

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

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Swindon

ISSUE 21



FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROUND-UP

All the latest news and views
from the Nationwide Football League

IT'S YOUR CALL NICKY SUMMERBEE

Tells us about Sunderland's push for the title

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE PHIL CANNON

Gives us his view on Youth Development

SWINDON VS BIRMINGHAM CITY

Saturday 10th April 1999 Kick-off 3.00pm



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vs Birmingham City

April 10th 1999

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Find out all the latest news on today's opponents, Birmingham City. Trevor Francis and his team will be battling for a promotion spot.



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“We had some great managers to play for, from Lou Macari all the way through to John Gorman when I was there.”

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World Football

Atletico Madrid have offered Italy's Alessandro Del Piero 70 billion lire (\$41 million) to join them.



Action Special

All the best shots from our last away game with Huddersfield Town...

28/29



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THREE



Welcome to the county ground



A week ago we were here for what turned out to be a pretty disappointing match against Ipswich.

We hope that today Jim Quinn's side can reproduce the form they showed up at the McAlpine stadium on Easter Monday.

It was frustrating to see Craig Taylor sent off after only five minutes and Ipswich took full advantage, scoring from the spot and adding four more against the depleted Town side. Ipswich looked a real classy outfit and it seems like they could hold on to the second automatic promotion place, so it was always going to be difficult.

The next game away at Huddersfield came quickly, which was good because the club didn't have time to reflect on the Ipswich match too much and the team responded like everyone needed them to. It was only the second time this season that Huddersfield had been beaten at home in the League, so there is every reason to be positive about today's game and hope that Swindon will grind out another valuable three points. The three points away at Huddersfield took Swindon nearer to making sure we avoid the drop, so everyone here today should be upbeat about going into our last six games of the season.

The last home game saw the launch of our new Supporters' Club. Pictured below are the first members of the new scheme receiving their membership cards from Michael Wilks, the Chairman of the new Supporters' Club. The first members are (left to right) Helen and Patrick Parkin from Farnborough, who are the new generation of Swindon fans, and Cecil Green, the President of Swindon Town Football Club.

Today we welcome Trevor Francis and his Birmingham side. This season the Blues have performed well and is another big club looking to do itself justice and earn a place in the top flight. It has been

too many years since the Blues fell out of the old First Division but they have failed to regain that status after many attempts. This season, however, seems to be their best chance in years because Trevor Francis has a talented side putting together the consistency of results that has eluded them for so long. Today they will be hoping to bounce back and push for promotion after a disappointing loss on Easter Monday.

We would like to welcome Trevor Francis and his players plus all the supporters, directors and staff who have travelled down from Birmingham.



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Jim QUINN

gives his view...

Hello and welcome back to the County Ground for today's match against Birmingham City.

In our last two games we basically summed up what we've been doing all season - we are a bit like Jekyll and Hyde. An extremely disappointing performance and a record defeat at home one minute and an impressive away win the next.

We had worked really hard for two weeks in preparation for the Ipswich match but we didn't give ourselves a chance. It was going to be an extremely difficult match even before Craig was sent off and when you play against an in-form team that is pushing for promotion it was going to be a case of shutting up shop, but we couldn't do that for 85 minutes. I would have preferred to be 1-0 down with 11 men, than with 10, but in all the hard work you do you can't legislate for that.

Everybody knows that you can't handle the ball in the box because you will get punished one way or another. I was pleased with the effort some of the lads made - they seemed well up for it. I thought Iffy had a good game and Ty done well but unfortunately we committed suicide at the back and we had a mountain to climb after five minutes. When you give goals away early on it breeds confidence in your opponents and it was going to be a case of damage limitation. The hardest thing for me to understand is that no one has scored against us where we can hold our hands up and say ok that was a quality goal, but we make it too easy for teams to score goals.

We only had one day's rest before we travelled to Huddersfield. We knew we had to defend better as a team and remain positive because our destiny is in our own hands. I had to stay positive and show a bit of leadership and I made some changes that I thought might help matters. I thought Brian Borrows could do with a rest because I think he would admit that he hasn't been on top form lately. We reorganised and planned like we have been doing and hoped that we'd get something out of the game.

After the result on Monday it just goes to show that three days is a long time in football and I was delighted with the response to Saturday's defeat. I told the lads before the game that we needed to show some pride and some passion if we were going to get something out of the game and they responded well. The players worked really hard and grafted out a result. I told them that if they played any football then it would be a bonus but we needed to show character, not take any chances at the back and clear our lines at every opportunity. It worked well and we could have had a couple more goals, I think a 2-1 scoreline flattered Huddersfield. I was disappointed at conceding the goal but we defended well as a team even under pressure in the last ten minutes or so.

Across the back I thought we looked quite solid. Des was terrific at right wing back, the three in the middle worked well together and I thought Ty, despite carrying a bit of a abdominal problem, was man of the match for me. Iffy and Shayne worked well together up-front and Shayne wasn't far away from getting his first goal for us; I think he's going to be a very good player. They had to work hard as a team and got the three much-needed points, which is the important thing. If we played like that every week then I don't think we would be far off the promotion places.

Overall, I think if you had offered me three points going in to the Easter weekend, at this stage of the season, I would have taken it because we need all we can get at the moment and it is a positive step towards safety.

Today we entertain Birmingham. We all know it's going to be another very difficult match and we will have to be on our mettle again like we were against Huddersfield and try and put a dent in their promotion challenge. This will be a real test for our defence because Birmingham have so many attacking options that the threat can come from anywhere. It will be tough but I'm positive we can get a result because we're at home and need those points to guarantee our position out of the relegation places.

Enjoy the match, Jim.

NEXT MATCH

(AWAY) WEST BROM

Tuesday 13th April



This rescheduled fixture will provide an opportunity for another away win!

Today's visitors BIRMINGHAM

After an impressively steady season, Birmingham have settled comfortably into the First Division's top six and, with a strong looking squad at their disposal, seem destined to finish among the Play-Offs at the very least.

While Bradford City and Ipswich Town seem to be engaged in a two-horse race to decide the second automatic promotion spot, Birmingham are poised on their shoulders, waiting for any slip up which might just allow them to sneak into the top two behind Champions-elect, Sunderland.

Blues finished last season with an impressive run of just three defeats from a total of 27 games, and they began the current campaign in much the same vein.

Five wins and a draw in their opening seven fixtures saw Blues briefly top the table, but they slipped up in September, when three successive defeats saw them fall off the pace a little. But they have since returned to form - Easter Monday's 2-1 home defeat by Watford was their first reverse in nine games and only their second in 17.

In the shape of the powerful Dele Adebola and the dangerous Peter Ndlovu - as well as 12-goal Paul Furlong - Blues possess one of the division's top strikeforces, and it has been boosted by the recent arrival on loan of Crystal Palace's England U21 forward Lee Bradbury.

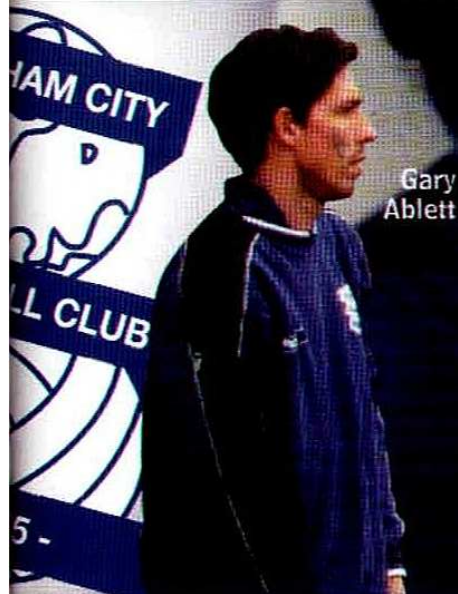
Meanwhile, the huge gap left by the departure of Steve Bruce from central defence has been more than adequately filled by the likes of Michael Johnson and England U21 cap Darren Purse.

City's last trip to this part of the world will bring back happy memories for both Robins' and Blues' supporters, as Birmingham thrashed our friends and neighbours from the Manor Ground 7-1 back in early December. Meanwhile, a couple of months earlier, Trevor Francis' side had battled out a 1-1 draw with Swindon at St Andrews - the Blues' goal coming courtesy of midfielder Chris Marsden (now with Southampton).

Consistently referred to as a 'sleeping giant', Birmingham have been enduring a doze of Rip Van Winkle proportions of late and could finally be about to end a lengthy spell in the doldrums with a welcome return to top flight football.

They have gone close and failed several times in the past, but this year their supporters will be hoping that - in the words of their famous terrace anthem - City can keep right on to the end of the road.





Gary Ablett

the team

CITY

IAN BENNETT

POSITION: **Goalkeeper**

BORN: **10.10.71**

AGE: **27**

HEIGHT: **6ft**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Peterborough**

Highly-rated keeper who is coveted by several top flight clubs, he suffered a broken hand in the penultimate game of last season and has struggled to displace Kevin Poole this time around. The first of many signings by former manager Barry Fry, he began at QPR and also had a spell at Newcastle before moving to Blues for £325,000 in December 1993.

KEVIN POOLE

POSITION: **Goalkeeper**

BORN: **21.07.63**

AGE: **35**

HEIGHT: **5ft 10in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Leicester City**

Experienced stopper who moved to St. Andrews on a free transfer on the eve of the 1997/98 season as cover for Ian Bennett, and ended up playing just one game last term, when Bennett was injured. A former Aston Villa trainee, he has also played for Middlesbrough, Northampton and Hartlepool and has established himself in the side this time around.

GARY ABLETT

POSITION: **Central Defender**

BORN: **19.11.65**

AGE: **33**

HEIGHT: **6ft 2in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Everton**

One of a select band of players to have represented both Liverpool and Everton, Gary has forced his way back into the Blues' first-team this season, after losing his place to Michael Johnson in the latter part of 1997/98. Able to play at left-back or in the centre, he has won England caps at U21 and 'B' level. Joined Blues for £390,000 in June 1996.

SIMON CHARLTON

POSITION: **Defender**

BORN: **25.10.71**

AGE: **26**

HEIGHT: **5ft 8in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Southampton**

Tough-tackling former England Youth international who likes to push forward and get crosses into the box. A left-sided defender or midfielder, Simon is a long-throw specialist who has proved a bargain buy since moving to St. Andrews for £200,000 in January 1998.

JERRY GILL

POSITION: **Defender**

BORN: **08.09.70**

AGE: **28**

HEIGHT: **5ft 7in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Yeovil Town**

A late starter in League Football, Jerry had picked up England Semi-Professional caps before joining Blues for £30,000 in July 1997. Able to play in defence or midfield, he is a good passer of the ball who works hard for the team.

DAVID HOLDSWORTH

POSITION: **Central Defender**

BORN: **08.11.68**

AGE: **30**

HEIGHT: **6ft 1in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Sheffield United**

Snapped up in March by Blues' boss Trevor Francis, he scored his first goal

for the club in the 2-1 defeat at Watford on Easter Monday. One of footballing twins - brother Dean is a striker with Bolton - England U21 cap David is excellent in the air and calm and skilful on the ball.

MICHAEL JOHNSON

POSITION: **Defender**

BORN: **04.07.73**

AGE: **28**

HEIGHT: **5ft 11in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Notts County**

Perhaps not surprisingly nicknamed 'Magic', this speedy central defender formed a rock-solid partnership at the back with Steve Bruce last season. Able to use both feet and also powerful in the air he scored his first-ever goal for the club last season - v Sheff Utd - after more than 250 senior games.

DARREN PURSE

POSITION: **Defender**

BORN: **14.02.77**

AGE: **22**

HEIGHT: **6ft 2in**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Oxford Utd**

Signed in February 1998 as part of a deal which took striker Kevin Francis to the Manor Ground, £700,000-rated England U21 star Darren was viewed as 'one for the future' by Trevor Francis. But his excellent ball skills and strength in the air earned him a regular first-team slot in the early part of 1998/99.

GARY ROWETT

POSITION: **Defender**

BORN: **06.03.74**

AGE: **25**

HEIGHT: **6ft**

PREVIOUS CLUB: **Derby County**

A versatile and consistent right-sided player, Gary was snapped up from Premiership Derby County in August 1998 and has featured heavily for City this season. Previously with Cambridge, Everton and Blackpool.



Chris Holland

CHRIS HOLLAND

POSITION: **Midfield**
BORN: **11.09.75**
AGE: **23**
HEIGHT: **5ft 9in**
PREVIOUS CLUB: **Newcastle**

Creative midfielder with a good work rate who has won England caps at Youth and U21 level and cost Blues £600,000. After a bright start to life at St. Andrews, Chris spent much of last season in the Reserves and has been in and out of the side so far in 1998/99.

GRAHAM HYDE

POSITION: **Midfield**
BORN: **10.11.70**
AGE: **28**
HEIGHT: **5ft 8in**
PREVIOUS CLUB: **Sheff Wed**

Gritty, hard-working midfielder who makes a valuable contribution in the centre of the park. Previously with Sheffield Wednesday, where he had spent the whole of his professional career, Graham moved to St. Andrews in February 1999.

JON McCARTHY

POSITION: **Midfield/winger**
BORN: **18.08.70**
AGE: **28**
HEIGHT: **5ft 9in**
PREVIOUS CLUB: **Port Vale**

A quick and skilful wide player who has won caps for Northern Ireland at 'B' and Full level. Shot to fame at Port Vale, where his fast-raiding wing skills

were a constant threat, before transferring to St. Andrews for a fee of £1.85 million in September 1997. Has yet to find the net this season.

MARTYN O'CONNOR

POSITION: **Midfield**
BORN: **10.12.67**
AGE: **31**
HEIGHT: **5ft 8in**
PREVIOUS CLUB: **Peterborough**

Local-born player who was spotted by Crystal Palace playing for Bromsgrove Rovers, before returning to the Midlands with a spell at Walsall and then joining Peterborough. Originally turned down a move to St. Andrews midway through 1995/96, but then signed for £400,000 in November 1996. Has great stamina and can operate right across midfield or at the back.

DELE ADEBOLA

POSITION: **Forward**
BORN: **23.06.75**
AGE: **23**
HEIGHT: **6ft 3in**
PREVIOUS CLUB: **Crewe**

Big, strong, quick striker who has made a huge impact since arriving in Birmingham for a cool £1 million in February 1998. Five goals in his first seven starts ensured him a hero's welcome, and 13 in 35 so far this term makes him Blues' leading scorer. Recommended to the Nigerian national side by John Fashanu, Dele has been called up to the squad but has yet to figure for the 'Super Eagles'.

LEE BRADBURY

POSITION: **Forward**
BORN: **03.07.75**
AGE: **23**
HEIGHT: **6ft 1in**
PREVIOUS CLUB: **C. Palace** (on loan)

A bustling young forward who has joined Blues on loan from crisis club

the team

Crystal Palace until the end of the season, with a view to a possible £400,000 permanent move in the summer. Previously a £3 million buy for Man City - from first club Portsmouth - Bradbury cost Palace £1.5 million when he signed for Terry Venables earlier this season. He has won England U21 caps.

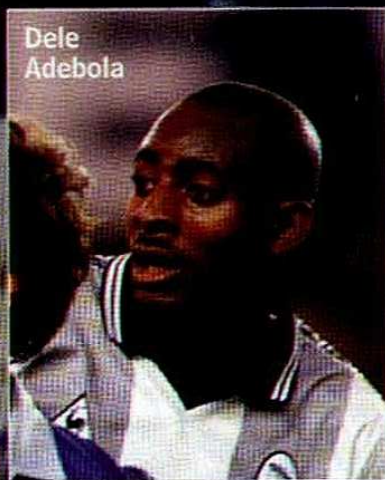
NICKY FORSTER

POSITION: **Forward**
BORN: **08.09.73**
AGE: **25**
HEIGHT: **5ft 9in**
PREVIOUS CLUB: **Brentford**

Made a bright start to life at St. Andrews, following his £700,000 transfer in January 1997, but damaged knee ligaments quickly ruled him out of action for the remainder of 1996/97. Blessed with great pace and an eye for goal, he has suffered from the great partnership enjoyed by Ndlovu, Furlong and Adebola but still has five goals to his credit this season.

Other squad members include:

Jonathan Bass (defender), Steve Robinson (midfield), Martin Grainger (midfield/utility), Bryan Hughes (midfield), James Dyson (defender), Howard Forinton (forward), Tony Hey (midfield - injured), Simon Marsh (defender), Simon Rea (defender), Darren Wassall (defender - out injured, Achilles)



Dele Adebola

the ones to WATCH

PAUL FURLONG

POSITION: Forward

BORN: 01.10.68

AGE: 30

HEIGHT: 6ft

PREVIOUS CLUB: Chelsea

Burly front-man who remains Birmingham's record signing but slipped out of contention slightly following the arrival of Adebola. Injury and suspension have restricted his appearances for Blues since signing in July 1996, but his pace and power make him a handful for most defences - as 12 goals this season testifies. An England Semi-Professional international.

PETER NDLOVU

POSITION: Forward

BORN: 25.02.73

AGE: 26

HEIGHT: 5ft 8in

PREVIOUS CLUB: Coventry City

Signed for an initial fee of just £200,000 - eventually rising to £1.6 million - following fears about his fitness, Ndlovu has fully justified Trevor Francis' faith in him. Quick, skilful and direct with a powerful shot, on his day he is among the division's most devastating attackers. A Zimbabwean international, he has ten goals to his credit already this term.

Peter Ndlovu

the manager TREVOR FRANCIS

It was very much a case of the 'return of the prodigal son' when Trevor Francis was appointed to the Birmingham City manager's chair in succession to Barry Fry in May 1996.

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

As a player, Francis was a teenage sensation for Birmingham, making his senior debut as a 16-year-old and scoring four goals in one match against Bolton Wanderers in February 1971. Such a success was the skilful young goalscorer that he went on to become Britain's first £1m player when he transferred to Nottingham Forest in February 1979.

He won the European Cup while at the City Ground, and then had spells with Manchester City, Queens Park Rangers (player/manager), Glasgow Rangers and Sheffield Wednesday (player/manager) before drifting away from the playing side of the game to concentrate on TV and media work.

He was tempted back into management by his first true love - Birmingham City - as the club searched for a big name to act as the figurehead for ambitious plans being put into place at St. Andrews by the club's owners, the Gold Brothers, and publishing magnate David Sullivan of The Sport Newspaper group.

A series of high-profile, big money signings have followed - as well as a well-publicised bust-up, resignation and subsequent return following a row with Commercial Director Karren Brady last season.

A tenth place finish in his first season was followed by seventh spot last term. One place better this time around will see Francis lead his Blues into the Play-Offs...and possibly beyond.

BORROWS vs ADEBOLA

HEAD 2 HEAD



Brian Borrows

Position	Defender
98/99 Appearances	38
Birthplace	Liverpool
Date of Birth	20.12.60
Goals	0



After a successful two-month loan spell, Brian signed an 18-month contract and transferred from Coventry, where he made well over 400 appearances.

Before playing for Coventry, Brian had spells at Everton and Bolton. He is currently Swindon's captain and most experienced defender. Brian is comfortable anywhere across the back line and is particularly effective as a sweeper. He possesses a great appetite for the game and it seems that he doesn't feel pain, he has only missed four games this season and is in tremendous form. He is aware that he is not getting any younger and is enjoying an excellent season. How long he will continue, only he knows.

There aren't too many Nigerian-born Scousers who could also have played for Northern Ireland.

Indeed, Dele Adebola is probably the only candidate on that front, but it is no wonder that three countries were anxious to claim his services. At 6ft 3ins, his physical presence is significant, but the Town cannot neglect his pace or undoubted skill. Adebola has been a revelation since joining from Crewe for £1 million last season. The goals have flowed and, still only 23, the future seems more than bright. That should come as no surprise when one considers that Dario Gradi and his Gresty Road scouts recognised Adebola's talent at the age of ten. Like so many before him, Adebola seems destined for the Premiership. It seems likely that it will be with Birmingham.



Dele Adebola

Position	Forward
98/99 Appearances	40
Birthplace	Nigeria
Date of Birth	23.06.75
Goals	16

Close UP

Borrows' experience will be key in this confrontation. He will have to be at his very best if he wants to shut out the dangerous Adebola.

Even though this fixture comes late in the season this will be one of the Town's toughest tests.

The Blues have so many attacking options that the threat will come from a number of sources. Adebola

partners former Chelsea player Paul Furlong up front and, with McCarthy and Ndlovu marauding down the flanks, it promises to be a busy time for Borrows and his colleagues.

Borrows will have to be careful where he holds the back line. All four forwards have great pace at their disposal, so any balls over the top and in behind the Town defence will be chased to great effect. However, on occasions Borrows may be relieved to find Adebola making similar runs to Furlong. The Blues' front men are very similar in style, which might make it

easier to anticipate their movements and snuff out the opposing threat.

Adebola's height will cause problems in the box so Borrows will have to compete every aerial ball and clear his lines. However Borrows can turn the tables up the other end and will try to get on the end of corners and free-kicks. Adebola will have to either track back and do some defending of his own or make sure one of his colleagues at the back picks him up because Borrows would like to get on the score sheet this season.

PAGES from the past...

GLENN HODDLE WRITES APRIL 1993...

I have certainly never been involved in a game like the one at Birmingham on Monday.

You just can't explain it. Terry Cooper, the City manager, was shell shocked and so was I. Although we trailed 2-1 at half time, I felt Shaun Taylor had thrown us a lifeline with his tremendous header from Mickey Hazard's free kick and both John Gorman and myself were optimistic we could at least grab a point. Those hopes seemed to have disappeared as we trailed 4-1 within six minutes of the restart. Then two goals coming so early in the half seemed to have decided it.

In the last half hour we played some tremendous football. Skilful, enterprising and adventurous. We actually carved them open and funny enough the better positions we got into and the easier chances we created we didn't take. Nevertheless when Craig Maskell turned in Micky Hazard's cross and their goalie gifted Mitchell a goal in the space of five minutes we were back in it and the goals seemed to come from nowhere with Craig Maskell getting a second between two more for Dave Mitchell.

There support was fantastic. On such a lovely sunny day with so much expectancy it would have been easy for the many fans who made the journey to turn against us, but you didn't, at 4-1 down the cheering and encouragement were as great as ever. The win leaves us looking good for a place in the play offs with an automatic promotion spot still an outside possibility. In a funny way a victory like that over Birmingham can give a bigger psychological boost than if we had gone there and won 2-0. To come back from the dead gives everyone a boost and you become confident about overcoming setbacks.

We shall need to be on better form today than we were in our last home match. For me, it was our most disappointing performance of the season and Luton will feel themselves unlucky to go away without a

point. Paul Bodin with nine goals in seventeen games has been a key factor in our push for promotion. Five times this season he has scored the only goal in a match to give us the points and none was more vital than his left foot strike seven minutes from the end.

Today's visitors Leicester City are desperate for points to keep them in a play-off spot and will be a tough proposition. Their manager, Brian Little, won the Barclays Manager of the Month award for Division One and deservedly so. Their defence is well marshalled by Steve Walsh and in the speedy Julian Joachim and the lanky Ian Ormondroyd they have two dangerous attackers. Leicester missed out in the play off final last year and will want to go one stage further this time but we will be looking to halt their progress this afternoon.



Quiz question:

Swindon did reach the play offs in 1993. Who did they defeat in the final and what was the score?

If you think you know the answer to this question - please send it on a postcard to:

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Last question

Swindon went on to win the Anglo Italian Cup. Who did they beat in the final and what was the score?

Answer... Swindon 3 Naples 0, Peter Noble (2) and Arthur Horsfield scored the goals.

compiled by Dick Mattick

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Mike Walsh's weekly diary...April

Sunday 4th:

Sunday was the morning after the night before as far as everyone at the club was concerned.

The players were under instructions to do their own warm down in the morning and then all the players came in the afternoon to travel up to Huddersfield. We set off at about 3pm and got there at about 7pm and then all the players went straight to bed to get rested up because two games in three days is a tall order at this stage of the season.

Monday 5th:

Monday was all about getting the players ready for the game ahead, making sure that we were collectively focused on the game.

I am pleased to say that we got a very good response and the team stuck together throughout and dug in for the last seven minutes, which I'm not sure where the referee got them from. It was a very competent performance and certainly on the back of the Ipswich game.

Tuesday 6th:

The lads that didn't play on the long weekend came in and it was quite a small squad, so we did some one-on-ones but really just making sure that everyone was fit and would be ready if they were needed.

The first team had a much-needed rest day. It is important that after two quick games in succession that the players get a good rest so they are fresh for the next game, which is the one against Birmingham.

Wednesday 7th:

We travelled to Wimbledon to watch the reserves in action.

Thursday 8th:

We didn't really want to do too much running because the players were still trying to conserve energy for the next match and they had worked really hard on their stamina over the past few weeks.

We kept the session quite short and worked on some small-sided games. Mainly trying to keep the touch going and working on organisation with the Birmingham game in mind.





Football ROUND-UP

Dave Norris brings you all the latest football news...

First Team

Last week's debacle against Ipswich was probably worse than anyone realistically expected.

Though a very strong team, surely not so good as to inflict our worst-ever home result? After that perhaps it was almost as shocking that we came away from Monday's game at Huddersfield with all three points. Thankfully, we have had enough points on the board to give us a very good opportunity to stay up despite the many doomsayers around at the moment, and Monday's win only confirms the fact that we are not one of the three worst teams in this division, not by a long way. After that win we can now look forward to the commencement of next season with a bit more ease.

Behind the scenes that is exactly what we have been doing over the past couple of weeks, from arranging pre-season friendlies to finalising ticket price policies, from forging ahead with stadium redevelopment plans to scouting new players. Everyone at the club has had involvement in these planning stages to make sure we're all pulling in the same direction. This season we have been very aware of the criticism we have received regarding such issues as ticket pricing structure and the placement of, and facilities for, fans. This season coming we

are doing our utmost to make sure the right policies and preparations are in place from the off, and that means as soon as the final whistle blows against Barnsley on May 9th. Over the next few weeks, once plans are complete, we shall be coming forward with these new ideas so that the fans are informed as early as possible.

Of course the centre of attention will always be the first team. Anyone reading these pages at recent home games will already be aware that significant changes are afoot with the professionals on the club's books. Apart from those going out of contract and the new large influx from the YT ranks, Jim Quinn has continued his search for new talent despite the passing of the transfer deadline. In contrast to his immediate predecessor, Jim has a tendency to look in the lower leagues, which can often have the character and ambition he is looking for in abundance. A factor in this is Jim's long-term aims for the club. He wants to be manager here for years to come, rather than use it as a stepping stone. He therefore has the time to develop younger players and those for whom First Division football would be a boon. Des Linton has shown what a lower-League player can offer given the chance and the right application. Although having said that, Shayne Bradley has shown some of the touches of class that the Premiership very often holds.

A major issue for the manager in any



new players he has coming in is motivation. Jim Quinn has repeatedly pointed out that it's his job to pick the players up after recent poor results. Motivation is not just about psychology though. Over the past 12 months the club has had a good look at the way incentive-based contracts can be used to spur on a player. Mark Walters earned an extension of contract earlier this season as a reward to his pre-Christmas performances. To earn that extension he had to have first played 20 first team matches, thus encouraging his fitness regime and, arguably, his desire. Chairman Rikki Hunt has been known to say positive things about incentive-based contracts, though we shall have to see how his opinions meet with the manager's when new faces arrive at the County Ground.

Youth Teams

New College Swindon

Six pros who are certainly not going to lack motivation are those YTs who have been offered a one to two year deal.

The coming season will see the biggest number of pros developed from the club's own ranks for 30 years. Never has the signal been so strong for the youths as now that the club is willing to hand them responsibility. More energy and cash than ever before is currently being invested in the youth set-up. Next year the YT programme will be changing to the new Scholarship (see details in future matchday magazines). A new intake of at least 12 almost wholly local boys will be taking up the scheme, hoping to emulate the six who made it this year. The club has, over the past 12 months, invested heavily in its youth hostel, where it can house its own players. And recently we

signed on a deal with Swindon Supermarine to establish modern training facilities for all our players, including for the first time the youths. Moreover earlier this week we sent off our resignation letter to the South East Counties League, traditionally the main League for our top youths. An expected depletion of the League triggered our decision as several clubs establish Premier League-style Academies. We are currently talking to the Football League about the establishment of a new, centrally-run structure.

Reserves



The youths' participation in the Reserves is also under question.

Last Tuesday the FA Premier League voted to pull out of any Reserve League which featured non-Premier League clubs. They intend instead to establish their own. This is one further example of the way the FAPL is pulling away from the rest. First it was TV money which enabled them to offer massively increased players' wages, so clubs like ours find it increasingly difficult to attract even lesser players from the top flight, even on loan deals. Then the Academy system was instigated for any club willing to invest the millions required in state-of-the-art facilities for the U21 players. The unspoken assumption was that Football League clubs like ours wouldn't be able to afford these, whereas those FL clubs that did have money, such as Sunderland and Manchester City, could be accepted into the fold. Perhaps the Premier League wasn't counting on the likes of Bristol City, Reading and Brentford, who all found the money to establish Academies. These few clubs are the only ones to now have any contact with the Premiership outside of cup competitions. One wonders how long it will be until the Premier League votes to set up their own

clique of Academies separate from the Football League ones?

For Youth boss Tom Jones all the changes will have a big impact. "Well it looks like we'll have a new U19s League instead of the old South East Counties, which was U18. This means many clubs will use their first year pros as well as their YTs. We may use ours from time to time there, but really our new pros will be treated like pros and we're expecting big things from them. They should be looking to break into the first team or at least the reserves. It's a bit disappointing that we're losing the Premiership teams, because the players look forward to it and the crowds come down to see them."

On top of all the other changes, the new separation of Reserve Leagues has only widened the gap between the two leagues, and made the need to get into the Premiership ever more urgent.

Centre of Excellence

Just as with the pros and the youths, it is a time of preparation for next season for our Centre of Excellence players.

For Centre Director Phil Cannon this is possibly the hardest time of all as he has to face up to the task of choosing which boys will stay with the club and which ones do not. "It's not the best time of the year as a recruitment officer. Obviously when you take them on it brings a smile to everyone's face, but when you release them it's upsetting. But it's not the end of the road for anyone that we let go. We keep hold of their details and monitor their progress. Who's to say they won't come back at a later stage. That's happened in the past with other players who've been released. A year down the line they've worked on those things we said they must improve on and they've improved so much we've taken them back on. That's what these lads must now do, in order to keep their dream of becoming a professional footballer."

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National Power





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24 Commercial Road, Swindon
Tel: (01793) 513363 Fax: (01793) 488535
or E-Mail WYVERN STAFF@compuserve.com

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National Power and Swindon Town Football Club working in partnership to
improve the skills of young footballers and searching for the stars of tomorrow

In partnership with



National Power

This is your chance to join an exciting new venture...

After the excitement of last week's launch this is an opportunity to remind all fans that our membership forms are available at the Stadium in the following areas; Ticket Office, Away Travel Office, Matchday Information Point and Winners Lounge.

Please complete the form and return it to us C/O S.T.F.C. County Ground or alternatively, cash and form will be accepted by S.A.S. Travel on matchdays only.

The cost of membership is just £5 and £2 for concessions, which include senior citizens, under 18's and disabled. There are a number of benefits to be gained through membership of the supporters club and any committee member within the ground will be please to explain these

The S.T.F.C SUPPORTERS CLUB

at the time you pick up your application form. Committee members may be identified by badges and they will also help with any issues that you have on matchdays, or generally.

The launch of the initiative to set up a Club supporting the Football Club will only succeed if fans participate and work together to generate a common sense of purpose and help us achieve our goals. One of which naturally has to be to generate funds

to help the Football Club operate, in what are trying and difficult times. We would like supporters to feel proud both of their contribution and the Football Club and although there are times when the road appears "rocky", for whatever reason, by sticking together we will have a greater chance of successful conclusion, than if everyone sits idly by and contributes nothing other than critical comment.

We want all supporters to have a pride in their association with us and pride in a successful football club. The stakes are very high in the present environment and we urge all supporters to enrol as members and for those who can help and assist and make contributions should make contact with C/O S.T.F.C. Tell us how you can participate and help.

Thank you.

the **GRIPTON** factor

By our matchday announcer **JON GRIPTON** of BBC Wiltshire Sound



It was great to see the attendance at last Saturday's County Ground Experience back up over the 10-thousand figure!

I was almost sorry not to have been with you - but not that sorry, given our 6-nil thrashing! I'm sure it was a weekend we all want to forget as quickly as possible. And thankfully Easter Monday's performance went a long way to achieving that - surely those vital three points will be enough to keep us safe from the relegation zone for the final few weeks of the season. The biggest question after that will be where Jim Quinn starts to build for the next campaign; he was quoted in the media on Sunday as saying he wants to be given the chance to bring in 'his own players'. I suppose "watch this space" will be the order of the close season.

We had an interesting e-mail at the radio station the other day. In it the author made some interesting points about attendances at other football grounds around the

county - which I take from him totally on trust! Most interesting was his assertion that at this Easter's Chippenham Town versus Melksham United local derby, one thousand people turned up! The attendances at Hardenhuish Park this Easter was larger than: one Scottish second division match; all Scottish third division matches; three Nationwide Conference matches; all Unibond Premier matches; all but three Southern League Premier matches, and all but three Ryman's League Premier division matches.

Just down the road in Salisbury, hundreds regularly turn out to cheer on the Whites. Add to that the thousand who turn out to play each weekend on the council pitches, parks and company-owned grounds around Wiltshire, and it's good to see that football is alive and kicking at grass roots level all over the county.

But it's County Ground that matters for the next few weekends - and I think we owe it all to the players, to the Gaffer and to the board of the club to show our support from now until the final whistle of the final game on May 9th. The power of the red Army can work wonders - let's make things happen!

John Gripton

BBC WILTSHIRE SOUND
103.6, 104.3 & 103.5 FM

the TREATMENT room

with Physio's Dave Moore & Dick Mackey



We've still got Mark Robinson coming in; he continues to struggle with the ankle injury, which is being a bit stubborn and we can't get it absolutely right, so we took him back to see the specialist.

He confirmed that it's just the severity of the injury that is causing the delay in getting him match fit. It is being a bit long-winded because it is getting on for six weeks since he picked up the injury. Mark is running and kicking a ball but there's one or two problems with stability, so we're going to concentrate for a few days on that and building up the muscles at the back and the front of the leg.



Philippe is the same really. He is doing a bit more running on a trampet now which is a little bit of progression

from what he's been doing; he just keeps adding that little bit extra to keep the recovery moving on. We've also tried to introduce a little bit of running on a decent surface and running on sand as well.



Jimmy Glass got a little bit of a knock on his ankle against Ipswich, but he's responded well to that so it shouldn't be too much of a problem.



As far as the discomfort that **Ty Gooden** is feeling, we're not 100% sure what it is until we have it properly examined but at the moment it does seem to be an abdominal injury.

He will be seeing a doctor this week to get that sorted but what we would like to do of course is manage it, which you can sometimes do until the end of the season. That would mean tailoring his training to suit any discomfort but we will have to wait for a proper diagnosis.



Kers has got a niggling groin strain. He picked it up about a week ago and it's hanging around a bit but he's getting better. Really it's just one of those footballing injuries;

he can jog all day but there is some discomfort when he starts pushing on a bit. We should be looking for a better response in the next few days.



Robin Hulbert has a slight knock on his ankle. It's sore and there's some minimal swelling but he's got good function, so I think that he should be

close to full fitness for the match against Birmingham.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank The Link Centre for the use of their swimming facilities.

'The Treatment Room' is sponsored by



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CALL: 0891 121640 CALLS ARE CHARGED 50P PER MINUTE AT ALL TIMES

NINETEEN

Community NEWS

with Clive Maguire & Jon Holloway



Good afternoon everybody and welcome to today's important fixture against Birmingham City.

We can certainly say with no hesitation that we have had a very eventful Easter period in the Community Office here at Swindon Town.

200-plus youngsters participated in our most successful course in the history of the scheme to contribute to a phenomenal week. Again all of our coaches did us proud in providing a high class of quality football coaching for the youngsters to enjoy.

Jon and I have made the decision that we will now have 200 as our maximum number on a course. So all you regulars need to return your applications to us as soon as possible to avoid any disappointment.

Our second week of the Easter holidays saw us on our travels to Marlborough where again we used the excellent facilities up on the St John's School playing fields. An excellent 90 young up-and-coming hopefuls joined in a brilliant three days with everybody again going home with a large bag of goodies and prizes. Many thanks to the staff at Marlborough Leisure Centre for helping us to organise the course so efficiently.

For information on the Whitsun and Summer courses please contact us on the 421303 number, or alternatively collect an application form from main reception or the information desk here at the Football Club.

Today we extend a warm Community Office welcome to our biggest Saturday Team club of the season of nearly 200 children, parents and coaches from Frome and Cricklade Youth. Many thanks to Gary Smart and Clive Smith for helping us to co-ordinate today's huge event. Everybody has participated in a ground tour and an in-depth look behind the scenes here at the ground

before travelling up the road to New College for a quality 1¹/₂ hours coaching. A good lunch and a return to the Ground where we're hoping you witness us collecting all three points this afternoon.

For all you people who think you may like to come along with your local club or group for next season's fixtures please contact either myself Clive Maguire or Jon Holloway for further details.

Until Next Time
Best Wishes

Clive and Jon



Sponsors of the Saturday Team
Club Tel: 01793 432840



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



TWENTY

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&

The



WITH FUNKY FLEDGLING



After a nasty defeat against Ipswich it was great to see the lads get back to winning ways with a 2-1 win over Huddersfield.

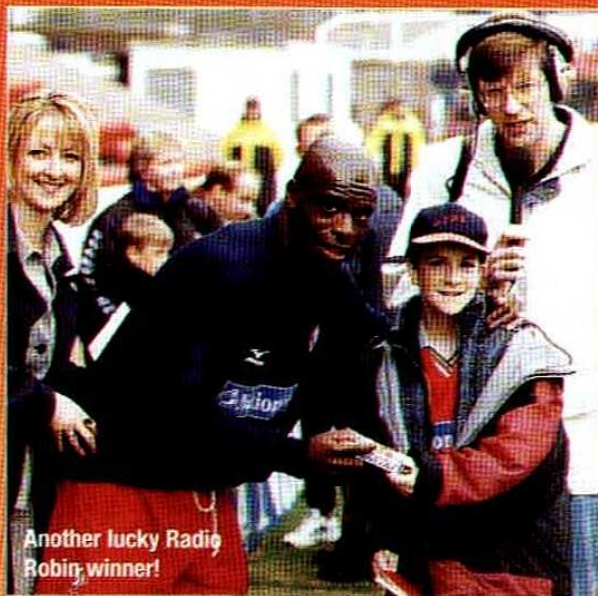


Well done to the mascots from the Ipswich match.

Next Away Trip

It just goes to show that these away games can be well worth the trip. While we're on the subject of travel we have the latest news on the next Junior Robins' away trip. We will be travelling to Selhurst Park to watch Town take on Crystal Palace. The prices are £6 for children and £8 for adults. If you would like to book your place please ring Alan Layzell who will be taking over all the away trips from now on. Helen gave him all the details and he will be holding the tickets. You can contact him on 01793 537226. The remaining trips are: Crystal Palace and the big one, Saturday 1st May to Norwich. If you would like to be a Ball Boy or Girl you can still contact Alan on the above number.

As you probably realised by now (and you've probably read it on the Supporters' Club page) we will be handing over all the Jr's and R's membership to the Supporters' Club at the end of the season. The Supporters' Club will still liaise with the Club on Jr's and R's issues. So don't panic, you're in safe hands as the team is as follows: Kevin Hall, George & Brenda Chadwick, Alan Layzell and Richard Dunstan. If you have any questions, queries or worries, you can still contact the Club and we will pass on your letters.



Another lucky Radio Robin winner!

MATCHDAY MASCOTS



SAM EVANS

Sam is five and attends Preshute Primary School. His hobbies are football and he is a huge Swindon fan. Have a great day, Sam!

HANNAH EVANS

Hannah is seven years old and also attends Preshute Primary School.

Hannah loves all sports and is especially keen on horse riding and, of course, football. We all hope you have a memorable day, Hannah.

Looking AHEAD...

Your essential guide to the next three Swindon games



AWAY

**NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
TUESDAY 13th APR
KICK-OFF 7.45pm**

The Lowdown

Last Saturday moved into 6th place in the First Division with a 2-0 win over Oxford at the Hawthorns.

Manager Denis Smith has put his disappointing spell in charge of Blackburn Rovers behind him and is now showing why he is held in such high regard amongst professionals in the game. His side has a tough nature about them and are steadily putting together a good campaign. The consistency level is now there and they will hope that they can carry on these results and secure a place in the play-offs.

Reason to watch

West Brom have got a good home record so it will be an extremely tough test for Swindon.

A point or three will certainly be a moral-boosting result for Jim Quinn's men, especially with another away fixture against Crystal Palace looming.

The Connection

Swindon's Mark Robinson started his career with West Bromwich Albion before leaving on a free transfer to Barnsley in June 1986.

Player to watch

Lee Hughes has been the

Nationwide First Division's top scorer practically all season and was prolific before Christmas.

The goals have dried up in recent weeks and he is being caught by Huddersfield's Marcus Stewart. Hughes emerged from obscurity this season coming from the Non-Leagues and is now valued at around £5 million. He has been watched by several of Britain's top clubs who see him as a younger version of Alan Shearer. He is a tough, uncompromising forward, is a natural goalscorer and works tirelessly for the team. We hope we do not get to see his famous dancing celebration that has made him so popular with the fans and media.



AWAY

**NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
SATURDAY 17th APRIL
KICK-OFF 3.00pm**

The Lowdown

Troubled times for the South London club.

Last season Mark Goldberg took over and promised the start of a revival for the fallen Eagles. Terry Venables was recruited and several big names such as Attilio Lombardo, Padavano and Matt Jansen joined the playing staff. However the success and finance were not forth coming. Since then Venables has left along with the other big names and, furthermore, the Administrators have been called into rescue Palace from receivership. They have sunk to mid-table but the real fight for survival is being waged in the boardroom.

Reason to watch

Another high-scoring affair?

The Connection

Town favourite Fraser Digby joined Palace during pre-season and has made 18 starts this season.

He lost out to Kevin Miller in December and has failed to claim the No.1 shirt since.

Player to watch

Tooting-born Clinton Morrison is the life and soul of the player dressing room and has a career

philosophy to match - "If you lack confidence I don't see no-one going nowhere".

At only nineteen years of age, Clinton possesses the optimistic and enthusiastic outlook that every young player should have. He moved into the front line to spear-head the attack after the departures of Lombardo, Padavano, Jansen and Bradbury, and we shall certainly be seeing a lot more of him in the future. As a junior he was the most prolific goal scorer in the club's history. A goal in the first team against Sheff Wed late last season highlighted his potential, and ex-coach Terry Venables gave him his chance to shine this season.



HOME

**NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
SATURDAY 24th APRIL
KICK-OFF 3.00pm**

The Lowdown

Last season the club made its first ever appearance at Wembley stadium in their 120-year history, winning the Auto Windscreens Shield against AFC Bournemouth, with Wayne Burnett scoring a 'golden goal' winner.

The Mariners completed their most historic and memorable season ever by gaining promotion with a 1-0 victory over Northampton Town in the Play-Off Final, again at Wembley, returning them to Division One in their first attempt. This season Alan Buckley's side have produced some consistent results and are sitting pretty in mid-

table and if they put in a winning run and results go their way towards the end of the season, then another play-off place is not out of the question.

Reason to watch

'The Mariners' have never really been regarded as a fashionable side but this season have produced some attractive and effective football.

The Connection

Earlier this season Swindon lost 1-0 at Blundell Park.

Swindon keeper Frank Talia saved Tony Gallimore's free-kick, the ball was then turned back into the area by Groves and Lester was on hand to score.

Player to watch

Kevin Donovan had an unbelievable first season with the Mariners.

Top scorer with 21 goals (16 in League), the winning goal in a Wembley Play-Off Final and voted Supporters' Player of the Year coupled with Goal of the Season Award. Kevin equalled the club record when he joined from West Brom for £300,000 rejoining his former boss now at Blundell Park. His dribbling skills at pace and shooting power made him an instant hit with the fans and as well as scoring, he also topped the charts for 'assists' with his pinpoint crossing and defence splitting passes.

HANDY HINTS

The Rough Guide To Away Travel



Club: West Bromwich

Nickname: 'Baggies'

Ground:

The Hawthorns, Halfords Lane, West Bromwich.

Phone: 0121 5258888

Fax: 0121 5536634

Capacity: 25,100 (all seated)

Away allocation: 2,100

Car parking:

Halfords Lane & Rainbow Stand Car Parks.

Coach parking:

Rainbow Stand Car Park.

Disabled Facilities

Apollo 2000 & Travel West Midlands Community Stands

If you get there early:

There are plenty of shops and places to eat and drink nearby

AWAY TRAVEL

TRAVEL

The S.T.F.C. SUPPORTERS CLUB

TRANSPORTING SWINDON TOWN FANS INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Welcome to this afternoon's fixture with Birmingham City.

What better way to begin our association with the new Swindon Town Supporters Club than to see the Town gain maximum points on Monday. The 284 brave souls who ventured to Huddersfield just 48 hours after the Town's heaviest ever home defeat were well rewarded for their loyalty.

We now face a busy week. On Tuesday we travel to West Bromwich Albion, postponed from a fortnight ago, then on Saturday we are off to Selhurst Park. Palace operate a 'kids go free' scheme, but strictly on a one adult/one free junior basis. All others - senior citizens - will be charged £10.

Commencing with this trip, reductions on our advertised prices will be offered to members of the new Supporters' Club, so make sure you complete your application forms - available from our office - as soon as possible.



WEST BROM

TUES 13TH APRIL 7.45PM

Depart **COUNTY GROUND:** 4.30PM

Depart **ERMIN STREET:** 4.45PM

Depart **WEST SWINDON:** 4.15PM

Adult Fare: £7.50

Under-15 Fare: £6.00

CRYSTAL PALACE

SAT 17TH APRIL 3.00PM

Depart **COUNTY GROUND:** 10.45AM

Depart **ERMIN STREET:** 11.00AM

Depart **WEST SWINDON:** 10.30AM

Adult Fare: £8.00

Under-15 Fare: £6.50

Match Tickets

£13.00

£7.00

Adults

Concessions

£20.00

£10.00

- All major credit/debit cards accepted
- Hostess service hot/cold drinks and light refreshments
- All coaches non-smoking
- Statutory NO ALCOHOL rule applies

COUNTY GROUND BOOKING OFFICE

(Former Promotions Office, off County Road)

Tel: (01793) 536757

24hr Information service

Tel: (01793) 825935

Open Tue, Weds & Thurs: 10.00am - 2.00pm

Thursday evenings 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Saturday Matchdays 1.30pm - 2.45pm

Wednesday Matchdays 6.30pm - 7.30pm



TICKET OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday - Friday

Saturday (non-match days)

Saturday (match days)

Midweek (match days)

9.00am - 5.00pm

10.00am - 4.00pm

9.00am - Kick-Off

5.30pm - half time

Tickets for home matches go on general sale 4 weeks before the match.

NASEEM vs INGLE TONIGHT!

LIVE IN THE

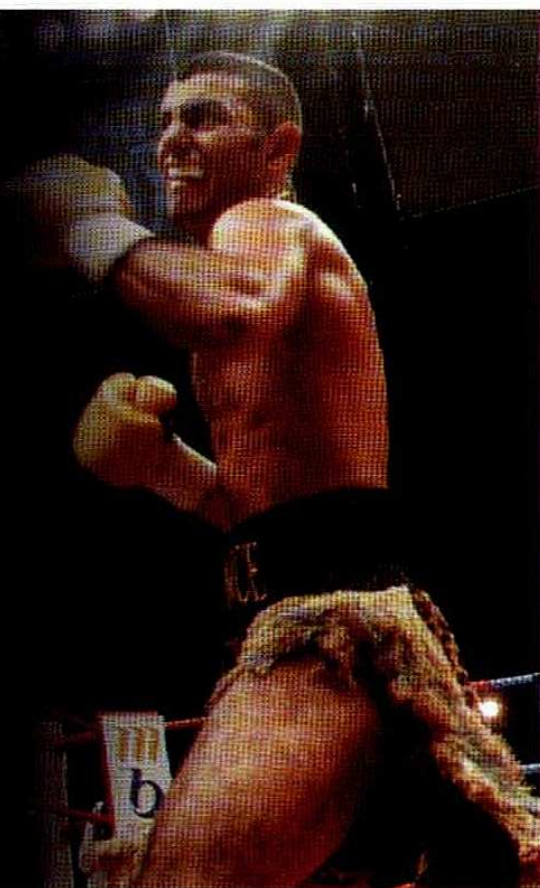


BIG SCREEN ACTION

COVERAGE STARTS AT 8PM

HAPPY HOUR 6-7PM

ALL DRAFT BEERS £1.00



On Sunday 11th April we invite you to join us in the



Winners' JAZZ CLUB has much pleasure in featuring

'PETE ALLEN JAZZ BAND'

To buy tickets or for more information please contact:

Ray Butt on (01793) 770929 or write to: 33 Chestnut Springs,
Lydiard Millicent, Swindon SN5 9NA.

Marketing NEWS

with Richard Mackey



Good afternoon to all our sponsors for today's game against high-flying Birmingham City. This game is clearly a popular choice for companies as we have a total of seven Matchball Sponsors enjoying hospitality. I hope you all have an excellent day.

Matchball SPONSORS

HEYWOOD INSURANCE BROKERS LTD

Heywood Insurance Brokers Ltd, established in 1965, provide a complete insurance service to the business sector and members of the public.

As registered Insurance Brokers and Independent Financial Advisers, Heywoods operate from local offices in Melksham and Calne. To contact Heywood please call either 01225 703531 (Melksham) or 01249 822008 (Calne).

LANBASE

Faced with a networking problem? Then look no further.

Connecting PC's and servers together, Lanbase are one of the largest Network Systems integrators in the UK and can provide you with the right solution. They have installed in some of the largest networks for manufacturers', City Banks and also a wide range of other commercial organisations. If you require further information or assistance with your network, call them on 01635 877977 or find them at www.lanbase.co.uk.

MITEL SEMICONDUCTOR

Mitel Semiconductor has its UK Headquarters in Cheney Manor, Swindon.

They manufacture and supply Standard and Application Specific Integrated Circuits, Analog Line Components and other solutions aimed at the communications industry. Whatever the design or application Mitel Semiconductor offer its customers a Global Design Support team and Customer Care Centre.

BRITVIC SOFT DRINKS LIMITED

Well known for their strong branding and powerful image, Britvic Soft Drinks Limited offer a well-known range of products including Pepsi, Tango, 7UP, Britvic and Robinsons, all of which can be found at the STFC kiosks.

Britvic have an exciting and challenging year ahead and their biggest activity will be Pepsi and 7UP sponsorship of *Star Wars! The Prequel*, which promises to be the biggest film release of the year!

CONTINENTAL TYRE GROUP LTD

Continental Tyre Group Ltd, founded in 1871, is part of the German-based Continental Aktiengesellschaft (Continental AG).

They were the first company to develop a tyre with a 'tread pattern' and through this innovative design, Continental have grown to become one of the world's largest tyre

manufacturers supplying tyres to both commercial and industrial sectors.

JAMES UPTON LIMITED

Based here in Swindon, James Upton Limited are the printing and packaging specialists.

Equipped with the latest hi-tech prepress, print and finishing facilities, James Upton Ltd can offer a quick turn-round on high quality printed products. For quotes and further information on brochures, leaflets and other printing requirements please contact Stuart Turland (Customer Services) on 01793 442212.

Sporting Club Dinner...

...WITH ALAN MULLERY

Thursday 15th April 1999

We are holding our first Sporting Club Dinner of the year in the newly-refurbished Winners Lounge on Thursday 15th April 1999.

The event will be compered by BBC Wiltshire Sound's Shaun Hodgetts. The main speaker will be World Cup legend and Tottenham star Alan Mullery.

The well-known stand-up comedian Mal Rich will provide a comic turn.

Our Sporting Club Dinners are always an excellent way to entertain clients or staff, or are simply just a great night out, so why not book your table by calling the Sales Department.

Cost: £35 per head for a table of ten
To book your table please call the Sales Department on:

01793 532121

Swindon Town Football Club's Corporate Suite holders:



Atletico Madrid 'want Del Piero'

ATLETICO MADRID have offered Italy's Alessandro Del Piero 70 billion lire (\$41 million) to join them from Juventus, Tuttosport newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The Turin-based paper said Miguel Angel Gil, son of Atletico President Jesus Gil, had agreed a five-year contract with Del Piero's agents which would guarantee the player an annual salary of 14 billion lire (\$8.2 million) from 2000 to 2005.

Del Piero's contract with Juventus expires in June 2000.

The Italian striker had a superb season with Juventus last year but had a poor World Cup and has missed most of this season with a knee injury.

He said recently he was prepared to pledge himself to Juventus for life.



World Football

SPAIN



MIJATOVIC FINED OVER WAR PROTEST

Real Madrid have hit Yugoslavian international striker Predrag Mijatovic with a \$21,000 fine, the heaviest possible under club rules, for his refusal to play because of the Kosovo conflict.

The fine, a Real spokesman said after a meeting of the club's directors, is due to the Serbian's persistent boycott of games because of on-going NATO air strikes. He added that Mijatovic may be thrown out of the club if his strike goes on.

Mijatovic, whose family lives in Belgrade, has missed two games for the world club champions. Over the weekend he said: "If I do not play, it's because I don't have the morale because I am not focused."

Mijatovic took part in an anti-American demonstration over the weekend which is thought to have incensed club president Lorenzo Sanz who believes that players shouldn't mix sport with politics.

Five other Yugoslav players boycotted weekend matches in Spain. None have been castigated in a similar fashion although some are expected to be in the coming days.

Mijatovic said: "They mustn't punish me, not me or any other person in my situation. Not for money or anything. That decision would hurt me."

Crystal Palace midfielder Sasa Curcic staged his own anti-bombing demonstration at Selhurst Park recently but escaped punishment from UEFA, and his club who sympathised with his stance.

POLAND



SPORTS MINISTER MAY QUIT IN POLISH F.A. ROW

Poland's sports minister Jacek Dembski said on Friday he would resign if the country's football authorities failed to elect new leaders within the next four months.

Dembski, who has repeatedly tried to force out the old guard from the Polish Football Association (PZPN) over alleged financial mismanagement and incompetence, said he would leave his post if new leaders were not elected by August 8th.

"If either Marian Dziurowicz or any of the present prominent members of PZPN is the president of the Polish Football Association, I will then resign," Dembski told journalists.

The PZPN was not available for comment on Friday.

On August 8th of last year, Dembski was forced to reinstate a then-suspended PZPN board to comply with a FIFA deadline.

FIFA, who insist that soccer federations remain independent of their governments, had threatened to ban Poland from all international matches unless the board sacked by Dembski were immediately returned to office.

The world body did not ban Poland last year but, on Thursday, they gave the PZPN one week to comply with its

regulations or risk being thrown out of the European Championship.

ITALY



LAZIO SIX POINTS CLEAR AS FIORENTINA LOSE AT INTER

Italian League leaders Lazio were held 0-0 at home to AC Milan on Saturday but increased their advantage over second-placed Fiorentina, beaten 2-0 at Inter Milan, to six points.

Ronaldo, showing glimpses of his best form, converted two penalties to give Inter their first win since February and leave Fiorentina trailing with seven games left.

Lazio's draw halted a run of eight successive wins at the Olympic stadium but the Rome side still set a club record of 17 League matches without defeat.

AC Milan remained third, a point behind Fiorentina and one ahead of Parma, whose title hopes virtually disappeared after a disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Cagliari.

AS Roma won 4-1 at Bari to end 12 months without an away win and climbed to fifth - but international midfielder Luigi Di Biagio, scorer of his side's second goal, was sent off in injury time and will miss next week's derby with Lazio.

ARGENTINA



ARGENTINA AIM FOR HAT-TRICK OF WORLD YOUTH TITLES

Champions Argentina will be going for a hat-trick of titles in the World Youth Cup starting on Saturday when large numbers of agents, hoping to snap up young talent at bargain prices, will be among the most interested spectators.

The South Americans, who beat their biggest rivals Brazil in the 1995 final in Qatar and their second-biggest rivals Uruguay in 1997 in Malaysia, begin the defence of their crown against Kazakhstan in Kaduna on Sunday.

The Argentines arrive in Africa in fine fettle, having won eight of their nine matches in winning the South American qualifying tournament in January when 19-year-old striker Luciano Galletti from Estudiantes scored nine of their goals.

Coach Jose Peckerman, who led Argentina to their previous two victories, is once again in charge.

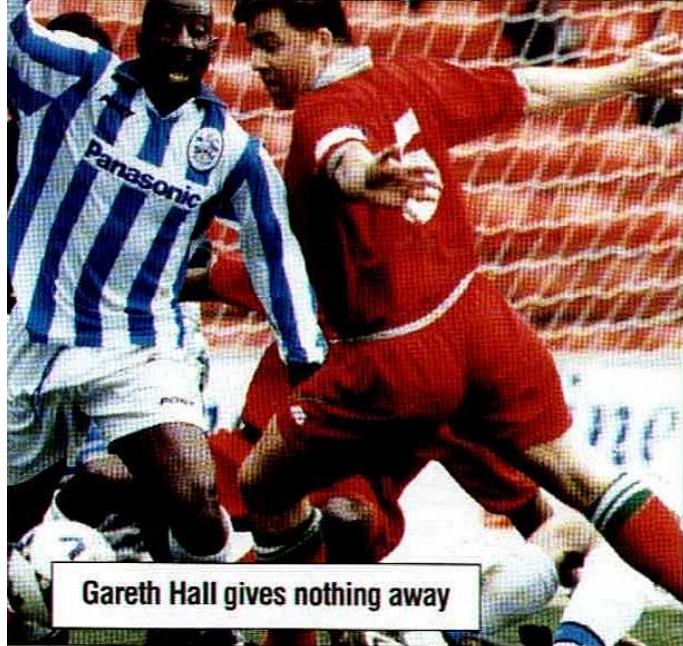
BRAZIL



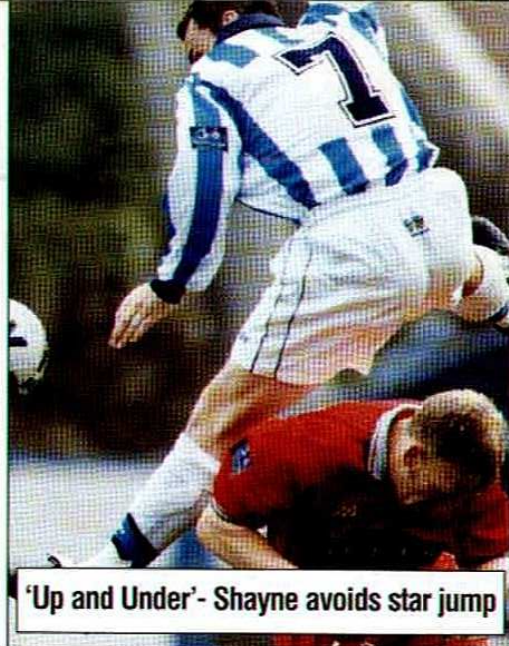
FAN KILLED AHEAD OF RIO DE JANEIRO DERBY

A teenager was shot dead in a clash between Flamengo and Fluminense fans before the big Rio derby on Sunday.

Ten-man Fluminense scraped a 1-1 draw in the Carioca (Rio de Janeiro State) championship match, watched by 100,000 in the Maracana stadium.



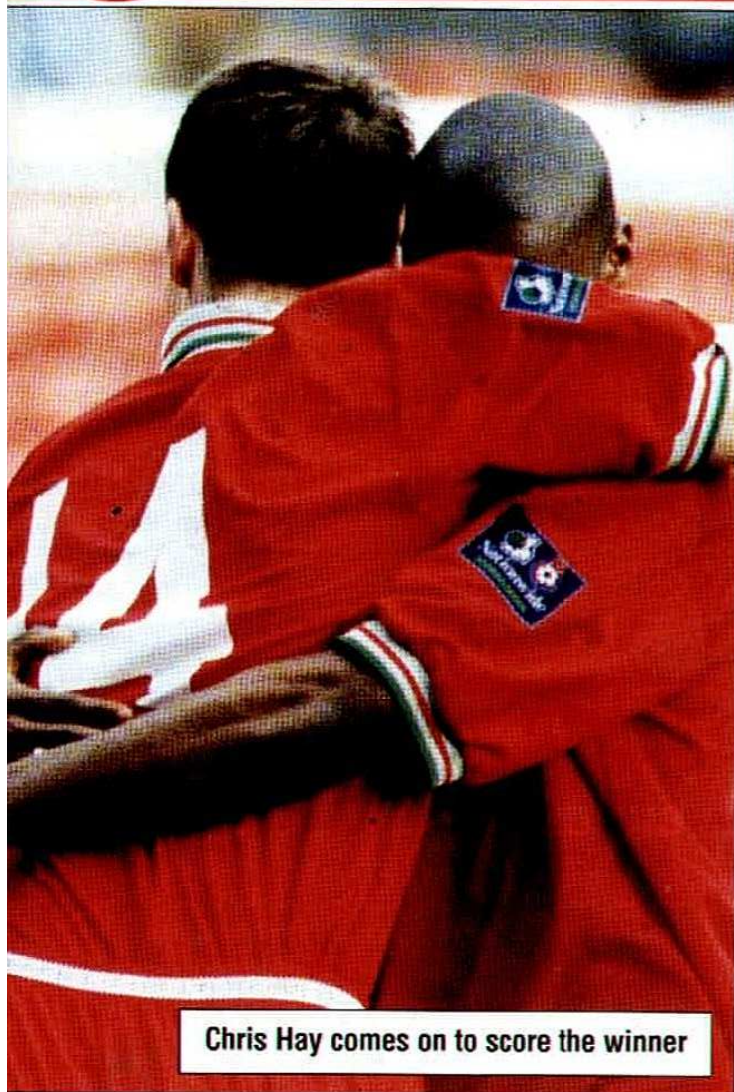
Gareth Hall gives nothing away



'Up and Under' - Shayne avoids star jump



HUDDERSFIELD 1 SWIN



Chris Hay comes on to score the winner



Iffy looks on as Howe peels away to celebrate his goal



Chris Hay shoots for goal!

SWINDON 2



THE TEAM LINE UP 05.04.99

1. FRANK TALIA
2. DES LINTON
3. GARETH DAVIES
4. CRAIG TAYLOR
5. GARETH HALL
6. ROBIN HULBERT
7. BOBBY HOWE
8. GEORGE NDAH
9. IFEM ONUORA
10. SHAYNE BRADLEY
11. TY GOODEN ★



ON THE BENCH

MARK WALTERS
(HULBERT 70)

CHRIS HAY
(BRADLEY 62)

BRIAN BORROWS
(NOT USED)

MAN OF THE MATCH

★ TY GOODEN ★



Ty was struggling with an injury but still managed to deliver a terrific performance in the left wing-back role, earning praise from the Gaffer. He worked hard in both defence and attack and provided some effective crosses from the flank, one which Bradley headed onto the post. He combined well with his defensive colleagues and kept Allison and Co at bay.

MATCH REPORT



Town put Saturday's nightmare defeat behind them as they pulled off another impressive away victory. Town's last win came away at Watford in late February. A much improved team display set up the win. Goals from Bobby Howe and Chris Hay was enough to inflict Huddersfield's second home League defeat of the season.

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MATCHDAYS: 9.00AM - KICK-OFF
& AFTER THE MATCH



WHAT'S on at swindon

a look at what's on at the County Ground



Winners LOUNGE LIVE FOOTIE...

The Winners Lounge will be open all day on Sunday 11th April for FA Cup Semi-Finals.

There will be plenty of beer promotions on offer to make the trip to the bar worth while. You can buy any two bottled beers for £3 all day - BARGAIN!

PRINCE NASEEM IN THE... Winners

We are holding our first Sporting Club Dinner of the year in the newly-refurbished Winners Lounge on Thursday 15th April 1999.

The fight between Naseem and Ingle is being showed live in the Winners Lounge that night. Coverage will start at 8pm and there will be a Happy Hour 6-7pm when all draft beers will be £1!

NEW KIT UNVEILED FOR BARNSELY MATCH...

Next season's kit is planned to be unveiled at the last game of the season against Barnsley.

The players will actually be wearing the exciting new kit for the first time. Jim Quinn has been heavily involved with the design of the kit and he is sure it will please the fans by being modern but paying homage to designs of the past. The Swindon Town Superstore will be taking advanced orders for the kit after

the game. The new strip will go on general sale in July.

Parachute Jump Before Last Game
To mark the last game of the season the RAF Falcons will be doing a parachute jump into the County Ground. To enjoy the spectacle make sure you're down at the ground by 2.00pm.

SPORTING CLUB DINNER WITH ALAN MULLERY...

We are holding our first Sporting Club Dinner of the year in the newly-refurbished Winners Lounge on Thursday 15th April 1999.

To book your table please call the Sales Department on 01793 532121

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



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

don't have to enter any competition.

We're just going to give it away there and then.

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

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

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

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



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fans letters



Don't forget 'FANS LETTERS' is for you... write in and let us know your views... whether it's about Swindon Town or football in general let us know...



Miss A. Robin, writes....

Dear 'Robins'

It's not Robbie Burns I'm sure but I believe a positive note from a fan might help The Robins' cause in some way.

*Oh Swindon Town,
Swindon Town,
Don't dismay,
When you're feeling down.*

*Pick up your heels,
And run to goal,
Do it with conviction,
Heart and soul.*

*You know you can do it,
You have guts and strength,
And Oh does it shine through,
When George runs that length!*

*So Swindon Town
Swindon Town
Don't dismay,
When you're feeling bound.*

*Take out those teams,
By the scruff of their necks,
And play like England's '10'
Without David Becks!*

*We know you can do it,
We've seen it before,
The wins - the loses,
Those damn home draws!*

*But persistence pays off,
As we're sure it will,
And so to a victory,
One you'll deservedly steal.*

*And Swindon Town,
Swindon Town,
Please don't dismay,
When the home fans frown.*

*For we have faith,
More than you know,
And little by little,
We'll watch you grow.....*

Come on home fans, let's get behind our team today - they need our support.

Mr Alan Clege, writes....

Dear Robins

I found some old programmes featuring Swindon Town and wondered if any fans would like to make me an offer?

1958/59 Accrington Stanley Vs Swindon Town
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1958/59 Swindon Town Vs Accrington Stanley
1959/60 Swindon Town Vs Accrington Stanley

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or send us an
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JAZZ CLUB

The Winners Lounge is being developed as the premier jazz venue in Swindon and we are hoping to attract some of the big names in jazz in order to give local music lovers the kind of style and quality of performers they have requested.

Sun 11th Apr - Winners JAZZ CLUB welcomes back the fabulous 'PETE ALLEN JAZZ BAND'.

Sun 16th May - Winners JAZZ CLUB welcomes a special guest appearance of the world-famous 'ACKER BILK' supported by an all-star band.

Sun 13th Jun - Winners JAZZ CLUB stages a concert featuring 'THE TEMPERANCE 7'.

Sun 11th Jul - Winners JAZZ CLUB is delighted to welcome 'TOMMY BURTON'S SPORTINGHOUSE QUARTET'.

To buy tickets or for more information please contact:
Ray Butt on (01793) 770929 or write to: 33 Chestnut
Springs, Lydiard Millicent, Swindon SN5 9NA.



EURO 2000 UPDATE

Events recently have convinced me that Kevin Keegan is involved in the wrong sport...

SURELY with a talent like his he should be competing in the swimming pool although I'm sure the man with the Midas touch would not get wet. How could he when he was running across the water leaving competitors in his wake.

Has any other person involved in football ever encouraged such hyperbole? Given that no sooner had the ball left Paul Schole's foot and nestled in the back of the net for goal number one, people were already proclaiming a new era in English football. Keegan, with his insistence that the national anthem be sung with gusto, had clearly managed to install a patriotic fervour into the players and fans alike as a St George's flag-waving full house at the home of English football evoked memories of Euro '96. Surely if four games is all we're going to get it will not be long before the BBC decide to make the drama 'My Summer With Kev'.

Clearly for all their pre-match fighting talk the Poles had no more adventurous plan than to get all 11 men behind the ball and attempt to catch England on a rare

breakaway. In England's previous games this may have been enough to frustrate England but Poland had obviously not read Keegan's script. Dishes like *Goleass à la Polska* followed by *Wembley Frustrata* are not on our Kevin's menu. His more traditional dishes surely include *Knickerbocka Goals Galore* and *Pasta Entertainà* all served with a dash with sauce à la unpredictable.

A win was essential and come June 5th the clash against Sweden could see an England win lift them to the top of the group for the first time. Anyone who sat through the tedious highlights of their tame victory over Luxembourg will be convinced that a Keegan-inspired England will be too much for the Scandinavians. Then just two games in Eastern Europe and a home match against the whipping boys stands between England and a place sampling the Edam and the Stella at Euro 2000. It's not a simple task, but in the name of Keegan what a difference a game makes.

By Richard Edwards

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Teams OF THE WEEK...

THE EDITOR'S TOP 22: A look at the high flyers in the Premiership and Division One



PREMIERSHIP as at 7.4.99



CARLING
P.A. PREMIERSHIP

★ **Sullivan** - Some marvellous saves to deny Man Utd...

Harte - Another spectacular goal and solid defending...

Nilsen - Solid despite lack of match practice...

Festa - An early goal to see off the Dons...

Mills - One of Charlton's brave stars...

Boateng - Pounced on rebound to give Sky Blues victory...

Stuart - Lifts Charlton out of the relegation zone...

Speed - Two goals against Derby and solid against Spurs...

Carbone - Gifted opportunities but finished in style...

Ricard - Two more goals to add to his season's tally...

van Hoojdonk - Fantastic free-kick to grab a point...

Manager: Gordon Strachan - (Coventry)

Six points out of six in three days eased the tension at Highfield Road and probably secured Coventry's place in the Premier League next season.

DIVISION ONE as at 7.4.99



1

Anderssen - Supported the Bristol defence with steady performances...

Taylor - Worked hard in Robins' defence and got 6 points in 2 games

Venus - Scored two penalties and kept a clean sheet...

Austin - Vital away goal and three points against Norwich...

Gooden - Starred in Town's win at Huddersfield...

Wright - Scored a brace in outstanding win at West Brom...

Sharpe - Has returned to English football in style and bagged a goal

Daley - Scored 2nd half winner and earnt 6 points in 3 days...

Osborn - Late equaliser for Wolves to keep season alive...

Windass - Scored twice to notch up 20 this season...

★ **Phillips** - 3 goals in 2 games to edge Sunderland nearer to title

Manager: George Burley (Ipswich)

Another two impressive victories over Swindon and QPR strengthened grip on second spot in the Division.



THE HOT SHOTS as at 7.4.99



CARLING
P.A. PREMIERSHIP

FA PREMIERSHIP	LEAGUE	CUP	TOTAL
Yorke (Man Utd)	16	10	26
Owen (Liverpool)	18	5	23
Cole (Man Utd)	15	6	21

THE HOT SHOTS as at 7.4.99



1

DIVISION ONE	LEAGUE	CUP	TOTAL
Hughes (West Brom)	30	1	31
Stewart (Hudd'field)	20	4	24
Mills (Bradford)	21	1	22

show yer' colours!



Send your picture sporting the Swindon Town colours and you may be featured!

Orphans from a shelter in the remote region of Cherkassy in the Ukraine 'show their colours'. Retail manager at STFC, Jackie Kent visited the area as part of the 'Hope Now' charity to support their work. Why not attend this year's annual Charity Ball at the Chinese Experience!

Send your photos to: 'show yer' colours'
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Road, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 7BB.

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IT'S YOUR call

Former Swindon player Nicky Summerbee gives us the low-down on Sunderland and their push for the 1st Division title.

NICKY SUMMERBEE

answers the questions...

Everything seems to be going really well for you, what's the feeling like at Sunderland at the moment?

I think that we've done really well all season, I think we've only lost about three games. I think we need about three more wins to get us up there - it's so near but so far really.

Can you get carried away and look towards next season and the prospect of another year in the Premiership?

No not really, I think that's what has made this year so good. We haven't looked at it like that, no one has even really spoken about it and nobody will do until we're going up. I think that's the really good thing - we haven't got carried away at all.

What is the boss asking from you at the moment?

Just to keep winning and doing what we're doing. I think we've got about six games left and hopefully it will just be a matter of time.

You're certainly playing well enough to play in the Premiership aren't you?

Well it's a different kettle of fish really. I mean, I know that from when I went up with Swindon and playing for Manchester City. It's a very big step and probably even bigger now because it's about four years since I last played in it. In my opinion, when you go up you don't want to be one of those sides that come straight back down. You've really got to fight to try and stay up there.

What do you think you can do differently this time to try and put things right?

Really I just think that knowing what it's all about is a great help. Things like, if you're fit now, you've got to be even fitter and you've got to be a lot sharper in your mind and play. It is a big step and I know how high. If we do go up then that's when the hard work starts.

Has there been any negative moments this year?

We were disappointed to lose in the League Cup semi-final. It was probably the home

game where we let ourselves down because in the away leg we played well.

Against Premiership sides we were still playing our football, we haven't been overwhelmed by anyone, which is a good thing for next season. I know what I've got to do and I have to look after myself and so does everyone else.

How much experience of Premiership football do the Sunderland players have?

Well those who went up last time were only there for a year and I think that most of those players have left now. Only really people like myself, Niall Quinn and a few others have experienced it.

Do you think the boss will have to spend money on improving and strengthening the squad?

Of course, yeah, Peter's very shrewd in the transfer market and hopefully he will bring in some quality players. He's a great manager and I know he'll get it right.

What's he like as a boss and to play for?

He's very truthful and doesn't hold anything back. He's straightforward - if you're playing well he'll give you a pat on the back and if you don't he has very strong words for you but you know where you are with him. He likes to play football and we're doing it the right way like we did at Swindon when they went up; keeping and passing the ball and keeping possession and working really hard at the same time. It just breeds confidence really.

Who do you think has been your toughest opponents so far this season?

I think we had quite a hard time against Bolton, they were a good side. Barnsley can play well. I think they came and beat us at our place. Bradford were a strong team as well.

So who will run you closest for the title and finish in the other automatic promotion place?

I think Ipswich might get it, either them or Bolton, I don't think you can write them off.

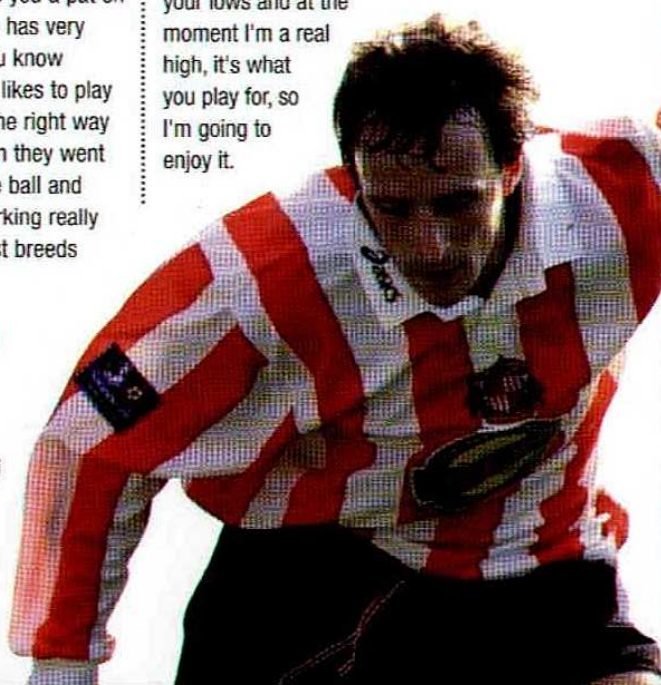
Do you keep an eye on Swindon's results?

Yes, of course, I always keep an eye on how they're getting on. I spent seven great years there and I wouldn't change that for anything. We had some great managers to play for, from Lou Macari all the way through to John Gorman when I was there. It was really good experience for me as well as going up.

I played against them twice this year and it's a really strange experience to go back and play. I don't think there's any players there I really know now, they've all moved on. I know they're near the bottom but I'm sure Jim Quinn will get it right and get them going again.

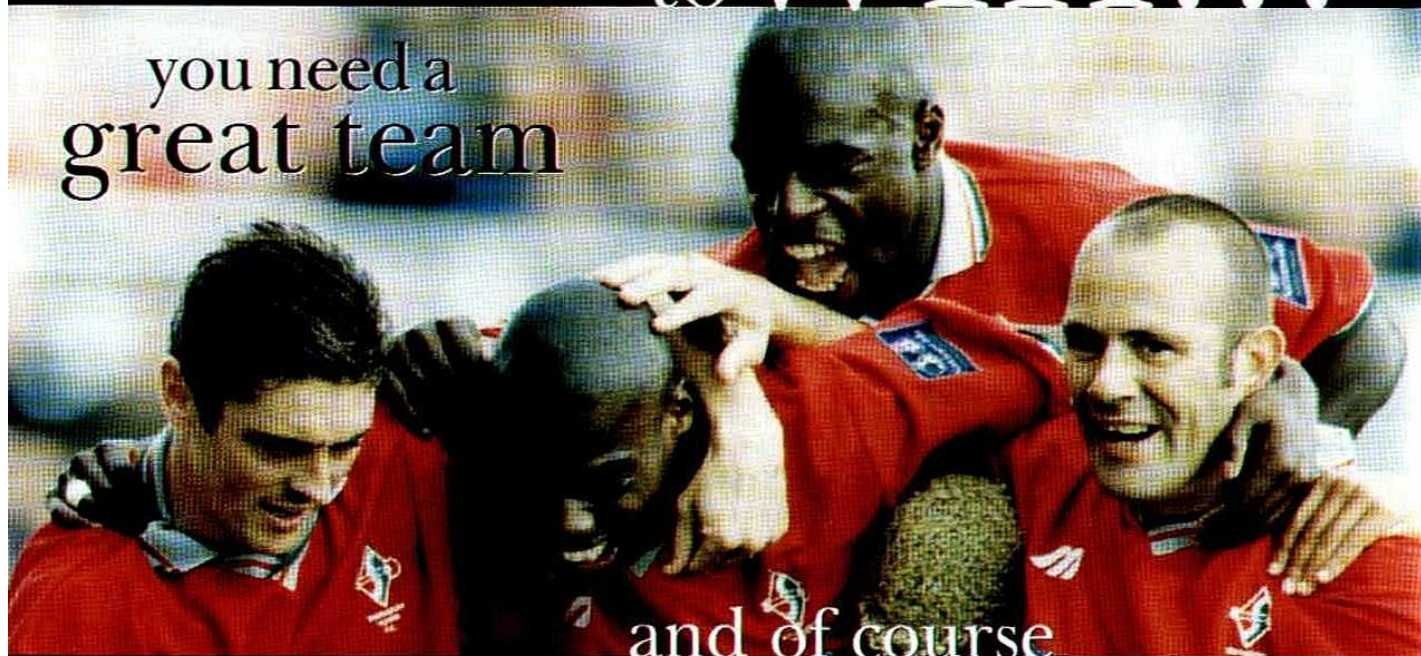
So what can you look to in the future?

I'm just going to enjoy the rest of this season. Football's all about your highs and your lows and at the moment I'm a real high, it's what you play for, so I'm going to enjoy it.



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Swindon Town LADIES



by Manager
**Roger
Reeves**

The Town Ladies played against top-of-the-table Cardiff and third-placed Bristol Rovers in recent matches, and they maintained second place in the South West Combination League.

The Town entertained top of the table Cardiff County and kicked off with wind advantage in the first half. The Town had the better of play and Nadine Lloyd headed in Pam Laker's corner in the 36th minute to give Town a deserved lead. In the second half Cardiff had the edge and, despite good defending from Clare Wheeler and Diane George, equalised in the 70th minute and bagged a winner six minutes from time. The Town were disappointed not to take something from the game, against a side with several Welsh internationals and who have lead the table for most of the season.

The Town then faced Bristol Rovers who have only lost twice all season, once to the Town back in September. The Town had much the better of the play in the first half and Adelle Taylor put them ahead in the 16th minute. Leanne Taylor added a second before Kim Reeves headed in Pam Laker's corner to put the

Town three up at the break. In the second half Rovers came back and reduced the Town's lead within three minutes of the restart. Solid defending from Netti Wyness, Diane George and Clare Wheeler kept the Rovers out and, with time running out, Diane George secured the points with a strong header from Pam Laker's corner.

Tomorrow the Town play Saltash United in their final South West Combination League fixture. When the Town travelled to Cornwall in November they lost out by the odd goal in seven. The match will be played at Ridgeway School, Wroughton and will kick off at 2.00pm.



Natalia Zarczywski, who is in her first season with the club and is a member of the Wiltshire County Squad.

SOUTH WEST COMBINATION LEAGUE TABLE (TOP 5)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CARDIFF COUNTY	18	15	1	2	51	15	46
SWINDON TOWN	21	13	1	7	77	33	40
BRISTOL ROVERS	17	10	4	3	55	27	34
CHELtenham	15	9	2	4	36	28	29
DENHAM UNITED	19	9	1	9	47	33	28

SOUTH WEST COMBINATION LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SUN 6TH SEPT	OXFORD UNITED	2-3
Sun 13th SEPT	Bristol Rovers	3-1
SUN 20TH SEPT	SHERBOURNE	7-1
Sun 27th SEPT (FAC 1)	Newport	2-1
Sun 4th OCT	Portsmouth	2-2
Sun 18th OCT	Swindon Spitfires	6-0
SUN 25TH OCT	CHELtenham	6-0
Sun 1st Nov (FAC 2)	5 Coast Rngs	4-1
Sun 8th Nov	Bath City	6-1
SUN 15TH NOV	BRISTOL CITY	4-1
Sun 22nd Nov	Saltash Pilgrims	3-4
Sun 29th Nov	Cardiff County	0-1
Sun 13th Dec (FAC 3)	Bristol Rovers	2-4
Sun 24th Jan	Sherbourne	1-2
SUN 31ST JAN	PORTSMOUTH	5-1
Sun 7th Feb	Denham United	3-2
SUN 14TH FEB	SWINDON SPITFIRES	7-1
SUN 21ST FEB	DENHAM UNITED	5-2
Sun 28th Feb	Cheltenham	1-4
SUN 7TH MAR	BATH CITY	6-0
Sun 14th Mar	Bristol City	5-1
SUN 28TH MAR	CARDIFF COUNTY	3-1
SUN 4TH APR	BRISTOL ROVERS	4-1
SUN 11TH APR	SALTASH PILGRIMS	H
Sun 18th APR (League Cup)	BATH CITY	H

swindonSTAT attack..fixtures&results..

this week we take a brief look at the Reserve & Ladies fixtures

Reserve Fixtures



Next two matches:

SOUTHAMPTON Wednesday
14th April (H), 7.15pm

BOURNEMOUTH Wednesday
21st April (A), 2.00pm



SOUTHERN REGIONAL LEAGUE NORTHERN DIVISION (LADIES DIVISION)

Sun 15th Nov	Newport Pagnell Utd	2-1
Sun 22nd Nov	Oxford Utd (Res) LC1	4-1
Sun 13th Dec	Risborough Rangers	0-7
Sun 7th Feb	Newport Pagnell Utd	3-0
Sun 21st Feb	Oxford Utd (Res)	3-4
Sun 28th Feb	Oxford Utd (Res)	0-3
Sun 7th Mar	Witney Town	2-2
Sun 21st Mar	Tring Town	2-0
Sun 28th Mar	Chesham United	A

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DOORS SMASHED IN FANS' DEMO

More than 500 fans demonstrated outside the club's main entrance following West Brom's 5-1 home hammering by lowly Crewe.

The glass doors of the Hawthorns stand were smashed by the fans and police had to be called in to restore order.

During the game, one angry Albion supporter threw his club shirt in disgust at boss Denis Smith, who later admitted it was his worst 90 minutes in 17 years as a manager. "That is the first time I have been hit by five goals at home and it has hurt my pride," said Smith. "It really doesn't get much lower than this."

"I can understand the frustration of the fans because we have now suffered four straight defeats. We were very poor against Crewe and it looked as though as though all the fight had gone out of the team. I have got to try and get it back."

Smith added: "It is disappointing to say the least. I felt we should have had an early penalty but once Crewe scored we stopped playing." Smith revealed Dutch striker Fabian de Freitas was missing from his line-up because he thought the game had a 7.45 pm kick-off!

"His girlfriend was on the telephone and we couldn't get to him," said Smith. "We finally got through at 2.20 pm but by then the team sheet was in. I am not happy to say the least."

FLAHAVAN OUT UNTIL NEXT SEASON

Portsmouth goalkeeper Aaron Flahavan has been told he will not be able to make a playing comeback from injury until the start of next season.

Flahavan had resumed light training following a sickening clash in the match at Swindon in February which left him with facial, neck and shoulder injuries.

But the 24-year-old has been told not to rush back to fitness and make sure his shoulder injury has healed properly before challenging for a first team place.



NATIONWIDE LEAGUE ROUND-UP

SORRY BOSS!

Dozy Dutch striker Fabian de Freitas missed West Bromwich Albion's afternoon match against Crewe yesterday - because he thought the game had a 7.45pm kick-off.

Alarm bells started ringing at The Hawthorns' ground when de Freitas failed to attend the pre-match team talk.

As the clock ticked down to 3pm, frantic Albion officials tried desperately to contact him by telephone.

"Unfortunately his girlfriend was on the line and we couldn't get to him," said angry manager Denis Smith. "We finally got through at 2.20pm but by then the team sheet was in. I am not happy to say the least." De Freitas' time-keeping blunder was the forerunner for more impending gloom - Albion were thrashed 5-1 by struggling Crewe.

FRANCIS BLASTS LOSER BLUES

Birmingham City manager Trevor Francis has fired out a warning to his promotion-chasing players after their disappointing Easter programme.

Birmingham picked up just one point from two games and Francis has made it clear the display in the defeat at the hands of Watford was not good enough.

He has demanded an immediate improvement at Swindon on Saturday and said: "I cannot come to terms with the lack of desire at this time."

LEE PLEA FOR MUSCAT

Wolves manager Colin Lee has pleaded with the Football Association not to ban defender Kevin Muscat.

Muscat has to appear before the FA after taking his bookings tally to 11 with his latest caution at Sheffield United on Monday.

Lee is hoping the FA will only fine Australian international Muscat as they did with Sunderland's Kevin Ball last week.

Muscat's previous disciplinary record could stand against him and if he is banned any suspension would start with the derby against West Brom at Molineux on April 25.

Nationwide Division One Fixtures 10/4/99

BARNLEY	vs	TRANMERE
BRADFORD	vs	PORTSMOUTH
BRISTOL CITY	vs	GRIMSBY
CREWE	vs	PORT VALE
OXFORD UTD	vs	BURY
Q.P.R.	vs	WEST BROM
STOCKPORT	vs	SHEFF UTD
SUNDERLAND	vs	HUDDERSFIELD
SWINDON	vs	BIRMINGHAM
WATFORD	vs	BOLTON
WOLVES	vs	CRYSTAL PALACE

Nationwide League Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS.
SUNDERLAND	40	26	11	3	78	24	89
IPSWICH	40	24	7	9	63	26	79
BRADFORD	40	23	7	10	71	39	76
BIRMINGHAM	40	19	12	9	60	33	69
WOLVES	40	18	12	10	59	38	66
BOLTON	39	17	14	8	69	52	65
WATFORD	40	16	13	11	55	52	61
SHEFFIELD UNITED	40	15	12	13	63	59	57
HUDDERSFIELD	41	14	14	13	57	64	56
CRYSTAL PALACE	41	14	14	13	55	60	56
WEST BROM	40	15	8	17	62	67	53
NORWICH	40	13	14	13	52	53	53
GRIMSBY	38	15	8	15	36	43	53
BARNLEY	41	12	15	14	51	49	51
TRANMERE	41	11	17	13	56	55	50
STOCKPORT	40	11	16	13	45	48	49
SWINDON	40	11	10	19	53	74	43
PORTSMOUTH	41	10	13	18	50	63	43
QPR	39	10	11	18	43	51	41
OXFORD	41	9	13	19	41	65	40
PORT VALE	39	11	5	23	39	70	38
CREWE	40	9	10	21	48	75	37
BURY	40	7	16	17	29	53	37
BRISTOL C	39	7	14	18	48	70	35

facts & stats

1998/99 SEASON

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George Ndah

Playing position
Forward
Age 24
Signed
from Crystal Palace
STFC League and Cup
apps 35(1)
STFC goals 11
STFC debut 22 November 1997 v
Middlesbrough (Division One)



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Charlie Griffin

Playing position
Forward
Age 19
Signed
from Chippenham Town
STFC League and Cup
apps 0(4)
STFC goals 0
STFC debut 06 February 1999 v
Sunderland (Division One)



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Craig Taylor

Playing position
Defender
Age 24
Signed
from Dorchester Town
STFC League and Cup
apps 16(2)
STFC goals 0
STFC debut 04 October 1997 v
Port Vale (Division One)



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Mark Walters

Playing position
Midfielder
Age 35
Signed
from Southampton
STFC League and Cup
apps 33(5)
STFC goals 11
STFC debut August 1996
(Division One)



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& Heating
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Sol Davis

Playing position
Defender
Age 20
Signed
from Youth
STFC League and Cup
apps 22(1)
STFC goals 0
STFC debut 05 November 1997 v
Q.P.R. (Division One)



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Robin Hulbert

Playing position
Defender
Age 19
Signed
from Youth
STFC League and Cup
apps 8(9)
STFC goals 0
STFC debut September 1996 v
Q.P.R. (League Cup)



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Travel
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Brian Borrows

Playing position
Defender
Age 38
Signed
from Coventry City
STFC League and Cup
apps 38
STFC goals 0
STFC debut 07 September 1997 v
Nott'm Forest (Division One)



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Gareth Hall

Playing position
Defender
Age 30
Signed
from Sunderland
STFC League and Cup
apps 37(2)
STFC goals 2
STFC debut 08 August 1998 v
Sheffield United (Division One)



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Jimmy Glass

Playing position
Goalkeeper
Age 25
Signed
from Bournemouth
STFC League and Cup
apps 4
STFC goals 0
STFC debut 12 August 1998 v
Wycombe Wndrs (League Cup)



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Kevin Watson

Playing position
Midfielder
Age 25
Signed
from Tottenham H.
STFC League and Cup
apps 7(8)
STFC goals 0
STFC debut August 1996
(Division One)



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Proofing
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Mike Walsh

Playing position
N/A
Age 43
Signed
from Bury (Manager)
STFC League and Cup
apps -
STFC goals -
STFC debut -



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Steve Mildenhall

Playing position
Goalkeeper
Age 20
Signed
from Youth
STFC League and Cup
apps 0
STFC goals 0
STFC debut August 1997 v
Cambridge (League Cup)



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Mark Robinson

Playing position
Defender

Age 30

Signed from
Newcastle United

STFC League and
Cup apps 25(3)

STFC goals 0

STFC debut August 1994
(Division One)



Lee Collins

Playing position
Midfielder

Age 25

Signed from
Albion Rovers (Scot)

STFC League and
Cup apps 2(2)

STFC goals 0

STFC debut November 1995
(Division One)



Alan McDonald

Playing position
Reserve Team Coach

Age 36

Signed from Queens
Park Rangers

STFC League and
Cup apps -

STFC goals -

STFC debut August 1997
(Division One)



Chris Hay

Playing position
Forward

Age 25

Signed
from Celtic

STFC League and
Cup apps 18(7)

STFC goals 6

STFC debut 09 August 1997 v
Crewe (Division One)



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Phillipe Cuervo

Playing position
Midfielder

Age 29

Signed from
Sochaux (France)

STFC League and
Cup apps 2(4)

STFC goals 0

STFC debut 09 August 1997 v
Crewe Alexandra (Division One)



Bobby Howe

Playing position
Midfielder

Age 25

Signed from
Nottingham Forest

STFC League and
Cup apps 16(2)

STFC goals 3

STFC debut 17 January 1998 v
Reading (Division One)



Alan Reeves

Playing position
Defender

Age 31

Signed from
Wimbledon

STFC League and
Cup apps 24(1)

STFC goals 2

STFC debut 08 August 1998 v
Sheffield United (Division One)



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Beaufort Arms
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Ty Gooden

Playing position
Midfielder

Age 26

Signed from
Wycombe Wndrs

STFC League and
Cup apps 35(2)

STFC goals 1

STFC debut August 1993
(Premiership)



Gareth Davies

Playing position
Forward

Age 24

Signed from
Reading

STFC League and
Cup apps 3

STFC goals 0

STFC debut March 6th 1999 v
Bolton Wanderers



David Kerslake

Playing position
Defender

Age 32

Signed From
Ipswich Town

STFC League and
Cup apps 12(2)

STFC goals 0

STFC debut -



Scott Leitch

Playing position
Midfielder

Age 29

Signed from
Hearts (Scot)

STFC League and
Cup apps 24(1)

STFC goals 0

STFC debut - (Division Two)



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Frank Talia

Playing position
Goalkeeper

Age 26

Signed from
Blackburn Rovers

STFC League and Cup
apps 38

STFC goals 0

STFC debut November 1995
(Division Two)



Adam Willis

Playing position
Defender

Age 22

Signed from
Coventry City

STFC League and Cup
apps 9

STFC goals 0

STFC debut 25 September 1998 v
Tranmere Rovers (Division One)



Iffy Onuora

Playing position
Forward

Age 31

Signed from
Gillingham

STFC League and Cup
apps 37(4)

STFC goals 17

STFC debut 14 March 1998 v
Q.P.R. (Division One)



Jim Quinn

Playing position
Forward

Age 25

Signed from
Gillingham

STFC League and Cup
apps 37(4)

STFC goals 17

STFC debut 14 March 1998 v
Q.P.R. (Division One)



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EXPRESS YOURSELF

Phil Cannon

Tells us about the Youth Development at the County Ground

When I first came down to do the job three years ago there wasn't much happening in Swindon and of the six lads that just signed professional contracts, there was one local lad.

Unfortunately at that age if you haven't got them then someone else has. So I went all around the country, even Northern Ireland, trying to recruit good young players and I think that we did pretty well. With the recruitment system, we get a call and go and watch them a couple of times. Then if we decide we want them we have to be quick because there were other clubs in for them. Some you get and some you don't. I managed to sign the lads I wanted but it was hard work because you have to sign their parents as well. Out of the lads that have just come through there's a couple of internationals, which is good because we haven't had too many over the years plus it's always nice to have internationals at Swindon Town.

At the moment Swindon Town have not got Academy status, which is mainly because of the facilities in the area. If we had access to top quality facilities then I don't think getting an Academy going would be a problem. Other clubs have got that, like Bristol City in conjunction with the College, so their facilities are ready made. The charter of quality states that you've got to have a certain standard of facility, such as a 60 by 40 foot indoor playing area, which is twice the size of an indoor gym, so it's a problem because in this area we haven't got this sort of facility.

It's import to develop youth in modern football. We've heard about Youth Academies in Europe and seen the benefits for teams like Ajax. Since Howard Wilkinson became the FA Technical Director he has had a look at what was being done and achieved on the Continent and introduced it to this country. This sort of initiative is great for football in this country and it's easy for the Premier League because they

can go out and spend £10-15 million, like Liverpool have just done, but it is a lot harder for the smaller clubs to get the facilities. Obviously a club like Swindon Town cannot afford £10 million. I think in the long-term it would be a good investment to spend a couple of million on some facilities but at the end of the day there are only so many kids that you can recruit from one area. A team like Liverpool could probably stretch their resources over a broader area.

There are a lot of Nationwide clubs going the Academy route and I think you'll find that these clubs have close ties with local companies who are providing facilities. The Gaffer has come from Peterborough and they have a great youth system set up. They linked with a local Insurance Company that provide all the facilities and they are producing some quality young players. We are trying our hardest to improve facilities in order to qualify for Academy status but that might take a few years and in that time we might have missed out on all that development. We are trying to get a sport Lottery grant and if that happens we can get started straight away,

but the facilities are paramount and I can't stress that enough, that this area is lacking in facilities.

I think there are only two astro-turf pitches in the area, which is unbelievable really. As far as Sunday football goes, we've had massive problems. If you have Excellence kids then you need excellent facilities and at the moment, three nights a week I have

the all-weather pitch at Greendown and two indoor gyms, but on

Sundays I need two surfaces of high quality and in this area it's near impossible to get them.

You need good surfaces to produce better technique, it's no good playing on pitches where the ball is bobbling all over the place because players are not going to improve.

There are regulations set out by the FA Premier League that all the clubs must have a Football Academy but there are no regulations for the





Nationwide League. So you don't have to, but if you want to play against the best teams in the country, you have to because ***the rule says that Academy sides can't play against Centres of Excellence. At the moment we're playing against sides like Oxford and Bristol Rovers when I'd like to be playing against the big lads to see how good my kids are.***

We've got kids at the Centre who are seven years old and we can sign them when they reach their eighth birthday. We've got five age groups from under 9s to under 13s and about 18 kids in each age category, and I think we've got all the best players in the area. I think we missed some at the under 14 level before I came and also some ages are weaker than others. We've tried very hard to tighten the net and not miss any players from the Swindon area or within an hour from the club so nobody slips through. Up to the age of 12 we can only recruit players from within one hour's travel of the club, but that is a big radius because it includes all the London clubs as well as the likes of Bristol City/Rovers, Oxford and Reading. Actually, all the big clubs could probably get here in an hour because there are a few loopholes in the system that can be exploited and I'm sure they could jump in a helicopter and get here in a hour if necessary. I thought that we wouldn't be able to recruit under 12s from Ireland but I found out that if we can get them here within an hour by whatever means then we can sign them. So the competition is red-hot.

As far as education goes, Academies are required to have Child Protection Officers and Education Welfare Officers who monitor that side of things. All we do at the moment is that our kids carry on at their own school and we work hand-in-hand with them. If there are any problems at school then the teacher will notify us and vice versa. ***If one of the kids are not performing at school then we can help out by getting the kid in and telling him that we're not going to play him. They are representing the club both on and off the pitch and we are determined that if we don't make a footballer out of them then we hope to make them a better person and that's all we can promise really.***

More importantly, starting next season, rather than the old YTS Scheme they will enter a three-year scholarship. For the first two years they will go to college in the morning and play football in the afternoons, doing a

minimum of 12 hours a week. In this time they will do two 'A' levels in the first two years and in the third year they will take another one, so they will have something to fall back on if they don't make it. If they want to go onto University and further their education then they can. In this year's intake of 16-year-olds I've got some bright boys there who could potentially go to Oxford and Cambridge so they have the best of both worlds really. But obviously at 16 we want footballers really, so we try to keep it two-thirds football and one-third education. We try to keep the education just as a back up because we need footballers first and foremost. These players have been together for two or three years now and last year they played 25 games and only lost one and that was partly my fault because I put four trialists in. We beat teams like Aston Villa and they're usually at the top of youth development so it was quite a nice scalp for us.

When you do go the Academy route, the kids are not allowed to play local football, school football or county football. At the moment if they come to us, up to the age of 13, we say to them that if they want to they can carry on playing local football but after that they play for us. However they can still play school and county football as well as playing for us and I think that is too much to ask of a youngster. It is difficult because if a player just plays for us and doesn't make it they will have missed out on the entire county and school matches.

When I came here three years ago I think there was only about 60 kids signed on, and now there's about 130. You might say that's just quantity but that's not the case. From the age of 13 down we've got some bright talent. I think we've got some great kids coming through, especially one 13 year old and I've spoken with him and his parents because we want to sign him up until he's 19 because at the moment he's a different class, so the future is looking bright. Really we have to wait two more years before these under 13s become 16 year olds and they can become scholars and then hopefully go on to the first team. We have now got a progression system put in place and the kids can evolve right from eight years of age to regular first team players.

This all means that Tom Jones is now getting the players coming through at a decent level so he can then work with them and help them progress to the first team, which hopefully the six lads we've just signed will do.

see every

goal

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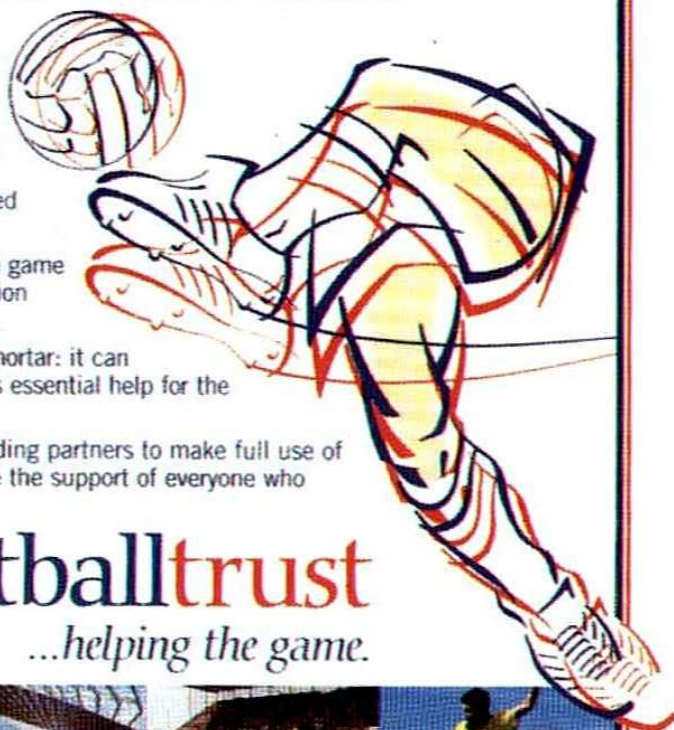
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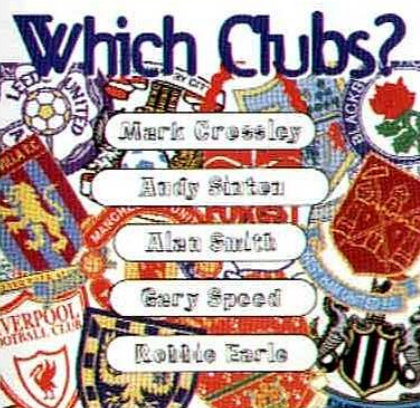


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Who were the last team outside the top division to play in the FA Cup Final?



- Sol Campbell and Teddy Sheringham scored two of the four goals that Spurs put past Man Utd on New Year's Day.
- Dennis Bergkamp and David Platt scored in the last ten minutes to give Arsenal victory over Bolton on the last day of the season.
- Ian Rush made his last appearance for Liverpool against Man City on closing day.
- Man Utd won the Premiership title with a 3-0 win over Middlesbrough.

FORTY SEVEN

SWINDON TOWN STUDY CENTRE

Study Centre opens its doors to Adults for computer training

Swindon Town Football Club have entered into a partnership with Swindon College and Swindon Borough Council to train adults in the use of computers.

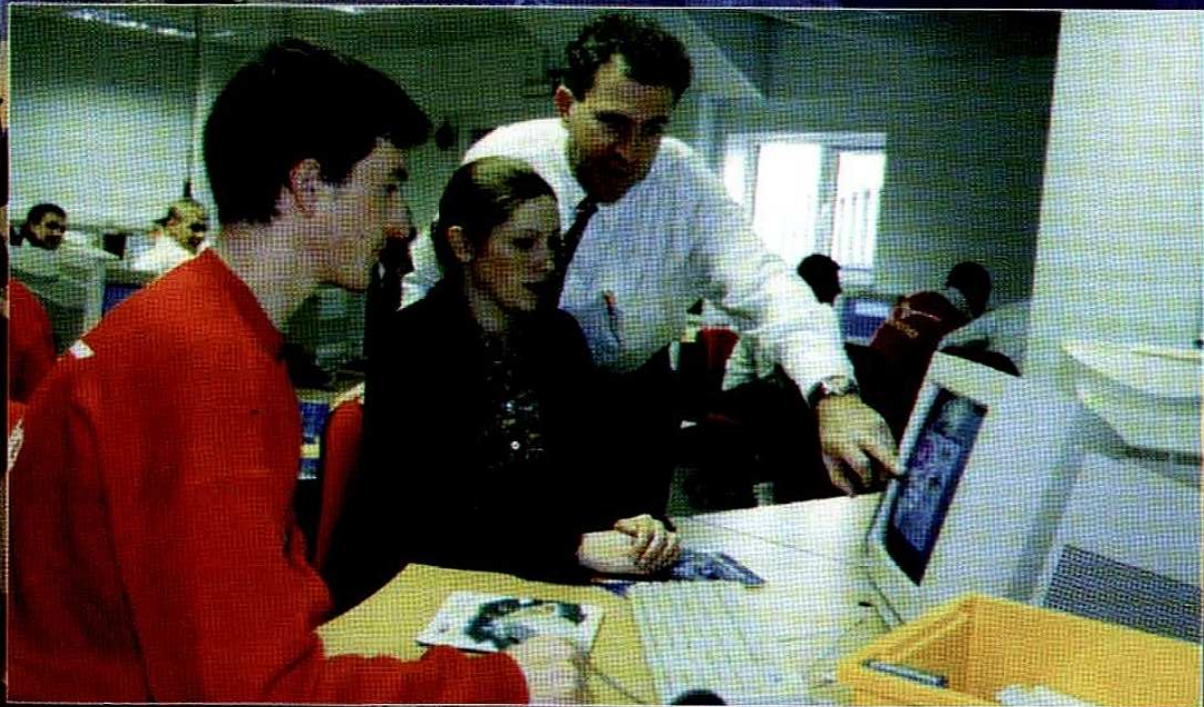
The centre will use a City and Guild's course, which has three modules in word processing, spreadsheets and using a database. The courses are designed for a range of people, from those who have little or no knowledge of computers to those who wish to up-grade their skills using Windows 98.

The Swindon Town F.C. Study Centre is located in the South Stand. What was once the Centre Spot Bar has been completely transformed in to a high-tech learning facility which has 26 computers of the latest specification, air conditioning, and height-adjustable chairs and tables for maximum comfort while studying.

Each student is allocated 120 hours to complete the course, four hours a week. Students can use the centre at any time between 9.00a.m and 3.00pm on Mondays to Wednesdays and 9.00 to 5.00 on Thursdays, Fridays and non-match Saturdays. Students would normally book time on a computer for two hours at any one time and they must use the centre at least twice a week. Most people complete the course in 30 to 35 weeks but students work at their own pace and can complete the course in a shorter or a longer time period.

In line with Swindon College's commitment to lifelong learning and widening participation, the normal course fee of £120 will be waived. There is only a registration fee of £5.35 with the City and Guilds and they charge £14 for the certificates for each module. This makes a total charge of £47.35 for the whole qualification.

Parents of children attending after-school study support at the centre and staff at the Football Club have already put their names forward for enrolment. If you would like to join the course which starts in September or would like information about the course please contact the Study Centre on telephone 01793 496354.



Editor's NOTES...

'bright young stars'

By Daniel Prescott

In early March Swindon handed out six professional contracts to youngsters from the Centre of Excellence.

Sam Campagna, Ricky Culberston, Alan Flanagan, Paul McAavery, Frazer McHugh and Jamie Mills were lucky enough to graduate from the trainee system.

In this week's Matchday Magazine I will take a closer look at the varied nature of the youth development in clubs across the country. We need to understand what an Academy actually is, who has them, how they work and how they recruit their youngsters. With so much attention focused on the promotion of Football Academies we need to look at the significant benefits and costs to both club and individual. Over the past few years we have witnessed Manchester United build Championship-winning sides with the talent produced from their own youth system. There is no question that football in this country has developed at a phenomenal rate over the last decade and, as we venture into the next millennium, what is the future for the British game?

In September last year, the final graduates left the FA's National Centre of Excellence at Lillleshall. Historically this has been Britain's showpiece Academy, which has produced much of the cream of young talent over the last decade. It's impending closure and the dramatic increase of football Academies across the country has meant that the opportunities at 'grass roots' level is increasing, but at the same time some are arguing that the opportunities to play in the top club's first-teams are decreasing. This will no doubt leave many aspiring professional footballers high and dry. At present there are 34 Football Academies in operation and many more under development or consideration. Premiership clubs are now required to set up a Football Academy developing boys aged nine upwards. The idea is that the FA Academy will act as a nationwide youth training scheme designed to ease the flow of young

English players into English first teams and, ultimately, the England team. Just last week we saw Paul Scholes, a product of Manchester United's youth system, score a hat-trick at Wembley for England, so obviously the whole country does benefit in the long-term.

In February, Liverpool Football Club opened its new £13 million purpose-built Academy and training centre. Built on a 45-acre site on the outskirts of Liverpool at Kirby, it boasts 12 pitches, classrooms, residences, gyms and an indoor centre. A new indoor soccer hall is scheduled for completion in 1999. This Academy will tutor 180 boys under a full-time staff of 18. In a country where training facilities are inadequate, the Liverpool Academy is a quantum leap into the future. For the duration of the youngster's footballing education they will not kick a ball in any other shirt than Liverpool's famous red one and they will not have their footballing brains tampered with by coaches from outside the Academy, whether from their school nor county. Liverpool's football philosophy will be pure and the bond between the club and player grows in strength.

This is not confined to the elite clubs. It is also necessary for clubs in the lower divisions to promote youth excellence. At present it is vitally important that the smaller clubs develop young players because they can often be a sound investment if they make the grade.

Peterborough now has 14 players under the age of 21 who have represented their country, which is a remarkable number for such a small club. Peterborough has been able to develop an effective Youth Academy with the help of Pearl Insurance that rent out its facilities. Plus they have one of the best Youth coaches in the business, Kit Carson. He has a stringent football philosophy, which encourages youngsters to become better people and equipped for life, he says, "parents have to sign a code of behaviour. They can watch games but they must behave themselves. They must never ask me a

question that a kid can ask for himself. The boy must do it. If I go out in the evening, when I get home there are messages from little nine and ten year olds on my answerphone."

Peterborough are already assessing the benefits. One 16-year-old, Matthew Etherington, has already been linked with a £4 million transfer to Newcastle, but Peterborough boss Barry Fry rejected the offer because there was not enough money guaranteed up front. However, he will almost certainly be sold on because it is the sale of young talent to the bigger clubs that keeps the smaller clubs in business.

You cannot measure Liverpool against Peterborough because one is attempting to furnish its first team and win major honours while the other will inevitably sell its young talent to keep the club in business. This was highlighted recently when Arsenal signed 16-year-old Jermaine Pennant for £2 million from Notts County. It looks as though this will become a common occurrence for smaller clubs in the future. Any bright youngsters will be snapped up as quickly as possible by the top clubs. The gamble might be worth it in the long run because in today's transfer market it may have been more in the region of £5-6 million in a year's time. You only need to look at Michael Owen to understand the potential that some youngsters possess. They can be in a youth side one minute and then scoring the goal of the tournament in the World Cup Finals the next.

Swindon are looking to the future and hope to embark on a high-yielding youth program of its own. The success of this year's Centre of Excellence has shown that there is a wealth of talent in this catchment area. To achieve Academy status Swindon need to improve, develop and refine their current facilities, which are currently quite limited. Funding is needed to boost the recruitment and further the development of its local youngsters, so that in the long-term Swindon may be able to produce first-team regulars and full internationals.

Bradley Hall's SWINDON TOWN

DREAM TEAM

I saw my first game at the County Ground in 1989.

At the time I was eight and only really began to take an interest in Swindon in the 1992/93 season. This was obviously a memorable season as we reached the play-offs and won a place in the Premier League.

My greatest memory from this period was seeing us win 6-4 away at Birmingham City after going 1-4 down! This is an era that I will never forget and this is reflected in my 'Dream Team' selection.

ON THE BENCH:
Scott Leitch
Micky Hazard
Steve White



WHAT DO YOU THINK? Send your 'Dream Teams' to: Daniel Prescott, co. Swindon Town F.C. PIA, The Liffen, Newtown Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 7BB.



Gareth Davies' FIRST DIVISION DREAM TEAM

In each programme we will ask one of the Swindon Town experts to give us their dream 11... This week Defender, Gareth Davies, gives us his **Division One Dream Team**.

- Wright** - Will be a great addition to the Premiership...
- Gray** - Will almost certainly be a Premiership player next season...
- Dyer** - A broken leg has kept him out for the end of season...
- Fish** - Has given Bolton strength at the back, joined from Lazio...
- Clarke** - Is definitely the best midfielder outside the top flight...
- Summerbee** - Plays the wing-back position and gives 100%
- Frandsen** - Is dominant in the Wanderers' midfield...
- Walters** - Has a fantastic touch and adds vital experience for us...
- Keane** - Wolves will do well to hang on to Rep. Ire. International...
- Phillips** - Can't stop scoring for League leaders...
- Eadie** - Flying winger and England B international...

Manager: Gareth Davies

This side has an attacking element and would also keep the goals out at the other end.

A day in the life of **Ron Topp**

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BBC WILTSHIRE SOUND

103.6, 104.3 & 103.5 FM

What is your role at the club?

I'm the Maintenance Manager, working with the Stadium Manager, Mike Hughes. The most important aspect of the job is the safety and welfare of the fans. Our jobs are hectic during the week, but really take off on matchdays. Then we go round checking things like fire alarms and exit gates. Everything has to be 100%. We're permanently patrolling the ground, looking out for any little thing that could cause trouble or lead to a problem for the spectators.

Presumably Hillsborough has had a massive affect on you directly then?

Oh yes, because the rules now are extremely tight in all directions. We just cannot afford to be caught out at all. Recently we were visited by the FA and the Football Licensing Authority. They inspect us on a matchday from a long time before kick off right up until the fans have gone home. They actually have the power to implement penalties such as reducing our stadium capacity if they consider that we are not carrying out our responsibilities correctly. If they make any recommendations they must be put into action straight away.

What kind of things, for example?

Well, from the smallest of things, such as a small number of fans persistently standing thereby infringing the all-seater ruling, to large scale confrontation problems, which thankfully these days are now very rare. This is why we have had to look so carefully at where away fans go and how they're treated. The safety people would ask us why we didn't take action after, say, the West Brom and QPR games, when we had lots of angry fans complaining that they were getting needlessly cold to the point of needing medical attention. That's something we must be seen to be taking action against before it gets too much of a problem. Also, the protest of the fans after the Watford game was a major issue of course. It was a case of explaining to the authorities what happened and reassuring them that we were doing all we could to prevent it in the future.

So how to you make preparations to prevent problems like these?

In a way we play mini war-games, you know, taking the darkest side of everything. Between myself and Mike Hughes we generally cover most things. One of us comes up with an idea or problem and we discuss it from there. Usually we feed off each other, so mentally we're prepared for most eventualities before they happen. We have to think of the negative side of things a lot like that.

But your job can't really be described as negative?

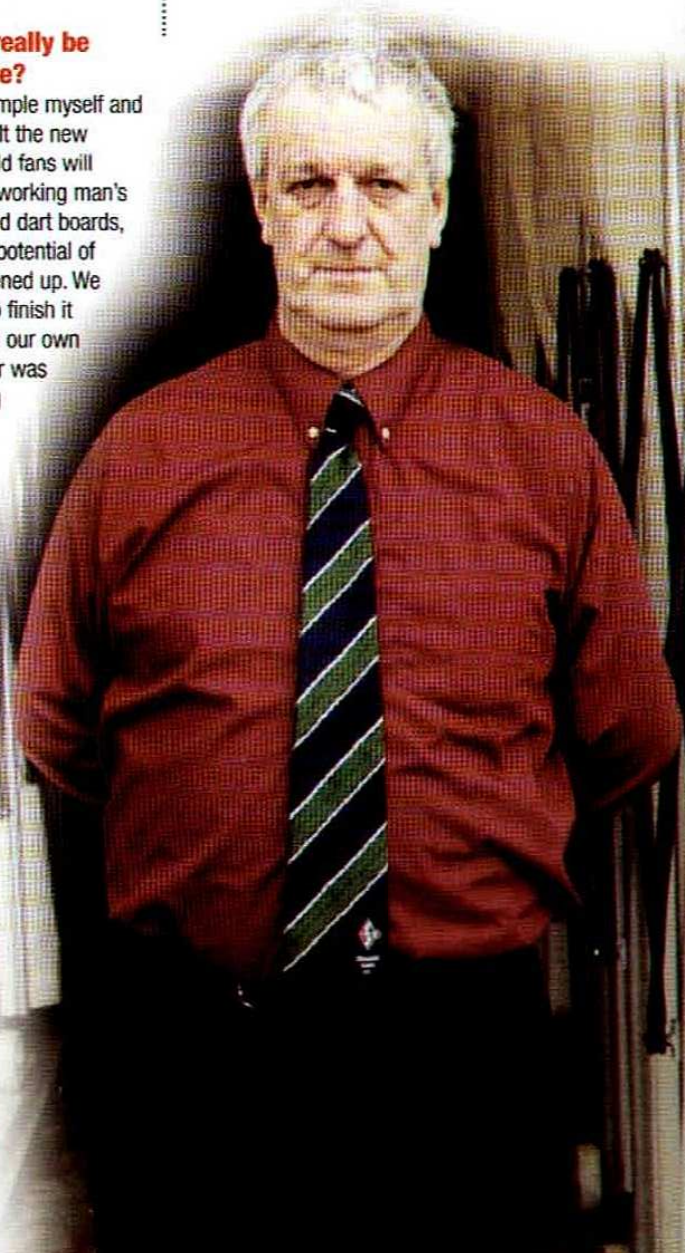
No, that's right. For example myself and Mike led the team that built the new Winners Lounge. As the old fans will know it used to be an old working man's club, with a skittle alley and dart boards, etc. But we could see the potential of the place with it all smartened up. We moved in and from start to finish it was achieved entirely with our own staff. No outside contractor was brought in. On the opening night it did make me feel good to see our finished work. Cliff Puffett (Director) called us up on stage and gave us a presentation much to my embarrassment! But I could see my wife and Mike's wife were stood there and it made me quite proud.

Other than Winners are there projects you are working on right now?

Our next big project is to be a restaurant adjoining Winners. At the moment it is the Family Lounge, but most fans won't know about it because only a few were allowed in before. Once it's finished it will be

available to all fans, so they can have a quick meal before the game. To my mind it will be a bit upmarket from most places in Swindon and I expect it to be as big a success as Winners. There are a lot of walls to be demolished and new fixtures to be installed but I'm sure that come the new season it'll be a great improvement on the current lounge.

Ron Topp - Swindon Maintenance Manager





FWLER THE FLOP **FACING CLUB ACTION OVER** **'SNORTIN' DISGRACE**

Robbie Fowler, Liverpool's disgraced striker, could face club disciplinary action after a board meeting at Anfield.



Fowler, whose goalline 'snorting' antics during the Merseyside derby on Saturday inflamed Everton supporters, was substituted during the 2-2 draw at Nottingham Forest yesterday after a lethargic and ineffective performance.

The burden of public opinion and the threat of disciplinary action by the FA on Friday - his 24th birthday - when he and Chelsea's Graeme Le Saux must answer disrepute charges, seemed to weigh heavily on his shoulders.

Manager Gerard Houllier, whose side twice squandered the lead against bottom-of-the-table Forest, appears almost resigned to losing his striker for a spell and said with a shrug: "If he goes to jail, he goes to jail."

Yet the manager still insists he is ready to back Fowler and added: "You could say he is a similar case to Eric Cantona. He had a lot of problems in France before he came over to play in England but he proved himself eventually and was very successful.

"I don't think Robbie is affected by the problems he faces. He worked very hard in the game against Everton and he was probably tired on this occasion. It would be understandable if Fowler was preoccupied with the furore his latest bizarre behaviour has created. The FA is poised to hit him with another misconduct charge and there are suggestions that Merseyside police, inundated with complaints about Fowler, are considering whether to take action.



PREMIERSHIP



CARLING
F.A. PREMIERSHIP

ROUND-UP

SOL WANTS TO STAY AT SPURS

Sol Campbell has told Tottenham he wants to stay at the club after admitting for the first time that talks have begun over a new contract



The news is a huge lift for the club as they prepare for Sunday's FA Cup semi-final against Newcastle, with whom they drew 1-1 last night at St James' Park.

Spurs' captain Campbell said: "There has now been contact (between his agent and the club). I'm doing well at the club and want to stay. I'm not going anywhere.

"I have not got a crystal ball but I can't see a problem. I've been here for 10 years and it's getting better and better.

"We have now won one cup, we are in the semi-final of another and in Europe next season. Hopefully the rest of the season will go well. I think it is a fabulous time to be at this club and there is no need to go anywhere else."



FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS.
MAN UNITED	31	18	10	3	69	32	64
ARSENAL	32	17	12	3	43	13	63
CHELSEA	30	16	11	3	45	23	59
LEEDS	31	16	9	6	52	28	57
WEST HAM	32	13	8	11	34	40	47
ASTON VILLA	32	12	10	10	41	39	46
DERBY CO.	31	11	11	9	35	36	44
LIVERPOOL	30	12	7	11	57	41	43
MIDDLESBROUGH	31	10	13	8	42	41	43
NEWCASTLE	32	11	9	12	43	45	42
WIMBLEDON	32	10	11	11	36	48	41
TOTTENHAM	31	9	13	9	35	37	40
SHEFF WED	32	11	5	16	38	36	38
LEICESTER	30	9	11	10	32	39	38
COVENTRY	32	10	7	15	34	43	37
CHARLTON ATH	31	7	10	14	34	41	31
BLACKBURN	32	7	10	15	32	43	31
EVERTON	32	7	10	15	26	40	31
SOUTHAMPTON	32	8	6	18	24	57	30
FOREST	32	4	9	19	30	64	21

VIALI WRITES OFF **CHELSEA'S CHANCES - AGAIN**

Chelsea player/manager Gianluca Vialli believes his side are still not in the title race, despite their 1-0 victory at Charlton at the weekend.



With the top two teams, Manchester United and Arsenal, both drawing, Roberto Di Matteo's goal edged the Blues nearer to the top of the table, but he said: "We are third and there are still two teams in front of us, both of which are great sides and more experienced than us.

"They're both in a strong position and I can't see them throwing away the chance of a title. If there was only one of them in front, we might make it - but with two, I don't think so.

"We're not talking about poor teams - we are talking about Arsenal and Manchester United."

SUICIDAL EVERTON **SLIP INTO BOTTOM THREE**

Two terrible defensive errors handed Sheffield Wednesday a 2-1 win at Everton to push the Merseyside giants into the Premier League relegation zone.



With none of the top four English sides in action, attention was centred on the relegation battle where Coventry City and Charlton Athletic claimed important wins.



SATURDAY'S PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

ASTON VILLA	VS	SOUTHAMPTON
DERBY CO.	VS	FOREST
LEICESTER	VS	WEST HAM
MIDDLESBROUGH	VS	CHARLTON ATH.



FA CUP SEMI FINALS

MAN UTD	VS	ARSENAL
NEWCASTLE	VS	TOTTENHAM





action special



Mark Walters

MIDFIELDER

the swindon fact files

the key:

FAC = F.A.CUP
WC = WORTHINGTON CUP

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sat Aug 08	Sheffield United A	1-2	15,937	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	GOODEN	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
WED AUG 12	WYCOMBE W. WC1 (1) H	2-1	4,682	GLASS	ROBINSON	HALL	GOODEN	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT AUG 15	SUNDERLAND H	1-1	10,207	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Tue Aug 18	Wycombe W. WC1 (2) A	0-2	2,478	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	WATSON	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Aug 22	Wolverhampton W. A	0-1	21,537	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	DAVIS	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT AUG 29	PORT VALE H	1-1	7,800	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	HULBERT	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Mon Aug 31	Bury A	0-3	4,513	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	HULBERT	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT SEPT 05	BRISTOL CITY* H	3-2	8,537	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
WED SEPT 09	OXFORD UNITED* H	4-1	8,305	GLASS	KERSLAKE	HALL	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Sept 12	Portsmouth A	2-5	10,105	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT SEPT 19	WATFORD H	1-4	8,781	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Fri Sept 25	Tranmere Rovers A	0-0	5,501	TALIA	ROBINSON	WILLIS	DAVIS	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Tue Sept 29	Bolton Wanderers A	1-2	16,497	TALIA	ROBINSON	WILLIS	DAVIS	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT OCT 03	STOCKPORT COUNTY H	2-3	7,961	TALIA	ROBINSON	DAVIS	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
FRI OCT 09	HUDDERSFIELD T. H	3-0	8,316	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Oct 17	Ipswich Town A	0-1	13,212	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
Tue Oct 20	Birmingham City A	1-1	19,485	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	DAVIS	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT OCT 24	W.B.A. H	2-2	8,967	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	WATSON	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT OCT 31	QUEENS PARK RANGERS H	3-1	8,500	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	DAVIS	REEVES	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Nov 07	Crewe Alexandra A	2-0	4,469	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	DAVIS	WILLIS	BORROWS	HULBERT
Sat Nov 14	Bradford City A	0-3	14,897	TALIA	TAYLOR	HALL	DAVIS	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT NOV 21	CRYSTAL PALACE H	2-0	11,718	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	DAVIS	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Nov 28	Grimsby Town A	0-1	8,657	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	DAVIS	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT DEC 05	NORWICH CITY (FA.C2) H	1-1	9,262	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT DEC 12	BRADFORD CITY H	1-4	7,447	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	WILLIS	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Dec 19	Barnsley A	3-1	15,342	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	TAYLOR	HULBERT	HOWE
SAT DEC 26	WOLVERHAMPTON W. H	1-0	11,627	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	HULBERT	TAYLOR	BORROWS	NDAN
Mon Dec 28	Bristol City A	1-3	16,257	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	HULBERT	TAYLOR	NDAN	WALTERS
Sat Jan 02	Barnsley (FA C3) H	0-0	8,016	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	HULBERT	TAYLOR	HOWE	WALTERS
SAT JAN 09	SHEFFIELD UNITED H	2-2	7,583	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	TAYLOR	BORROWS	HOWE
Sat Jan 16	Port Vale A	1-0	5,405	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	TAYLOR	BORROWS	HOWE
Tue Jan 19	Barnsley (FA C3) Replay A	1-3	10,510	TALIA	HULBERT	HALL	LEITCH	TAYLOR	BORROWS	HOWE
SAT JAN 30	BURY H	1-1 (OG)	7,797	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	LEITCH	TAYLOR	REEVES	WALTERS
Sat Feb 06	Sunderland A	0-2	41,304	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	HOWE	TAYLOR	BORROWS	WALTERS
Sat Feb 13	Oxford Utd (FA.C5) A	0-2	8,179	TALIA	KERSLAKE	HALL	LEITCH	TAYLOR	BORROWS	WALTERS
SAT FEB 20	PORTSMOUTH H	3-3	10,110	TALIA	ROBINSON	HALL	LEITCH	TAYLOR	BORROWS	HOWE
Fri Feb 26	Watford A	1-0	8,692	TALIA	ROBINSON	REEVES	LEITCH	TAYLOR	BORROWS	HOWE
WED MAR 03	TRANMERE ROVERS H	2-3	5,726	TALIA	COLLINS	REEVES	LEITCH	TAYLOR	BORROWS	HOWE
SAT MAR 06	BOLTON W. (FA.C6) H	3-3	8,392	TALIA	COLLINS	REEVES	LEITCH	DAVIES	BORROWS	HOWE
Tue Mar 09	Stockport County A	1-2	6,098	TALIA	KERSLAKE	REEVES	LEITCH	DAVIES	BORROWS	HOWE
SAT MAR 13	CREWE ALEXANDRA H	1-2	7,434	TALIA	KERSLAKE	REEVES	WALTERS	HALL	BORROWS	HOWE
Sat Mar 20	Queens Park Rangers A	0-4	11,184	GLASS	WALTERS	REEVES	LEITCH	HALL	BORROWS	HOWE
SAT APR 03	IPSWICH TOWN H	0-6	10,337	GLASS	LINTON	REEVES	TAYLOR	HALL	BORROWS	HOWE
Mon Apr 05	Huddersfield Town A	2-1	11,719	TALIA	LINTON	DAVIES	TAYLOR	HALL	HULBERT	HOWE
SAT APR 10	BIRMINGHAM C. (FA.CSF) H									
TUE APR 13	W.B.A. A									
Sat Apr 17	Crystal Palace A									
SAT APR 24	GRIMSBY TOWN- H									
Sat May 01	Norwich City A									
SUN MAY 09	BARNSELY H									
Sat May 22	F.A. Cup Final									

THIS SEASON'S TOP SCORERS

IFFY ONUORA	17
GEORGE NDAH	11
MARK WALTERS	11
CHRIS HAY	6
BOBBY HOWE	3

THIS SEASON'S TOP GATES

SAT 21 ST NOV VS CRYSTAL PALACE	11,718
SAT 26 TH DEC VS WOLVES	11,627
SAT 3 RD APR VS IPSWICH	10,337
SAT 15 TH AUG VS SUNDERLAND	10,207

LAST FOUR GAMES

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	A	WON 2-1
IPSWICH TOWN	H	LOST 6-0
Q.P.R	A	LOST 4-0
CREWE	H	LOST 2-1

FRONT COVER PHOTO... BOBBY HOWE



Nationwide



PLAYER IN RED
DENOTES SCORER

NUMBER IN BRACKETS
DENOTES PLAYER REPLACED ()

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
HAY	ONUORA	BULLOCK	NOAH	DAVIS (8)	CUERVO	TAYLOR
HAY	ONUORA	BULLOCK	NOAH	KERSLAKE	WATSON(8)	TAYLOR
NOAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	DAVIS	HAY	CUERVO(4)
NOAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	HAY (4)	CUERVO (11)	GLASS
NOAH	HAY	BULLOCK	GOODEN	ONUORA(8)	ROBINSON	CUERVO (4)
NOAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	HAY	DAVIS	CUERVO (5)
NOAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	COWE	DAVIS(3)	ROBINSON
NOAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	HULBERT(4)	COWE	DAVIS(5)
NOAH (2)	ONUORA (2)	BULLOCK	GOODEN	ROBINSON	WILLIS	WATSON
NOAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	ROBINSON(10)	COWE	WILLIS
NOAH	COWE	BULLOCK	GOODEN	TAYLOR	HOWE	WATSON
NOAH	CUERVO	BULLOCK	GOODEN	WATSON	TAYLOR	COWE(9)
COWE	CUERVO	BULLOCK	GOODEN	HOWE(8)	ONUORA(9)	WATSON
WILLIS	ONUORA	NOAH	GOODEN	BULLOCK	HALL	CUERVO(10)
NOAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	CUERVO	WATSON	WILLIS
NOAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	HAY(9)	WATSON(10)	DAVIS(4)
NOAH	ONUORA	BULLOCK	GOODEN	HAY(9)	WATSON(5)	CUERVO
NOAH	ONUORA	LEITCH	GOODEN	HAY(8)	DAVIS	CUERVO
NOAH	ONUORA	LEITCH	GOODEN	WATSON(8)	HULBERT(5)	BULLOCK(10)
HAY	ONUORA(2)	BULLOCK	GOODEN	WATSON(7)	CAMPAGNA	COWE(8)
WATSON	ONUORA	FENN	GOODEN	HULBERT(7)	CAMPAGNA	COWE
WATSON	ONUORA	FENN	GOODEN	TAYLOR(10)	BULLOCK(8)	NOAH(11)
WATSON	ONUORA	FENN	NOAH	HOWE(8)	HULBERT(6)	LEITCH(10)
WATSON	ONUORA	FENN	DAVIS	HAY(10)	TAYLOR(3)	BULLOCK(7)
WATSON	ONUORA	NOAH	DAVIS	HAY	HULBERT(6)	BULLOCK(2)
HAY	ONUORA(2)	NOAH	DAVIS	WALTERS(8)	WATSON	BULLOCK(5)
HAY	ONUORA	BULLOCK	DAVIS	WATSON(7)	REEVES	WALTERS(4)
HAY	ONUORA	BULLOCK	DAVIS	WATSON(9)	REEVES	COWE(8)
HAY	NOAH	BULLOCK	GOODEN	COWE(8)	ONUORA(7)	NOT USED
NOAH	ONUORA	GOODEN	DAVIS	WALTERS	WATSON	HULBERT
NOAH	ONUORA	GOODEN	DAVIS	COWE	HULBERT(2)	REEVES
NOAH	ONUORA	GOODEN	DAVIS	WATSON(11)	WATSON(7)	COWE(6)
NOAH	ONUORA	GOODEN	DAVIS	WATSON	WILLIS	HAY(10)
NOAH	ONUORA	HAY	DAVIS	ROBINSON(11)	GOODEN(3)	GRIFFIN(9)
NOAH	ONUORA	HOWE	GOODEN	ROBINSON(5)	HULBERT(2)	HAY(4)
NOAH	ONUORA	HAY(2)	DAVIS	HULBERT(7)	GRIFFIN	GOODEN(11)
NOAH	ONUORA	HAY	GOODEN	KERSLAKE(2)	WALTERS	COLLINS(7)
NOAH	ONUORA	HAY	GOODEN	KERSLAKE(4)	WALTERS	DAVIS
NOAH	WALTERS	HAY	GOODEN	KERSLAKE	HALL(6)	GRIFFIN(8)
NOAH	WALTERS	HAY	GOODEN	HALL(2)	COLLINS(4)	ONUORA(5)
NOAH	ONUORA	HAY	GOODEN	GRIFFIN(6)	TAYLOR	MCHUGH
NOAH	ONUORA	HAY	GOODEN	GRIFFIN(10)	LINTON(11)	TAYLOR
DAVIS	ONUORA	BRADLEY	GOODEN	HULBERT(6)	HAY(8)	WALTERS(10)
NOAH	ONUORA	BRADLEY	GOODEN	HAY(10)	WALTERS(6)	BORROWS

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS.
SUNDERLAND	40	26	11	3	78	24	89
IPSWICH	40	24	7	9	63	26	79
BRADFORD	40	23	7	10	71	39	76
BIRMINGHAM	40	19	12	9	60	33	69
WOLVES	40	18	12	10	59	38	66
BOLTON	39	17	14	8	69	52	65
WATFORD	40	16	13	11	55	52	61
SHEFFIELD UNITED	40	15	12	13	63	59	57
HUDDERSFIELD	41	14	14	13	57	64	56
CRYSTAL PALACE	41	14	14	13	55	60	56
WEST BROM	40	15	8	17	62	67	53
NORWICH	40	13	14	13	52	53	53
GRIMSBY	38	15	8	15	36	43	53
BARNLEY	41	12	15	14	51	49	51
TRANMERE	41	11	17	13	56	55	50
STOCKPORT	40	11	16	13	45	48	49
SWINDON	40	11	10	19	53	74	43
PORTSMOUTH	41	10	13	18	50	63	43
QPR	39	10	11	18	43	51	41
OXFORD	41	9	13	19	41	65	40
PORT VALE	39	11	5	23	39	70	38
CREWE	40	9	10	21	48	75	37
BURY	40	7	16	17	29	53	37
BRISTOL C	39	7	14	18	48	70	35

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES 98/99

Player Name:	LEAGUE	W. C	FAC.	Gls.
	Apps.	Apps.	Apps.	
BRIAN BORROWS	36	1	1	0
DARREN BULLOCK	18(5)	1	1	1
SAM CAMPAGNA	0	(1)	0	0
LEE COLLINS	2(2)	0	0	0
STEVE COWE	2(2)	0	(2)	0
PHILLIPPE CUERVO	2(4)	0	0	0
SOL DAVIS	21(1)	0	1	0
GARETH DAVIES	3	0	0	0
JIMMY GLASS	3	1	0	0
TY GOODEN	32(2)	1	2	1
CHARLIE GRIFFIN	(4)	0	0	0
GARETH HALL	34(2)	1	2	2
CHRIS HAY	14(9)	1	1	6
BOBBY HOWE	14(2)	0	2	3
ROBIN HULBERT	6(9)	0	2	0
DAVID KERSLAKE	12(2)	0	0	0
SCOTT LEITCH	23(1)	0	1	0
ALAN McDONALD	0	0	0	0
STEVE MILDENHALL	0	0	0	0
GEORGE NOAH	33(1)	0	2	11
IFEM ONUORA	35(3)	1	1(1)	17
ALAN REEVES	24	(1)	0	2
MARK ROBINSON	23(3)	1	1	0
FRANK TALIA	35	1	2	0
CRAIG TAYLOR	14(2)	0	2	0
MARK WALTERS	31(4)	1	1(1)	11
KEVIN WATSON	7(6)	(1)	(1)	0
ADAM WILLIS	9	0	0	0

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FIFTY FIVE



MATCH..... STATS

the officials

**Referee: Roger
Furnandiz**

Roger is 45 years old and works as a Technical Sales Manager, and is married to Karen. He has two children Bradley 17 and Rachel 14.

Assistant Referee:

**Kevin Hawkes
Richard Melinn**

**4th Official:
Chris Ward**

match facts

Half-Time Score

Full-Time Score

Today's Attendance



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TODAY'S TEAMS.....



FRANK TALIA	1	KEVIN POOLE
DES LINTON	2	JON BASS
GARETH DAVIES	3	SIMON CHARLTON
CRAIG TAYLOR	4	GRAHAM HYDE
GARETH HALL	5	DAVID HOLDSWORTH
ROBIN HULBERT	6	MICHAEL JOHNSON
BOBBY HOWE	7	MARTIN GRAINGER
GEORGE NDAH	8	MARTIN O'CONNER
IFEM ONUORA	9	LEE BRADBURY
SHAYNE BRADLEY	10	BRYAN HUGHES
TY GOODEN	11	PETER NDLOVU
BRIAN BORROWS	12	NICKY FORSTER
MARK WALTERS	13	JOHN MCCARTHY
CHRIS HAY	14	HOWARD FORINTON
TEAM MANAGER JIM QUINN		TEAM MANAGER TREVOR FRANCIS



BRIAN BORROWS

Borrows' experience will be key in this confrontation. He will have to be at his very best if he wants to shut out the dangerous Adebola.



DELE ADEBOLA

NEXT HOME MATCH...

Saturday 24th April 1999

Nationwide League Division One

VS GRIMSBY TOWN kick-off 3.00pm



Swindon Town Football Club, County Ground, County Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 2ED.