recording a 1-0 victory over Swindon already this term, they are sure to provide a stiff test this afternoon.



Birmingham City

Birmingham City Football Club 1996/97



Back Row: *(left to right)*

Martin Grainger, Gary Poole (now Charlton), Gary Breen (now Coventry), Kevin Francis, Andy Edwards (now Peterborough), Dave Barnett, Gary Ablett, Michael Johnson, Andy Legg, Paul Furlong.

Middle Row: *(left to right)*

Frank Barlow (Asst. Manager), Arvel Lowe (Fitness Coach), Jason Bowen, John Frain (Currently at Northampton), Ricky Otto (Currently at Peterborough), Paul Tait, John Cornforth (now Wycombe), Mike Newell, Jonathan Hunt, Mick Mills (Asst. Manager), Neil McDiarmid (Physio).

Front Row: *(left to right)*

Steve Finnan (now Notts Co), Steve Castle, Bart Griemink (now Peterborough), Steve Bruce, Trevor Francis (Manager), Barry Horne, Ian Bennett, Paul Devlin, Paul Barnes (now Burnley).



a closer look at **Paul Devlin**

Little front-man Paul Devlin might be the name on everybody's lips now, but when he was first spirited away from Notts County last February it was more a case of 'Paul who?'

Brought to City by one man signing-machine Barry Fry, Blues fans could have been forgiven for thinking that Devlin was yet another lower league journeyman coming to the Midlands for a big pay day.

But the doubters have been proved wrong as Devlin has racked up 19 goals in just 43 games for the Club and shown

that, having kissed more than his fair share of frogs, Barry Fry finally found his prince.

Devlin's pace, power and eye for goal had City fans wondering where he had been all their lives, and the answer was simple - right under their noses.

Raised just 10 minutes from St. Andrews, in Erdington, Devlin is a born and bred Brummie and he insists that playing for the Blues is a dream come true.

He was originally seen as back-up for last season's top scorer, Jonathan Hunt, but he was handed his chance in the first game of the current campaign, and has grasped it firmly.



FACT FILE..

Name: Paul Devlin
Position: Forward
Born: Erdington, 14.04.72
Height: 5ft 9in
Weight: 10st 5lb
Trophies Won: Anglo Italian Cup 199

| Era | Club | Games | Goals | Fee |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-------|-------|-----|
| From Stafford Rangers, non-League | | | | |
| 91/92 - 95/96 | Notts Co | 141 | 25 | - |
| 95/96 | Birmingham | 16 | 7 | - |

Trevor Francis the manager

It really was a case of 'the return of the prodigal son' when Trevor Francis was appointed to the Birmingham City manager's chair in succession to Barry Fry during the summer on 1996.

For many fans, Francis epitomises everything that is good about St. Andrews, and he certainly brings back memories of brighter days for the Club.

As a player he was a teenage sensation for the Blues, making his debut as a 16-year-old and scoring four goals in one match against Bolton in February 1971. He went on to become Britain's first £1 million player when he transferred to Nottingham Forest in February 1979.

At Forest Francis scored the winning goal in the 1979 European Cup



Final and picked up another winners' medal the following year before moving on to Manchester City and later for a spell in Italy with Sampdoria and Atalanta.

He returned to Britain to play for Glasgow Rangers before taking his first managerial job - as player/manager at QPR - in December 1988. After a brief and unhappy stay at Loftus Road he joined Sheffield Wednesday, initially as a player, but when Ron Atkinson parted company with the Club, Francis was promoted 'upstairs' once more.

His managerial career took an upturn at Hillsborough, and he led the Owls to third place in the old First Division in his first season, and then took them to both major domestic finals the following year (both lost 2-1 to Arsenal).

After a period out of the game, Francis was tempted back into management by Birmingham this summer as the Club searched for a big name to act as the figurehead for the ambitious plans being put into place at St. Andrews.



playerprofile

B I R M I N G H A M C I T Y

Very much the first-choice 'keeper at St.Andrews in 25-year-old **IAN BENNETT**, who signed from Peterborough United at Christmas 1993 for £325,000. A highly-rated youngster who was watched by several Premiership Clubs last season, Ian was in tremendous form until a broken finger suffered in training ruled him out for the second half of the campaign.

Understudy for Bennett is the experienced former Nottingham Forest and Derby goalkeeper **STEVE SUTTON**, who made Blues his seventh senior Club when he joined them on a free transfer in August 1996. Steve actually started last season as Club Captain at Derby, before losing his place in the team to Russell Hoults.

One of Trevor Francis' first signings when he returned as manager at Birmingham was that of veteran ex-Liverpool and Everton defender **GARY ABLETT** for £400,000. A tall and distinguished defender who likes to play the ball out from the back, Ablett was once described as 'the next Alan Hansen' during his time at Liverpool.

DAVE BARNETT is a strong and competitive central defender who has done the rounds of the lower divisions before settling at Birmingham. A Barry Fry protege, Dave was rescued from non-League football by Barnet and then followed Fry first to Southend and then to St.Andrews, where he moved for a fee of £100,000 in February 1994.

Happiest playing at left-back, **KENNY BROWN** transferred from West Ham for £75,000 in early February and is a quick and intelligent player who loves to push forward up the flank. He had spells at Huddersfield, Reading, Southend and Palace last season and gained a reputation as the scorer of vital goals, thanks mainly to his powerful shot.

Club captain is the veteran former Manchester United warhorse **STEVE BRUCE**, who is an inspiration to all around him at St.Andrews. One of the country's most decorated players, and a 'double double' winner with Man Utd last season, Bruce has been a defensive rock for City this season.



MARTIN GRAINGER is a committed defender whose never-say-die attitude marks him out as a winner. Signed from Brentford in March 1996, for a fee of £400,000, he is a real threat from dead-ball situations, although he has struggled for a place in the first-team under Trevor Francis.

Signed from Notts Count in September 1995 was **MICHAEL JOHNSON**, who made an immediate impression as a cultured central defender who was strong in the tackle and rarely beaten for pace. A perfect foil for Steve Bruce, he is nicknamed 'Magic'.

In the midfield, Birmingham can boast a wealth of riches, with several international players going about their business at St.Andrews. Most recent addition to the ranks is former Arsenal and Everton star **ANDERS LIMPAR**, who has signed on loan until the end of the 1996/97 campaign.

A skilful and direct wide player, Limpar has won many admirers in England since first arriving with Arsenal back in 1990, but didn't figure in Joe Royle's plans at Goodison Park. The player is keen to pursue his career on the continent next season, but has pledged his immediate future to St.Andrews.

An experienced midfielder with a proven goalscoring record in the lower divisions, **STEVE CASTLE** left Plymouth bound for Birmingham in the 1995 close season, but was loaned out to Gillingham last season. He has played eight games so far in the current campaign.

One of the stars of 1996/97 for Blues has been former Newcastle midfielder **CHRIS HOLLAND**, who signed for £600,000 after a loan spell in November last year. An England Under-21 international, Chris began with Preston where he was so impressive that he was quickly snapped up by Kevin Keegan. He struggled to break into the first-team at St.James' Park though, and moved to Birmingham on loan, where Trevor Francis moved quickly to make him a Blues player.

Birmingham

P L A Y E R P R O F I L E



Current Welsh captain **BARRY HORNE** is a combative and skilful central midfielder who is the driving force behind much of City's best work. Transferred from Everton for £390,000 as Trevor Francis' first signing for Birmingham, Horne was also previously with Southampton, Portsmouth and Wrexham.



Last season's top scorer, and 'Player of the Year', **JONATHAN HUNT** has found it harder to break into the senior side under Francis. He began his League career at Barnet, and followed manager Barry Fry to Southend and then on to Birmingham in September 1994. Despite generally playing a central midfield role he chipped in with 15 goals last term as City consolidated their First Division status.

Holder of the Guinness Book of Records world record for the longest throw-in (41 metres) is Welsh international **ANDY LEGG**, who moved to City from Notts County for £275,000 in February 1996, at the same time as striker Paul Devlin. He likes to get forward and take on defenders and has scored three League goals already this season.

Blues fans have yet to see the best of **RICKY OTTO**, another signing from Barry Fry's former Club, Southend, in December 1994. Skilful and strong, Otto began with Leyton Orient and has had a lengthy spell on loan at Charlton Athletic this season.

Birmingham City through and through is local boy **PAUL TAIT** who was formerly a striker but now operates mainly through the midfield. Strong and aggressive, he suffered more than his share of injuries last term and looked at one stage to be on his way to Coventry City. At the time of writing he had played 199 League games for Blues, scoring 18 goals in the process.

MARTYN O'CONNOR was captain and midfield general at Walsall last season, scoring 12 goals and generally leading by example. Formerly with Crystal Palace, he turned down the offer of a move to St. Andrews last season, but then transferred to Peterborough during the summer after contract negotiations broke down at the Bescot. When Birmingham stepped back in with a £400,000 offer for his services at the end of November, cash-strapped Peterborough allowed the player to move on.

The newest addition to the St. Andrews staff is former Brentford front-man **NICKY FORSTER**, who transferred from Griffin Park in early February for £750,000. Quick and skilful, with an eye for goal, Forster had already netted 13 League goals for the Bees this term prior to moving to St. Andrews.

The third of City's Welsh internationals is winger **JASON BOWEN**, who has come back from injury problems last season to stake his claim back in the senior side at St. Andrews.

Giant front man **KEVIN FRANCIS** has struggled for a first-team berth this season thanks to the good form shown by Paul Devlin and the big money arrivals of Paul Furlong and Mike Newell. He began his League career with Derby, where he appeared as a substitute on eight occasions before moving on to Stockport County, where he made his name with 104 goals in four years.

PAUL FURLONG became Blues Club record signing when he signed from Chelsea for £1.5 million during the summer of 1996. Tall and strong, this former Watford and Coventry player made his name as a prolific goalscorer with non-League Enfield.

Birmingham

VITAL STATISTICS



Birmingham's record over the last 10 years

| Season | Div | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | Pos |
|--------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|------|
| 86/87 | 2 | 42 | 11 | 17 | 14 | 37 | 41 | 50 | 19th |
| 87/88 | 2 | 44 | 11 | 15 | 18 | 51 | 66 | 48 | 19th |
| 88/89 | 2 | 46 | 8 | 11 | 27 | 31 | 76 | 35 | 23rd |
| 89/90 | 3 | 46 | 18 | 12 | 16 | 60 | 59 | 66 | 7th |
| 90/91 | 3 | 46 | 16 | 17 | 13 | 45 | 49 | 65 | 12th |
| 91/92 | 3 | 46 | 23 | 12 | 11 | 69 | 52 | 81 | 2nd |
| 92/93 | 1 | 46 | 13 | 12 | 21 | 50 | 72 | 51 | 19th |
| 93/94 | 1 | 46 | 13 | 12 | 21 | 52 | 69 | 51 | 22nd |
| 94/95 | 2 | 46 | 25 | 14 | 7 | 84 | 37 | 89 | 1st |
| 95/96 | 1 | 46 | 15 | 13 | 18 | 61 | 64 | 58 | 15th |



10 YEAR RECORD

OUR LEAGUE RECORD AGAINST BIRMINGHAM

| Date | Div | Result |
|-------------|-----|--------|
| 31-Mar-1970 | 2 | 4-1 |
| 27-Feb-1971 | 2 | 1-2 |
| 19-Oct-1971 | 2 | 1-1 |
| 12-Sep-1987 | 2 | 0-2 |
| 29-Oct-1988 | 2 | 2-1 |
| 12-Jan-1993 | 1 | 0-0 |

| Date | Div | Result |
|-------------|-----|--------|
| 08-Nov-1969 | 2 | 0-2 |
| 27-Feb-1971 | 2 | 1-2 |
| 19-Oct-1971 | 2 | 1-1 |
| 12-Sep-1987 | 2 | 0-2 |
| 29-Oct-1988 | 2 | 2-1 |
| 12-Jan-1993 | 1 | 0-0 |

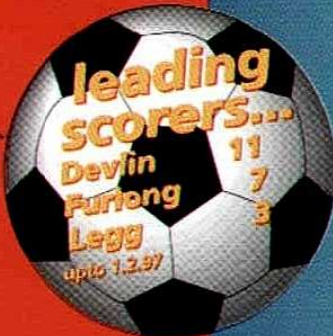
Swindon score first

How Birmingham have performed so far this season

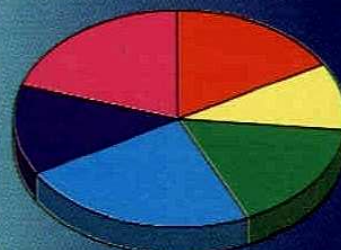
| Date | Opps | H/A | Result | Scorers (Goal times) |
|--------|--------------|-----|--------|---|
| Aug 18 | C.PALACE | (h) | W1-0 | Devlin (24) |
| Aug 24 | SHEFF UTD | (a) | D4-4 | Furlong (9), Newell (37), Devlin (75pen), Hunt (83) |
| Sep 07 | TRANMERE | (a) | L0-1 | |
| Sep 10 | OLDHAM | (h) | D0-0 | |
| Sep 14 | STOKE | (h) | W3-1 | Furlong (1,65), Legg (32) |
| Sep 21 | MAN CITY | (a) | L0-1 | |
| Sep 28 | QPR | (h) | D0-0 | |
| Oct 08 | HUDDERSFIELD | (a) | L0-3 | |
| Oct 12 | BRADFORD | (h) | W3-0 | Devlin (1,49), Hunt (88) |
| Oct 15 | IPSWICH | (h) | W1-0 | Bowen (51) |
| Oct 18 | OXFORD | (a) | D0-0 | |
| Oct 26 | NORWICH | (h) | L2-3 | Devlin (40,86) |
| Oct 29 | PORTSMOUTH | (a) | D1-1 | Furlong (22) |
| Nov 02 | PORT VALE | (a) | L0-3 | |
| Nov 13 | BOLTON | (h) | W3-1 | Furlong (55), Bowen (56), Todd (81og) |
| Nov 17 | WOLVES | (a) | W2-1 | Breen (7), Legg (57) |
| Nov 20 | CHARLTON | (a) | L1-2 | Legg (13) |
| Nov 23 | SWINDON | (h) | W1-0 | Furlong (29) |
| Nov 26 | READING | (a) | D0-0 | |
| Nov 30 | NORWICH | (a) | W1-0 | O'Connor (62) |
| Dec 03 | BARNSELY | (h) | D0-0 | |
| Dec 07 | GRIMSBY | (h) | D0-0 | |
| Dec 20 | SOUTHEND | (a) | D1-1 | Devlin (88) |
| Jan 10 | STOKE | (a) | L0-1 | |
| Jan 18 | READING | (h) | W4-1 | Furlong (33), Devlin (53pen,75), Gilkes (89og) |
| Jan 29 | QPR | (a) | D1-1 | Devlin (36) |
| Feb 01 | BOLTON | (a) | L1-2 | Devlin (56) |

TOTAL MATCHES: 27

| | |
|----------|----|
| Goals | |
| Devlin | 11 |
| Furlong | 7 |
| Legg | 3 |
| Hunt | 2 |
| Bowen | 2 |
| Newell | 1 |
| Breen | 1 |
| O'Connor | 1 |

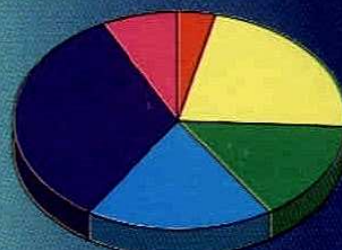


The times the goals have gone in for Birmingham at both ends this season.



League goals scored this season clockwise starting at RED

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 0-15mins | 5 |
| 16-30 | 3 |
| 31-45 | 5 |
| 46-60 | 7 |
| 61-75 | 4 |
| 76-90 | 6 |
| TOTAL | 30 |



League goals conceded to date clockwise starting at RED

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 0-15 | 1 |
| 16-30 | 6 |
| 31-45 | 4 |
| 46-60 | 5 |
| 61-75 | 9 |
| 76-90 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 27 |

QuickQuiz!

the question is...

Settle down with your half-time cuppa and test your soccer knowledge.

1. Which side knocked Manchester United out of this season's FA Cup?
2. Who is the manager of the Republic of Ireland?
3. Which striker left Newcastle for West Ham recently?
4. At which ground do Swansea play their home games?
5. What is Watford's nickname?
6. For which country is Middlesbrough's Mikkel Beck an international?
7. From which club did Chelsea sign Gianluca Vialli?
8. How many Italian clubs did David Platt play for?
9. Who is the new manager of West Brom?
10. In which season did Liverpool first win the European Cup - 1977, 1978 or 1979?
11. Who won the FA Cup in 1994?
12. If Keith Curle and Don Hutchison went up for a header together, which two teams would you be watching?
13. Where will the 1998 World Cup finals be held?
14. Who was England's manager before Terry Venables?
15. Which player left Everton recently to move to Fiorentina in an £8 million deal?

TOPICAL TEN

1. Which bowler took five wickets for England in the first innings of the Second Test at Wellington against New Zealand?
2. Wigan were knocked out of the 1997 Silk Cut Challenge Cup by which team?
3. Newscaster Michael Buerk is taking part in which major sporting event?
4. Ray Harford is the new manager of which Midland soccer club?
5. Make A Stand won the Tote Gold Trophy in February on which racecourse?
6. Which team ended Bath's progress in the 1997 Pilkington Cup in Rugby Union?
7. Who defeated Tom Boom Boom Johnson to win the I.B.F. and W.B.O. featherweight boxing titles in 1997?
8. Name the winner of the 1997 B&H Masters Snooker Championship.
9. Which boxer was defeated by Lennox Lewis in a W.B.C. World Heavyweight Boxing clash in February 1997?
10. Which manager made a rare appearance in goal for his Division One team against the league leaders?

HOME&AWAY..

HOME....

1. Who scored our goal in the 1-1 draw against QPR?
2. At which club did Steve Cowe start his League career?
3. For many League clubs has Wayne Allison played?

....AND AWAY

1. Which striker recently joined Birmingham from Brentford?
2. Which club did Birmingham play in the Fifth Round of the FA Cup?

CLOSE UP! WHOSE CREST?



Answers.... 1. Wimbledon. 2. Mick McCarthy. 3. Paul Kitson. 4. Vetch Field. 5. Hornets. 6. Denmark. 7. Taylor. 8. Three. 9. Ray Harford. 10. 1977. 11. Everton. 12. Wolves v Sheffield United. 13. France. 14. Graham. 15. Andrei Kanchelskis. **Home:** 1. It was an own goal by Rufus Brevett. 2. Aston Villa. 3. Four. **Away:** 1. Nicky Forster. 2. Wrexham. **Whose Crest:** Sunderland.

a brief look back

Dick Mattick looks back ...

On Easter Monday 1993 Swindon travelled to St. Andrews looking for points to help clinch a play-off spot.

A goal by Paul Bodin had secured a 1-0 home win over Luton two days earlier and confidence was high.

For twenty minutes there was nothing to suggest the goal spree that was to follow but when a cut eye forced Shaun Taylor from the field, Birmingham were quick to take advantage.

First, Andy Saville, Birmingham's £155,000 signing capitalised on a slip by Ross MacLaren and then, following a quick counter attack from a Swindon corner, Paul Moulden gave John Frain the chance to race through and score.

Shaun Taylor, a blood stained banner of defiance, returned to the

action and ignoring the 10 stitches in his head wound bulleted home a header from Micky Hazard's free kick.

Within six minutes of the re-start the narrow one goal gap had become a yawning three goal chasm after Moulden rounded Fraser Digby who could only watch in despair three minutes later when Saville cracked home a 25 yard shot.

Swindon came back with a goal which was aesthetically pleasing although it seemed unlikely to be of more than academic value when a fine passing movement ended with Hazard finding Craig Maskell who scored with a low shot.

However after 65 minutes the game turned back into a real contest when Andy

Gosney in the Birmingham goal flapped at a left wing cross by Shaun Taylor and only managed to divert it onto the head of Dave Mitchell who scored. Mitchell had missed

the previous game through suspension but how glad Swindon were that he had returned when he equalised with a simple tap-in.

Birmingham were now in disarray as a game that they seemed to have won began to slip away.

Just 12 minutes remained when 'Zippy' Bodin's corner found Maskell unmarked and he scored with a neat lobbed header.

Just to tie the game up, Mitchell rounded a defender and the goalkeeper in the last minute to complete his first hat trick in English football and one of the greatest come-backs in Swindon Town's history.

Teams:

Birmingham City: Gosney, Clarkson (Mardon), Dryden, Matthewson, Frain, Rodgeron, Peer, Parris, Smith, Moulden, Saville.

Swindon: Digby, Summerbee, Calderwood, Hoddle, Taylor, Bodin, Hazard, MacLaren, Ling, Maskell, Mitchell.

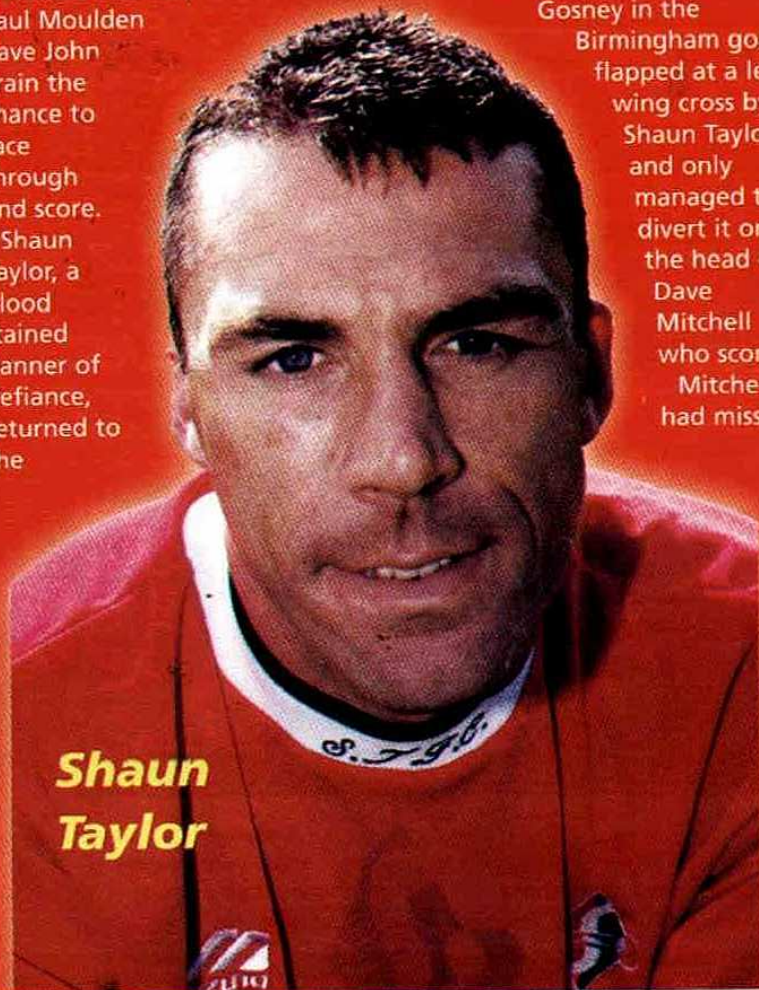
TODAY'S QUESTION.

Which former Town skipper played for Birmingham in an FA Cup semi-final?

Send your answers on a postcard to: Matchday Magazine Editor, Swindon Town FC, County Ground, County Road, Swindon, SN1 2ED.

The winner will receive a special prize!

Shaun Taylor



talkin' tactics

with First Team Coach Mike Walsh



The most disappointing aspect of Saturday's defeat at Manchester City was that we did not compete in a way that we would have liked.

We were on the defensive right from the off, we didn't win our individual battles and of course Peter Holcroft, who had showed some lovely touches in the first 30 minutes, let everyone down by being sent off.

Obviously losing four of our midfielders through suspension didn't help, nor did the withdrawal of Steve Cowe with flu on the Friday, but it was still hard to take having gone into the game on the back of a decent run and a great away win at West Brom.

Basically we lacked strength, particularly in midfield where Kevin Horlock and Steve Lomas were physically stronger and dictated the game.

We should have a few more players back for tonight's game and with both Steve Finney and Peter Thorne both involved on Saturday a lot of you probably think they are back to full fitness.

Well unfortunately that's not the case. Both of

them have still got a lot of hard work to do before they are anything like match fit.

They need a few more games under their belts and some extra training because they have been out for so long.

So although at first glance it looks as if we are near full strength there is still some way to go before we can say that.

Tonight we have the opportunity to get back on track but it is bound to be tough against a Birmingham team who themselves will be looking to put things right after losing 2-1 to Port Vale last weekend.

As is the case in every match we'll just be concentrating on our own game because we know that if we can get it right we have absolutely no-one to fear in this division.

Before I finish I'd just like to mention our trip to Scotland last week. Basically we used it as a team spirit exercise and I think it worked well.

It gave everyone the chance to socialise together and maybe open up a little bit more and although you won't see the immediate benefit - it's the long term affect we are looking at.

**SWINDON TOWN.
STILL LOOKING SHARP
THIS SEASON.**

Swindon Town Football Club will be looking just as good this season.
Thanks to their exclusive Mizuno strip.



Nationwide and The Football League - A Winning team -

Nationwide Building Society is delighted to be sponsoring The Football League and is proud to be associated with the national game. Millions of people around the country enjoy League games, with an increasing number of families attending matches.

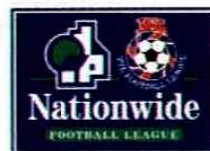
Similarly, Nationwide has a relationship with many households in the UK - around one in four. It looks after the financial needs of over seven million people and is the UK's largest building society intending to remain customer owned, committed to putting customers first.

Nationwide is an organisation with strong roots in the community and we are always looking for new ways to promote awareness of the benefits we can offer and to strengthen relationships with customers even further. With 72 league

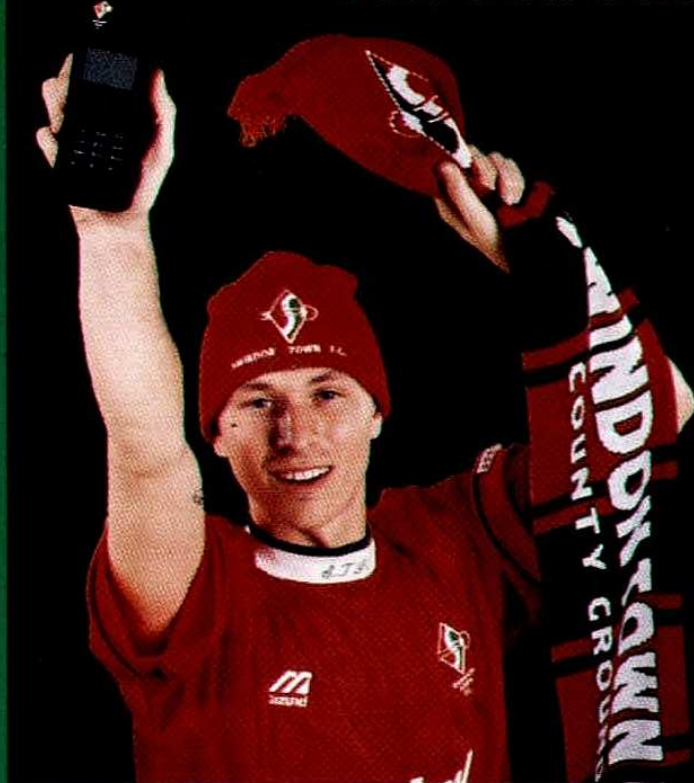
clubs and 630 Nationwide branches throughout England and Wales, we are looking forward to working with The League and its member clubs to support community initiatives and forge even closer links with local people. Wherever you find a football team you'll find a Nationwide team.

Nationwide's philosophy is to be "in tune with people", and we believe that the help we can give in investing in football's future will further demonstrate this and underline our general commitment to meeting customer's needs.

We would like to take
this opportunity to wish your
club a successful season.



THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER CASE FOR OUR PROMOTION



Motolec and Cellnet have teamed up with Swindon Town to bring you a hat trick of great offers for Christmas.



- Nokia 100 package - includes connection, a year's line rental - and £6.50 worth of free calls per month all for £99.99.
- BT Roamer £9.99** (reduced line rental £13.99 per month).
- BT Personal £2.99* (reduced line rental £11.25 per month).



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league update

by Colin Benson



Last week-end we were back to a full league programme in Division One after a couple of weeks decimated by international and FA Cup calls - our trip to Maine Road being the obvious highlight.

There are no other fixtures in Division One this evening however and last night *Crystal Palace* versus *Reading* and *Southend United* versus *Norwich City* were the only other mid-week engagements so there will be little change in the League table come 9.30pm.

This game should have been staged on Saturday 15th of course but was postponed because of *Birmingham City's* Fifth Round FA Cup tie with *Wrexham* at St. Andrews. No doubt a game they don't want reminding of so here goes. It finished *Birmingham City* 1 *Wrexham* 3!

Now, as they say, Trevor Francis can concentrate on the League and there is certainly a lot of work to be done there. The Blues boss has forked out £5 million on new players in the last nine months yet their situation in Division One does not reflect that investment.

The Blues went into Sunday's home game with *Port Vale* just a place or two above the bottom three and on the back of four successive defeats in the League and cup.

It was a situation that prompted skipper Steve Bruce to call on his colleagues to start showing pride in their performances. The former *Manchester United* defender said:

"We've got to stop kidding ourselves and stop looking at the top end of the table."

Having said that they were also just 10 points or so short of the play-off places: such is the incredible see-saw season in this division.

What an extraordinary season it is proving to be. Just when we were beginning to sing the blues down here in Wiltshire we pulled off two great wins in a week. First we blunted the Blades' promotion run, beating *Sheffield United* 2-1 at the County Ground; then we trampled all over the Throstles to secure a similar victory at The Hawthorns. And just for good measure made it seven points in a week with a draw against *QPR* tucked in between.

What all this did was lift us to within seven points of *Crystal Palace* and *Norwich City* and suddenly from looking over our shoulders we were holding our heads up high and focusing on the play-offs.

It can all change again of course, just as dramatically and not necessarily for the better, but such is the inconsistency throughout Division One this season that practically anything is possible for almost all of us.

Intriguing isn't it and as Steve McMahon is often telling us "consistency" is the key to all success. Such a common word yet one that has such significance.

Meanwhile around the division there have been a few

changes since we last met. Ray Harford, the new boss of *West Brom*, has made his first signing, spending £200,000 on *Southampton's* England Under 21 midfielder Graham Potter. And *Charlton's* attack has been bolstered by centre-forward Steve Jones, signed from *West Ham* for £400,000.

Huddersfield Town paid *Bristol Rovers* £500,000 for Marcus Browning while another Marcus from Rovers - Marcus Stewart - who cost the Terriers £1.2 million, grabbed his 10th goal in 18 games for the Yorkshire club, in a 2-2 draw at *Grimsby*.

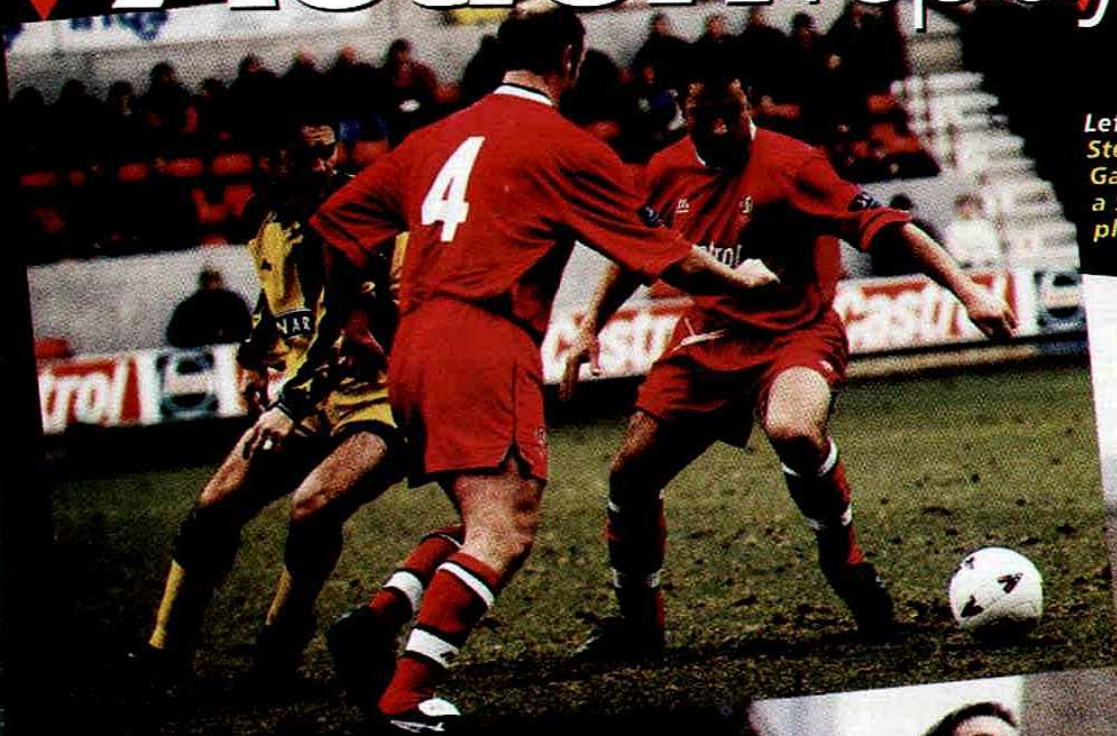
It has been a funny old time down at Roots Hall where assistant manager Theo Foley was sacked and manager Ronnie Whelan suspended after a verbal dust-up with a referee at Maine Road. Whelan is now reinstated and celebrated with a 2-1 win over *Stoke City*.

Rudderless *Oldham* were looking for a guiding hand after Graeme Sharp found the going too tough at Boundary Park. And they found it in the form of Neil Warnock who has taken over until the end of the season.



Action replay

Left:
Steve McMahon and
Gay Elkins gang up on
a Sheffield United
player



Right:
Swindon old boy Jan Aage
Fjortoft is beaten to the ball by
Gary Elkins



Below:
Steve Cowe challenges for
the ball with back-up from
Mark Walters





Top:
Swindon Town line
up to defend a free
kick from Sheffield
United

Left:
'Give us some help
boss'....



Bottom Left:
.... that will do nicely
- Gary Elkins clears
his lines with a
helping hand from
the Gaffer

SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 1997
Swindon Town 2 Sheffield Utd 1
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 1
Attendance 8,811



community scheme news

A huge congratulations must go to all you budding young stars who braved the elements a couple of weeks ago to attend our course here at the County Ground.

An amazing 106 of you turned out to make sure it was a tremendous week - and the rain didn't seem to dampen your spirits at all.

Everyone seemed to have a thoroughly enjoyable time with lots of fun and games and of course some expert coaching.

A special thanks also needs to go to our coaches and assistants for making it a huge success.

Don't forget our Easter course which takes place on March 25th, 26th and 27th. Places are again limited so don't delay and get your forms from reception or telephone us on 01793 421303.

We are entertaining a special guest this evening in the form of Adrian Mings who has come from Chippenham and is watching his very first game here at the County Ground with his Mum, Dad and Grampy - have an enjoyable evening Adrian, we hope you have an exciting time with us and all come back again soon.

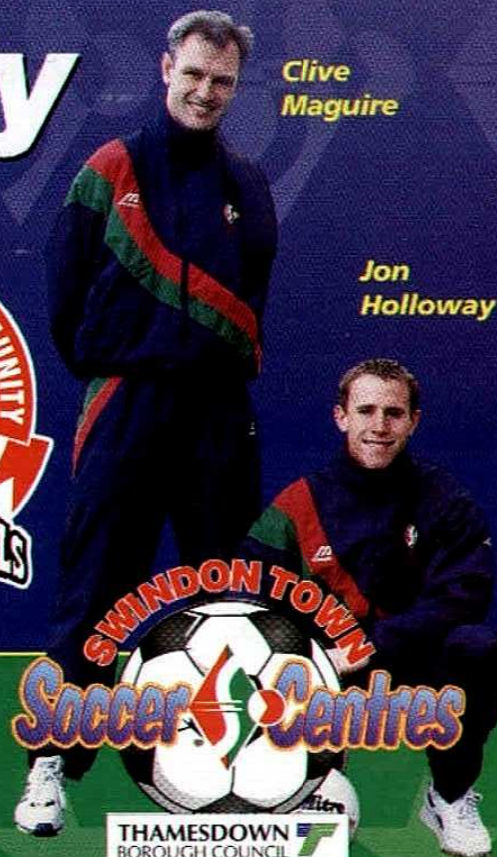
Until next time - keep cheering and we will see you all soon.

Pictured below are youngsters and coaches from Swindon Town's Marlborough Soccer Centres who recently took on Oasis and won 11-7.

Oasis were physically stronger but Marlborough were the better tactically as they ran out impressive winners.

However Oasis are now keenly waiting for the return match!

We would like to thank Angela Field for organising the Soccer Courses at Marlborough.



**Clive
Maguire**

**Jon
Holloway**

The next courses are commencing week beginning Monday 17th February. The T-shirts have been a great success adding to the professionalism of the scheme. So, don't delay and enrol at the course and centre which applies to you.

Cost - £10.00 FOR 5 WEEK COURSE
- £13.50 IF YOU REQUIRE A T-SHIRT

Link Centre

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| Monday | 5.30pm - 6.30pm | 5-6 + 9-11 years |
| Thursday | 4.30pm - 5.30pm | 5 years |
| | 5.30pm - 6.30pm | 7-8 years |

Oasis

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
| Monday | 4.00pm - 5.00pm | 9-11 years |
| | 5.00pm - 6.00pm | 9-11 years |
| Wednesday | 5.00pm - 6.00pm | 12-14 years |
| Saturday | 9.00am - 10.00am | 5-8 years |
| | 10.00am - 11.00am | 5-8 years |

Stratton

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| Monday | 3.30pm - 4.30pm | 5-6 years |
| | 4.30pm - 5.30pm | 9-11 years |
| Wednesday | 3.30pm - 4.30pm | 7-8 years |

Marlborough

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| Wednesday | 4.00pm - 5.00pm | 5-11 years |
| | 5.00pm - 6.00pm | 11-16 years |

Highworth

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Tuesday | 4.00pm - 5.00pm | 5-6 years |
| | 5.00pm - 6.00pm | 7-8 years |
| Thursday | 4.00pm - 5.00pm | 9 years + |
| | 5.00pm - 6.00pm | 9 years + |

Swindon Town Football Club's Community Scheme is kindly supported by:



the junior robins

with Louise Kaye

Sponsored by



A big welcome to all Junior Robins at the County Ground this evening.

Trip cancelled

First of all, apologies to those who booked places for the trip to Man City on Saturday, which was cancelled.

Unfortunately, there was not enough demand and it would have been impossible to send a coach. Secondly, the Bolton Wanderers trip on the 8th March has also received a disappointing response so this has also been cancelled.

The boring bunch who are not supporting your team away should shout even louder today and get behind the lads.

There will in fact be just one more chance to travel away this season with the Junior Robins and details of that trip will be out in a forthcoming newsletter.

Junior Reds visit

Charlton Athletic looked after the Junior Robins when we visited in December and now we are to return the favour.

I would like to remind you that Charlton's Junior Reds are visiting the County Ground on Saturday

for morning football. If you want to join in the fun, meet Alan Layzell at the changing block at 11:00am and don't forget your tickets for the match.

Congratulations

Thanks to everyone who entered one of the most popular competitions this season and correctly answered the four anagrams in February's newsletter.

Our two winners were ten year old Peter Adams of Poynton, Stockport and Richard Overton who was nine on Sunday and lives in Kingshill Road, Swindon. Both winners receive a pair of tickets for the Charlton game on Saturday.

0891 12 16 40

This is the important telephone number of Swindon Town ClubCall, our 24 hour information service.

Every Monday, there is a message on ClubCall for Junior Robins confirming whether training is going ahead or not that evening. Thankfully, training is not regularly cancelled but poor pitch conditions can affect this so make sure to call ClubCall on Mondays.

today's lucky mascots

STFC Mascot opportunities

If you know someone who would like to be a Swindon Town mascot, we still have a few dates available this season. However, the fixtures are limited so I would advise calling early to find out more about the package.



Mascots for Swindon -V- Sheffield on 1st February from L-R, Craig Whitham and Frazer Robertson (Sheffield) and Ryan O'Hara, Dominic Gunnell and Marek Koza (Swindon).



LEIGH EXTON of Warwick Road, Swindon, is 10 years old. He is a pupil at the King William St. School and he enjoys riding

his bike and playing football. Leigh plays as a centre forward for the school and his favourite player is Ty Gooden.

We wish both mascots and their families a great evening at the County Ground.



Swindon Town are pleased to announce that our lucky matchday mascots are now sponsored by Little Chef and Burger King at the Turnpike Roundabout.



Fourteen year old **SAM HOULCROFT** lives in Toothill, Swindon and attends Ridgeway School. Sam plays football for

Wroughton Under 14's and is a big fan of the game. I am sure he will be delighted to meet his favourite Town players today.



youth team

focus

with Tommy Wheeldon



Fixtures 96/97

South East Counties League Division 2

| | | | | |
|------|--------|-----------------------------|---|-----|
| Sat | Aug 17 | Brighton & Hove | A | 2-0 |
| SAT | AUG 24 | BRENTFORD | H | 3-2 |
| Sat | Aug 31 | Bristol City | A | 1-1 |
| SAT | SEP 07 | BRISTOL ROVERS | H | 8-0 |
| SAT | SEP 14 | PORTSMOUTH (LC1) | H | 0-3 |
| Sat | Sep 21 | Reading | A | 3-2 |
| MON | SEP 23 | BARNET (SJFC 1) | H | 3-1 |
| SAT | SEP 28 | COLCHESTER UNITED | H | 1-2 |
| Sat | Oct 05 | Southampton | A | 0-2 |
| SAT | OCT 12 | LUTON TOWN | H | 2-2 |
| Tues | Oct 15 | Arsenal (SJFC 2) | A | 1-3 |
| Sat | Oct 19 | Wycombe Wndrs | A | 1-1 |
| TUES | OCT 22 | HEREFORD (MYC 1) | H | 4-0 |
| Sat | Oct 26 | Tottenham Hotspur | A | 1-1 |
| SAT | NOV 02 | OXFORD UNITED | H | 1-1 |
| SAT | NOV 09 | CRYSTAL PALACE | H | 1-2 |
| Sat | Nov 16 | Wimbledon | A | 1-0 |
| Sat | Nov 23 | Luton Town | A | 1-2 |
| SAT | NOV 30 | WYCOMBE W. | H | 0-3 |
| Wed | Dec 04 | Torquay Utd (FAYC 1) | A | 1-1 |
| Sat | Dec 07 | Barnet | A | 4-1 |
| WED | DEC 11 | TORQUAY UTD (FAYC 1 REPLAY) | H | 0-2 |
| WED | DEC 18 | WOLVES (MYC 2) | H | 2-2 |
| SAT | DEC 21 | BRIGHTON & H.A. | H | 3-0 |
| Sat | Jan 18 | Bristol Rovers | A | 2-1 |
| Wed | Jan 22 | Wolves (MYC 2 replay) | A | 2-1 |
| SAT | JAN 25 | READING | H | 2-3 |
| Sat | Feb 01 | Brentford | A | 1-1 |
| Sat | Feb 08 | Colchester United | A | 0-3 |
| TUES | FEB 18 | STOKE CITY (MYC SF1) | H | 0-1 |
| SAT | MAR 01 | TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR | H | |
| Sat | Mar 08 | Oxford United | A | |
| Tue | Mar 11 | Stoke City (MYC SF2) | A | |
| SAT | MAR 15 | WIMBLEDON | H | |
| Sat | Mar 22 | Crystal Palace | A | |
| SAT | APR 12 | BARNET | H | |
| TBA | | AFC BOURNEMOUTH | H | |
| TBA | | AFC Bournemouth | A | |
| TBA | | BRISTOL CITY | H | |
| TBA | | SOUTHAMPTON | H | |

Home fixtures kick-off at 11.00am - Kick-Off times are subject to change without prior warning.

Fixtures 96/97

West County Television South West Counties Youth League

| | | | |
|---------|------------------|---|-----|
| Aug 24 | Bristol City | A | 2-1 |
| AUG 31 | CARDIFF CITY | H | 0-4 |
| Sept 07 | Cheltenham Town | A | 0-1 |
| SEPT 14 | CIRENCESTER TOWN | H | 1-1 |
| Sept 21 | Exeter City | A | 1-1 |
| Sept 28 | Hereford United | A | 1-0 |
| OCT 12 | SWANSEA CITY | H | 1-1 |
| Oct 26 | AFC Bournemouth | A | 1-1 |
| NOV 02 | BASHLEY | H | 3-1 |
| Nov 09 | Bashley | A | 0-3 |
| NOV 16 | BRISTOL CITY | H | 2-1 |
| Nov 23 | Cardiff City | A | 0-7 |
| NOV 30 | CHELTEHAM TOWN | H | 1-1 |
| Dec 07 | Cirencester Town | A | 1-1 |
| Dec 11 | Plymouth Argyle | A | 1-3 |
| Jan 18 | Swansea City | A | 3-2 |
| Jan 25 | Torquay United | A | 2-3 |
| FEB 01 | AFC BOURNEMOUTH | H | 0-0 |
| FEB 08 | EXETER CITY | H | 1-2 |
| FEB 19 | HEREFORD UNITED | H | 0-2 |
| FEB 26 | TORQUAY UNITED | H | |
| MAR 05 | PLYMOUTH ARGYLE | H | |

All home Saturday fixtures kick-off at 11.00am - Wednesday fixtures kick-off at 2.00pm. Kick-Off times are subject to change without prior warning.

South East Counties League Division Two Colchester United Youth 3 Swindon Town Youth 0

Having lost to Colchester earlier in the season we prepared well for the return game determined to cut out individual errors and put together a solid base to build on.

Unfortunately all our hard work went out of the window as defensive blunders involving Michael Pattimore led to us conceding two goals in the opening 18 minutes.

We recovered from this nightmare start quite well and should have pulled a goal back before half time in a three on one break but Pattimore blasted over when it looked easier to score.

After the interval several of the lads including Phil MacDiarmid, Wayne Thorne, Thomas Wheeldon and Danny Hunt gave outstanding displays and MacDiarmid looked to have brought us back into the game with a perfectly good goal in the 70th minute.

However the referee and linesman did not feel the ball had crossed the line and from that point the lads lost their shape and cohesion.

We finished the game with 10 men as I was forced to drag one of our lads off before he was sent off and to rub salt into the wounds, Colchester scored a third near the end which looked well offside.

The Colchester officials apologised for the way the

referee handled the game and it seems that the standard of refereeing in the South East Counties League is a major cause for concern.

Team: Betterton, Coupe (Woodman), Wheeldon, Pattimore, Hunt, Davis (Hodson), Hulbert (O'Connell), Thorne, MacDiarmid, Meechan, Finlayson.

South West Counties League Swindon Town Youth 1 Exeter City Youth 2

A much improved second half showing wasn't quite enough to save the B team who trailed 2-0 at half time against Exeter.

Despite starting on top and playing some neat, precise football, Swindon fell behind against the run of play when their defence was caught napping following a long punt forward.

The game then turned physical and scrappy and Swindon went into the interval 2-0 down after more sloppy defending.

Some stern words during the interval and some tactical changes seemed to make a difference and Swindon's second half display was a vast improvement.

Mark Simpkins was eventually rewarded for a whole-hearted performance with a goal 10 minutes from time but Swindon were unable to get back on terms and all three points went back to Exeter.

Team: Northmoor, Taylor, Bennett, Cope Sharps, Penning, Simpkins, Tuck, Tedaldi, Suttedeh, Fletcher. Subs: Mills McSherry, Benfield.

**Swindon Town Youth 0
Stoke City Youth 1
Midland Youth Cup,
semi-final, first leg**

A crowd of almost 600 turned up to support the youth team at the County Ground but they were unable to witness a victory as a well organised Stoke side took a first leg advantage with the only goal of the game.

I couldn't have asked for any more from my lads but on the night we just weren't good enough overall with four or five of the lads not playing very well.

Perhaps it was stage fright because it was a very big game for us, but even those who weren't playing well kept on running and battling right to the end.

Stoke were very difficult to break down but the tie is not over yet, it's only half time and we'll have everyone fired up for

the return at the Victoria Ground where we still have a great chance of making it through to the final.

The first half was very tight and tense with chances limited at both ends. Alex Finlayson and Phil MacDiarmid weren't far away with long range efforts but it was Stoke who had the best chance when their forward missed the target from two yards out.

Sol Davis failed in front of goal with a similar opportunity early in the second half before Stoke took the lead after 65 minutes.

A mistake by Danny Hunt who was caught in possession allowed the visitors to break clear and although Anthony Betterton did well to get his hands to Dean Crowe's shot, Stoke substitute Jamie Gopbold was left with the simple task of knocking in the loose ball.

Hunt went some way to making up for his error when he headed a goal bound shot off the line and Betterton produced a stunning late save as Stoke

finished strongly.

The return leg takes place on March 11th with the winners meeting either Aston Villa or Grimsby in the final.

Team: Betterton, Coupe (Woodman), Wheeldon, Pattimore, Hunt, Davis, Hulbert, Thorne, MacDiarmid, Finlayson, Meechan (O'Connell).

**South East Counties
League Division 2
at 15th February 1997**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | GD |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Luton Town | 21 | 15 | 4 | 2 | 47 | 20 | 34 | +27 |
| Crystal Palace | 21 | 14 | 4 | 3 | 54 | 21 | 32 | +33 |
| Oxford United | 21 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 42 | 28 | 28 | +14 |
| Tottenham H. | 24 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 41 | 28 | 27 | +13 |
| Wycombe Wndrs. | 23 | 11 | 4 | 8 | 30 | 22 | 26 | +8 |
| Southampton | 19 | 12 | - | 7 | 40 | 20 | 24 | +20 |
| SWINDON TOWN | 21 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 38 | 30 | 22 | +8 |
| Wimbledon | 21 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 29 | 22 | 21 | +7 |
| Bristol City | 19 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 31 | 34 | 20 | -3 |
| Brighton & H.A. | 21 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 25 | 36 | 20 | -11 |
| Colchester United | 20 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 33 | 32 | 18 | +1 |
| Bristol Rovers | 21 | 7 | 3 | 11 | 34 | 41 | 17 | -7 |
| AFC Bournemouth | 18 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 30 | 38 | 17 | -8 |
| Brentford | 20 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 28 | 43 | 12 | -15 |
| Reading | 23 | 5 | 1 | 17 | 24 | 72 | 11 | -48 |
| Barnet | 23 | 2 | 3 | 18 | 18 | 57 | 7 | -39 |



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Centre of excellence

with Phil Cannon

The last couple of weeks have been very hectic both for myself and the Centre of Excellence coaches.

Ten days ago we took our Under 14's squad up to Liverpool to play a match against a Liverpool representative side. The boys travelled the day before and stayed overnight before playing the game the next morning followed by a tour of Anfield.

The day went brilliantly with the score in the match ending 4-1 to our lads which set us up nicely for a good afternoon at the home of the famous Liverpool FC.

I know the boys all enjoyed themselves but I would like to thank them for the way they represented Swindon Town FC.

Their conduct both on and off the field was superb.

The weekend before last we sent our Under 14's and 16's to Bristol City and both teams came away with hard earned victories.

I watched the Under 16's game and as you can imagine there was no quarter given against our local rivals in what was a thoroughly entertaining game.

Our Under 13's also played against Cardiff City with our lads coming out on top in a hard fought match but the Under 15's were well beaten after losing their goalkeeper through injury.

As you can see there has been plenty going on and we also have a lot of plans for the summer.

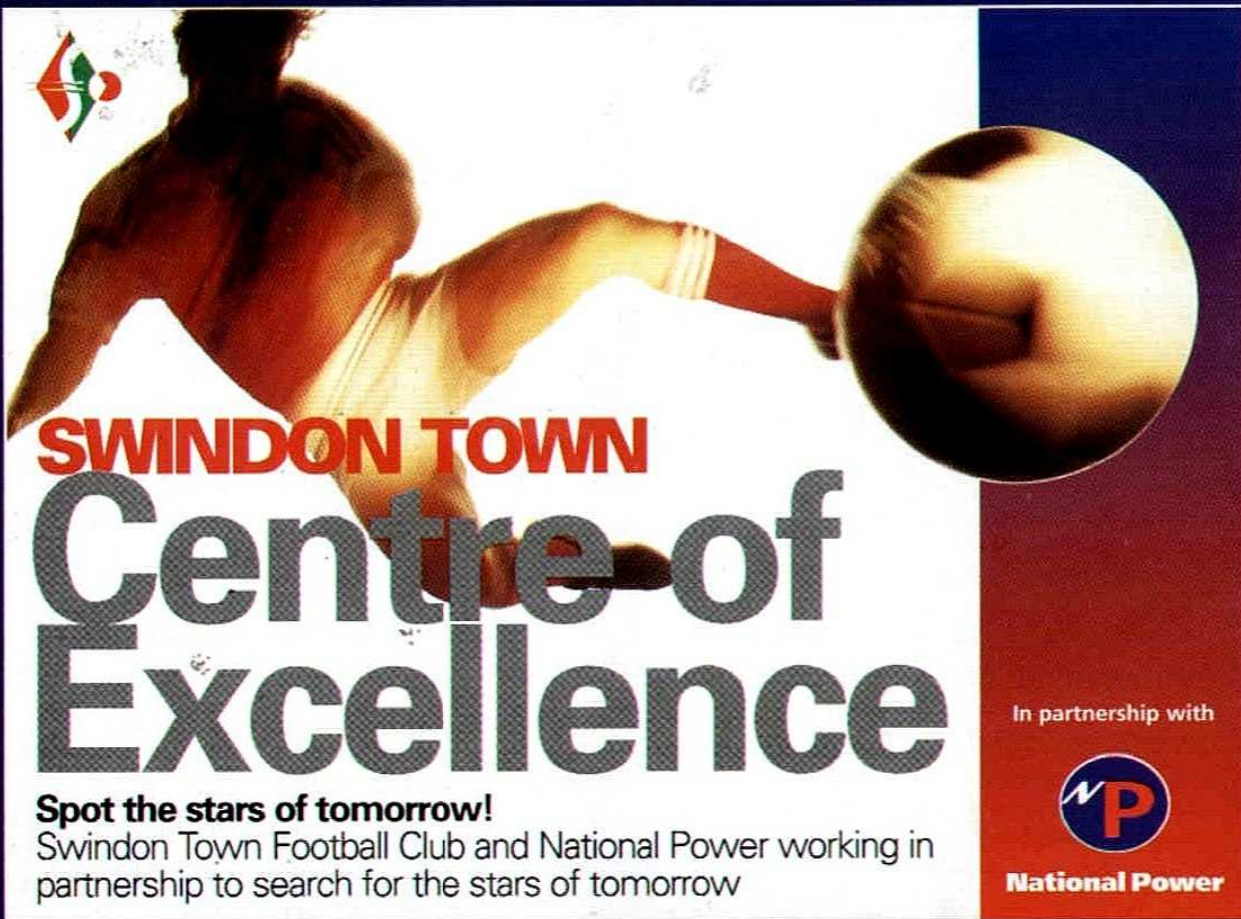
The Under 11's, 12's and 13's are going to Torbay for the Gold



Coast Classic Tournament while our Under 14's are travelling to Ireland to play in the prestigious Irish Milk Cup.

As you can imagine these tours cost a lot of money so the boys are going to do some fundraising themselves to boost the coffers.

Having said that we are still in need for sponsors to help us out, so anyone who would like to get involved, please give me a call at the County Ground.




SWINDON TOWN

Centre of Excellence

Spot the stars of tomorrow!
Swindon Town Football Club and National Power working in partnership to search for the stars of tomorrow

In partnership with



National Power

reserves round up

with **Ross MacLaren**



Avon Insurance Combination League

AFC Bournemouth Res. 2 Swindon Town Res. 2

Swindon's second string let a two goal lead slip from their grasp as they drew 2-2 at Bournemouth and again it was down to sloppy defending.

It all started so positively for us when Peter Holcroft bent a tremendous free kick in over the defensive wall to give us a 20th minute lead.

And when a fine move down the left resulted in Alex Finlayson making it 2-0 we seemed to be well on our way to victory.

It could have been 3-0 at the interval but Holcroft saw another superbly struck free kick come back off a post and at half time all I asked for was more of the same.

Unfortunately we immediately gave away a silly goal and then seemed to sit back and not work hard enough off the ball.

Bournemouth equalised with a break-away after we had been enjoying good possession and it was the home team who finished the stronger and could easily have won the match.

It was good to see Steve Finney complete 90 minutes after a long lay-off through injury and Newcastle trialist Jimmy Crawford did quite well in his first game.

But the kids are still not defending properly and they need to learn fast.



Team: Mildenhall, Pattimore, Davis (Hulbert), Crawford, Coupe, Hunt, Watson, Holcroft, Finlayson, Finney, O'Sullivan.
Subs: Meechan, Wheeldon (not used).

Avon Insurance Combination League Swindon Town Res. 2 Southampton Res. 2

A late own goal made sure of a point for Swindon as they held the Saints at the County Ground.

Twice Southampton took the lead but on both occasions we hit back and in the end a draw was just about a fair result.

A fierce wind meant that conditions were testing and there were few chances until the visitors took the lead with a bizarre goal in the 14th minute.

Steve Mildenhall attempted to kick clear but only succeeded in hitting Steve Basham and the ball rebounded into an empty net.

The lads recovered from that set-back and began to put the Southampton defence under pressure and we equalised in the 29th minute when Australian trialist Craig Lewis volleyed in Jason Drysdale's cross.

But Southampton took the lead again early in the second half when Basham headed home after some sloppy defending.

And we had a real let off seven minutes later when Basham rounded Steve Mildenhall only to hit the bar.

However we drew level 10 minutes from time when Steve Finney's dangerous cross was headed into his own net by Saints' substitute Phillip Warner.

Fixtures 96/97

Avon Insurance Combination Div 1

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------|--------|
| Mon Aug 26 | Swansea City (LC) | A 2-1 |
| THUR SEP 19 | TOTTENHAM | H 1-3 |
| Wed Sep 25 | Charlton Athletic | A 4-1 |
| MON OCT 07 | LUTON TOWN | H 1-0 |
| MON OCT 21 | PORTSMOUTH | H 2-0 |
| Thur Oct 31 | Bristol City | A 2-3 |
| Wed Nov 06 | Oxford United | A 3-3 |
| MON NOV 11 | CRYSTAL PALACE | H 3-0 |
| WED NOV 20 | BRISTOL ROVERS (LC) | H 0-0 |
| MON DEC 09 | BRISTOL ROVERS | H 1-3 |
| Mon Dec 16 | Cardiff City | A 1-1 |
| Wed Jan 15 | Brighton & H.A. | A 0-1 |
| MON JAN 20 | ARSENAL | H 2-6 |
| Mon Jan 27 | Oxford United (LC) | A 1-2 |
| Mon Feb 03 | AFC Bournemouth | A 2-2 |
| MON FEB 10 | SOUTHAMPTON | H 2-2 |
| Tue Feb 25 | Watford | A 7-30 |
| WED MAR 05 | BRISTOL CITY (LC) | H 2-00 |
| MON MAR 10 | NORWICH CITY | H 2-00 |
| Mon Mar 17 | Chelsea | A 7-00 |
| WED MAR 19 | CARDIFF CITY (LC) | H 2-00 |
| MON MAR 24 | MILLWALL | H 2-00 |
| Tue Apr 08 | West Ham United | A 2-00 |
| MON APR 14 | Q.P.R. | H 2-00 |
| MON APR 21 | IPSWICH TOWN | H 2-00 |
| Wed Apr 23 | Wimbledon | A 2-00 |
| TBA | Swansea City | A 2-00 |

All home fixtures are to be played at The County Ground and will kick-off at the time indicated above.

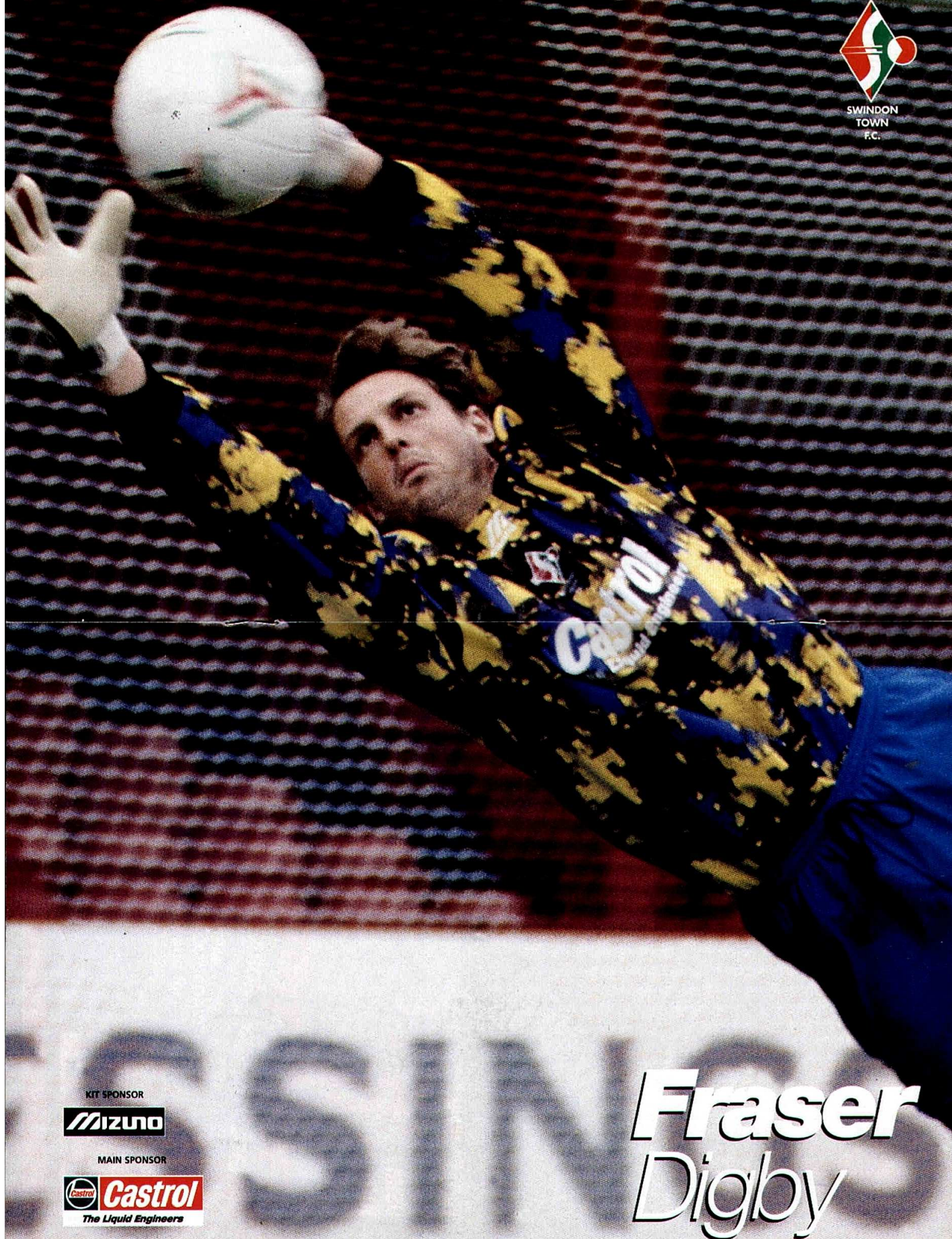
Kick-Off times are subject to change without prior warning.

Avon Insurance Combination Div 1 at 12th February 1997

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | GD |
|-------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Portsmouth | 15 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 26 | 19 | 28 | +7 |
| Tottenham H. | 13 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 31 | 14 | 26 | +17 |
| Chelsea | 13 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 14 | 26 | +8 |
| Wimbledon | 13 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 30 | 19 | 25 | +11 |
| Q.P.R. | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 26 | 18 | 24 | +10 |
| Ipswich Town | 11 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 19 | 7 | 23 | +12 |
| Arsenal | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 32 | 13 | 21 | +19 |
| Brighton & H.A. | 13 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 24 | 24 | 18 | 0 |
| Crystal Palace | 12 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 17 | 18 | 17 | +1 |
| AFC Bournemouth | 12 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 26 | 28 | 17 | -2 |
| Cardiff City | 13 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 19 | 17 | -7 |
| SWINDON TOWN | 13 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 24 | 25 | 16 | -1 |
| Millwall | 12 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 21 | 26 | 15 | 0 |
| Bristol City | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 25 | 15 | 0 |
| Luton Town | 11 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 15 | 15 | -2 |
| Oxford United | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 20 | 24 | 15 | -4 |
| Watford | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 16 | 22 | 14 | -6 |
| Swansea City | 11 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 14 | 22 | 13 | -8 |
| West Ham United | 13 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 23 | 12 | -6 |
| Southampton | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 18 | 23 | 11 | -5 |
| Norwich City | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 20 | 29 | 10 | -9 |
| Bristol Rovers | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 27 | 10 | -15 |
| Charlton Athletic | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 22 | 7 | -13 |

Overall I was pleased with the point against a Southampton side who fielded no fewer than six players with Premiership experience but we gave away two sloppy goals again which was disappointing.

Team: Mildenhall, O'Sullivan, Drysdale, Holcroft, Wheeldon, Elkins, Watson, Crawford, Lewis(P.Thorne 57), Finney, Hulbert(Finlayson 74). Sub: W. Thorne (not used).



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Tony Horne's view from a far

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I write having just put down the phone to the wife of BBC anchorman Shaun Hodgetts - and what an honour that is. I am not seeing Mrs H on the sly, it was just a social call to the Beeb's man at the mike.

Anyway, get a load if this: it turns out that now I no longer work for GWR FM in Swindon, my old mate Shaun feels he can read out bits of my column on Wiltshire Sound without being compromised or publicising GWR FM on his show.

I would just like to say that this is a dream come true for me. I was always a big Wiltshire

Sound fan and when I was on air in Wiltshire,

I used to have a little tranny in the corner of the studio so I could listen to them while I was doing my show. Not a lot of people know that!

The bizarre thing about all this is that I actually used to appear regularly on Wiltshire Sound anyway. I used to deliberately turn up the tannoy at the County Ground so loud that Shaun could not do his programme without me being in the background!

Seriously though, Shaun and Del boy Mac do a top effort and their coverage of the Promotion Parade through town at the end of last season was the best thing that has ever been broadcast on Wiltshire Sound.

Away from all this bottom-kissing, self indulgent media nonsense, can I just

say how spectacularly poor the FA and Coca-Cola Cups are looking this year.

You have to laugh at Chesterfield beating Notts Forest and Portsmouth turning over Leeds. However, not even Des Lynham or a hyped up Richard Keys can sell Chesterfield v Wrexham to me as a great day out. The FA Cup ain't what it used to be.

I hope that you realise that some sad Chesterfield fan will have put money back in August on them winning the whole thing and will now stand to pocket bucket loads if, heaven forbid, the unthinkable happens and they do win. As they say the smart money is on Chelsea.



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ON THE
BALL.

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27

the swindon town ticket office

county ground, swindon

update



**TICKETS FOR THE
FOLLOWING GAMES
ARE NOW ON SALE AT
THE BOX OFFICE**

**CHARLTON ATHLETIC,
SATURDAY MARCH 1ST
(HOME), KICK-OFF 3PM.**

The Club are running a special promotion for this game - BUY AN ADULTS TICKET IN ANY ENCLOSURE AND GET AN UNLIMITED AMOUNT OF KIDS TICKETS FOR HALF PRICE IN THE SAME ENCLOSURE.

This promotion will not run on the day of the game, so take advantage of this offer and buy your tickets in advance!

BARNSELY,
Tuesday March 4th,
(AWAY), KICK-OFF 7.45PM.

There are 500 seats available costing £12.50 for adults and £6.50 for concessions (16 and under and OAP's).

BOLTON WANDERERS,
SATURDAY MARCH 8TH,
(AWAY), KICK-OFF 3PM.

Only 196 seats are available priced £15 and £9 (15 and under and OAP's). On the day there will be 2000 terraced places costing £11 and £8.

STOKE CITY,
SATURDAY MARCH 15TH,
(HOME), KICK-OFF 3PM.

NORWICH CITY,
Saturday March 29th
(HOME), kick-off 3pm.

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SWINDON
TOWN'S TICKET
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0891 14 16 40.**

Matchday Ticket Offices:
For Saturday matches throughout 1997,
tickets will go on sale at 11am.

OPENING HOURS

Mon - Friday 8.30am - 5.45pm
Late night Wednesday's 6.45pm
SATURDAY'S
9am - 12 noon (non matchdays)

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To order by fax:
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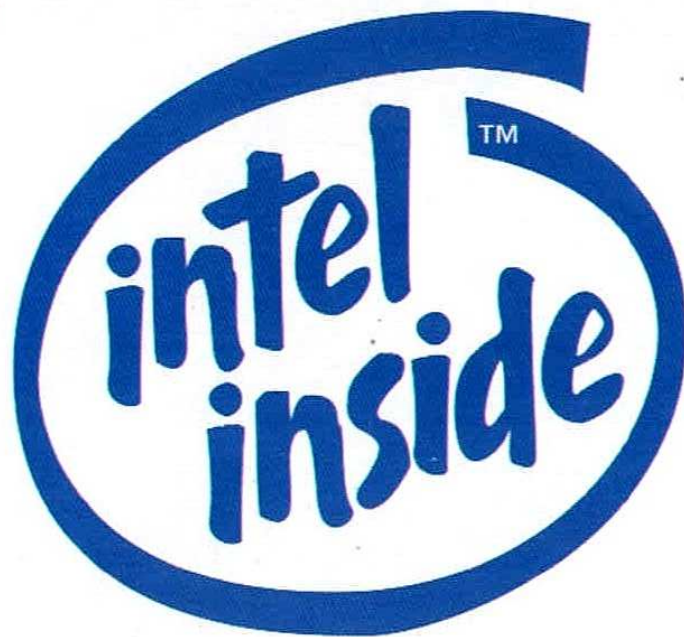
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| 3 NUMBERS | £422 | £10 |
| 4 NUMBERS | £4096 | typically £65 |
| 5 NUMBERS | £44371 | typically £1250 |

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winning ways

By Dave Hollister

The Nest-Egg half time draw is
Sponsored by

MECERAFLEX

February has been a good month - Nest-Egg wise, for our out of town supporters.

Against Sheffield United winning ticket number 5155 was purchased by a Town fan from Somerset. When he came into the promotions office to claim his £650, I felt we had met before.

It turned out we had....on November 23rd 1994. On that particular day, Malcolm West had won £841 with ticket number 6180. We drew 1-1 with Burnley that day, with Keith Scott netting his 12th goal of the season.

Against QPR the winner was Mr.J. Wells from Lyme Regis in Dorset. His prize of £593 was in return for ticket number 16572. Mr. Wells was delighted with the pay-out but I was not!

It was very poor for a gate of 10,832! The fact that it was the first Wednesday of the Midweek National Lottery Draw was obviously the main reason.



How would you like to win some free beer? When you call in the pub on the way home tonight, bet your drinking partners that they cannot tell you when the first play-offs took place! Do you know?

I'll reveal the correct answer in the Matchday Magazine versus Charlton on Saturday. Just in case you are already convinced that they were when Swindon town triumphed over Gillingham at Selhurst Park, or whenever, let me tell you that Manchester United were involved in them.

Incidentally, if anyone already knows the answer - and gets it to me by mid-day tomorrow - I'll put it in a draw for a bottle of Whiskey!

How would you like to do better than fly in Concorde for £10 like the lucky winners in the recent British Airways promotion? Let's say a 1,000 mile supersonic trip for only £1. It can be done and you can take your favourite person with you as well.

How? Well, that's another reason to buy Saturday's programme. I'll let you know just how simple it is to make the dream come true!

Trust us to help football

The Football Trust is helping the game at all levels - from providing kit for school teams, pitches and changing rooms for grass roots football, safety and improvement work throughout the game right up to providing vital assistance to help League clubs complete the essential task of redeveloping their grounds in line with the Taylor Report.

Over the last 20 years the Trust has received and distributed £250m from Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters Pools and Littlewoods Spot the Ball competition for the benefit of football.

Up and down the country, clubs are building new grounds and stands, installing seating, and providing safe and comfortable facilities for their spectators to enjoy. Every club depends on the support of the FOOTBALL TRUST and the success of the pools companies. Both are crucial for football's future.



THE FOOTBALL TRUST
Helping the game

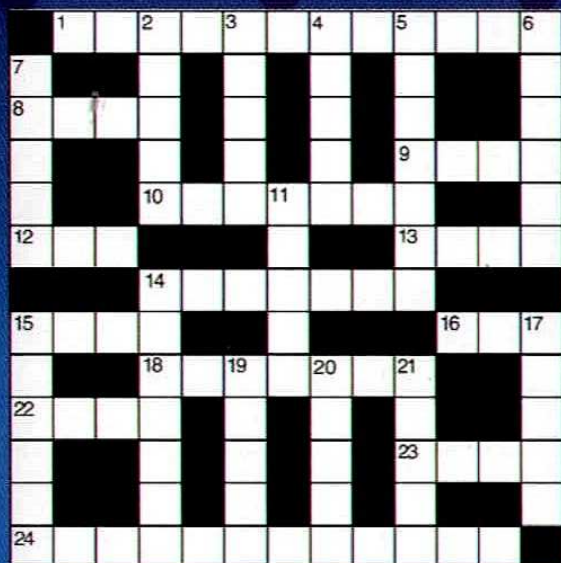


LITTLEWOODS VERNONS ZETTERS
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the Pools each week

THE FOOTBALL TRUST, WALKDEN HOUSE, 10 MELTON STREET, LONDON NW1 2EB

crossword time...

compiled by Thomas Trickett



clues across...

1. Q.P.R's (1990s) US international goalkeeper (6)&(6)
8. Phil, (1990s) Liverpool defender (4)
9. Mr Tiler, (1990s) Nottingham Forest defender (4)
10. Carrow Road side (7)
12. Football hooligan is a backward boy, apparently (3)
13. Always begins and starts at Everton FC (4)
14. Footballers (7)
15. Forename of Liverpool legend Mr Shankly (4)
16. Cross... (3)
18. "Gunners" (7)
22. Colin action for referee (4)
23. Gentle team can be found in the Belgian League (4)
24. Runners-up to Rangers European Cup-Winners Cup 1972 (6)&(6)

clues down...

2. Mr Trott, (1990s) Gillingham defender (5)
3.Street, Hereford United FC (5)
4.Lamouchi, (1990s) French international midfielder (5)
5. Football games (7)
6. Uwe, (1990s) Manchester City striker (6)
7. Cambridge United's stadium (5)
11. Derek, (1990s) Middlesbrough defender (5)
14. Synthetic playing surface (7)
15. Not top of the table position (6)
17. First 45 minutes for Scottish side Rovers (5)
19. Mouse-like creature found at Gay Meadow (5)
20. Woman's name for this French Football Club (5)
21.Warsaw, Polish League Club (5)

ANSWERS ACROSS
1 JURGEN SOMMER, 8 BABB, 9 CARL, 10 NORWICH, 12 YOB,
13 EVER, 14 PLAYERS, 15 BILL, 16 BAR, 18 ARSENAL, 22 TOSS,
23 GENT, 24 MOSCOW DYNAMO.
ANSWERS DOWN
2 ROBIN, 3 EDGAR, 4 SABRI, 5 MATCHES, 6 ROSLER, 7 ABBEY,
11 WHITE, 14 PLASTIC, 15 BOTTOM, 17 RAITH, 19 SHREW,
20 NANCY, 21 LEGIA



face in the crowd

Are you the lucky winner of our 'Face in the Crowd' competition?

In every Matchday Magazine we will be publishing a photograph with a face circled. If you are the winner please call Louise Kaye in the Marketing Department on (01793) 532121 in person within 14 days of the date of publication to collect your prize!

WIN A WEEKEND BREAK DURING TODAY'S HALF-TIME BREAK WITH SWINDON TOWN & JARVIS



During the half time break at today's game Swindon Town and Jarvis Hotels will be giving away a superb weekend break free of charge, to someone in the crowd. It will be completely at

random, and you don't have to enter any competition. We're just going to give it away there and then.

The weekend break is for two people for two nights and can be taken at any of Jarvis' 63 fine hotels across the UK.

All you need to do to win a Jarvis weekend break is hold onto your ticket stub until half-time. Straight after the half time scores are announced, we'll call out a seat number, which one of the Swindon Town players will randomly pick for us at half-time.

If it's your seat, come along with your ticket, to the Reception and ask for Louise Kaye and pick up your Free Jarvis Weekend Break voucher. It's as simple as that.

So listen out at the half-time break and you could be going on a superb weekend break with Jarvis Hotels.



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marketing news

with Martin Stevens

A very warm welcome to everyone for tonight's game against Birmingham City.

MatchdaySponsors

Welcoming back to the County Ground as tonight's Matchday Sponsors **DANA LTD.**

POWERTRAIN continues to offer the most reliable up to date car parts in the industry. It's comprehensive range of quality products spans brakes to indicators and headlamps to clutches. Ask your local independent workshop to fit Powertrain at your next service and enjoy the drive.

MatchballSponsors

CLARION GB LIMITED return as tonight's Matchball Sponsors. Since 1980 Clarion have adopted Swindon as their home in the UK. Their purpose built offices, located on the west side of town, encompasses not only, General Distribution, Administration and Sales & Marketing but also a unique and unparalleled manufacturing plant where over 150,000 radio cassettes are made each year. Needless to say, this number of units forms but a fraction of the companies overall massive annual through put of high quality In Car Hi Fi Systems.

PresentationTime

SWINDON CABLE (Part of the Telecential Group)



were Matchday Sponsors at the game against Sheffield. Marketing Director, Bill Crawford, receives a limited edition signed, framed shirt from STFC Chairman Mike Spearman.

Bill Crawford presents their Man of the Match Fraser Digby with his bottle of champagne



COWIE FORD were Matchball Sponsors at the game against Sheffield, Man of the Match, Fraser Digby, presents Geoff Summers and his guests with their autographed football.

RIDGEWAY HOSPITAL were Matchday Sponsors at the game against QPR.



STFC Chairman, Mike Spearman, presents Sheila Maslin with their signed framed shirt as a memento of their evening at the County Ground.



The Man of the Match Award went to Fraser Digby, Sheila presents him with his bottle of champagne.



SEROBEX & CALNE ENGINEERING were joint Matchball Sponsors at the game against QPR. Each receives their autographed football from Man of the Match Fraser Digby.



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treatment room

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with Jonathan Trigg



Most of you are no doubt well aware that Darren Bullock signed for the club last Friday in a £400,000 deal from Huddersfield Town.

As is always the case, no player is able to sign until he has passed a thorough medical examination by a recognised doctor and/or orthopaedic surgeon.

A medical, as it is commonly referred to, includes a full examination of all joints, particularly the lower limbs.

The doctor examines a players' full range of movements and uses previous medical history to help conclude which areas may have suffered previous injury or been operated on.

Muscle power is also examined to see if there is any wastage in the muscles while ear, nose, throat and eyes are also checked as is the medical and family history of the player in question.

All this can take up to 45 minutes to complete but as you can imagine it is vital when a player is being signed for over three years, the club knows

that their merchandise isn't damaged.

I'm pleased to say that Darren came through the medical with a clean bill of health and we are looking forward to seeing him play here at the County Ground.



Some of our playing staff who are not fit at the moment include Frank Talia, Ty Gooden, Gary Elkins and Lee Collins.

Frank has been sent to Lilleshall Sports Injury Clinic in a bid to solve his back complaint while Ty is still troubled by a groin

problem as is Gary Elkins.

Lee is working his way back to fitness

following a knee injury and

we hope to see them all back in the reckoning soon.



the shadowboard

Let's hope that the winter is now behind us and that there are no more postponed and re-arranged matches as a result of bad weather or cup action.

These changes to the fixture list mean that we can lose track of our activities so this week we are giving you two reminders:

● Firstly, today is the closing date for our 1997 'Good Ideas' competition. Last season we gave the prize of two executive match tickets for the suggestion to launch the satellite supporters groups.

This year we are looking for more great ideas to benefit our fans - be they Townies or from further a field. Please let us have your entry tonight on one

of our shadow Board comment cards.

● Secondly we have begun searching for new Shadow Board members. If you would like to apply to join the Shadow Board, please write to us asking for an application form without delay.

New members will join at the beginning of next season but we need to hear from you now.

Fill in a comment card with your name and address tonight.

In the mean time give the team your full backing tonight as we take on Trevor Francis' Birmingham City side.

And finally a warm welcome to our new signing Darren Bullock, we hope you enjoy a long and successful stay at Swindon Town Football Club.



Shadow Board

CHAIRMAN
John Lodge

VICE CHAIRMAN
Sheila Maslin

SECRETARY
David Taylor

MEMBERS
Nigel Bennett
Doug Coombs
Derrick Hand
Alan Poole
Neil Seamark
Keith Vowles
David Waldron
David Wiltshire

**Write to us at the Swindon Town Shadow Board
at: P.O. Box 663, Swindon SN1 2NX.**

benno gives his view

By Colin Benson

The instability of human nature is never better illustrated than when aligned to football. One result for example can make one do a complete U-turn.

One such person is David Mellor, the host of BBC Radio 5's 606 phone in programme on a Saturday evening. He plays himself off as the authoritative voice of the football fan, leading the crusade against all those incompetent fools who run our game.

Most of the directors and administrators in professional football circles aren't incompetent of course and neither are they fools.

Yet here is a failed politician making money out of our national sport by ridiculing it, and those who work in it.

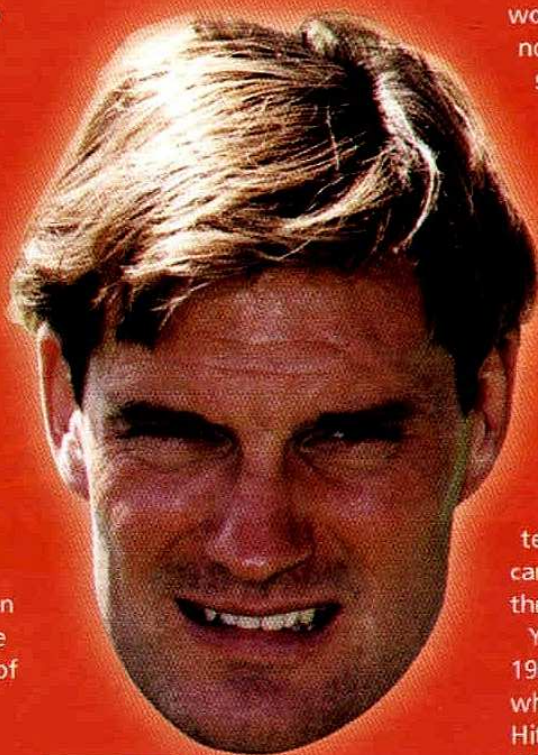
In my opinion he doesn't know much about football, or its problems, and plainly does not understand its workings; but like the opportunist he is, he jumps on the bandwagon as soon as he spots a glimmer of a chance of promoting his own ego and appearing authoritative on the back of issues raised by other folk.

Mellor purports to be a Chelsea fan and at one time drooled over the star qualities of Glenn Hoddle, whom he suggested was one of the finest young managers in the business.

The appointment of our former player-manager as Coach of the English national team received the Mellor seal of approval and all was dandy until the other week when

England lost to Italy in the World Cup qualifier at Wembley. Suddenly Glenn's bosom mate was turning nasty and sharpening the knife.

Was Glenn really a good choice? Did he have enough experience? The theme was set for the next two hours of criticism and like most of the drivel that comes out of Mellor's mouth it was all completely spurious.



England Coach Glenn Hoddle - Under fire after Italy defeat

Glenn is worldly enough to expect such treatment no doubt, and man enough to

stand up and be counted, but the trouble with a self styled expert like Mellor is that though for the most part he is just hanging his umbrella on an opportunity to cease public attention, he can sow seeds of damnation without redress and harvest the fruits of his indiscretions later.

Going back a while the weekly onslaught he launched on Leeds United manager Howard Wilkinson was nothing short of scandalous and one would be worried that Mellor would have no qualms about directing a similar attack on the England Coach if he felt there was enough mileage in such a policy to enhance his own public image.

For me the assessment of Hoddle made by Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger carries much more weight and credibility. The Frenchman at least knows what he is talking about.

The defeat by Italy was terribly disappointing for we can hardly anticipate a victory in the return game in Rome.

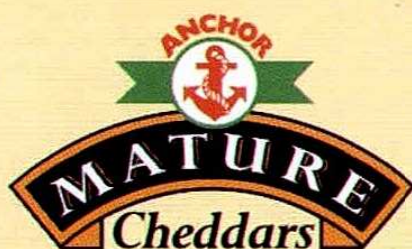
You have to go back to May 1961 for our last victory in Italy when Douglas, Greaves Hitchens, Haynes and Bobby Charlton made up our formidable forward line; Hitchens (2) and Greaves were the scorers in a 3-2 success.

How times have changed. The attack this month at Wembley featured Alan Shearer who did not fashion one clear cut chance. To my mind Glenn did get the team wrong, his selection was unbalanced.

But one defeat does not expunge all the qualities for which he was appointed.

OUR LINE UP FOR THIS SEASON

Savour the flavour



the **Sporting** year **1979**

by Mike Fowler

1. Who was transferred to Nottingham Forest from Birmingham City for over £1m in 1979?

2. Who was banned from English football for ten years?

3. Who became the first player in England to play 100 games for four teams?

4. Who did Forest beat 1-0 to win the European Cup?

5. This South African became F1 World Motor Racing Champion in a Ferrari?

6. Ivan Mauger became World Champion in which sport for the sixth time?

7. Who became the faster bowler in the world at 91.86 m.p.h? (cricket)

8. Fifteen participants died in which race?

9. Which south coast team were promoted to Div 1?

10. Who were promoted to Div 3 after only one year in the Football League?

11. Who scored the Arsenal winner in the F.A. Cup Final?

12. The League title went to which of the Merseyside teams?

1. Trevor Francis
2. Don Revie
3. Alan Ball
4. Maitno
5. Jody Scheckter
6. Speedway
7. Jeff Thompson
8. Fastnet Race
9. Brighton
10. Wimbledon
11. L. Brady
12. Liverpool

ANSWERS

captain's column

with Mark Seagraves

Everyone is raring to go tonight, and we are desperate to get Saturday's result out of our system.

I felt we had just about weathered the early storm at Maine Road and were beginning to get back into it when Peter Holcroft was sent off. Unfortunately it was a case of damage limitation after that and to be honest they coasted through the game.

When you are down to 10 men it can go one way or the other. You either play out of your skins and pull off a brilliant win or you get hammered and on Saturday it was the latter.

But that's in the past now and what matter is how we perform



tonight.
The Gaffer

should have a few more players to choose from which will help and you could see new signing Darren Bullock making his debut.

On behalf of all the players I'd officially like to welcome Darren on board. I've played against him a couple of times and know just how strong a player he is. I'm sure he'll settle in quickly and there is no doubt he will add a lot to our overall play.

As far as tonight's game is concerned, it promises to be a great match as both teams attempt to get back to winning ways after defeats at the weekend.

Birmingham have been going

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 WHERE ALL THE SWINDON TOWN ACTION IS

WILTSHIRE SOUND

103 - 105FM

through quite a bad patch and it is difficult to understand why they have struggled so much when you look at the quality in their line-up.

Let's hope their problems continue tonight and we come out on top.

On Saturday we have another home game to look forward to when Charlton come here. They convincingly beat us at their place earlier in the season and having recently made a couple of additions to their forward line, they will be a force to be reckoned with.

But we have our sights set on two home victories over the next few days - so get behind us.

Swindon Town's Matchday Magazine

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Spotlight on **new signing**

When the going gets tough the tough get going - and that's exactly the sort of attitude new signing

Darren Bullock plans to bring into the Swindon team.

The 28 year old midfielder signed a three and a half year contract in a £400,000 move from Huddersfield Town last Friday and he hopes he can add some bite into the middle of the park.

"I class myself as a ball winner and I'd like to think that if there is ever a time when the team is struggling, then I'm the one to roll up my sleeves and say come on lads let's get stuck in.

"I love to pass the ball around but you also need that bit of steel in your team, I love the battle and I think that's why Steve has brought me in," he said.

Indeed Steve McMahon was

Bullock's idol as a youngster and he says it is going to be an honour to play for him here.

"I used to watch Steve from the Kop at Anfield so it is a pleasure to be here playing under him and I will be giving him 110 per cent from day one," he added.

Bullock came into full time professional football relatively late at the age of 24 - signing for Huddersfield in

November 1993 via Worcester City and Nuneaton Borough.

But he gained a wealth of experience during his time with the Terriers, playing twice in Wembley play-off finals and scoring 20 goals in 156 appearances for Huddersfield.

**New signing
Darren Bullock**



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MONDAY 16TH JUNE 1997

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THE MARRIOTT HOTEL, Swindon

Table of 10 will be £325.00 +VAT.
If you reserve a table for both dinners, the cost will be reduced to £600.00 +VAT.

For further information contact
Tracy Bond on (01793) 532121.

Darren Bullock

"I had four great years at Huddersfield and I have a lot of fond memories of the club but I think the time came when I needed a change and I'm just glad that Steve McMahon has given me a chance at Swindon."

"I don't know much about the club although I did witness their 6-0 hammering of Huddersfield earlier this season. Fortunately for me I wasn't playing that day but what I saw from the stands really impressed me."

"I know Swindon are a good team and my aim is to help take them into the Premiership."

Bullock is desperate to get back to doing what he does best on the pitch after a difficult past few weeks off the field of play.

His problems have been well documented in the press and he is keen to put all that firmly behind him.

"All that's done and dusted now and in the past. I now have the chance of a fresh start here at Swindon and I'm really looking forward to it."

He was disappointed to miss out on Saturday's trip to Manchester City due to suspension but hopes to be included in the squad for tonight's match.

"My dad is an avid Blues fan so it will be great to be involved and no doubt most of my family will be at the game," he said.

Name: Darren Bullock

Age: 28

Birthplace: Worcester

Position: Midfield

Clubs: Huddersfield


Nickname: "Bully"


Who did you support as a youngster?: Liverpool

Career highlight so far:
Playing at Wembley twice

Favourite other sports:
Cricket

Most respected player in football: Steve McMahon

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Wayne Allison



Steve Cowe



Ian Culverhouse



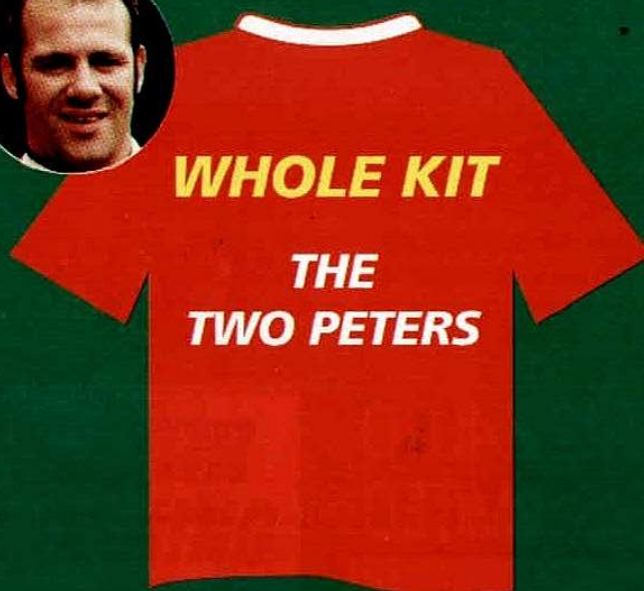
Fraser Digby



Jason Drysdale



Darren Bullock



Steve Finney



Ty Gooden



Steve Mildenhall



Steve McMahon



Wayne O'Sullivan



Mark Seagraves



Alex Smith



Gary Elkins



Peter Thorne



Kevin Watson



Mark Robinson



Frank Talia



Mike Walsh



Frederic Darras



Scott Leitch

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Albert (Bertie) Bowles

May 8 1923 -
Feb 2 1997

We are very sad to learn that Bertie Bowles of Rodbourne in Swindon died on Sunday February 2nd 1997, aged 73 years.

Bertie was a Swindonian and spent his whole working life at the Swindon Railway Works, apart from his war time service in Italy among other places.

The real love of his life was Swindon Town Football Club and there must be very few people who have watched the Town as many times as Bertie since the war.

At home games he always stood with his mates on the Shrivenham Road side and more recently, until his last match versus Bradford City, he was a season ticket holder in the new Intel Stand.

Bertie travelled to all away games (his last match was at Tranmere Rovers on Friday January 10th) and was a regular traveller on Travel Club Coach number 1.

Bertie is a great loss to Swindon Town.

Donation to Gambian Schools

Swindon Town have donated a batch of their old training balls which will be put to good use in several West African Schools.

The Club were quick to respond when Salisbury based Robert Lampard wrote asking if a donation could be made.



He and his wife Anne are regular visitors to Gambia and when they return they will take with them basic items such as chalk and pencils as many of the schools over there have non.

And thanks to Swindon Town they will now be able to take several footballs with them.



Swindon fans a credit to football

Not for the first time this season Chief Executive Steve Jones has received a letter praising Swindon Town fans.

West Bromwich Albion v Swindon Town, February 8 1997.

I attended the above fixture as part of my Inspectorate function on behalf of the Football Licensing Authority. You will be aware that over 1100 of your fans made the journey to West Bromwich and I spent a good part of the afternoon in their company in the Smethwick End Stand. I am sure they were pleased with the result but they

can also take a great deal of credit for all they achieved off the pitch.

It was encouraging to see your supporters were at The Hawthorns for two reasons only, namely to support their team and enjoy a game of football. Sadly there are still times when a minority of so called football supporters attract publicity which can spoil or damage the good reputation of the majority of fans and the game of football. On this occasion it was the majority which represented the true nature of genuine football supporters in causing no problems, before during or after the game. That of course will not attract any publicity but it should not go unnoticed.

It was a privilege to share the afternoon with a group of supporters who were a credit to themselves, Swindon Town FC and the game of football. I hope they all had a safe journey home after the game.

Yours sincerely
Jim Chalmers
FLA Inspectorate.

Hannah meets her hero

Town fan Hannah Dunstan was all smiles recently when here favourite player Steve Cowe took time out from his pre-match warm up to present here with a signed football.



Hannah won this prize in the Promotions Office "How man corners?" quiz.

swindon town ladies



by Roger Reeves

Swindon Town Ladies have won one and lost one in the League and been knocked out of the League Cup in their most recent contests.

Reading Royals were Town's opponents in the quarter final of the League Cup and the Royals ran out 4-2 winners to make progress.

Swindon got off to a flying start when Sharon Black scored and although the Royals soon equalised, Town made it 2-1 when Leanne Taylor was brought down in the penalty area and Nadine Lloyd converted the resulting spot kick.

However Reading responded with two goals to take a 3-2 half time lead.

In the second half play flowed from end to end but Town were unable to break down the Royals'

defence and the Berkshire side sealed victory with a fourth goal five minutes from time.

The next game was a home match with Southampton and Swindon beat the Hampshire outfit 3-1 in Division One of the Southern Region League. This went some way to making up for the 7-0 defeat we had suffered in the away fixture.

Goals from Kerie Garwood, Justine Hume and Leanne Taylor secured the points.

A trip to Hampshire followed as the ladies took on the other Southampton team The Saints who are currently in top spot.

After 46 minutes Swindon found themselves 3-0 down but after that they took control and pulled two goals back

through Leanne Taylor and Justine Hume.

Unfortunately the equaliser eluded them and Saints hung on for a tight 3-2 success.

Vikki McCann



Swindon Town Ladies

Team v Reading Royals: Jo Sharpe, Sharon Black, Kim Reeves, Netti Wyness, Adelle Taylor, Clare Tyson, Tracy Mackeddle, Kerie Garwood, Nadine Lloyd, Leanne Taylor, Justine Hume. **Subs:** (Used) Sara Previtt. (Not used) Sil Cryer & Alison Richards.

Team v Southampton: Jo Sharpe, Sharon Black, Kim Reeves, Netti Wyness, Adelle Taylor, Clare Tyson, Justine Hume, Kerie Garwood, Nadine Lloyd, Clare Whiter, Leanne Taylor. **Subs:** (Used) Sara Previtt, Tracy Mackeddle (Not used) Alison Richards.

Team v Southampton Saints: Jo Sharpe, Sharon Black, Kim Reeves, Netti Wyness, Adelle Taylor, Clare Tyson, Justine Hume, Kerie Garwood, Nadine Lloyd, Clare Whiter, Leanne Taylor. **Subs:** (Used) Tracy Mackeddle (Not used) Alison Richards & Sara Previtt.

Fixtures 96/97 Southern Region League Division 1

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|---|------|
| Sun 8th Sept | Portsmouth | A | 1-3 |
| Sun 15th Sept | Havant Town | A | 4-2 |
| Sun 22nd Sept | Swindon Spitfires | A | 2-3 |
| Sun 29th Sept | Cinderford T. (FAC 1) | A | 10-0 |
| SUN 6TH OCT | BINFIELD | H | 4-1 |
| SUN 13TH OCT | RINGWOOD | H | 4-2 |
| Sun 20th Oct | Southampton | A | 0-7 |
| Sun 27th Oct | Havant Town LC1 | A | 2-0 |
| Sun 3rd Nov | Reading Royals (FAC 2) | A | 0-5 |
| Sun 10th Nov | Cheltenham | A | 2-2 |
| Sun 17th Nov | Reading Royals | A | Post |
| SUN 24TH NOV | SOUTHAMPTON STS | H | 1-2 |
| SUN 1ST DEC | PORTSMOUTH | H | 4-4 |
| SUN 8TH DEC | HAVANT TOWN | H | 1-2 |
| SUN 15TH DEC | CARTERTON TOWN (FAC 1) | H | 8-1 |
| SUN 22ND DEC | SWINDON SPITFIRES | H | 2-6 |
| Sun 5th Jan | Regional Five-A-Side | | |
| Sun 19th Jan | Ringwood | A | 5-1 |
| Sun 26th Jan | Reading Royals (LC 3) | A | 2-4 |
| SUN 2ND FEB | SOUTHAMPTON | H | 3-1 |
| Sun 9th Feb | Southampton Saints | A | 2-3 |
| Sun 16th Feb | Cheltenham | A | |
| SUN 23RD FEB | READING ROYALS | H | |
| Sun 9th Mar | Binfield | A | |
| Sun 16th Mar | Reading Royals | A | |

League Table 96/97 season Southern Region League Division 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Southampton Saints | 15 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 34 | 24 | 31 |
| Portsmouth | 14 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 32 | 18 | 28 |
| Reading Royals | 10 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 46 | 11 | 27 |
| Southampton | 13 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 44 | 23 | 22 |
| Swindon Spitfires | 13 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 31 | 29 | 19 |
| Cheltenham | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 20 | 31 | 18 |
| SWINDON TOWN | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 35 | 39 | 17 |
| Binfield | 13 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 16 | 27 | 16 |
| Havant Town | 14 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 26 | 9 |
| Ringwood | 14 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 12 | 52 | 2 |

Player Appearances 96/97 season

| | APPS | GOALS |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Sharon Black | 19 | 2 |
| Sil Cryer | 2(10) | 1 |
| Donna Fraser | 1 | 1 |
| Kerie Garwood | 19 | 9 |
| Justine Hume | 11(2) | 3 |
| Pam Laker | 10 | 4 |
| Nadine Lloyd | 19 | 17 |
| Tracy Mackeddle | 16(2) | 6 |
| Deb Martin | 11(3) | 3 |
| Vikki McCann | 12(3) | - |
| Sara Previtt | 7(6) | 1 |
| Kim Reeves | 19 | 3 |
| Alison Richards | 5 | - |
| Jo Sharpe | 13(3) | - |
| Adelle Taylor | 4(2) | - |
| Leanne Taylor | 3(2) | 3 |
| Clare Tyson | 19 | - |
| Clare White | 3 | 2 |
| Netti Wyness | 16 | - |
| Own Goals | | 2 |

() Denotes used sub.

Chris is Swindon's marathon man

Swindon Town physio Jonathan Trigg has been putting a local school teacher through his paces as he prepares for this year's Flora London Marathon.

Chris Kirkland, deputy head teacher at Wootton Bassett School, has been selected to represent Swindon Town in the 1997 Flora London Marathon Football Challenge on April 13th when he will be taking on representatives from all the other First Division Clubs.

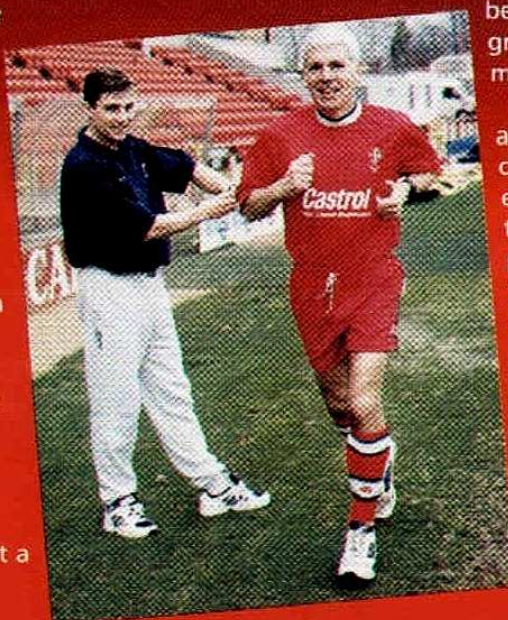
Of course Chris will be hoping to finish in a top six position, just like his team on the pitch, but where ever he finishes - the real winner will be Wootton Bassett School.

Chris hopes to raise £10,000 towards a school and community project to construct a Sports Pavillion on the school playing field.

Swindon's physio will be keeping close tabs on Chris to make sure he is in tip-top condition before taking on the gruelling 26.2 mile course.

Prizes will be awarded to the first club runner from each league to cross the line and to the person who raises the most for their chosen charity.

Swindon physio Jonathan Trigg puts Chris Kirkland through his paces.



VIP treatment for charity appeal winners

Twelve year old Matthew Harrin and his grandmother Janet Potter were the envy of their friends when they recieved two days of VIP treatment at the County Ground.

The package was successfully bid for as part of the GWR Christmas Charity Appeal as a birthday present for Matthew.

And neither he or his gran will ever forget their behind the scenes look at Swindon Town Football Club.

Both of them were invited to watch the first team squad during a training session before joining them for lunch.

They also came back as guests in our executive suite for the Sheffield game where they again enjoyed five star treatment and both went home with signed, framed photos as a memento from the players.



Heads I win - Matthew Harrin is taught a few tricks of the trade by the Gaffer Steve McMahon with Janet Potter looking on with the rest of the first team squad.



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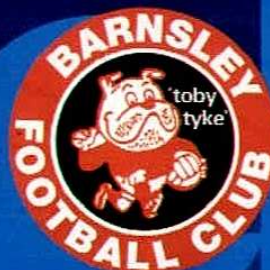
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Travelling by Road.....

Take the A419/A417 to join the M5 at Junction 11a and proceed north, joining the M42 at Junction 4a, then on to the M1 at Junction 23a. Leave the M1 at Junction 38, taking the A628 into Barnsley. The route to Oakwell is clearly signposted. Visitors should use Queens Ground car park, which is adjacent to the ground.

On both sides.....

The following have assisted both Barnsley and Swindon Town since the last war:

Lew Clayton (wing-half) David Geddis and Ken Lambert (forwards), Harry May (full-back) and Ray McHale (midfield).



Going to Bolton?

All your travel details for this trip will appear in our next matchday programme.

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Fare £11.00

Depart County Ground: 1.30pm

Bookings taken at the Travel Club Office in the Castrol Stand before and after all home games and Tuesday to Thursday evenings from 7.00 - 9.00pm, or at the Information Centre in Regent Street. Pick-up points are available - please enquire when booking.

You can also book by telephone at Barnes Coaches on the number below.

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statistics 1996/97 season



NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 up to and including February 24th

| | P | W | D | L | W | D | L | F | A | PTS. |
|----------------------|----|----|---|---|----|---|----|----|----|------|
| BOLTON WANDERERS | 34 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 71 | 45 | 68 |
| WOLVES | 33 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 47 | 32 | 58 |
| BARNLEY | 32 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 54 | 40 | 55 |
| SHEFFIELD UNITED | 33 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 57 | 39 | 54 |
| NORWICH CITY | 33 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 50 | 52 | 50 |
| CRYSTAL PALACE | 32 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 59 | 34 | 49 |
| IPSWICH TOWN | 33 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 47 | 42 | 48 |
| PORTSMOUTH | 33 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 40 | 37 | 48 |
| PORT VALE | 34 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 42 | 39 | 47 |
| STOKE CITY | 32 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 40 | 43 | 47 |
| TRANMERE ROVERS | 32 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 44 | 42 | 46 |
| QUEENS PARK RANGERS | 33 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 44 | 45 | 44 |
| OXFORD UNITED | 33 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 46 | 43 | 43 |
| SWINDON TOWN | 33 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 45 | 45 | 42 |
| WEST BROMWICH ALBION | 34 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 44 | 60 | 41 |
| HUDDERSFIELD TOWN | 34 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 40 | 48 | 41 |
| READING | 32 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 43 | 50 | 40 |
| CHARLTON ATHLETIC | 32 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 39 | 47 | 40 |
| MANCHESTER CITY | 31 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 39 | 43 | 38 |
| BIRMINGHAM CITY | 30 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 33 | 35 | 37 |
| BRADFORD CITY | 33 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 32 | 50 | 34 |
| SOUTHEND UNITED | 33 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 32 | 59 | 32 |
| GRIMSBY TOWN | 32 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 41 | 58 | 31 |
| OLDHAM ATHLETIC | 31 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 32 | 43 | 28 |



First Team Player Appearances 96/97

| Player Name: | League | | Cup | | Total | |
|------------------|--------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | Apps. | Gls. | Apps. | Gls. | Apps. | Gls. |
| PAUL ALLEN | 5(3) | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7(3) | 1 |
| WAYNE ALLISON | 29(2) | 10 | 5 | 2 | 33(2) | 12 |
| MARLON BROOMES | 6 | - | - | - | 6 | 0 |
| DARREN BULLOCK | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| LEE COLLINS | 3(1) | 0 | 1 | - | 4(1) | 0 |
| STEVE COWE | 21(5) | 5 | 4(1) | 0 | 25(6) | 5 |
| IAN CULVERHOUSE | 23 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 28 | 0 |
| FREDERIC DARRAS | 22(3) | 0 | 4 | 0 | 26(3) | 0 |
| FRASER DIGBY | 18 | 0 | 1 | - | 19 | 0 |
| JASON DRYSDALE | 8(1) | 0 | 2(1) | 0 | 10(2) | 0 |
| GARY ELKINS | 16(3) | 1 | 3 | 0 | 19(3) | 1 |
| STEVE FINNEY | 7(6) | 2 | 1(1) | 0 | 8(7) | 2 |
| TY GOODEN | 3(4) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3(4) | 1 |
| PETER HOLCROFT | 1(1) | 0 | - | - | 1(1) | 0 |
| KEVIN HORLOCK | 28 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 34 | 8 |
| ROBIN HULBERT | 0 | 0 | (1) | 0 | (1) | 0 |
| DAVID KERSLAKE | 8 | 0 | - | - | 8 | 0 |
| SCOTT LEITCH | 28 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 34 | 1 |
| STEVE McMAHON | 2(1) | - | - | - | 2(1) | 0 |
| STEVE MILDENHALL | (1) | - | - | - | (1) | 0 |
| WAYNE O'SULLIVAN | 14(8) | 0 | 2(1) | 1 | 16(9) | 1 |
| MARK ROBINSON | 30 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 35 | 1 |
| MARK SEAGRAVES | 22(1) | 0 | 4(1) | 0 | 26(2) | 0 |
| ALEX SMITH | 4(4) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4(4) | 1 |
| FRANK TALIA | 15 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 20 | 0 |
| SHAUN TAYLOR | 2 | 0 | 1(1) | 0 | 3(1) | 0 |
| PETER THORNE | 11(8) | 6 | 2(1) | 2 | 13(9) | 8 |
| MARK WALTERS | 24(2) | 7 | 5 | 1 | 29(2) | 8 |
| KEVIN WATSON | 14(7) | 1 | 1(2) | 0 | 15(9) | 1 |

Swindon Town Fixtures 1996/97 Season

| Date | Opponents | Res | Att. |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Sat Aug 17 | Norwich City | A 0-2 | 15,165 |
| TUE AUG 20 | WOLVERHAMPTON W. C.C.C 1 (1) | H 2-0 | 7,451 |
| SAT AUG 24 | PORT VALE | H 1-1 | 8,706 |
| WED AUG 28 | OLDHAM ATHLETIC | H 1-0 | 8,025 |
| Sat Aug 31 | Southend United | A 3-1 | 4,011 |
| Wed Sep 4 | Wolverhampton W. C.C.C 1 (2) | A 0-1 | 10,760 |
| Sat Sep 7 | Grimsby Town | A 1-2 | 4,089 |
| WED SEP 11 | PORTSMOUTH | H 0-1 | 8,687 |
| SAT SEP 14 | TRANMERE ROVERS | H 2-1 | 8,430 |
| WED SEP 18 | QUEENS PARK RANGERS C.C.C 2 (1) | H 1-2 | 7,843 |
| Sat Sep 21 | Queens Park Rangers | A 1-1 | 13,662 |
| Wed Sep 25 | Queens Park Rangers C.C.C 2 (2) | A 3-1* | 6,976 |
| FRI SEP 27 | WOLVERHAMPTON W. | H 1-2 | 8,572 |
| Wed Oct 2 | Bradford City | A 1-2 | 9,249 |
| SAT OCT 12 | OXFORD UNITED | H 1-0 | 10,811 |
| WED OCT 16 | HUDDERSFIELD TOWN | H 6-0 | 7,724 |
| Sat Oct 19 | Crystal Palace | A 2-1 | 15,088 |
| Wed Oct 23 | Manchester United C.C.C 3 | A 1-2 | 49,305 |
| Sat Oct 26 | Reading | A 0-2 | 11,018 |
| WED OCT 30 | WEST BROMWICH ALBION | H 2-3 | 8,909 |
| SAT NOV 2 | MANCHESTER CITY | H 2-0 | 14,374 |
| SAT NOV 16 | BARNLEY (F.A. CUP 1) | H 3-0 | 10,837 |
| Tues Nov 19 | Ipswich Town | A 2-3 | 7,086 |
| Sat Nov 23 | Birmingham City | A 0-1 | 16,559 |
| Tues Nov 26 | Sheffield United | A 0-2 | 12,301 |
| Wed Nov 27 | Coca-Cola Cup 4 | | |
| SAT NOV 30 | READING | H 3-1 | 10,875 |
| Sat Dec 7 | Charlton Athletic (F.A. Cup 2) | A 0-2 | 10,565 |
| Sat Dec 14 | Stoke City | A 0-2 | 10,102 |
| SUN DEC 22 | BOLTON WANDERERS | H 2-2 | 8,948 |
| Thu Dec 26 | Portsmouth | A 1-0 | 10,605 |
| Sun Jan 5 | Everton F.A. Cup 3 | A 0-3 | 20,411 |
| Wed Jan 8 | Coca-Cola Cup 5 | | |
| Sat Jan 11 | Tranmere Rovers | A 1-2 | 8,763 |
| SAT JAN 18 | BRADFORD CITY | H 1-1 | 7,851 |
| SAT JAN 25 | GRIMSBY TOWN | H 3-3 | 9,127 |
| Wed Jan 29 | Wolverhampton Wanderers | A 0-1 | 23,003 |
| SAT FEB 1 | SHEFFIELD UNITED | H 2-1^ | 8,811 |
| WED FEB 5 | QUEENS PARK RANGERS | H 1-1 | 10,830 |
| Sat Feb 8 | West Bromwich Albion | A 2-1 | 16,219 |
| Wed Feb 19 | Coca-Cola Cup SF (1) | | |
| Sat Feb 22 | Manchester City | A 0-3 | 27,262 |
| WED FEB 26 | BIRMINGHAM CITY | H | |
| SAT MAR 1 | CHARLTON ATHLETIC | H | |
| Tue Mar 4 | Barnley | A | |
| Sat Mar 8 | Bolton Wanderers (F.A. Cup 6) | A | |
| Wed Mar 12 | Coca-Cola Cup SF(2) | | |
| SAT MAR 15 | STOKE CITY | H | |
| Sat Mar 22 | Port Vale | A | |
| SAT MAR 29 | NORWICH CITY | H | |
| Mon Mar 31 | Oldham Athletic | A | |
| SAT APR 5 | SOUTHEND UNITED | H | |
| Sun Apr 6 | Coca-Cola Cup Final | | |
| SAT APR 12 | IPSWICH TOWN (F.A. Cup SF) | H | |
| Sat Apr 19 | Oxford United | A | |
| SAT APR 26 | CRYSTAL PALACE | H | |
| Sun May 4 | Huddersfield Town | A | |
| Sat May 17 | F.A. Cup Final | | |

NEXT HOME GAME:
SAT MARCH 1ST



Swindon Town vs Charlton
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 1
Kick-Off 3.00pm

FAC = F.A. Cup C.C.C. = Coca-Cola Cup
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* After Extra Time (4-3 agg)

^ Indicates own goal

All home Saturday fixtures will kick-off at 3.00pm.
Home Sunday and Bank Holiday fixtures will kick-off as advertised.
Home midweek fixtures will kick-off at 7.45pm.
All dates and times of kick-off's are subject to change.



Goalscorer = Name in Red Substitute used = ●▼■

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|-------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| TALIA | DARRAS | DRYSDALE | LEITCH | ALLEN | TAYLOR▼ | ROBINSON | WALTERS | FINNEY● | ALLISON | HORLOCK■ | THORNE● | SEAGRAVES▼ | WATSON■ |
| TALIA | DARRAS | DRYSDALE | LEITCH | ALLEN▼ | TAYLOR | ROBINSON | WALTERS■ | FINNEY | ALLISON | HORLOCK | THORNE | SEAGRAVES▼ | WATSON■ |
| TALIA | DARRAS | DRYSDALE | LEITCH | ALLEN | TAYLOR | ROBINSON | WALTERS■ | FINNEY● | ALLISON | HORLOCK | SEAGRAVES | THORNE● | WATSON■ |
| TALIA | DARRAS | DRYSDALE | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | ROBINSON | WATSON | COWE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | THORNE | ALLEN | FINNEY |
| TALIA | DARRAS | DRYSDALE | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | ROBINSON | WATSON | COWE■ | THORNE | HORLOCK | O'SULLIVAN● | ALLEN | FINNEY■ |
| TALIA | DARRAS | DRYSDALE● | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | ROBINSON | WATSON | COWE | THORNE | HORLOCK | TAYLOR● | WALTERS | FINNEY |
| TALIA | DARRAS | SMITH● | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | ROBINSON | WATSON■ | COWE | THORNE▼ | HORLOCK | ALLEN● | WALTERS■ | FINNEY▼ |
| TALIA | DARRAS | ROBINSON▼ | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | WALTERS | WATSON● | COWE | THORNE | HORLOCK | ALLISON● | SMITH | FINNEY▼ |
| TALIA | DARRAS | DRYSDALE | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | WALTERS | ALLEN▼ | COWE | THORNE● | HORLOCK | ALLISON | WATSON▼ | COLLINS |
| TALIA | DARRAS | O'SULLIVAN | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | WALTERS | ALLEN | COWE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | FINNEY | WATSON | ELKINS |
| TALIA | DARRAS● | ELKINS | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | WALTERS | O'SULLIVAN | COWE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | FINNEY | WATSON | ALLEN● |
| TALIA | ROBINSON | ELKINS | LEITCH● | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | WALTERS | O'SULLIVAN | COWE■ | ALLISON | HORLOCK | THORNE▼ | HULBERT■ | FINNEY▼ |
| TALIA | ROBINSON▼ | ELKINS | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | WALTERS | O'SULLIVAN● | COWE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | FINNEY● | WATSON | THORNE▼ |
| TALIA | ROBINSON■ | ELKINS | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE● | WALTERS | O'SULLIVAN▼ | COWE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | DARRAS | WATSON | THORNE▼ |
| TALIA | ROBINSON | ELKINS | LEITCH● | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | WALTERS | O'SULLIVAN | COWE■ | ALLISON | HORLOCK | THORNE■ | DARRAS● | WATSON |
| TALIA | ROBINSON● | ELKINS | LEITCH▼ | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | WALTERS | DARRAS | THORNE 3 | ALLISON■ | HORLOCK | ALLEN● | COWE● | O'SULLIVAN▼ |
| TALIA | ROBINSON | ELKINS | LEITCH● | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | WALTERS | DARRAS | THORNE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | ALLEN | COWE | O'SULLIVAN● |
| TALIA | ROBINSON | ELKINS | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | CULVERHOUSE | WALTERS | DARRAS | THORNE● | ALLISON | HORLOCK | WATSON | COWE● | O'SULLIVAN▼ |
| TALIA | ROBINSON | ELKINS | LEITCH▼ | ALLEN■ | CULVERHOUSE | WALTERS | DARRAS● | THORNE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | WATSON● | COWE■ | O'SULLIVAN▼ |
| TALIA | ROBINSON | ELKINS● | WATSON | ALLEN | CULVERHOUSE■ | WALTERS | DARRAS | THORNE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | GOODEN● | COWE■ | O'SULLIVAN |
| DIGBY | ROBINSON | GOODEN | COLLINS | COWE | HORLOCK | O'SULLIVAN | DARRAS | FINNEY | ALLISON 2 | LEITCH | CULVERHOUSE | WATSON | SMITH |
| DIGBY | ROBINSON | GOODEN | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | HORLOCK | O'SULLIVAN | DARRAS | FINNEY | ALLISON | WALTERS● | COWE | ELKINS | HOLCROFT● |
| DIGBY | ROBINSON | GOODEN | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES▼ | HORLOCK | O'SULLIVAN■ | DARRAS | FINNEY● | ALLISON | WALTERS | COWE▼ | ELKINS■ | THORNE● |
| DIGBY | KERSLAKE | ELKINS | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES● | HORLOCK | ROBINSON | DARRAS | THORNE | ALLISON | WALTERS■ | COWE● | O'SULLIVAN | FINNEY■ |
| DIGBY | KERSLAKE | ELKINS■ | LEITCH | ROBINSON | HORLOCK | O'SULLIVAN | COLLINS● | THORNE | ALLISON | WALTERS | FINNEY | GOODEN■ | WATSON● |
| DIGBY | KERSLAKE | ELKINS | LEITCH | ROBINSON | HORLOCK | O'SULLIVAN | WATSON | THORNE● | ALLISON | WALTERS■ | FINNEY● | COWE | GOODEN■ |
| DIGBY | O'SULLIVAN● | ELKINS■ | LEITCH | ROBINSON | HORLOCK | COWE | WATSON | FINNEY▼ | ALLISON | WALTERS | GOODEN▼ | SMITH■ | ALLEN● |
| DIGBY | KERSLAKE | ELKINS | O'SULLIVAN▼ | ROBINSON | DARRAS● | CULVERHOUSE | WATSON | COWE | ALLISON | WALTERS■ | McMAHON■ | SMITH▼ | COLLINS● |
| DIGBY | KERSLAKE | HORLOCK | O'SULLIVAN | ROBINSON | DARRAS● | CULVERHOUSE | WATSON | COWE | ALLISON | WALTERS■ | ELKINS● | SMITH■ | COLLINS |
| DIGBY | KERSLAKE | ELKINS | WATSON | ROBINSON | LEITCH | CULVERHOUSE | COLLINS | COWE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | DRYSDALE | McMAHON | O'SULLIVAN |
| DIGBY | ROBINSON | ELKINS | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | HORLOCK | CULVERHOUSE | COLLINS▼ | COWE■ | ALLISON | WALTERS● | DRYSDALE | WATSON■ | O'SULLIVAN▼ |
| DIGBY | KERSLAKE | DRYSDALE | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | ROBINSON● | CULVERHOUSE | WATSON■ | COWE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | O'SULLIVAN● | MILD'HALL■ | McMAHON |
| DIGBY | KERSLAKE | DRYSDALE | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES● | ROBINSON | CULVERHOUSE▼ | McMAHON■ | COWE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | WATSON● | O'SULLIVAN■ | ELKINS▼ |
| DIGBY | ROBINSON | DRYSDALE | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | BROOMES | WALTERS | WATSON | COWE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | O'SULLIVAN | SMITH | DARRAS |
| DIGBY | ROBINSON | DARRAS● | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | BROOMES | CULVERHOUSE | WATSON■ | COWE | ALLISON | HORLOCK | WALTERS● | SMITH■ | McMAHON |
| DIGBY | DARRAS | DRYSDALE | McMAHON● | ELKINS | BROOMES | CULVERHOUSE | SMITH | COWE | ALLISON | WALTERS■ | FINNEY | WATSON● | O'SULLIVAN■ |
| DIGBY | ROBINSON | ELKINS● | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | BROOMES | CULVERHOUSE | SMITH | COWE | ALLISON | WALTERS | FINNEY | DARRAS● | McMAHON |
| DIGBY | ROBINSON | DARRAS | LEITCH | SEAGRAVES | BROOMES | CULVERHOUSE | SMITH | COWE | ALLISON | WALTERS● | FINNEY | WATSON | O'SULLIVAN● |
| DIGBY | ROBINSON | DARRAS● | HOLCROFT | SEAGRAVES | BROOMES | CULVERHOUSE | WATSON | O'SULLIVAN | ALLISON | FINNEY■ | McMAHON | DRYSDALE● | THORNE■ |

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Important safety announcements by the Club Management over the public address system will be preceded by a loud signal to catch the attention of spectators.



24 HOUR INFORMATION

0891 12 16 40

FOR ALL THE LATEST FOOTBALL NEWS FROM THE COUNTY GROUND.

0891 14 16 40

FOR TICKET, TRAVEL AND COMPETITION NEWS.

*CALLS ARE CHARGED 50P PER MINUTE AT ALL TIMES

Front Cover pic:
Steve McMahon



team check

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Swindon Town

| | |
|----|------------------|
| 1 | Fraser Digby |
| 2 | Mark Robinson |
| 3 | Frederic Darras |
| 4 | Scott Leitch |
| 5 | Mark Seagraves |
| 6 | Marlon Broomes |
| 7 | Ian Culverhouse |
| 8 | Kevin Watson |
| 9 | Steve Cowe |
| 10 | Wayne Allison |
| 11 | Darren Bullock |
| 12 | Wayne O'Sullivan |
| 13 | Peter Thorne |
| 14 | Steve Finney |

Team Changes

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Birmingham City

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Ian Bennett |
| 2 | Kenny Brown |
| 3 | Martin Grainger |
| 4 | Steve Bruce |
| 5 | Gary Ablett |
| 6 | Chris Holland |
| 7 | Paul Devlin |
| 8 | Martyn O'Connor |
| 9 | Mike Newell |
| 10 | Barry Horne |
| 11 | Anders Limpar |
| 12 | Nicky Forster |
| 13 | Paul Furlong |
| 14 | Michael Johnson |

Team Changes

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Today's Officials:



Referee:
A.R. Leake (Lancashire)



Assisted by:
J.H. Griffiths (Chippenham)
C. Jones (Mid Glamorgan)

Reserve Official:
T. Page (Somerset)

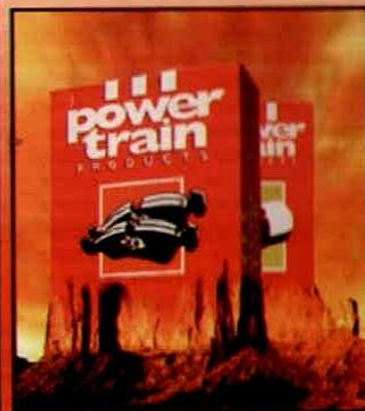


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Swindon, Wiltshire
SN3 3LB



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