

# Swindon 97-98 SEASON

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**Saturday 20th  
December 1997**

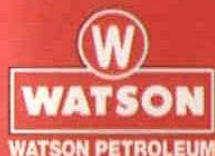
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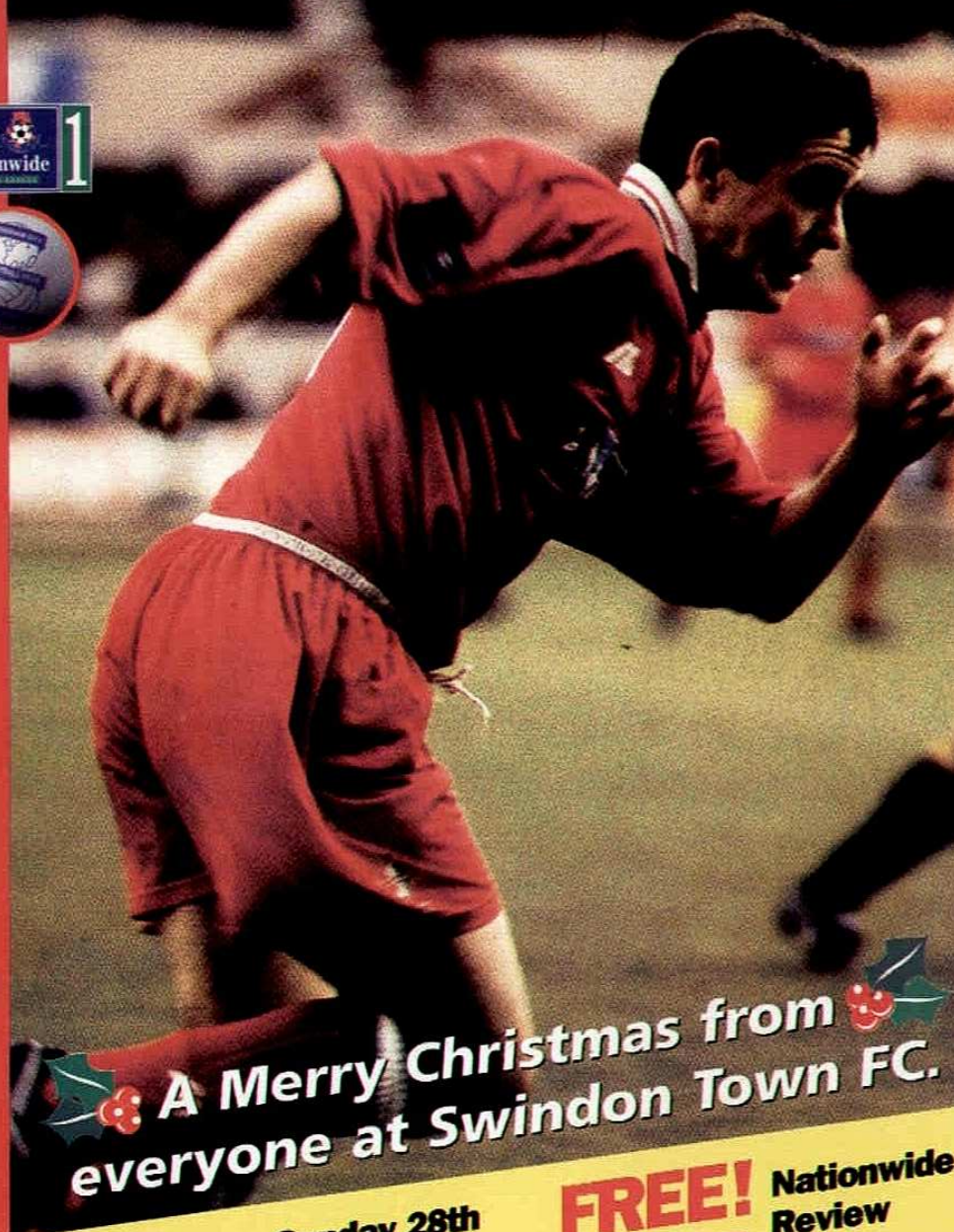
**Superstore**

**page 28**

**Details on late  
night opening  
and some superb  
stocking fillers**

**Today's visitors**  
**pages 6-9**

**Profile page 44**  
**Interview with**  
**David Thompson**



**A Merry Christmas from**  
**everyone at Swindon Town FC.**

**FREE!**  
**INSIDE** **Frederic  
Darras  
Poster**

**NEXT**  
**HOME MATCH** **Sunday 28th  
December  
vs Ipswich Town**

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Review**

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# welcome to today's game

***The players and officials of Swindon Town Football Club would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.***

It has been a mixed bag for us over the past few weeks with a derby delight against neighbours Oxford, followed by an unfortunate defeat up at Sheffield United last weekend.

A controversial disallowed goal proved to be the turning point at Bramall Lane but today the lads have the opportunity to erase that memory and pick up the perfect Christmas present - three points against this afternoon's visitors Birmingham City.

Our hectic schedule continues on Friday December 26th (Boxing Day) when we travel to Nottingham Forest and then it's back to the County Ground on Sunday December 28th for the visit of Ipswich Town (3pm). Don't forget we also have the FA Cup Third Round coming up

on Saturday January 3rd - what a festive feast of football there is to look forward to!

As many of you will know, today the Club have launched a brand new Park and Ride service to make it even easier to get to the County Ground to witness our push for the play-offs.

For each and every home fixture played on a Saturday, you can now park your car at Nationwide House and jump on a bus which will take you straight to the game.

Parking is free, the return journey on the bus costs just 50p, with buses running every 20 minutes, starting at 12.30pm from Nationwide and 4.45pm from the County Ground.

***It couldn't be easier!***

Finally, Swindon Town Supporters Club have got some superb Christmas events coming up including a Children's Party tomorrow (Sunday), a Christmas Eve Disco and of course a New Year's Eve bash. For more details ring 01793 422246 (7-11.30pm).

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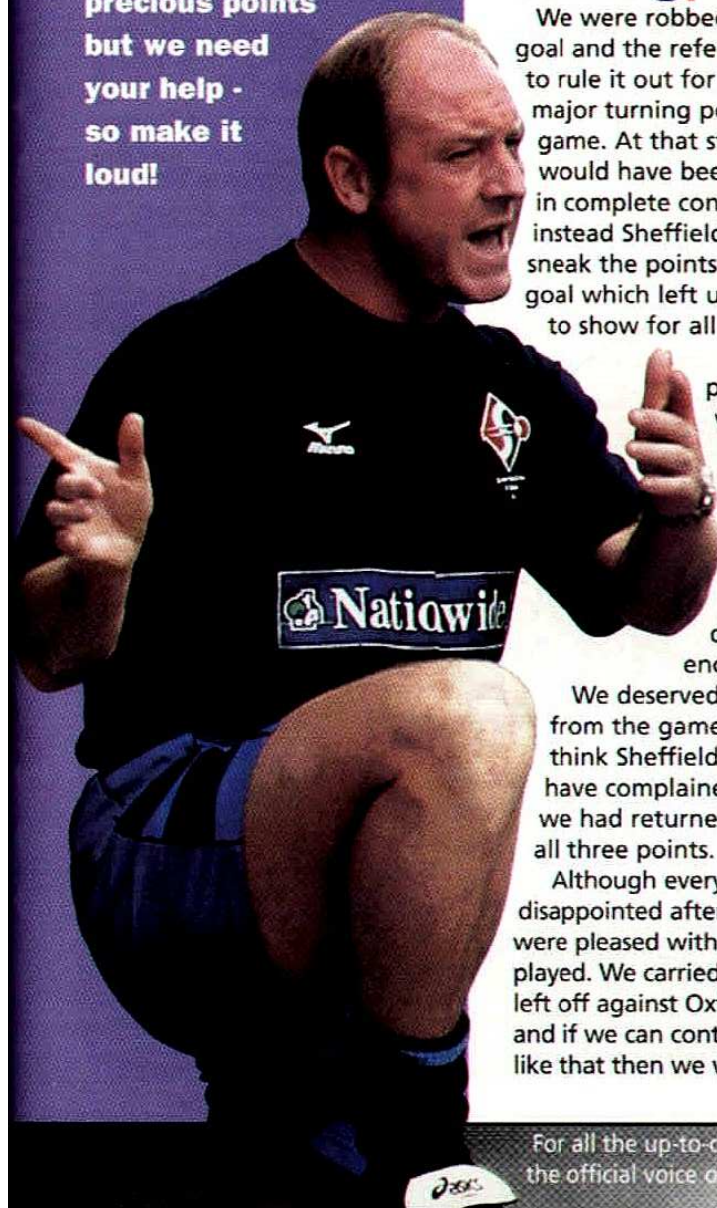


**The Liquid  
Engineers**

**NEXT MATCH** Friday 26th  
December vs  
Nottingham Forest

I hope you all enjoy a very Merry Christmas and if you can't make it to the City Ground on Boxing Day to watch us take on Notts Forest, I hope to see you here on Sunday December 28th when we meet Ipswich Town.

We'll be doing our best to give you the perfect Christmas gift by picking up some precious points but we need your help - so make it loud!



# Steve McMahon says

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**A lot has been said about the controversial decision made by the referee at Bramall Lane last Saturday when a perfectly good goal by Ty Gooden was disallowed.**

Suffice to say I was in no doubt that the goal should have stood as the ball had already crossed the line when George Ndah hammered it in as part of his celebration.

## Turning point

We were robbed of a good goal and the referees decision to rule it out for off side was a major turning point in the game. At that stage we would have been 2-1 up and in complete control but instead Sheffield came back to sneak the points with a late goal which left us with nothing to show for all our effort.

I thought we played really well, especially in the second half and to go to a place like Sheffield and play the way we did was encouraging.

We deserved something from the game and I don't think Sheffield United could have complained too much if we had returned home with all three points.

Although everyone was disappointed afterwards, we were pleased with the way we played. We carried on where we left off against Oxford United and if we can continue to play like that then we won't

be far away from a top six position at the end of the season.

## Bags of potential

This afternoon we face another massive test against a Birmingham City side who are something of a sleeping giant.

There is bags of potential at Birmingham and although it has taken Trevor Francis a while to turn things around, they are now beginning to push their way up the First Division table and I have no doubt that Trevor will start to enjoy some success at St Andrews.

They were given a big boost last week when two injury time goals saw them to a 2-1 success over my old club Manchester City and they will arrive here today hoping to build on that result. But it is up to us to be focussed and committed and make sure we go into the busy Christmas programme on the back of a home victory.

## Injury worries

As I write these notes we still have a few injury worries with Chris Hay, Philippe Cuervo and Scott Leitch undergoing treatment. Competition for places has grown over the past few weeks but we need to get everyone back to make sure we have enough strength in depth to stay in contention at the top of the table.

We have got a busy time approaching us now with two games in three days over Christmas and then of course an FA Cup tie in the New Year.

Your support has been superb so far but keep it going, because this is when the season really starts to hot up.

# today's visitors *The Blues* **Birmingham** **City**

***This afternoon we welcome the players, supporters and staff of Birmingham City Football Club to the County Ground.***

We hope you all enjoy your trip to Wiltshire and that you have a safe journey home after the match. One of the First Division's biggest clubs, and an outfit which has spent millions trying to secure top flight football in recent seasons, Trevor Francis' side have endured something of a roller-coaster ride so far in 1997/98.

They started the season at breakneck speed, notching up four wins and a draw in their first five games, with last season's top scorer Paul Devlin and new signing Peter Ndlovu in great goalscoring form.

However, there then followed a devastating run of just one victory in 14 matches as the club slipped out of contention and

rumours began that Francis' days were numbered in the St. Andrews hot-seat. But former England international Francis was given a huge vote of confidence by his board - who promised him at least another 18 months in office - and Blues got back to winning ways with a 2-1 victory over Portsmouth at the end of November. Architect of that triumph was ex-Chelsea man Paul Furlong, who scored both goals to underline his return to form. And that win was followed by another three points away at Port Vale, when on loan Tony Cottee, from Premiership Leicester, did the damage for Blues.

Last Saturday Birmingham recovered from the shock of going a goal down to Manchester City after 88 minutes to pull off a remarkable 2-1 win in a thrilling finale. Nicky Forster and Martyn O'Connor both scoring in the last minute to keep the team's

revival on track. In goalkeeper Ian Bennett Birmingham possess one of the division's most highly-rated young stoppers, while City can also call on the services of some famous names in defence, such as Gary Ablett (ex-Everton), Steve Bruce (ex-Man Utd) and Darren Wassall (formerly Nott'm Forest).

The recent signing of midfield playmaker Chris Marsden from Stockport has added an extra dimension to their play, while they are able to mix things around up front, using the likes of target men Kevin Francis and Furlong to complement smaller, quicker players like Nicky Forster and Tony Cottee.

As for the free-scoring Devlin, he appears to be on his way out of St. Andrews, despite his impressive goal tally. Already transfer-listed at around £2 million, the unsettled player saw his price tag slashed to £600,000 following a touchline bust-up with Trevor Francis recently.



**Birmingham City Football Club 1997/98**



# Birmingham City

## Goalkeepers

### Ian Bennett

Barry Fry's first signing for Birmingham, and one of the most highly-rated goalkeepers outside the top flight, Ian is ever-present this season. In 1994 he achieved a club record nine consecutive clean sheets.

**Born:** Worksop, 10.10.71

**Height:** 6ft

**Weight:** 12st 10lb

**League record this season:**

22 games, 0 goals

**Honours:** Div Two title 1995;  
Auto Windscreen Shield 1995

Era	Club	Games
93/94	Peterborough	72
96/97	Birmingham	132

### Kevin Poole

Experienced 'keeper who was signed on the eve of the current campaign to provide back-up for Ian Bennett. Has yet to figure in a League game for Blues.

**Born:** Bromsgrove, 21.07.63

**Height:** 5ft 10in

**Weight:** 12st 11lb

**League record this season:**

0 games, 0 goals

**Honours:** None

Era	Club	Games
84/85	Aston Villa	7
84/85	Northampton	3
86/87	Aston Villa	21
90/91	Middlesbrough	34
90/91	Hartlepool	12
96/97	Leicester	163

## Defenders

### Gary Ablett

Recently appointed captain at St. Andrews and ever-present so

far this season. Tall and distinguished player who has shone for Blues since moving into central defence from left-back.

**Born:** Liverpool, 19.11.65

**Height:** 6ft

**Weight:** 12st 7lb

**League record this season:**

22 games, 0 goals

**Honours:** League title 1988, 1990; Charity Shield 1988, 1990, 1995; FA Cup 1989, 1995; England U21, 'B' caps

Era	Club	Games
84/85	Liverpool	-
84/85	Derby	6
85/86	Liverpool	-
86/87	Hull	5
91/92	Liverpool	109
95/96	Everton	128
95/96	Sheff Utd	12
96/97	Birmingham	42

### Jon Bass

Principally a right-sided defender, Jon can also operate in central defence if required. Enthusiastic and hard-working.

**Born:** Weston-super-Mare, 01.01.76

**Height:** 6ft

**Weight:** 12st 2lb

**League record this season:**

12 games, 0 goals

**Honours:** England Schools caps

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Birmingham	18
96/97	Carlisle	3

### Steve Bruce

Club captain who suffered a fractured eye socket which kept him out of action for a month of last season. Has been surprised to find himself on the bench on occasions this term, but is still an inspirational defender who attacks

everything in the air and on the ground.

**Born:** Corbridge, 31.12.60

**Height:** 6ft

**Weight:** 13st

**League record this season:**

18 games, 2 goals

**Honours:** Div Two title 1986; FA Premiership 1993, 1994, 1996; League Cup 1985, 1992; FA Cup 1990, 1994; Charity Shield 1990, 1993, 1994; Euro Cup-Winners' Cup 1991; Euro Super Cup 1991; England Youth, 'B' caps

Era	Club	Games
83/84	Gillingham	205
87/88	Norwich	141
95/96	Man Utd	309
96/97	Birmingham	32

### Simon Charlton

A left-back who likes to push forward, Simon is on a month's loan from Premiership club Southampton. A good crosser of the ball, he also possesses a powerful long throw, which he uses to good effect in attacking positions.

**Born:** Huddersfield, 25.10.71

**Height:** 5ft 8in

**Weight:** 11st 9lb

**League record this season:**

5 games, 0 goals (including 3 games, 0 goals for Southampton)

**Honours:** England Youth caps

Era	Club	Games
92/93	Huddersfield	124
96/97	Southampton	111

### Martin Grainger

An aggressive left-sided player, Martin struggled with a knee injury through the early part of last season. A free-kick specialist, he likes to shoot from distance.



**Born:** Enfield, 23.08.72  
**Height:** 5ft 10in  
**Weight:** 11st 7lb  
**League record this season:**  
 19 games, 1 goal  
**Honours:** None

Era	Club	Games
93/94	Colchester	46
95/96	Brentford	101
96/97	Birmingham	31

### Michael Johnson

Nicknamed 'Magic', Michael is principally a left-sided player who loves to get forward on the overlap. Strong tackling and lightning pace make him a tricky opponent.

**Born:** Nottingham, 04.07.73  
**Height:** 5ft 11in  
**Weight:** 11st  
**League record this season:**  
 16 games, 0 goals  
**Honours:** Anglo-Italian Cup 1995

Era	Club	Games
95/96	Notts Co	107
96/97	Birmingham	68

### Darren Wassall

Joined Blues on loan on Transfer Deadline Day 1997 and proved a lucky omen as the club went their final 10 games of the season unbeaten. Very pacy and an accomplished man-marker.

**Born:** Birmingham, 27.06.68  
**Height:** 6ft  
**Weight:** 12st 10lb  
**League record this season:**  
 14 games, 0 goals  
**Honours:** ZDS Trophy 1992

Era	Club	Games
87/88	Nottm For	3
87/88	Hereford	5
88/89	Nottm For	-
88/89	Bury	7

91/92	Nottm For	24
96/97	Derby	98
96/97	Man City	15
96/97	Birmingham	8

### Other Defenders include:

Lee Dukes (ex-YTS); James Dyson (ex-YTS); Jeremy Gill (from Yeovil Town, July 1997, 30,000); Craig Hinton (ex-YTS); Simon Rea (ex-YTS).

## Midfielders

### Tony Hey

Hard-running, tough-tackling right-sided player who can operate in midfield or at wing-back. He was brought to Blues' notice by ex-England star Tony Woodcock, who is now a players' agent in Germany. Left Fortuna under a cloud, after publicly criticising the sacking of the club's manager. From Fortuna Koln, Germany.

**Born:** Berlin, Germany, 19.09.70  
**Height:** 5ft 9in  
**Weight:** 11st 7lb  
**League record this season:**  
 9 games, 0 goals  
**Honours:** None

### Chris Holland

Signed permanently in October 1996, after an impressive loan spell at St. Andrews. A creative midfielder, he is known as the 'Spaceman' by his team-mates, who think he is a little 'off the wall'. After a promising start last season, his form tailed off towards the end of the campaign.

**Born:** Whalley, 11.09.75  
**Height:** 5ft 9in  
**Weight:** 11st 5lb  
**League record this season:**  
 8 games, 0 goals  
**Honours:** England Youth, Under-

21 caps; Football League Rep XI

Era	Club	Games
93/94	Preston	1
96/97	Newcastle	3
96/97	Birmingham	32

### Bryan Hughes

An attacking, right-sided midfielder, Bryan was the inspiration behind Wrexham's run to the FA Cup Quarter-Finals last season. A good crosser of the ball, he combines a fine touch with excellent fitness.

**Born:** Liverpool, 19.06.76  
**Height:** 5ft 9in  
**Weight:** 11st 2lb  
**League record this season:**  
 16 games, 1 goal  
**Honours:** Welsh Cup 1995; Football League Rep XI

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Wrexham	94
96/97	Birmingham	11

### Chris Marsden

A highly-competitive central midfielder with a good touch who enjoyed a goalscoring Blues debut against one of his former clubs, Wolves, in October. Likes to be involved in the thick of the action at all times.

**Born:** Sheffield, 03.01.69  
**Height:** 6ft  
**Weight:** 10st 12lb  
**League record this season:**  
 12 games, 1 goal  
**Honours:** None

Era	Club	Games
87/88	Sheff Utd	16
93/94	Huddersfield	121
93/94	Coventry	7
94/95	Wolves	8
95/96	Notts Co	10
96/97	Stockport	55



## Jon McCarthy

Much sought-after right-winger who equalled Blues' transfer record when he moved from Vale Park in September 1997. A skilful wide man who is also a tenacious tackler, he is reportedly a target for Premiership Leicester City.

**Born:** Middlesbrough, 18.08.70  
**Height:** 5ft 9in  
**Weight:** 11st 5lb  
**League record this season:** 21 games, 0 goals (including 4 games, 0 goals for Port Vale)  
**Honours:** N.Ireland 'B', Full caps

Era	Club	Games
87/88	Hartlepool	1
94/95	York	199
96/97	Port Vale	90

## Martyn O'Connor

Hard-running engine of the Blues midfield, who has exceptional stamina. Likes to push forward and isn't afraid to have a shot at goal. Tipped as a future captain at St. Andrews.

**Born:** Walsall, 10.12.67  
**Height:** 5ft 8in  
**Weight:** 10st 8lb  
**League record this season:** 12 games, 1 goal  
**Honours:** None

Era	Club	Games
92/93	C.Palace	-
92/93	Walsall	10
93/94	C.Palace	2
95/96	Walsall	94
96/97	Peterborough	18
96/97	Birmingham	24

### Other Midfielders include:

Steve Robinson, Steve Barnes, Jason Bowen, Andy Legg, Paul Tait.

## Forwards

### Tony Cottey

Bustling striker who is currently into a second month's loan period at St. Andrews. Was injured scoring his first goal for Birmingham in their 1-0 win at Port Vale a fortnight ago, and missed last week's match against Man City.

**Born:** West Ham, 11.07.65  
**Height:** 5ft 7in

**Weight:** 11st 3lb  
**League record this season:** 10 games, 1 goal (including 6 games, 0 goals for Leicester City)  
**Honours:** England Youth, U21, Full caps

Era	Club	Games
87/88	West Ham	212
94/95	Everton	184
96/97	West Ham	67

## Paul Furlong

Powerful front-runner who became Blues' biggest signing when he moved from Stamford Bridge in July 1996 as part of Trevor Francis' initial burst of team-building.

**Born:** Wood Green, 27.01.65  
**Height:** 6ft  
**Weight:** 11st

**League record this season:** 15 games, 6 goals  
**Honours:** FA Trophy 1988; England 5 Semi-Pro caps

Era	Club	Games
91/92	Coventry	37
93/94	Watford	79
95/96	Chelsea	64
96/97	Birmingham	43

### Other Forwards include:

Paul Devlin, Howard Forinton, Paul Hatton, Ricky Otto, Nicky Forster, Kevin Francis, Peter Ndlovu.

# Trevor Francis the manager

***It 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 of 1996.***

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

As a player he was a teenage sensation for 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 £1million 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 Man City and later enjoying a spell in Italy with Sampdoria and Atalanta.

He returned to Britain to play for Glasgow Rangers before taking his first managerial job - an ill-fated stint as player-boss at QPR - in December 1988. After a brief stay at Loftus Road he joined Sheff Wednesday, initially as a player, but when Ron Atkinson parted company with the Club in 1991, Francis was promoted 'upstairs' once more.

He led the Owls to third place in the old First Division in his first season, and then took them to both major domestic cup finals the following year, although both were lost to Arsenal.

After a period out of the game, Francis was tempted back into management by Birmingham in the summer of 1996 as the Club searched for a big name to act as the figurehead for ambitious plans being put into place at St. Andrews.

A series of high-profile, big money signings quickly followed and, although Blues didn't get off to the best of starts, they rallied to finish in tenth spot in Division One.

# STATS...STATS...STATS Swindon vs Birmingham

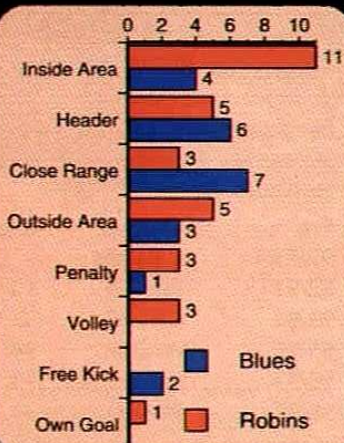
## who's played for Birmingham

	A	G	C	Previous Clubs
Gary Ablett	22	2		Everton Sheff Utd (L)
19/11/65 Eng B	5	1		Liverpool Hull (L)
				Derby (L)
Ian Bennett	22			Peterborough
10/10/70	5			
Martin Grainger	19	1	5	Brentford Colchester
23/8/72	4(1)	1		
Steve Bruce	18	2	3	Man Utd Norwich
31/12/60 Eng Yth	2			Gillingham
Jon McCarthy	17	2		Port Vale York
18/8/70 N Ire				
Peter Ndlovu	15(4)	3	1	Coventry Highlanders
25/2/73 Zimb	5	1	1	
Paul Furlong	15	6	5	Chelsea Watford
1/10/68 Eng S-P	4	2	1	Coventry
Bryan Hughes	14(2)	1	1	Wrexham
19/6/76	4	1		
Darren Wassall	14	4(1)		Derby Man City (L)
27/6/68	5	1(1)		Forest Bury (L)
				Hereford (L)
Paul Devlin	13(9)	5	2	Notts County Stafford
14/4/72	5	3		
Martin O'Connor	12(1)	1		Peterborough Walsall
10/12/67	3			Palace
Jonathan Bass	12			Carlisle (L)
1/7/76	3(1)			
Chris Marsden	12	1	3	Stockport Notts County
3/1/69				Wolves Huddersfield
				Coventry (L) Sheff Utd
Steve Robinson	11(2)	1		Kidderminster
17/1/75	4	1	1	Northampton (L)
				Peterborough (L)
Tony Hey	8(1)			Fortuna Cologne
19/9/70	2	1		
Michael Johnson	7(9)			Notts County
7/7/73	1(4)			
Nicky Forster	3(3)	1		Brentford Gillingham
8/9/73 Eng U21				
Tony Cottee	3(1)	1		on loan from Leicester
11/7/65 England				
Kevin Francis	2(13)	1	2	Stockport Derby
9/12/67	(5)	1	1	
Chris Holland	2(6)	1		Newcastle Preston
11/9/75 Eng U21	3			
Simon Charlton	1(1)			Southampton
25/10/71				Huddersfield

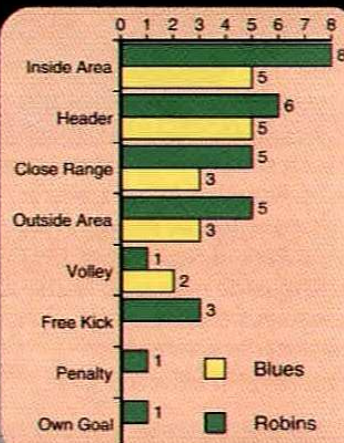
Key: A=Appearances (Sub) C=Cautions (Sent Off) G=Goals  
Cup details, date of birth and international honours in *italics*

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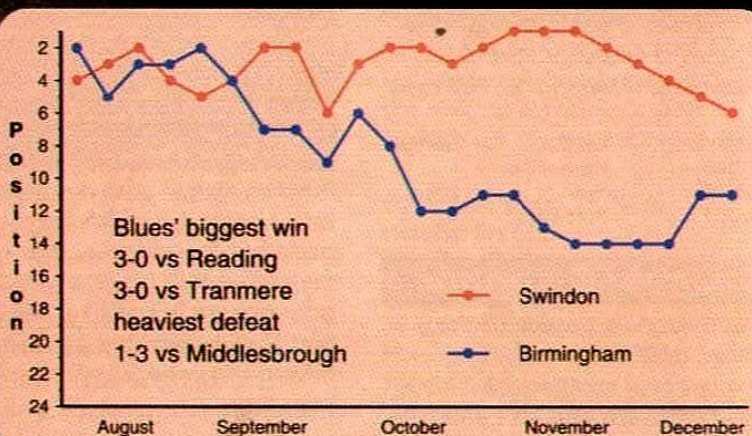
## how goals went in



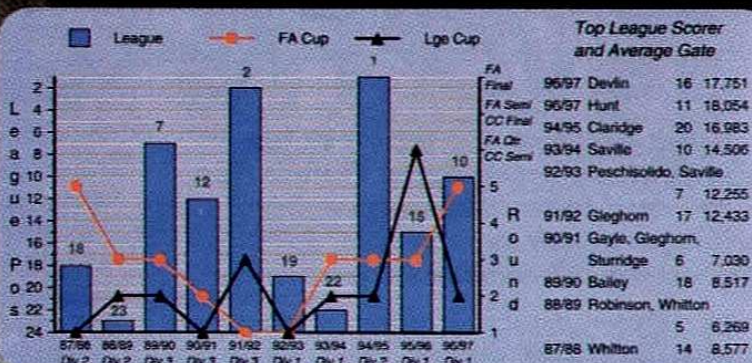
## how goals conceded



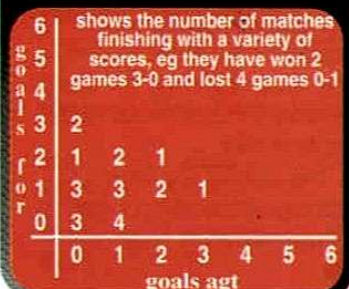
## league position so far this season



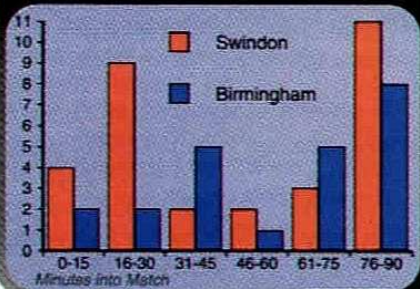
## Birmingham's 10 year league and cup record



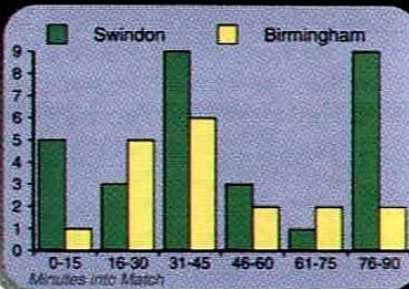
## Birmingham's results analysis



## when goals were scored



## and when goals conceded



# looking back...

*Dick Mattick looks back*

## ▶ 5 YEARS AGO

There was no early Christmas present for Glenn Hoddle's men when they travelled to Leicester. A disastrous first half hour saw Swindon fall three goals behind. David Oldfield opened the scoring after his own header had rebounded off the bar in the 11th minute. Further goals from David Lowe and Julian Joachim

followed and then John Moncur limped off with damaged knee ligaments. Micky Hazard pulled a goal back for Swindon, volleying home a pass from substitute Steve White. Any hopes Swindon had of saving something from the game were dashed when Lowe scored his second goal of the game in the 60th minute and 4 minutes later Colin Calderwood received his second

yellow card of the match and became the fifth Swindon player to be sent off in seven visits to Filbert Street. An own goal by City's Steve Walsh completed the scoring. Goals by Paul Peschisolido and John Frain earned Birmingham City a point in their home game with Watford but they remained just three places from the foot of the Division One table.

## ▶ 10 YEARS AGO

Swindon suffered their fifth successive away defeat at Bramall Lane. Hans Segers had to be on top form in the first half to keep out Bobby Barnes

but the only goal of the game was scored by Sheffield's Richard Cadette when he headed home unmarked following a corner in the 61st minute. Swindon's Jimmy Quinn, with 20 goals, was

still the Second Division's leading scorer. City went down 2-0 at Blackburn. They held a mid table position in Division One but by the season's end had slipped to 19th position.

## ▶ 15 YEARS AGO

Paul Rideout set Swindon on the road to victory when he converted a 42nd minute penalty awarded for hands. Opponents Hartlepool were unlucky not to get a penalty themselves early in the second half but further goals by Andy

Rowland in the 64th and 73rd minutes gave Swindon a comfortable win which left them just two points behind Bury at the top of the Division Four table. A goal by full back David Langan was not enough to stop City slipping to a 2-1 defeat at White Hart Lane.

It plunged them into a perilous 22nd spot in the Old First Division but at the end of the season they won five of their last six matches to avoid the drop. Trevor Francis was cleared of writing "*obnoxious comments*" about Italian football in his autobiography.

## ▶ FLASH-BACK

The 1972-3 season saw Birmingham City's manager, Freddie Goodwin, talking about his Birmingham City team having the ability to have a good Cup run with the possibility of getting to Wembley. Swindon Town struggling at the foot of Division Two hardly seemed to be the sort of team that would give City too much trouble even if the Moonrakers had the advantage of a home tie. *"Donald would have been the only man we might have feared"* said Stan Harland, skipper of the City team and the man who had led Town to their

League Cup triumph in 1969, in a reference to the Town star recently sold to Crystal Palace, much to the annoyance of the Town fans. As it was, it was to be another Town winger, Dave Moss who, on his Cup debut, stole the show and caused a Cup upset. Lashed by manager Les Allen after a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Bristol City, Town responded with a much improved performance against their first Division opponents. The first goal did not come until the 52nd minute when Moss set up Joe Butler who hammered a left foot volley into the roof of the net. Then, in the 78th minute, Moss was hauled down

by Birmingham keeper Dave Latchford and Ray Treacy converted to earn Town a Fourth Round tie against Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest.



*Dave Moss*

# Mike Walsh's diary of the week

## Wednesday

**December 10th**

Out on the training pitch all the lads were working hard in preparation for the trip to Sheffield United.

Everyone had been given a big lift by the result against Oxford, particularly on the back of three defeats. It was heartening for us all and we were glad to be back on track.

Off the pitch, some of the players and the coaching staff attended a social evening for staff of our main sponsor Nationwide Building Society. There was a lively question and answer session, group photos and ground tours and it turned out to be a highly successful event which was held here at the Club.

## Thursday

**December 11th**

With the scheduled Reserve team fixture to Watford having been called off the previous evening due to a waterlogged pitch, we had been unable to get a final look at trialist Mark Quayle.

We had a talk about the Everton striker and in the end decided that he wasn't as good as the strikers we already have here at the County Ground.

Young Alex Meechan is coming through nicely and has done very well this year. He has taken a bit of a back seat over the last few weeks while we've had a look at Quayle. Even though the trialist did ok, overall we feel that 'Meechs' is better than him and that is why we decided to let Quayle go.



**Alex Meechan**

## Friday

**December 12th**

We travelled up to Sheffield after our lunch knowing that we were in for a tough game against Nigel Spackman's side.

They have always been a big strong side but under Nigel they have started to pass the ball a bit more and have not been so direct. I have no doubt that they are one of the teams who will be up there for the shake-up at the end of the season but we were determined to go there and show them what we were made of.

## Saturday

**December 13th**

The lads produced a good all round display but luck went against us and we ended up on the end of a 2-1 defeat.

Ty Gooden had a perfectly good goal ruled out which was frustrating to say the least because that would have put us 2-1 up and really in the driving seat.

We deserved at least a point from the game and although disappointed to come away with nothing, we gained heart from the fact that we performed



**Ty Gooden**

much better than we had done in our two previous away games.

## Tuesday

**December 16th**

After a couple of days off we returned to training with our sights set on a busy Christmas programme. With lots of points up for grabs in a short space of time it was an important period to prepare for.

## Wednesday

**December 17th**

As this programme went to print the Reserves were preparing to entertain Brighton while our injured players, which included the likes of Chris Hay and Scott Leitch, were in a race against time to be fit for the festive fixtures.



**Scott Leitch**

**COWIE**

**COWIE FORD**

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IN THE MORNING**

**PRE-DICTA-SCORE**

**CLASSIC GOLD**  
BRUNEL  
936/1161AM

**PRE-DICTA-SCORE AND WIN  
AN AUTOGRAPHED FOOTBALL**

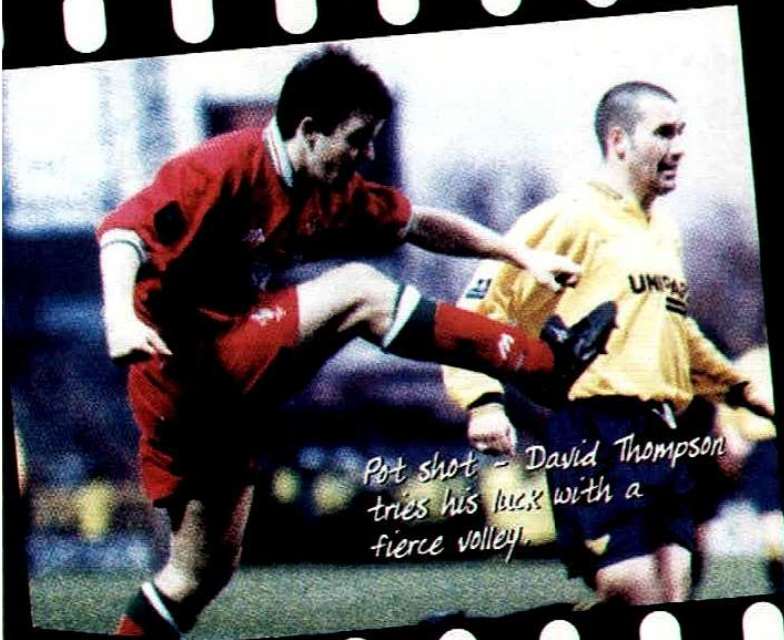
**CLASSIC GOLD**  
BRUNEL  
936/1161AM

Don't miss **Classic Gold Saturday**  
Sport with **Susanna Bateman**

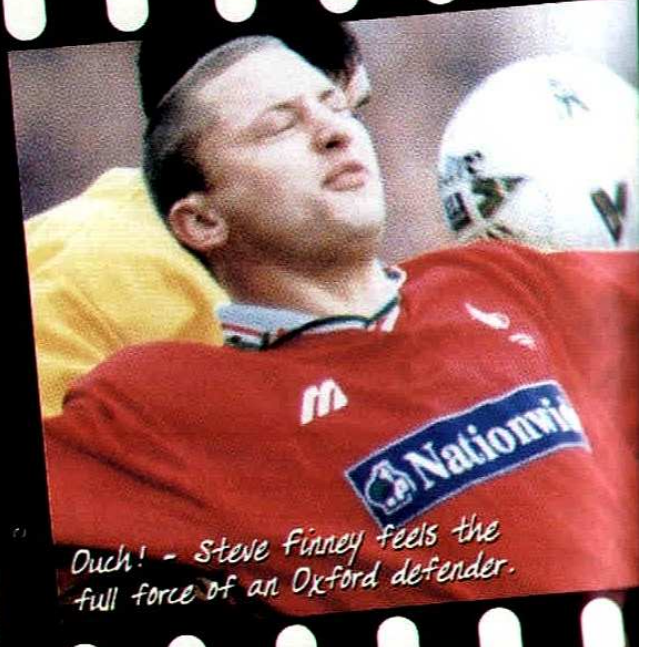
# action

## replay

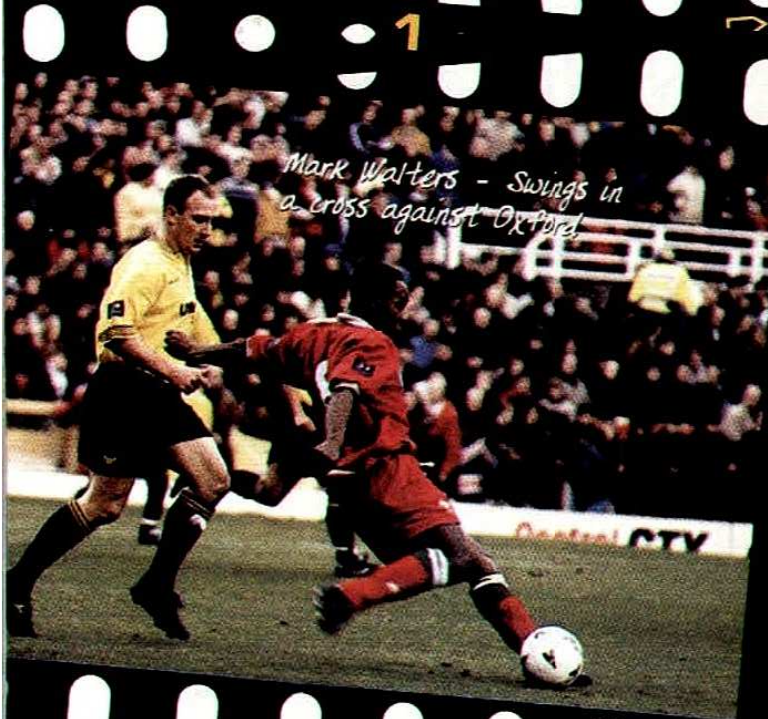
Oxford United



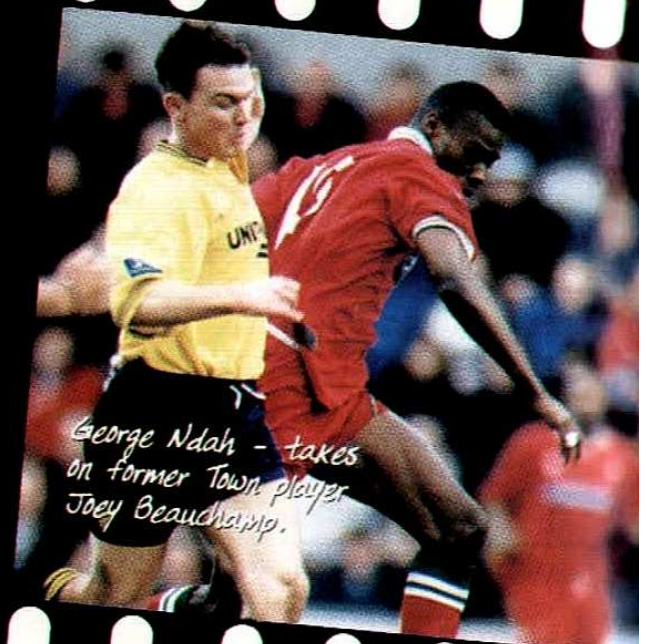
Pot shot - David Thompson tries his luck with a fierce volley.



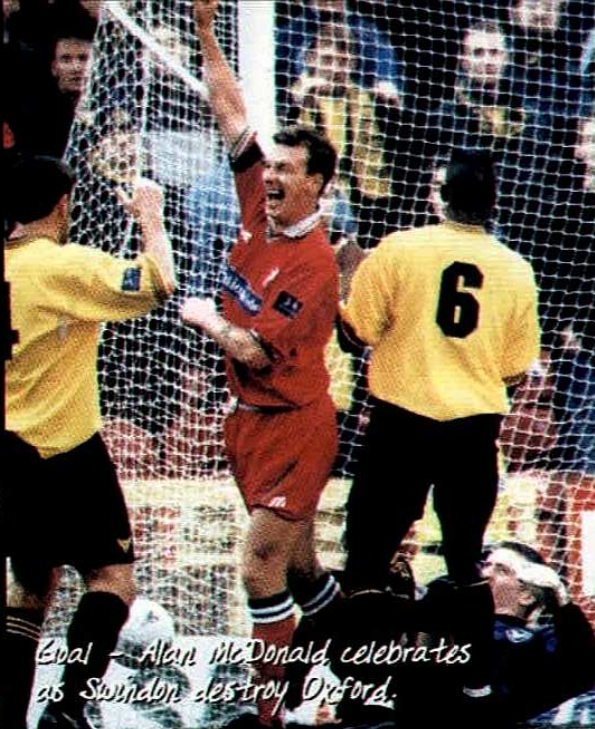
Ouch! - Steve Finney feels the full force of an Oxford defender.



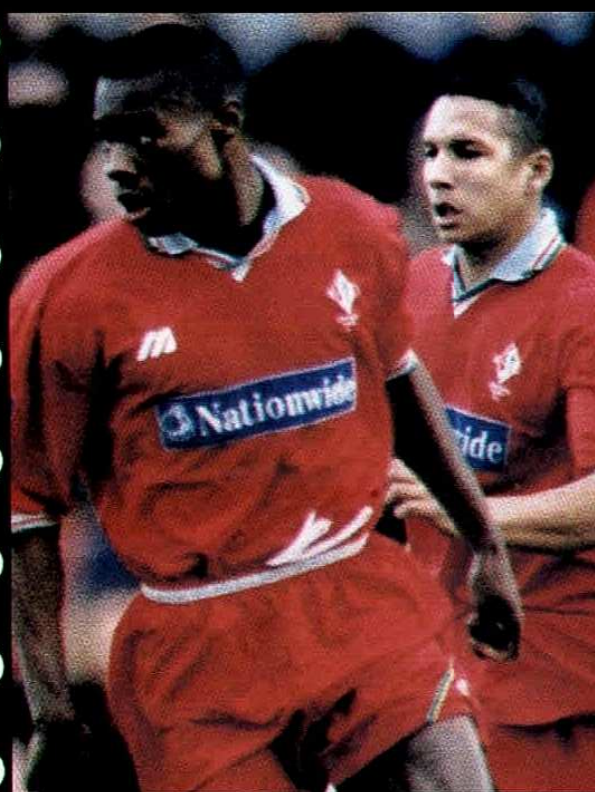
Mark Walters - Swings in a cross against Oxford



George Ndah - takes on former Town player Joey Beauchamp.



*Goal - Alan McDonald celebrates as Swindon destroy Oxford.*



*On the attack - George Ndah moves forward with support coming from Ty Gooden.*



## RESULT...

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER  
NATIONWIDE DIVISION ONE

**Swindon Town 4  
Oxford United 1**

## SWINDON...

- 1 Fraser Digby
- 2 Brian Borrows
- 3 Mark Robinson
- 4 Darren Bullock (Cuervo 76)
- 5 Frederic Darras
- 6 Alan McDonald
- 7 David Thompson
- 8 Mark Walters (Taylor 80)
- 9 Steve Finney
- 10 George Ndah
- 11 Ty Gooden

Sub not used: Steve Cowe

## OXFORD UTD...

Whitehead, Gray (Angel 67), M. Ford, L. Robinson (Murphy 71), Purse, Wilsterman (Gilchrist 54), Massey, Smith, Aldridge, Jemson, Beauchamp.

## MATCH REPORT

Local rivals Oxford United were sent packing on the end of a 4-1 defeat as Swindon returned to flying form at the County Ground.

Despite falling behind to a 25th header by Mike Ford, Town turned on the style to see off the challenge of their near neighbours as Alan McDonald equalised within five minutes and Mark Walters fired his side into a 2-1 interval lead from the penalty spot. A close range header by Steve Finney after 57 minutes put the home team in complete command and Ty Gooden rounded off the tally with a superb strike late on following a pin-point pass by Craig Taylor. The game also saw the return to action of Frenchman Philippe Cuervo after three months out through injury.

# reserve round-up

with Ross MacLaren



**Avon Insurance Combination Division One.**

**Luton Town Reserves 6  
Swindon Town Reserves 0**

**Words can not really describe how I felt after this humiliation at Luton.**

Basically we threw the towel in, there was a lack of effort, commitment and professionalism and if players think they are going to get into the first team with performances like this - they've got another think coming. We didn't work hard for each other and our defending was a disgrace as Luton eased into a 2-0 half time lead before finishing us

off with four second half goals.

I don't mind losing as long as players give 100 per cent and try to do the right things but this certainly didn't happen.

Considering the side we had out this was one of the most disappointing displays by a Reserve side that I have ever witnessed and to be honest we could have lost by 12.

**Team:** Talia, Collins (Hulbert), Drysdale, Cuervo (Davis), Culverhouse, Taylor, Hodson, Holcroft, Quayle (Meechan), Cowe, Smith.

**The scheduled game at Watford on Wednesday December 10th was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.**

## Reserve Team Player Appearances 97/98

Player Name:	League		Cup		Total	
	Apps.	Gl.	Apps.	Gl.	Apps.	Gl.
STEPHEN BENNETT	1(2)	0	0	0	1(2)	0
ANTHONY BETTERTON	3	0	0	0	3	0
DARREN BULLOCK	7	0	0	0	7	0
PETER CAIRNS	1	0	0	0	1	0
SAM CAMPAGNA	1(3)	1	0	0	1(3)	1
STEVE COWE	11	2	0	0	11	2
LEE COLLINS	10	0	0	0	10	0
PHILIPPE CUERVO	2	0	0	0	2	0
IAN CULVERHOUSE	7	0	0	0	7	0
FREDERIC DARRAS	4	0	0	0	4	0
SOL DAVIS	6(3)	0	0	0	6(3)	0
JASON DRYSDALE	3	0	0	0	3	0
GARY ELKINS	12	3	0	0	12	3
ALEX FINLAYSON	(2)	0	0	0	(2)	0
STEVE FINNEY	7	3	0	0	7	3
CHRIS HAY	1	1	0	0	1	1
STUART HODSON	4(1)	0	0	0	4(1)	0
PETER HOLCROFT	9	7	0	0	9	7
ALUN HUGHES	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
ROBIN HULBERT	4(5)	0	0	0	4(5)	0
HASSAN KACHLOUL (TRIALIST)	1	1	0	0	1	1
PHIL KING	2	0	0	0	2	0
PHIL MACDIARMID	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
PAUL MCGAREAVEY	1(4)	0	0	0	1(4)	0
STEVE MCMAHON	2	0	0	0	2	0
IAN MCSHERRY	1(1)	0	0	0	1(1)	0
ALEX MEECHAN	5(7)	2	0	0	5(7)	2
STEVE MILDENHALL	6	0	0	0	6	0
JAMIE MILLS	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
MICHAEL PATTIMORE	9(2)	0	0	0	9(2)	0
BRADLEY PETERS	1	0	0	0	1	0
CHRIS PRICE (TRIALIST)	1	0	0	0	1	0
MARK QUAYLE (TRIALIST)	6	3	0	0	6	3
MARK ROBINSON	2	0	0	0	2	0
MARK SEAGRAVES	2	1	0	0	2	1
ALEX SMITH	14	7	0	0	14	7
FRANK TALIA	7	0	0	0	7	0
CRAIG TAYLOR	3	0	0	0	3	0
WAYNE THORNE	4(4)	0	0	0	4(4)	0
MARK WALTERS	5	1	0	0	5	1
KEVIN WATSON	7	0	0	0	7	0

## NEXT HOME GAME

**Wednesday 14th  
January 1997**

**Portsmouth**

**Kick-Off 7.15pm**

## NEXT AWAY GAME

**Wednesday 7th  
January 1998**

**Charlton  
Athletic**

**Kick-Off 2.00pm**

## FIXTURES 97/98

### Avon Insurance Combination Div 1

Tue	Aug	12	Crystal Palace	A 1-2
WED	AUG	20	TOTTENHAM	H 0-2
Thur	Aug	28	West Ham United	A 0-1
WED	SEP	10	CHALTON ATHLETIC	H 0-1
Mon	Sep	15	Brighton & H.A.	A 2-0
THU	SEP	25	NORWICH CITY	H 1-2
Wed	Oct	01	Portsmouth	A 2-0
Wed	Oct	08	Wimbledon	A 0-3
WED	OCT	15	IPSWICH TOWN	H 1-1
WED	OCT	29	ARSENAL	H 0-3
Mon	Nov	03	Chelsea	A 2-5
WED	NOV	12	OXFORD UNITED	H 5-1
Tsue	Nov	20	QPR	A 2-3
MON	NOV	24	MILLWALL	H 1-1
WED	DEC	03	WEST HAM UNITED	H 3-1
Mon	Dec	08	Luton Town	A 0-6
Wed	Dec	10	Watford	A PP
WED	DEC	17	BRIGHTON & H.A.	H 7-15
Wed	Jan	07	Chalton Athletic	A 2-00
WED	JAN	14	PORTSMOUTH	H 7-15
Thur	Jan	22	Norwich City	A 7-30
THUR	JAN	29	WIMBLEDON	H 7-15
Wed	Feb	04	Ipswich Town	A 7-00
WED	FEB	11	SOUTHAMPTON	H 7-15
Wed	Feb	18	Millwall	A 2-00
WED	MAR	04	CHELSEA	H 7-15
Tue	Mar	10	Arsenal	A 2-00
Wed	Mar	18	Oxford United	A 7-30
MON	MAR	16	LUTON TOWN	H 7-15
WED	MAR	25	CRYSTAL PALACE	H 7-15
WED	APR	01	Q.P.R.	H 7-15
Wed	Apr	08	Southampton	A 7-30
Wed	Apr	15	Tottenham	A 7-30
WED	APR	22	WATFORD	H 7-15

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.

## THE LEAGUE

### Avon Insurance Combination Div 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Arsenal	14	9	4	1	39	10	31	+29
Tottenham H.	14	8	4	2	24	16	28	+08
Southampton	14	7	5	2	28	13	26	+15
Crystal Palace	14	8	0	6	22	20	24	+02
Charlton Athletic	11	7	2	2	27	8	23	+19
Wimbledon	13	6	3	4	19	9	21	+10
Norwich City	14	5	6	3	16	17	21	-01
Portsmouth	12	5	5	2	17	10	20	+07
Oxford United	14	5	5	4	21	27	20	-06
Millwall	13	5	3	5	13	18	18	-05
Watford	14	4	4	6	14	26	16	-12
Ipswich Town	13	3	5	5	18	24	14	-06
Q.P.R.	14	3	4	7	16	17	13	-01
Chelsea	14	2	5	7	16	25	11	-09
West Ham United	13	3	2	8	14	22	11	-13
<b>SWINDON TOWN</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-07</b>
Luton Town	11	2	3	6	9	19	9	-10
Brighton & H.A.	12	1	3	8	11	31	6	-20



## FAMILY NIGHT FOOTBALL

# Don't miss out!

This season all of Swindon Town's Reserve Team's home matches will be played here at the County Ground during weekday evenings - kick-off 7.15pm.

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## FIXTURES 97/98

### South East Counties League Division 2

SAT	AUG 09	BRENTFORD	H 2-2
Sat	Aug 16	Southampton	A 1-2
SAT	AUG 23	LUTON TOWN	H 2-4
WED	AUG 27	CARDIFF CITY (JFC1)	H 3-3
Sat	Aug 30	Reading	A 3-1
Tue	Sep 9	Cardiff City (JFC1 Rep)	A 0-3
SAT	SEP 13	PORTSMOUTH (LC1)	H 1-0
WED	SEP 17	P'BORO UTD (MYC1)	H 1-1
Sat	Sep 20	Colchester United	A 2-1
SAT	SEP 27	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H 4-2
Tue	Sep 30	P'boro Utd (MYC1 Rep)	A 2-1
Sat	Oct 04	Bristol Rovers	A 1-1
SAT	OCT 11	WYCOMBE W.	H 1-0
Tue	Oct 14	Notts Forest (MYC2)	A 1-2
SAT	OCT 18	BRISTOL ROVERS (LC2)	H 2-0
Sat	Oct 25	Wimbledon	A 2-4
Sat	Nov 01	Tottenham Hotspur	A 3-0
SAT	NOV 08	OXFORD UNITED	H 1-3
Sat	Nov 15	Barnet	A 0-1
MON	NOV 17	BRISTOL ROVERS (FAYC)	H 1-1
Sat	Nov 22	Luton Town (LC3)	A 2-4
Thur	Nov 27	Bristol Rovers (FAYC) Rep A	0-0
Swindon lost 10-9 on penalties			
SAT	NOV 29	BRIGHTON & H.A.	H PP
Sat	Dec 06	Bristol City	A 1-0
SAT	DEC 13	BRISTOL CITY	H PP
Sat	Dec 20	Brentford	A
SAT	JAN 03	SOUTHAMPTON	H
Sat	Jan 10	Luton Town	A
SAT	JAN 17	READING	H
SAT	JAN 31	COLCHESTER UNITED	H
Sat	Feb 07	AFC Bournemouth	A
SAT	FEB 14	BRISTOL ROVERS	H
Sat	Feb 21	Wycombe Wanderers	A
SAT	FEB 28	WIMBLEDON	H
SAT	MAR 07	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	H
Sat	Mar 14	Oxford United	A
SAT	MAR 21	BARNET	H
Sat	Mar 28	Brighton & H.A.	A

Home fixtures kick-off at 11.00am at the Nationwide Pavilion, Pipers Way - Kick-Off times are subject to change without prior warning.

## FIXTURES 97/98

### West Country Television South West Counties Youth League

Aug 23	Bristol Rovers	A 4-2
AUG 30	CARDIFF CITY	H 2-3
Sept 06	Cheltenham Town	A PP
SEPT 13	CIRENCESTER TOWN	H 1-2
Sept 20	Exeter City	A 1-2
OCT 09	SWANSEA CITY (LC R1)	H 2-1
Oct 11	Plymouth Argyle	A 1-5
OCT 18	SWANSEA CITY	H 0-3
OCT 25	YEOVIL TOWN	H 0-1
Nov 01	Torquay United	A 1-2
NOV 08	AFC NEWPORT	H 1-1
Nov 15	Bashley	A PP
Nov 22	AFC Newport (LCR2)	A 1-2
NOV 29	BRISTOL CITY	H PP
Dec 06	Bristol City	A 1-1
DEC 13	BRISTOL ROVERS	H 5-2
Jan 03	Cardiff City	A
JAN 10	CHELTENHAM TOWN	H
Jan 17	Cirencester Town	A
JAN 24	EXETER CITY	H
Jan 31	Hereford United	A
FEB 07	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H
Feb 14	Swansea City	A
Feb 21	Yeovil Town	A
FEB 28	TORQUAY UNITED	H
Mar 07	AFC Newport	A
NOV 02	BASHLEY	H

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

# youth team focus



with  
*Tommy Wheeldon*

### South East Counties League Division Two

#### Bristol City Youth 0 Swindon Town Youth 3

**Recent recruit Nick Burke scored on his debut as we cruised to a useful victory over local rivals Bristol City.**

The former Nottingham Forest trainee put the icing on the cake with a third goal to seal the points in one of our best performances of the season.

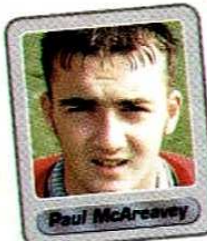
We were superb in the first half against a team lying second in Division Two with just one defeat all season and although we were put under the cosh early on we defended brilliantly.

After weathering the storm, Alex Meechan gave us a 25th minute lead with a well struck shot for his 12th goal of the season. And just before half time Paul McAreavey made it 2-0.

City started the second half on top but Swindon stood firm and Burke thought he had scored in the 70th minute when his effort looked to have gone in, only for the officials to rule otherwise.

However it wasn't long before Burke was celebrating as he netted from close range following good work by Phil MacDiarmid.

**Team:** Betterton, Mills, Cairns, Hodson, Culbertson, Davis, Hulbert, MacDiarmid, McAreavey, Meechan, Burke. Subs not used: Hughes, Bennet, Brogden.



Paul McAreavey

### South West Counties Youth League

#### Bristol City Youth 1 Swindon Town Youth 1

**This was very much a game of two halves with the wet and windy conditions playing a big part.**

Playing against the elements in the first half it was backs against the walls and we did well to go into half time down by just one goal, with goalkeeper James Bitner making some fine saves.

We started brightly after the break taking complete control but it seemed that we were

destined not to score as nothing went right in front of goal.

However Neil Dix finally got us back on level terms when he cut into the box a curled a shot

into the corner and we had several opportunities to win the match with the City keeper making a particularly good save to deny Gareth Cope.

**Team:** Bitner, Sharps, McCracken, Cope, Simpkins, Masson, Pottinger, Campello, Mackey, Dix, Robinson. Subs: Farley, Sperti, Claydon.



Karl Robinson

south east

south west



## Youth Team Player Appearances 97/98

Player Name:	League		Cup		Total	
	Apps.	Gl.	Apps.	Gl.	Apps.	Gl.
STEVE BENNETT	4	1	3(1)	0	7(1)	1
ANTHONY BETTERTON	10	0	6	0	16	0
NICK BURKE	1	1	0	0	1	1
PETER CAIRNS	8(2)	0	6(1)	1	14(3)	1
SAM CAMPAGNA	12	0	8	0	20	0
KEVIN CAMPELLO	1	0	2(1)	0	3(1)	0
DANNY CLAYTON	0	0	(1)	0	(1)	0
GARETH COPE	(2)	0	(1)	0	(3)	0
RICKY CULBERTSON	6(3)	0	7(2)	0	13(5)	1
SOL DAVIS	6	1	3(1)	0	9(1)	1
KEVIN DAVIES	1	0	1	0	2	0
ALAN FLANNAGAN	2	0	1	0	3	0
CHRIS FLOOD	0	0	1	0	1	0
WESLEY GARTON	2	0	1	0	3	0
STUART HODSON	13	1	9	1	22	2
ALAN HUGHES	3(2)	0	2(4)	1	5(6)	1
ROBIN HULBERT	6	2	8	1	14	3
PHIL MACDIARMID	8(1)	0	4(3)	0	12(4)	0
NEIL MACKEY	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
PAUL MCAREAVEY	7(1)	3	5	2	12(1)	5
IAN MCSHERRY	8(3)	1	5(1)	2	13(4)	3
ALEX MEECHAN	11	9	8	3	19	12
JAMIE MILLS	7(2)	2	6	0	13(2)	2
CHRIS ORGAN	1	0	0	0	1	0
CHRIS O'CONNELL	6(1)	1	2(1)	0	8(2)	1
BRADLEY PETERS	7(1)	1	7(1)	1	14(2)	2
DALE POTTINGER	(1)	0	(1)	0	(2)	0
KARL ROBINSON	1(1)	0	4	0	5(1)	0
LUKE SHARPS	(1)	0	1	0	1(1)	0
MICHAEL TARRAN	0	0	1	0	1	0
WAYNE THORNE	11	1	8	0	19	1
CARL TAYLOR	1(1)	0	0	0	1(1)	0



### NEXT HOME GAME

**SOUTH EAST COUNTIES**

**Saturday 3rd  
January 1998**

**Southampton**

**Kick-Off 11am**

### NEXT HOME GAME

**SOUTH WEST COUNTIES**

**Saturday 10th  
January 1998**

**Cheltenham  
Town**

**Kick-Off 11am**

## south east counties

	P	W	D	L	F	APTS	GD
LUTON TOWN	14	9	3	2	43	19	+24
BRENTFORD	15	7	6	2	29	17	+12
BRISTOL CITY	13	8	3	2	26	17	+9
OXFORD UNITED	15	8	1	6	34	38	-4
SOUTHAMPTON	14	7	2	5	33	23	+10
WYCOMBE WINDS	13	5	5	3	21	13	+8
SWINDON TOWN	13	6	2	5	25	21	+4
COLCHESTER UTD	15	5	5	5	24	24	0
TOTTENHAM H.	15	6	2	7	21	28	-7
BARNET	16	5	4	7	28	32	-4
WIMBLEDON	13	5	3	5	27	29	-2
BRISTOL ROVERS	15	3	4	8	30	36	-6
READING	13	3	4	6	19	26	-7
BRIGHTON & H.A.	13	2	3	8	16	35	-19
AFC BOURNEMOUTH	15	1	5	9	20	38	-18

If watching live football  
is alien to you...



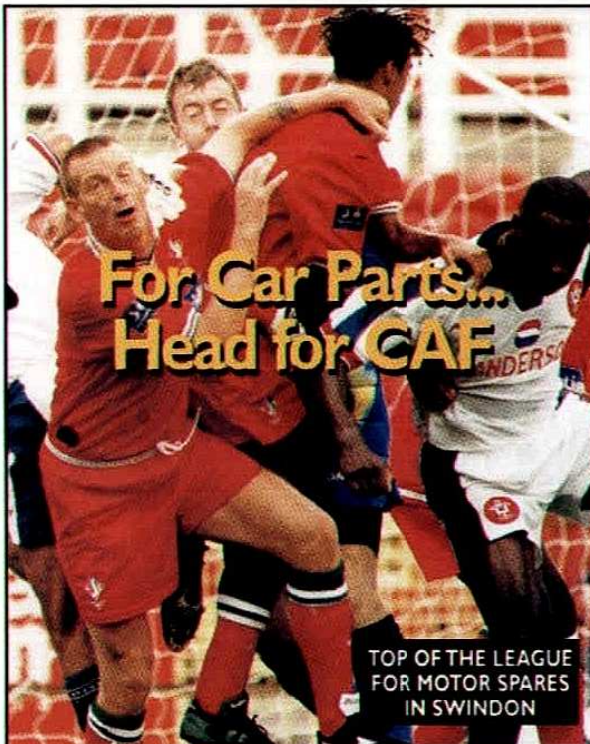
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ComTel offers sports fans unbeatable cable TV coverage including live F.A. Carling Premiership and Nationwide Football League action every week of the season.

Every Friday, ComTel's own local channel brings you 'Local Sport' an exclusive preview of the weekends action including all the latest news from the County Ground.

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# community scheme news

*with Clive & Jon*

**A very warm Christmas welcome to you all. Let's hope today's game is as exciting as the last home game when we comfortably beat our arch rivals Oxford United.**



**Clive Maguire**

**Jon Holloway**

Today we extend a special Community Office welcome to our Saturday Team Club groups. We have Ian Turner and his group from Westlea, John Sopp and his Under 9's from Wickham and last, but by no means least, our guests from Wallingford which Gary Elkins has arranged. Many thanks to Ian, John and Gary in helping us to coordinate the day.

This time of year is not a happy one for everyone, particularly those who are ill and in hospital during the Christmas period.

Jon and I paid a special visit to the Hannington Children's Ward at Princess Margaret Hospital along with some of the first team squad yesterday, taking up some goodies from the Swindon Town Superstore to wish everyone on the ward and very Merry Christmas.

We all really enjoyed the visit and Jon and I certainly see this as a very important part of our jobs.

The last few weeks have seen us travel to several Primary Schools in the area where we have been running our Regional Table Top Football Tournament.

This is a national competition, sponsored by Wagon Wheels, with the winning child receiving four tickets to next year's World Cup Final.

Obviously, due to the high reward for the winner, the competitive spirit has been extremely high and both Jon and I have been very impressed with the local standard.

We will keep you posted as to the name of our local winner, who will go on to the national stages.

Finally Jon and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for all your support in helping us make it another successful year!

## SoccerCentres

The new soccer Centres begin on Monday January 5th. For further details contact Tom Jones on 01793 644777.

Don't forget that all the youngsters who attend the new Soccer Centres will get vouchers to watch the following games at the County Ground at discount prices: Ipswich Town, Stoke City, West Brom, Portsmouth, Stockport County, Charlton Athletic, Sheffield United and Sunderland.

For details on Soccer Centres courses contact Tom Jones:  
**01793 644777.**



**Sponsors of the Saturday Team Club**  
Tel: 01793 432840



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



**Evening Advertiser**  
*— at the heart of Swindon!*

# JUNIOR ROBINS

Sponsored by



*I had an amazing day at the Oxford match, my first home game and what a score!*

Well it's just a few days to Christmas and things are buzzing here at STFC, we have the Christmas Party on Monday so all you Junior Robins that have bought a ticket, I will see you there! Don't forget Santa is coming so get those Christmas lists at the ready!

## Mascots

There are still some places for you to be STFC mascot at one of the home games, so if you don't know what to have for your birthday, get Mum or Dad to give me a call on 01793 532121 and I will

send you all the details. It really is a day to remember.

## Competition

All you budding artists out there, you still have time to send in your entries.

What I want to know is "What does your favourite player want for Christmas?". Please send in your drawings on A4 paper to me at STFC. The prize is your picture framed and signed by your favourite player and presented to you at the next match. Your picture will also be in the matchday programme along with a photo of the event.

*A belated birthday wish to Liam Hunt who was 9 on November 23rd. Happy Birthday Liam from us all at Swindon Town Football Club*

# mascots...mascots...

## Today's mascots



Junior Robin **Daniel Lewis** was 9 last Monday. Daniel likes playing football and Ice Skating and collects model aeroplanes. Daniel attends Oliver Tomkins Junior School and his favourite player is Chris Hay. 15.12.89

**Thomas Maller** is another Junior Robin member and is 8 years old. Thomas is the third generation of Swindon Town FC supporters and attends the Nailsworth C of E Primary School. His hobbies are Football and Drama. 01.03.88



**Adam Eccleston** is 8 years old and enjoys watching and playing football, he also likes reading and playing games on the computer. Adam attends Holy Family Junior School and his favourite player is Chris Hay. 13.12.88

**Sam Weston** has come all the way from Australia to see his family for Christmas. Dad is an ardent Swindon Town fan, and this will be more of a surprise for him as Sam has kept it a secret that



they will be coming to watch Swindon today! Sam is four years old and good at keeping secrets!

**Craig Allison**

is 7 years old and attends Eldene Infants. His hobbies are football and swimming and his favourite player is Fraser Digby.



# tony horne's view from a far

*'Better to have the points in the bag than the games in hand'*



**A couple of very good things have happened to Swindon Town in December - firstly after being a goal down, we destroyed Oxford in our best performance in years against them - sorry Joey!**

In so doing we terminated our three defeats in three sequence.

Secondly Sheffield United, who at one stage had four games in hand, have slipped up. The managers always say 'better to have the points in the bag than the games in hand' and the Blades have proved this. They were looking very impressive, with only one defeat all season but have somehow contrived to do nothing in all their games

in hand. It is one of those situations where you pick up the paper and its as good as your team winning - a huge sigh of relief for everyone. They are now back level in terms of games played and of course had a fortunate win over us last Saturday.

We will beat Birmingham City today - they are, in my opinion, one of the most consistently over-hyped teams in football, and it annoys me.

In fact, I have already written off today's game as a foregone conclusion because you cannot help but have one eye on the Boxing Day clash at the City Ground when we have to forget stuffing the turkey and try and stuff Nottingham Forest.

Obviously that will be a hard game but can you imagine what three points would do to both our

confidence, and the league table?

Lads, I implore you, no bevvies on Christmas Day, no turkeys until later - the biggest game of the season is coming and we do not need a fowl performance in Nottingham.

After that we can take it easy - Let's face it: we are already in the fourth round of the FA Cup. Nobody can believe we will lose to Cambridge or Stevenage on January 3rd. You start to dream, of course, that the fourth round draw will produce either a non-league team or a Liverpool.

The latter at home might make Macca raise a smile! Still, don't remind Ian Culverhouse about his Merseyside clashes in the FA Cup! (52 second last year!)

*That is all ahead of us in the next fortnight. Meanwhile, enjoy the game today!*

Cream of the First Division

Festive fun for all!

# centre of excellence

*with Phil Cannon*

**Swindon Town boss Steve McMahon made a new signing before the Oxford United game - 10 year old Daniel Firkins.**

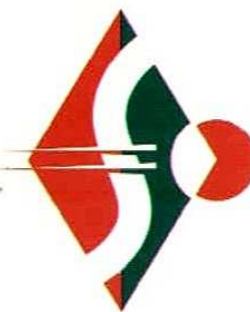
Daniel who attends Grange School was spotted playing in Swindon Town's Soccer Centre at Stratton and after impressing during a month's trial, he was signed on Centre of Excellence forms last week.

Assistant Youth Development Officer Tom Jones said:

*"We're always looking for kids to join the Club's Centre of Excellence through our Soccer Centres and Daniel has made great progress through that channel."*

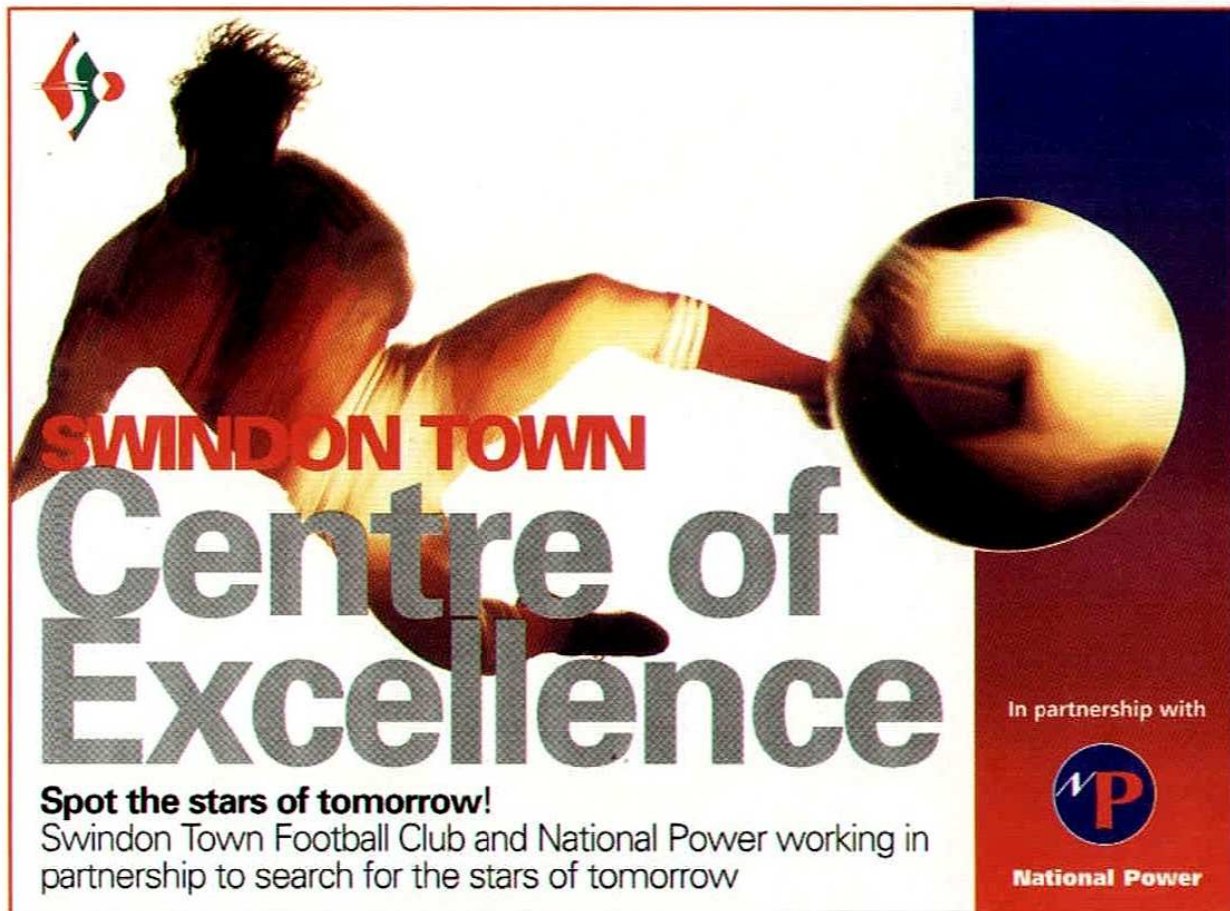
*"After learning the basic skills he will now receive more advanced coaching and it goes to show that any youngster who joins the Soccer Centres has a good chance of being noticed."*

**Photo right 'One for the future' - 10 year old Daniel Firkins is officially signed on Centre of Excellence forms by Town boss Steve McMahon with the help of Youth Development Officer Phil Cannon and assistant Tom Jones.**



**Spotting the stars of the future - Swindon Town's Centre of Excellence.**






## 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**

▶ **Frederic Darras**



# the ticket office @swindon town tickets



## Notts Forest



**On Boxing Day (Friday December 26th) we travel to**

**Nottingham Forest where 2,600 seats are available in advance costing £20 Adults and £10 Concessions.**

These tickets are only on sale at the Box Office until Monday December 22nd but if you want to go to the City Ground you can pay on the day.

**Tickets for the following home matches are now on sale:**



Ipswich Town, Sunday December 28th, 3pm.



Reading, Saturday January 17th, 3pm.



Stoke City, Wednesday January 28th, 7.45pm.



West Bromwich Albion, Saturday February 7th, 3pm.



Manchester City, Saturday February 21st, 3pm.



Wolverhampton Wanderers, Wednesday February 25th, 7.45pm.

## Box Office Closures over Christmas and New Year

Swindon Town's Ticket Office will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day but will be open on Saturday December 27th from 10am to 4pm. On Sunday December 28th the Box Office will be open from 9am until kick off of the game against Ipswich and it will also be open afterwards selling FA Cup third round tickets (full details to be announced shortly). The office will be closed on New Years Day and will close early at 4pm on Monday January 5th for a system upgrade.

## Don't forget

that tickets for Reserve team games are on sale at the advance box office up until 7.30pm on matchdays. Tickets cost £4 for adults and £1 concessions with free admission for season ticket holders and Junior Robins. On Wednesday January 14th the Reserves take on Portsmouth here at the County Ground (7.15pm).

# 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



## BOX OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday  
8.30am - 5.45pm

Saturday  
(non matchday)  
10am - 4pm

Wednesday  
(matchday)  
8.30am - kick-off

Saturday (matchday)  
9am - kick-off

**Saturday Creche**  
Swindon Childcarers run a Matchday Creche on Saturday's at the Lifestyle Centre. It is limited to 24 children aged between two and eight years of age. Each session runs from 1.30-5pm and costs just £2 per child. Places must be booked in advance by calling Ann Read on 01793 514055 between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

# on the road... travel...



**Nottingham Forest**  
**Boxing Day December 26th**  
**Kick-Off 3.00pm**

*Town look to end a run of three away defeats in the battle of the First Division hot-shots, as ex-Celtic teammates Chris Hay and Pierre Van Hooijdonk came face to face at the City Ground.*



**Going to Crewe...**  
**Sunday January 11th**

*Don't miss the next issue of our Matchday Magazine for all your details for our first away trip of 1998*

## Travelling by Road...

Take the A419/A417 to join the M5 at Junction 11a. Travel north on the M5 to Junction 4a, onto the M42 and A42 until reaching the M1 at Junction 23a.

Leave the M1 at the next junction, joining the A453. At Clifton Bridge follow signs for A52 Grantham, past Nottingham Knight Island, turning left on to the Lings Bar Road. Continue following the A52 to Garnston Island, then turn left on to the A6011 (Radcliffe Road).

The visitors' turnstiles for the Bridgford Stand are off Lady Bay Bridge, which is at the end of Radcliffe Road.

## Did You Know?

*Town have visited Forest on League duty on just four occasions - which were 24 years apart. The last, in 1973, was 24 years ago !*



## TRAVEL CLUB

### NOTTINGHAM FOREST

**Fare £8.50 Adults £6.50 Juniors**  
**Depart County Ground: 10.45am**

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.

#### Make Sure You Book Now At:

**Travel 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 24-hour Travel information answerphone service: Telephone (01793) 611499**

**Or book through Barnes Coaches Ltd Information Centre or telephone any day on (01672) 540330**



## S.A.S TRAVEL



### NOTTS FOREST Fare £9.00

**Depart COUNTY GROUND (Superstore) 10.15am**  
**also picking up at WOOTTON BASSETT 9.45am**  
**WEST SWINDON 10.00am ERMIN STREET 10.30am**

- Match tickets available when booking coach seats
- 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

**A VERY MERRY XMAS**  
**AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL SAS TRAVELLERS**  
**Annie and Paul**

#### COUNTY GROUND BOOKING OFFICE

Open: Matchdays from 1.30pm (Sats) and 6.30pm (Weds).  
Tel: (01793) 536757 Please note that this office will be closed from Wednesday Dec 24 to Thursday January 1.  
Additional Opening Times Matchdays:  
From 1.30pm (Sats) and 6.30pm (Weds)

**24-HOUR TRAVEL and TICKET INFORMATION SERVICE**  
**Tel: (01793) 825935 Fax: (01793) 821015**

**WE ARE NOW PLEASED TO ACCEPT**



# the swindon town superstore

county ground, swindon

The Superstore  
will be open  
until 8pm on  
Monday  
December 22nd  
and  
Tuesday  
December 23rd  
and will also be  
open tomorrow  
(Sunday  
December 21st)  
from 10am to 4pm.

The Long and Winding Road - Fraser  
Digby's Testimonial video now on sale in  
the Superstore. Fraser will be making a  
guest appearance in the Store on Monday  
December 22nd from 6-7pm to sign  
copies of his video.



**HARRINGTON  
JACKET**

**£29.99**

**TOFFS 1940'S  
REPLICA SHIRT**

**£32.99**

**MELTON  
JACKET**

**£49.99**

**"Flying High"**

The perfect  
Christmas present  
get your copy  
of the Club's  
new video.

**QUARTERED  
RUGBY SHIRT**

**£22.99**

**MANY MORE  
STOCKING  
FILLERS ON SALE  
INCLUDING;  
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To contact the Club Superstore and for  
Mail Order details call 01793 423030.

WE ARE PLEASED TO ACCEPT



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Official car supplier to STFC

## Nationwide and Swindon team-up

**Nationwide Building Society has teamed up with Swindon Town to offer fans the chance to order their match tickets at the Society's Regent Street Branch in the town centre.**

The new initiative was formally launched at a Customer Service evening on Thursday December 4th when Town boss Steve McMahon and some of his first team squad made guest appearances at the branch.

"Thanks to Nationwide's help, buying your ticket for the match will now be even easier and I'm sure our supporters will be delighted about that," said Steve McMahon.

Ticket application forms are available at the Regent Street branch where there is a special Swindon Town post box so fans can fill in their details and post them off there and then or, if they choose, take them away and send by freepost.

Tracy Morshead, Divisional Director of Marketing at Nationwide said:

"We're delighted to be able to offer this service for the people of Swindon. It will make ordering tickets much easier and in the near future we hope to extend this service to all our branches in Swindon and the surrounding area."



Steve McMahon, Mike Walsh, Scott Leitch and Chris Hay launch the new ticket initiative with the help of Nationwide officials

## Club present school awards

**A new partnership between Ridgeway School in Wroughton and Swindon Town was recently unveiled and last week the first set of presentations were made to the top performers for the Autumn Term.**

An incentive scheme has been set up to reward pupils for their academic efforts and the Club's Marketing coordinator Helen Mercer handed over the prizes to the pupils who had made

## in & around the county ground

substantial progress. They received a special certificate signed by Town boss Steve McMahon along with a signed photo of the team and a pair of tickets for the forthcoming home fixture with Birmingham City.



Marketing coordinator Helen Mercer hands out the prizes to Ridgeway pupils.

## Property shop presentations

**Town boss Steve McMahon handed over the prizes to the winners of the recent Swindon Town / Property Shop Estate Agents competition prior to the local derby with Oxford United.**

First prize of a signed, framed Swindon shirt went to Val Woodhouse while the runners-up each received signed photos of the team. All you had to do to stand a chance of winning was write the name of the street in which a Property Shop For Sale sign had been seen and there were over 100 entries.

As an added bonus all the lucky winners were given complimentary tickets to the Oxford game.



Steve McMahon and Property Shop partner Barrie Brocks present the prizes at the County Ground.

## Fraser lends a hand

**Goalkeeper Fraser Digby is pictured officially presenting a signed Republic of Ireland shirt to Town steward Phil Skeates.**

Phil raised £1,336.71 for Liden Community U10's FC at a Charity Auction and the Swindon squad all chipped in with signed items to help boost the coffers.



# winning ways

by Dave Hollister



## Whichford Hyundai

Kennedy Drive, Eldene, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 3SB 01793 614855



WHEN ALL YOU WANT IS EVERYTHING

### **Simon Carrington of Tetbury won the Nest-Egg Draw at the Oxford United game with number 0287.**

It was the lowest number drawn since 0004 emerged during the Wolves match on 27th September 1996. Simon collected £684 two weeks ago...A useful amount to win for Christmas! Or so I mistakenly contemplated! For Simon is committed to a gentlemen's agreement with his father Dennis and his friend Ray Flight. The trio of long-standing Town supporters have a clear understanding that, if any of them win the draw, the successful one purchases three season tickets. Whether or not £684 will be sufficient for three season tickets in the Premiership next

season is another story!

With regard to this statement, it is interesting to note the following. Five years ago, on the 21st December 1992, the Town was holding sixth spot in Division One with less points than we have today. We had only won one of our last five games. Three years earlier, we had only won once in the previous five League outings and held seventh spot in Division Two with less points than now. Both seasons saw us promoted to the top flight. In both the new years, the average home attendance increased substantially against those prior to Christmas, thus providing the essential ingredient for success.

Success is not a destination but a journey. So tell yourselves and your friends it's

far more rewarding to get behind the bandwagon and push it forward than wait for it to approach! By all means sing carols to loosen up the vocal chords but then use them for ninety minutes at every game. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone here today, along with those you share your lives with, a truly wonderful Christmas. As it's the season of giving, there is an autographed football for the first correct entry drawn in the following competition.

**Which player in the Birmingham squad of 1992/93 later signed for Swindon and went on to become a manager?**

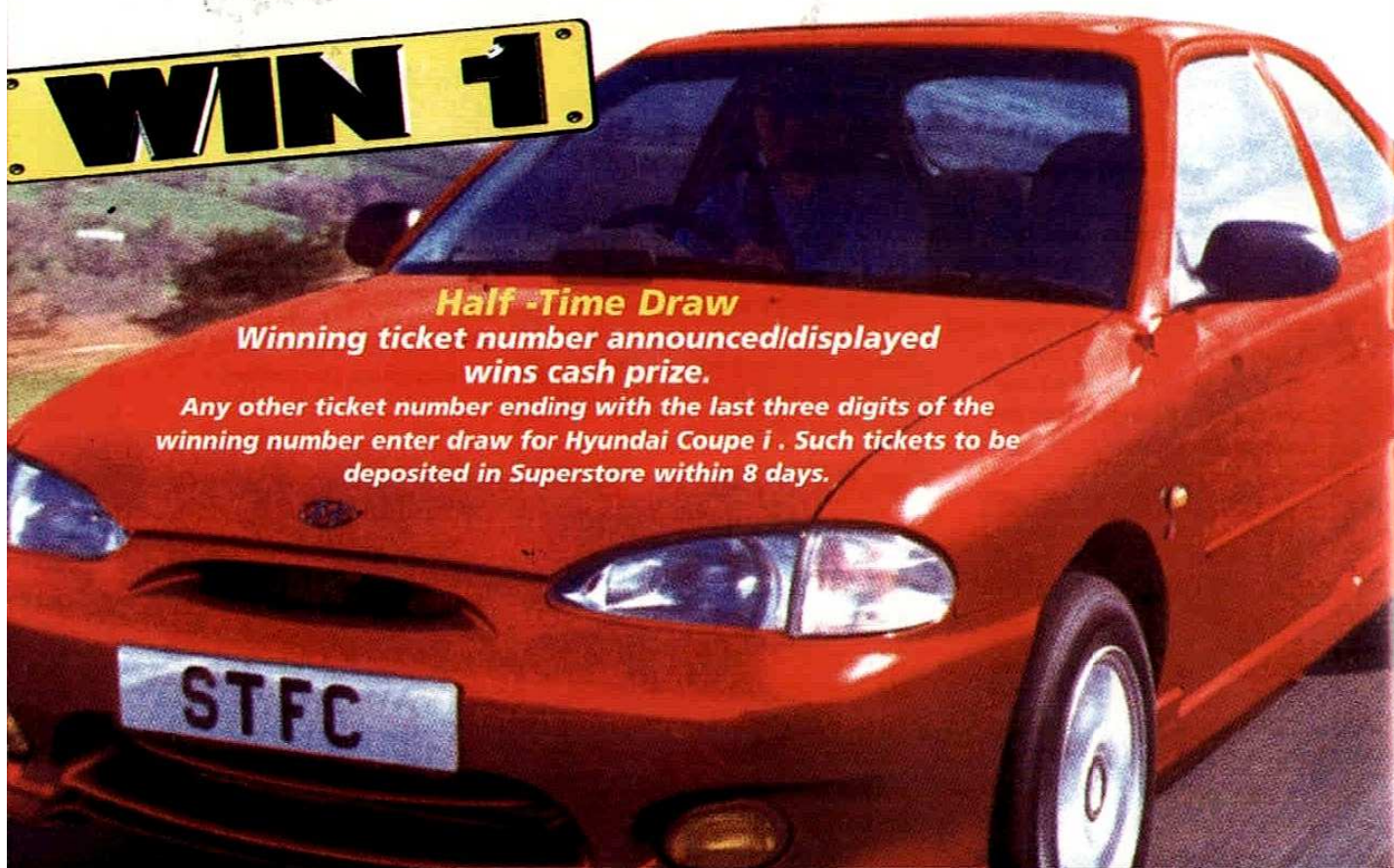
Answers to reception by Tuesday please so that I can deliver the ball to your home on Christmas Eve!

# WIN 1

### **Half-Time Draw**

**Winning ticket number announced/displayed wins cash prize.**

**Any other ticket number ending with the last three digits of the winning number enter draw for Hyundai Coupe i. Such tickets to be deposited in Superstore within 8 days.**



# win a



## GAME BOY™



Spend £3.50 or more at selected kiosks at the Ipswich game on Sunday 28th December and receive a **FREE ENTRY** into the draw.

**2 GAME BOY's** to be won at that match.

Lucky winners will be announced at the end of the game, and should report to Reception to collect prize.

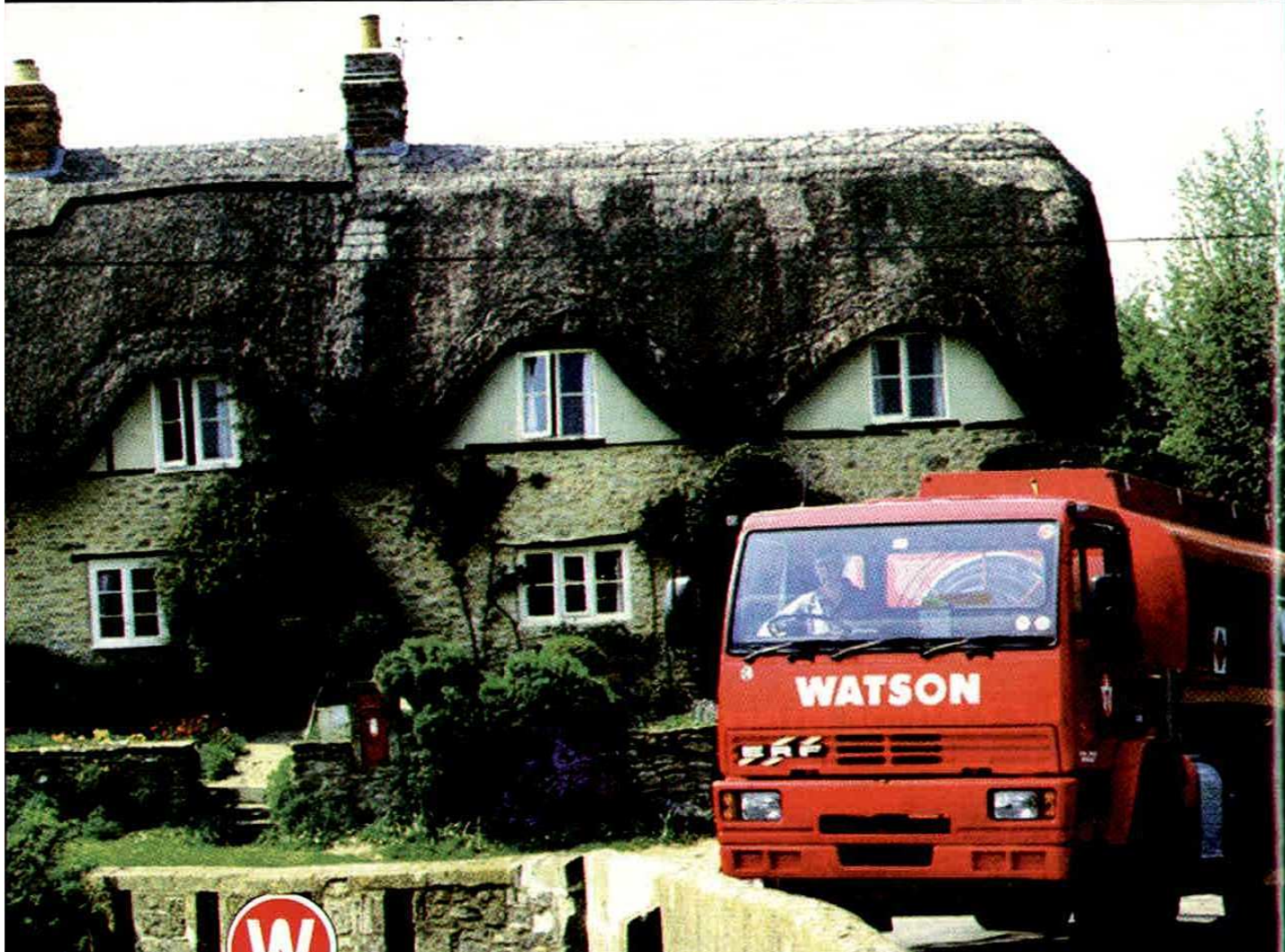


*Future prizes to include:*

*V.I.P. tickets to a match, Balloon Trip, Parachute Jump, Tickets for Alton Towers and a day at Castle Coombe Race Track*

# Heating Oil?

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- Competitive prices
- Prompt delivery
- Many years experience in your area
- Flexible tanker fleet to cope with the hardest winter
- Local staff with local knowledge
- Monthly payment scheme to spread your oil costs\*

**CHIPPENHAM**

**01249 657640**

**BRIZE NORTON**

**01993 851122**

**BIRMINGHAM**

**01675 481770**

**NORTHAMPTON**

**01604 880191**

*We'll see to it personally*

# marketing news

**A warm welcome to the County Ground for this afternoon's game against Birmingham City and can I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.**

## Matchday Sponsors

Today's Matchday Sponsors are **WATSON PETROLEUM** and it is a pleasure to welcome their representatives and guests.

Based in the nearby village of Brinkworth, **Watson Petroleum** is a **Texaco** authorised distributor supplying the full range of **Texaco** fuels and lubricants. The company was formed in 1957 and now operates 20 oil depots, which serve an area covering most of England. Local depots based at Chippenham, Brize Norton and Wokingham supply competitively priced home heating, agricultural and industrial fuels. Depots in Birmingham and Northampton serve the Midlands area. **Watson Petroleum** also operates 20 service stations, the nearest of which is located in Devizes. Swindon based **Gas Link** is one of three **Calor Gas** dealerships operated by the company.

## Matchball Sponsors

We have now fewer than five Matchball Sponsors to introduce this afternoon and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking **Non-Stop Promotions, Lanbase, Glazpart, RDS International Projects Ltd** and **Chapman Warren** for their support.

**Non-Stop Promotions** are one of the UK's leading suppliers of promotional merchandise. If your company uses promotional products in any form, telephone the company on **01367 563030** before January 9th, 1998 giving the full contact and address details and a free guide to promotional merchandise will be sent to your company, plus a free gift. Merry Christmas to all the staff, players and friends at the County Ground.

**Lanbase plc** is a leading network systems integrator with headquarters in Thatcham, near Newbury and offices throughout the UK and overseas. **Lanbase** install computer network infrastructures for organisations of all sizes. Computer networks are lifelines for many companies and therefore the correct design installation and support is critical.

**Glazpart/Hanley Precision Tools** are injection moulders and have a self contained, state of the

art tool making facility servicing wide ranges of industries throughout Great Britain and exporting worldwide. **Glazpart** use **Netsal** moulding machines ranging from 90 tonne to 300 tonne. The product groups contain components for the Pharmaceutical, Electronics, Electrical, Food and Window Industries. Enquiries on **01295 264533**.

**RDS International Projects Ltd** have developed unique business relationships with many major manufacturers in the Peoples Republic of China especially in the areas of project management and procurement, they are currently working with **Etsong** and **Qindao Automotive** on a joint venture to produce a volume automotive vehicle for the Chinese market. **RDS** is part of the **Rig Design Services Group of Companies**.

## Presentation Time

**MULTI-AGG LIMITED** were Matchday Sponsors for the game against local rivals **Oxford United** and owner **Cliff Puffett**, who is also Vice Chairman at the Club, is pictured being presented with a signed, framed shirt by Chairman **Rikki Hunt** as a thank you for **Multi-Agg's** continued support.

**Cliff Puffett** is also pictured presenting man of the match **David Thompson** with his bottle of champagne.



**Clarion GB Limited** and **Ernst & Young** were joint Matchball Sponsors at the Oxford clash and man of the match **David Thompson** is shown presenting representatives from both organisations with their signed footballs as a



memento of their day at the County Ground.



## OUR CORPORATE SUITE SPONSORS



# Jonathan Trigg's treatment room

Sponsored by  
**Ridgeway  
Hospital**

**Striker Chris Hay should now be back in training after picking up a knee injury a couple of weeks ago.**



Chris had just shaken off an ankle problem when an unfortunate collision in training left him with a knock on his knee. Chris received treatment all of last week and improved steadily so it shouldn't be long before he is back in the hunt for more first team goals.

Fellow front runner Alex Finlayson has now returned to squad training, just three weeks after undergoing an operation on his knee. Alex has done very well to return so soon. He is obviously a quick healer and it is great to see him back out on the training pitch.



At the time of writing these notes, Scott Leitch was still struggling with a knee complaint, picked up during the recent game away at Charlton Athletic.

The problem with his right knee is not serious but will take time to settle and a late decision will be made to see if he is fit to play this afternoon. One thing is for sure - we won't be rushing him back.

Defender Gary Elkins is now back in full squad training having overcome a calf injury. I had a busy day in the treatment room last week when both Youth team coach Tommy Wheeldon and youngster Michael Pattimore picked up unfortunate injuries.



Tommy fractured his left ankle during a training session while Michael broke a finger but hopefully both of them will make quick recoveries.

## the shadow board

**Does anything compare with the pleasure of beating Oxford?**

That feeling of total satisfaction which makes driving home listening to Radio 5 such a joy? Especially when we haven't just beaten them but given them a good hiding. And let them score first just to give them a little false hope!! Great result Swindon and a perfect early Christmas present for all of us who journeyed in hope to the Valley of despair!

They always say that promotion campaigns take shape at Christmas and come good at Easter. They also say that every club has a slump in form during the season. Coming

out of the slump against Oxford was a double whammy - now lets rack up some good League points over Christmas.

I must declare a vested interest in the FA Cup Draw. My office is located in the heart of Stevenage and I was hoping that Stevenage overcame Cambridge in their second round relay. Stevenage would give us a smashing cup tie - the perfect third round tie against one of the best Conference sides - remember Woking two years ago??

Best wishes for Christmas to all Swindon supporters from the Shadow Board and a prosperous 1998 to Steve McMahon and our upwardly mobile team!!



**Chairman**

**Sheila Maslin**

**Members**

**David Waldron**

**David Taylor**

**John Lodge**

**Dave Wiltshire**

**Derek Hand**

**Nigel Bennett**

**Neil Seamark**

**Alexander Deacon**

**Susan Tyrrell**

**Kevin Hall**

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



**Still stuck for  
the perfect present for  
your loved ones?**

Thankfully if they are football fans there is plenty of scope so don't despair, perhaps we can give you some guidance here.

How about a good book? You know there was a time when cricket was the sport which dominated the written word but these days football is covered from every angle and in spectacular style.

The ultimate Encyclopaedia Of European Soccer by Keir Radnedge is probably the ultimate Christmas gift for the true football connoisseur.

It comes out of the same stable as the best selling Ultimate Encyclopaedia of Soccer (which every fan should have on his bookshelf) and is just as illuminating.

Excitingly designed, the pages leap out at you while the text, beautifully crafted and splendidly informative, keeps you gripped as you speed through a brief history of the development of football.

The bulk of this work centres on competition in Europe and thus gives us a concentrated account of events from the 1960s, when club competition evolved through the industrial Inter-City Fairs Cup, when Birmingham City featured prominently, to the major European Cup clashes of 1997.

For those who like statistics there is a complete record of all the finals from 1958 to 1997 - Birmingham winning the Fairs Cup in 1960 and 1961 and an account of the footballing heritage of all the nations affiliated to UEFA and features on the top 100 mega stars of the contemporary European football scene.

Illustrated with 174 colour

photographs and 43 classic black-and-white - I particularly liked the 1897 team pic of Juventus in their pink shirts - this book has something for everyone.

**Published by Carlton Hodder & Stroughton at £19.99**

Rothmans Football Yearbook 1997-98. Yes I know this comes out in August and used to be the pride and joy of every enthusiasts' collection but since prices rocketed not so many have been able to nip out

## from the *Colin Benson* sidelines

and buy one. If the football mad person in your household has not got one then this could be the time for you to put that right. For 28 years this yearbook has been the bible of the professional game. It provides the most comprehensive record of last season that you can get with four pages allocated to each Premiership and League club. By referring to page 336 you can see that in this corresponding fixture last season we beat Birmingham City 3-1 with goals from Bullock, Broomes and Cowe.

There's not much that has not been written about this standard of English domestic football which is a statisticians dream. I always find the Milestones diary of day-to-day events a great read and of course in keeping with modern trends it now also gives full coverage to women's football.

**Published by Headline Book Publishing at £17.99**

Now if you are looking for something a little cheaper as a stocking filler how about The Official FA and England

Yearbook. It tells you all you want to know about our national team with complete results from that very first skirmish with Scotland back in 1872. With match reports on last season's fixtures and all the line-ups in the full England XI since 1946, plus Under-21 and "B" caps and results and stats on all competitions under the FA banner, it is an essential record. If you want to know how Swindon Town fared in the FA Cup or the FA Youth Cup last season, the answers are here in 196 pages. A good buy.

**Published by Pan at £6.99**

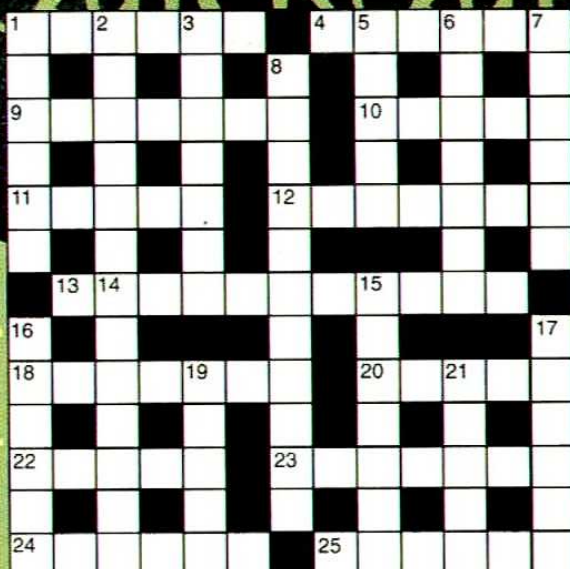
Another suggestion for a stocking filler is the Playfair Football Who's Who 1998. Compiled by Jack Rolling, it provides the most comprehensive A-Z listing of British players featuring everyone in the FA Carling Premiership, Nationwide Football League and Scottish Premier Division.

There are no pictures in the 442 pages but if you are keen on players' appearances etc this is a handy reference book to have at hand. We know how many goals Chris Hay has netted this season but how many did he shoot for Celtic last term? It's all in this compact edition with every player's individual records broken down season by season.

**Published by Headline at £6.99**

Finally, if you prefer instant action to the written word then you can do no better than buy "Flying High" the latest video on Swindon Town. Packed full of glorious goals with exclusive inside footage and interviews with the Gaffer, Chris Hay and Ricky Hunt, it is a must for all Town fans.

Available now in the Swindon Town Superstore (£12.99) - where you can get a host of worthwhile presents.



## clues across...

1. Common bird in Newcastle? (6)
4. Often ring out at Pompey (6)
9. A run of these are harmful? (7)
10. League Champions win this (5)
11. Non-League club causes one in cup? (5)
12. Comes before Riverside Stadium (7)
13. Bournemouth's nickname (3-8)
18. Stan Matthews played his last international against this side (7)
20. Game was this so points shared (5)
22. Schemer may do this to defender (5)
23. They compete for the World Cup (7)
24. Nickname of Reading (6)
25. Team photograph is set up? (6)

## clues down...

1. Team may be this due to injury list (4-2)
2. Some goals are these but not just at Christmas (5)
3. Where old match photographs may be stored (2-5)
5. Where away team stops over night (5)
6. Afternoon game for showbiz XI? (7)
7. Half-time nap for Spaniards? (6)
8. He rules the game? (1-6-4)
14. Puskas was their hero in the 50's (7)
15. Shines in Belgrade? (3-4)
16. He produces this programme (6)
17. Subs may be this (6)
19. Takes place in the transfer market (1-4)
21. Match photographer goes the distance with this (1-4)

**answers across...**  
 1 MAGPIE, 4 CHIMES, 9 DEFEATS, 10 TITLE, 11 UPSET, 12 CELTNET, 13 THE CHERRIES, 18 DENMARK, 20 DRAWN, 22 TEASE, 23 NATIONS, 24 ROYALS, 25 FRAMED.

**answers down...**  
 1 MADE UP, 2 GIFTS, 3 IN ATTIC, 5 HOTEL, 6 MATINEE, 7 SIESTA, 8 A SOCCER KING, 14 HUNGARY, 15 RED STAR, 16 EDITOR, 17 UNUSED, 19 A DEAL, 21 A ZOOM.

# MYSTIC nut-meg PREDICT THE SCORE

See if you can predict today's results....

Bury		Sheffield United
Crewe Alexandra		Sunderland
Manchester City		Middlesbrough
Norwich City		Stoke City
Nottingham Forest		Stockport County
Port Vale		Ipswich Town
Portsmouth		Charlton Athletic
Reading		Wolves
Swindon Town		Birmingham City
Tranmere Rovers		Oxford United
West Brom Albion		Huddersfield Town



## WHICH MANAGER?

## UNSCRAMBLE THE TEAMS

untie the nine  
premiership teams

- 1 umnnterhcaesdite
- 2 enlaars
- 3 masthew
- 4 eeldsnedti
- 5 leehcas
- 6 veroelpil
- 7 noterev
- 8 wendettleunicas
- 9 yelbarsn

**ANSWERS**  
 1 MANCHESTER UNITED  
 2 ARSENAL, 3 WESTHAM, 4 LEEDS  
 UNITED, 5 CHELSEA, 6 LIVERPOOL  
 7 EVERTON, 8 NEWCASTLE UNITED  
 9 BARNSLEY.

The name of today's visitors includes  
 13 words of four letters or more. Score  
 4 points for each four letter word, 5  
 for each five letter word and so on.  
 Maximum points possible are 65.

**ANSWERS**  
 BANG, BARN, BRAG, BRIM, BRIN, BRUN, BRUN, BRUN, BRUN, BRUN, BRUN, BRUN, BRUN.

## SPORT-IN YEAR 1952

1. Who became known as the Lion of Vienna?
2. Who signed for Glasgow Celtic from Llanelli to play in defence?
3. This captain of Question of Sport played his first international for Wales at fly half?
4. Harry Llewellyn rode this horse to Olympic Gold?
5. Alberto Ascari became F1 Champion for which team?
6. This Yorkshire cricketing tearaway let rip for England with 29 wickets in 4 tests?
7. George Robledo headed the FA Cup Final winner against Arsenal for which team?
8. This Czech long distance runner won 3 golds in Helsinki. Can you name him?
9. Manchester United won the First Division under which manager, to give him his first win?

**ANSWERS.....**  
1 NATE LOFTHOUSE, 2 JOCK MORGAN, 3 CLIFF MORGAN, 4 FOXHUNTER, 5 FERRARI, 6 FRED TRUHEMAN, 7 NEWCASTLE UNITED, 8 EMIL ZATOPK, 9 MATT BUSBY



**WHO'S  
THIS?**

Last game: Fraser Digby

**WHO'S  
KIT?**



Last game: Charlton Ath.

## FACE in the crowd

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



If your face is circled, you are the winner of a special prize. All you have to do is ring the Club on 01793 532121 to claim a pair of tickets for our next home game and a signed photo. Look out for another face in the crowd picture in Tuesday's Swindon Evening Advertiser.



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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.**



# swindon town ladies

by Roger Reeves

**Swindon Town Ladies recorded their biggest win of the season when they defeated Second Division Salisbury City 11-0 in the League Cup.**

Nadine Lloyd put the Town ahead in less than sixty seconds and within the first ten minutes Kim Reeves had added two more. Nadine Lloyd scored her second and a goal from former Salisbury player Ashley Wiseman gave the Town a five goal lead at the break. Within a minute of the restart Pam Laker scored from 30 yards and two goals each from Leanne Taylor and centre back Netti Wyness plus Kim Reeves' completed hat trick, took the Town's total to eleven. Despite the scoreline Salisbury battled to the end and keeper Clare Nettle made some very good saves.

Ten Town players are included in the County squad to play Somerset at Westbury United's ground. Adelle Taylor, Clare Tyson, Clare Wheeler, Netti Wyness, Ashley Wiseman, Kim Reeves, Pam Laker, Kerie Garwood, Leanne Taylor and Nadine Lloyd have all been selected to travel. This is Wiltshire's second game in the South West Counties Championship this season. In the first game at Hamworthy, Poole, they were beaten by two goals to nil by Dorset. Last season Wiltshire won the trophy beating Sussex in the final. The Town will now be out of League action until Sunday 11th January when they entertain Swindon Spitfires, although there is the Regional Five-a-side competition. Last season the Town finished runners up in

both the Youth and Senior tournaments and went on to play in the National Finals at the Aston Villa Sports Centre in Birmingham.

## Southern Region Cup.

### Swindon Town 11 Salisbury City 0

**Team:** Jo Sharpe, Clare Wheeler, Netti Wyness, Sharon Black, Adelle Taylor, Ashley Wiseman, Pam Laker, Kim Reeves, Tracey Mackeddie, Nadine Lloyd, Leanne Taylor.

**Subs Used:** Kerie Garwood, Clare Tyson & Vikki McCann

**Scorers:** Kim Reeves (3), Leanne Taylor (2), Nadine Lloyd (2), Netti Wyness (2), Pam Laker & Ashley Wiseman.



**Photo: Vikki McCann, who has returned to the squad following a pre-season shoulder injury.**

## APPEARANCES

	APPS	GOALS
SHARON BLACK	13(1)	1
KERIE GARWOOD	5(6)	6
PAM LAKER	14	5
NADINE LLOYD	13	15
TRACEY MACKEDDIE	13	5
VIKKI MCCANN	(1)	-
KIM REEVES	14	14
SARAH RICHARDSON	(5)	-
JO SHARPE	14	-
ADELLE TAYLOR	8(4)	-
LEANNE TAYLOR	14	18
CLARE TYSON	12(1)	1
CLARE WHEELER	8(3)	-
CLAIRE WHITE	(1)	-
ASHLEY WISEMAN	14	4
NETTI WYNESS	12	2

Sponsored by



## FIXTURES 97/98

### Southern Region League Premier Division

SUN 31ST AUG	HAVANT TOWN	5-1
Sun 7th Sept	Southampton Saints	6-4
Sun 14th Sept	Launton	5-0
Sun 28th Sept	Freeway (FA Cup R1)	6-0
SUN 5TH OCT	BINFIELD	4-1
Sun 12th Oct	Reading Royals	2-5
SUN 19TH OCT	PORTSMOUTH	1-2
SUN 26TH OCT	CHELTHENHAM	5-2
SUN 2ND NOV	CARDIFF C. (FA CUP R2)	0-2 aet
SUN 9TH NOV	SOUTHAMPTON	3-1
Sun 16th Nov	Havant Town	10-1
SUN 23RD NOV	SOTON SAINTS	5-2
SUN 30TH NOV	LAUNTON	9-0
SUN 7TH DEC	SALISBURY CITY	11-0
Sun 14th Dec	Oxford United	A
SUN 11TH JAN	SWINDON SPITFIRES	H
Sun 18th Jan	Binfield	A
Sun 25th Jan	League Cup (2nd Rnd)	
1ST FEB	READING ROYALS	H
8th Feb	Portsmouth	A
15th Feb	Cheltenham	A
22ND FEB	OXFORD UNITED	H
1st Mar	Southampton	A
TBA	Swindon Spitfires	A

## THE LEAGUE

### Southern Region League Premier Division 1997-98

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon Town	11	9	0	2	55	19	27
Reading Royals	9	8	1	0	48	7	25
Cheltenham	11	7	3	1	36	17	24
Southampton	11	6	1	4	29	27	19
Swindon Spitfires	7	4	2	1	16	16	14
Portsmouth	8	4	2	2	14	12	14
Oxford United	10	4	1	5	19	22	13
Binfield	8	2	1	5	9	21	7
Southampton Saints	12	1	2	9	16	37	5
Launton	10	1	1	8	11	43	4
Havant Town	9	0	0	9	7	39	0

## NEXT HOME GAME

**Sunday 11th January 1998**

**Swindon Spitfires**

# 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.

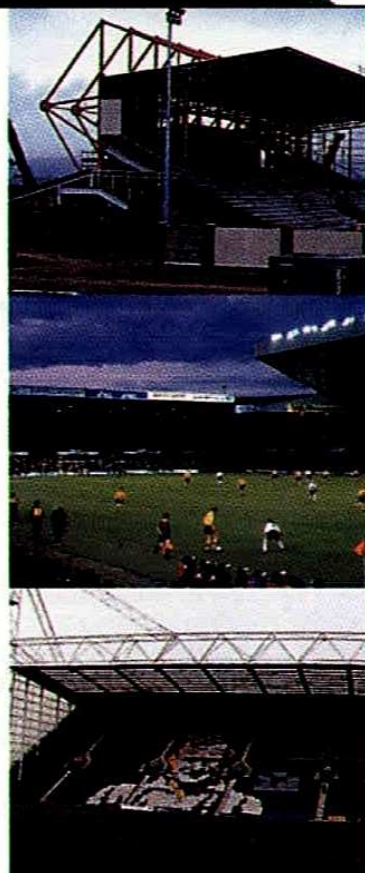
Thanks to the Government and to the Football Association, the FA Premier League and the English Sports Council, a major new funding package to secure the future of the Trust has been put in place.

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.



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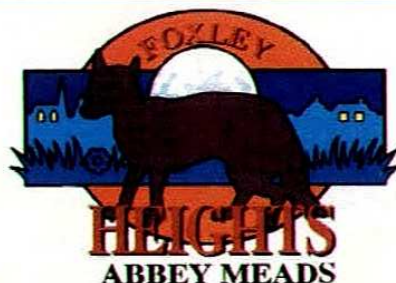
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# see every goal



## Goals, goals, goals!

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SERIOUS PERFORMANCE

# Swindon Town FC

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

**The last Saturday before Christmas has thrown up an assortment of really thrilling fixtures in Division One, and of course you are privileged to be at one of the best as we take on a resurgent Birmingham City side.**

The Blues left it late last week, scoring twice in seven minutes of stoppage time, to beat **Manchester City** 2-1 thanks to substitute Nicky Forester who scored one and made the other.

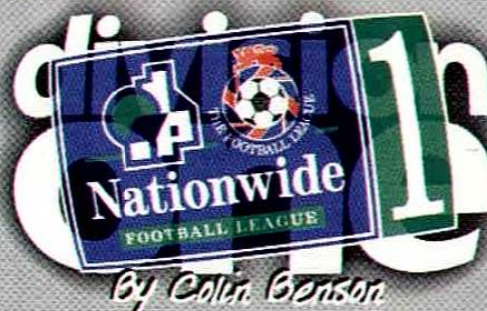
City were boosted by the return of German striker Uwe Rossler, making his first start since August after an ankle injury, but were without Kinkladze who had been injured in training. Frank Clark must have thought he was on a winner when Georgian debutante Murtaz Shelia headed them into the lead in the 88th minute but then came that double shock to leave the Maine Road club deeper in trouble and third from bottom.

And City can't expect any gifts today as they play hosts to Division One leaders **Middlesbrough**. Boro beat **Reading** 4-0 last week yet for 76 minutes the Royals frustrated their advances. But no side in this Division has a better away record than Robbo's - 6 wins, 4 draws and just one defeat with 19 goals for and 10 against. You can't really see City getting any joy but of course we all hope that Christmas comes early for Frank Clark.

Second placed **Nottingham Forest** didn't look the hot shots of earlier this season when they were beaten at Molineux last Sunday. **Forest** were out-fought and out-played by **Wolves** and

could be in for another shock today. **Stockport County** have surprised a lot of people, though they owe their position on the eighth rung of the ladder to an unbeaten home record that now stretches back almost five months.

We came unstuck at Bramall Lane where Dean Saunders scored his first goal for the Blades and today he will be



looking for more at Gigg Lane. **Bury** have the heart and lungs to match the best in the energy department and after losing their last home fixture (1-0 to Boro) will be determined to restore their home image. A draw looks likely.

Managerless **West Brom** have gone off track since Ray Harford walked out on them and they could be embarrassed again this afternoon by **Huddersfield Town**. True the Terriers lost their snap when beaten 3-1 at home by **Norwich** last week after a run of five wins in seven games but Wayne Allison, denied twice by tremendous saves from 'keeper Marshall, is determined to hit back. Logic says home win but then when did that count for anything?

**Sunderland** are the team we all have our eyes on. Unbeaten now in 11 matches, one can't see that ending at **Crewe**. Little Kevin Phillips, a diminutive striker picked up from **Watford**, is a natural finisher and clearly relishing his renewed

partnership with Niall Quinn with four goals in the last six games.

But **Crewe** did climb off the foot of the table last week when they rewrote the history books with their first-ever win over derby rivals **Stoke** who are slipping ever closer to the dropping zone. It was their fifth successive defeat. Today they are at Carrow Road where **Norwich** have picked up form.

Consistency has not been the Canaries' forte however, though after beating **Sheffield United** last time out on home soil, they will be expected to dismiss the men from the Potteries in similar fashion.

The **Wolves** are at the door again. Wins over **Middlesbrough** and **Nottingham Forest** are included in a run of seven victories in 11 games and today they are at **Reading** who have lost five at home already. Mind you there is more than just football at stake here as Mark McGhee is not liked around Elm Park after leaving the club in the lurch. Passions will run high.

There is more going on off the pitch than on it at Fratton Park. The latest is an American backed bid to oust Venables. Pompey have conceded 19 goals at home and high scoring **Charlton** will expect to add to that.

**Ipswich** new boy David Johnson continues his goal quest at **Port Vale**.

The £1.1 million ex-Bury striker has notched 5 goals in 6 games. Meanwhile, at **Tranmere**, veteran striker John Aldridge is still knocking them in alongside Brett Angell who has 15. Could be tough for **Oxford** who have conceded 22 on their travels...Happy Christmas.



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with Mark Seagraves

**There is no doubt that we were very unfortunate to come away from Bramall Lane with nothing to show for our efforts.**

We deserved at least a point at Sheffield United but when you have a perfectly good goal disallowed it leaves you with a nasty taste in your mouth.

If the goal had been given it would have put us 2-1 up and from there we would probably have gone on to win but in the end they sneaked a late winner which was a big blow to us all.

Saying that we can take heart from the overall performance and if we can go to places like that in the future and give a similar display, there is no doubt we will return home with maximum points.

What a fantastic result that was against our local rivals from Oxford! It was the perfect tonic for us after three successive defeats.

A game against our near neighbours is always a vitally important one but this clash was even bigger than most due to our poor run of results prior to it.

## the captain's comment

But the lads turned up trumps with a great team performance and some well taken goals along the way.

On target with one of them was Steve Finney and it was nice



to see him get on the scoresheet. However it was the result that was more important and those three points kept us up in contention in the top six of Division One.

As you know we take a break from league action in a couple of weeks to play in the third round of the FA Cup.

Our main aim this season is to stay in the promotion picture but it would still be nice to have a good cup run which would be a bonus for everyone.

A home draw is all we could have asked for and who knows, if we make it through to the next stages we could get one of the big guns - **wouldn't that be tremendous!**

## swindon town's matchday magazine

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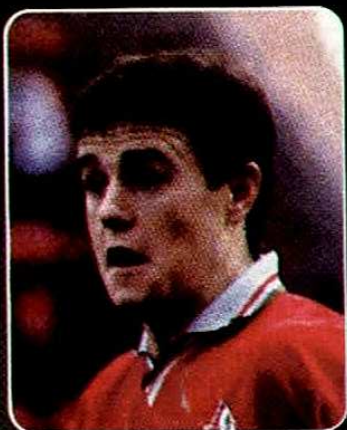
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## FACT FILE...

Date of birth: 12.9.77.

Place of birth: Birkenhead.

### School years

Secondary school attended:

St. Benedicts High.

Best subject at school: P.E.

Worst subject at school:

Maths.

Football team supported at

school: Everton.

Football hero as a schoolboy:

Maradona.

Favourite football position at

school: Midfield.

Career probably taken up if

not football: P.E. Teacher.

First match ever seen:

Everton v Bayern

Munich, 1985.

At what age did you first

attend matches:

8 years of age.

### Now

Favourite other sports:

Snooker.

Biggest influence on career:

Parents.

Best match ever seen

(Live or TV): Liverpool v

Everton 4-4.

Favourite football experts:

Alan Hansen, Don Howe.

Favourite country to watch:

Italy.

Highlight of career so far:

Winning FA Youth Cup.

Biggest disappointment:

Cartilage injury last year.

Choice Opponents in a

cup tie: Man Utd.

# close-up profi David Thompson

**Town boss Steve McMahon is getting quite a reputation for making the most of loan signings and his latest acquisition on a temporary basis is a live-wire from Liverpool who has proved to be a class act.**

David Thompson a 20 year old midfield dynamo was drafted in to help perk up Town's performances and since his arrival he has shown the class which prompted his Anfield employers to sew up his immediate future with a four year contract.

Some 18 months on from signing that deal, David has yet to make it into Liverpool's starting line-up and so jumped at the chance of the promise of first team football at the County Ground.

*"I'm enjoying playing league football and gaining some added experience. You can only play reserve team football for so long and sometimes it is difficult to get motivated.*

*"But when you come and play league football there is something important at stake, the three points matter and you are performing in front of big crowds. That is why I came to Swindon."* he commented.

His debut saw David collect the man of the match award after producing an outstanding display against Middlesbrough but he was a little disappointed with his performance.

*"I can play a lot better than that and there is a lot more to come. I did some good stuff*

*during that game but there were also some things I did that weren't so good, although overall I was fairly satisfied with my first game in a Swindon shirt."*

Unfortunately, like the rest of the team, Thompson had an off night during the 3-0 defeat at Charlton in his following game but he and his team mates proved a point or two as they bounced back to form against Oxford.

*"At Charlton we didn't performed as a team or individually and that was a bit of a downer for everyone. But against Oxford we were tremendous and the thing that pleased me most was getting the three points after three successive defeats."*

Birkenhead born, David worked his way up through the Youth ranks at Liverpool after joining their Centre of Excellence at the age of 10.

His skills were soon spotted by England who capped him at Youth and Under 21 levels and last season he finally got his chance for Liverpool as he made two appearances as substitute. This term David got another appearance under his belt from the bench, but wasn't figuring on a regular basis, something which has caused him some frustration.

*"I'm made up to see the likes of Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen doing so well and I'm just waiting for things to start taking off for me. In the Summer I got a bit frustrated because Liverpool went out and signed two quality midfielders but that's what happens when*

# e



*you are at a big Club like Liverpool.*

*"I've just got to bide my time and make sure I'm ready when my chance comes along," he said.*

A cartilage injury last year knocked David down the pecking order at Anfield as it took him several months to make a full recovery and that long spell out of action is the low point of his career so far.

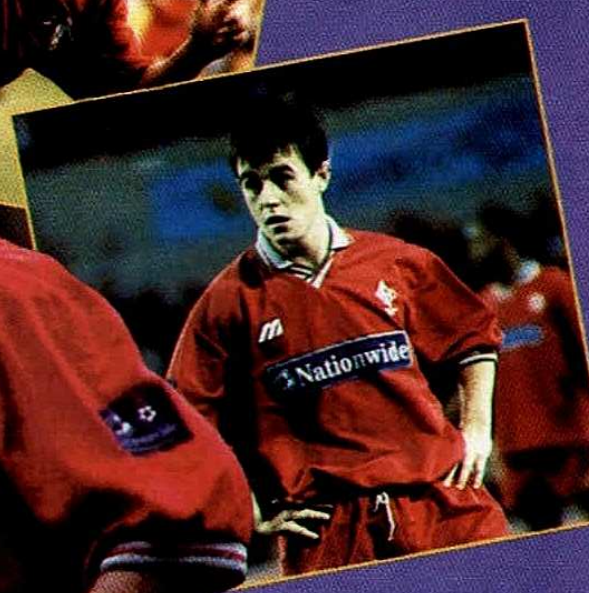
But he now has a chance to show the First Division what he is made of and there is no doubt he will return to Anfield a better player for his spell at Swindon.

*"I want to fight for my place at Liverpool and in the long term my aim is to win as many trophies as I can and be as successful as possible. I wouldn't mind going into management at the end of my career but at the moment all I want to do is get in the Liverpool side."*

Having played for England at almost every level, the lively Scouser said that joining the senior squad in France 1998 would be nice! On a more serious note, he hopes to get called up for the Under 21's having already picked up two caps.

*"I'm on standby to play in the next game against Greece and it would be nice to get called into that squad," he added.*

**David Thompson -  
a livewire from Liverpool**



## GENERAL...

**Favourite Food:** Chicken and Beans.

**Favourite Drink:** Coke.

**Favourite Comedian:** David Jason.

**Favourite TV Programme:** Only Fools and Horses.

**Favourite film:** Shawshanks Redemption.

**Favourite Film Stars:** Al Pacino, Robert De Niro.

**Favourite holiday location:** Gran Canaria.

**Favourite item of clothing:** Cap.

**Smartest dresser at STFC:** Brian Borrows

**Worst Dresser at STFC:** Fraser (terrible jumper!)

**Any superstitions:** No!

# statistics 1997/98 season



**Birmingham City**



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.



**1**

## NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 TABLE 1997/98 AS AT 15.12.97

	P	W	D	L	W	D	L	F	A	PTS.
MIDDLESBROUGH	22	7	2	2	6	4	1	39	17	45
NOTTINGHAM FOREST	22	8	2	1	4	4	3	35	18	42
SHEFFIELD UNITED	22	8	3	0	3	5	3	33	21	41
WEST BROMWICH ALBION	22	8	1	2	4	3	4	25	19	40
CHARLTON ATHLETIC	22	8	2	1	3	3	5	41	29	38
SWINDON TOWN	22	8	2	1	3	2	6	31	30	37
SUNDERLAND	21	5	4	2	5	2	3	32	21	36
STOCKPORT COUNTY	22	7	4	0	3	1	7	38	30	35
WOLVES	22	7	4	0	3	1	7	29	26	35
BRADFORD CITY	22	6	4	2	2	5	3	22	21	33
BIRMINGHAM CITY	22	5	3	3	3	4	4	23	18	31
NORWICH CITY	22	4	3	4	4	2	5	23	32	29
QUEENS PARK RANGERS	22	5	4	2	2	2	7	27	36	27
PORT VALE	22	4	4	3	3	1	7	25	27	26
STOKE CITY	22	4	2	4	3	3	6	24	30	26
IPSWICH TOWN	21	4	3	3	1	6	4	24	24	24
READING	22	4	2	5	2	4	5	21	35	24
OXFORD UNITED	22	5	3	3	1	2	8	27	33	23
TRANMERE ROVERS	21	5	2	3	1	2	8	28	32	22
CREWE ALEXANDRA	22	2	2	7	4	1	6	26	36	21
MANCHESTER CITY	22	3	3	5	2	3	6	24	27	21
BURY	22	3	5	3	1	4	6	21	31	21
PORTSMOUTH	21	4	2	5	1	3	6	26	34	20
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	22	3	3	5	2	2	7	22	37	20



**1**



## First Team Player Appearances 97/98

Player Name	League		Cup		Total	
	Apps.	Gls.	Apps.	Gls.	Apps.	Gls.
WAYNE ALLISON	16	3	2	0	18	3
BRIAN BORROWS	17	0	0	0	17	0
DARREN BULLOCK	11(5)	0	0	0	11(5)	0
CHRIS CASPER	8(1)	1	0	0	8(1)	1
LEE COLLINS	4(1)	0	0	0	4(1)	0
STEVE COWE	4(2)	1	(1)	0	4(3)	1
PHILIPPE CUERVO	6(1)	0	2	0	8(1)	0
IAN CULVERHOUSE	7(1)	0	0	0	7(1)	0
FREDERIC DARRAS	11(1)	0	2	0	13(1)	0
SOL DAVIS	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
FRASER DIGBY	19	0	1	0	20	0
JASON DRYSDALE	8(2)	0	2	0	10(2)	0
STEVE FINNEY	4(4)	3	1	0	5(4)	3
TY GOODEN	22	2	2	0	24	2
CHRIS HAY	16(1)	13	1	0	17(1)	13
ROBIN HULBERT	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
SCOTT LEITCH	13	1	2	1	15	2
STEVE MILDENHALL	1	0	0	0	1	0
ALAN McDONALD	18	1	2	0	20	1
STEVE McMAHON	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
ALEX MEECHAN	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
GEORGE NDAH	4	1	0	0	4	1
MICHAEL PATTIMORE	(2)	0	0	0	(2)	0
MARK ROBINSON	6(1)	0	1	0	7(1)	0
MARK SEAGRAVES	5	0	2	0	7	0
ALEX SMITH	2(3)	0	0	0	2(3)	0
FRANK TALIA	0	0	1	0	1	0
CRAIG TAYLOR	11(2)	2	0	0	11(2)	2
DAVID THOMPSON	4	0	0	0	4	0
MARK WALTERS	13(5)	3	1(1)	0	14(6)	3
TONY WARNER	2	0	0	0	2	0
KEVIN WATSON	10(1)	0	0	0	10(1)	0

Date Opponents Res Att.

SAT AUG 9	CREWE ALEXANDRA	H	2-0	8,334
WED AUG 13	WATFORD CCC 1 (1)	H	0-2	6,271
Sat Aug 16	Reading	A	1-0	9,338
SAT AUG 23	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H	1-1	7,683
Tues Aug 26	Watford CCC 1 (2)	A	1-1	7,712
Sat Aug 30	Stoke City	A	2-1	23,000
Tues Sep 2	Ipswich Town	A	1-2	11,246
SUN SEP 7	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	H	0-0	13,051
SAT SEP 13	TRANMERE ROVERS	H	2-1	6,811
Sat Sep 20	West Bromwich Albion	A	0-0	16,237
Sat Sep 27	Manchester City	A	0-6	26,646
SAT OCT 4	PORT VALE	H	4-2	8,076
SAT OCT 11	BURY	H	3-1	7,998
Sat Oct 18	Wolverhampton W.	A	1-3	21,794
Tue Oct 21	Sunderland	A	0-0	27,553
SAT OCT 25	NORWICH CITY	H	1-0	9,842
Fri Oct 31	Portsmouth	A	1-0	8,707
WED NOV 5	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	H	3-1	10,132
SAT NOV 8	BRADFORD CITY	H	1-0	10,030
Sat Nov 15	Stockport County (F.A. CUP 1)	A	2-4	7,694
SAT NOV 22	MIDDLESBROUGH	H	1-2	15,228
Fri Nov 28	Charlton Athletic	A	0-3	15,481
SAT DEC 6	OXFORD UNITED (F.A. Cup 2)	H	4-1	10,902
Sat Dec 13	Sheffield United	A	1-2	18,115
SAT DEC 20	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H		
Fri Dec 26	Nottingham Forest	A		
SUN DEC 28	IPSWICH TOWN	H		
SAT JAN 3	(F.A. Cup 3)	H		
Sun Jan 11	Crewe Alexandra (1pm)	A		
SAT JAN 17	READING	H		
Sat Jan 24	(F.A. CUP 4)	H		
WED JAN 28	STOKE CITY	H		
Sat Jan 31	Huddersfield Town	A		
SAT FEB 7	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	H		
Sat Feb 14	Tranmere Rovers (F.A. Cup 5)	A		
Tue Feb 17	Port Vale	A		
SAT FEB 21	MANCHESTER CITY	H		
WED FEB 25	WOLVERHAMPTON W.	H		
Sat Feb 28	Bury	A		
Tue Mar 3	Bradford City	A		
SAT MAR 7	PORTSMOUTH (F.A. CUP 6)	H		
Sat Mar 14	Queens Park Rangers	A		
SAT MAR 21	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H		
Sat Mar 28	Middlesbrough	A		
SAT APR 4	CHARLTON ATHLETIC (F.A. Cup SF)	H		
Sat Apr 11	Oxford United	A		
MON APR 13	SHEFFIELD UNITED	H		
Sat Apr 18	Birmingham City	A		
Sat Apr 25	Norwich City	A		
SUN MAY 3	SUNDERLAND	H		
Sat May 16	F.A. Cup Final			

### Stats table key

FAC = F.A. Cup  
C.C.C = Coca-Cola Cup  
\* After Extra Time  
^ Indicates own goal

### Substitutes Used

number in brackets  
indicates player  
replaced ( )

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Front Cover Picture: David Thompson

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	ROBINSON	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	FINNEY(9)	BULLOCK(8)	WALTERS
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	ROBINSON	CUERVO	FINNEY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE(9)	WATSON	WALTERS(5)
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	ROBINSON	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	FINNEY(9)	BULLOCK(8)	WALTERS(12)
DIGBY	DARRAS	BULLOCK	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE(9)	WATSON	McMAHON(3)
TALIA	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	ELKINS	BULLOCK
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	SMITH(4)	BULLOCK(3)
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	MCDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	SMITH(5)	BULLOCK(4)
DIGBY	DARRAS	BORROWS	BULLOCK	CASPER	MCDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	DRYSDALE	WATSON	McAREAVEY
DIGBY	DARRAS	BORROWS	BULLOCK	CASPER	MCDONALD	WALTERS	DRYSDALE	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	FINNEY(9)	WATSON(7)	SMITH
DIGBY	DARRAS	BORROWS	BULLOCK	CASPER	MCDONALD	SMITH	DRYSDALE	COWE	ALLISON	GOODEN	FINNEY	COLLINS	SEAGRAVES
DIGBY	DARRAS	BORROWS	BULLOCK	CASPER	MCDONALD	SMITH	LEITCH	COWE	ALLISON	GOODEN	HAY(9)	DRYSDALE(2)	WALTERS(7)
DIGBY	DRYSDALE	BORROWS	LEITCH	TAYLOR	MCDONALD	WALTERS	WATSON	HAY 3	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	COLLINS(8)	DARRAS(2)
DIGBY	BORROWS	COLLINS	LEITCH	TAYLOR	MCDONALD	WALTERS	WATSON	HAY 2	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	DRYSDALE(7)	CASPER(6)
DIGBY	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	LEITCH	TAYLOR	CASPER	WALTERS	COLLINS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	HULBERT(4)	MEECHAN(7)
DIGBY	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	CASPER	WATSON	COLLINS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	HULBERT	WALTERS(7)
DIGBY	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	CASPER	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	SMITH(8)	ELKINS
MILDENHALL	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	CASPER	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	HULBERT	ELKINS
DIGBY	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	MCDONALD	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	MEECHAN	DAVIS(3)	PATTIMORE(8)
WARNER	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	LEITCH	TAYLOR	MCDONALD	WATSON	DRYSDALE	HAY	COWE	GOODEN	MEECHAN	DAVIS	PATTIMORE(4)
WARNER	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	LEITCH	TAYLOR	MCDONALD	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	COWE	GOODEN	FINNEY(9)	DRYSDALE	ROBINSON(3)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	LEITCH	TAYLOR	MCDONALD	THOMPSON	WATSON	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	CULVERHOUSE	WARNER	WALTERS(10)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	LEITCH	TAYLOR	MCDONALD	THOMPSON	WATSON	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	COWE(9)	BULLOCK(7)	CULVERHOUSE(4)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	BULLOCK	DARRAS	MCDONALD	THOMPSON	WALTERS	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	COWE	TAYLOR(8)	CUERVO(4)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	BULLOCK	DARRAS	MCDONALD	THOMPSON	COLLINS	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	COWE	TAYLOR(5)	WALTERS

Next Home Match

**Sunday 28th  
December**

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE  
DIVISION ONE

**Ipswich  
Town**

**Kick-Off 3.00pm**

CLUBCALL



**ClubCall**

**0891 121 640**

news updates, match commentaries  
and all the latest ticket information.

\* Calls charged at 50p at all times

Information

**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.



# team check



## Swindon Town

FRASER DIGBY

BRIAN BORROWS

MARK ROBINSON

DARREN BULLOCK

FREDERIC DARRAS

ALAN McDONALD

DAVID THOMPSON

LEE COLLINS

STEVE FINNEY

GEORGE NDAH

TY GOODEN

TEAM MANAGER  
STEVE McMAHON

## Birmingham City

IAN BENNETT

JONATHAN BASS

SIMON CHARLTON

STEVE BRUCE

GARY ABLETT

MARTIN O'CONNOR

JON MCCARTHY

STEVE ROBINSON

PAUL DEVLIN

BRYAN HUGHES

PETER NDLOVU

TEAM MANAGER  
TREVOR FRANCIS

## CLUBCALL



**ClubCall**

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## Today's Result and Attendance

Swindon v Birmingham City  
Attendance



### Referee:

Robert Styles (Waterlooville, Hants)

### Assisted by:

R.B. Ford (Buckinghamshire)

P. Norman (Dorset)

### Reserve Official:

R. Palmer (Bath)

### Robert Styles

Robert is a 33 year old Company Director who is married with three children. Started refereeing in Portsmouth in 1987 and progressed via the Hampshire County League, Wessex League and Isthmian League before joining the Football League List in 1996. Robert enjoys all sports, in particular cricket.

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## Next Home Match

**Sunday 28th  
December**

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE  
DIVISION ONE

**Ipswich  
Town**

**Kick-Off 3.00pm**

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