Swindlon of 97-98 SEASON F.C.

E1.80 matchday magazine

Wednesday 28th January 1998

Nationwide

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Stoke City

Kick-Off 7.45pm

Today's Matchday Sponsors

Clark Holt

Action pages 14-15 All the best shots from the game against Reading

Today's visitors pages 6-9

Profile page 44 Interview with Bobby Howe



NEXT HOME MATCH

Saturday 7th February vs West Brom

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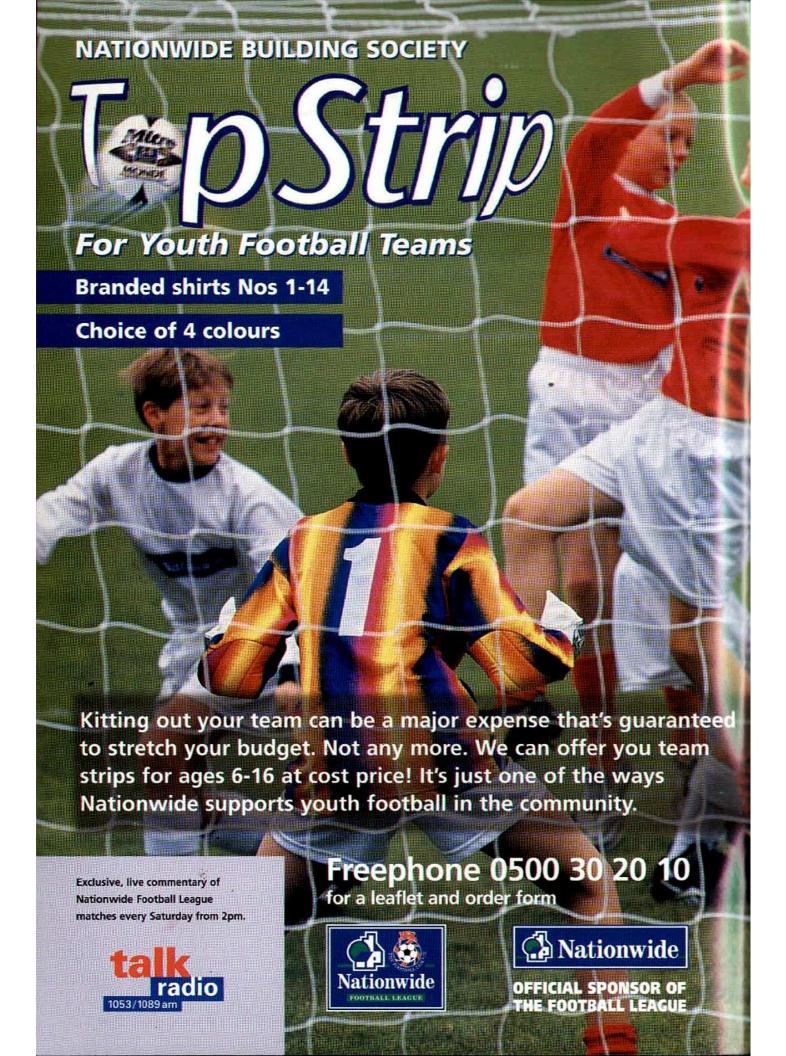


Nationwide



Nationwide

ISSUE No.15



welcome to today's game

There were nearly five minutes of stoppage time on the clock when Chris Hay rifled in that glorios equaliser at Bradford on Saturday.

This and a brilliant penalty save by Frazer Digby were our highlights in a 1 - 1 draw that stemmed a run of five defeats in the league and cup.

It was Chris's 14th goal of the season and ended what has been a lean spell for him, of six games without a strike, but tonight he will be looking for a personal double over Stoke having scored in our 2 - 1 win at the Potteries last August.

Jusy how vital that point at Bradford was is reflected in the Nationwide Division One table. It kept us in the top ten and gave solid grounds for optimism in the Swindon camp.

Before last night's fixtures we were ten points short of fourth placed Sunderland and only six adrift of Wolves who occupied the sixth rung of the League ladder. Both Sheffield United v Huddersfield & Bury v Wolves were games played last night, as were Birmingham v Stockport and West Brom v Ipswich.

Hopefully some, if not all, lost points in the process.

But of course it is mainly down to us. While we can hope for our rivals to lose ground there will be no gain if we don't capitalise by securing a good result ourselves. In this respect your vocal backing can make all the difference. So play your part by getting behind the lads. Generate the kind of atmosphere that will lift them to the heights.

That should boost the players confidence as they tackle a Stoke City side now under the command of former Town favourite Chris Kamara. It's nice to see him back in the game so quickly but we hope it will be only our good wishes he leaves with at the end of the night!

There is more football here tomorrow evening when the reserves entertain Wimbledon in the Avon Insurance Combination Division One. We beat Portsmouth 4 - 1 in our last home game and this should be another entertaining fixture. Come along as you will be very welcome. The kick-off is 7.15pm and tickets should be bought from the Advanced Ticket Office before making your way to the turnstile.

contents.

Steve McMahon says	page 5
Today's visitors	
Looking back	page 11
Weekly Diary	page 12
Action Replay	pages 14-15
Reserves	pages 16-17
Youth Team Focus	pages 18-19
Community News	page 20
Poster Special	pages 24-25
Travel News	page 27
Quick Quiz	pages 36-37
League update	page 41
Close-up profile	pages 44-45



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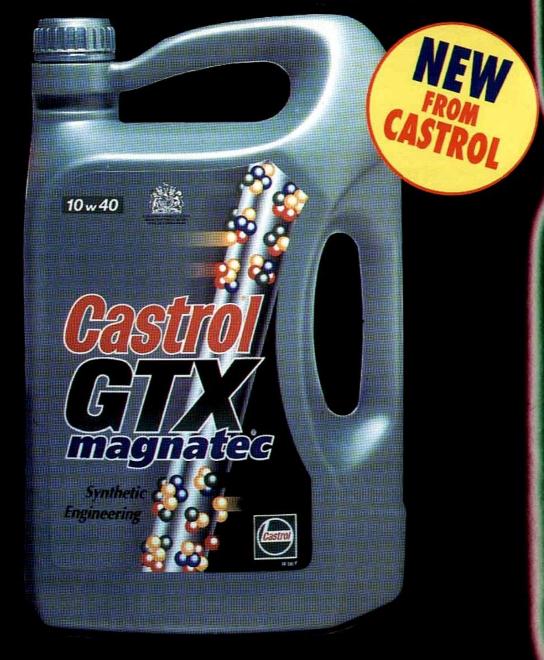
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A RADICAL NEW ENGINE OIL FROM THE LIQUID ENGINEERS

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The Liquid Engineers



It's back to Yorkshire this coming Saturday and a difficult fixture against resurgent Huddersfield Town, who came so close last Saturday to tipping Wimbledon out of the FA Cup.

One Terrier we know all about is Wayne Allison but the lads have had plenty of practice in dealing with his undoubted strengths. Next at home is West Bromwich Albion on Saturday 7th

Steve McMahon

SENS



We ended our disappointing run of defeats at Bradford on Saturday and I can't fault the application of the players.

Without being brilliant we did enough to get something out of the game and it is a start.

It means we might have turned the corner. We will soon see this evening. If they work as hard as they did on Saturday collectively then fine. We will get more good results than bad ones. We were happy on the coach trip back from Bradford, it is a long way, and even longer if you are returning with no points. But under the circumstances of late one point was an excellent result for us.

It was not only the fact that we had avoided defeat that pleased me. The overall

performance was good and the character shown by the

players after going behind was encouraging.

As it happens it was better that we scored late on the way we did because having been 1-0 down on 90 minutes the injury time goal made us feel as if we had won the game!

But as I say we will only see the true effect of this this evening against Stoke City. If we can continue to display the same commitment and attitude then we have achieved what we needed to do.

Everyone was fine after the game, we did not pick up any serious injuries, so everyone is available tonight apart from Ty Gooden who is suspended.

Stoke themselves had a tremendous result against Bradford mind you so we know that they are going to be tougher than their League position suggests. Like us they were on a slippery slide and they got a very good win over the Yorkshire team.

That was their last game and should give them a lot of confidence. And they have a new manager of course so it is going to be interesting. It is not always the best time to take on a team when they are playing to impress a new manager so we expect them to step it up.

Bobby Howe

Bobby Howe has done everything that was expected. He is just unfortunate that he came into a team that was struggling but he is getting fitter and fitter every game. At Nottingham he did not have a game for five or six weeks over Christmas so he needs match fitness.

Great Support

The fans have been behind us all the way. When we played Reading the support was brilliant although we were beaten. The lads appreciate this and hope to repay them with a good performance this evening.

Natiowide
 Natiowide
 Natiowide

today's visitors The Potters

This evening we extend a very warm welcome to the players, supporters and staff of Stoke 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.

After a summer of upheaval which saw The Potters move to a new, purpose-built ground, change managers and sell top scorer Mike Sheron to QPR, it is little surprise that the new season brought a shaky start.

Sheron may have left - along with captain Nigel Worthington - but the Britannia Stadium welcomed new faces in the shape of ex-England man Paul Stewart and former Swindon hot-shot Peter Thorne, amongst others.

And, with the quality of players at new boss Chris

Kamara's disposal, it seemed certain that Stoke would start to get things right sooner rather than later.

Early signs were that this would definitely be the case. A 1-0 win against fancied Middlesbrough, followed by victories over Stockport and Ipswich, gave a hint of good things to come, and when the Potters lost just once in five games during October there seemed to have been no false dawn.

But, since losing that game, to Sunderland on 25th October, Chic Bates' beleaguered troops had won just once in the League - a 3-0 triumph over Wolves until a morale-boosting 2-1 win over fellow strugglers Bradford City on January 16th.

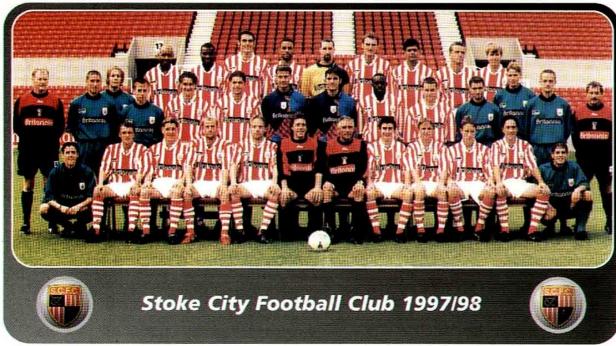
That was a run of just one victory in 14 games, with a humiliating 7-0 home defeat at the hands of Birmingham City very much the worst result of

the lot. The Birmingham debacle prompted a pitch protest from some Stoke fans, the majority of whom were peaceful. But a handful broke into an entertaining area inside the Stadium and caused hundreds of pounds worth of damage as well as dragging their proud clubs' name through the gutter.

And so to tonight.

Peter Thorne is sure to get a warm reception this evening, but the Robins' defence will know to be on their guard against their former colleague, as Steve McMahon's troops aim for a swift return to winning ways.





player profile The Potters





Phil Morgan

Former Ipswich 'keeper who was released to his home-town club following the emergence of England U21 star Richard Wright at Portman Road. He has yet to make a senior League appearance for Stoke.

Born: Stoke, 18.12.74 Height: 6ft 2in Weight: 14st 2lb

League record this season:

0 games, 0 goals

Honours: England Schools,

Youth caps

Era	Club	Games
95/96	Ipswich	1
96/97	Stoke	-
96/97	Chesterfield	2

Carl Muggleton

Well-travelled and experienced 'keeper who beat off the challenge of Mark Prudhoe (now Bradford) to establish himself as first-choice at Stoke last season. Ever-present.

Born: Leicester, 13.09.68

Height: 6ft 2in Weight: 13st 3lb

League record this season: 27/0 Honours: England U21 cap

Era	Club	Games
87/88	Leicester	-
87/88	Chesterfield	17
87/88	Blackpool	2
88/89	Leicester	3
88/89	Hartlepool	8
89/90	Leicester	-
89/90	Stockport	4
90/91	Leicester	22
90/91	Liverpool	-
93/94	Leicester	21
93/94	Stoke	6
93/94	Sheff Utd	-
93/94	Celtic	12

95/96	Stoke	30
95/96	Rotherham	6
95/96	Sheff Utd	1
96/97	Stoke	33

Defenders

Andrew Griffin

Shot to fame last season, having only recently switched codes from rugby league. Began 96/97 in the Youth side, and finished as a first-team regular and England Youth international.

Born: Wigan, 17.03.79 Height: 5ft 8in Weight: 10st 10lb

League record this season: 23/1 Honours: England Youth caps

Era	Club	Games	
96/97	Stoke	34	

Mark McNally

Versatile defender who was signed in March 1997 from relegation-bound Southend as cover for Larus Sigurdsson and Justin Whittle.

Born: Bellshill, 10.03.71

Height: 5ft 11in Weight: 12st 2lb

League record this season: 0/0 Honours: Scottish Cup 1995;

Scotland U21 caps

Club	Games
Celtic	123
Southend	54
Stoke	3
	Celtic Southend

Ally Pickering

Made the right-back position at Stoke his own after dropping down from the Premiership in August 1996. Likes to push forward.

Born: Manchester, 22.06.67

Height: 5ft 9in Weight: 11st 4lb

League record this season: 25/0

Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
93/94	Rotherham	88
95/96	Coventry	65
96/97	Stoke	40

Larus Sigurdsson

Cousin of former Stoke star Toddy Orlygsson, Larus came to City for a week's trial in October 1994, forced his way into the side and is now club captain and a huge favourite with the crowd. Strong-tackling and intelligent central defender.

Born: Akureyri, Iceland, 04.06.73

Height: 6ft Weight: 12st 12lb

League record this season: 26/0 Honours: Iceland Full caps

Era	Club	Games	
96/97	Stoke	114	

Steven Tweed

Former Hibs defender who was snapped up on a free transfer in August 1997 under the Bosman ruling.

Born: Edinburgh, 08.08.72

Height: 6ft 3in Weight: 12st 13lb

League record this season: 26/0 Honours: Scotland U21 caps

Era	Club	Games
95/96	Hibs	108

Justin Whittle

Was bought out of the army by Lou Macari at Celtic, and then followed his manager to Stoke in October 1994. Tough-tackling stopper.



Born: Derby, 18.03.71 Height: 6ft 1in Weight: 12st 13lb

League record this season: 6/0

Honours: None

Era Club Games 96/97 Stoke 45



Richard Forsyth

Second leading scorer for City last season, he occupies the same position at present, with seven goals from midfield so far. He packs a powerful long-range shot and loves to push forward. Everpresent. Scored v Swindon back in August as the Robins won 2-1 at the Britannia Stadium.

Born: Dudley, 03.10.70 Height: 5ft 10in Weight: 12st 13lb

League record this season: 27/7 Honours: England Semi-Pro caps

Era	Club	Games
95/96	Birmingham	26
96/97	Stoke	40

Graham Kavanagh

An attacking midfielder with what former manager Lou Macari described as 'the most powerful shot in football'. A threat from set-pieces.

Born: Dublin, 02.12.73 Height: 5ft 10in Weight: 12st 6lb

League record this season: 26/3 Honours: Eire Schools, Youth,

U21 caps

Era	Club	Games
93/94	Middlesbrough	21
93/94	Darlington	5
96/97	Middlesbrough	14
96/97	Stoke	38

Kevin Keen

An ankle injury followed by a broken leg ruined the 1996/97 season for this influential midfield playmaker, but he is back with a vengeance this campaign and has yet to miss a League game. His Dad, Mike, played for QPR.

Born: Amersham, 25.02.67

Height: 5ft 7in Weight: 10st 10lb

League record this season: 27/1 Honours: England Schools,

Youth caps

Era	Club	Games
92/93	West Ham	219
94/95	Wolves	42
96/97	Stoke	70

Gerry McMahon

Versatile youngster who can create openings from midfield or play as a central striker.

Born: Belfast, 29.12.73 Height: 5ft 11in Weight: 11st 5lb

League record this season: 13/0 Honours: N.Ireland Schools, Youth, U21, 'B', Full caps

Era	Club	Games
94/95	Tottenham	2
94/95	Barnet	10
96/97	Tottenham	14
96/97	Stoke	35

Kofi Nyamah

Made all of his seven appearances last term from the subs' bench, but has yet to recapture the dazzling wing play that took him to Stoke from non-League football in December 1996.

Born: Islington, 20.06.75 Height: 5ft 10in Weight: 11st 7lb League record this season: 7/0 Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Cambridge	23
96/97	Stoke	7

Jan Schreuder

Former PSV Eindhoven player who emerged under the managership of former England boss*Bobby Robson, before moving on to Groningen and later Waalwijk.

Born: Holland Height: 5ft 8in Weight: 11st 5lb

League record this season: 0/0

Honours: None

Ray Wallace

Energetic and tough-tackling player who missed just one League game last season. The twin brother of Leeds Utd's Rod Wallace.

Born: Lewisham, 02.10.69

Height: 5ft 7in Weight: 11st 5lb

League record this season: 21/3 Honours: England U21 caps

Era	Club	Games
90/91	Southampton	
91/92	Leeds	
91/92	Swansea	2
93/94	Leeds	7
93/94	Reading	3
94/95	Stoke	20
94/95	Hull	7
96/97	Stoke	89

Other midfielders include:

Mark Devlin (ex-YTS); Neil Mackenzie (from Redditch, previously with West Brom, Hereford); Graham Stokoe (from Birmingham, Free), Zay Angola (from Academico, Portugal, Free).



Peter Thorne

Caused a storm here in Swindon when he moved to Stoke for a tribunal set fee of £550,000 in the summer. Expert at holding the ball up, he is a proven striker in Division One and is City's leading scorer this term.

Born: Manchester, 21.06.73

Height: 6ft Weight: 13st

League record this season: 24/10 Honours: Div Two title 1996

Marco Gabbiadini

Currently on a monthly contract with Stoke, this former England 'B' international has failed to find the net in the League yet, although he did score v West Brom in the FA Cup. Strong front-runner with a powerful shot and good control.

Born: Nottingham, 20.01.68

Height: 5ft 10in Weight: 13st

League record this season: 4/0 Honours: Div Three title 1988; England U21, 'B' caps; Football

League Rep XI

Era	Club	Games
87/88	York C.	60
91/92	Sunderland	157
91/92	C.Palace	15
96/97	Derby Co	188
96/97	Birmingham C.	- 2
96/97	Oxford U.	5

Paul Stewart

This physical and experienced striker was Chic Bates' first signing as Stoke boss, and he scored City's first League goal of the season in a 1-0 win over Middlesbrough on August 23rd.

Born: Manchester, 07.10.64

Height: 5ft 11in Weight: 11st 10lb

League record this season: 20/3 Honours: FA Cup 1991; Charity Shield 1991; Div One title 1994, 1996; England Youth, U21, 'B',

Full caps

Era	Club	Games
86/87	Blackpool	201
87/88	Man City	51
91/92	Tottenham	131
93/94	Liverpool	32
93/94	C.Palace	18
94/95	Liverpool	-
94/95	Wolves	8
94/95	Burnley	6
95/96	Liverpool	-
96/97	Sunderland	36

Other forwards include:

Mike Macari, Paul Macari, Simon Sturridge, Jose Andrade.

Chris Kamara the manager

Suprisingly Sacked by Bradford City in early January - despite taking the club to promotion in 1995/96 and presiding over a mid-table position at the time of his departure - former Swindon favourite Chris Kamara was appointed in succession to Chic Bates last Thursday (January 22nd).

Bates had struggled to pull the Potters out of what was starting to look like a relegation freefall and a humiliating 7-0 home defeat by Birmingham - followed by a 3-1 FA Cup loss to West Brom - proved the final straw.

Kamara, who played more than 230 League games for the Robins during two spells here, also appeared in 60 League games for the Potters in the late 1980's and was very popular at the old Victoria Ground. Renowned for his aggressive, never-say-die attitude as a player. Kamara has shown the same level of skill, guts and determination in his short managerial career, with a series of daring signings providing much excitement among the folk

of Bradford.

When he took the helm, the Bantams were sitting in the mid-table and looking at a season of consolidation in the Second Division. By May, however he had guided his side into sixth position in the League, and contention in the Play-Offs.

The Semi-Finals saw City up against bookies favourites Blackpool- who they beat 3-2 in a thrilling two-legged affair - before a Wembley meeting with Notts County resulted in the glory of promotion.

After guiding his team into Division One, Kamara made some audacious captures for the club. Among his achievements, he persuaded ex-England pair Chris Waddle and Gordon Cowans to

move to the Pulse Stadium and, more recently, he snapped up the impressive Scandinavian striker Robert Steiner as well as Brazillian

front-runner Edhino and former England U21 starlet Gordon Watson.

Kamara had an excellent playing career that spanned 20 years with the likes of Portsmouth, Swindon, Brentford, Stoke, Leeds, Luton and Sheffield United, before moving to Bradford on a free transfer in July 1994.

Stoke fans will hope he is the man to turn things at the Britannia Stadium.

STATS...STATS Swindon vs Stoke City

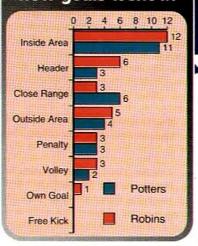
who's played for Stoke

WINOS	MIG	y		TOT Stoke
	A	G	c	Previous Clubs
Richard Forsyth	27	7	1	Birmingham
3/10/70	5	1	2	Kidderminster
Kevin Keen	27	1	3	Wolves West Ham
25/2/67 Eng Yth	6	1		
Carl Muggleton	27			Sheff Utd (L) Rotherham
13/9/68 Eng U21	6			(L) Celtic Leicester
				Stockport (L) Hartlepool
				(L) Blackpool (L)
				Chesterfield (L)
Graham Kavanagh	26	3	6	Middlesbrough
2/12/73 Eire U21	4(1)	5		Darlington (L)
Larus Sigurdsson	26		5	Thor
4/6/74 Iceland	6		5	
Steven Tweed	26		3	Ionikas Hibernian
8/8/72 Scot U2	1 6		3	
Ally Pickering	25		3	Coventry Rotherham
22/6/67	6			
Peter Thorne	24	10	4	Swindon Blackburn
21/6/73	4(1)	4		Wigan (L)
Andrew Griffin	23	1	1	
7/3/79 Eng Yth	5			
Paul Stewart	20	3	4	Sunderland Liverpool
7/10/64 England	3			Burnley (L) Wolves (L) Palace (L) Tottenham Man City Blackpool
				Palace (L) Tottenham
				Man City Blackpool
Ray Wallace	19(2)	3	4	Hull (L) Leeds Reading
2/10/69 Eng U21			1	(L) Swansea (L)
				Southampton
Neil MacKenzie	7(1)			
15/4/76	1(1)			
Kofi Nyamah	6(1)			Kettering Cambridge
20/6/75	1(1)			
Gerard McMahon	4(9)			Tottenham Barnet (L)
29/12/73 N Ire	2(1)			Glenavon
Jose Andrade	4(8)	1		Club Academico
1/7/70	2			
Justin Whittle	3(3)			Celtic
18/3/71	1(4)		1	
Danny Tiatto	2(3)		1	FC Baden Salernitana
age 24 Australia				Melbourne Knights
Marco Gabbiadini	1(3)			Ethnikos Derby Oxford
20/1/68 Eng B	1	1		(L) Birmingham (L)
				Palace Sunderland
Dean Crowe	(2)		4	The state of the s
6/6/79	1(1)			
Michael Macari	(1)			West Ham
4/2/73	100			
Simon Sturridge	(1)			Birmingham
9/12/69	(1)			
Dick Schreuder	177			RKC Waalwijk
2/8/71	(2)			·····• iraamija
	(2)			
Key : A=Appearance	es (Si	ib) (di	2=0	autions (Sent Off) G=Goals

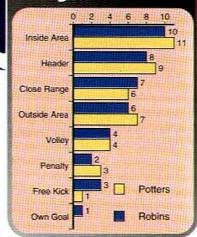
Key: A=Appearances (Sub) C=Cautions (Sent Off) G=Goals Cup details, date of birth and international honours in Italics

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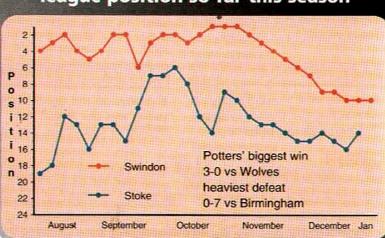
how goals went in



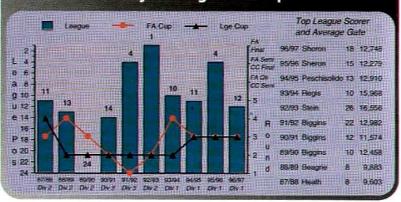
how goals conceded



league position so far this season



Stoke's 10 year league and cup record



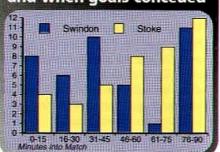
Stoke's results analysis



when goals were scored



and when goals conceded





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diary of the week



January 19

The boys were rather quiet when they reported for training obviously disappointed with the result against Reading if not with their effort.

We had a full length practice match so that we could look at trialist Phillipe Durpes who was not convincing on this display.





January 21

The rain took its toll on the training field at BR and so we organised a change of venue today and used the Supermarine facilities. We were hoping to have another look at Phillipe Durpes but the French FA refused to give their permission even though his club were in favour.



January 22

It was good to be on a decent surface again at Supermarine. We played a game of possession football and it turned out a good session. The lads had a good work out and there was a lot of quality on view.

We also looked at some setpiece rountines with the Bradford game in mind.



January 23

After a few skill games to warm-up with we went into our normal routine of a small-sided game followed by sprints.

There was plenty of 'mlckey taking' and Bugsy didn't have the best of mornings so the shout went up that the Samaritans were on the phone for him.

In the afternoon we had pasta back at the ground before travelling north to Bradford.





January 24

Training had gone well and the players were in good spirits going to the Bradford game. This was a match we knew we needed something from if we were to get back on track so it was so disappointing to lose an early goal.

At half time we told the players they were not doing anything wrong. We just needed

a break....keep going.

This they did and it was such a relief when Chris scored the goal. I had stopped my watch and it was eight minutes into injury time. The celebrations that followed, both on the bench and on the pitch, summed it up. That goal made it all worthwhile and I don't think we will get a more valuable point this season.



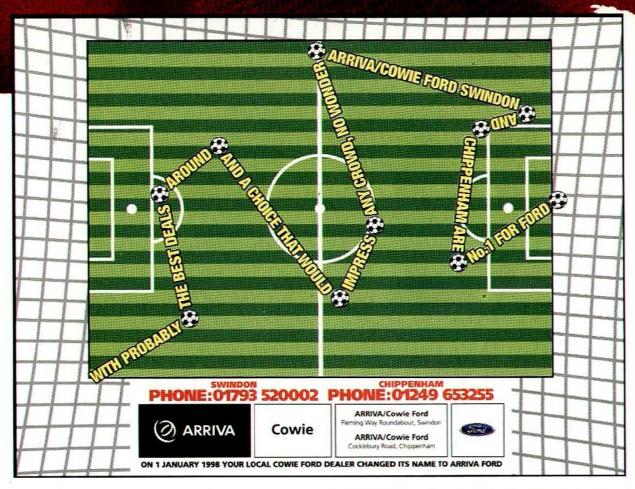
January 25

Next Saturday we travel up to McAlpine Stadium to meet Huddersfield Town and our old friend Wayne Allison. The chief will not have enjoyed Match of the Day last Saturday evening when he was seen fluffing the easiest chance of the afternoon against Wimbledon in the FA

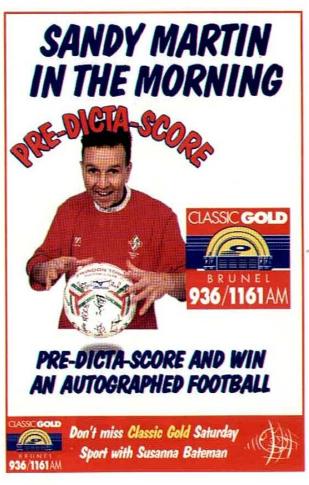
Cup. We will have to be wary of giving him an opportunity to wipe the slate clean at our expense.

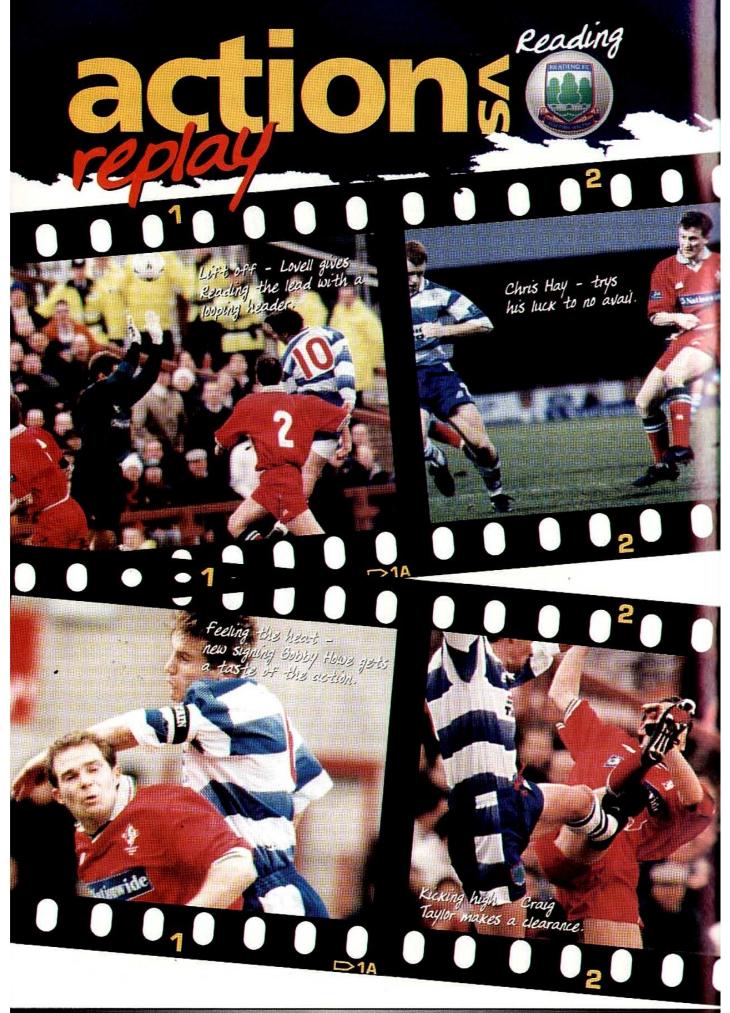
Our next home game in Division One is a real cracker - it's West Bromwich Albion here on Saturday February 7th. They, like us, have figured at the top of the table this season but new manager Denis Smith has seen his side win only once in six games. Be prepared for a real ding-dong battle.

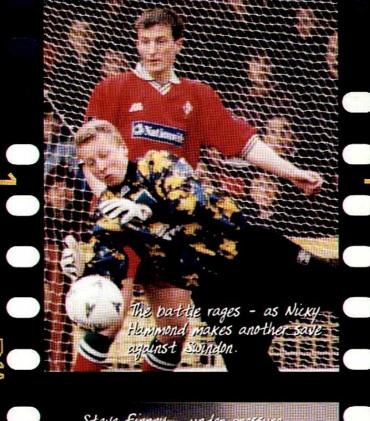


















SATURDAY JANUARY 17TH NATIONWIDE DIVISION ONE Swindon Town 0

Reading 2

ATTENDANCE: 9,500



- Fraser Digby
- **Brian Borrows**
- **Mark Robinson**
- Darren Bullock (Watson 77)
- **Craig Taylor**
- Alan McDonald (Lee Collins 67)
- Philippe Cuervo
- **Bobby Howe**
- Chris Hay
- **Steve Finney**
- Ty Gooden

Sub not used: Culverhouse

MATCH REPORT

Town looked to complete a league double over near neighbours Reading when they took on 'The Royals' at The County Ground a fortnight ago. But our single goal victory at Elm Park back in sunny August seemed a very distant memory as the visitors condemned Macca's weakened side to a fifth successive defeat.

A defensive mix-up allowed Stuart Lovell to nip in and head the Royals in front after nine minutes and it got worse five minutes later when James Lambert punished another error to double their lead.

Although Reading were good value for their win Town did have a couple of chances, but found visiting keeper Nicky Hammond in fine form. The former Swindon keeper first denied Darren Bullock, reacting sharply to keep out the midfielder's close range header, and then produced another good stop at the feet of Chris Hay. Despite that defeat, Town remain in the top half of the table and well placed to turn things round. The swift return from injury of Mark Walters and George Ndah - and the injection of some much-needed confidence-will be vital.



Avon Insurance Combination Division One.

Norwich City Reserves 2 Swindon Town Reserves 1

Basic errors cost us dearly in the first half, both Norwich goals could have been averted if we had attacked the ball instead of standing off.

This was a pity because we played some nice football in the first-half, though we did not create any clear-cut chances. Even so we did not deserve to go two goals down.

We had a serious chat at halftime at which a few things were and we were a different team after the break.

The lads kept their shape and totally dominated the play. We got back into it in the 65th minute with a very good goal, Stewart Hodson hitting a beautiful header home from a Kevin Watson corner.

We created several halfchances after that yet just could not force another goal. I don't think "Mildy" had a shot to save in the second-half so in respect of playing football, and the way we wanted to do things properly from the back, it was a great improvement. The attitude of the pros and kids, especially Thorne and Hodson, to that half-time chat was very pleasing.

Overall we were disappointed not to have at least squeezed a

minutes the players did themselves justice.

Team: Mildenhall, Peters, (Campagna), Thorne, Leach, Culverhouse, Elkins, Hodson, Watson, Cowe, Meechan, (Finlayson), Hulbert (McAreavey). Scorer: Hodson



Reserve Team Player Appearances 97/98 Gls Player Name: STEPHEN BENNETT ANTHONY BETTERTON DARREN BULLOCK PETER CAIRNS SAM CAMPAGNA 1(4) STEVE COWE EE COLLINS HILIPPE CUERVO AN CULVERHOUSE REDERIC DARRAS OL DAVIS ASON DRYSDALE 5(1) 5(1) PETER HOLCROFT ALUN HUGHES ROBIN HULBERT (1) 6(5) PHIL KING PHIL MACDIARMID PAUL M:(AREAVEY STEVE M:(MAHON IAN M:(SHERRY ALEX MEECHAN 5(5)

Avon I	nsurance	1000
	nation Div	1
Tue Aug 12		A1-2
WED AUG 20		H 0-2
Thur Aug 28		A 0-1
WED SEP 10 Mon Sep 15	Bulleton B 45 A	H 0-1
Mon Sep 15	Brighton & H.A. NORWICH CITY	A 2-0 H 1-2
THU SEP 25 Wed Oct 01	Portsmouth	A 2-0
Wed Oct 08	Wimbledon	A 0-3
WED OCT 15		H 1-1
WED OCT 29	ARSENAL	H 0-3
Mon Nov 03	Chelsea	A2-5
WED NOV 12		H 5-1
Thur Nov 20	OPR	A 2-3
MON NOV 24		H 1-1
WED DEC 03	WEST HAM UNITED	H 3-1
Mon Dec 08	Luton Town	A 0-6 A PP
Wed Dec 10 WED DEC 17	Watford BRIGHTON & H.A.	H PP
Wed Jan 07	Chalton Athletic	A PP
WED JAN 14	PORTSMOUTH	H41
Thur lan 22	Norwich City	A 1 2
THUR JAN 29	WIMBLEDON	H 7.15
Wed Feb 04	leswich Town	A 7.00
WED FEE 11	SOUTHAMPTON	H 7.15
Wed Feb 18	Milwell	A 2.00
WED MAR 04	CHELSEA	H 7.15
Tue Mar 10 West Mar 18	Arsenal Oxford United	A 2.00
	LUTON TOWN	A 7.30 H 7.15
MON MAR 16 WED MAR 25		H715
WED APR 01	O.P.R.	H 7.15
Wes Apr 08	Southampton	A 730
Wed Apr 15	Tottenham	A 7.30
WED APR 22	WATFORD	H 7.15
	se fixtures are to be play	



THE LEAGUE

Avon Insurance Combination Div 1



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.

Prices: Adults £4.00 Concession £1.00 Free admission to Season Ticket Holders!





Caught.

Ball watching!

The official ball supplier to:





















FIXTURES 97198

South East Counties League Division 2

L	ay	ш		
	AUG		BRENTFORD Southampton LUTON TOWN	H 2-2
	Aug		Southampton	A 1-2
SAT	AUG		LUTON TOWN	H 2-4
WED	AUG		CARDIFF CITY (JFC1)	H 3-3
Sat	Aug	30	Reading	A 3-1
Tue	Sep		Cardiff City (JFC1 Rep)	A 0-3
SAT	SEP		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		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			Bristol Rovers (FAYC)Res	0-0 Ac
	SWII	ndon	lost 10-9 on penaltic	25
SAT	NOV	29	BRIGHTON & H.A.	H PP
Sat	Dec	06	Bristol City	A 3-0
SAT	DEC	13	BRISTOL CITY	H PP
Sat	Dec	20	Brentford	A 2-3
SAT	JAN	03	SOUTHAMPTON	H PP
Sat	Jan	10	Luton Town	A 1-0
SAT	JAN	17	READING	H 2-0
SAT	JAN	31	COLCHESTER UNITED	H
Sat	Feb	07	AFC Bournemouth	A H
SAT	FEB	14	BRISTOL ROVERS	н
Sat	Feb	21	Wycombe Wndrs	A
SAT	FEB	78	WIMBI FOON	H
SAT	MAR	07	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	H
SAT Sat	MAR Mar	14	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR Oxford United	A
SAT	MAR	21	BARNET	H
Sat	Mar	28	Brighton & H.A.	A

Home fixtures k.ck-off at 11 Warn at the Nationwide Pavilion, ripers Way - Kick-Off times are subject to change without prior warning.

FUCTURES 97198

West Country Television South West Counties Youth League

Bristol Rovers

CARDIFF CITY

Sept 06	Cheltenham Town	A pp
SEPT 13	CIRENCESTER TOWN	H1-2
Sept 20	Exeter City	A12
OCT 09	SWANSEA CITY/LC R1)	H 2-1
0011	Plymouth Argyle	A15
OCT 18	SWANSEA CITY	H 0-3
OCT 25	YEOVIL TOWN	H 0-1
Nov 01	Torquay United	A1-2
NOV 08	AFC NEWPORT	H 1-1
Nov 15	Bashley	A 22
Nov 22	AFC Neviport (LCR2)	A 1-2
NOV 29	BRISTOL CITY	H PP
Dec 05	Bristol City	A 1-1
DEC 13	BRISTOL ROVERS	H 5-2
lati 03	Cardiff City	APP
JAN 10	CHELTENHAM TOWN	H 3-3
Jan 17	Cirencester Town	A 0-5
JAN 24	EXETER CITY	H 1-3
Jan 31	Hereford United	4
FEB 07	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H
Feb 14	Swemes City	A
Feb 21	Yeard Town	A
FE8 28	TORQUAY UNITED	H
Mar 07	AFC Nemport	A
NOV 62	RASHIFY	H

youth team focus

South East Counties League Division Two

Swindon Town Youth 2 Reading Youth 0

We opened the game in a very workmanlike fashion and scored an early goal through ALEX MEECHAN.

Good work from JASON DONLON, a new signing from Nottingham Forest, paved the way, Alex finishing it off splendidly inside the box.

The play then swung either way and just before half-time JAMIE MILLS hit the post with a good header but we went in just one up.

We regrouped and went at them again. We hit the post twice before eventually forcing a second goal. The woodwork first denied ALEX MEECHAN, then JASON DONLON before WAYNE THORNE made it 2-0 to give us a little bit of a cushion.

It was a super strike from about 25 yards. The ball was played to him and he just hit it. Obviously he is the skipper, and a defender, and had gone through and joined in the play which was very pleasing.

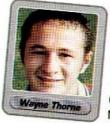
Without going OTT on the performance - the lads have turned out some good displays of late - I was delighted with the workmanlike attitude of the boys. They keep their shape



with Tommy Wheeldon

> superbly now, the penny seems to be dropping on that side of it, and this is very pleasing to see.

It is nice to beat local rivals and this was a double because we won at their place.



Team: Dawes, Mills, Campagna, Hodson, Thorne, Davis (Bennett 75), Macdiarmid, Peters (Hughes 80), Donlon (Mackey 85), Meechan, Burke.

NEXT HOME GAME

Saturday 31st
January 1998
Colchester
United
Kick-Off 11am

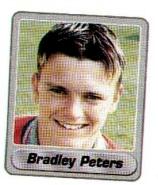
SOUTH WEST COUNTIES Saturday 7th February 1998

Kick-Off 11am

Plymouth







Youth Team Player Appearances 97/98

	Lea	gue	C	IP .	To	tal
Player Name:	Apps.	GIs.	Apps.	Gls.	Apps.	Gls
STEVE BENNETT	4(1)	1	3(1)	0	7(2)	1
ANTHONY BETTERTON	11	0	6	0	17	0
NICK BURKE	4	2	0	0	4	2
PETER CAIRNS	9(2)	0	6(1)	1	15(3)	1
SAM CAMPAGNA	14(1)	1	8	0	22(1)	1
KEVIN CAMPELLO	Table	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	7(3)	0	7(2)	0	14(5)	7
SOL DAVIS	9	1	3(1)	0	12(1)	1
KEVIN DAVIES		0	1	0	2	0
IASON DONLON	1(1)	0	0	0	1(1)	0
ALAN FLANNAGAN	2	0		0	3	0
CHRIS FLOOD	0	0	terms facility	0	1	0
WESLEY GARTON	2 2	0	1000	0	38.0	0
STUART HODSON	16	0200 1 000	9	1	25	2
ALAN HUGHES	3(3)	0	2(4)	1	5(7)	1
ROBIN HULBERT	8	3	8	-1	16	4
ROBERT LAWES	2	0	0	0	2	0
PHIL MACDIARMID	11(1)	0	4(3)	0	15(4)	0
NEIL MACKEY	(2)	0	0	0	(2)	0
PAUL MCAREAVEY	9(1)	3	5	2	14(1)	5
IAN McSHERRY	8(3)	00 T 100	5(1)	2	13(4)	3
ALEX MEECHAN	14	10	8	1	22	13
IAMIE MILLS	9(3)	2	6	0	15(3)	2
CHRIS ORGAN	a out freedom	0	0	0		0
CHRIS O'CONNELL	6(1)		2(1)		8(2)	1
BRADLEY PETERS	9(1)	1	7(1)	1	16(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	Q	1(1)	0
MICHAEL TARRAN		0	1	0	and the	0
CARL TAYLOR	1(1)	0	0	0	1(1)	0
WAYNE THORNE	13(1)	2	8	0	20(1)	2

If watching live football is alien to you...



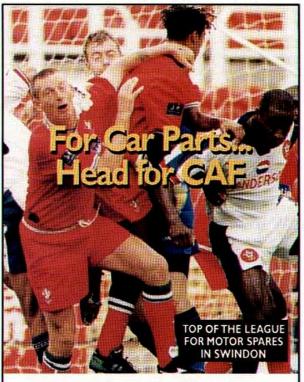
...join the real world!

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.

Don't miss another match, FreeCall 0500 400 500







UNIT 8, LYNTON ROAD, CHENEY MANOR IND. EST. TELEPHONE: 01793 532891 commur scheme nev

with Clive & Jon

Good evening to you all for tonight's game against Stoke City.

Jon and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Peter Thorne who returns to the club for the first time since leaving last year.

Peter helped out on a few community office initiatives during his time at the club, so it will be nice to see him again.

The community office 8-a-side tournament has reached its final stages with just eight teams remaining from the original twenty four. They are Shaw Ridge, Holy Family, Wanborough, Wroughton, Westlea, Covingham, Haydon Wick and Grange. The standard has been very high and Jon and I would like to thank everyone who has taken part with this event. We would also like to thank our referees Sean Clarke and Grahame and Kevin Barnes who did a great job. Remember the grand final will be held here at the County Ground before the reserve fixture against Chelsea on 4th March.

Don't forget our next course here at the club is scheduled for February Half-Term. All information can be obtained at reception or alternatively you can contact us on the above telephone number.

Finally, you may have read in the last games programme about the tragic news of the premature death of Simone Kaye, who was the partner of one of our top coaches Paul Scott.

As a mark of respect Jon and I have been setting up some fund raising initiatives with all the proceeds going to the Prospect Hospice where Simone sadly passed away. We have a Race Night planned at the County Ground for the 20th February. At the beginning of March we are planning an auction of a signed shirt from every Premier League club. For further details on these charity events please contact us on 01793 421303.

Until next time, all the best

Clive and Jon.







Sponsors of the Saturday Team Club Tel: 01793 432840



Clive Maguire

Holloway





The new courses start on Feb 23. Contact Tom Jones: 01793 644777.

VENUES - (FEB-MARCH)

Nationw

LINK CENTRE		
Monday	5.30-6.30pm	5-6 & 9-11
Thursday	4.30-5.30pm	5 years
	5.30-6.30pm	7 - 8 years
OASIS		
Wednesday	5.00-6.00pm	8+ years
Saturday	9.00-10.00am	5 - 8 years
	10.00-11.00am	5 - 8 years

Monday 3.30-4.30pm 4.30-5.30pm Wednesday 3.30-4.30pm 4.30-5.30pm

STRATTON

Wednesday

HIGHWORTH

Tuesday

Thursday

MARLBOROUGH 4.00-5.00pm 5.00-6.00pm

> 4.00-5.00pm 5.00-6.00pm 5.00-6.00pm

5 - 6 years 11 - 16 years

5 - 6 years

9 - 11 years

7 - 8 years

7 - 8 years

5 - 6 years 7 - 8 years 9+ years

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







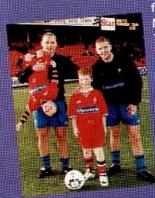






Get those Junior Robins membership cards ready, for your free ride on the Swindon Town Football Club 'PARK AND RIDE' - call the box office for details on 529000. (Saturday match days only), next match West Brom, 7th Feb. '98.

The Sheffield United away trip on Saturday 13th December 1997, seems a lifetime ago, but the other day some photographs landed on my desk



from Sheffield of our Mascot's of the day. Thomas Lewis age 5 and Jonathon King aged 9, both celebrating their birthdays that day. Seen here with Steve Finney and Mark Robinson in the normal mascot position! - you can 't say we keep our mascots hanging around!

Queens Park Rangers 14.03.98

The QPR trip is looming, this will be a mega day!, so, give me a call on 01793 523121 and book your seats. £12 for adults and £7 for juniors.

Junior Robins Training

For all you budding footballers, Monday evening training for the Junior Robins has started again at the Oasis Leisure Centre.

4.30pm - 5.30pm for the 5-9 yr olds **5.00pm - 6.00pm** for the 9yr olds and over.

For more information you can contact

Tom Jones on 01793 644777

So come on you Junior Robins let's get behind the lads, cheer louder than ever before, and crack 'The Potters' this evening.

mascots...mascots...

Today's mascot

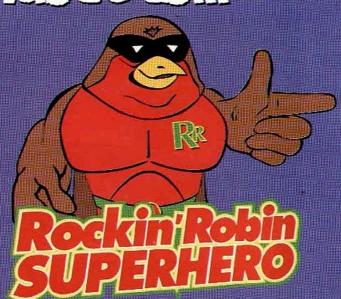
Alan Collins is the lucky mascot for this evening.

Alan is 10 years old and his hobbies are Football,

Basketball and Computer Games.
His favourite town player is
Steve Finney.

STFC has donated this mascot package to the "Starlight Foundation." This wonderful charity grants wishes to seriously ill children. Susie Mitchell

approached Swindon Town Football Club as Alan is a lifelong supporter of the lads. His greatest wish is to be a mascot for the team. So here goes, bring us luck Alan, but above all have a great time!



To join the Junior Robins or become a mascot ring the Marketing Dept on: 01793 532121

World Cup'98 at the county ground

With the World Cup looming our thoughts turn to past Managers as we wish Glenn Hoddle & John Gorman good luck later in the year.

Already the merchandising companies have begun to bombard us with every conceivable product available all carrying World Cup branding, Solar powered torches and indoor hangliders will soon adorn the shelves of most Sports retailers throughout the country as everyone tries to jump on the bandwagon. It is incredible what products the suppliers dream up and yet we can still take comfort in the fact that we were first with the branded garden Gnome!

Whilst the build-up is gathering pace it makes sense for us to give you advance notice of the fact that all England matches during the tournament will be shown on Big Screen TV in the Supporters Club Lounge here at the County Ground. Keep an eye on the programme for more details. In the meantime England's pre-tournament games are detailed right.





centre of excellence

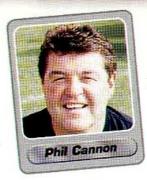
Twitch Phil Cannon

During the weekend of 17th January the Centre of Excellence teams clashed with local rivals Oxford United. Swindon played host to the Under 13's and Under 14's while the Under 16's travelled away.

At Oxford the Under 15's game was called off due to a water-logged pitch. But with a tremendous effort from the Oxford United staff the Under 16's game went ahead, and what a game it turned out to be. The fixture was played in a great spirit by both teams and Swindon came out eventual winners 2-0 with goals from Adam Collier and Frazer McKean. The result was a much deserved win, especially in such poor conditions.

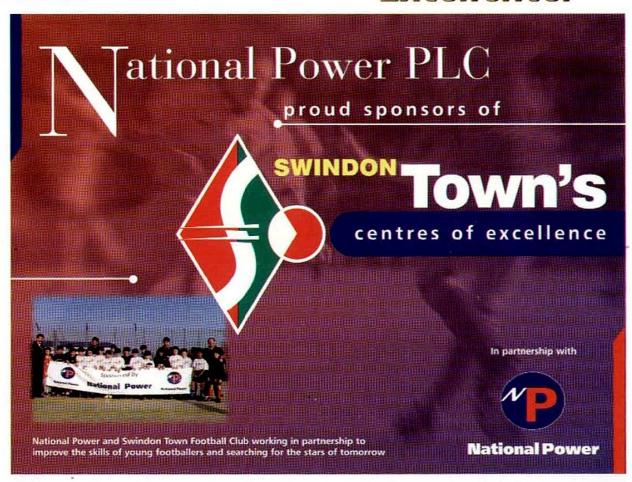
At home the Under 13's went down 2-0 to a solid Oxford performance. But I was particularly pleased with the way the Under 14 side battled to get a 1-1 draw on the rain drenched pitch.

Getting games played in conditions more suited to ducks requires a lot of hard work and commitment from coaches and their families. I am very fortunate to have such good coaching staff to assist myself and I can't praise them enough for their efforts.





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





ticket office @swindon town tickets







Saturday 31st Jan 3.00pm Kick off

Pay on the turnstiles at the Gardner Merchant (south stand)

Prices are £11 for adults, £6 for juniors and OAP's

Disabled facilities are available on the day, prices are £7 for a wheel chair and £7 for a helper.

Tickets for the following home matches are now on sale:



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



Manchester City, Saturday February 21st, 3pm.

Wolverhampton Wanderers, Wednesday February 25th, 7.45pm.

Don't forget

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 Thursday January 29th the Reserves take on Wimbledon 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 AIRE 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

Park & Ride

Parking is free at Nationwide House and a return ticket for the bus journey is only 50p (kids under 5 and



Junior Robins travel free) . The first buses depart Nationwide House at 12.30pm then every 20 minutes thereafter through to the final bus at 2.30pm. After the game the first buses depart the County Ground at 4.45pm then every 20 minutes thereafter through to the final bus at 6.00pm. The Bus Stop is located at the Magic Roundabout, towards Shrivenham Road. Why not give it a try at the next home game against West Brom on Saturday February 7th.

Paleine 1060 in



Huddersfield Town Saturday January 31st Kick-Off 3.00pm

After halting a run of defeats at Bradford last weekend, Town face the Terriers at the Alfred McAlpine Stadium - and renew acquaintances with 'Chief' Wayne Allison.



Going to Port Vale... Tuesday February 17th

Don't miss the next issue of our Matchday Magazine for all your travel details.

With Tranmere still involved in the F.A. Cup, Town's visit to Prenton Park on February 14 will now be rescheduled for a later date.

Travelling by Road...

Take the A419/A417 to join at Junction 11a. Leave the M5 at Junction 4a and travel via the M42/A42 to join the M1 at junction 23a. Leave the M1 AT Junction 38 and follow signs for Huddersfield (A642). Look for signs for A62 Leeds. Turn right off Leeds Road into Bradley Mills Road. Parking is available at the Alfred McAlpine Stadium.

Did You Know?

In Town's first ever win at Huddersfield - at Leeds Road back in 1981 - new Stoke boss Chris Kamara scored both goals in a 2-0 victory.



TRAVEL CLUB

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN Fare £13.00

Depart County Ground: 9.00am

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



HUDDERSFIELD TOWN Fare £12.50

Depart COUNTY GROUND (Superstore) 8.30am also picking up at WOOTTON BASSETT 8.00am WEST SWINDON 8.15am ERMIN STREET 8.45am

- Executive coach travel with hostess service
- All coaches are NON SMOKING
- Reductions for accompanied under 15's
- No membership fee

COUNTY GROUND BOOKING OFFICE

Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday evenings 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Matchdays from 1.30 (Sats.) and 6.30 (Weds)

Tel: (01793) 536757

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

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9AM - KICK-OFF
MATCHDAY SATURDAYS

SALE STILL ON!

DRESS WATCH NOW JUST



KIDS WATCHES

£6,99 £6,99



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2-19,79

SIFC SUMPER

9-19 99

SPORTS WATCH

2-19,99 2-19,99

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PHH

Official car supplier to STFC

free). The first buses depart Nationwide House at 12.30pm then every 20 minutes thereafter through to the final bus at 2.30pm.

After the game the first buses depart the County Ground at 4.45pm then every 20 minutes thereafter through to the final bus at 6.00pm. The Bus Stop is located at the Magic Roundabout, towards Shrivenham Road. Why not give it a try at the next home game against West Brom on February 7th



Fraserwins player of the month

Fraser Digby is seen here picking up the Player of the Month award before the game against Reading.

Presenting the trophy is Cyril Carpenter of Whichford Hyundai, sponsors of the Half-Time Nest Egg.

Although the recent results have not been going our way Fraser has still produced a string of great performances and deservedly wins the award.



900 games and counting!

Pictured here is Steve McMahon congratulating Swindon fan Derek Elston.

Derek is celebrating having watched his 900th consecutive Swindon Town game against Reading, and despite the result Derek had a great day. Long may his loyal support continue.



Swindon Town Disabled Supporters Club

The next meeting of the Swindon Town Disabled Supporters Group will be at 7.00pm on 3rd February in the County Ground's Supporters Club.

There is no fee for joining the club and all are welcome at the meeting. Applications forms can be obtained from Tony Bedford in the Disabled Lounges on Matchday's or collected at the Meeting.

He looks forward to seeing new members at the next meeting.

Attack of the giant coffee jars!

If you're wondering why huge coffee jars have been appearing around the ground we can reveal they are in place to improve our service to you, the supporter.

The huge kiosks have been set up to serve coffee and tea so you won't have to spend as much time queuing at other refreshment Kiosks if you just want a drink.



Sporting Dinner

Swindon Town Football
Club are presenting a
Sporting Dinner on
Thursday 19th February at
the De Vere Hotel,
Swindon.

The evening commences at 7.45pm and features as guest speaker ex-Liverpool player and TV pundit lan St John.

In addition, the evening includes a four course meal, football auction, guest MC Steve Sutherland, Chief Marketing Executive of the Football League and stand-up comic Micky Gunn.

Tables of ten are being sold at £350+VAT (£35+VAT per head). To book your table or to make further enquiries please contact Richard Mackey or Mark Hillier in the Marketing Dept. on 01793 532121.

Park and Ride Scheme

The Park and Ride Scheme set up to make it easier for you to get the County Ground is running successfully before and after games.

Parking is free at Nationwide House and a return ticket for the bus journey is only 50p (kids under 5 and Junior Robins travel

Winning Ways (Vs Stoke) Amanda Pearson of

Highworth was the purchaser of the winning Nest-Egg ticket at the fixture with Reading. It was ticket number 0531 and it was exchanged for £592! Even so, I had a feeling that Amanda would have preferred three points from the game. You may find that hard to believe so I shall endeavour to put it in perspective.

One of the more enjoyable segments of dealing with the club lotteries and fund-raising activities is that I am in the constant company of the true supporters. They live for the club 24 hours a day and would even consider dying for it. I know the feeling well! Swindon Town Football Club has flowed through my veins with all the potency of Niagara Falls

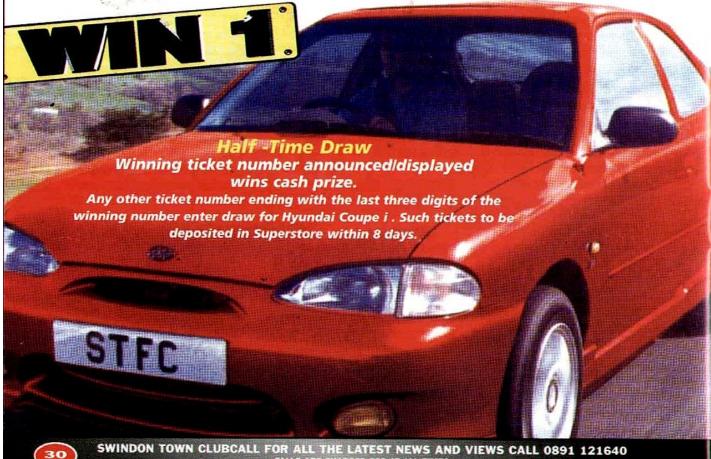
for almost fifty years. I know what it is to be filled with absolute disheartenment. I know how it feels to be overflowing with sheer rapture and euphoria. Throughout the years, I have walked home from the County Ground in moods ranging from total devastation to those of unconditional fervency. Nonetheless, I can truthfully say that for every teardrop shed there has been hours of unqualified pleasure. For every drop of rain there has been an abundance of rainbows!

That is why I find it undemanding to comprehend the anger and aggression when things are going wrong. For no-one in any other human form applies passion and emotion to his task as does the true football fan. They are a special breed of person and I feel sorry for anyone who is not among their ranks. Without intentionally wishing to be controversial, I have more time for a true supporter of any club (including

Oxford) than I have for someone who watches Swindon play on Ceefax and then tells everyone how bad they played!

There is of course a misapprehension that Directors, Managers and Players do not share the heartaches of the true fans when things are going wrong. Let me assure you I have quietly observed them doing just that....not just this season but over many years. Passion and emotion are not restricted to the stands and terraces alone. Even so. this does not alter the fact that true football supporters are those who show it most and it is nothing to be ashamed of

True fans are the life-blood of the game. Without them there would be no games to watch. And, perish the thought, no nest-eggs to be won! So congratulations to Amanda Pearson for winning the last draw AND for being proud of the Swindon shirt she wears with unlimited loyalty!



A point at Bradford and something for Swindon fans to shout about at last. Not a result that will be remembered in years to come, but the crucial thing is that Macca's managed to stop the rot.

But the Swindon boss knows his side must grab all three points tonight to erase the painful memories of the last two defeats at The County Ground. Although the post-Stevenage Sunday morning headlines were enough to make Town fans choke on their cornflakes, the Reading result was probably harder to swallow.

Yes, Stevenage are three divisions below Swindon - but not a bad side as they showed on Sunday - and yes, The County Ground missed out on a money-spinning clash against Alan Shearer and co. But for some, national ridicule is easier to deal with than wounded local pride.

The Stratton Bank in the throes of wild celebration is never a pleasant sight, but it becomes more of a nightmare vision when the 2,000 occupants have only had to travel 35 miles for their pleasure. But Town fans can feel a little flattered to know Swindon hold the dubious honour of being Reading's number one local foe - a back-handed compliment if ever there was one. I'm reliably informed by my Berkshire colleagues that the most colourful chants emanating from Elm Park's Southbank terrace contain far more disparaging remarks about Swindon than any of Royals' other local rivals.

Well, Swindon just can't return the compliment. If the noise generated by the South Stand is anything to go by then the visit of Oxford is the most keenly awaited fixture at The County Ground. Town may well have dropped three vital points at home to Reading, but take some heart from the fact that the trip to The Manor Ground on April 11th - by which time Macca's boys should be flying again - presents the opportunity of completing a league double in the derby clash for Swindon's

steve Rumble

most dedicated followers.

Sad to report that two carriages on a Great Western 'football special' were severely vandalised by about 40 Reading fans returning from Swindon. The four transport police accompanying around 350 supporters could only stand by as the yobbish minority ran riot. Just makes you think what they would have done had they lost.

Sunday's Sky extravaganza from Stevenage showed viewers just how great the FA Cup can be. The competition is steeped in history and renowned for the exploits of spirited underdogs, so it was magnificent to see the less fancied side get another chance at St. James' Park - although Newcastle had to rely on the brilliance of Shaka Hislop. Good luck to Stevenage in the replay but was I the only neutral feeling a twinge of sympathy for Newcastle? Probably, but when Stevenage secured the backing of Britain's biggest selling daily newspaper - which then whipped the nation into something of an anti-geordie

frenzy - I couldn't help feeling the clash had

lost something of its David

and Goliath tag. At least

Swindon had only the wind and the rain to contend with for the Hertfordshire side's visit - far less potent than the wrath of The Sun.

Philippe Cuervo helps earn a point at Bradford

Clark Holt

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Swindon Town Football Club's Solicitors

and

are pleased to welcome as their guests this evening

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1 Sanford Street, Swindon SN1 1QQ Tel: 01793 617444 Fax: 01793 617436 Email: @clarkholt.co.uk

with Julian Wetherall icetine news

This evening we would like to welcome all our sponsors to Swindon Town Football Club for what promises to be a great game against Stoke City.

Soonsors

It is a real pleasure to be able to welcome CLARK HOLT, Commercial Solicitors, as tonight's Matchday Sponsors. Clark Holt are a leading firm of solicitors based in Swindon. They specialise in all aspects of corporate and commercial work, including commercial property. They were recently described in one of the national publications of law firms as "the most commercially minded firm in Swindon". They are very proud to be Swindon Town's Solicitors and we are delighted to welcome them back to the County Ground this evening where they have been match sponsors for a number of years.

a company Specifically

Tonight we have four Matchball Sponsors and we hope the officials and guests of ALLIED DUNBAR, COOPERS & LYBRAND, BLICK PLC and BRITVIC SOFT DRINKS have a thoroughly entertaining evening.

ALLIED

Allied Dunbar has been in business since 1971. Their 3,500 financial advisers across the country provide protection, DUNBAR life assurance, pensions, mortgage and

investment advice for over a million clients, making them the largest unit-linked life assurance company in the UK. Their award winning television advertising campaign has reinforced their status as a household name in face-to-face, professional financial advice.

For further information about Allied Dunbar's products and services, or if you would like to speak to one of their professional financial advisors, on a no obligations basis, please call the Allied Dunbar Client Options Team on 01793 405300.

Coopers & Lybrand is one of the world's leading providers of professional services, and has a reputation for serving clients and bringing competitive advantage to their activities. "We meet their needs by combining our international capabilities and local market knowledge with our extensive range of skills and industry expertise.

We aim to provide clients with clear specialist help and are organised into five lines of business which consist of: Business Assurance (audit, accounting, advisory, due diligence, risk assessment, forensic), Business Recovery & Insolvency, Corporate Finance, Management Consulting, Taxation and Human Resource Advisory."

For further information please contact Stephen Hughes, Senior Partner Bristol/ Gloucester office of Cooper & Lybrand on 0117 9292791.

Blick Plc is the ultimate business to business

organisation which, through its main operating companies, Blick Telefusion Communications Ltd, Blick Time Systems Ltd and PAC International, offers effective integration solutions to everyday business problems such as: communication-through on-site radio paging and public address systems; Security with access control, fire alarm and CCTV systems; Time Management- with central data collection including time and attendance, payroll and shop floor data; as well as systems for Car Parking and Satellite TV distribution. For further information call 01793 692401

For many years Britvic Soft Drinks have been playing a major part in the supplying of soft drinks to all trade sectors with brands like Pepsi, Tango, Robinsons, Red Card, 7UP, R Whites etc. Britvic Soft Drinks have a product portfolio to satisfy the needs of all consumer customers. "We are pleased to sponsor today's "Match Ball" and wish Swindon Town every success both against Stoke City, the rest of the season and for the future."

Presentation I me

GALA CLUBS were Matchday sponsors for the game against Reading, and Man of the Match Darren Bullock

is pictured handing over a signed, framed shirt to Gala's representative Geoff Dennison as a thank you for their continued support.



Geoff Dennison is also pictured handing over a bottle of bubbly to Darren Bullock.



Lanbase, McLeans Homes, Trencherwood Homes and Heywood Insurance were the Matchball Sponsors for the Reading game and representatives and guests of all four organisations are shown being given signed footballs as a momento of their day by Darren Bullock.















treatment room

Sponsored by Ridgeway Hospital

As Jonathan Trigg has moved on to a new job at Portsmouth, Reserve and Youth Team Physio Dick Mackey has stepped into the breech until the new first-team Physio is named. He has many years experience as a sports physio at the club and has compiled this weeks "Treatment Room" page.

First of all I would like to say goodbye and good luck to my colleague "Triggy" who did a great job at Swindon and who I enjoyed working with.

Now down to the nitty gritty of player injuries. This last week has seen short-term injuries for Phil King, Jason Drysdale and Mark Walters improve. Drysdale and King will resume training Monday after both suffering from calf

strains. While Mark Walters has recovered well from a knock on his ankle and should also be back training next week.

Scott Leitch played for the reserves last Thursday against Norwich and proved he has shaken off a bout of flu and recovered well from a bruised calf, so he'll be back in First-team contention.

Long-term injuries are also showing signs of improvement. Club captain Mark Seagraves is working hard and making good progress through his rehab training to recover from a nasty pelvic injury. To aid his rehabilitation Ziggy spent the weekend at Lilleshall where he received one-to-one specialist treatment.

Frank Talia, who has suffered from shoulder, neck and back injuries has undergone "key-hole" surgery to correct a recurring problem in his knee and should be back to full-fitness within six weeks.

the shadow board

This week sees the David Mellor roadshow finally get on the road.

We have all been waiting impatiently to find out what the Football Taskforce is all about. Will it tackle the real issues which concern the true soccer fan? Will it have the teeth to chew over the real issues and make a difference or will it be a toothless wonder?

The cynics among us are currently very sceptical. The biggest change in soccer in our generation has surely been the advent of satellite television. The money from Sky has led to the formation of the Premiership and now satellite money is cascading into the first division. We have all seen the results with huge player salaries and a massive influx of foreign

'mercenary' players into our game. What will the impact be on our national team- surely the number of foreign players must inhibit the young players coming through from youth football to the highest level? Will the largest clubs be willing to invest in youth development schemes when the wage bill is so high and they need to report profits to shareholders to keep their share price high on the Stock Exchange?

For smaller clubs such as Swindon the issues are more related to survival in the shadow of the Premiership's big business. How can clubs such as Swindon grow and prosper when survival is the economic reality that challenges the Boardroom?

Swindon is the first major soccer club in England to give its

fans a real voice. Please let us have your thoughts on the future of the game. What do you think of the impact of Sky's millions? What do you think of pay-per-view? What do you think of clubs becoming big businesses with Stock Market Quotations?

Let us have your thoughts and we will compile our own submission to the Mellor thinktank. Let's make sure that the voice of Swindon fans is heard clearly and then let's challenge David Mellor to "make a difference" instead of just talking.

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.

Stevenage
did themselves
proud on Sunday
afternoon and with just a
little more luck could
well have tipped
premiership giants
Newcastle United out of
the FA Cup.

Kenny Dalglish was never comfortable with the fixture in the first place, hence the pre-match strong arm tactics to try and get the Conference outfit to switch the game to St James' Park in the first place.

It can be a real culture shock for players used to performing in the best stadia in Europe to go and play in outlandish places with small grounds and poorer conditions. And of course the psychological edge is held by the underdogs who have everything to play for and nothing to lose.

You are simply not allowed to lose to such opponents. The stigma of being beaten by a side 80 odd places below you in the football pyramid can taunt a club forever. Newcastle United is still haunted by the memories of Hereford United and can ill afford another nightmare.

Arsenal have bitter memories from Walsall, York and Swindon Town so no matter how great a club is cup-tie football is no respecter of reputations.

The decision to throw Alan Shearer in for his first start since his long injury absence was an indication of Kenny Dalglish's misgivings and even though England's captain scored in the opening minutes with a textbook far-post header the men from **Stevenage** were far from unhinged.

Yes, it was a great day for them and they thoroughly deserved the 1-1 draw, with a performance that puts into perspective our own unfortunate experience against them in the previous round. results in the Premiership. They will be more comfortable at home in the replay.

THE RISING TIDE of outrageous pay demands by players at the top end of the business is a worrying factor that concerns us all. The matter was highlighted again last week by the reports in the press that Robbie Fowler was demanding

£50,000 a week at Liverpool.

Some footballers it seems, or more likely their agents, are becoming far more mercenary. The game is becoming more about individuals than teams and that old fashioned virtue loyalty is being thrown out of the window.

The current trend is indirectly

The game is be about individue and that old far loyalty is being the window.

Is there some mystic or cosmic influence brought to bear which renders the opposition helpless?

More likely it is a matter of timing and luck, the fact that the giant killer is drawn against successive teams with a confidence problem. This plus the fear factors stoked up in the media add to the nerves and in the end the vanquished themselves believe defeat is inevitable.

There is no way that Stevenage are a better team than us and the gap between them and Newcastle is obviously even greater. Certainly our lads were lacking in confidence when we took them on and likewise Newcastle United who have suffered a really poor run of

linked to the Bosman ruling which has done so much harm to the game. Clubs like Middlesbrough and Chelsea have recruited from abroad paying the foreign stars a King's ransom in return. No wonder the homegrown lads are

feeling

hard done by.

But how must a Liverpool supporter on the dole feel about one of his heroes demanding all that cash to play for them? There has to be some sanity in the game otherwise it is going to self-destruct and that will be the end for all of us.

duesacross...

- 1. Herbert. Ex Arsenal Manager (7)
- 4. First game for new club (5)
- 7. Changes halfway through the season (4)
- 8. Does the rounds at kick-off (1-3-4)
- 10. Match abandonment usually does this (10)
- 12. Certain home win on coupon (6)
- 13. A pack that roams Molineux (6)
- 15. Goalkeepers should be these? (10)
- 18. Well beaten by West Ham? (8)
- 19. Biggest month in football? (4)
- 20. Outright wingers were these in the 50's (5)
- 21. Sweet popular at Goodison Park (7)

cluesdovm...

- 1. Flows into bank in Scottish League? (5)
- 2. Ref stops the game for a long time (8)
- 3. Place to park in Cardiff (6)
- Sound of away fans starting journey early? (4-6)
- 5. Needed to bend ball round wall (4)
- 6. Scout attends game to spot these (7)
- 9. Managers who fill gaps (10)
- 11. "we'll support you...... (8)
- 12. David adds Spice to Old Trafford? (7)
- 14. Fed tea results in a loss! (6)
- 16. Individual runs (5)
- 17. Lincoln City (4)

3055VVEYS GOWD...

1 CLYDE, 2 ABANDONS, 3 MINIAN, 4 DAWNCHORUS, 5 BIAS, 61 TALENTS, 9 CARETAKERS, 11 EVERMORE, 12 BIAS, 61 TO WINDS, 17 INPS

SINSWEIS SCROSS...

1 CHAPMAN, 4 DEBUT, 7 YEAR, 8 A NEW BALL,

10 ENDS A FARCE, 12 BANKER, 13 WOLVES, 15 SAFEGUARDS,

18 HAMMERED, 19 GOAL, 20 MUSTS, 21 TOFFEES

PREDICT THE SCORE See if you can predict today's results.... Manchester City Norwich City Swindon Town Charlton Athletic Stoke City Charlen Athletic Stoke City

Wordsearch

U M R O B S O N G
R A C E B O B M A
Q U E M B A S I L
U N G R A D I A D
A O D E S H E A R
R P U R S H O R I
T E R N E N T N D
X N E T T I N G G
G N I S T A D R E

Eight Divison One Managers

BÁSSETT (FOREST), TERNENT (BLBY), M-MAHON (SWINDON), ALDRIDGE (TRANMENE), RUDGE (PORT VALE), GAADI (CREWE), REID (SUNDERLAND), ROBSON (MEDULISBOUCH)

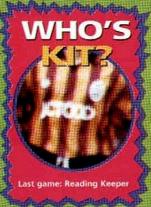
STOWERS

- Two teams from the same city were promoted from Division Three Name the city.
- David Seaman signed for Arsenal from which club?
- 3. What title did Phil Taylor win after starting as a one hundred to one outsider?
- Who scored a triple century and a century in the same test match for England?
- Who scored a penalty in the final to win the World Cup for West Germany?
- Nick Faldo won the British Open on which course?
- Who saved a penalty during his 600th League game while playing for Leeds?
- Which team left the Football League but returned later in the decade?
- Which athlete became the first Briton to break a World Record on home soil for 17 years?
- 10. Who signed for Juventus from Fiorentina for £7.7m?

ANSWERS 1 MERLYN DAY'S COLCHESTER 9 STEVE BACKLY 6 SALHME
6.51 ANDREWS 1 WORLD DARTS 4 GRAHAM GOOCH 5. BAEHME





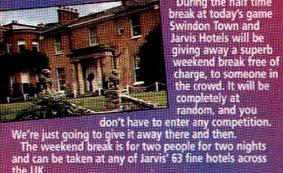


Are you the lucky winner of our 'Face in the Crowd' competition?



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.

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



During the half time break at today's game Swindon Town and Jarvis Hotels will be giving away a superb weekend break free of

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

Nationwide

Sponsored by

by Roger Reeves

The Town remained top of the league despite not having played since the 14th December.

The home game with Swindon Spitfires was postponed because the pitch was unfit and the following week the away game at Binfield was off because the Berkshire pitch was waterlogged. We have not, as yet, been advised of new dates for these fixtures. It does mean that we will have to wait to play Swindon Spitfires as the away game was postponed because both sides were in the women's FA Cup on the original date.

We are holding a Race Night on Friday 13th March in the Executive Suite at the County Ground. Dave Hollister will be master of ceremonies for what should be an enjoyable and perhaps a profitable evening.

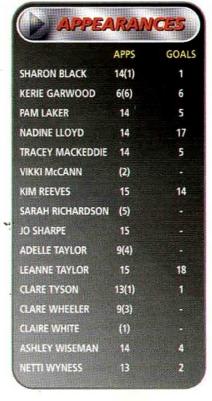
Cost of tickets are £3.00 from Dave or any of the Ladies team players.

Next Sunday we entertain our old rivals Reading Royals on the County Ground Extension. The Royals are currently a place below the Town so it's a top of the table clash . In the away game the Town were beaten by five goals to two. The two sides have met in every one of the five seasons that they have been in the Southern Region League as both clubs were promoted through the divisions together. The games have always been keenly contested so come along and give the Town Girls your support. Kick off 2-00 pm.





Tracey Mackeddie, who plays in midfield and is in her fifth season with the club.



FIXTURES 97198

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	CHELTENHAM	5-2
SUN 2ND NOV	CARDIFF C. (FA CUP RZ)	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 CHARGE	11-0
Sun 14th Dec	Oxford United	2-1
Sun 18th Jan	Binfield	Α
Sun 25th Jan	BRACKNELL TOWN (LC 2nd)	Н
IST FEB	READING ROYALS	H
8th Feb	Portsmouth	Α
15th Feb	Cheltenham	A
ZZND FEB	OXFORD UNITED	H
ist Mar	Southempton	A
TEA	Swindon Spitfires	A
	SWINDON SPITFIRES	1

THE LEAGUE

Southern Region League Premier Division 1997-98

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon Town	12	10	0	2	57	20	30
Reading Royals	10	9	1	0	52	7	28
Cheltenham	13	8	3	2	38	19	27
Southampton	13	8	1	4	39	28	25
Portsmouth	10	5	2	3	16	14	17
Oxford United	13	4	2	7	21	26	14
Swindon Spitfires	9	4	2	3	18	23	14
Southampton Saints	15	3	2	10	21	41	11
Launton	12	2	2	8	12	43	8
Binfield	8	2	1	5	9	21	7
Havant Town	11	0	0	11	8	49	0
Company of the second							



Trust us to help the game

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

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

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

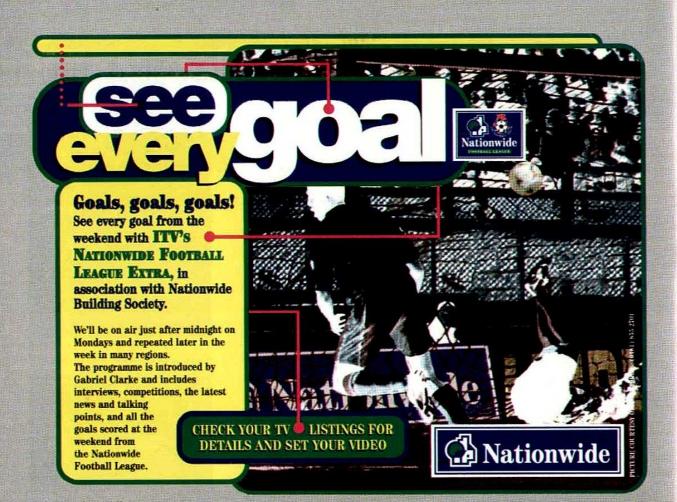


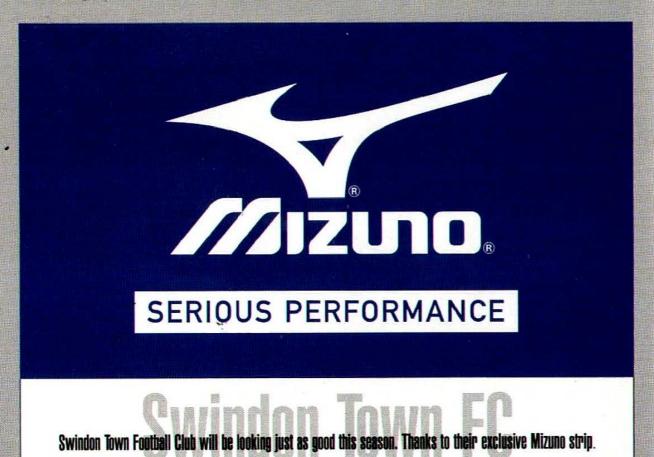
THE FOOTBALL TRUST, WALKDEN HOUSE, 10 MELTON STREET, LONDON NW1 2EB



























There were ten **Nationwide Division One** clubs in action last night and six of us involved this evening with the battle for promotion and playoff places hotting up.

Our tussle against a Stoke City side that has been rocking precariously is of the utmost importance to us for if we can establish a win tonight to back up that well earned point at **Bradford City**

on course. As the First Division table stood at the beginning of the week we were six points short of the play-off pack, a leeway that can quickly be hauled in with a couple of good results.

last Saturday, we

will be back

Stoke come with a reasonable away record that shows three wins and five draws in 14 games and of course will be fired up to impress new manager Chris Kamara who has set a target of Premiership football in two vears for the club he describes as a "sleeping monster."

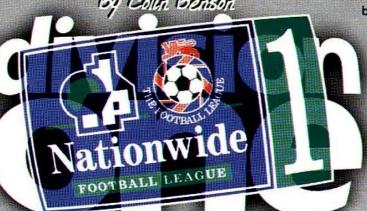
Kamara of course has played for both Town and the Potteries side but his last visit here, on November 8, as Bradford City's manager ended in defeat.

Manchester City were embroiled in FA Cup action with West Ham on Sunday. Today they focus on a very difficult home game against Charlton Athletic, who were held 1-1 at home by Wolves in the FA Cup. Alan Curbishley's team had prepared for that game with a

four day break in Spain and were buoyant after eight straight wins at home but they have not beaten Wolves in the Cup since 1946 and it is surprising how difficult it is to overcome tradition.

They are at full strength for tonight's test at Maine Road and are boosted by an away

By Colin Bonson



record of five wins, three draws and six defeats. No other team in this division has scored more than Charlton's 22 goals on their travels; on the other hand they have also conceded 22.

Man City are only a point off the bottom three and are desparate for a win. They have a squad good enough to take them to the top end of the table but just do not seem to have the confidence to make it happen.

Dutch defender Gerrard Wiekens, who damaged an ankle in the 1-0 home defeat by Sunderland, is doubtful and Lee Bradbury, City's record £3.5 million signing, who has not played since breaking a bone in his back while on England Under-21 duty last October, could make a return to league action.

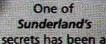
Charlton are the favourites but

City have Kinkladze and fellow Georgian Murtax Shelia to call upon. My forecast is City to win at last.

Mention of Sunderland brings us to tonight's other game at Carrow Road. Peter Reid's boys will be out to bounce back after their surprise Cup exit at Tranmere. Sunderland went to

Prenton Park on the back of a 17-

match unbeaten run but found themselves playing second fiddle to an inspired Rovers performance.



settled side. Would you believe that Mr. Reid would have named an unchanged eleven for a record breaking 11th time on Saturday but for a hamstring pull that ruled Darren Williams out.

With seven wins away and just three defeats they have to be favourites at Carrow Road where Norwich City have lost four drawn four and won six. But the Canaries have already surprised Sheffield United and Nottingham Forest in recent weeks and could make life uncomfortable for the promotion hopefuls. I'll opt for a draw.

Finally, just a note that Norwich have confirmed that their former Scottish International striker Robert Fleck will be leaving the club, at the end of the season. The 32year old will be given a free transfer.

































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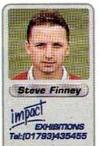


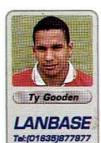
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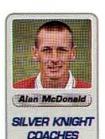
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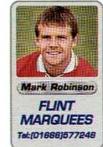
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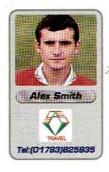


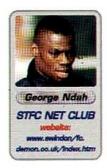


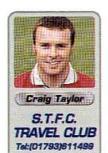
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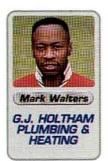














Sponsor your favourite Swindon Town player's WHOLE KIT for the remainder of the 1997/98 season. Tel: 01793 532121 for more details.

with Mark Seagraves

What an important goal that point saver was at Bradford on Saturday.

It gave everyone a big lift and now the lads are bubbling again and eager to get to grips with Stoke this evening.

It is very important that we build on the draw at Bradford. We waited a long time for Chris Hay's equalising goal and to be honest lived on our luck a little at times but there can be no doubt that we deserved a point.

Fraser Digby made a brilliant penalty save at a crucial time. If they had gone two up we would have been dead and buried but Fraser kept us in the game and

we went from strength to strength.

This was a much better performance all round. We looked solid and more confident than of late and the lads were well pleased at the end.



dismal run of results we are still within striking distance of the play-offs reflects how well we did in the first half of the

TOWN

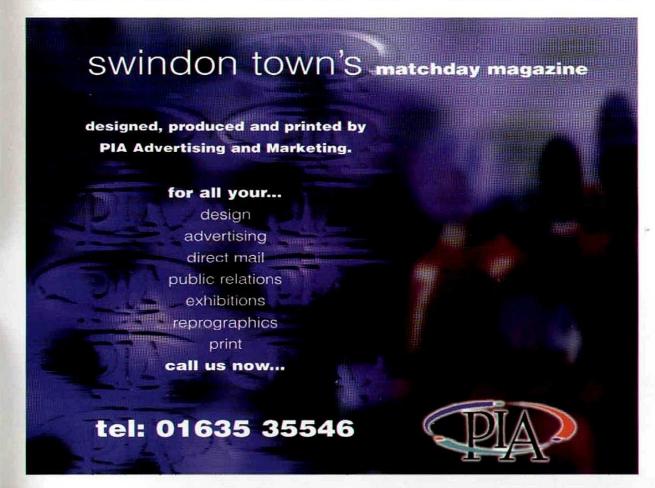
season. We showed then what we are capable of and now its time to return to that form.The Bradford draw lifted everyone; the buzz on the coach back was

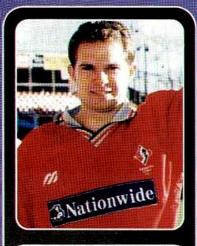
tremendous. It is

difficult to explain the change. When you are losing it is hard to keep your head up; people get disappointed and frustrated. The lads have worked hard to turn things round and hopefully we have now turned the corner.

Our home form is reasonably good and we need to improve it further tonight by beating Stoke who themselves have not been enjoying the best of fortune.

The fact that after a really







Date of birth: 6-11-73.
Place of birth: Annitsford.

School years

Secondary school attended: Scatonburn High School. Best subject at school: Leisure and Sports studies. Football team supported at school: Newcastle United. Football hero as a schoolboy: Peter Beardsley & Kevin Keegan. Favourite football position at school: Centre midfield. Career probably taken up if not football: "That's a good one I've never really thought about that". First match ever seen: Newcastle V Crystal Palace 1982-1983. At what age did you first

Non

attend matches:

8 years of age.

Favourite other sports: Golf, I love that. Biggest influence on career: My dad, then Archie Gemmill Best match ever seen (Live or TV): Liverpool v Newcastle 1996. Favourite football expert: Haven't got one. Especially not Hansen!! Favourite country to watch: It has to be England hasn't it? Highlight of career so far: Playing in the UEFA Cup for Forest Biggest disappointment: Not making it as a regular with Forest Choice Opponents in a

cup tie: Newcastle United

Boby Howe

Stephen Robert Howe learned his craft with Nottingham Forest whom he joined from school in December 1990.

Greatly influenced by the coaching and help of Archie Gemmill he progresses impressively and was given a Football League debut in the First Division game against Bolton Wanderers on 26th September 1993.

"Bobby" made three further league appearances that season but none in the following campaign during which he gained further experience whilst on loan to Kettering Town.

Capped by England a Youth international level he was an outstanding youngster with a promising future but it was not until the season of 1995 96 that he really enjoyed the fruits of his profession ending the season on a real high note with a goal against Oueens Park Rangers.

The young midfielder looked back on the campaign with great satisfaction for he had impressed manager Frank Clark enough to establish himself as a regular selection towards the end of the season and the future looked full of optimism but then he lost the plot somewhat and got brushed away in the confusion that ensued. "Bobby" has no regrets at leaving Nottingham Forest. "None what so ever" he responds. "I was with Forest for ten years and at one time, when I first joined them, it seemed we were at Wembley every year under Cloughie. "Then we had a bad year and Frank Clark came in I got on well with him and he gave me my debut so he was good for me. We

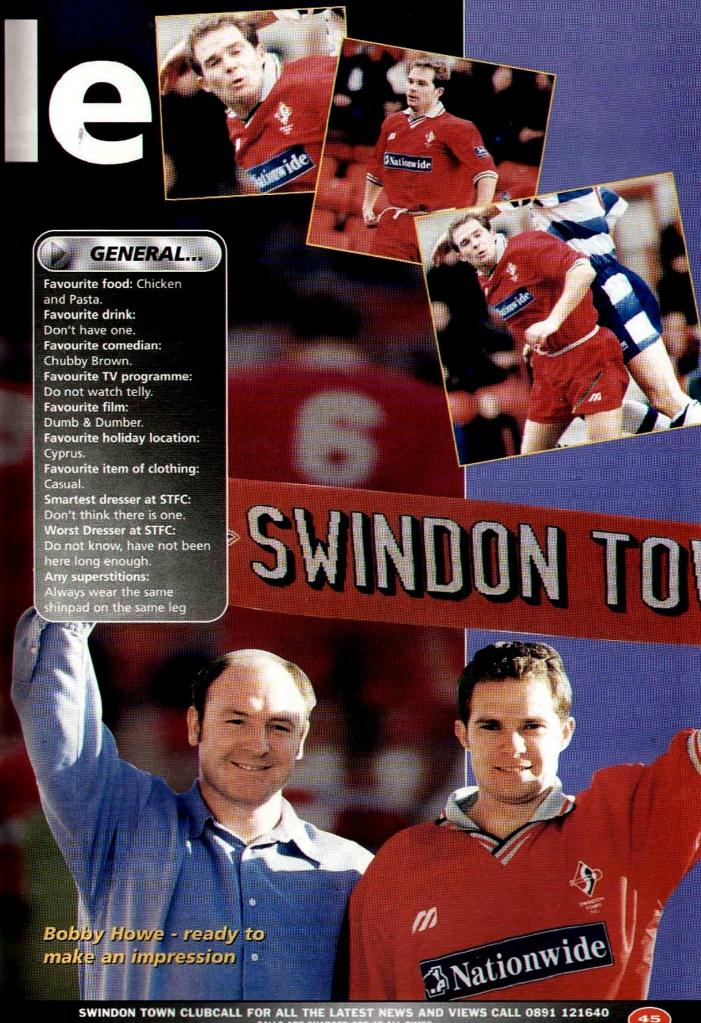
got promotion straight away and then went on to play in Europe."

In was in that colourful UEFA Cup run that "Bobby" enjoyed his greatest moments playing in both legs of the tie with Lyon. "That was a great experience and a wonderful time for everyone at the Club."

"There were several clubs interested in me," reveals Bobby who says, "Reading, Bury and Carlisle were in the frame but Swindon are a footballing team and that is what I wanted. There is a tradition here of good football with Ossie Ardiles and Glen Hoddle. Not only that but what the Gaffer has done in the game can only benefit me.

"I have settled in at Swindon well but still have to get a house sorted out" he says "I'm rushed off my feet at the moment. It's hard to find a house down here, there are not many properties on the market." "I don't want to be in town. My last house was in town and I would prefer to get out in the country." Still only 24 "Bobby" reveals he is not sure what is his best position. He says "At Forest I never played in the same position for more than three games. I either played up front or played in midfield depending on what the side needed" "I don't feel I am stronger in one position than the other. I am a utility player and that can be dangerous, you can fall between two stools. At Bradford on Saturday the gaffer played me in midfield but I think he is looking to use me just behind the front two."

"I missed a good chance at Bradford but hopefully I can put that right in the next game."



statistics 1997/98 season



ดี Stoke 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.



NATIONANDE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 TABLE 1997/98 AS AT 25.1.98

	P	w	D	1	w	D	1	F	A	PTS.
NOTTINGHAM FOREST	28	11	2	1	6	4	4	48	25	57
MIDDLESBROUGH	27	8	3	2	7	4	3	44	24	52
CHARLTON ATHLETIC	27	10	2	1	5	3	6	51	35	50
SUNDERLAND	26	7	4	2	7	3	3	43	24	49
SHEFFIELD UNITED	27	10	3	0	3	7	4	43	29	49
WOLVES	27	9	4	0	4	2	8	37	27	45
WEST BROMWICH ALBION	27	8	2	4	4	4	5	27	25	42
STOCKPORT COUNTY	27	8	4	1	4	1	9	45	37	41
BIRMINGHAM CITY	27	5	5	3	5	5	4	32	19	40
SWINDON TOWN	28	8	3	3	3	3	8	33	41	39
BRADFORD CITY	28	6	6	2	3	5	6	27	29	38
NORWICH CITY	27	6	4	4	4	2	7	27	39	36
CREWE ALEXANDRA	28	4	2	8	6	2	6	34	42	34
QUEENS PARK RANGERS	28	6	6	3	2	3	8	30	41	33
READING	27	5	4	5	3	5	5	27	38	33
IPSWICH TOWN	26	4	4	4	3	7	4	30	27	32
STOKE CITY	27	5	3	5	3	5	6	29	41	32
OXFORD UNITED	28	6	4	4	2	2	10	33	42	30
PORT VALE	28	5	4	6	3	1	9	31	41	29
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	27	4	3	6	3	4	7	30	40	28
MANCHESTER CITY	27	4	3	7	3	3	7	31	32	27
TRANMERE ROVERS	26	5	4	4	1	4	8	28	34	26
BURY	27	3	7	4	1	6	6	24	35	25
PORTSMOUTH	27	5	2	7	1	3	9	30	45	23





First Team Player uniaros Appearances 97/98

	Leag	ue	Cup		Total		
Player Name.	Дррѕ	Apps. Gis		G!s	A255	GIE	
WAYNE ALLISON	16	- 3	2	0	18	300	
BRIAN BORROWS		0			22	0	
DARREN BULLOCK	14(5)	0	0	0	14(5)	0	
CHRIS CASPER	8(1)		0	0	8(1)	SEL AND	
LEE COLLINS	7(4)	0	THE	0	8(4)	9	
STEVE COWE	4(3)	iiii Aii	(1)	0	一班	110 48-	
PHILIPPE CUERVO	8(2)	0	Ber Ares	Ø	10(2)	0	
IAN CULVERHOUSE	8(1)	0		c	9(1)	0	
FREDERIC DARRAS	12(2)	0	200	0	14(2)	ø	
SOL DAVIS	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0	
FRASER DIGBY	25	0	2	0	27	0	
JASON DRYSDALE	8(3)	0	2(1)	0	10(4)	0	
STEVE FINNEY	B(6)	NIP N	1(1)	0	9(7)	4	
TY GOODEN	28	1107211	-14H23HH	0		2	
CHRIS HAY	20(3)	HA.	1112	ø	22(3)	14	
BOBBY HOWE	2	0	0	. 0	2	0	
ROBIN HULBERT	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0	
SCOTT LETTCH	15		2	-	17	HE AND	
STEVE MILDENHALL		0	0	0	建筑上新疆	0	
ALAN McDONALD	23(1)	HE ALL	Maria Samuel	0	26(1)	THE GET	
STEVE McMAHON	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0	
ALEX MEECHAN	(1)	0	9	0	(1)	0	
GEORGE NDAH	8		HAR CHES	0	1 1 9 H	機能	
MICHAEL PATTIMORE	(2)	0	a	e e	(2)	0	
MARK ROBINSON	12(1)	0	2	0	14(1)	0	
MARK SEAGRAVES	5	Ü	HIVALIN	0	7	0	
ALEX SMITH	2(3)	0	0	O.	2(3)	0	
FRANK TALIA	O.	Q	Marie Allega	0	AND AND	0	
CRAIG TAYLOR	16(3)	2	100 m / Care of	0	17(3)	2	
DAVID THOMPSON	3		0	0	8	a	
MARK WALTERS	15(5)	3	2(1)	開新用	17(6)	MEAN	
TONY WARNER	7	. 0	0	. 0	2	0	
KEVIN WATSON	11(2)	0	HERE AREA	9	12(2)	0	
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Da	ite		Opponents		Res	Att.
SAT	AUG	9	CREWE ALEXANDRA	Н	2-0	8,334
	AUG		WATFORD CCC 1 (1)	Н	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	Α	0-0	27,553
SAT	OCT	25	NORWICH CITY	H	1-0	9,842
Fri	Oct	31	Portsmouth	Α	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)	Α	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		BIRMINGHAM CITY	H	1-1	10,334
Fri	Dec	26	Nottinghan Forest	A	0-3	26,500
SUN	DEC	28	IPSWICH TOWN	H	0-2	10,609
SAT	JAN	3	STEVENAGE BOROUGH (F.A. Cup 3)		1-2	9,422
Sun	Jan	11	Crewe Alexandra (1pm)	A	0-2	4,176
SAT	JAN	17	READING	H	0-2	9,500
Sat	Jan	24	Bradford City (F.A. CUP 4)	A	1-1	15,130
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		25	WOLVERHAMPTON W.	H		
Sat	Feb	28	Bury	A		
SAT			PORTSMOUTH (F.A. CUP 6)	H		
Sat	Mar	14	Queens Park Rangers	A		
SAT	MAR		STOCKPORT COUNTY	H		
Sat	Mar	28	Middlesbrough	A		
SAT	1 CATALON		CHARLTON ATHLETIC (F.A. Cup SF)			
Sat	Apr	11	Oxford United	A		
	APR		SHEFFIELD UNITED	H		
Sat	Apr	18	Birmingham City	A		
Sat	Apr	25	Norwich City	A		
117-53-17-11	MAY		SUNDERLAND	H		
Sat	May	16	F.A. Cup Final			



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: Steve Finney & Mark Robinson

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DIGBY	BORROWS C	ULVERHOUSE	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	CASPER	WATSON	COLLINS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	HULBERT	WALTERS(7)
DIGBY	BORROWS C	ULVERHOUSE	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	CASPER	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	SMITH(8)	ELKINS
MILDENHALL	BORROWS C	ULVERHOUSE	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	CASPER	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	HULBERT	ELKINS
DIGBY	BORROWS C	ULVERHOUSE	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	McDONALD	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	MEECHAN	DAVIS(3)	PATTIMORE(8)
WARNER	BORROWS C	ULVERHOUSE	LEITCH	TAYLOR	McDONALD	WATSON	DRYSDALE	HAY	COWE	GOODEN	MEECHAN	DAVI5	PATTIMORE(4)
WARNER	BORROWS C	ULVERHOUSE	LETTCH	TAYLOR	M:DONALD	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	COWE	GOODEN	FINNEY(9)	DRYSDALE	ROBINSON(3)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	LEITCH	TAYLOR	McDONALD	THOMPSON	WATSON	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	CULVERHOUS	E WARNER	WALTERS(10)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	LEITCH	TAYLOR	McDONALD	THOMPSON	WATSON	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	COWE(9)	BULLOCKO	CULVERHOUSE(4)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	BULLOCK	DARRAS	McDONALD	THOMPSON	WALTERS	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	COWE	TAYLOR(8)	CUERVO(4)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	BULLOCK	DARRAS	McDONALD		COLLINS	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	COWE	TAYLOR(5)	WALTERS
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	McDONALD	a Million at the last	WALTERS	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	HAY(5)	COLLINS	DARRAS(10)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	LEITCH	TAYLOR	McDONALD		COLLINS	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	HAY(9)		Z) WALTERS
BOOM SECTION AND ADDRESS.	CULVERHOUSE	PARTE STATE	LEITCH	DARRAS	McDONALD		WALTERS	HAY	NDAH	GOODEN	FINNEY(8)	COLLINS	TAYLOR(S)
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DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	WATSON	TAYLOR	McDONALD		COLLINS	HAY	NDAH	GOODEN	FINNEY(6)	CULVERHOU	SE CUERVO(7)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	McDONALD		HOWE	HAY	FINNEY	GOODEN	COLLINS(6)	CULVERHOU	SE WATSON(4)
DIGBY-	BORROWS		THOMPSON		COLLINS	CUERVO	HOWE	HAY	FINNEY	GOODEN	COWE(7)	McDONALD	(6) LEITCH







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.



Swindon Town

FRASER DIGBY

Stoke City

CARL MUGGLETON

BRIAN BORROWS

ALLY PICKERING

MARK ROBINSON

ANDREW GRIFFIN

DAVID THOMPSON

LARUS SIGURDSSON

CRAIG TAYLOR

STEVEN TWEED

LEE COLLINS

KEVIN KEEN

PHILIPPE CUERVO

RICHARD FORSYTH

BOBBY HOWE

CHRIS HAY

RAY WALLACE

PETER THORNE

MARCO GABBIADINI

TY GOODEN

STEVE FINNEY

JUSTIN WHITTLE

CHRIS KAMARA

TEAM MANAGER

STEVE MCMAHON



news updates, match commentaries and all the latest ticket information. Calls charged at 50p at all times



Swindon v Stoke city Attendance



- Andrew Hall (Birmingham) ssisted by:
- M. Stobbart
- C. Jones

Reserve Official: B. Malone

Andrew Hall
Andrew is a 28 year old Refrigeration
and Air Conditioning Engineer who is married with three young children. He became a linesman in 1994 and was promoted to the National Referees' list

Honours: Assistant Referee in the F.A. Vase Semi Final in 1994 & 1995 along with running the line in the Auto Windscreens Semi-Final in March of



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Saturday 7th **February**

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Kick-Off 3.00pm

Matchday Magazine

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