#### Swindon ( 97-98 SEASON

matchday magaz £1.50

#### Wednesday 13th August 1997

COCA COLA CUP FIRST ROUND, 1st LEG

Wattord



Kick-Off 7.45pm

Action pages 16-17 All the best shots from the clash with Crewe

Latest News page 27 In and around the **County Ground** 

Travel page 29 Away trip to Watford





Vationwide



Saturday 23rd EX August HOME MATCH vs Huddersfield



S.T.F.C. Report and pictures









F.C

IAMES



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#### If a team came back from 0-3 but there was no one there to see it, would it still be a miracle?

#### welcome to today's game

Having bagged all three points from last Saturday's curtainraiser against Crewe Alexandra, tonight we take a break from league action with Watford the visitors in the first round, first leg of the Coca Cola Cup. This time last year we

outgunned Mark McGhee's Wolves 2-0 at the same stage of the competition thanks to goals by Wayne Allison and Scott Leitch.

And having reached a century of strikes on Saturday, the Chief will be aiming to move on from there tonight. Most of you will have fond memories of last season's Coca Cola Cup exploits as we booked a second round passage after losing 1-0 in the return at Wolves to go through 2-1 on aggregate. Next came QPR who sneaked a 2-1 triumph here at the County Ground but we then travelled to Loftus Road and chalked up a superb 3-1 win in extra time to book a third round tie at mighty Manchester United. In front of nearly 50,000 fans Swindon

gave a good account of themselves before finally going out 2-1 and there is no doubt we would all like to go even further in this year's competition. But to stand a chance of some possible glory ties in later rounds, tonight we must see off the challenge of Second Division Watford. The Hornets could have a sting in their tail if we fail to find top gear so get behind the lads to make sure we can open up a comfortable first leg lead.

Don't forget the return is at Vicarage Road on Tuesday August 26th (7.45pm). After tonight's tie we return to league action on Saturday with a local derby at Reading. This game is ALL TICKET and all the details can be found on the Box Office page.

Our next home game is on Saturday August 23rd when Huddersfield Town are the visitors (3pm). We hit them for six in the corresponding fixture last year - so get along for that one and let's roar some more goals into our opponents net.

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#### A RADICAL NEW ENGINE OIL FROM THE LIQUID ENGINEERS

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#### NEXT Saturday 16th August vs Reading

This Saturday we play our first away game of the season - and we don't have far to travel as we take on near neighbours Reading at Elm Park. There is always something a bit special about local derbies and I've no doubt you will all be out in force for that one. See you there!



#### **Natiowik**

#### Steve McMahon

#### Well what a start that was for us on Saturday against Crewe!

We emerged with all three points and I couldn't have asked for any more than that in what were very difficult conditions with the intense heat really taking it out of the players.

I thought Crewe looked a little sharper during the first half but the Chief's goal settled us down and I think overall we proved that we are not a bad team.

#### Nervous start

Although everyone seemed a little nervous early on, the longer the game progressed the better we looked. There was no doubt we deserved the three points and I was delighted with the way we stuck to our task. It had been a

hectic week for the two new signings, namely Chris Hay and Philippe Cuervo and I felt both of them did extremely well. Hopefully

you all enjoyed what you saw from them. You gave them a brilliant reception when they came off near the end and I felt they deserved that applause, not only for the skill they showed but also the effort they put in on their debuts.

I've no doubt both lads will have large roles to play and they can only improve as they settle in and get to know the rest of the team properly.

#### **Clean sheets vital**

Talking of new signings, I'd also like to pay tribute to Alan McDonald who of course joined us during the summer from Queen's Park Rangers.

He has helped tighten up our defence and I felt he led by example on Saturday to help us keep a clean sheet which was particularly pleasing.

We know we can score goals but if we can continue to deny opponents at the other end it could be the key to a successful campaign.

#### Concentration

Tonight we must make sure we concentrate fully at the back once again otherwise Watford will punish us. Like ourselves, they got off to a winning start on Saturday and they will be keen to put together an unbeaten run. Obviously there are no points up for grabs tonight but it is still an important game as we start the Coca Cola Cup campaign.

#### Memories

Last season we overcame the likes of Wolves and OPR to set up a memorable trip to Old Trafford in the third round of the competition and wouldn't it be nice to get another chance to play a glamour club in the latter stages. But there's no point thanking about that at the moment. What we need to do is make sure we see off Watford over two legs. And although we are classed as favourites against the Second Division side - it won't be easy and any complacency will be punished by Watford.



## today's visitors Hornets

This evening we extend a warm County Ground welcome to the players, supporters and staff of Watford Football Club for this Coca-Cola Cup First Round, first leg tie.

We hope you all enjoy your trip to Wiltshire and wish you a safe journey home after the match.

The Hornets have come into the 1997/98 campaign with promotion the aim after a rollercoaster ride last season. Under the managership of former player Kenny Jackett - with Graham Taylor as General Manager - the Hornets had a wobbly start to life in the Second Division before rising to second place by mid-September.

A mid-season blip saw the Vicarage Road side slip to 12th, before a recovery left them flirting with the Play-Offs almost until the final week of the season. But four defeats and a goalless draw in their last five games condemned the side to a 13th place finish and another season in Division Two.

Perhaps predictably, the failure to step up a division resulted in the big clubs doing some serious shopping at Vicarage Road during the summer months, with the result that three of the club's prime assets have all moved to pastures new during the close season.

The most keenly felt will be the loss of highly-rated goalkeeper Kevin Miller, the 1996/97 Player of the Year, who moved to south London with **Premiership Crystal Palace for** £1.5 million. He was swiftly replaced, however, by England U21 regular Chris Day, so all may not be lost. Elsewhere, after a season of speculation linking them with 'bigger' clubs, strikers David Connolly and Kevin Phillips also moved on. Hornets fans were probably resigned to losing Connolly when the 20-year-old scored five goals in his first six internationals for the Republic of Ireland - ironically nearly three times as many as he managed for Watford all season. But seeing him leave on a free

transfer must have stuck in the throat. Dutch giants Feyenoord were the latest beneficiaries of the so-called Bosman Ruling.

Phillips, for his part, had largely failed to live up to his billing as the saviour of Watford and was transferred to First Division promotion hopefuls Sunderland for £325,000. The only other departure of note was that of cult hero Craig Ramage and manager Kenny Jackett.

With favourite son Graham Taylor settling back into the manager's hot-seat during the summer, Watford fans will be expecting nothing less than the Second Division Championship to come there way by the end of May.

As for the Coca-Cola Cup, last season's tournament saw them ease past Walsall into the Second Round, courtesy of goals from Gary Porter and Wayne Andrews in a 2-1 aggregate win, before coming a cropper to Suncierland in Round Two. As in the League, they will be aiming to do better in 1997/98.



player profile Horne 5 W/ZIGFORD



Signed in July 1996, Alec is a hugely experienced 'keeper whose razor-sharp reflexes are a key part of his game.

Born: March, 20.06.64 Height: 6ft 2in Weight: 13st 9lb League record last season: 4 games, 0 goals Honours: Div One title 1996

Club	Game
Ipswich	
Colchester	184
Everton	-
Tranmere	15
Luton	138
Chelsea	
Sunderland	61
Liverpool	-
Sunderland	29
Watford	4
	Ipswich Colchester Everton Tranmere Luton Chelsea Sunderland Liverpool Sunderland

#### Chris Day

Valued at £250,000 when he moved from Crystal Palace in the deal which took Kevin Miller in the opposite direction during the summer. Enjoyed a great start at Selhurst Park last season, but lost his first-team place to Carlo Nash later in the campaign and never won it back.

Born: Whipps Cross, 28.07.75 Height: 6ft 2in Weight: 13st 6lb League record last season: 24 games, 0 goals (all for C.Palace) Honours: England U21 caps

Era	Club	Games
95/96	Tottenham	
96/97	C.Palace	24



#### Darren Bazeley

Originally a right-winger, Darren has been converted into an effective full-back or wing-back at Vicarage Road. A versatile player, he has also had a spell up front for the Hornets.

Born: Northampton, 05.10.72 Height: 5ft 10in Weight: 11st 2lb League record last season: 41 games, 3 goals Honours: England U21 cap

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Watford 18	184

#### Nigel Gibbs

Currently on a monthly contract, having been offered a free transfer at the end of 1995/96. He missed almost two full seasons with a severe knee ligament injury, but is now fighting fit again and scored his first League goal in five seasons in 1996/97.

Born: St.Albans, 20.11.65 Height: 5ft 7in Weight: 11st 4lb League record last season: 45 games, 1 goal Honours: FA Youth Cup 1982; England Youth, U21 caps

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Watford	266

#### Dominic Ludden

Promising left-back who is very pacey and enjoys getting forward to support his forwards. Born: Basildon, 30.03.74 Height: 5ft 7in Weight: 10st 9lb League record last season: 20 games, 0 goals Honours: England Schools caps

Era	Club	Games
93/94	Leyton Orient	58
96/97	Watford	33

#### **Keith Millen**

After ten years at Brentford, no nonsense central defender Keith moved to Watford in March 1994 in an exchange deal which saw Barry Ashby and £65,000 go in the other direction.

Born: Croydon, 26.09.66 Height: 6ft 2in Weight: 12st 4lb League record last season: 42 games, 2 goals Honours: Div 3 title 1992

Era	Club	Games
93/94	Brentford	305
96/97	Watford	116

#### Robert Page

Newly-appointed club captain, and a former skipper of the Welsh Youth team. Already a regular in his country's U21 squad, he went on to Full international honours last season. Strong in the tackle and dominant in the air.

Born: Llwynpia, 03.09.74 Height: 6ft Weight: 12st 5lb League record last season: 36 games, 0 goals Honours: Wales Schools, Youth, U21, Full caps

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Watford	64

Gifton Noel Williams

> Other Defenders: Mark Rooney (from YTS), Vince Cave (from YTS), Colin Pluck (from YTS), Paul Robinson (from YTS), Darren Ward (from YTS)

#### Midfielders

#### Micah Hyde

Former Cambridge skipper who joined the Hornets on their pre-season tour of Finland during the summer and thoroughly impressed manager Graham Taylor.

Born: Newham, 10.11.74 Height: 5ft 9in Weight: 11st 5lb League record last season: 38 games, 7 goals (all for Cambridge) Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Cambridge	107

#### **Richard Johnson**

Ball-winner in the midfield who packs a ferocious shot which has resulted in some spectacular long range goals for the Hornets.

Born: Kurri-Kurri, Australia, 27.04.74 Height: 5ft 10in Weight: 11st 13lb League record last season: 37 games, 2 goals Honours: None

Era Club Games 96/97 Watford 122

#### Peter Kennedy

Moved to Notts County from Irish League club Portadown midway through last season before joining Watford in the summer of 1997. Born: Lurgan, 10.09.73 Height: 5ft 11in Weight: 11st 11lb League record last season: 22 games, 0 goals (all for Notts Co) Honours: N.Ireland 'B' caps

Era Club Games 96/97 Notts Co 22

#### Steve Palmer

The possessor of a degree in computer studies, Steve is predictably nicknamed 'The Professor'. A hard-working and experienced player who can operate equally effectively in central defence or midfield.

Born: Brighton, 31.03.68 Height: 6ft 1in Weight: 12st 13lb League record last season: 41 games, 2 goals Honours: Div 2 title 1992; England Schools caps

Era	Club	Games
95/96	Ipswich	111
96/97	Watford	76

#### Stuart Slater

Stylish and skilful winger who moved to Watford in November 1996 and became an instant hit with the fans. Loves to run at defences and is an accurate crosser of the ball.

Born: Sudbury, 27.03.69 Height: 5ft 9in Weight: 11st 6lb League record last season: 16 games, 1 goal Honours: England U21, 'B' caps

Era	Club	Games
91/92	West Ham	141
93/94	Celtic	43
96/97	Ipswich	72
96/97	Leicester	-
96/97	Watford	16

Other Midfielders: Clint Easton (from YTS), Richard Flash (from Wolves, July 1996, Free), Danny Grieves (from YTS), Chris Johnson (from YTS), David Perpetuini (from YTS), Steve Talboys (from Wimbledon, July 1996, Free)



#### Jason Lee

Unfortunately rather more famous for his hairstyle than his goals, Jason has got rid of the 'pineapple' and is hoping for a change of fortune in 1997/98. A fast and powerful target man.

Born: Newham, 09.05.71 Height: 6ft 3in Weight: 13st 3lb League record last season: 28 games, 4 goals (including 13 games, 1 goal for Nottm For; 8 games, 3 goals for Charlton; 7 games, 1 goal for Grimsby) Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
90/91	Charlton	1
90/91	Stockport	2
92/93	Lincoln	93
93/94	Southend	24
96/97	Nottm For	76
96/97	Charlton	8
96/97	Grimsby	7

#### **Tommy Mooney**

A versatile performer who has played everywhere down the left side for Watford. Accomplished in the air and blessed with a powerful and accurate shot, he was the Hornets' 'Player of the Year' in 1995/96. Signed pro at Aston Villa under Graham Taylor. Born: Teesside North, 11.08.71 Height: 5ft 11in Weight: 12st 6lb League record last season: 37 games, 13 goals Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
89/90	Aston Villa	
92/93	Scarborough	107
93/94	Southend	14
93/94	Watford	10
96/97	Watford	108

#### David Thomas

Keith Millen

Signed during the summer from Swansea City, where he was second highest scorer last season with 11 goals in all competitions. Recently called-up to the Welsh U21 squad, he is a pacey striker who will be looking to play off big Jason Lee.

Born: Caerphilly, 26.09.75 Height: 5ft 10in Weight: 11st 7lb League record last season: 36 games, 9 goals (all for Swansea) Honours: None

Era Club Games 96/97 Swansea 56

Other Forwards: Wayne Andrews (from YTS), Nathan Lowndes (from Leeds, Oct 1995, Free), Andy Johnson (from YTS), Gifton Noel-Williams (from YTS).

#### Graham Taylor the manager

Watford

Comfortably the biggest name in management outside the top two divisions, former England boss Graham Taylor has returned to the scene of his greatest triumphs.

It was more than 20 years ago, in June 1977, that Taylor first appeared at Vicarage Road. At the time he was a little known, but successful, lower

division manager who had just taken little Lincoln to a runaway promotion from the old Fourth Division.

Watford, too, were stuck in Division Four and going nowhere when Taylor arrived to work alongside rock star and club chairman Elton John. But within six years they had finished runners-up in Division One.

The rise, needless to say, was rapid. The Hornets won the Fourth Division title in 1978, were runners-up in the Third in 1979, runners-up in the Second in 1982 and then, gloriously, second to Liverpool in the top flight in 1983.

On the way, Taylor produced some top quality young players such as Luther Blissett and John Barnes - both of whom were to move on for huge fees - and in 1984 Watford enjoyed arguably the peak of their success when reaching, and ultimately losing, the FA Cup Final with Everton. Finally, in 1987, with Watford still a top flight club, Taylor decided he needed a fresh challenge and moved on to Aston Villa, then in Division Two.

After taking Villa to promotion in his first year, and runners-up spot in the League two years later, he was approached to become the new England manager, in succession to Bobby Robson.

> A well-documented media campaign, allied to a generally poor level of performance and some unfortunate results, led to the good-natured and likeable Taylor vacating the England job after failing to qualify for World Cup 94.

Without doubt a top level club coach, he was quickly appointed to the hot-seat

at Wolves where a narrow failure to win promotion - the Play-Offs were not considered close enough - again resulted in a parting of the ways.

In February 1996, the prodigal son returned 'home' to Watford, in a General Manager's role, with former stars such as Blissett and Kenny Jackett working beneath him. But, by May 1997, the lure had proved to great, and Taylor was back in the manager's chair, ready to direct operations for 1997/98.



# Coking back

**5 YEARS AGO** 

Five years ago Swindon swamped Torquay United 6-0 at Plainmoor in the First leg of their Second Round tie and went on to win the tie 9-2 on aggregate.

10 YEARS AGO

Ten years ago a Jimmy Quinn hat trick in a 3-0 victory over Bristol City in the Littlewoods Cup First Round, First Leg gave Swindon a sufficient cushion to survive a 3-2 defeat at Ashton Gate.

#### 15 YEARS AGO

Two goals by Paul Rideout helped Swindon to a 2-1 victory in the First Leg of their First Round clash with Bristol City but they went down 2-0 at Ashton Gate.

#### FLASH-BACK

Torquay had been Swindon's first victims when they won the League Cup in 1969 but hopes that history would repeat itself were dashed when Hoddle's men lost 1-0 at home to Oldham Athletic in Round Three. Watford entered the Coca Cola Cup in Round Two and after

Swindon's survival prospects did not look good at half time when Gordon Owen, redeeming his First Leg sending off, scored twice as City established a 3-1 lead. This was despite having a penalty saved by Fraser Digby. When Swindon were awarded a penalty in the second half Steve Berry made no mistake and Town were through. In the Second Round Littlewoods Cup match at Vicarage Road Watford thrashed Darlington 8-0 to complete an aggregate victory of 11-0. They eventually went out 3-1 to Manchester City at Maine Road. Barclays Bank agreed a new three year Sponsorship deal with the Football League.

drawing 2-2 at Vicarage Road

won the tie with goals from our

own Jason Drysdale and Gerard

Lavin. Jason scored again, this

time from the penalty spot to

help them to a 2-1 victory over

Leeds in Round Three but they

went out to Blackburn Rovers

6-1 at Ewood Park in Round Four.

Watford won both legs of their Second Round Milk Cup tie against Bolton 2-1 but 2 goals from Ross Jenkins could not save them as they crashed 7-3 away to Nottingham Forest in Round Three. Lawrie Sanchez became one of the first players to suffer under the new rules regarding 'Professional fouls' when he was sent off for tipping the ball around the post in Reading's match at Oxford.

The Third Round of the 1987-8 Littlewoods Cup saw todays teams again in opposition. Nicky Hammond, making his debut for Swindon, made a nervous clearance in the opening minutes of the first clash at the County Ground which allowed Tony Agana to score. He redeemed himself with a fine save from Trevor Senior in the dying minutes which meant Jimmy Quinn's first half penalty was enough to earn the Town a replay. Glyn Hodges gave the Hornets the lead after 20 minutes but Jimmy Quinn with his 16th goal of the season brought Swindon level after 37, heading home following a throw in by Hockaday. Porter restored Watford's lead at the start of the second half following a free kick and it was direct from another free kick that Hodges appeared to have

secured the tie for Watford. More excitement was still to come as Steve Foley bundled in a cross from Dave Bamber to make a 3-2 and the

Robins were denied a penalty when Kenny Jackett appeared to hook Bamber's leg away. As it was, Malcolm Allen was left with a simple tap-in three minutes from time to take some of the pressure off Dave Bassett whose team were to be relegated at the end of the season.

# Castor Odden Odde

Swindon Town's first team squad were on hand to sign autographs and pose for pictures with fans on Thursday July 31st when the Club held their annual Open Day.

Steve McMahon and his team took time out from their preparations for the new season to meet over 3000 supporters who came to the County Ground.

Yet the players weren't the only attraction during an action-packed afternoon.

There was an opportunity to look behind the scenes at the County Ground in tours of the changing rooms.

Entertainment was provided by the BBC Wiltshire Sound Road Show and there were some terrific prizes up for grabs in easy to enter competitions.

"The whole day was a great success and it was tremendous to see so many fans come flocking in, even though the weather wasn't that kind to us," said the Club's PR Manager Jason Harris.





Nationwide, the World's No.1 Building Society, wishes all clubs a successful 1997/98 season



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It is my conjecture that the first round of this prestigious knock-out tournament is one of the most precarious hurdles in the whole competition.

The reason I say this is because it comes just a few days after the first League fixture, at a time when most teams are still feeling their way.

In other words it favours the fast starters, who as we know, are not always the top finishers, and there is no doubt that Watford, now led by former England manager Graham Taylor, provide a tough test.

Everyone wants to get through to the second round as this provides the chance to meet the top teams from the Premiership but having said that it is interesting to note the many famous names taking part in this first round series this week.

The majority of the ties were played last evening so you will now know the results but the pick of the bunch were surely Blackpool against Manchester City; Queens Park Rangers v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Wrexham against Sheffield United.

Sheffield United, beaten in the play-off final last May by Crystal Palace, would love to return to Wembley next year in a major Cup final. And where better to enter the straight than at the Race Course Ground. On paper they should prove too good for the Welsh team, particularly over two legs.

Blackpool seemed to lose their way last season after their dramatic collapse in the final furlong of the Second Division race the season before last. You will all recall the dramatic battle we had with them at Bloomfield Road as we closed in on the championship. The Seasiders then looked certain of joining us in Division One but crumbled under pressure.

A victory over **Manchester City** would certainly give them a big boost and had they been facing the Maine Road crowd this time last year you would have given them a chance. But not now, Frank Clark has got the City slickers believing in themselves again.

Watford

Alan McDonald will be hoping his former colleagues overcome **Wolves.** Both **QPR** and the men from Molineux are under pressure to do well in the Championship stakes and there is no greater habit than a winning one to get them on the move.

This is manager Stewart Houston's second season and he needs to improve significantly on last season's ninth place in Division One. He has gambled £3.75 million on the scoring skills of Michael Sheron, who hit 19 League goals for **Stoke City** last term. But it is a gamble, and an expensive one, for the former Manchester City forward was a big flop at Norwich and we have yet to see whether he is suited to the Rangers play.

Wolves, on the other hand, have the goal power of the most prolific scorer in the club's history Steve Bull. The Tipton Terror entered this competition with a record of 13 goals in 25-(1) League Cup appearances though of course he failed to score last season when we knocked them out.

But this tie is the most difficult one to assess. I believe though that Rangers will have more fizz than *Wolves* and will not only progress through to the second round of the Coca Cola Cup but also top the Molineux men in Division One.

In the other ties involving First Division sides Birmingham City away to Gillingham last night, should progress along with Nottingham Forest, who opened this season's competition at Doncaster Rovers on Monday; West Brom, who have home advantage in the second-leg against Cambridge United and Norwich City to take on Barnet.

UNITED

Portsmouth should account for Peterborough United and Port Vale for York City, though York do have a giant-killing reputation, including victories over Arsenal and Manchester United in recent years. Stoke City kicked off at Rochdale last night; Tranmere, with Eire striker David Kelly now in the firing line, should overcome Hartlepool.

The all First Division clashes between Crewe and Bury and Huddersfield Town and Bradford City are not so easy to call and the same applies to the Charlton Ipswich tie which goes on tonight.



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#### **On The** Ball

If you haven't yet caught on to the benefits of becoming a Junior Robin then hurry up before you get found out! For only £10-00 you will receive more perks than the Chairman, including a superb welcome pack, weekly training sessions, monthly newsletters, various discounts and invitations to away games and events throughout the year. You'd have to be mad as a hatter not to join the Town's official Fan Club! Collect a form from the Superstore or call the Marketing Department on 01793 532121 for more details.

All Barmy Army youngsters should look out for the first Newsletter of the season for details of the fab year ahead. Enjoy the game and make some noise!

Junior Robin new recruit training with the players.

#### Sports Personality of the Vear - Fraser Digby

Cairo's Nightclub are holding Swindon's answer to the Oscars on Saturday 30th August and our very own Fraser is a nominee for Sports Personality of the Year. Most of you will have been in the Superstore lately to get yourself the new Swindon Town kit and will have seen the Malibu Massive ballot box. Anyone can vote by simply filling in a voting form and popping it in the box. We need as many of you as possible to complete the forms to make sure Fraser wins the title!

One good turn deserves another and you can do yourself a favour by voting because you could win a prize and the chance to meet Fraser. Call into the Superstore and vote soon or poor Fraser will have a lot of forms to complete!

#### mascots...mascots..

#### Max Harrison-Tosatto

is Swindon Town's mascot today, having won the prize at the Open Day. Six year old Max lives in Swindon with mum Julie and 5 year old brother Ross and is a pupil at Beechcroft Infants School. His hobbies include swimming, watching TV, playing with his grandparents and cousin Marcus and he also takes keyboard lessons and learns Italian. Max is also a football fanatic, especially when it comes to Swindon Town and he attends the Soccer Centres, Community Office courses and is also a Junior Robin.





SWINDON TOWN CLUBCALL FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS CALL 0891 121640 CALLS ARE CHARGED SOP AT ALL TIMES



SATURDAY 9th AUGUST NATIONWIDE DIVISION ONE vindon Town 2 we Alexandra 0 Attendance 8,334



- Fraser Digby Frederic Darras Jason Drysdale Scott Leitch Mark Seagraves
- Alan McDonald
- **Mark Robinson**
- Philippe Cuervo (Bullock 80 mins)
- Chris Hay (Finney 80 mins)
- Wayne Allison
- Ty Gooden

Mark Walters



Swindon started the new campaign in the best way possible with maximum points from their opening fixture at the County Ground.

It took some time for the home team to settle down but there was no looking back once Wayne Allison had headed them into a 43rd minute lead following a pin-point cross by Ty Gooden.

This was the Chief's 100th league goal and he could have

league goal and he could have had even more with two headers being saved and another cleared off the line. But Town finally put the issue beyond doubt two minutes from time when the two substitutes combined for the killer goal. Darren Bullock was upended in the area by Crewe keeper Jason Kearton and Steve Finney stepped up to slam home the spot kick.

pot kick. Bullock and Finney had come in to replace new signings hilippe Cuervo and Chris lay who both made mpressive debuts

17

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119 211

Starge -

Solid as a rock - the Crewe

attack got very little joy against Big Mac!

ω

#### ticket office () @swindon town tickets

After tonight's game against Watford we look forward to Saturday's trip to Reading.



#### THIS GAME IS ALL TICKET.



There are 200 seats available at £11 (adults) and £6

(concessions) with 2,800 terrace tickets up for grabs at £9 and £6.

#### Huddersfield

The following Saturday, August 23rd we are back in action on home soil with Huddersfield Town the visitors.

Who can forget the 6-0 hiding we handed them here last season so make sure you get your tickets for that one.

Tickets for the following matches are now on sale:



Saturday September 6th, Nottingham Forest (HOME) 3pm.



Saturday September 13th, Tranmere Rovers (HOME), 3pm.



Saturday October 4th, Port Vale (HOME), 3pm



Saturday October 11th, Bury (HOME), 3pm.



Saturday October 25th, Norwich City (HOME) 3pm.



DON'T MISS OUT

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

For further details on ticket availability contact the Ticket Office on:

(01793) 529000 To order by fax: (01793) 431887

#### WE ARE PLEASED TO ACCEPT







#### **OPENING HOURS**

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

#### GOING TO WATFORD?

For ticket details ring the Box Office 01793 529000

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**CHILDREN'S** 

HOME SHIRTS

20

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Nationwide

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MAIN SPONSOR

A Nationwide

#### Trust us to help the game

The Football Trust has been providing support for the game at every level throughout the UK for over 22 years. Its present priority task is to help League clubs to complete the implementation of the Taylor Report recommendations.

Thanks to the Government and to the Football Association, the FA Premier League and the English Sports Council, a major new funding package to secure the future of the Trust has been put in place.

These funds will be in addition to income derived from the football pools companies Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters, and will enable the Trust to complete its Taylor task, carry on its essential safety work and continue to grant aid football at every level. The Government's commitment to the Trust has the support of everyone who cares about our national game.



THE FOOTBALL TRUST Helping the game

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



#### WYVERN STAFF

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BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE



SWINDON TOWN CLUBCALL FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS CALL 0891 121640 CALLS ARE CHARGED SOP AT ALL TIMES Congratulations to big Wayne Allison on scoring his 100th League goal to give us a winning start against Crewe Alexandra on Saturday. "The Chief" is looking lean and mean and eager to make solid inroads into his second ton at Reading next Saturday.

Meanwhile Wayne is anxious to bully up his Coca Cola account this evening. He scored his first goal for Swindon in this competition in the second round home leg against Blackburn Rovers in September 1995, when, incidentally, Steve Finney, was again our other marksman as he was last Saturday, in a brave 2-3 defeat.

Last season the big man added two more goals to his Coca Cola Cup haul, netting a brilliant goal in the 2-0 victory over Wolves at the Country Ground and a vital strike in that rousing 3-1 victory at Loftus Road when we beat QPR in extra-time after being written off following a 1-1 draw at home.

It took Manchester United to give us the KO at Old Trafford, and that by only 2-1. But Wayne seems to be a good starter. He scored three goals in his first seven appearances in the 1995-96 season; two goals in his first four games last term and three in his first seven starts. Consistency is the name of his game.

Reflecting on last Saturday's opening to the season we were one of tour teams to chalk up 2-0 victories so share top billing in Division One with Birmingham City - who beat Stoke City at St Andrews; Oxford United who accounted for Huddersfield Town, and Wolves, who perhaps produced the most impressive result by beating Norwich City at Carrow Road.

It is interesting to note that two of the big favourites for the First Division title did not have such a smooth entry, Middlesbrough were a goal down against Charlton Athletic at the Cellnet Riverside Stadium after just eight minutes and did not retrieve the game until the last ten minutes when their two Italians, centre-back Gianluca Festa and Fabrizio Ravanelli, salvaged their blushes.

The promise of a bright new era at Maine Road was slightly clouded by a 2-2 home draw with Portsmouth. Frank Clark had shelled out £3 million plus for Portsmouth's Lee Bradbury and another £1.3 million (fee set by a Tribunal) had gone to Ipswich Town for Tony Vaughan, while Kevin Horlock starts his first full season with the club. But the most impressive performance came from Dutchman Gerald Wickens, who has cost a mere

Colin Benson

£600,000 from SC Veedam this close-season.

Former Town players feature prominently in this game. Little Fitzroy Simpson, who of course left us for Man City, carved out a fifth minute lead for Pompey against his former club, with a cross from the right. And City didn't make much impression until after the half-time introduction of Nick Summerbee. His pacey runs seemed to turn the game their way and it was his free-kick, which Bradbury headed back across goal for Wickens to score.

There was another debutante goal at Birmingham where Peter Ndlovu netted the Blues second three minutes from time. City have paid Coventry £200,000 down for the injury plagued flyer who has not realised his promise in the past two season but if he is successful and plays the games the fee will rise to £1.6 million. But last Saturday was not all about big money signings. The Wolverhampton Wanderers hero at Norwich City was a teenage debutante with a familiar name. Kid Keane, Robbie is his first name, is only 17, but he made a debut he will never forget scoring both goals in the 2-0 win.

Tonight though it is all about the Coca Cola Cup, a competition which has been much maligned throughout its history really, when the then Football League Secretary, Alan Hardacre, first introduced the League Cup in 1961 it was a brave attempt to generate more revenue through the turnstiles. There was some opposition from the big guns who felt it cluttered their fixture list and during the first six years of the competition the final was played over two-legs

and saw the likes of Rotherham and Rochdale in the final though the trophy was always won by the more fashionable clubs such as Aston Villa, Leicester and Chelsea.

The switch to a one-off Wembley Final in 1967 was a master-stroke providing magical historical highlights for QPR, the winners in '67, Leeds United (1968) and of course Swindon Town who overcame the mighty Arsenal in the final of 1969. Yet still the establishment complained. Eventually it was made compulsory for all clubs to enter but circumstances have changed in recent years with the breakaway Premiership no longer members of the Football League and consequently some of them, such as Man United feel they would be better off without the competition.

In my opinion this is a short sighted attitute. The elite clubs of English football must realise they owe something to the game and be prepared to take on the added responsibility of competing in a competition that can mean so much for the likes of us. Leicester City certainly have no reservation about the value of the Coca Cola Cup.

#### tony horne's view from a far

**Tony Horne on Predictions** 

#### Whatever you do this season, you must do one thing above all things: destroy a copy of this page when you have read it.

This page must not come back to haunt me, the evidence must disappear, there will be no comeback come what May! This is the page where necks are on the line, where reputations go up in smoke and where professional pundits become a source of ridicule. Yes, this is the 1997/8 prediction page.

I am launching an internet competition to predict-a-champ for the forthcoming season, and I am gathering thoughts and competition entries from

22

pundits and punters alike. If you wish to enter you may, but only by e-mail to: tony ahorne.ace.co.uk

#### All you need to do is SIMPLY (!) get the winners of everything down on paper! I have asked my friend and sports commentator Mick Lowes for his thoughts, and this is the outcome: *Premiership Top 3:* Manchester United, Newcastle, Arsenal *Premiership Relegated:* Crystal Palace, Barnsley, Coventry

Division 1 Champs: Middlesbrough Division 2 Champs: Burnley Division 3 Champs: Notts County Scottish Premier: Rangers FA Cup: Newcastle United Coca Cola: Liverpool Champions League: Juventus World Cup: Brazil

Mick watches an awful lot of top-flight football, but even a blind man could have gone for Glasgow Rangers. Anyway I hope that this sets the cat amongst the pigeons and causes a few arguments in the stands. For example, I think that Arsenal will win the Premiership, and Middlesbrough are so all over the place, you cannot predict anything with them except that they will sign lots of foreigners who will then go walkabout. I would be surprised if Liverpool won the Coca Cola because so many big teams seem to allow themselves to fall by the wayside in that tournament, and you have to winder if Newcastle will win anything without Shearer.

#### swindon town's matchday magazine

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SWINDON TOWN CLUBCALL FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS CALL 0891 121640 CALLS ARE CHARGED SOP AT ALL TIMES

### marketing news

A warm welcome to the County Ground for this evening's first round, first leg, Coca-Cola Cup clash against today's visitors Watford.

#### **Matchday** Sponsorship

Matchday Sponsorship offers a very powerful package of benefits that enables your company to maximize on a wide range of promotional and hospitality opportunities. As always, our professional marketing team ensure that your day is a total success from the moment your guests arrive right through to the post match presentations.

#### **Match**Hospitality

In today's ever more competitive market place managing the relationship with your clients becomes more important than ever. Entertaining valued customers through top class hospitality at the County Ground moves your relationship on to a more personal basis, allowing you to do more business, generate new leads and make it more difficult for clients to say no to new products.

A limited number of hospitality opportunities exist for the coming season for both Matchday and Matchball sponsorships, all include the very best in food and entertainment so why not contact the

Marketing Department on 01793 532121 to discuss your company's requirements.

#### Advertising

Why not promote your company or business through the County Ground?

Your message reaches not only a quarter of a million people visiting the ground over the season but also forms the back drop to many action photos in papers and magazines and in some areas features prominently in any television coverage.

Nationwide

With sites available from around £100 per month, stadium advertising has to be one of the most effective mediums through which to promote your business.

CARLING

#### Christmas in July! We are now taking bookings for Swindon Town Christmas Party nights.

Christmas Party Nights

for Swindon Town Christmas Party nights. A limited number of dates are still available for you to book your Christmas party.

Your fun-filled evening will consist of a traditional three course Christmas meal, followed by dancing to the Stuart Mac Roadshow.

Places are available at only £20 per head, so why not contact **Sam Sheridan on 01793 532121** to book your date.



The County Ground

Corporate Suite

Executive Lounge

Sponsors Suite

OUR CORPORATE SUITE SPONSORS







#### swindon town ladies

by Roger Reeves

#### Swindon Town Ladies open the new season with a visit from Havant Town.

The corresponding game last year produced one of the season's surprises when the Hampshire side won 2-1 for their first win. The Town had already won the away game and knocked them out of the League Cup.

Southampton Saints provide the next opposition which produced very close games last year with the Town losing out on both occasions by the odd goal.

A visit to newly promoted Launton, who won Division Two by twelve clear points, will provide tough opposition.

The Town have not previously played Launton, which is near

Bicester in Oxfordshire.

September concludes with a local derby against Swindon Spitfires. Although the Town lost the away match 3-2 it was one of the best games of Women's football ever seen in the town. The Spitfires completed the double in December. The Town's second home game is a visit from Binfield who finished one place below them last season.

Town completed the double over the Berkshire side, winning 4-1 at home and 5-1 away. This is followed by an away trip to old rivals Reading Royals, who last season won the Division One title. Reading, like the Town, have progressed from Division Four to Division One in successive seasons with the Town finishing Champions and the Royals second.

#### FIXTURES 97/98

#### Southern Region League Premier Division

SUN 31ST AUG	HAVANT TOWN	H
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SUN 26TH OCT	CHELTENHAM	H
Sun 2nd Nov	Oxford United	A.
	SOUTHAMPTON	H
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#### the shadow board

Nothing compares with the optimism we Swindon fans all feel at the start • of another League Cup competition. Yes I know that it is the Coca Cola Cup, but to seasoned Swindon fans it will always be the League Cup.

Twice semi-finalists and of course the fantastic win against Arsenal in 1969 - this is our competition isn't it? Better yet, the landlord of my local hostelry is an Arsenal season ticket holder. Whenever the bar conversation turns to soccer which is pretty much every time I am thirsty and thus obliged to visit his establishment -I find myself reminiscing about Bob Wilson and Don Rogers. What great memories....

The only real disappointment from 1969 was that we were promoted as runners-up in the old Division 3. And the champions that season - were Watford, today's opponents. I'll never forget Watford winning here 1-0 in the 'Match of the Season' to decide the 'Championship that year.

Were you at that great showdown match - write with your memories and we will publish the best stories. Well lads, tonight we can really get this season off to a flying start by beating our old foes and progressing in our favourite Cup competition at the same time. Remember Steve White at Vicarage Road just a couple of years ago and lets go make it happen!!!



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





DH

#### Youths make a point

Swindon Town Youth had to settle for a point in their opening league match as they drew 2-2 with Brentford in Division Two of the South East Counties League.

Alex Meechan fired Town in front, Brentford levelled mid way through the second half but a goal by Robin Hulbert looked to be enough until the visitors equalised two minutes from the end.

This Saturday the youngsters go to Southampton (11am).

#### National Football League Quiz

Entry forms are now available for the 1997-98 season of the biggest and best Football Quiz in the UK.

There are cash prizes and trophies for League, Cup and Play-Off Winners.

For further details contact: NFQL, 86 Shellards Road, Longwell Green, Bristol. BS15 6DT or telephone 01179755973.

#### Testimonial Man

Official car supplier to STFC

A crowd of over 13,000 came out to pay tribute to Town shot-stopper Fraser Digby in his Testimonial Match against a Manchester United XI last week.

The high profile game was the icing on the cake after a successful Testimonial year of events and after the 1-1 draw, Fraser was delighted.

"It was amazing to see such a large crowd come out especially for me and to be honest I was a bit emotional when I came out to such a wonderful reception. "It has been worth staying here for over 10 years just to hear that roar. "I'd just like to say a big thank

you to everyone for their support."



Fraser Digby signs autographs before his Testimonial match



Alex Meechan & Robin Hulbert

#### Wednesday Night Football

This season all of Swindon Town Reserves' home matches will be played here at the County Ground on Wednesday evenings, kick-off 7.15pm.

The second string open their home account on Wednesday August 20th when Tottenham Hotspur are the visitors and we are hoping for a good sized crowd. It costs just £4 for adults and £1 for concessions to come and watch and don't forget Season Ticket Holders can gain entry free of charge.

#### Football League Talk a good game

The new season heralds a brand new partnership for the Football League after a one-year agreement with national independent radio station, Talk Radio.

The contract will complement the current national radio deal with BBC Radio Five Live.

Talk Radio's General Manager Paul Robinson said:" We are delighted that Nationwide League commentaries will be heard every Saturday on Talk Radio."

(27)



Sponsor your favourite Swindon Town player's WHOLE KIT 1997/98 season £330.00

(28)

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#### onthe local rave ...



Watford (Coca-Cola Cup) Tuesday Aug 26th Kick-Off 7.45pm

We could be in for a feast of goals if previous meetings in this competition are any guide. Town beat Watford 4-2 in 1970 - and that scoreline was reversed when we travelled to Vicarage Road for a Third Round in 1987.

#### Going to Reading?

If you haven't booked already, ring one of the numbers now for seat availability and DON'T FORGET - the match at Elm Park is ALL TICKET.

#### TRAVEL CLUB

#### WATFORD Fare £7.00 Under 16's £3.00 Depart County Ground: 4.15pm

Our coaches start at Aldbourne and we offer pick ups at Ashington Way plus other destinations en route. Please ask for these options and times when booking. Our coaches are either Executive or Luxury standard and we enforce our Non Smoking policy. Our Stewards are pleased to provide a selection of drinks and snacks throughout your journey, as well as the other on board entertainment we offer as well. Up to 25% reduction off our already excellent match day travel prices with our unbeatable Travel Club season ticket offer. Please ask for details. Special offers for our members - just £1.00 fee each season.

#### lake Sure You Book Now At: ravel Club Office (Arkell's Sta

Ravel Club Office (Arkell's Stand, Supporters Club entrance) Open Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Also Open Every Matchday until 20 minutes before kick off Plus 20 hour Travel Information (Travel information answerphone service; me (01793) 611499

yh Barnes Coaches Ltd Information phone any day on (01793) 540330

#### DID YOU KNO

In December 1934, Town striker Alan Fowler hit a hat-trick at Vicarage Road but still ended up on the losing side windon went down 7-4!

#### Travelling by Road...

Take the M4 East, to join the M25 Northbound. Leave the M25 at Juction 19, taking the third exit signposted A411 Watford. Continue for about two miles, then go straight over the first roundabout and take the third exit at the next (A412 Rickmansworth Road). Take the second turning on the left and continue into Wiggenhall Road. Turn right at the traffic lights into Cardiff Road, where limited parking is available.



#### WATFORD Fare £7.00

Depart COUNTY GROUND (Superstore) 4.00pm Also picking up at: WOOTTON BASSETT 3.30pm WEST SWINDON 3.45pm ERMIN STREET 4.15pm

- Executive coach travel with hostess service of hot/cold drinks and light refreshments
- All coaches are NON SMOKING
- Reductions for accompanied under 15's
- No membership fee

#### COUNTY GROUND BOOKING OFFICE

Open: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 10am - 2pm Thursdays 7pm - 9pm Tel: (01793) 536757

UR TRAVEL and TICKET INFORMATION SERVICE (01793) 825935 Fax: (01793) 821015

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WE ARE NOW PLEASED TO ACCEPT



#### statistics 1997/98 season



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Nationwide



NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE 1990/97

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.

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BARNSLEY	46	14	4	5	8	10	5	76	55	80
WOLVES	46	10	5	8	12	5	6	74	51	76
IPSWICH TOWN	46	13	7	3	7	7	9	68	50	74
SHEFFIELD UNITED	46	13	5	5	7	8	8	75	52	73
CRYSTAL PALACE	46	9	7	6	9	7	7	78	48	71
PORTSMOUTH	46	12	4	7	8	4	11	59	53	68
PORT VALE	46	9	9	5	8	7	8	58	55	67
QUEENS PARK RANGERS	46	10	5	8	8	7	8	64	60	66
BIRMINGHAM CITY	46	11	7	5	6	8	9	52	48	66
TRANMERE ROVERS	46	10	9	4	7	5	11	63	56	65
STOKE CITY	46	15	3	5	3	7	13	51	57	64
NORWICH CITY	46	9	10	4	8	2	13	63	68	63
MANCHESTER CITY	46	12	4	7	5	6	12	59	60	61
CHARLTON ATHLETIC	46	11	8	4	5	3	15	52	64	59
WEST BROMWICH ALBION	46	7	7	9	7	8	8	68	72	57
OXFORD UNITED	46	14	3	6	2	6	15	64	68	57
READING	46	13	7	3	2	5	18	58	67	57
SWINDON TOWN	46	11	6	6	4	3	16	52	71	54
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	46	10	7	6	3	8	12	48	61	54
BRADFORD CITY	46	10	5	8	2	7	14	47	72	48
GRIMSBY TOWN	46	7	7	9	4	6	13	60	81	46
OLDHAM ATHLETIC	46	6	8	9	4	5	14	51	66	43
SOUTHEND UNITED	46	7	9	7	1	6	16	42	86	39

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MARLON BROOMES	12	1	-	- 18-	12	1
DARREN BULLOCK	12(1)	1			12(1)	1
LEE COLLINS	3(1)	0	1		4(1)	0
GRAHAM COUGHLAN	3	0		-	3	0
STEVE COWE	28(10)	7	4(1)	0	32(11)	7
IAN CULVERHOUSE	31	0	5	0	36	0
FREDERIC DARRAS	30(5)	0	4	0	34(5)	0
FRASER DIGBY	31	0	1		32	0
JASON DRYSDALE	13(1)	0	2(1)	0	15(2)	0
GARY ELKINS	19(4)	1	3	0	22(4)	1
STEVE FINNEY	8(12)	2	1(1)	0	9(13)	2
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The second s	13(5)	1	0	0	13(5)	1
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SHAUN TAYLOR	2	0	1(1)	0	3(1)	0
PETER THORNE	24(8)	8	2(1)	2	26(9)	10
MARK WALTERS	24(3)	7	5	1	29(3)	8
KEVIN WATSON	17(9)	1	1(2)	0	18(11)	1

(	D	ate		Opponents		Res	Att.
	SAT	AUG	9	CREWE ALEXANDRA	H	2-0	8,334
	WED	AUG	13	WATFORD CCC 1 (1)	H		
	Sat	Aug	16	Reading	A		
	SAT	AUG	23	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H		
	Tues	Aug	26	Watford CCC 1 (2)	A		
	Sat	Aug	30	Stoke City	A		
	Tues	Sep	2	Ipswich Town	A		
	SAT	SEP	6	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	H		
	SAT	SEP	13	TRANMERE ROVERS	H		
	Sat	Sep	20	West Bromwich Albion	A		
8	Sat	Sep	27	Manchester City	A		
	SAT	OCT	4	PORT VALE	H		
	SAT	OCT	11	BURY	H		
	Sat	Oct	18	Wolverhampton W.	A		
	Tue	Oct	21	Sunderland	A		
	SAT	OCT	25	NORWICH CITY	H		
	Fri	Oct	31	Portsmouth	A		
	WED	NOV	5	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	H		
	SAT	NOV	8	BRADFORD CITY	H		
	Sat	Nov		Stockport County (F.A. CUP 1)	A		
		NOV	A CONTRACTOR OF	MIDDLESBROUGH	H		
	Fri	Nov	1000	Chariton Athletic	A		
	121212	DEC	a contain	OXFORD UNITED (F.A. Cup 2)	H		
	Sat		13	Sheffield United	Α		
		Labora /N	20	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H		
	Fri	Dec	26	Nottinghan Forest	Α		
	1.2.2	Contractor of	28	IPSWICH TOWN	H		
2		Jan		(F.A. CUP 3)			
		5	10	Crewe Alexandra	A		
	SAT	JAN		READING	H		
	Sat	Jan	24	(F.A. CUP 4)			
	1000	JAN	28	STOKE CITY	H		
		Jan	31	Huddersfield Town	A		
		FEB		WEST BROMWICH ALBION	H		
	Sat		14	Tranmere Rovers (F.A. Cup 5)	A		
	Tue		17	Port Vale	A		
		FEB		MANCHESTER CITY	H		
		FEB		WOLVERHAMPTON W.	H		
	Sat		28	Bury	A		
		Mar		Bradford City	A		
	Sat			PORTSMOUTH (F.A. CUP 6)	H		
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		Apr		Norwich City	A		
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