

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF:

SWINDON TOWN

SATURDAY 10TH
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PREVIEWS THE 2002/03 SEASON

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MEET THE TWO TEAMS, KINGY'S
NOTES, DANNY INVINCIBLE'S
SOCCER SCHOOL AND STEVE
ROBINSON AS THE NAKED CHEF!

CLASS OF 2002

WE MEET TOWN'S NEW MIDFIELD DUO -
DARREN DYKES AND STEFANI MIGLIORANZI

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FOOTBALL



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at the match



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CONTENTS

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

Formed 1881

Stadium Capacity 15,728

Honours 1969 League Cup Winners, 1971 Anglo-Italian Cup Winners, 1996 Division Two Champions

Record Attendance 32,000 v Arsenal 1971/72

Biggest League Win 9-1 v Luton Town 1920/21

Most capped player Rod Thomas: Wales 30

Most goals in a season Harry Morris 47 1926/27

Chairman Willie Carson

Directors Bob Holt, Wendy Godwin,
Nick Prescott, James Wilts, Sandy Gray

Chief Executive Mark Devlin

Manager Andy King

Assistant Manager Malcolm Crosby

Player / Coach Neil Ruddock

Youth Team Coach Viv Busby

Soccer Centres Co-ordinator Jim Fraser

Physio Dick Mackey

Team Secretary Linda Birrell

Youth Administrator Karen Ainscow

Commercial Manager Mike Sullivan

Commercial Executive Rob O'Carroll

Programme Editor Nick Judd

Website Daniel Prescott & Nick Judd

Stadium Manager Ron Toop

Conference & Banqueting Brian Wood

Bars and Kiosks Chris Abrook

Football In The Community Clive Maguire,
Jon Holloway, Luke Sharps

Administration

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Ticket Office

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Community Office

01793 421303

Club Superstore

01793 333778

Website www.swindontownfc.co.uk

Clubcall 09068 121 640

Photography Action Images, Empics,
Mike Judd, Richard Tilling and Chris Adams



for enquiries and sales please call 01635 35599

design: wes strange

FEATURES

**ANDY KING IS CURRENTLY
FOURTH IN THE SWEDISH
LEAGUE. CONFUSED?**

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**MEET THE SWINDON
PLAYING STAFF**



**EVER WONDERED
WHERE THE
LIKES OF
GRAZIOLI HAVE
GONE? LET US
TELL YOU...**

**MEET TOWN'S NEW
MIDFIELD MAESTROS,
MIGLIORANZI AND DYKES**

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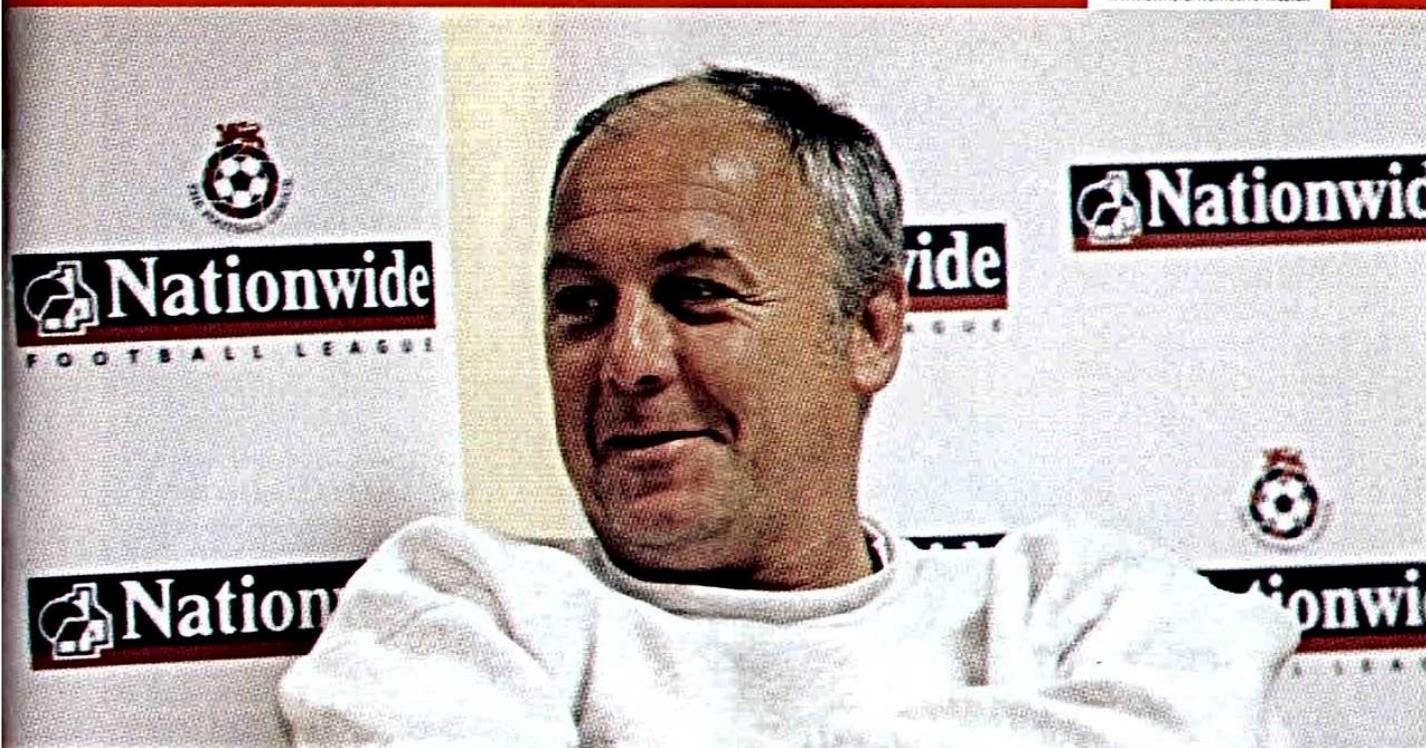
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THE GAFFER

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GOOD AFTERNOON AND A WARM WELCOME TO WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR – THE BIG KICK-OFF AS WE ENTERTAIN BARNSELY THIS AFTERNOON.

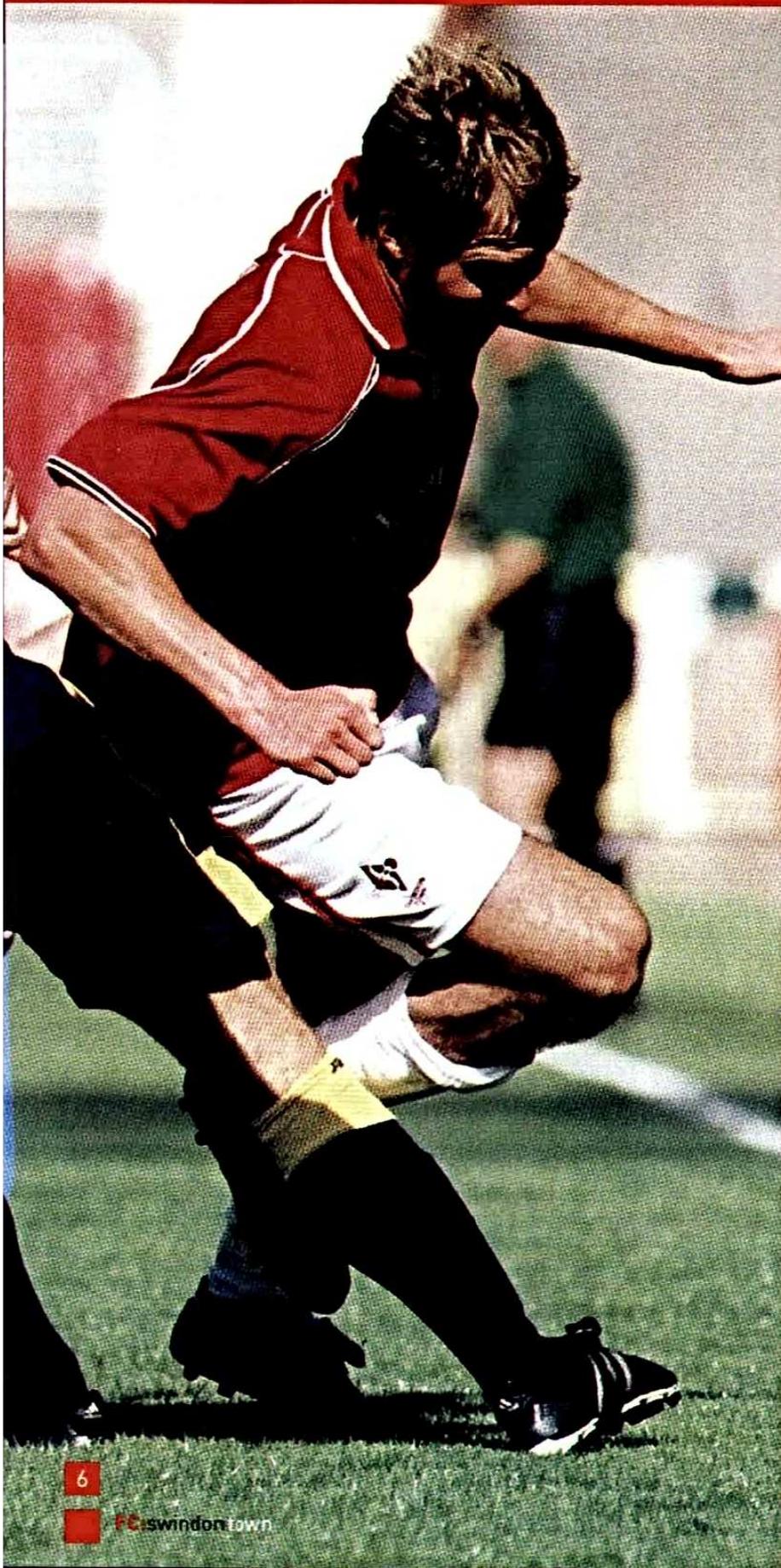
It's been a long summer, largely because of this summer's World Cup competition in May, but after a period of nearly four months we're back to what really matters and I must say – I can not wait to get started!

Unfortunately we haven't had as many games leading up to today's encounter as I would have liked, the game against Watford suffering as a result of some adverse weather. However, the players have been back in action for a number of weeks and their hard work has been gearing towards the next nine months.

The players have been absolutely magnificent since they returned to action at the beginning of July. A week in Southport kick-started what has been a tough pre-season regime and their attitude has been absolutely first class. Hopefully their hard work will pay off as the season progresses – if their enthusiasm and spirit are anything to go by then we will do well this season.

How much we can read into the games against Wimbledon and Sporting Gijon I don't know. Wimbledon were certainly a better reflection of what we will have to come up against this term, but to hold an attractive team such as the Spaniards to a draw is also creditable. There are certainly things we can build and improve on, but at very worst we have improved our fitness without losing any games – that itself should give the lads confidence ahead of today's clash.

THE GAFFER CONT'D...



The positives to have emerged from the last few games will have been clear for all to see. Craig Farr, a "keeper that I believe has massive potential, has come on leaps and bounds and has shown me that he is, at worst, capable of pushing Bart Griemink (who himself has shown good form) for the number one jersey.

Defensively we have given little away and in Alan Reeves, Andy Gurney, Adam Willis and Matt Heywood, I have four terrific players pushing for two or three places.

In midfield Matty Hewlett has proved his fitness after a long lay-off, whilst Stefani Miglioranzi and Darren Dykes have both joined the club, both of which will provide us further options in the centre of the park with their athleticism and power. Those that have seen Stefani play will know why I admire him as a player so much - he is a lovely footballer. As for Dykes, he is more of a wild card, but he has shown to me that he can compete at this level and I am very excited to see how he gets once he is match fit.

Up front we have another new face in Sam Parkin who joins Danny, Eric and Alan Young in our strike force. Sam has been a target of mine for a number of months and having joined us from Chelsea - I am delighted to have his strength and ability in our squad. The lad has already scored four goals in pre-season and so he has shown us what he is capable of, I just hope that he can continue that form into the new season starting with today's game.

Add to that our own youngsters and we already have players competing for places. Nathan Edwards and Kevin Halliday have shown me that they have the desire to play at this level and they will be pushing the more senior members of the squad.



Today it is Barnsley that visit the County Ground and may I take this opportunity in welcoming a very good friend of mine to Wiltshire, Tykes manager Steve Parkin. Steve was club captain when I was manager at Mansfield and he made the progression to become my assistant. In the end, Steve eventually took on the manager's job after I left and it is great to see him at a great club such as Barnsley. I always believed that he had the necessary character and credentials to become a successful manager and today apart, I wish him every success this season and for the future. Barnsley will be a very tough side to beat, but as you all know – I like to concentrate on our own progress and let the opposition worry about us. I would be lying if I said I would expect to have made a couple of more signings by now, but the players that have come in, not only this summer, but over the course of the last season as well, have made us a stronger outfit. We are prepared for this season and the players share my ambition – with your support, together we can be successful.



DICK MACKEY

A warm welcome back to the County Ground today for the start of the new campaign. Unfortunately, I seem to have been pretty busy which means that there are a number of casualties ahead of today's game.

I'll start with Andy Gurney, who, as some of you may be aware, picked up a groin strain against Wimbledon two weeks ago. Andy is suspended for the first three games of the season and that gives us a bit of extra time to get him absolutely right. He is currently working hard and I'm sure he will be ready when he returns from the suspension.

Darren Dykes, who sprained his ankle at Hereford, also looks likely to miss today's game. The former Buckingham Town midfielder is working hard but it is unlikely to be ready.

Keith O'Halloran, out until October, is also working tirelessly. Keith is improving with every week and only time will tell how quickly he returns to training.

The only other doubts this afternoon are Danny Invincible, Sol Davis and Alan Young – although I would expect Danny and Alan to be available for selection today. Danny trained on Wednesday whilst Alan, who received some bruising on his back after the Gijon game, looks to have recovered in time. Sol is training again but is still in a position where he has to sit out a number of exercises – I would suspect that the following week would be a more realistic return date for him.

Andy King celebrates scoring against Manchester United back in '78

KING OF SWEDEN

Andy King, former Everton legend, now manager of the mighty Town and a football team in Sweden. Confused? Read on...

Who would have thought that when Everton beat little know Swedish side, Landskrona, back in the 70's - it would be the catalyst for one Swedish fan to name his own team after Everton's star man, Andy King. Yet that was precisely what happened to one young lad named Kalle (who lived in Bjerred, home to Patrik and Daniel Andersson), who set up Andy King Football Club upon watching the then midfield maestro destroy his favourite Swedish club.

Anders Satmark takes up the story... "Andy King FC still play today, nearly 25 years since the club started and we compete in a local league in Lund (you can even follow our fortunes by accessing our website, <http://w1.461.telia.com/~u46121335/fotboll.htm>). Unfortunately, only five of the club's original members are still playing - some have gone on to greater things (the Swedish Second Division would you believe), whilst the rest of us have kept on playing."

As for the future of Andy King, well, it looks as though the club has created a successful youth academy to keep the club going for a few more years. Anders continues, "Somehow we are all managing to keep going despite reaching the age of forty. However, the majority of our players now have kids aged between 1 and 14 and we are hoping that they will keep the club going for a few more years!"

DIV SUPER

	P	W	D	L	PTS
Glorias	9	7	1	1	22
Rovers	8	7	0	1	21
Nationalekonomerna	8	5	1	2	16
ANDY KING	8	4	1	3	13
Dream Team	8	3	2	3	11
Posten	9	3	2	4	11
Polarna	9	3	1	5	10
Sparbanken	9	3	1	5	10
Grändens Boys	9	3	0	6	09
Mighty Dicks	8	1	1	6	04

Here is the current league as it stands, with Andy King in fourth place. We will keep you updated on their progress each week!



A good afternoon and a very warm welcome to you all for this afternoons match with Barnsley and a return to Nationwide League action. On behalf of the board of directors I would like to welcome the visiting directors, officials, players and supporters from Barnsley football club.

I was delighted to be offered the position of Chief Executive just a few weeks ago and I am very proud and excited to have joined a club with such a tremendous heritage and with so much potential.

One of my first priorities will be to create a unity throughout the club, with everyone, including supporters, pulling in the same direction. This club, throughout it's financial turbulence, has suffered in a major way, from different factions forming with their own agendas and causing huge problems - near fatal problems for the club. Whatever happens, this club must survive and prosper and to do that we must be as one with the well-being of the club at heart. No one person is bigger than this club.

There will need to be many changes to the way this club is run, the first of which is to put the club on a sensible business footing, with professional business disciplines in place.

Communication with the fans which, with hindsight, was our greatest problem over the close season, must and will be improved. Our season ticket holders will be placed right at the top of our importance chart and we will look to develop the season ticket package to offer better all round value than ever.

As a club we have been dealt two financial blows during the summer. Firstly, as you are no doubt aware, the league's unsuccessful attempt to make Carlton and Granada pay the television contract in full, which now means we



photograph courtesy of the evening advertiser

MARK DEVLIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STFC.

will suffer an estimated shortfall of £250,000 in each of the next two seasons. Additionally NTL who, in a joint venture with the Football League and Premium TV (who run the platform for some 76 football league websites including our own), has filed for Chapter 11 protection in the US. This is an American version of administration and means that we are looking potentially at a reduction of approximately £50,000 next season. Discussions continue between the league and NTL shareholders and I will keep you informed of the progress.

These two setbacks mean that the club, more than ever, needs to tighten its belt and operate within strict budgets. The upside of that is that

every club in our division is suffering as we are. Whilst it will be tight it will be a good discipline for everyone at the club and I am sure we will be the better for it in the future.

I am very aware that your loyal support has been severely tested over the past few seasons. Your support, as I said, earlier, is needed more than ever to ensure that we turn this club around - so please keep the faith and bring a few friends with you each week and we will be successful.

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the game.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

01.08.02

TOWN REDUCE TICKET PRICES

Swindon Town Football Club announce a reduction on ticket prices for those fans that pre-purchase their ticket at least one day in advance of the scheduled fixture. The price of the pre-purchased ticket will be reduced by £2 for adults and £1 for concessions and juniors. Please note that these reductions apply to the Arkell's and Nationwide Stands only.

To qualify for the reduced price fans MUST purchase their ticket before 5pm on Friday for the following Saturday match and 5pm on Tuesday for the following Wednesday evening match. For more information or to pre-purchase your ticket, please contact the Ticket Office on 01793 333777

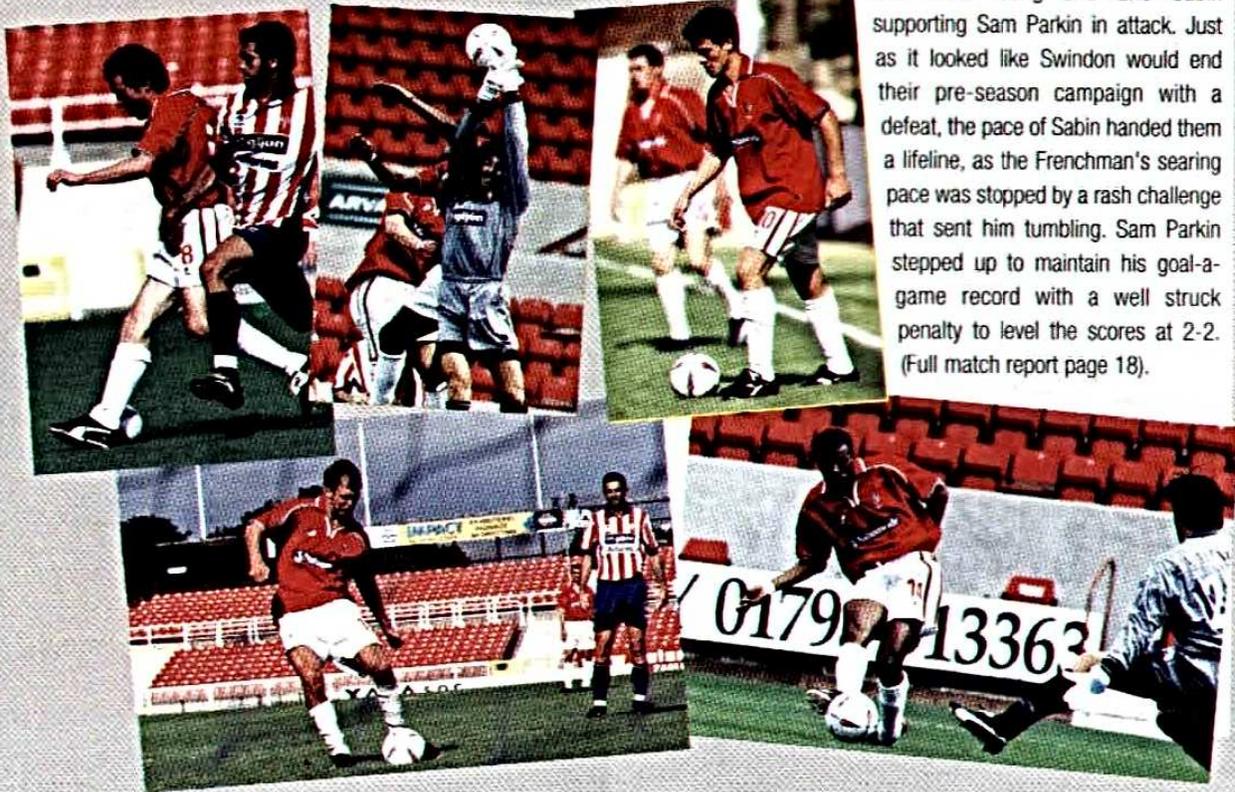
05.08.02

PARKIN PENALTY EARNS DRAW

Swindon's First Team completed their pre-season programme with an entertaining 2-2 draw against Sporting Gijon.

It was, by design, a game of two halves with a mixture of trialists and youthteamers given an opportunity in the first half, with a more familiar line-up appearing for the second 45 minutes. Town went ahead with a goal from Australian trialist Royce Brownlie before the visitors levelled with an audacious free kick from Juan. Sporting Gijon took the lead soon after when another free-kick, this time from Reuben, deflected past Craig Farr in the Town goal just before the half-time break. In the second half, Swindon played a much more familiar line-up with several substitutions from the first half. Andy King stayed faithful to his favoured 4-3-3 formation

with Alan Young and Eric Sabin supporting Sam Parkin in attack. Just as it looked like Swindon would end their pre-season campaign with a defeat, the pace of Sabin handed them a lifeline, as the Frenchman's searing pace was stopped by a rash challenge that sent him tumbling. Sam Parkin stepped up to maintain his goal-a-game record with a well struck penalty to level the scores at 2-2. (Full match report page 18).





06.08.02

RAZOR GOES ON TRANSFER LIST

Swindon Town Football Club places Neil Ruddock, on the transfer list. The former Liverpool and West Ham defender has been at the centre of speculation since his last game in Town's colours in which he was sent off against Notts County last December.



Club Chief Executive, Mark Devlin, told Town's official website: "No one individual is ever more important than the club itself and we feel that it is in the best interests of both STFC and Neil Ruddock that he has the opportunity to continue his career at another club."

"We very much hope that a solution can be found which will suit both parties."

06.08.02

TOWN GRANTED ALCOHOL LICENCE

Swindon Town has been granted permission by the council to sell alcohol in its two main stands, the Arkells and South Stands. The club will be able to sell alcohol from 1.00pm and again after the match for 45 minutes thanks to this weeks court decision. This will start at the home game against Stockport on August 31.

Fans are reminded that those wishing to enter the Town End enclosure for our home game against Cardiff on the 24th August MUST order their ticket in advance. The decision was taken in conjunction with the Wiltshire Constabulary as the Club feels that it is only right that it does what it can to maintain public order.

06.08.02

BURNS AND HARRIS RESIGN

The Football League's two leading executives, David Burns and Keith Harris, resign over the ITV Digital saga. Both had been under intense pressure since the ITV digital fiasco and when a High Court judge ruled that Carlton and Granada were not liable for the £178.5m owed to the League, they were left with little choice but to resign.

06.08.02

TOWN WIN AT SUPERMARINE

Town finished their pre season friendlies with yet another good result. A side that only included just one senior pro (Juan Cobian), defeated Supermarine by a goal to nil – Ian Herring's header proving enough on 20 minutes. The only goal of the game came from a Neil Crosby corner. Malcolm Crosby, who was proud of the boys, said "It was encouraging to see the young lads do well against a good non league side, they worked hard and deserved to win. The goal was a well taken corner by Neil Crosby and was headed home well by Ian Herring."

07.08.02

TOWN UNVEIL NEW AWAY KIT



Swindon Town Football Club has unveiled the new away shirt for the 2002/03 season. The new away kit that the lads will be wearing proudly around the country this season is a variation of the home kit design. Keep logged on to www.swindontownfc.co.uk for details of when the away shirt is to go on general sale.

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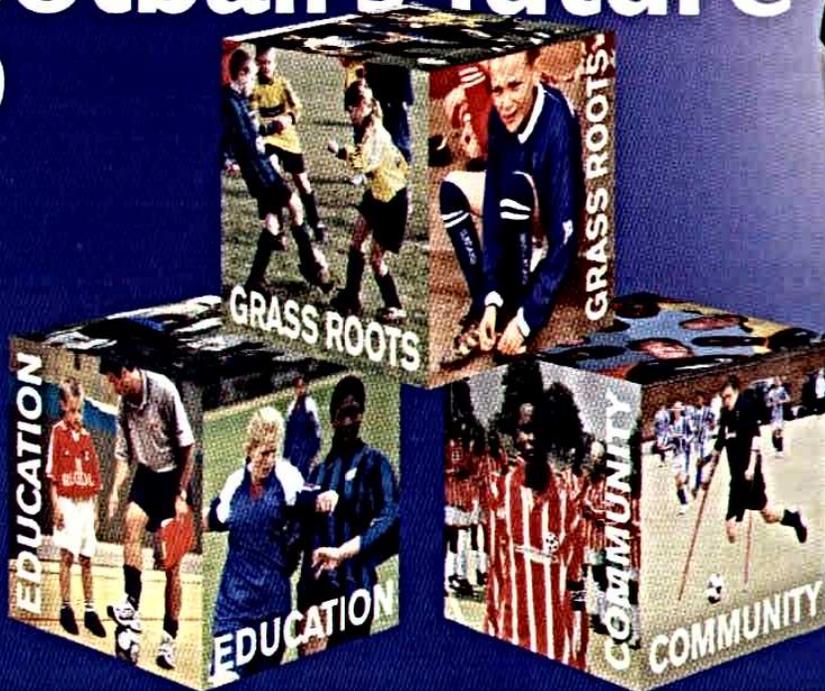
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AS CLOSE SEASONS GO - THIS SUMMER HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET AT COUNTY GROUND HQ.

THE HOME TEAM

SWINDON TOWN FC

THIS SEASON

Ins: Darren Dykes, Stefani Miglioranzi and Sam Parkin

Outs: Giuliano Grazioli, Paul McAreavey, Bobby Howe, Richard McKinney, Berti Brayley, Paul Edwards, James Williams

Odds for promotion: 12/1
(courtesy of www.swindonbet.co.uk as at 05.06.02)

LAST SEASON

Position last year: 13 (Division Two)

Top scorer: Invincibile (10)

Biggest win: 3-0 (Port Vale)

Biggest loss: 0-4 (OPR, Chesterfield)

Player of the Year: Matty Heywood

Most League apps: Bart Griemink (50)

HISTORY BOOK

Formed: 1887

Biggest win: 9-1 v Luton Town
(1920/21)

Most capped player: Rod Thomas
(Wales: 30)

Most league goals: Harry Morris
(1926/27: 47)

Biggest buy: Joey Beauchamp
£800,000

No takeovers, very few comings and goings - in many ways it has been a bit too quiet for a club such as ours. For too many years the club has been enshrouded by one controversy after another, in the last two seasons alone there have been three managers, three chairmen and a revolving door of players coming and going! This year however (and I'm not complaining), it seems as though the club has finally found what it has craved for and long may the current stability continue.

For the first time in two years the club will begin the new season with the manager that finished the previous campaign. And Andy King has been working hard too, the former Mansfield boss seemingly thriving in his role. However, new players have been hard to come by and at the time of writing, just three players have joined the playing staff. Darren Dykes, a midfielder from Buckingham Town put pen to paper and looks set to battle it out for a place in Town's midfield with Stefani Miglioranzi, a Canadian American defender/midfielder, who has signed a month to month contract. Add to that we have Sam Parkin, a burly striker who, having scored four in four during pre-season, looks like a very hot prospect from Chelsea.

As for the season ahead, well, it would be a brave man to suggest what lays in store for the reds - the last few years have been a veritable roller coaster of emotions. After a close shave with relegation in 2000/01, Town managed what some would describe as a successful season as they finished in 13th position last time around. Perhaps Town's greatest achievement last season was their admirable defensive record, with just 56 goals conceded Andy King's side boasted one of the best back lines in the league. Unfortunately, it was a lack of goals at the other end that prevented Town from challenging those in the top half of the table. Danny Invincibile, albeit a consistent performer, managed just ten goals whilst Eric Sabin, his partner for much of the campaign, mustered only five.

A striker has been at the top of Andy King's wish list for much of the summer and Sam Parkin aside, it has also been the most challenging find. King admits that he is not in the position he would like to be in ahead of the season's start, but I would expect to see one or two more faces join the club over the next couple of weeks.

Should Town find the goals that were missing last season (and the high scoring victory over Newport may suggest that we're not too far away) then a top six finish isn't out of the question - with many clubs now in a financial quandary - you never know, this could be our year...



THE GAFFER



ANDY KING

Born in August 1956, in Luton, King made his name as a lively midfielder having joined his home town club in 1974. His next stop was Everton who he signed for in 1976 for £35,000. He made 150 appearances for The Toffees, scoring an impressive 38 goals in four seasons at Goodison before joining QPR, WBA, Cambuur, Wolves and Aldershot - King finishing his playing days at the Surrey-based club.

Having retired as a player, he turned to coaching, and was given his first managerial appointment at Mansfield Town in 1993. King took Mansfield from mid-table (in his first season) to the play-offs in the next, a defeat against Chesterfield preventing his side from going up. The following year the side finished in 19th position and King was replaced by Steve Parkin. Andy spent some time out of management but worked with Peter Reid, at Sunderland as a scout when Colin Todd took him to Swindon as his assistant manager in the summer of 2000. King was given the job on a more permanent basis following Todd's departure to Derby and despite being replaced by Roy Evans for a period of four months, King returned in December 2001.

MANAGERIAL TRACK RECORD

Swindon 2000 - W 20, L 24, D 23

Mansfield 1993 - 96 W 50, L 53, D 45

THE SQUAD

BART GRIEMINK (keeper)

Giant keeper signed by Colin Todd on a free transfer in the summer of 2000, Griemink is a former Dutch Under-21 international who spent a successful loan spell with The Robins before eventually joining the club. He came to English football in 1995 with Birmingham and played in the 1995 League Cup semi-final before following Barry Fry to Peterborough and joining Town in 2000. A consistent performer, Bart regained his place last season thanks to the departure of Steve Mildenhall to Notts County and was in contention for the Player of the Year Award.

MATTHEW HEWLETT (mid)

An attacking central midfielder, Matt Hewlett was once tipped for the top by all at Ashton Gate, the former Bristol City player was called into the England Under 21 squad. Unfortunately a number of injuries curtailed his flourishing career and having made over 100 appearances for City, Hewlett made the M4 switch and joined Town in 2000. He was a regular for Colin Todd until being hit by injury once again and went on to play just 26 league games in his first season. Was consistent last year and should figure in King's midfield this time around.

ADAM WILLIS (mid)

Willis arrived at the County Ground in 1998 on a free transfer from Coventry and was Steve McMahon's last signing for The Robins. He scarcely figured for Jimmy Quinn and was allowed to go on loan to Mansfield after being told he could leave Swindon. Fortunately Todd liked the tall defender and gave him a new contract and he has since flourished, scoring his first goal against Ilkeston in an FA Cup tie and becoming a consistent performer in Town's backline.

ANDY GURNEY (def)

Andy joined Reading from Torquay in January 1999 for £100,000 as an attack-minded, right-sided defender that could also play in midfield. He started his career at hometown club Bristol Rovers, where he spent four seasons before moving to Torquay for one year and impressing during their surge to the play-offs. Established a regular starting place with Reading in 1999/2000 and figured in the Royals' promotion push before joining Town last summer. Crowned an impressive home debut performance against Tottenham with a long-range goal and proved to be one of King's best buys - is current club captain.

KEITH O'HALLORAN (mid)

Irish midfielder who was one of several Bosman signings Colin Todd made in the summer of 2000. O'Halloran started life as a trainee at Middlesbrough, but only made six appearances for Boro before moving to Scotland in 1997. He was a success at St Johnstone, and was offered a new contract but preferred to try his luck in Division Two. A good striker of the ball, O'Halloran proved one of Swindon's best signings of 2000, netting seven goals from midfield (most of them from the penalty spot). Had it not been for injury, O'Halloran probably would have played in every game for Town during the 2000/01 season. Started 2001/02 well, converting three goals from the penalty spot before enduring an horrific tackle at Bournemouth in August. Keith subsequently missed the rest of the season. Should return this October.

DAVID DUKE (mid)

Left-sided midfielder that arrived on a free transfer from Sunderland in 2000. Unfortunately, Duke never managed a start for the Black Cat's first team but he



appeared regularly in his first season with the Robins. He combined well with Sol Davis down the Robins' left and is a good crosser of the ball. Duke can also play at wing-back and will want to build on a decent start for Swindon. Consistency is the key for the Scotsman who has shown glimpses of what he is capable of, especially when running at defenders with the ball.

ERIC SABIN (att)

Few had heard of the young Frenchman when he joined the club last summer, but his pace has been a blessing to Town's front line. Sabin joined Town from French Second Division club Wasquehal who finished 18th in season 2000/01. Sabin contributed with seven goals in 58 starts in France and last season, didn't get the goals he deserved scoring just five in total. However, in terms of hard work Sabin brings much more to the team and in the first few games alone he earned four penalties.

DANNY INVINCIBLE (att)

Australian midfielder who endeared himself to the fans having been recommended to Colin Todd by Harry Redknapp at West Ham. Danny subsequently joined the Robins on a free transfer and after a slow start (although he did score on his debut against West Brom), Danny showed the club what he

was capable of with five goals in four games in October/November in season 2000/01. The former Marconi Stallion and Aussie Under-21 star would later become Town's top scorer with ten goals, arguably his most important coming in the last home game of that season against Peterborough in the ninetyeth minute - a goal that some say kept the club up.

MATTY HEYWOOD (def)

Heywood failed to break through at Burnley's Turf Moor and, after being alerted as to his availability by former scout, Shaun Reid, Andy King snapped him up on a free transfer. What a signing he's proved to be, ever-present in the latter half of 2000/01 and missing just four games last year, it is no surprise that he swept the board in last year's Player of the Year Awards. The tall defender has signed an extension to his contract, much to the delight of the fans and he will be looking to show the same strength and commitment as he did last year.

STEVE ROBINSON (mid)

Tough-tackling and energetic right-footed midfield terrier signed from Birmingham City for £50,000 in February 2001, he was an automatic choice for the Robins for the remainder of the season. Found in the centre or right of midfielder, Robinson likes to win the ball

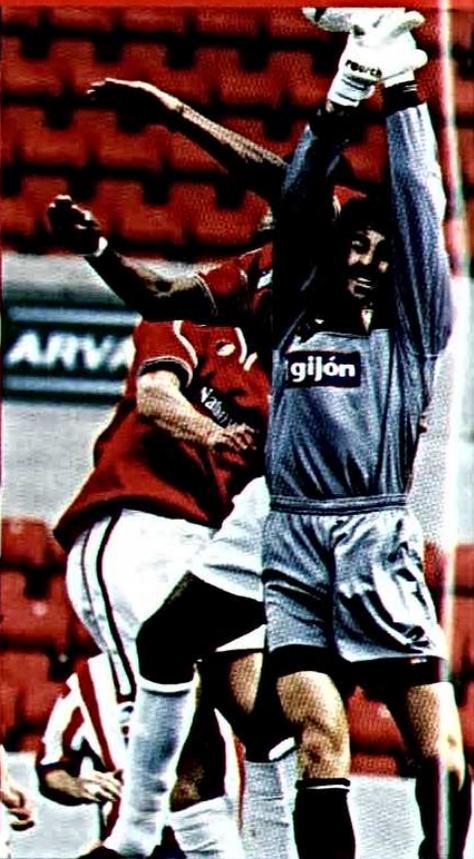
and pass it on quickly. A former Birmingham trainee, he broke into the Blues team under Barry Fry but has constantly been dogged by injuries that have limited his first team chances. He made over 50 league starts for the Blues, but almost joined Sheffield United in 1999 only to fail the medical. Will be hoping to improve on his brace against Oxford and has set himself a target of five goals.

ALAN YOUNG (att)

At 19 years of age, Young is one of Swindon's brightest hopes for the future. Having already played for England's Youth team, Young has risen from Town's youth set up to the fringe of the first team squad via the Reserves. Scoring goals for fun with the youth side, Young more than held his own in the club's second string and marked his first team debut in the FA Cup by scoring against non-league Ilkeston Town in 2000/01. Unfortunately he was unable to command a place due before an ankle injury sidelined the youngster, but he could be in with a shout this time around.

And the rest...

Craig Farr, Alan Reeves, Neil Ruddock, Nathan Edwards, Juan Cobian, Kevin Halliday, Sol Davis, Josh Thomas, Sam Parkin, Stefani Miglioranza, Gareth Edds.



MATCH ACTION

Text by Andrew Hounsell

SWINDON TOWN SPORTING GIJON

2
2

Swindon completed their pre season programme with an entertaining 2-2 draw against Spanish Second Division side, Sporting Gijon last Sunday.

It was, by design, a game of two halves with a mixture of trialists and youth teamers given an opportunity in the first half, with a more familiar line-up appearing for the second 45 minutes.

The visitors from Spain showed glimpses of real class, but with the start of their own season still some weeks away, were understandably short on match sharpness, a fact that was underlined inside the first five minutes when a casual pass across the Sporting defence gifted two of Swindon's trialists an early chance to impress, David Van der Begin pouncing on the loose ball and setting up Royce Brownlie with a clear run on goal. The Australian took the ball on confidently before slotting his shot into the back of the net to put Town 1-0 up.

The early goal helped add a competitive edge to the match and it wasn't long before the Swindon goal was under threat. The pace and close control of Ruben on the right wing was often a source of trouble for the Swindon defence, and Craig Farr had to distinguish himself on more than one occasion to preserve the lead. It always looked likely that the extra quality of Gijon would earn them an equaliser, and it duly arrived shortly before half-time. There was a suspicion of handball from Ruben as he controlled a long diagonal pass, but there wasn't any doubt about the late tackle from Kevin Halliday that brought him down on the edge of the box. From the resulting free kick, Farr was left helpless by a delicious curling shot from Juan that found the top corner of the net. Moments from the end of the half, Gijon made it 2-1 when more nimble footwork from Ruben ended with a shot that spun up from a wicked deflection and crept just inside the far post.

In the second half, Swindon played a much more familiar line-up with several substitutions from the first half. Andy King stayed faithful to his favoured 4-3-3 formation with Alan Young and Eric Sabin supporting Sam Parkin in attack. The extra pace of Sabin

almost created an equaliser within minutes of the restart, but after streaking away from the visitor's defence, the Frenchman could only hit the keeper with his final shot. With Sporting now finding their stride, Bart Griemink was required to emulate Farr's performance of the first half with a couple of fine saves to keep Swindon in the game. He was fortunate though to see a fierce shot from Ruben smash back off the underside of the crossbar with the Swindon 'keeper well beaten.

Just as it looked like Swindon would end their pre-season campaign with a defeat, the pace of Sabin handed them a lifeline, as the Frenchman's searing pace again carried him beyond the Gijon defence and into the box, only for a rash challenge to send him tumbling. It looked a harsh decision for the penalty, but Sam Parkin wasn't complaining as he stepped up to maintain his goal-a-game record with a well struck penalty to level the scores at 2-2.

Post match reaction: Andy King: "It was interesting to watch our lads test themselves against a continental side, but however educational, I know the tempo will be very different next week. We have a tendency in England to demand that the ball is moved faster and that there is more action from box to box.

"I think the second half was better than the first. The trialists were indifferent. I'm still two players short. However, Matty Hewlett did well to finish 90 minutes and Craig Farr saved everything that was thrown at him."

What the Papers say: Sam Parkin rattled home an 85th-minute spot kick to keep up his remarkable scoring record and rescue Town from a Spanish-style sinking. The 21-year-old's fourth goal in successive games gave Andy King's men a draw they scarcely deserved against a skilful Sporting Gijon side. There was never any doubt as to who would take the penalty after Eric Sabin had tumbled under the challenge of Argentine defender Christian. Parkin confidently crashed the ball past visiting keeper Valencia to ensure an unbeaten pre-season campaign for King's first team squad.

TOWN: Farr (Griemink), Bampton (Parkin), Halliday (Duke), Willis, Reeves (Heywood), Hewlett, Edwards, Barbe (Robinson), Van De Bagen (Miglioranzi), Young, Brownlie (Sabin)

GIJON: Valencia, Sastre, Christian, Borreguero, Bauza, Ismael, Juan, Lozano, Amo, Villa, Ruben, Roberto, Bravo, Alegre, Soto, Alvarez, Miguel, Segovia, Migue.



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The benefits included are:

- A full replica kit including, shirt, shorts and socks
- A Stadium tour for all members of party (Saturday games only)
- Pre-match meal for four guests (inc. mascot)
- Half-time refreshments of tea/coffee and biscuits
- Complimentary matchday magazine for each guest
- Editorial write up and photograph in matchday magazine
- Commemorative photograph with team captains and officials prior to kick-off

Please note: That due to the popularity of this scheme and also to avoid disappointment, we do allow more than one mascot package per game.

'It's not just for kids'

'Adults' can also participate in our Matchday Mascot experience. This would make an ideal present for someone who has been a lifelong fan, celebrating a birthday or just fancies living out one of his or her childhood dreams.





EACH WEEK, TOWN'S RESIDENT HISTORIAN, DICK MATTICK, WILL TAKE A LOOK AT THE BEST (AND WORST) OF PAST ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN THE TWO CLUBS.

Some of the most historic encounters between today's clubs took place nearly one hundred years ago before World War One. In 1910 for example, the two defeated cup semi-finalists (Swindon and Barnsley) were invited by the French football authorities to play at the Parc Des Princes for the Dubonnet Trophy. Two goals from Harold Fleming were enough for Swindon to win the match 2-1 and to be awarded the largest, if not the most expensive, trophy the club has ever won. Two years later the two sides met again in the FA Cup, often known at the time as the English cup. A crowd of 48,057 saw the two sides play out a 0-0 draw at Stamford Bridge and the treatment dished out to Harold Fleming by the Barnsley players was described by one reporter as "not football as we know it in the south." So badly hurt was he that he missed not only the replay, but the rest of the season too. The replay at Meadow Lane saw Swindon defeated 1-0 after Archie Brown's penalty kick for Swindon had been brilliantly saved

by Cooper, Bratley heading home Barnsley's goal came from a corner.

More recently, 1980 to be exact (January 12), Town travelled to Barnsley riding high in Division Three. Fourth in the league and with games in hand, Town were still in the FA Cup and had reached the semi-final of the League Cup in which they were due to play Wolves. Barnsley on the other hand were in the lower half of the table and were still smarting from a 0-7 reverse at Reading.

Oakwell was bathed in winter sunshine which was, at kick-off, gradually making way for the Yorkshire mist as Wilf Trantor led Swindon through their warm-up to the sounds of 'The Day we Went to Bangor'. The Tykes had the best of the first half but Swindon defended well, with Russell Lewis resolute in particular and Town took the lead six minutes into the second period. Miller sent over a near-post cross and Alan Mayes, who's strained ankle had made him a doubt

for the game, glanced home his header. Andy Rowland made it two when he headed home Ray McHale's free-kick ten minutes from time.

Town, playing in an all-blue away kit, thought that they were home and dry until Barnsley came close to snatching a point. A short free kick was tapped to Ian Banks who drove home to reduce the arrears before Trevor Aylott, who many tipped above Chris Kamara as man of the match, saw his shot saved by, first the fingertips of Jimmy Allan and secondly, the Swindon cross bar as the visitors held on for the spoils.

Barnsley: Pierce, Joyce, Collins, Glavin, Chambers, Evans, Banks, Graham, Aylott, Lester, Millar.

Swindon: Allan, Lewis, Stroud, McHale, Tucker, Carter, Miller, Kamara, Rowland, Mayes (Bates 81), Williams

Attendance: 10,420



DANNY'S SOCCER SCHOOL

NO:1 THE CRUYFF TURN

Each week Town striker, **Danny Invincible**, will show you a trick from his repertoire of skills for you to practice and perfect. Why not try them out and let us know how you get on with them - maybe send us a picture! All correspondence to: Danny's Soccer School, STFC Matchday Programme, The County Ground, County Road, Swindon, SN1 2ED.



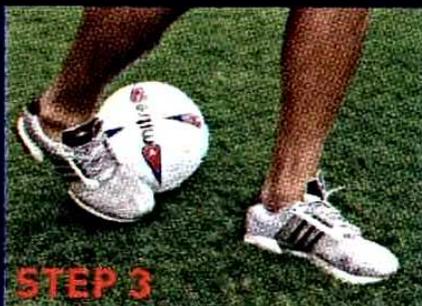
STEP 1

As you approach the point at which you wish to carry out the turn - push the ball away from your body



STEP 2

Plant your non-striking foot into the ground alongside the ball, whilst bringing your playing foot around the ball



STEP 3

With the instep of your playing foot, drag the ball behind your non-playing foot so that you change direction



STEP 4

Push the ball away from your body with the non-playing foot in order to allow yourself to move away quickly

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CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

IT'S BEEN A BUSY SUMMER FOR JIM FRASER AND TOWN'S CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE. THEY TRAVELLED TO NORTHERN IRELAND A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO TO TAKE PART IN THE MILK CUP FINALS - JIM FRASER TAKES UP THE STORY...

Our under 14's were unfortunate not to reach the semi-finals. In the junior section of the tournament, 24 teams took part from all over the world including teams from Japan, Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Israel, Scotland, Republic Of Ireland, as well as English clubs such as Everton, Middlesbrough, Norwich City, Charlton Athletic and Crewe Alexandra.

We played two group games against County Fermanagh and Hibernian, winning 4-0 and 2-1 respectively – a Mitchell Wyatt hat-trick and Lee Salter scoring against County Fermanagh, then Tom Valentine and Mitchell Wyatt against Hibernian.

This meant that we qualified for the Milk Cup Finals as we finished joint first out of 24 teams.

In the quarter-finals we faced Maccabi Haifa from Israel. Unfortunately, we came up against a team full of players that dived when tackled, punched our players off the ball and who pulled our players' shirts. At first our lads struggled to come to terms with this and were unfortunately beaten 3-2. Our goals

were scored by Mitchell Wyatt and Tom Valentine. The result put us into the 'Plate' games for 5th – 8th place.

In the next game we played County Antrim and the lads were disappointingly beaten 1-0. Our final 'Plate' game for 7th or 8th position started badly when Mitchell Wyatt, who needed only two more goals to win the Golden Boot, was very harshly sent off for a raised foot. Fortunately, the lads performed fantastically well to earn a 1-0 win with a goal scored by Tom Valentine two minutes from time.

This meant that we finished 7th out of 24 teams, which from our point of view was a magnificent achievement.

The players have gained valuable experience from this trip as well as the staff that came with us. We'd like to thank Ian Howells and Roger Reeves for their help and expertise during the week. We'd also like to thank Karen Ainscow, our Youth Administrator, as well as a host of sponsors that I will be mentioning in the next programme.



BARNSELY, LIKE SWINDON IN 1993, PUT THEMSELVES ON THE FOOTBALLING MAP BY EARNING PROMOTION TO THE TOP FLIGHT IN 1997.

TODAY'S VISITORS

BARNSELY



THIS SEASON

Ins: None

Outs: Chris Barker (Cardiff),
Steve Chettle (Grimsby)

Odds for promotion: 3/1
(courtesy of www.swindonbet.co.uk as at 05.08.02)

LAST SEASON

Position last year: 23 (Division One)

Biggest win: 3-0 (v Sheff Wed)

Biggest defeat: 1-5 (v Man City)

Top scorer: Dyer (18)

Most League apps: Bruce Dyer (49)

HISTORY BOOK

Formed: 1887

Biggest win: 9 - 0 v Loughborough
Town (28/01/1899)

Most capped player: Gerry Taggart
(Northern Ireland:35)

Most league goals: Cecil McCormack
(1950/51: 33)

Biggest buy: G Hrstov, M Sheron
£1,500,000

Record against the Town:
STFC wins 13, BFC wins 14, Draws 13

However, the Tykes' newly found fame was to last for just one year and like so many teams in the Second Division, now finds itself hoping to bounce back from the nation's third tier.

Despite recent disappointments, the football club itself encapsulates everything that is good about the local community to its fans and in recent years, gutsy performances and fairytale stories have led the national media to describe them as a 'battling' and 'brilliant' club. Such had been their performances in the nineties that those descriptions seemed well deserved, but if the truth be told their tradition of togetherness and pride can be traced back until 1912 when they caught the nation's imagination by reaching the FA Cup Final.

As coincidence would have it they even met Town along the way. The Tykes knocking us out at the semi-final stage having already defeated Birmingham, Bolton and Bradford. A 1-0 victory over West Brom followed in the final and for a squad that cost just £250, the Barnsley team endeared themselves to the nation. These days the squad has cost slightly more than £250 to assemble, although in the present climate (and by the club's own standards), it is a relatively economic group of players that Steve Parkin has at his disposal.

The big name signings such as Jan Aage Fjortoft and Neil Shipperley are a thing of the past and now, under the guile of a man described by many as the best young manager in the country (and who, incidentally, was the man to replace Andy King at Mansfield), it is up to a more modest set of players to take the club back to where it belongs.

Darren Barnard, a Welsh international and Steve Chettle, the former Nottingham Forest defender, have been the most famous casualties of the new slim-line regime – Chettle now at Grimsby, with Darren Barnard still looking to secure a future at Northampton.

Signings in the other direction have not been forthcoming and at the time of writing, Clive Wijnhard, on trial from Huddersfield, looks like being the only possible acquisition before today's big kick-off. Instead Parkin will be relying on those that suffered the drop from Division One last year and amongst those, are a combination of experienced names and relative 'rookies'. Mike Sheron and Bruce Dyer, the last of the big signings, are expected to lead the line, with former Town target Iasiah Rankin hoping for a strike berth and Chris Lumsdon, a firm crowd favourite, looking to shore things up at the back.

A good start will be crucial and if last Saturday's slender 1-0 defeat against Leeds last week is anything to go by – then Barnsley could be one of the teams to watch. Steve Parkin's side matched Terry Venables' Premiership outfit for much of the game and had Kevin Betsy and Mike Sheron taken their chances – the Tykes could have pulled off a shock victory in preparation for today's clash.



**FANS COMFORT BRUCE DYER
AFTER BARNESLEY'S RELEGATION
TO DIVISION 2 IS CONFIRMED.**

THE GAFFER



STEVE PARKIN

Parkin was officially appointed as Barnsley manager on November 9, 2001 leaving his post at Rochdale to succeed Nigel Spackman at the First Division club. Parkin had joined Rochdale in the summer of 1999 having quit at his hometown club, Mansfield Town, who he had guided to the fringes of the Nationwide League Division Three play-offs in the previous season despite tremendous cash constraints.

As a player, Steve gained England schools, youth and under-21 caps in a career that saw him play at Stoke City and West Bromwich Albion before his career ended prematurely at Mansfield (at the age of 31). In taking over at Mansfield, he was the league's youngest manager and he is now regarded as one of the most promising up-and-coming managers in the English game. It is his ability to get results on a tight budget that attracted Barnsley when the South Yorkshire club dismissed Nigel Spackman a month and a half into the 2001/02 season. He has since taken Tony Ford with him, from Rochdale, to continue as his assistant manager.

Managerial track record

Barnsley 2001- W 8, L 11, D 11

Rochdale 1999-01 W 51, L 37, D 53

Mansfield 1996-99 W 54, L 48, D 40

THE SQUAD

ANDY MARRIOT

Andy signed for the Reds in March 2001 as back up for Kevin Miller following the retirement of David Watson. He impressed the management sufficiently that he was offered a two-year deal in May 2001. A former Arsenal trainee, he moved to Nottingham Forest before a £200,000 move to Wrexham in 1993. He made his name at the Welsh side, making 278 appearances. Sunderland paid a similar amount for his services in 1998, but found first team opportunities limited at the Stadium of Light.

CHRIS MORGAN

Brought into the first team as a twenty-year-old during the Premier League season, Chris settled quickly and produced a series of mature performances that belied his tender years. He is a local lad and a product of the Barnsley Academy. Loved by the supporters for his no-nonsense style of defending, Chris was a virtual ever present during last season. Fiercely committed, powerful in the air and with a biting tackle, he has emerged as an Oakwell star.

MIKE FLYNN

Mike Flynn signed from Stockport County in March 2002. He started his career as an apprentice with Oldham Athletic in February 1987 and made 45 appearances at Boundary Park before moving to Norwich City in December 1988. Following a brief spell at Carrow Road the Oldham-born defender returned to his native North West and signed for Preston North End in a six-figure deal. After well over 150 appearances at Deepdale, Mike moved to Stockport in another six-figure transfer in March 1993. He clocked up 460 appearances at the heart of the County defence in ten seasons with the club before the arrival of

Carlton Palmer in 2001 meant he was sent out on loan to Stoke City in January 2002. He quickly established himself at the Britannia Stadium making 13 appearances and endearing himself to the Potteries side faithful with some solid performances.

CHRIS LUMSDON

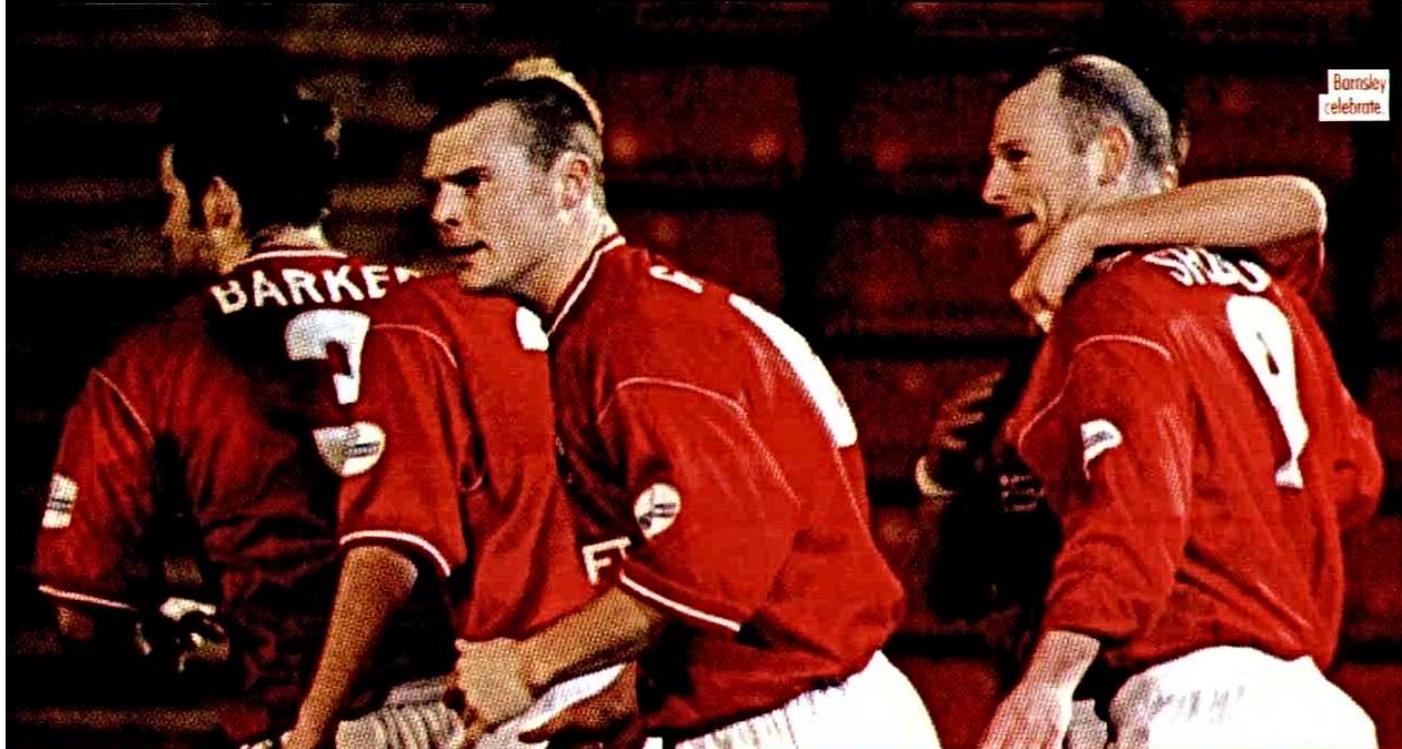
Chris Lumsdon signed for Barnsley in early December 2001 after impressing new boss Steve Parkin during a two-month loan spell. He scored twice in 13 games on loan and the former Sunderland youngster became a firm favourite with the Oakwell faithful following some exceptional performances in the middle of the park. A supremely talented midfielder, The Newcastle-born player has slotted into the Reds midfield and has the ability to turn a game in an instant with the range and quality of his passing.

BRUCE DYER

Bruce was signed from Crystal Palace for £750,000 in October 1998. The powerfully built striker hit the headlines in 1994 when Palace made him the most expensive teenager in British football, paying £1.25m for his signature. Bruce represented England at U-21 level and was the star of a tournament in Toulon in 1993, when one newspaper likened him to a Brazilian centre forward. Dyer made his Reds debut two days after signing in at Oakwell in the 2-1 win over Portsmouth at Oakwell, but struggled early on with a stomach injury. The 1999/2000 season still heralded a mixed bag for Bruce but he cemented his place in Barnsley's history by scoring three times in the Play Off semi-final games to book the Reds trip to the Twin Towers.

DEAN GORE

Dean Gorre signed for the club on July 25, 2001, for an undisclosed fee. He



started his career with SW Schiedam in Holland before moving to Feyenoord Rotterdam, where he helped win the league title in 1993. A brief loan spell at FC Groningen followed before Dean made the move to Dutch giants Ajax in 1997. Born in 1970, Dean won one cap at Under 21 level for Holland, before signing for Huddersfield Town in September 1999. He went on to make 68 appearances for the West Yorkshire side, scoring seven goals, before making his move to Oakwell.

ISIAAH RANKIN

Twenty-two year old Isiaah Rankin was Nigel Spackman's first signing in January 2001. A former Arsenal trainee, Isiaah moved to Valley Parade in August 1998 for a fee of £1.3 million - a club record for Bradford City at the time. He is a quick forward with an eye for goal and will cause opponents problems. He also created another Bantam's record when he became the first City player to score in a European competitive match - against Atlantas in the Inter-Toto Cup at the start of the 2000/01 season.

GARY JONES

Gary Jones became new Reds boss Steve Parkin's first signing in November 2001.

The midfielder made the switch from Parkin's former club Rochdale and quickly established himself in the Reds side.

The 24-year-old hit six goals in his first 21 appearances this season for Dale and was instrumental in the team's rise to second place in the Third Division. His all action style made him Player Of The Year for 2000/01 and captain at Spottland. Gary arrived at Rochdale in early 1998 from Swansea, initially on loan, and showed enough to earn an extended stay with the Lancashire club.

KEVIN BETSY

Kevin agreed to make the switch North from Fulham in Feb 2002 and made his debut against Millwall on March 2, 2002. Kevin's only first team appearance last season for the Craven Cottage side was at Old Trafford on the opening day of the campaign. The Seychelles-born winger was signed from non-league Woking in 1998 and made his Fulham debut at Anfield the following October.

He is described as a 'tall, fast player with huge potential' who can be used as a wing back, winger or up front. Kevin had loan spells at Hull City and Bourmemouth during the 1999/2000 season. He has made 20 appearances in the Fulham first team.

PAUL GIBBS

Paul Gibbs signed from Brentford and made his debut against Walsall on March 16, 2002. He made his league debut playing for Colchester after signing from Diss Town in March 1995 and made 56 appearances for the Layer Road club before moving to Torquay United. The 30-year-old made 51 appearances for Torquay before moving to Plymouth Argyle in July 1998. He signed for Brentford in May 2000 and made 67 appearances.

NEIL AUSTIN

Rory is another of the New Zealand contingent plying his football at Oakwell, although the talented striker has pledged his allegiance to England at international level. He has been a prolific goalscorer at Academy and reserve level and it is only a matter of time before he makes the step up to becoming a first team regular.

And the rest...

Carl Regan, Mitch Ward, Kevin Donovan, Matthew Ghent, Alex Neil, Kevin Dixon, Lee Crooks, Brian O'Callaghan, Steve Hayward, Dave Mulligan, Carl Barrowclough, Antony Kay, Leo Bertos, Jeremy Christie, Rory Fallon, Ashley Scothern, James Dudgeon.

DANGER! **MIKE SHERON**

PROLIFIC STRIKER

Having played in the top level, Mike Sheron has become a household name and one that sparks fear into opposing defences. With Barnsley looking for a good start to the season all eyes will be on the former England under 21 international and Town will certainly have to keep him quiet this afternoon.

Sheron began his career in the junior ranks at Manchester City, but actually made his League debut whilst on loan at Bury in April 1991 against Preston North End. He quickly became a regular in the Manchester City side and his impressive displays won him a call up to the England Under 21 team in which he would earn 16 caps.

Norwich City paid £1m for his services in August 1994, but just fifteen months later he joined Stoke City where he switched from his more accustomed midfield role to play as a striker with great success. In July 1997 though he was on the move again, this time to join Stewart Houston at Queens Park

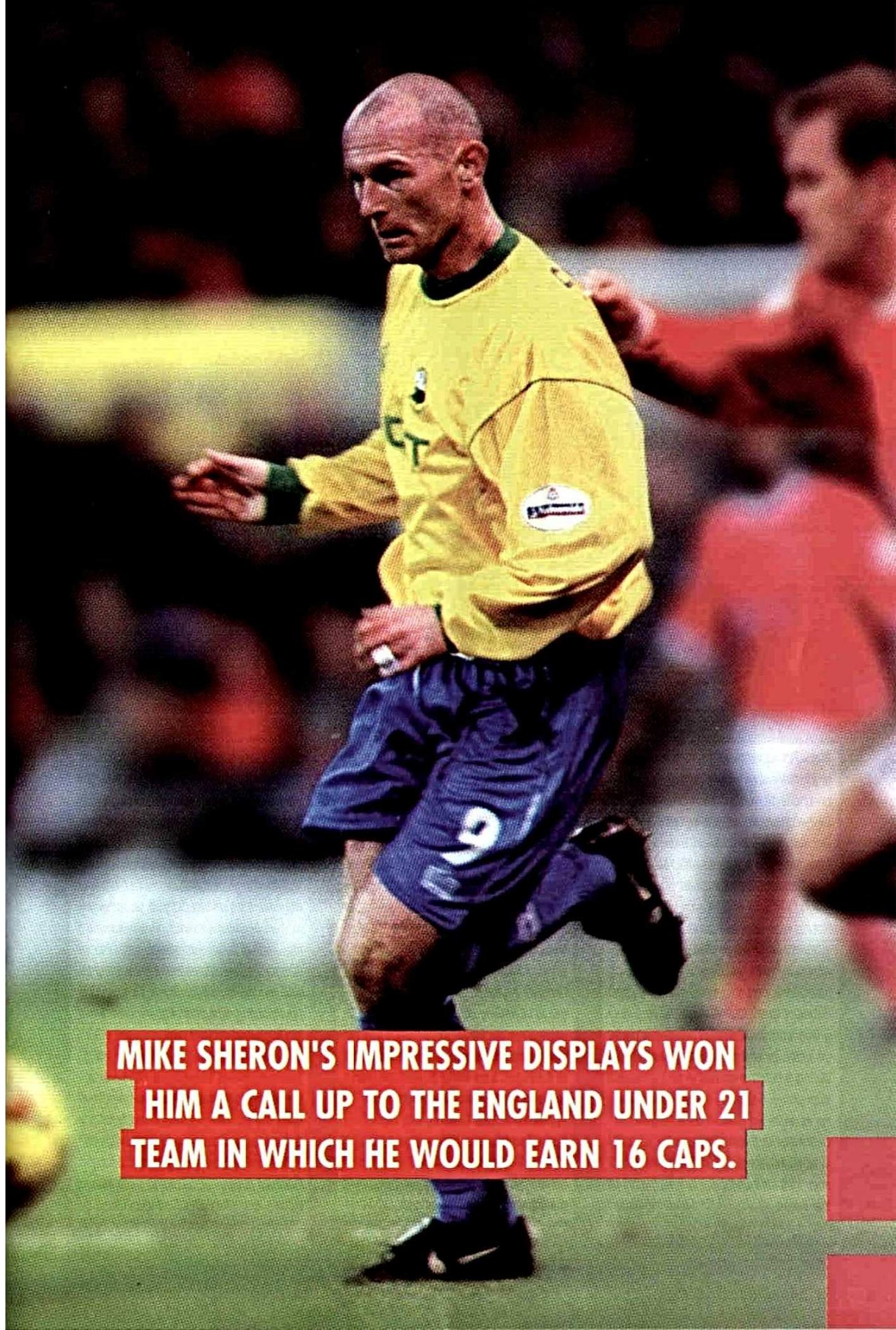
Rangers where he became the club's joint record purchase for £2.35m in July 1997.

Former Barnsley boss, John Hendrie, brought him to Barnsley in the belief that he would be able to continue his proven goalscoring record, and it was a fresh start for the striker who had previously struggled at Rangers. Mike had a mixed start, but scored nine excellent goals in

the League in 1999/00 and earned glowing praise from former manager, Dave Bassett, for his 'intelligence' on the ball. Having lost his place the year after Sheron returned having proven himself to Nigel Spackman.

He is often cited as the most technically gifted ball player at Oakwell by the supporters and he will be looking to build on his tally of 12 goals last season.





MIKE SHERON'S IMPRESSIVE DISPLAYS WON HIM A CALL UP TO THE ENGLAND UNDER 21 TEAM IN WHICH HE WOULD EARN 16 CAPS.

THEM AND US

Jan Aage Fjortoft
doing the "aeroplane".

Mark Robinson held the distinction of being Swindon Town's record player purchase at £600,000 in July 1994. Signed from Newcastle by John Gorman for First Division Town, a year later his boss was Steve McMahon and Town were in Division Two.

Robbo was born in Rochdale but started his career at West Bromwich Albion in 1985. In June '87 (and after just two appearances) he moved on to Barnsley in the old Second Division on a free transfer. Barnsley missed a play off place by one position in 1990/91, during which he scored in an impressive 5-0 away win at Wolves. He established himself as a regular performer in midfield before he settled in at right back in 1991/92, making over 130 League appearances for the Tykes.

In 1992/93, Kevin Keegan guided Newcastle to the newly formed Premiership and had chanced £450,000 on Robinson a couple of months before United had clinched the First Division championship. Mark's first start on Tyneside in a New Year's Day 1994 home win against Manchester City coincided with the last Newcastle appearance of Brian Kilcline prior to Killer's move to the County Ground. A year later Robinson marked the anniversary of his move to St James' by occupying the right back berth in a crushing 7-1 win at home to Swindon, and while Newcastle won ten of the 16 games that Robinson appeared in that season, this didn't appear to impress attack obsessed Keegan who allowed Robbo to move on to freshly re-relegated Swindon in the summer.

Mark made the number 2 shirt his own at Town, making 40 appearances as the Robins plummeted straight through Division One, but was ever present the following year as he collected a Division Two championship medal under Steve McMahon. Making 40 or more appearances on two further occasions in the next four seasons, Robinson chalked up in excess of another 160 League appearances before deciding to turn to non-league football, 'Robbo' is now playing alongside Gareth Davies at Chippenham Town.

The supporters of any club will have a list of their all time greats, and Jan the Man will feature in many Town fans' dream team. Joining in the summer of 1993, newly installed manager John Gorman spent £500,000 to prise him from Rapid Vienna as Swindon faced

TODAY'S VISIT OF BARNSELY REMINDS US OF TWO GREAT NAMES THAT HAVE PLAYED FOR BOTH CLUBS. MARK ROBINSON WAS A GREAT SERVANT TO TOWN HAVING STARTED LIFE AT BARNSELY, WHILST JAN AAGE FJORTOFT WAS REVERRED BY BOTH SETS OF FANS AS DAVE WALLIS EXPLAINS.

their one (and so far only) season in the Premiership.

At 6'3", Norwegian striker Fjortoft was expected to be a handful for defenders, but it took Jan months to settle in Wiltshire. Town desperately needed someone to fire the goals to try and lift them off the bottom of the table, but incredibly it took Jan until 22nd January 1994 for him to register his first League strike, which when combined with Whitbread's single goal of the season gave Town a win against Spurs - only their third of 1993/94. There had been talk of Fjortoft returning to Norway on loan to sharpen his shooting boots, but all such consideration was placed on hold as he set about making up for lost time. Two penalties contributed to his hat trick against Coventry in the following game

and a further brace produced a point at Norwich.

With four goals in the next five games, Town supporters were left wondering what could have been if Jan had only started his season earlier although, despite an away draw at Manchester United, Town only collected two points and in truth were already resigned to the drop back to the First Division.

Back in the lower division, Fjortoft continued where he'd left off and recorded 16 League goals before new manager Steve McMahon accepted a £1.3m bid from Middlesbrough on transfer deadline day 1995, just two months after the club announced that it would take £4m to do the job. Scoring three goals in the last four matches of 1994/95, Middlesbrough clinched the

First Division Championship and Fjortoft was back in the Premiership. With 41 appearances under his belt Sheffield United parted with £700,000 and Fjortoft was a Blade, and a year later in January 1998 a short trip further north took him on to Barnsley where he signed for Danny Wilson for £800,000.

Wilson gave way to John Hendrie who gave way to Dave Bassett as Barnsley dropped from Premiership to Division One, but by the arrival of Bassett and after 13 goals in 21 appearances, Fjortoft had left English football for Eintracht Frankfurt in exchange for £450,000.

With 72 Norwegian caps to his name and now 35 years old Jan is believed to still be plying his trade back in native Norway.



CLASS OF 2002

WE MEET TOWN'S NEW MIDFIELD DUO – DARREN DYKES AND STEFANI MIGLIORANZI

As Town line up to face Barnsley this afternoon there may be two, less familiar faces battling it out in midfield. Stefani Miglioranzi, a 24-year old New Yorkan with Brazilian origin, has joined the club on a month-to-month contract from Portsmouth whilst Darren Dykes, just 21, has joined on a one-year deal from non-league Buckingham Town.

Miglioranzi is the product of the American College football system in which the most promising players are drafted into Major League Soccer. He helped St John's University win the 1996 NCAA Division I Championship and played for MLS team Chicago Fire before joining Everton on trial.

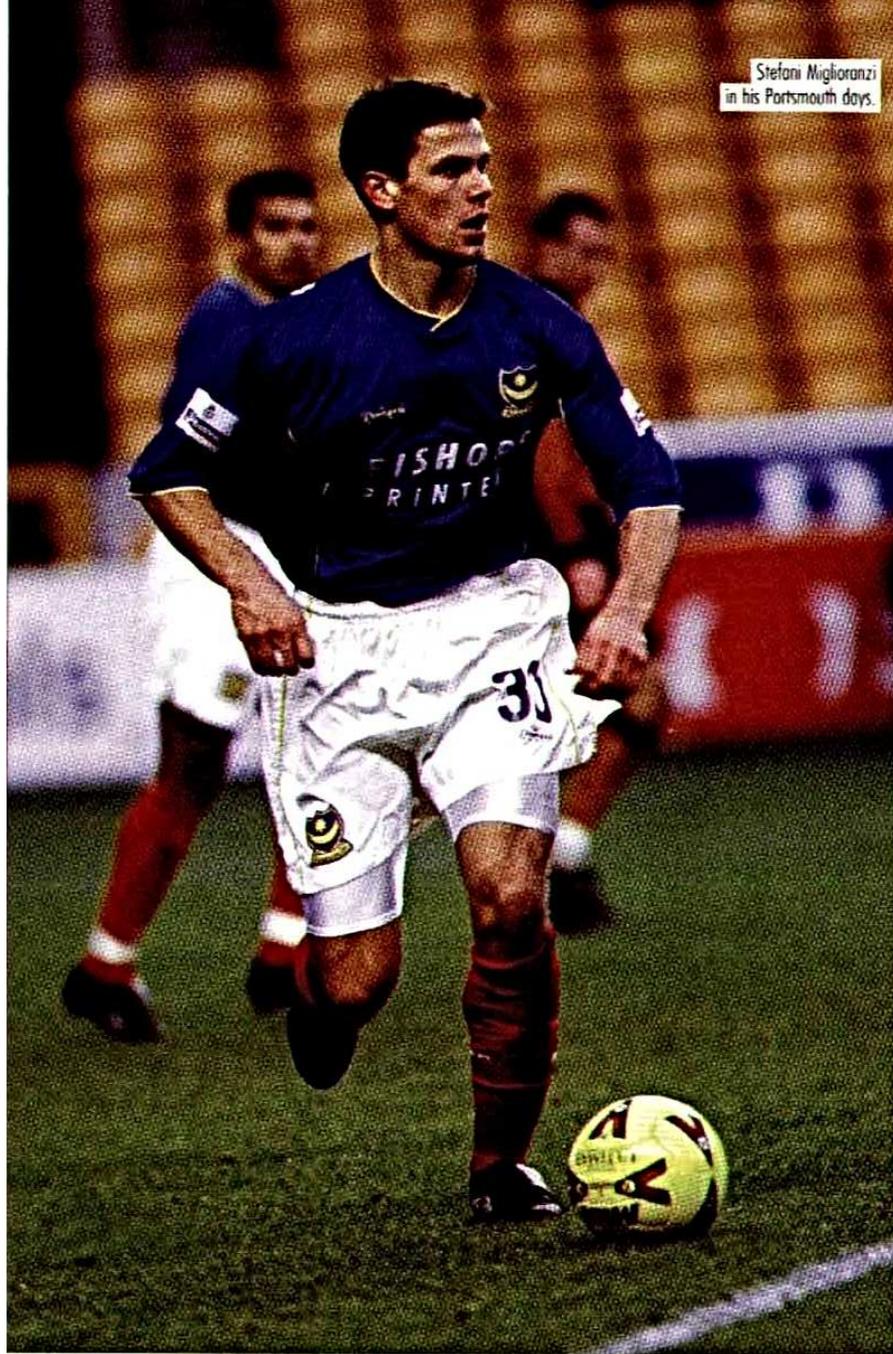
Unfortunately, despite being keen to sign Miglioranzi, the Toffees never snapped him up and he later joined First Division side, Portsmouth, in March 1999. After nearly forty displays, Miglioranzi soon realised that, under Harry Redknapp, he had no future at the club and he subsequently joined Swindon this summer – putting pen to paper last week. "It's always disappointing when you find that you are surplus to requirements in a side, but when that happens it often opens new avenues and that is what has happened," he said.

He continued, "However, I will always remember my time at Fratton Park for the good times, and there were many. I will also be grateful to the club for giving me the chance to play in England, but now I must concentrate on the task in hand – my career with Swindon Town and more importantly, today's game against Barnsley."

Stefani arrives at the club with glowing praise from Andy King and, having felt left out at Portsmouth for the last few months, he said that he has now got the confidence to progress. "Andy King has told me that I have something to offer his squad and that is great for someone who didn't have the backing of his old manager! I'm now feeling better about myself and I have every confidence in my own ability. I just can't wait to get started."

Stefani brings to the side some much needed power and agility in midfield, although he can also play in defence too. Having played twice already for the reds, he is happy with the way things are shaping up. "I have been fairly comfortable, although it took a few games to get my fitness back. I feel that I am confident on the ball and I have worked hard to build up my strength and fitness – with a bit of luck I won't make too any mistakes. Today's game is a great opportunity for me and the rest of the side as well. I am a firm

Stefani Miglioranzi
in his Portsmouth days.



believer that times like this, when a side like Bamsley has just suffered a relegation, you can really take advantage of them – they are bound to be low on confidence – and so we have nothing to fear."

Someone else with nothing to fear is fellow Town midfielder, Darren Dykes, who, having joined the club from non-league Buckingham, has nothing to lose.

The self-confessed Tottenham fan is likely to miss today's game through injury, but with a bit of hard work (and a tiny bit of luck) we could expect to see Darren making his league debut in the

not too distant future. He said, "I am realistic enough to realise that it will be a couple of months before I will get an opportunity, but if all goes well, I am ready to step up to the professional level. Obviously my fitness is some way off the rest of the lads and the sooner I can match them the better, but I believe I have enough within myself to put myself in contention of starting in the first eleven."

One gets the feeling that Darren is almost star struck by his new surroundings, a feeling that is accentuated by the present climate

of the game – a large number of professionals currently out of work. Yet his enthusiasm can only be encouraging for the manager and the fans alike. He continued, "I read in a non-league paper that there are hundreds of professional footballers out of work and it was only two days later that Andy offered me a contract, so I feel very lucky to be in this position. That kind of thing has given me confidence in my own ability because Andy has seen something in me that he feels he can work with and I want to do my very best to develop that playing for Swindon Town.

"Whether I start the games or come on for five minutes at the end it doesn't really bother me at the moment. Just to get the feel of the home crowd and County Ground pitch will be an amazing experience for me."

It wasn't long ago that Dykes was plying his trade in the United Counties League Premier Division with Buckingham Town. However, previously to that he suffered the ignominy of being rejected from both Leyton Orient and Tottenham Hotspur and so he is no stranger to the pressures of professional football. But with those rejections behind him – he now has even more determination to succeed and after an impressive display at Newport, he has no reason to be fearful. "I'm grateful to Andy and the club for giving me this chance. I've got a year to prove myself over the next 12 months and hopefully this club will get the best out of me – if that is the case there is no reason why I can't succeed at this level. It helps having had the pressure taken off me by Andy (King) – but it will just be case of getting my head down and doing the best I can in order to receive a longer contract."

Whether Darren plays today or not, his destiny appears to be in his own hands. With Stefani alongside him, he certainly has an extremely talented player to learn from – with a bit of luck the two of them will both be celebrating come May.

Stefani Migliorani
in his County Ground
debut against Wimbledon.



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

the league's second worst club. "Ray Graydon has set the standards high and we are expected to meet them. They have put us through a tough pre-season and because of that, the lads are fit, strong and organised." Two goals against West Brom in a pre-season friendly suggest that 'Graz' is in good form.

Despite his move, Grazioli is staying in Swindon - or at least his residence and he says his time in Town has been enjoyable. "I've made some fantastic friends and the fans have always been good to me - I'll always look back with fond memories." Grazioli was not the only favourite to be leaving the County Ground for a short trip down the M4. Gareth Davies and Mark Robinson have agreed a new deal at Doc Martens Premier outfit, Chippenham. The defensive duo, who 'retired' from professional football last season, will be hoping they can help The Bluebirds to a third consecutive promotion.

Paul Edwards has been another man to walk through the County Ground exit door - the tricky winger turned down a new deal in favour of a return to his native Northern routes. The Mancunian moved to Wrexham on a two-year deal with Town set to cash in on any future transfer deals. Andy King tried in vain to keep Edwards in Town. "Paul made it clear he didn't want to stay with us for personal reasons and I did not want unhappy players at this club. It's no use to me or Paul if his heart isn't in it," he said.

One man who can count himself as very unlucky not to be offered a new Swindon contract is Richard McKinney - The Irishman arrived from Manchester City last year on a one-year deal, but never really had the chance to prove himself. "I was unfortunate to only get one game in during my time at Swindon because previous years Bart Griemink had been injured or sent off, but last season he was a 100 hundred per-center".

Another summer means another trip on the summer transfer merry-go-around. Town fans have been excited by the arrivals of Sam Parkin, Stefani Miglioranzi and Darren Dykes to the County Ground, but some will be disappointed to see some departures.

The biggest name to leave the County Ground in the summer was Giuliano Grazioli - the 'Italian Stallion' was out of contract and was quickly snapped up by Bristol Rovers. "They came in early for me and I was impressed by the set up. In Ray Graydon and John Still, they have a fantastic management team," he said.

The likeable striker is confident his new club can magic a vast improvement last season when 'The Gas' finished as

Words by Sky Sports' Kieran Holden

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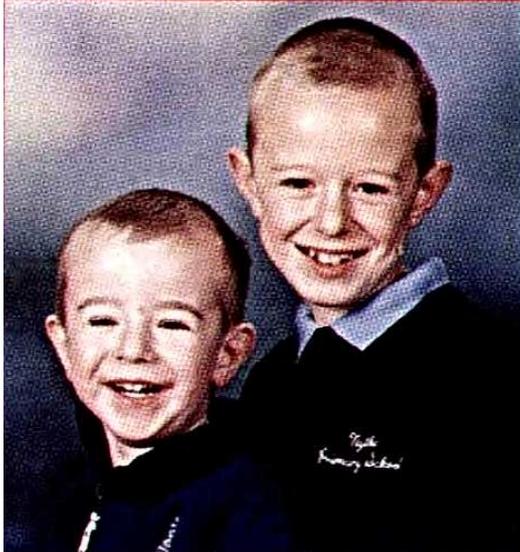
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A warm welcome back to you all. It seems like only yesterday, that we were finishing the final home game of the season. With the 2002 World Cup now behind us and the success of both England and the Republic of Ireland being well documented, we now turn our attention nearer to home and the levels of expectations at the Club during this new season.



TODAYS MASCOTS

COMMERCIAL VIEW

STFC extends a warm welcome to today's matchday mascots, Josh and Ryan Ainscow, both pictured above.

Josh, nine years old, attends Nythe Primary School and plays for Blundson Boy's under 10s. He supports both Swindon Town and Manchester United and his favourite Town player is Neil Ruddock. He also enjoys swimming, playing football and going to Speedway.

Ryan, four years old, is due to start Nythe Primary School in September. He also supports Swindon and Manchester United and his favourite player is Bart Griemink. He enjoys swimming, football, speedway and riding his bike. His favourite rider is Charlie Gjede.

To both of our matchday mascots - we hope you enjoy your day!

I am delighted to welcome to the County Ground this afternoon, our main match sponsors GREENHAM. Their party today is led by General Manager Mr. Mike King who has developed 'a love' for the Club since the company sponsored the Emlyn Hughes Sporting Club dinner last March.

They have 19 Branches nationwide, with the nearest branches to Swindon being in Newbury, Oxford and Bristol and Cardiff. Their trade shops are open weekdays 8.00am-5.30pm and on a Saturday from 8.00am-12.30pm, for all your 'One Stop Shopping' needs. Experienced staff are on hand to give friendly help and service for the vast range of Personal Protection Equipment, Hose, Ducting and Accessories, Contractors' Site Equipment, and Industrial Cleaning, Hygiene and Maintenance Products. The GREENHAM website address is www.greenham.com and their e-mail address is national.sales@greenham.co.uk

I am also delighted to welcome today's Matchball Sponsors, the Pipeline Centre. Their party of guests are led by Martin Cook. Martin is pictured here awarding last week's Man of the Match, Craig Farr, with his bottle of champagne.

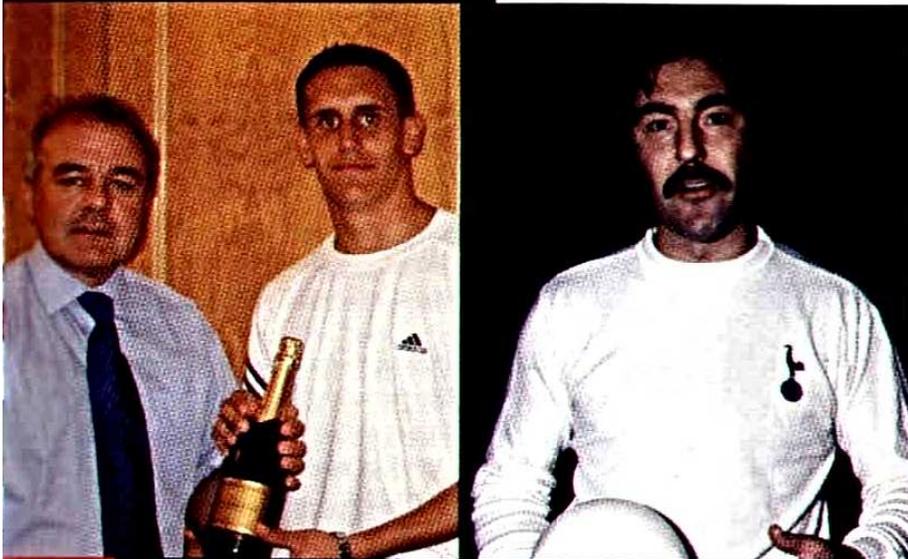
On behalf of the Club we hope that all of our guests today have a great day with us.

SPORTING DINNER

It is still not too late to book up your places for the first of this season's popular Sporting Dinners. Our main speaker will be the goalscoring legend of Chelsea, Tottenham and England - JIMMY GREAVES.

The date of the Dinner is Monday October 7th and the price of the ticket includes a superb four course evening meal. In addition to the main guest speaker, the evening will be hosted by the popular Barry Williams and will also include a comedy spot plus the normal fundraising raffles and auctions.

To find out more details about the evening and the price of tickets please ring the Sales and Marketing Department on 01793 333719



JIMMY GREAVES

Once again we will be running our very popular Matchday mascot packages at all home games this season. This is an ideal opportunity of making a child's dream come true. By being one of the Club's mascots, they will get the opportunity of playing on the pitch in a pre-match kick around with the other mascots of the day, but most importantly of all lead the Swindon Town team out onto the pitch prior to kick off.

This season we are introducing a new opportunity of being a Club Mascot. Open to anyone up to the age of 100, we are taking bookings for any adult -male or female, who would like to make their childhood dream come true by leading the team out onto the pitch. All our mascot packages now include a hospitality package for four people (including the lucky mascot) with a pre match meal, tickets for the game, half time refreshments and matchday programmes also included in the price.

If you would like to book up a mascots package please contact the Sales and Marketing Department on 01793 333719 now.



STFC WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE F TAKING PART AND FOR THEIR HELP

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STFC GOLF CLASSIC PRIZE WINNERS LIST

MAIN STFC CLASSIC TEAM STABLEFORD COMPETITION

1st Non-Stop Promotions 92pts

Bryan Mathieson, Jim Quinn, Andy Gray, Dai Davies.

2nd Impact 91pts

3rd Littlecote Farm. 90 pts

MORNING TEXAS SCRAMBLE

1st Nationwide 24.8 pts

Peter Corrie, Larry Banda, John Lye, Tesh Singh.

INDIVIDUAL HOLE PRIZE WINNERS

- Hole 1 Nearest the pin in 2, Neil Ruddock
- Hole 2 Longest Drive, James Wills
- Hole 3 Nearest the pin, Mike Hock
- Hole 4 Nearest the pin in 3, Jim Quinn
- Hole 5 Nearest the pin, Randy Burden
- Hole 6 Nearest the pin in 3, Andy Gray
- Hole 7 Nearest the pin in 2, Neil Ruddock
- Hole 8 Nearest the pin in 2, James Ruault
- Hole 9 Nearest the pin in 2, Peter James
- Hole 10 Longest Drive, Nigel Munn
- Hole 11 Nearest the pin in 2, Bryan Mathieson
- Hole 12 Nearest the pin, Phillip Towl
- Hole 13 Nearest the pin, Fred West
- Hole 14 Nearest the pin in 2, Nigel Munn
- Hole 15 longest Drive 15+, Matt Gibbens
- Hole 16 Nearest the pin, Paul Bodin
- Hole 17 Nearest the pin in 3, Kenneth Hannerth
- Hole 18 Longest Drive 15+, Matt Gibbens
- Hole 18 Longest Drive 0 -14, Jim Quinn

STFC'S GOLFERS BASK



Kingy on the putting green.

24 teams and nearly 100 golfers were treated to some tropical weather on Monday July 15, STFC's eighth annual golf day proving to be a huge success.

The annual event, which for the fourth year in a row was sponsored by Non Stop Promotions and held at the salubrious surroundings of Wrag Barn Golf Club, was helped by the marvellous weather, the temperature running well into the high 20's.

After a bacon sandwich in the morning, the 24 teams teed off and took part in a 9-hole Texas Scramble challenge. Town Player Coach Neil 'Razor' Ruddock was amongst the first of the players to tee off, with Alan Young and Steve Robinson playing later. Andy King was also in action.



Alan Young swings

A quick stop at the 19th (where players recharged the batteries with Ham, egg and chips) was followed by a gruelling 18-hole Stableford competition. There were prizes to be won on nearly every hole, with the higher handicappers also having the chance to win a number of gifts with a longest drive competition.

The last of the teams made their way up the 18th at about 7 o'clock, with a three-course meal served shortly afterwards. With prizes given out for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, as well as those that hit the longest drives and came closest to the short holes, the guests were then treated to an impromptu double act from Andy King and Neil Ruddock. Guests were invited to ask the pair any questions, with 'Razor' being asked if he was playing this season, and Andy asked about what kind of player he is looking for ahead of the new season, and his hopes for the new campaign.



Kingy in the rough. Again

Bryan Mathieson, the events organiser from Non-Stop Promotions, was extremely pleased with the event and at the end of the night, thanked those that had

OLLOWING FOR ON THE DAY

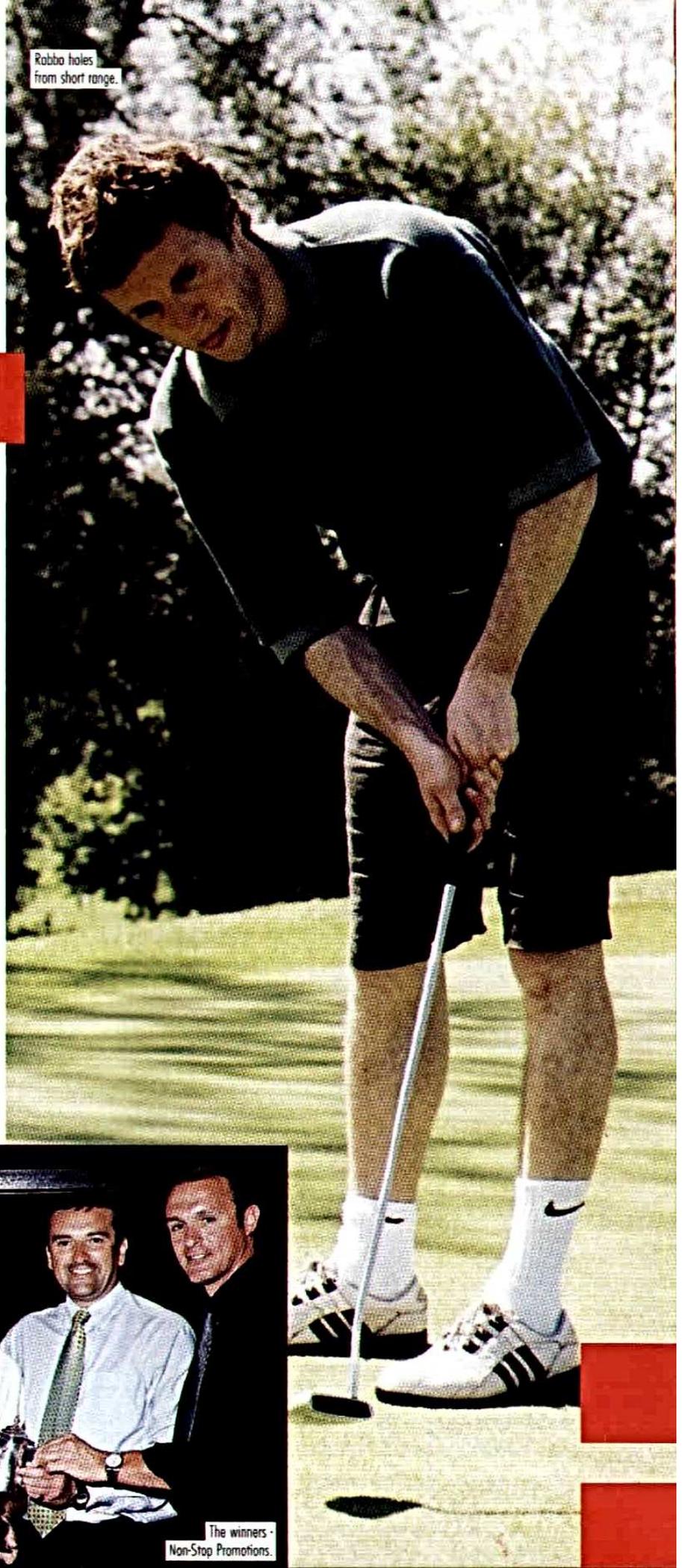
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IN THE SUN

supported the day. He said, "This was the fourth year that we have been the main sponsors of this event and it just keeps getting better and better. The numbers have grown since we first started supporting the golf day and many of the players that take part come back year after year. I must thank everyone that played and also those that contributed to what was a great day."

Swindon Town Chief Executive, Mark Devlin, was also pleasantly surprised by the success of the event. He said, "It's nice to see so many faces supporting the club and in all, I think we will have raised something in the region of £4,000 for the club. Since I have joined the club I have been amazed at the support that the local community has shown and the golf day was no exception. Bryan Mathieson and Mike Spearman put a lot of time and effort into organising the event and must be congratulated for their efforts as well."

Robbo holes
from short range.



The winners -
Non-Stop Promotions.



442

TODAY SIGNALS THE START OF A NEW CAMPAIGN AND TO CELEBRATE WE THOUGHT WE'D UNLEASH OUR BIGGEST SIGNING, MARK HANRAHAN (FROM FOURFOURTWO MAGAZINE), ON A PREVIEW TO THE BIG KICK-OFF.

One thing is certain, this season's domestic program has a lot to live up to if it is going to be seen as more the main event, rather than a mere bridesmaid to the most spectacular footballing spectacle in living memory - the 2002 World Cup.

Meanwhile, back on the domestic front, football held its breath whilst the ITV Digital problems unfolded. Despite the best efforts of Rupert Murdoch's £90 million Sky TV investment, many Nationwide League clubs are facing the threat of extinction or at the very least the arduous task of completely overhauling their operating methods, wage structures and transfer policies. Hardly a backdrop for a season of carefree excitement is it?

Cash problems aside, it is very hard to see beyond last year's Premiership top four of Arsenal, Liverpool, Newcastle and Man Utd. Strangely enough, reigning champions Arsenal are only the bookies second favorites at 7/4. Unlike their last Championship winning squad, the current Arsenal side is blossoming with

players reaching their prime. The explosive collective of Henry, Wiltord and Cole will again balance perfectly with the likes of Bergkamp, Keown and Seaman - the pivotal father figures in a relatively young squad. The returning Francis Jeffers will be like signing a new striker, and highly rated French signings, Gilberto Silva and Pascal Cygal, will both compliment talismanic duo Sol Campbell and Patrick Viera, the latter filling the void created by Tony Adams' imminent retirement. With Ljunberg and Pires returning in October, expect the Gunners to be picking up the title again at the end of the 2002/03.

The not so cynical may suggest Manchester United's purchase of Rio Ferdinand removed the only remaining chink in their considerable armour. The bookies share that view, installing United as 5/4 Title favorites. Whilst United have world class performers all over the park, I'm not convinced that they have eradicated all the glitches. Barthez is an unnerving presence and Dennis Irwin's retirement places more responsibility on Philip Neville and Michael Silvestre, with

neither possessing the true class of an Irwin in his pomp. With one eye on the Champions League, it's going to be a big task for United to bring the title back to Old Trafford.

The neutrals' true entertainment will come from Liverpool this year. In El Hadji Diouf, Houllier has made world football's costliest World Cup signing of the summer. The reigning African Footballer of the Year has enough pace and tricks to take the Premiership by storm. Houllier has also introduced a naturally left-footed presence to his midfield flank with Auxerre's Bruno Cheyrou. Salif Diao (a midfielder very much in the Patrick Viera mould) arrives in December from Lens after impressing during Senegal's World Cup campaign alongside Diouf.

Bobby Robson has had a busy summer. Newcastle United fans have enjoyed a raft of signings, most notably Portuguese starlet Hugo Viana and England U21 prospect Titus Bramble. Both should prove shrewd business. Robson's investments have been costly, however, the next Newcastle manager will be

Rio Ferdinand

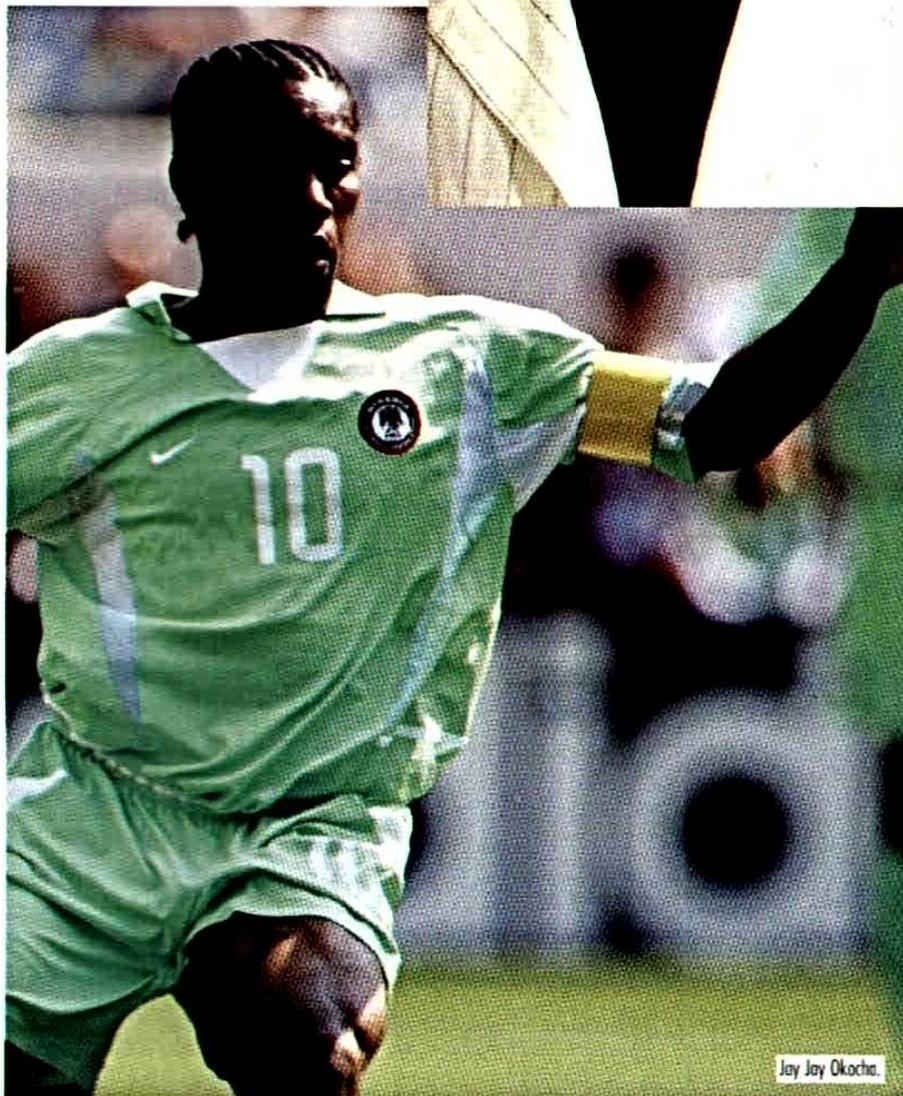
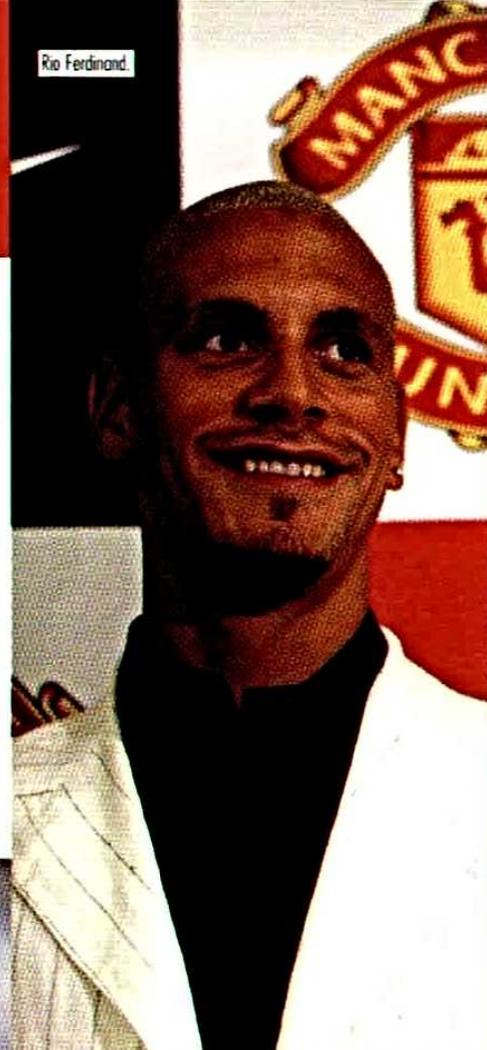
licking his lips at the prospect of working with the likes of Viana, Bramble, Bellamy, O'Brien, Jenas, Lua-Lua, Ameobi, Cort and Hughes. Newcastle proved last season that they have the natural ability to compete with the very best in the Premiership. The loss of Laurent Robert to a serious back injury may slow their progress, although the squad has improved and you should expect a similar finish to last season. In addition, Robson's European nous should be enough to ensure money-spinning progression into the second phase of the Champions League.

At the other end of the table it seems all too predictable. West Bromwich Albion have had to endure a summer of discontent with the threat of a players strike due to the new boards' restructuring of bonuses. Although Gary Megson has committed to a new contract, WBA's one major summer signing, Preston Captain, Sean Gregan, has yet to taste top flight football so will be unable to bring valuable experience to the Baggies squad. If Jason Roberts can terrorise Premiership defences in the same way that he has done in Division One, the Baggies may make a fight of it, but don't count on it.

Sunderland will also be looking over their shoulders this year. The Mackems supporters have finally lost patience with Peter Reid's lack of big money signings, sparking numerous bust-ups during their preseason tour of Belgium. Again, much will depend on the prolific Kevin Philips this season. Rookie strike partner Kevin Kyle will share duties with player-coach Niall Quinn as Philips' foil after Reid's failed to land Robbie Keane from Leeds. As they fall further into the shadow cast by big spending neighbours Middlesbrough and Newcastle it continues to look ever more bleak for them.

Bolton Wanderers pulled of one of the coups of the season by enticing Nigerian

captain Jay-Jay Okocha to the Reebok. The permanent signing of Youri Djorkaef is also exciting following his contribution to the Trotters safety last year. It will be very interesting to see whether these two can form an effective midfield unit as they are both attack-minded individuals. At the time of writing, Sam Allardyce is on the verge of completing a deal to bring Ivan Campo to Bolton from Spanish Giants, Real Madrid. Should he pull it off, a lot will be expected from them. Whether they can match those expectations within a division that is becoming increasingly difficult for smaller clubs to stay in remains to be seen.



Jay Jay Okocha



Closer to home in Division Two, well, I used to love all the pre-season build-up. All that transfer gossip, big moves and optimistic glances at promotion places. Thanks to the Football League's fundamentally flawed legal action against the now defunct ITV Digital, clubs have been left 'picking the carcass' of a barren transfer market filled with overpaid veterans, released youngsters or the typical journeyman pro. There has been the odd gem out there (Sam Parkin eat your heart out!), although generally the big bucks have been dished-out at the top level as Nationwide clubs struggled to restructure their accounts, operating methods and transfer policies to merely stay afloat.

So don't ask me to make an honest prediction about who will be the runners and riders in this year's Division Two campaign – I'm truly blown if I know! The lack of transfer activity this summer has made it even tougher to predict a club with the intention to break away from the pack. However, if you look across all

twenty-four competing clubs, you find a blend of potential, a clutch of sleeping giants, and those that should (and in the wake of the ITV Digital collapse, must) realise their potential. There is enough there to get the blood rushing!

I'll endeavor to remove the red and white blinkers, wipe the mist from the spectacles and give an accurate insight – or at least give you the opportunity of having a pop at me come next May!

My heart insists that I pin my colours to the mast with Swindon this season – but then I would wouldn't I! Andy King has got me all excited following our encouraging pre-season and a creditable draw against Sporting Gijon.

A clutch of players have come in from the higher divisions and caught the eye in pre-season, i.e. Parkin and Miglioranzi, not to mention the arrival of promising young midfielder Darren Dykes etc. We are a cert for a play-off berth at the very worst!!

My tip for the title are Queens Park Rangers. The West London club, led by the inspiration management of former Hoops dynamo, Ian Holloway, are very much on-the-up. Having emerged from a similar administration crisis to ourselves, and overcoming injuries to a clutch of key players including star midfielder Richard Langley. QPR have the ability to strike early and make a serious push for the title. They have one of the division's best centre-back pairings in Shittu and Carlisle, a formidable strike combination of Gallen, Thomson and Doudou, as well as the one and only Fraser Digby between the sticks. Now back on a firm financial footing, Rangers should be the torch-bearers this year.

Luton Town will be gunning for a second successive promotion under former Wimbledon manager, Joe Kinnear.

Regarded as the finest manager outside the top flight, Kinnear's passion and drive will be a major factor in Luton's success this time around. Alongside Plymouth, Luton proved they were too good for Division Three last term and their young squad is brimming with potential. Despite suffering a frustrating pre-season in the transfer market Luton should be vying for automatic promotion. Expect emerging starlets Matt Spring, Stuart Douglas and Emerson Boyce to impress whilst the return of long-term injury absentee Carl Griffiths should add the firepower in front of goal.

A club with genuine promotion credentials this season is Cardiff City. The Welsh side's shrewd (if at times unhinged!) owner Sam Hammam continues to put his money where his mouth is by securing a clutch of million pound plus signings, including former Swindon marksman, Peter Thorne, and midfielder, Graham Kavanagh. Expect the prolific Rob Earnshaw to be back on the goal trail. Providing former Charlton manager, Lennie Lawrence, can settle a side that last year seemed disrupted by a rash of new signings and managerial changes, the Bluebirds should reward Hamman's investment handsomely.

Despite dropping a division last term, Crewe Alexandra will fancy at least a tilt at the play-off's. Expect fireworks from the much sought-after England U19 striker Dean Ashton. Dario Gradi holds the proud record of England's longest serving manager. He has the experience ability, and a perpetual belief in his flourishing youth policy to steer Crewe to glory this year.

Huddersfield Town should be there-or-thereabouts this season. New manager, Mick Wadsworth, replaced former Swindon legend, Lou Macari, at the McAlpine stadium in the close season



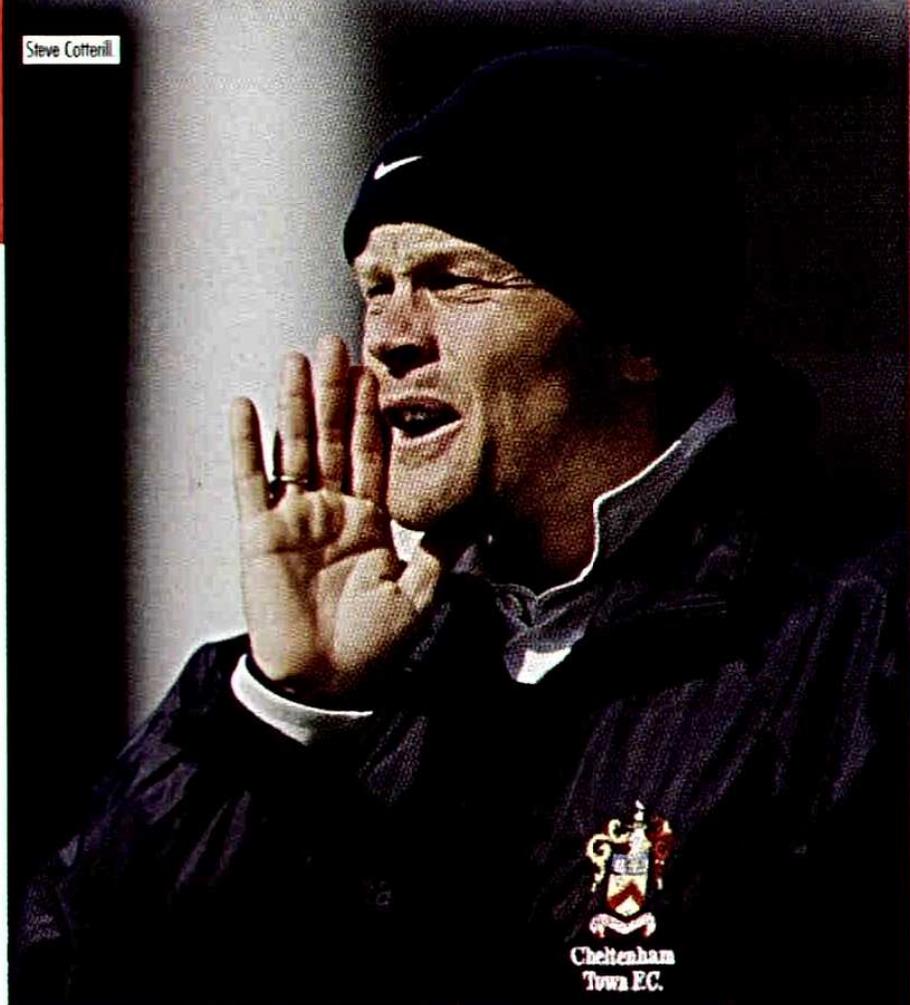
Donny Shittu.

following the Yorkshire side's inability to gain promotion last term. A lot will depend on Andy Booth's goalscoring efforts whilst impressive young defender, Nathan Clarke, will be hoping to repeat last year's promising displays.

Danny Wilson's Bristol City are another club that have to at least reach the play-offs. Highly regarded former Sheffield Wednesday manager, Danny Wilson, who snubbed the advances of managerless Brighton during the summer, has crafted a solid, if unspectacular unit who, on their day can match anyone. However, they have developed into a Division Two Aston Villa, and whilst financial stability is crucial in today's game, it's hardly the most exciting message to give to the fans. Nonetheless, City fans will hope the goals of Lee Peacock and the return of Billy Mercer in goal could propel City to a top six finish.

Few clubs have felt the financial pinch more than Brentford this summer. Steve Coppell's resignation followed last season's play-offs failure, a severe lack of funds and the release of a string of key players, most notably Skipper Paul Evans and leading scorer Lloyd Owusu. With little or no money in the bank, Brentford will struggle in Division two this year.

The loss of manager Steve Cotterill is a hammer blow to newly promoted Cheltenham Town. Graham Allner will do well to hang onto the talents of Mike Duff, Jamie Victory, Julian Alsop and Steve Book if results start to turn against him. With a reputation for playing attractive football and with a proven goalscorer in former Port Vale star, Tony Naylor, the Robins may cause a few upsets. However, a relatively inexperienced manager and a lack of funds for extensive reinforcements will mean it is no surprise if Division



THE LOSS OF MANAGER STEVE COTTERILL IS A HAMMER BLOW TO NEWLY PROMOTED CHELTENHAM.

Three football returns to Whaddon Road next term.

It's already beginning to look ominous for Tranmere Rovers. With a little under two weeks until the start of the new season, former Everton stalwart, Dave Watson, was sacked for failing to inject enough passion and pride into his playing staff. Whilst on paper Tranmere look impressive, boasting the talents of Koumas, Achterberg, Howarth and youngster, Iain Hume, the disruption caused by Watson's departure could be devastating. Expect them to teeter at the brink over the closing stages of the season before being the 'big' name to make a surprise drop.



The latest issue of **FourFourTwo** is on sale now, priced £3.30 (includes a free 2002/2003 season preview)



It's that time of year again, the STFC colours have been proudly paraded all around the globe and you have been busy sending in your holiday photos and tales. We've been to Gran Canaria, the Isle of Wight and Greece amongst others...

01 OOH AAH CANTANA!

Pictured here with what appears to be Eric Cantona, is 9-year old Town fan, Daniel Wainwright writes his Dad, Trevor. Daniel, an avid Town fan, was proudly wearing his shirt whilst on holiday on the Greek island of Thassos. Trevor continues the story, "We met 'The King' Eric Cantona on the island and spent many happy hours discussing Swindon Town. He asked if Andy King would give him a ring as he would be happily do a job for us and would not want any paying due to his successful advertising contracts! Seriously, Eric is in fact a bar owner on the island and his real name is Stratos Papaphilipou. He has now adopted his new found fame as an Eric Cantona impersonator and has renamed his bar, 'Eric's bar.' He welcomes anyone to visit him at the resort of Skala Potamia."

Trevor and Daniel are Season Ticket holders in the South Stand and they wish Andy and the boys all the best for the new season.

02 FLYING THE FLAG!

Flying the flag in Newport a couple of weeks ago were Town fans, Luke Marion and Alex Gemell. Look out for their flag on its travels throughout the season!



03 HAWAY THE LADS

Pictured above are the Altamar United five-a-side team who recently travelled to Gran Canaria. The five lads (from left to right are: Jack, Nick, Craig, Nick Judd and Daniel Boxall) travelled to the resort of Puerto Rico in June to take part in an annual five-a-side tournament. Arsenal fan, Jack Lamacraft, takes up the story, "We play in a league in England but decided it would be a good idea to take our skills across to the beaches of Europe. We thought we were pretty good until we played some of the Spanish lads – mind you, the fact that they seemed pretty fit and didn't drink any alcohol might have had something to do with why we were so abysmal."

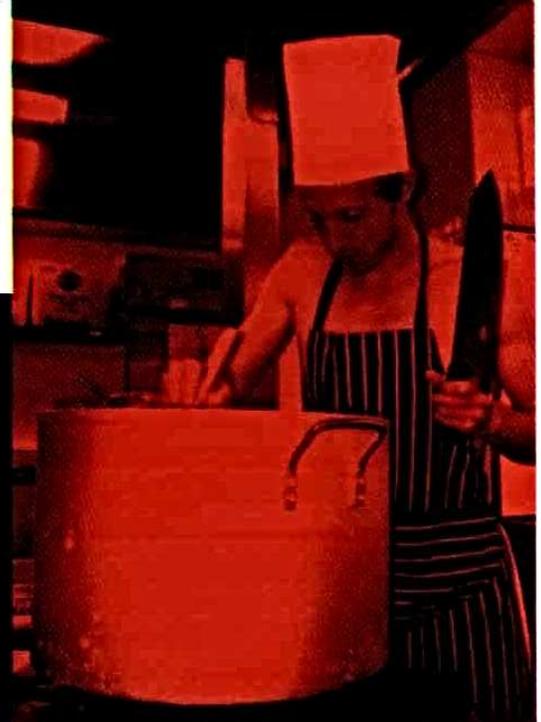
YOU ARE MY SWINDON

Remember - this is your chance to get yourself in the only mag that counts and we would love to hear from you (and of course, we would love to see more pictures of you in your kit!) - so keep sending in your letters and pictures.

SEND THEM TO:

'You are my Swindon'
The Programme Editor
Swindon Town Football Club
The County Ground
County Road
Swindon, SN1 2ED

Or email: stfc_enquiries@hotmail.com



STEVE ROBINSON

THE NAKED CHEF

In the first of a new series of articles, Town's resident chef will take you through his favourite recipes.

NO. 1 TURBO'S TOAST WITH BEANS

1. Buy some quality bread (no value stuff) and Heinz baked beans (it has to be Heinz, nothing else will do) from your local supermarket.
2. Firstly, slowly toast the bread. Be sure to do it on the grill for that authentic taste - both sides must be toasted evenly.
3. Carefully perforate the tin of beans with a tin opener, and empty the contents into a non-stick pan. Slowly let these simmer - burning them too quickly will take some of the taste away.
4. Butter the toast evenly with Lurpak. It has to be butter, margarine will only detract from the taste!
5. Once the beans are cooked and the toast is buttered, quickly pour the lashings of beans over the bread. This process must be done quickly so that the toast remains hot.
6. Finally, to accompany your meal, enjoy a nice cup of tea - a superb drink with an easy, yet tasty snack.

25 YEARS AGO

On August 10, 1977 the new season was still ten days away. Two days previously Town had lost a pre-season friendly at Fourth Division Reading by 2-0, a game which saw new striker Chris Guthrie, a £27,000 signing from Sheffield United, make his first appearance in a Town shirt. Guthrie's purchase had been financed by the move of Dave Syrett to Third Division champions Mansfield. Other transfer activity had seen Gerry O'Brien move to Clydebank and Jim Barron had moved to Connecticut Bicentennials for the summer before completing a transfer to Peterborough. Andy Ford joined the County Ground squad from Southend for around £6000, but the fullness of time would surely show that the summer signing most taken to Swindon supporter's hearts would be the midfield capture of Chris Kamara from Portsmouth.

1. Who did Wimbledon replace in Division Four? 2. One of the Wimbledon Football League debutant players went on to manage the club. Who? 3. Kenny Dalglish left Celtic to join Liverpool as a replacement for Kevin Keegan. What was the British record fee that sealed the transaction? 4. In July, a Town stalwart midfielder demanded to go on the transfer list. His wish was granted but he didn't play his last match for Town until Nov 1981, Who was he? 5. Reading now play their games at the Madjeski Stadium. What was the name of their home ground in 1977?



CAPTION COMPETITION

Every week we'll be publishing a photo from the world of STFC and all you have to do to win a prize (which will change each week) - is send us your captions. This week it's Steve Robinson in a, shall we say, compromising position - all captions (language permitting!) will be published in the programme. Send your captions to the above address.

Sam Parkin brings strength to the squad.

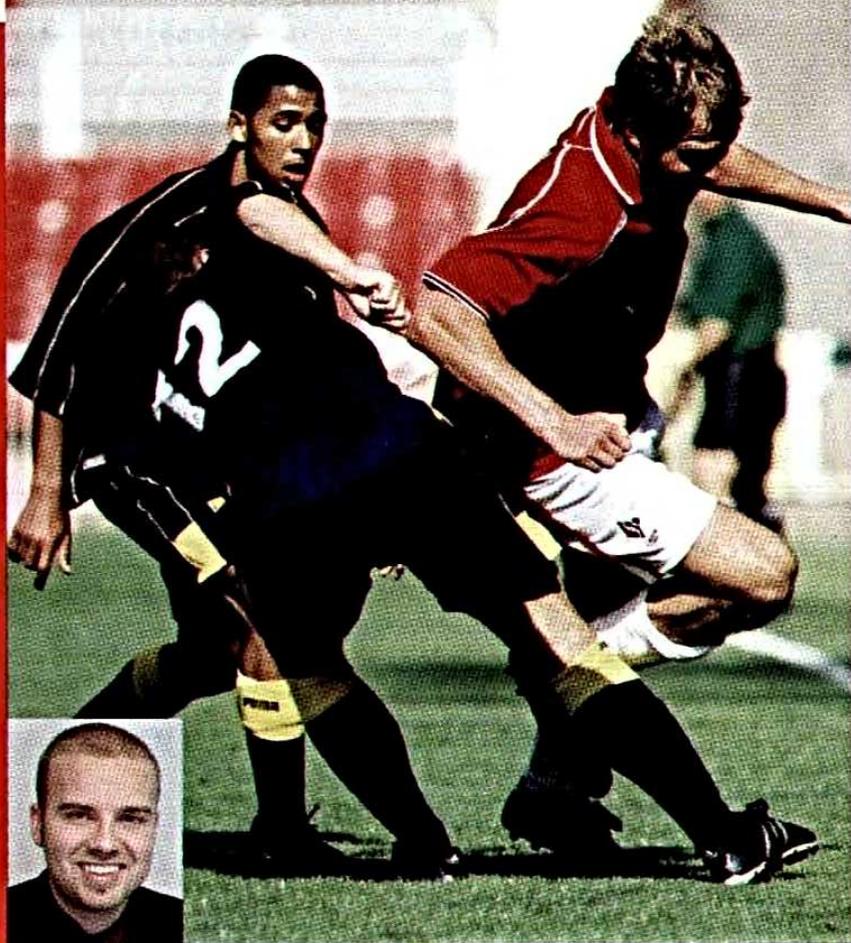
The fact that we are hosting Barnsley at the County Ground today is something of a major result before a ball has even been kicked.

Those of you who were at Brentford in March will know exactly what I am talking about. This football club had stopped breathing and the voice at the end of the tunnel of light was calling our name (ie the whole out of body experience thing). But just as it looked as though we were about to kick off games at the great stadium in the sky, Sir Seton Wills applied the heart massage and we breathed again. We are still on the critical list and we will need a good few months in intensive care before survival is assured.

But a new season is a time for fresh hope. Just as we hope matters off the pitch will be resolved, we all dream of Andy and the lads enjoying a terrific season with a glittering prize to be lifted in May. The only 'p' word Mr King wants to hear being uttered is progression and I agree wholeheartedly with his sentiments. In the face of the troubles blighting the club last season, 13th place in Division Two was no disgrace.

The summer saw a new chief executive arrive and he seems to have taken note of recent PR disasters and is looking to build bridges with supporters and the business community. He has asked for six months before fans start passing judgment. He arrived in June. Let's hope it's a Happy Christmas!

Back on the pitch, clearly it is a question of building on the 'success' of 2001/02 and making an impact in the top half of the table this time. Sam Parkin, Stefani Miglioranzi and Darren Dykes have strengthened the squad (and welcome to any other faces who may have joined us as this programme went to press) and



JON RITSON

EVENING ADVERTISER

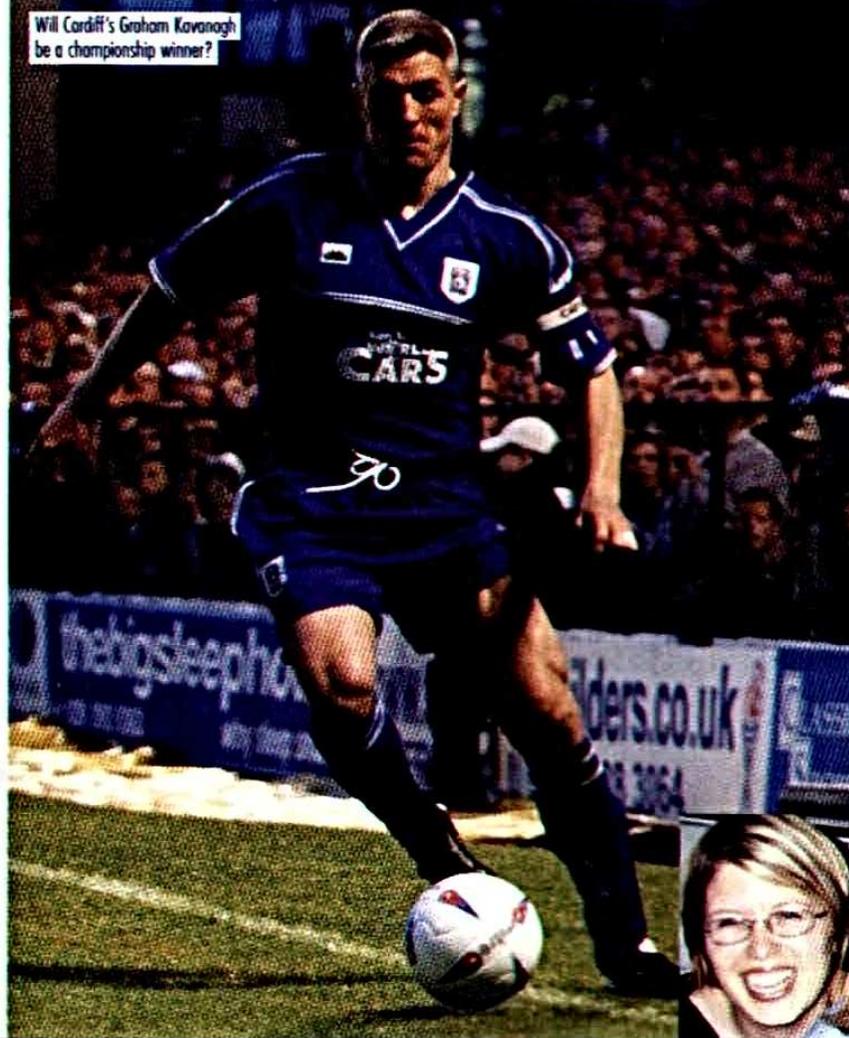
the boys seem determined to give it a real go.

The fixture computer has hardly been kind. A home game against Barnsley followed by trips to Chesterfield and Blackpool is a tough programme but if the boys can come through such a test then the omens for the campaign have to be good. My advice of 12 months ago remains the same. Kindly tell the person sitting next to you to 'shut it' if they start whittering about promotion or relegation.

Today's opponents will be desperate to get off to a winning start but we have to hope they are still suffering a relegation hangover. Get behind the

boys today, make some noise and roar them on to victory. Remember, if you can't make a game for any reason, follow all the action with the Evening Advertiser. See you all back here for the Cardiff City game in a fortnight. Get in the net!

Will Cardiff's Graham Kavanagh be a championship winner?



HELEN WINGROVE

BBC WILTSHIRE SOUND

At last! A busy summer with the welcome distraction of the World Cup and a less welcome one of the ITV Digital farce, but opening day is here.

An enjoyable World Cup, especially the win over Argentina. For all too brief a time it felt like England had enough of what it takes to win the biggest of them all. It wasn't to be though and after the defeat by Brazil, thoughts started to drift to the domestic game.

Few clubs have been active in the transfer market in the close season - Rio to Man Utd, Richard Wright to Everton, anyone with a pulse to Middlesbrough. In general though, the uncertainty over finances, for

everyone bar the Premiership, has meant there's been little movement into clubs this close season.

This campaign will stretch managers and coaching staff to the full. Teams will be run within tight financial constraints, and it'll be even more important for managers to be able to assess their squad's strengths and weaknesses. They'll also have to ensure that they get the very best tactically and technically of the players that they do have, whilst making the occasional and very shrewd entry into the transfer market.

The anticipation is finally at an end and we can all look forward to the

UP'S AND DOWN'S

It's tradition at this time of the season to make predictions. Who am I to break with that? Here goes...

PREMIERSHIP

Up: Brain tells me Man Utd - heart tells me anyone but.

Down: West Brom, Birmingham, Southampton

DIV 1

Up: Wolves as Champions, Ipswich, Derby

Down: Gillingham, Walsall, Rotherham

DIV 2

Up: Cardiff - Champions by a mile, Bristol City, Luton Town

Down: Northampton, Tranmere, Colchester, Stockport (Swindon - 10th)

DIV 3

Up: Hull as Champions, Bristol Rovers, Rushden & Diamonds, Leyton Orient

Down: Torquay

CONFERENCE

Up: Yeovil - finally

inevitable emotional roller-coaster of a ride that each season brings. As a little girl, I never really understood my father's delight at the start of a new campaign. However, since he took me to my first match I can totally empathise. It has been said that you don't choose your team, your team chooses you. How true. You may enjoy watching other teams, however, only one team really gets your juices flowing. Usually it's the one that your father took you to see at an impressionable age....



The S.T.F.C.
SUPPORTERS CLUB

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Adults £5.00

Concessions £3.00

(Senior citizens, disabled and under 10)

Family £15.00

(Up to 5 people, maximum 2 Adults)

SWINDON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

MAIN SPONSORS OF THE SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A warm welcome to today's game from everyone at STFC's Supporters Club.

Last season was one of great progress for the Supporters Club, particularly with our fund raising as we managed to break the £10,000 barrier for the first time - an increase of over 20% from the previous season. We could not have achieved this without all of our helpers and also those of you who participated by taking part in our various draws and evenings. However, we are determined to make further progress during the coming season.

We would like to thank the Evening Advertiser who have sponsored the half-time draw for the past two years. This year, the role is being taken by the Away Travel Organisation. The half-time draw is one of the key elements of our fund raising.

Talking of draws, congratulations to G. Alder of Charney Bassett who, after drawing Brazil in our World

Cup sweepstake, scooped the top prize of £250. Runner up was D. George of Swindon who won £100 for drawing Germany.

We had all been rooting for S. Atkins of Wallingford who had drawn England, but it was not to be!

Once again we are investing a large amount of funds raised in sponsorship of the School of Excellence. This will assist the development of young talent at the football club. Many of you will have read Jimmy Fraser's comments about our involvement in the local press over the summer.

Our Annual General meeting was held in the Winners Lounge on July 8 and we were grateful for the attendance of Mike Sullivan, the club's Commercial Manager, who spent some time talking to fans about issues around the football club. Thanks Mike - it was a good session.

Printed on the opposite page is an membership application

form for the coming season and for the third year in a row, the fees have remained the same. Full benefits accrue for a charge of just £5 for adults £3 for concessions, and a family membership for £15 covering 2 adults and up to 3 children. Benefits include significant reductions on away travel and discount of 10% in the Club shop (this cannot be used in addition to any other offered incentive). It is not hard to see that a single purchase or a couple of away matches and you will have more than covered any small outlay. Our aim in keeping membership fees at this level is to ensure that we are accessible to all supporters.

Our committee is dedicated, but with more help we could achieve even more. If you could help recruit members, sell or distribute our draw tickets, or offer help in any other way, then please contact us using any of the contact points detailed on this page. You can also write to us C/O The County Ground.



Name / date of birth - Please tick which group you are interested in:

	Junior Robins	Disabled group	Away travel	General member
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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SUPPORTERS CLUB APPLICATION FORM

Address:

Telephone: E-mail:

Cost of membership per year:	
Adults	£5.00
Concessions <small>(senior citizens, disabled and under 18's)</small>	£3.00
Family <small>(up to five people minimum two children)</small>	£15.00

Date of application:

Please return with payment to:

The Membership Secretary, Swindon Town Supporters Club, County Ground, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 2ED. (Cheques or Postal Orders made payable to STFC Supporters Club) Telephone 01225 866012 or e-mail tracy.richman@k24.net

Membership Cards will be available for collection from the Away Travel Office as from the first home game of the new season. If however, you would like us to post your membership card, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your application.

Your personal details will be held by Swindon Town Club, within current Data Protection Law with your consent that this information may be passed to other businesses or groups. If you do not wish to give the above consent, or wish to exercise your rights to a copy of the information held, please write to Swindon Town Supporters Club, c/o County Ground, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 2ED, or tick this box: Full club rules available on request.

NEW SEASON, SAME OLD LINE -

JOIN THE SWINDON TOWN SUPPORTERS TRUST.

To encourage you to join, the Trust has re-assessed its membership fees. As the cost of watching football has increased and the Trust start-up costs have come and gone we have been able to reduce the membership to just £10. As an added incentive we are also able to offer a lifetime membership for a one-off payment of £100.

SO WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THE TRUST?

The Trust has worked hard to try to move the cost of watching Swindon Town to a more acceptable level. As the Trust we present a responsible supporters group that can approach the club to be able to put across the fans' view point. We have been fortunate that the board and the new Chief Executive, Mark Devlin, have been prepared to listen to our point of view and have been able to act upon it. In talking to the club we managed to get early settlement discount for season ticket holders and a further reduction in wing season ticket prices for existing season ticket holders (those most effected by the new price structures).

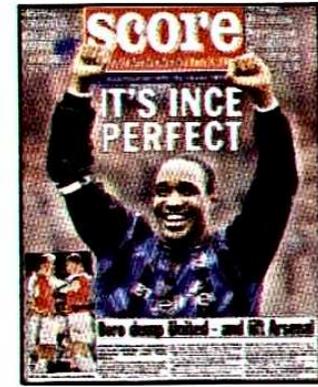
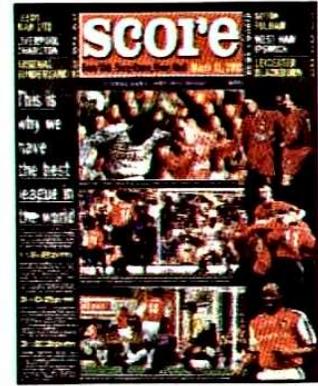
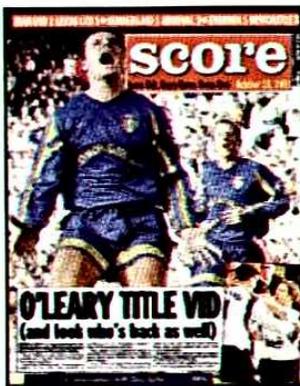
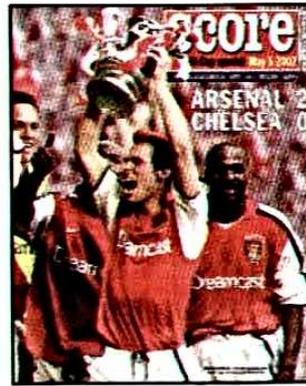
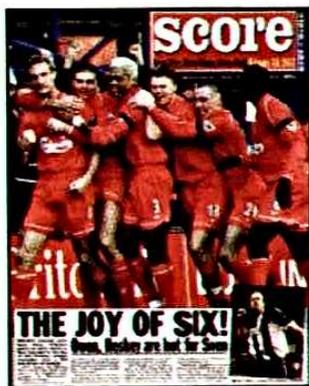
Further to this; thanks to Mark Devlin's willingness to discuss the issue, we were able to secure a discount for advance purchase of match day tickets. We would have liked to have seen a greater discount, but in the current financial climate we understand the difficulties that would have presented to the club.

The Trust has contributed a considerable amount of money to the funding of the Training Ground. Andy King approached the Trust when he realised he did not have the budget to be able to use the Zurich Bank training facility. We were only too happy to make up the difference. This allows the whole Swindon Town footballing family to use this top quality facility.

Our numbers are rising, please join us and be part of the voice for supporters. For a membership form, please visit the website - www.truststfc.co.uk

score

Your **FREE** 24-page football pullout



Every club, every game, every goal, every week – only in your **NEWS OF THE WORLD**



A BIG WARM WELCOME TO TODAY'S MATCH - I HOPE THAT ALL OF OUR JUNIOR ROBINS ARE REFRESHED AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK AND THAT YOU'RE ALL READY FOR THE NEW SEASON!

JUNIOR ROBINS

That said, I hope you haven't spent all of your pocket money and that you've got a little bit left to join the Junior Robins!

We need more support than ever this year and we are hoping to build on last year's numbers - so why not come and join us? All you need to join is obtain a membership form from either the Membership Secretary (Swindon Town Supporters Club, The County Ground, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 2ED), or from the SAS travel office which is situated here at the County Ground.

If you did have an exciting holiday and met some likeminded football fans - why not write in to us and tell us all about it. Why not send us some photos? We will do our best to make sure that they are printed in this, your page, in the match day programme.

We are currently in the process of arranging some trips to several of Town's away games this season. Those that have enjoyed these trips before will know what a good day out it is and we have already had a few clubs approach us about this facility. I will keep you informed!

It is hoped that a General Meeting for the Junior Robins (including parents) will be held soon. We are hoping that this will take place at the County Ground in the very near future. As soon as this has been arranged - we will notify you as soon as possible.

If you require any information on the Junior Robins - please do not hesitate to contact George Chadwick on 01672 520679. He will be only too pleased to oblige.

Let's hope for a good game this afternoon and a great season - Come on you reds!

ROCKIN'S POSTBAG

A popular figure on the terraces, Town's matchday mascot is now at hand to answer your questions in his weekly postbag. If you're in need of advice, pearls of wisdom or some information - write to Rockin' Robin's postbag, STFC Matchday Programme, County Ground, County Road, Swindon, SN1 2ED.

Dear Rockin' - I'm taking my team, Manchester City, up to the Premier League this season, and quite frankly - I'm nervous. Have you any tips that I can pass on to my players to help us succeed at the top. Cheers—Mr. K. Eegan.

What can I say..... it's all about hair.

I recommend you return to the bubble perm style that you were famous for. The opposition will be so distracted as they hold their sides laughing, your boys will clean up. Either that or shave your head, shine it up and when the sun catches it right you can blind the referee. It works for AK down here. All the best. 🐓

Dear Rockin' - For the World Cup Final I was wearing boots weighing 196 grammes with fibre glass bottoms and uppers made of a secret substance, but I had my scouts out watching you towards the end of last season and I am still trying to track down the source of your ventilated boots which gave you such grace and poise across the turf. Come on RR, spill the beans. Ron aldo

Well, Ronnie. As they say in Rio—no way Pedro. You're more likely to get me to give up my wings than give away the secret behind my famous shooting boots 🐓

CLASSIC DERBIES REVISITED

REAL MADRID

In a footballing world that has become typified by an ever-increasing process of commercialism, last year's multi-million pound Champions League semi-final in some ways restored football to its grass roots.

The semi-final was played between perhaps the two biggest clubs in the world, Real Madrid and Barcelona, whose combined debts reach over £400million and whose collective annual wage last year was over £60 million.

Not only are they perhaps the two biggest clubs in the world, they also share a rivalry that itself is unrivalled. Theirs is a rivalry that transcends from the cultural and political history of football and of Spain itself. Bobby Robson, formerly of Barcelona, recently

said that Barcelona versus Real Madrid was more than just football, "it's a battle between two countries," and he is not wrong. Barcelona represents everything that is not Madrid and their differences can be traced back to early political differences.

Centralisation is key to any explanation of the differences in attitude between the two clubs' fans. Real Madrid is a club that has always been associated with Franco, a politician who's main endeavor was to centralize Spain and quash its regional identities. Put simply, Real Madrid (and not Atletico, whom the city's more left-leaning fans tended to choose, and still do) is Spain's 'fascist' club - 'Franco's team'. Barcelona in contrast, became an outlet for Catalans to express their hatred for Franco and

central Spain. It became a bastion of liberty and democracy and these political differences manifested themselves in the terraces. "It is not true that I hate Catalonia," claimed Santiago Bernabeu, Real Madrid's most famous and most right-wing president (he volunteered to fight for Franco during the Civil War) - "I admire Catalonia, in spite of the Catalans". To make matters worse for Barcelona's fans, much of Real Madrid's success came as a direct result of the vision of Bernabeu. During his reign as president (1943-75) Madrid won 6 European Cups, 16 league titles and 6 Spanish Cups. In 1947 he built the Bernabeu Stadium. This was the era of Di Stefano (whom Bernabeu himself had stolen from under the nose of Barcelona) and Puskas. No Spanish team since (including Barcelona and Real Madrid

WITH CHELTENHAM PROMOTED TO DIVISION TWO THIS YEAR, TOWN FANS NOW HAVE A NEW LOCAL DERBY TO LOOK FORWARD TO. IN CELEBRATION OF THE DERBY GAME, BEN LEACH BEGINS A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS ACROSS THE GLOBE. THIS WEEK, MADRID V BARCA...

Real Madrid Fans at the impressive Santiago Bernabeu stadium

v BARCELONA

themselves) has achieved the same level of success. Although the Real Madrid team of the 1980s came close, winning 5 Spanish leagues in a row from 1985 to 1990, not even the combined talents of Butragueno, Michel and Hugo Sanchez could emulate the phenomenal success of their predecessors.

What followed was the era of Barcelona. In 1988 Johan Cruyff took over from Luis Aragonés and the golden age of Catalonian football began. With Cruyff as their manager Barcelona flourished. In 1990 they won their first Spanish League title under Cruyff, preventing Real Madrid from earning their 6th championship in a row (a Spanish League record). They won four league titles in a row (the most consecutive titles in their history)

and in 1992 Barcelona achieved something that they had never before achieved. With a narrow 1-0 victory over Sampdoria, they won the club's first European Cup. This was the era of Koeman, Nadal, Romario and of course, Hristo Stoichkov. This 'golden age' of Barcelona came to an all too abrupt end in 1994 when they were crushed 4-0 by an invincible A.C. Milan team. Two years later Johan Cruyff offered his resignation as manager.

It is usually only twice a year that Spain stops for 90 minutes to savour this intense rivalry but last year, thanks to the Champions League semi-final, it stopped for an extra 180.

The rival between Real Madrid and Barcelona has always been just as

intense in Europe as it is within Spain. Madrid fans have never forgotten, nor forgiven, that it was Barcelona who ended their dreams of a sixth consecutive European Cup by eliminating them in the 1960-61 quarter finals.

It is because of this level of historical and sporting rivalry that over half a billion spectators across 100 different countries tuned in to watch last season's European encounter. As the final whistle of the semi-final blew, the passionate outcry of the 100,000 Real Madrid fans in the Bernabeu Stadium was heard throughout the world of football. Not only were Madrid going to the Champions League final, but they had also won the latest part of an ongoing sporting and political rivalry.

TOWN'S SUCCESSFUL LADIES SIDE HAS HAD A BUSY CLOSE SEASON FORMING AN OFFICIAL LINK WITH JUNIOR CLUB, COLEVIEW GIRLS. ALL TEAMS WILL NOW BE REGISTERED UNDER THE GUILF OF SWINDON TOWN.

LADIES

Since the club was formed in 1993, Coleview Girls, has been associated with the Town and many of the current first team squad have come through their junior ranks. For many years John White's Coleview was the only opportunity that young girls had of playing football in the area.

This season the club will run six teams: two senior sides for girls over the age of 14, two under 14 sides, an under 12 side, as well an under ten team. The senior sides will play in the South West Combination League and the reserves in The Wiltshire County League. The under 14 eleven-a-side team will play in the Surrey Primary League and the seven a side team in the Wiltshire County League. The under 12s will compete in the Wiltshire County League and the under 10s in various tournaments organised by the County. This is a move welcomed by both parties and means that the town can now provide football for girls of all ages. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact club secretary John White on 01793 824470.

Last season finished on a disappointing note with the first team defeat by Cardiff City in the semi final of the 'Ambassador' South West Combination League Cup, as well as a fourth-place finish in the league. The cup defeat meant that Town lost the trophy that they had held for the past three seasons. In fact it was their first defeat ever in that competition! The last league game also resulted in defeat losing out to league champions Bristol City by four goals to three. Angie Tinson, Michelle Rich and Kim Reeves got the Town's goals in a thrilling match played at the County Ground.

SOUTH WEST COMBINATION LEAGUE 2002/03

DATE	FIXTURE	
Sun 18 Aug	Cardiff City	A
Sun 25 Aug	Aylesbury United	A
Sun 01 Sep	Plymouth Argyle	A
Sun 08 Sep	Reading Royals	H
Sun 15 Sep	Clevedon Town	A
Sun 22 Sep	Portsmouth	H
Sun 29 Sep	Chesham United	A
Sun 06 Oct	Newton Abbot	H
Sun 13 Oct	Yeovil Town	A
Sun 20 Oct	Cardiff City	H
Sun 27 Oct	FA Cup 1st Round	
Sun 03 Nov	Aylesbury United	H
Sun 10 Nov	FA Cup 2nd Round	
Sun 17 Nov	Exeter City	H
Sun 24 Nov	Reading	A
Sun 01 Dec	Clevedon Town	H
Sun 08 Dec	Exeter City	H
Thur 12 Jan	Plymouth Argyle	H
Thur 19 Jan	Reading Royals	A
Thur 26 Jan	Reading	H
Thur 02 Feb	Portsmouth	A
Thur 09 Feb	Yeovil Town	H
Thur 16 Feb	Chesham United	H
Thur 23 Feb	Newton Abbot	A
Thur 09 Mar	Aylesbury United	H



CLARE WHEELER
AGE 26 POSITION DEFENDER

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN THE GAME?

I used to kick around with the boys in the street before Bev Maul, from Swindon Spitfires, asked me to go along with them. When I was seven I joined Coleview Youth Club because they ran girls football teams.

HOW DID YOU END UP AT STFC?

When I turned fourteen I played for Swindon Spitfires in the Southern Regional League until Swindon Town was formed in 1993. My dad, Martin, was the chairman of the new club so I just had to join him!

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE?

I hope that the Town can win promotion so that I can play at a higher level. We have been close for the last four seasons. I have enjoyed playing for the Wiltshire County side and would like to continue to be part of that set up too.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING, THEN CONTACT SWINDON TOWN'S SOCCER CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR, JIMMY FRASER, ON 01793 644777



Swindon Town's Soccer centres

SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB RUN A NUMBER OF SOCCER CENTRES IN AND AROUND SWINDON AND WILTSHIRE FOR BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS OF ALL ABILITIES AGED BETWEEN 5-11.

FA qualified coaches work to a structured programme designed for everyone's enjoyment. They'll put you through your paces in all aspects of football including dribbling, shooting, skills, small-sided games and much more - whilst the emphasis is continually based on fun and enjoyment.

All the soccer centres are run in conjunction with the school term, so courses vary from 5 to 8 weeks. The next course starts the week commencing Monday September 9, although there are some to start before (call Jim Fraser for more information). All the children need is a full playing kit, shin pads, trainers and a drinks bottle.

Boys that show exceptional ability also have the chance to be offered a trial at Swindon Town's Centre of Excellence.

To book your place on the Swindon Town Soccer Centres, you have to pay in full to your chosen leisure centre reception. The cost of the courses are £3.00 per session (sessions are 1 hour). Non Swindon Borough courses may differ, please check with your centre.

Listed right are the times, centres and age groups of the Soccer Centres.

OASIS (Swindon Borough)

Monday	5.00 - 6.00 pm	5 - 10 years
Saturday	9.00 - 10.00 am	5 - 8 years
	10.00 - 11.00 am	5 - 8 years

HIGHWORTH (Swindon Borough)

Tuesday	4.00 - 5.00 pm	5 - 6 years
	5.00 - 6.00 pm	7 - 8 years
Thursday	5.00 - 6.00 pm	8 - 11 years

HAYDON CENTRE (Swindon Borough)

Thursday	4.00 - 5.00 pm	5 - 6 years
	5.00 - 6.00 pm	7 - 8 years
	6.00 - 7.00 pm	9 - 11 years

BAMPTON (Oxon)

Friday	5.00 - 6.00 pm	7, 8 & 9 years
	6.00 - 7.00 pm	10 - 11 years

STRATTON

Monday	3.30 - 4.30 PM	6 - 7 years
	4.30 - 5.30 PM	9 - 11 years
Tuesday	3.30 - 4.30 PM	5 - 6 years
	4.30 - 5.30 PM	9 - 10 years
Wednesday	3.30 - 4.30 PM	7 - 8 years
	4.30 - 5.30 PM	8 - 9 years
Friday	3.30 - 4.30 PM	5 - 6 years

LINK CENTRE (Swindon Borough)

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

MARLBOROUGH

Wednesday	3.30 - 4.00 pm	5 - 7 years
	4.00 - 5.00 pm	7 - 9 years
	5.00 - 6.00 pm	9 - 12 years

RIDGEWAY LEISURE CENTRE

Wednesday	5.00 - 6.00 pm	5 - 7 years
	6.00 - 7.00 pm	8 - 11 years

CRICKLADE LEISURE CENTRE

Wednesday	5.30 - 6.30 pm	9 - 11 years
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TIDWORTH (new)

Friday	4.00 - 5.00 pm	5 - 6 years
	5.00 - 6.00 pm	7 - 8 years
	6.00 - 7.00 pm	9 - 11 years



EXPERIENCED MULTI-DROP DELIVERY DRIVERS WANTED

£700 - £1200 per week

The Owner Driver Network requires professional Drivers for guaranteed work on long-term contracts, in and around Swindon and Bristol areas. Previous experience of Multi-drop Delivery Work and personal reliability are essential.

Ideally, you will be Self-Employed and own a Transit or similar van, however, if you have Multi-drop Experience and would like to become a Self-Employed Owner Driver, we can assist you with finding a van to purchase, rent or lease. We can also provide a complete package to assist you with best insurance rates, maintenance cover, fuel and all your accounting needs.

INTERESTED?

Then call The Owner Driver Network on

020 8532 9337

www.ownerdrivernetwork.co.uk

Cannons supports Swindon Town FC on and off the field

Cannons are offering you, the supporters, a
unique opportunity to join Cannons Health Club

A Win for Swindon Town FC will earn you
£100 off the joining fee

A Draw for Swindon Town FC will earn you
£50 off the Joining fee

A Loss for Swindon Town FC will earn you
our sympathy but by bringing in this advert
you will be entitled to a free day's membership
which we know will cheer you up!

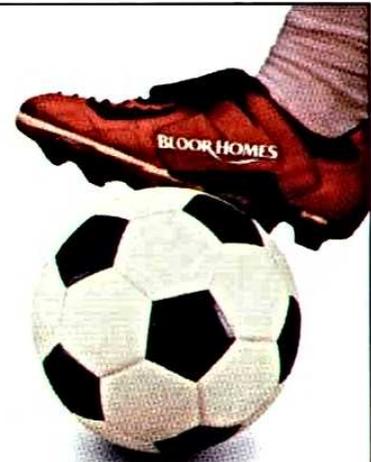
Gymnasium • Swimming Pool • Exercise Studio • Sauna
Steam & Spa • Sunbeds • Beauty Treatment Rooms
Club Bar & Lounge • Crèche
Cannons Adventures • Cannons Golf

Offer valid for 14 days from match date

Tel: 01793 422211

Cannons Health Club,
Greenbridge Retail Park,
Garrard Way,
Swindon SN3 3SQ.
www.cannons.co.uk

Cannons
HEALTH CLUB



WE'RE BACK IN SWINDON...

Blacksmith's Forge
Devizes Rd
Swindon
Wiltshire

OPEN DAILY: 10 - 5:15
TEL: 01793 423030

Saunders' Brook
Priory Vale
Jct.8 Northern Orbital Rd
Swindon, Wiltshire

OPEN DAILY: 10 - 5:15
TEL: 01793 702255

FOR INFORMATION ON OUR OTHER DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND CALL 01793 513938

BLOOR HOMES

www.buildingforthefuture.co.uk

Swindon Town v Barnsley

Location <http://www.soccer-stats.com/headtohead>



Clubs Comparison

Goals Scored		
25	Shots	24
6	Headers	12
7	Volleys	10
3	Penalties	8
4	Free Kicks	3
1	Own Goals	2

Where Goals Scored



Where Goals Conceded



When Goals Scored

5	0-15 mins	7
5	16-30 mins	6
6	31-45 mins	15
11	46-60 mins	17
10	61-75 mins	2
9	75-90 mins	12

Last 6 Form Guide

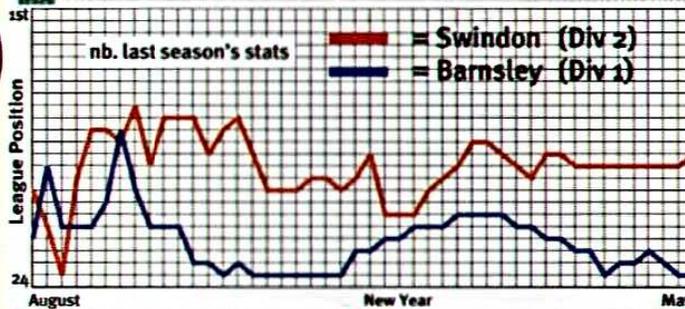
2	Won	3
2	Drawn	0
2	Lost	3
4	For	7
5	Against	11
8	Points	9
-1	Goal Difference	-4

WLLWDD	Sequence	WLWLLW
WDWLD	Last 5 Home	DDWWL
LLLWD	Last 5 Away	LLLLW

Yellow & Red Cards

77	Yellow	68
9	Red	7

Seasonal Progress Comparison



2001-2002 Attendances

Robins	Tykes
146,351	Aggregate 306,420
9,264	Highest 18,803
3,821	Lowest 10,976
6,363	Average 13,323
44	% of Capacity 58

10 Year Record

Robins	Avg Pos. among the 92 clubs	Tykes
41.6	31	6,403
10,489	Avg Att 1992	13,323
6,363	Avg Att 2002	108
-39	+ / - %	

Average Goals per game

1.00	For	1.28
1.13	Home For	1.61
0.87	Away For	0.96
1.22	Against	1.87
0.91	Home Against	1.43
1.52	Away Against	2.30

2001-2002 Figures

30	Players Used	38
14	Clean Sheets	7
20	Failed to Score	12
3	Goals from Corners	6
11	Goals from Free Kicks	6
258	Total Corners	238
609	Total Fouls	664
150	Total Offsides	175
10	Hit Woodwork	9

Top League Scorers

Grazloli	Dyer	
8	League Goals	14
31	Games Played	44
0.26	Lge Goals/Game	0.32
7	Points Gained	9
3	Scoring Run	3
0	Hat-Tricks	0
0	Close Range	5
6	Inside Area	8
2	Long Range	1
5	Shots	7
0	Headers	3
3	Volleys	4
0	Penalties	0
0	Direct FKs	0

Swings

ST	Games Won from:	BA
0	3 Goals Down	0
0	2 Goals Down	0
2	1 Goal Down	1

Lost from:

0	3 Goals Up	0
0	2 Goals Up	0
1	1 Goal Up	4

Drawn from:

0	3 Goals Down	0
1	2 Goals Down	2
4	1 Goal Down	5
0	3 Goals Up	0
0	2 Goals Up	1
4	1 Goal Up	6

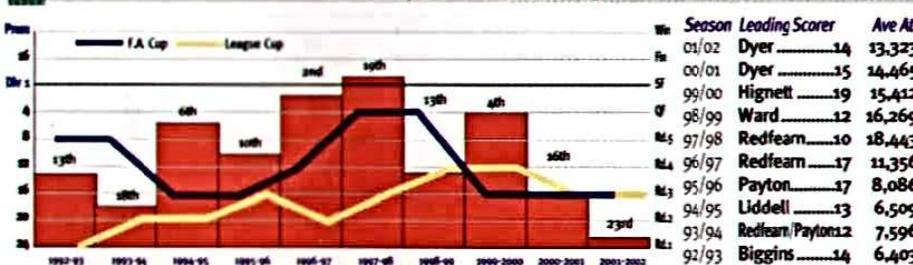
Margins

6	Won by 1 Gl	5
7	Won by 2 Gls	3
2	Won by 3 Gls	3
0	Won by 4 Gls	0
0	Won by 5+ Gls	0
5	Lost by 1 Gl	5
7	Lost by 2 Gls	6
3	Lost by 3 Gls	6
2	Lost by 4 Gls	3
0	Lost by 5+ Gls	0

Game Averages

4.07	Goal Attempts:	5.28
4.80	On Target	5.50
5.61	Off Target	5.17
13.24	Corners	14.43
3.26	Fouls	3.80
	Offsides	

Barnsley's 10 Year History





Those at the Football League putting together this year's fixtures weren't thinking of our fans when they pitched us together with Chesterfield at Saltergate for the first Tuesday night of the season! In fact, many fans are probably still smarting from last year's visit, Town on the receiving end of a 4-0 hammering. However, they say that what goes around comes around and with many people tipping Chesterfield for relegation this year - Town may well get their revenge! For those travelling up to the game, follow our comprehensive travel guide...



A ROUGH GUIDE TO... CHESTERFIELD

WHO? CHESTERFIELD

WHEN? TUESDAY AUGUST 13

WHERE? SALTERGATE

KICK-OFF? 7.45PM

STFC TRAVEL CLUB: What better way to travel to watch your favourite team than with a number of likeminded people. Swindon Town's travel club go to each and every away game and you can join them. Simply call them on 01793 536757/01793 825935, or log on to their website: www.sastravel.co.uk

BY CAR: Exit M1 at junction 29. At roundabout follow signs for 'Chesterfield A617, Matlock A632' onto the A617. At roundabout after 5 miles, take 2nd exit (s/p Town Centre, Bakewell A619). At roundabout after 0.3 miles, take 1st exit (s/p Bakewell A619, Buxton A6) onto the A619 Markham Road. At roundabout after

0.7 miles take 3rd exit, in front of KFC Express, into Foljambe Road.

PARKING: Street parking is relatively easy. Try the roads off Cross Street and Ashgate Road. Alternatively, try parking in these options: On Ashgate Road, there's free parking at an old school, and a pay-and-display car park. A school on Cross Street (opposite the visitors' turnstiles) has spaces for 400 cars (£2.00); A large car park at the Town Hall. It's pay-and-display during the day, but free at night. Other town centre car parks. Try the one in the large roundabout at the end of Saltergate. Car drivers should note that it's not possible to turn right at the top of Foljambe Road.

FROM RAILWAY STATION: (Chesterfield): 0.75 miles. By taxi: £1.50-£2 depending on traffic. By bus: The no. 40 stops nearby on Compton Street. By foot: Head straight

out of station, passing town map, and turn left into Corporation Street. Straight across crossroads, keeping the Chesterfield Hotel on the RHS, and over footbridge. Turn right at the Derbyshire Times (following pedestrian signpost to town centre). Cross Tipton Lane to large roundabout with car park. Here, head almost directly across the car park, passing Comet on the LHS, towards 'The Manhattan' pub. This is Saltergate. Ground is a 5-10 minute walk along Saltergate, on the RHS. Last Midweek Trains: Call (0345) 484 950.

BY BUS: Nos. 4, 5, 6, 38 and 39 stop outside Manor College on Ashgate Road, a five minute walk.

NEXT IN TOWN...



Cardiff City
24.08.02 (3.00pm)



Stockport County
31.08.02 (3.00pm)



Port Vale
07.09.02 (3.00pm)



Wycombe Wanderers
11.09.02 (7.45pm)



Northampton Town
21.09.02 (3.00pm)

Ticket Office Opening Hours

Monday-Friday **9.00am-5.00pm** Match day (Sat and Tues) **9.00am-3.45pm** Non match day Saturdays **9.00am-3.00pm**

Telephone Booking

Lines are open from 9.00am weekdays **01793 333785**

On-line booking

To book online, log on to www.swindontownfc.co.uk

NEXT PLEASE...

AT THE COUNTY GROUND Text by Nabil Hassan

WHO? CARDIFF KICK-OFF? 3.00PM

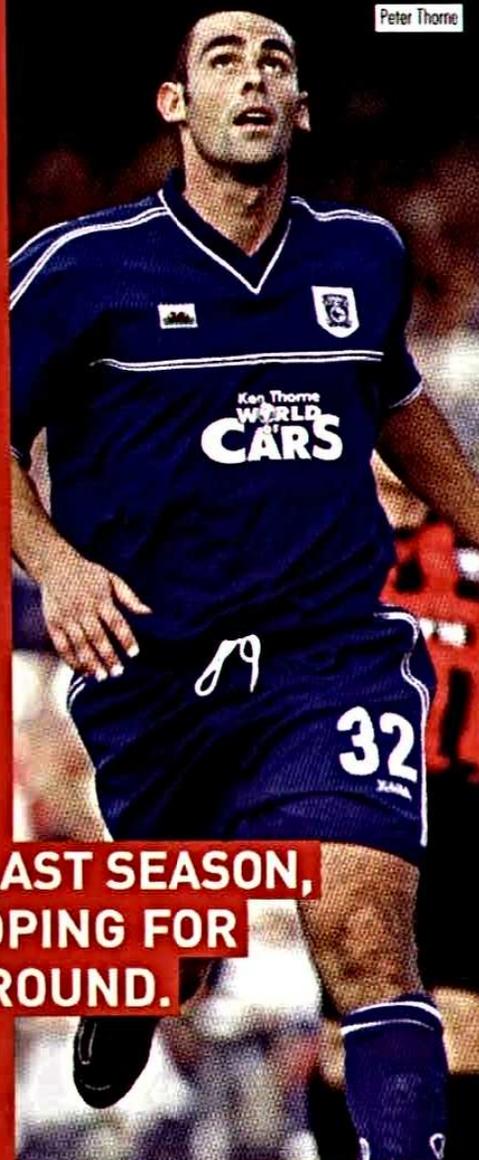
WHEN? SATURDAY AUGUST 24

Expectation has been so high at Ninian Park during pre-season that only a top two finish will be accepted by the Bluebirds faithful and the summer acquisitions of Gareth Walley, Chris Barker and Gary Croft have underlined that the club's intention on mounting a serious challenge for the championship.

Cardiff under achieved for the best part of last season, but the sacking/resignation of Alan Cork and the subsequent

are to be serious title contenders. Sam Hammam will certainly be expecting some kind of reward for the millions of pounds he has spent turning the Bluebirds from what you might call a proverbial 'yo-yo' team into a club that has Premiership aspirations.

One of Hammam's most expensive signings was 1.7 million-pound striker (and former Town favourite), Peter Thorne, who arrived at Ninian Park



HAVING COME SO CLOSE LAST SEASON, CARDIFF CITY WILL BE HOPING FOR PROMOTION THIS TIME AROUND.

appointment of former Middlesbrough manager Lennie Lawrence brought about a turn in fortune for the Bluebirds - a lot will rest on the ex-school teacher's tactical expertise if Cardiff City

amid much hype. However, the ex-Stoke striker has delivered very little and a lot will rest on his broad shoulders if City are to be successful this term. Thorne himself admits that if the Bluebirds are to do well then he will need to find his shooting boots sooner rather than later. He said: "With such a huge price tag there is a certain amount of pressure, but you've just got to forget about that and do your best for the team. Hopefully I can score more goals than I did last year and avoid injuries as I was never really 100% fit last term."

Whilst many are tipping City for promotion, the Bluebirds players are not taking anything for granted. "One thing we must guard against is complacency, it's all very well being the bookies favourites but sometimes you can let that go to your head.

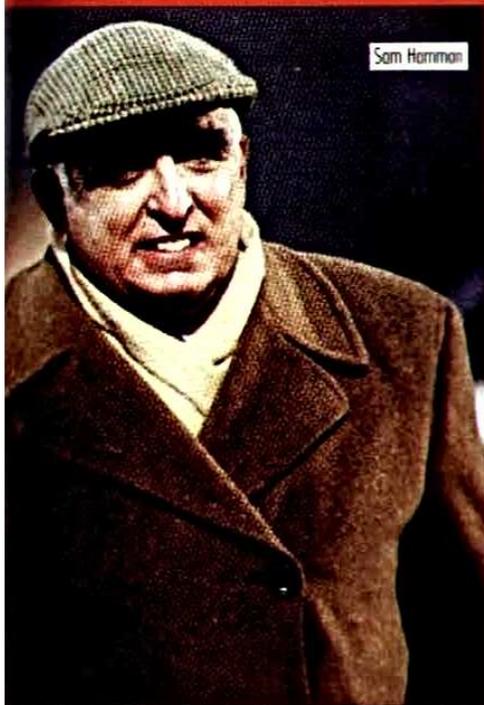
"We must be completely professional going into every game and then that

way we will perform to the top of our abilities," added Thorne.

Cardiff's pre-season was mixed, a home win against Bolton Wanderers erased the memories of disappointing results against Wolverhampton Wanderers and Motherwell.

Coupled with those defeats was the sending-off of Willie Boland who will miss today's clash as will Spencer Prior who was sent off in City's last game of the season against Stoke City.

With so much expectation Lennie Lawrence's task seems simple - win at all costs



Sam Hammam

TOWN STATISTICS 2002/03

STFC FACT FILE

THE KEY **FAC** = F.A CUP **WC** = WORTHINGTON CUP **•** DENOTES SCORER ***** DENOTES BOOKING

KICK-OFF 3PM SATURDAYS, 7.45PM MIDWEEK UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



DATE	FIXTURE	RES	ATT	POS
Sat 10 Aug	Barnsley	Home		
Tue 13 Aug	Chesterfield	Away (7.45)		
Sat 17 Aug	Blackpool	Away		
Sat 24 Aug	Cardiff City	Home		
Mon 26 Aug	Brentford	Away		
Sat 31 Aug	Stockport County	Home		
Sat 7 Sep	Port Vale	Home		
Wed 11 Sep	Wycombe W (WC 1)	Home		
Sat 14 Sep	QPR	Away		
Tue 17 Sep	Cheltenham Town	Away		
Sat 21 Sep	Northampton Town	Home		
Sat 28 Sep	Luton Town	Away		
Sat 5 Oct	Oldham Athletic	Home		
Sat 12 Oct	Colchester United	Home		
Sat 19 Oct	Bristol City	Away		
Sat 26 Oct	Mansfield Town	Home		
Tue 9 Oct	Notts County	Away (7.45)		
Sat 2 Nov	Wycombe Wanderers	Away		
Sat 9 Nov	Tranmere Rovers	Home		
Sat 23 Nov	Huddersfield Town	Away		
Sat 30 Nov	Peterborough Utd	Home		
Sat 14 Dec	Plymouth Argyle	Away		
Sat 21 Dec	Crewe Alexandra	Home		
Thur 26 Dec	Brentford	Home		
Sat 28 Dec	Wigan Athletic	Away		
Wed 1 Jan	Cardiff City	Away		
Sat 4 Jan	Chesterfield	Home		
Sat 11 Jan	Blackpool	Home		
Sat 18 Jan	Stockport County	Away		
Sat 25 Jan	Wigan Athletic	Home		
Sat 1 Feb	Barnsley	Away		
Sat 8 Feb	Tranmere Rovers	Away		
Sat 15 Feb	Wycombe Wanderers	Home		
Sat 22 Feb	Port Vale	Away		
Sat 1 Mar	QPR	Home		
Wed 5 Mar	Cheltenham Town	Home (7.45)		
Sat 8 Mar	Northampton Town	Away		
Sat 15 Mar	Mansfield Town	Away		
Wed 19 Mar	Bristol City	Home (7.45)		
Sat 22 Mar	Notts County	Home		
Sat 29 Mar	Colchester United	Away		
Sat 5 Apr	Peterborough United	Away		
Sat 12 Apr	Huddersfield Town	Home		
Sat 19 Apr	Crewe Alexandra	Away		
Mon 21 Apr	Plymouth Argyle	Home		
Sat 26 Apr	Oldham Athletic	Away		
Sat 3rd May	Luton Town	Home		

**DENOTES SENDING OFF DENOTES SUBSTITUTIONS



NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO 2002/03

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
BARNSELY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLACKPOOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BRENTFORD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BRISTOL CITY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CARDIFF CITY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHELTENHAM T'N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHESTERFIELD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COLCHESTER UTD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CREWE ALEXANDRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HUDDERSFIELD T'N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LUTON TOWN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MANSFIELD TOWN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHAMPTON T'N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOTTS COUNTY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OLDHAM ATHLETIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PETERBOROUGH UTD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PLYMOUTH ARDYLE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PORT VALE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QPR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STOCKPORT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWINDON TOWN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRANMERE ROVERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIDAN ATHLETIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WYCOMBE WDRS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

APPEARANCES 2002/03

PLAYER NAME	LEAGUE			FA CUP			WORTHINGTON CUP			LDV VANS		
	APPS	GOAL	BK	APPS	GOAL	BK	APPS	GOAL	BK	APPS	GOAL	BK
BART GRIEMINK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOL DAVIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MATTHEW HEWLETT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ADAM WILLIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ANDREW GURNEY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KEITH O'HALLORAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DARREN DYKES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAM PARKIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STEFANI MIGLIORANZI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DAVID DUKE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JUAN COBIAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ERIC SABIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NEIL RUDDOCK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DANNY INVINCIBLE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MATTHEW HEYWOOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ALAN REEVES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NATHAN EDWARDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KEVIN HALLIDAY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STEVE ROBINSON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ALAN YOUNG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHRIS COLLINS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IAN HERRING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



EXETER TOWN
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news updates, match commentaries
and all the latest ticket information
*Calls charged at 80p or all times

SWINDON

Manager **Andy King**

BARNSELEY

Manager **Steve Parkin**

✓ = PROBABLE STARTING LINE-UP

BART GRIEMINK ✓ 1	✓ ANDREW MARRIOTT
	2 CARL REGAN
SOL DAVIS 3	
MATTHEW HEWLETT ✓ 4	MITCH WARD
ADAM WILLIS ✓ 5	✓ CHRIS MORGAN
ANDREW GURNEY 6	✓ MIKE FLYNN
KEITH O'HALLORAN 7	KEVIN DONOVAN
	8 ✓ CHRIS LUMSDON
SAM PARKIN ✓ 9	✓ MIKE SHERON
STEFANI MIGLIORANZI ✓ 10	✓ BRUCE DYER
DAVID DUKE ✓ 11	✓ DEAN GORRE
JUAN COBIAN 12	ISAIAH RANKIN
ERIC SABIN ✓ 13	MATTHEW GHENT
	14 ALEX NEIL
DARREN DYKES 15	KEVIN DIXON
NEIL RUDDOCK 16	LEE CROOKS
DANIEL INVINCIBILE ✓ 17	BRIAN O'CALLAGHAN
	18 ✓ GARY JONES
MATTHEW HEYWOOD ✓ 19	STEVE HAYWARD
	20 ✓ KEVIN BETSY
	21 ✓ PAUL GIBBS
ALAN REEVES ✓ 22	DAVE MULLIGAN
NATHAN EDWARDS 23	CARL BARROWCLOUGH
KEVIN HALLIDAY 24	ANTONY KAY
STEVE ROBINSON ✓ 25	LEO BERTOS
ALAN YOUNG 26	JEREMY CHRISTIE
CHRIS COLLINS 27	RORY FALLON
	28 ✓ NEIL AUSTIN
	29 ASHLEY SCOTHERN
	30 JAMES DUDGEON

FORM GUIDE

TOWN'S Last 10 Home
League Results

W-W-L-D-W-W-D-W-L-D						
P	W	D	L	F	A	
10	5	3	2	11	6	

BARNSELEY'S Last 10 Away
League Results

D-D-D-L-L-L-L-L-L-W						
P	W	D	L	F	A	
10	1	3	6	9	22	

LAST COUNTY GROUND MEETING

Saturday 29 April 2000

Nationwide Division 1

Swindon Town	1
Barnsley	2

MEN IN THE MIDDLE

Referee: P. Rejer

Assistant 1: I. R. Harris (red)

Assistant 2: J. Singh (Red+Yellow)

4th Official: R. C. Green

MATCHDAY SPONSOR: **GREENHAM** MUSIC SUPPLIER: **HMV**

Nationwide
FOOTBALL LEAGUE

SPONSOR: **Clarlon** KIT SUPPLIER: **dgi** BUSINESS PARTNER: **dunwoody**