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Honours 1969 League Cup Winners, 1971 Anglo-Italian Cup Winners, Division Four Champions 1985/86, 1996 Division Two Champions.

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Editor's Eye

I must admit that I questioned my wisdom in travelling to Tranmere last week – such was the opening half hour that I wandered if the long journey had been worth the hassle. Sitting next to the Adver's Jon Ritson I suggested (rather pessimistically of me I must admit) that we'd be lucky to get a point let alone all three.

Mind you, when your luck's in things go your way and having held on and survived the early wave of pressure we then went on to win and to be fair – we could have scored two or three. All in all a worthwhile trip but more importantly – a huge win for the lads. What it does is keep our slim play-off hopes alive and the longer we keep winning, the longer we can dream! Results on Tuesday night went our way too. Brentford, who have games in hand, kept fellow promotion hopefuls Bristol City quiet whilst Blackpool grabbed three points away at Luton. I just hope that Port Vale are 'spent' ahead of our fixture next Saturday – the Valiants struck five against Chesterfield at Vale Park.

Finally, a word of warning to David Duke. I won't bore you all with the details, but our favourite midfielder appears to have stitched me up in his column (on the official website) – all I'll say is just remember who writes the programme Duke!!



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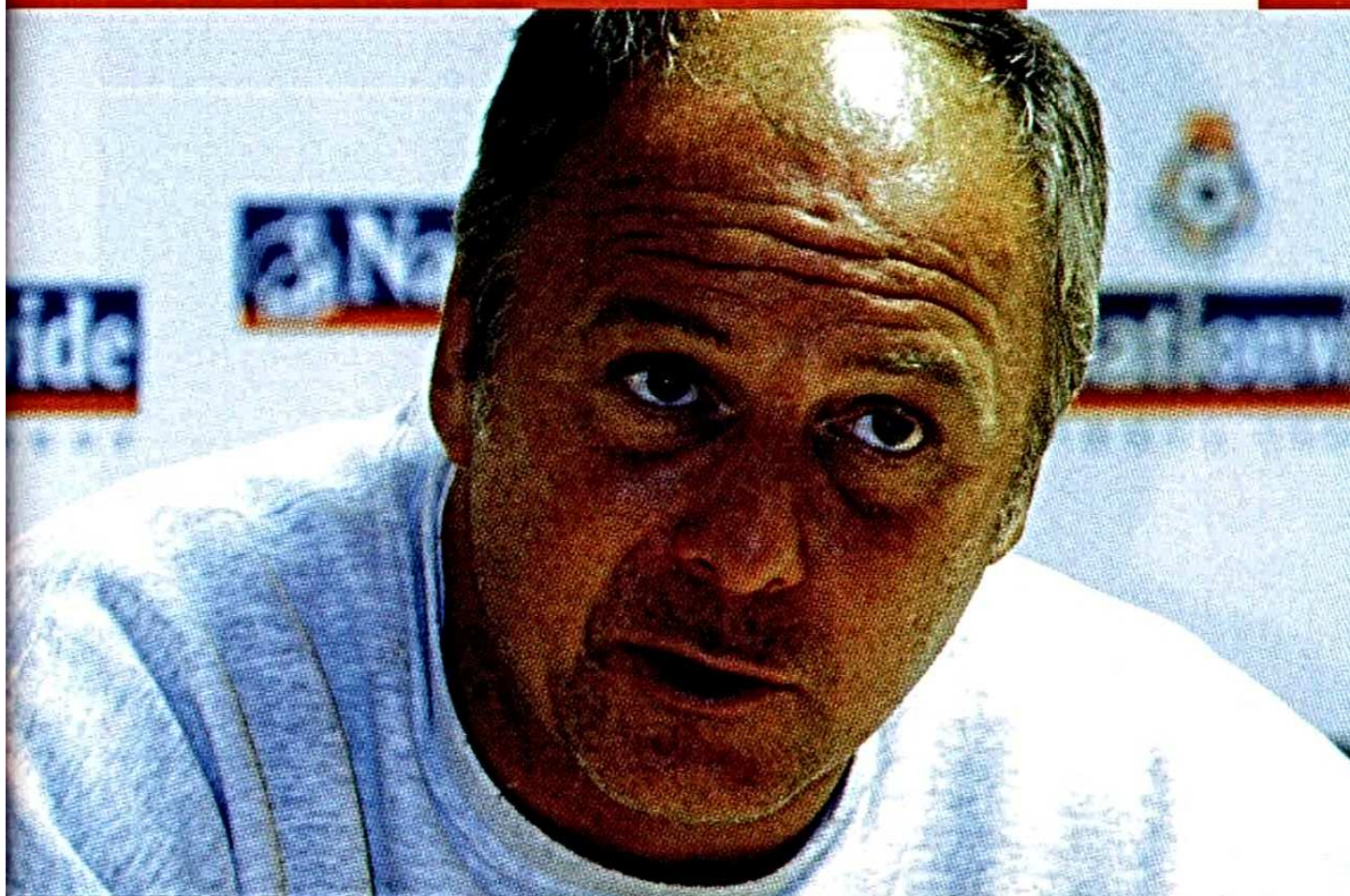
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THE GAFFER

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GOOD AFTERNOON AND A WARM WELCOME TO TODAY'S GAME AGAINST WYCOMBE WANDERERS. IT'S NICE TO BE BACK AT HOME AFTER AN ABSENCE OF TWO WEEKS, BUT WITH THAT SAID IT'S BEEN A PROSPEROUS PERIOD ON THE ROAD AND WE ENTER TODAY'S ENCOUNTER HUNGRY FOR ANOTHER WIN.

The lads must have taken great belief from the Wigan result – arguably one of our best games of the season because at Barnsley and Tranmere they showed great spirit and subsequently picked up four points from a possible six.

There was just an overwhelming sense of confidence ahead of the Wigan game, in both the players and management team, that I can't describe – yet such was the atmosphere on the day that I think the fans sensed it too. It was a great atmosphere and an even better game, I just hope we can repeat those scenes today against a side in the middle of the table.

Yet for me an even greater performance came last week at Tranmere – I don't think the lads will visit a harder ground this season and they came away with all three points when to be honest, one probably would have done the job beforehand. Tranmere are a very strong side, the sort of team that we sometimes struggle against and yet despite having a lot of pressure, they never really created any clear cut chances. Instead, after a solid defensive opening half-hour, we took the game to the home side and Matty Heywood had a great chance to score from seven yards out. Soon after we had the ball in the back of the net but for some reason, and wrongly in my opinion, the referee disallowed it.

THE GAFFER CONT'D...

Matthew Heywood



But having come so close I said to the lads at half time that maybe one goal would knick it and if we could only keep things tight at the back, we'd have a chance. And what a goal it was! Andy (Gurney) has great belief in himself in those situations and I said to the bench that it would be 1-0 – I just have that much faith in him. Andy's a terrific player, yet as well as his leadership and defensive qualities – he also has a fair old shot on him. And we could have gone to win by two or three as well; Sammy had a great chance in which you'd normally put your house on him to score before Ifil and Eric could have finished the game off in the latter stages.

It wasn't a great performance in terms of good football and whilst in previous games we had played better in terms of good quality – this was, in contrast, a hard fought win. But it's the sign of a good side that they can adapt to games accordingly and my boys did so magnificently last week. The defence in particular worked magnificently well because, make no mistake, the two boys up front for Tranmere are big and strong and we gave them very few opportunities to score.

This week's game will, no doubt, be slightly different. Wycombe are a strong side but one that likes to play good football and in our two encounters already this season we have seen what they are capable of and what their dangers are. And whilst we are all starting to look at the teams above us and whether or not we can catch them, Wycombe will be hoping to catch us and so we must not be complacent. Another win for us however could really see us close the gap on the teams above us and whilst we must take one game at a time, the lads are really starting to believe in the dream – and rightly so. I have always stood by them and they are a magnificent bunch of lads, I just hope that they can keep the dream going for another week – they, and the fans deserve it. Remember that we still have to play all those above us and so, in a way, our destiny is in our own hands. Let's hope for another positive afternoon today – get behind the lads and I'm sure they'll respond.

CAPTAIN'S COLUMN



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO THE COUNTY GROUND FOR TODAY'S VISIT OF WYCOMBE. I MUST ADMIT I'M STILL ON A HIGH FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S WIN AGAINST TRANMERE!

What a win, and to be fair without really playing that well – it's the points that mean everything at this stage of the season. Tranmere is a tough place to go and get a point, let alone all three and having soaked up some pressure, we hit them in the second half and thankfully it was my goal that was enough to win us the game. It was a sweet goal, not least because I'd received a lot of stick before the game about my new boots. I was wearing some new ones for the first time and to be fair, they weren't doing me any favours in the training session in the morning. But they certainly did me proud when it mattered and it's always nice to see things you work on in training come off in a game situation.

The main thing was that having got a point at Barnsley (something we were disappointed with really, we wanted all

three) that we kept our run of form going. It now means that we're still in with a shout towards the top end of the table and as long as we're still in a position (mathematically) where we can challenge for the play-offs, then all the better for us and the fans. The whole team is absolutely buzzing at the moment and there are 11 captains all pulling together for one another. I think we're stronger as a unit for having gone through our bad run because we had to put up with a lot in that time. But we stuck together and are now reaping the rewards – I just hope we can enjoy an exciting end to the season.

Finally, thanks again for your support. I know there were only 150-200 of you up at Tranmere, but you certainly made some noise – I'm just glad you had something to cheer about!



DICK MACKEY'S TREATMENT ROOM

It's been a busier week of late in the Treatment Room.

Joining Keith (O'Halloran) and I have been Adam Willis, injured at Barnsley and David Duke, injured at Tranmere on Saturday.

David Duke's injury was nothing serious, he picked up a slight calf strain at the weekend and subsequently took it easier at the start of the week. However, I would have expected Duke to have returned to training by Thursday and he should be in contention today.

Adam Willis's injury is slightly more concerning. Picked up in the early stages of the Barnsley game – Adam went to see a specialist at the beginning of the week. The conclusion was that there was no bone problem, but that he does have an ankle inversion injury and that means that he could be out for up to six weeks.

It's a nasty ankle strain that has limited him to simple cycling and swimming work this week.

Finally, the latest on Keith O'Halloran is that he's been training for about a week and a half. The next test for him is to return to some kind of competitive action but to be honest he's looking very good at the moment. He does need to get sharper and there'll be an element of apprehension when he first starts playing – but he's feeling the best he has since the injury and that has to be good news.

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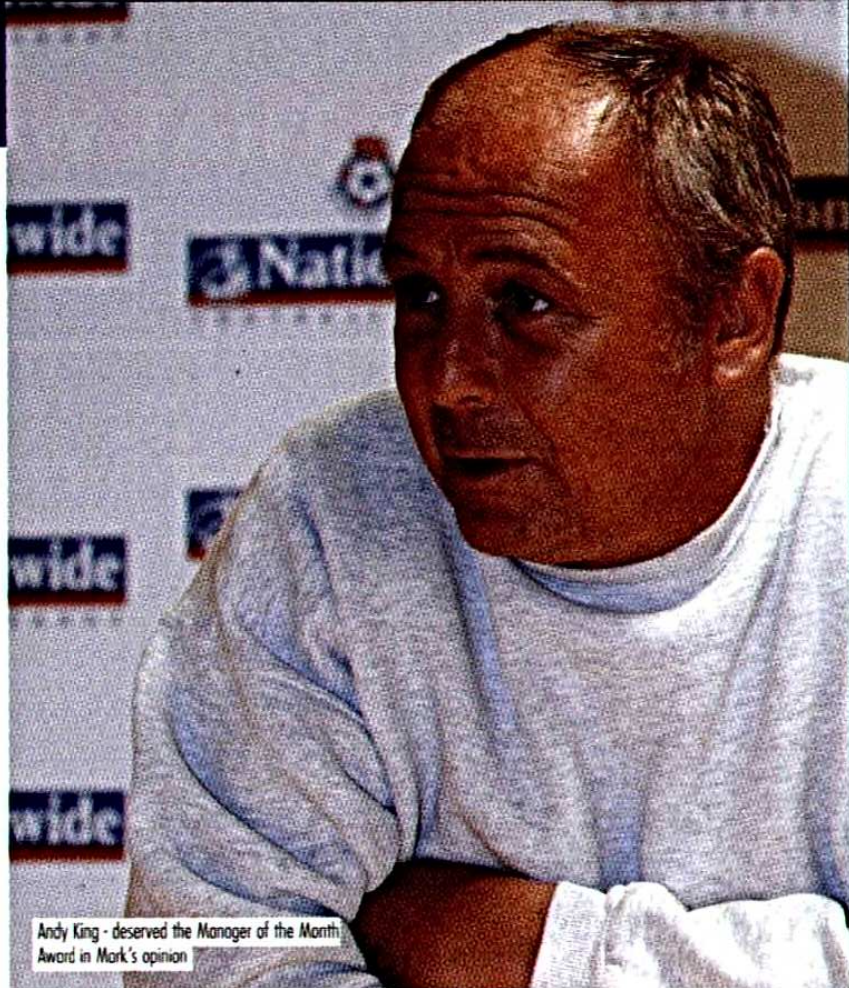
Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to everyone for today's match with Wycombe Wanderers.

On behalf of the County Ground Board of Directors I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the directors, management, players and supporters who have made the journey from Buckinghamshire.

Once again I have the pleasure of congratulating Andy and the players on their continuing good form. Whilst I know that the only awards that really count are those relating to your league position at the end of the season, I feel that Andy was very unlucky to miss out on the January Manager of the Month Award. If these awards are given out based on 'the bigger picture' and for the club's overall circumstances other than results then surely Andy, the players and the club is unrecognisable from the Club of nearly a year ago which was heading out of business?

More recently our financial situation has stabilised, but cashflow remains extremely tight and thanks to our majority shareholders, any holes in our cashflow have been funded. My aspirations next year are for the club to breakeven, and to remain competitive on the field of play. This will be a very difficult position to deliver, but one that I think the people at the club are capable of achieving.

I recently attended a Football League meeting at Wigan and it was chaired by the new Independent Football League Chairman, Sir Brian Mawhinney. At the meeting we were faced with a proposal from the Division One clubs that a separate Chief Executive be appointed to manage the First Division and with a remit to generate additional commercial funds for distribution solely to Division One clubs. Whilst I can understand the desire for those clubs to try and bridge the financial chasm that exists between Division One and the Premiership, I am not at all convinced that this is the right way forward. For a start I believe this proposal is a reaction from Division One clubs for what they see as the mismanagement of the ITV Digital saga



Andy King - deserved the Manager of the Month Award in Mark's opinion

MARK DEVLIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STFC.

and the Premium TV website contract. This has begun to be remedied by the appointment of an exceptional chairman in Sir Brian Mawhinney and hopefully an equally gifted Chief Executive in the not too distant future. I also happen to believe that the best Commercial deals, with the exception of media rights (already in place with SKY and BBC Five Live) will be achieved when we can offer 72 clubs and potential communities the opportunity to work together, rather than just the 24 in the First Division, some of whom are no bigger than those in Divisions Two and Three. Anyway, further meetings are planned and I hope a sensible, outcome for all can be achieved. One final point I would add is that I do believe that the Football League needs to undergo a major re-brand. For too long it has been seen that the Football League is exciting, committed, skilful and hugely

enjoyable — attendances continue to improve and it has much to shout about.

The future of Swindon Town Football Club will be based on young players with the talent and desire to represent this club. If those players can be of local 'stock' then so much the better, and I would like to add my belated praise to the youth team for their recent showing in the FA Youth Cup away at Tottenham. Hopefully the players on show can continue to progress and develop and show the fire in their bellies to do well for Swindon. I know I am not alone in hoping that some of the players on show that night at White Hart Lane go on to represent us at First Team level.

Enjoy the game and here's hoping for a repeat of a similar result to that rainy afternoon in Wycombe last November.

THE WEEK THAT WAS



11.02.03

BLACKPOOL WIN AGAIN AS CITY HELD

Fellow play-off hopefuls Blackpool closed the gap on QPR with an impressive win away at Luton. John Murphy scored a hat-trick, the last of his treble coming on 74 minutes after good build up play from Scott Taylor. The win takes Blackpool up to seventh in the Nationwide Second Division, a point above Luton Town. Brentford, who have three games in hand over us, took a point away from Ashton Gate after a battling draw with Bristol City. Port Vale, next week's opponents, demolished Chesterfield by five goals to two.



08.02.03

'REEEEVES' MAKES NATIONWIDE TEAM OF WEEK

Town defender Alan Reeves made it into last week's Division Two Team of the Week. 'Reevesy' has been in fine form since the turn of the year and finished second in the PFA Player of the Month Awards for January. The team in full: John Achtenberg (Tranmere), Graham Coughlin (Plymouth), Jason De Vos (Wigan), Alan Reeves (Town), Mark Arber (Peterborough), Mike Duff (Cheltenham), Alistair Gibb (Stockport), Brian Tinnion (Bristol City), Wayne Corden (Mansfield), Gary Teale (Wigan), Luke Beckett (Stockport).

08.02.03

DEVLIN TALKS TICKET PRICES

This season's ticket prices have been somewhat of a contentious issue, so what is the Club considering for next year? We spoke to Chief Executive Mark Devlin and asked him some questions regarding next year's ticket prices - including what will happen to the prices next year, and what incentives there'll be for this year's Season Ticket Holders. To read the full interview - log on to the official website and go to the latest, breaking news page.

10.02.03

TAKE THE WHOLE WORLD - FOR FREE!

The January sales have been and gone and things are getting back to normal in the retail business. Everywhere except at Swindontownfc.co.uk that is. Because now the sales are over, we're not offering you cut-price bargains - we're offering you our services for FREE! You've all heard about STFC World right? But not all of you have signed up to enjoy the fantastic range of interactive video and audio content that is only available as part of the official club website. So we're going to make you a deal. And here it is. Simply sign up now for STFC World and we will give you a one week subscription absolutely free. Yes, that's right, for free. For nothing. Gratis. Complimentary. On the house. At no cost to your good self. There are no hidden catches, no dodgy terms or conditions, we're merely giving you the chance to take a look at what STFC World has to offer and we're not going to take a penny from you for the privilege. We don't even want our expenses! You can sign up for either 12 months or 6 months but, whichever option you chose, you won't be charged for the first seven days during which period you can unsubscribe and chose not to move onto the 6 or 12 month payment plan. This offer is available to all new subscribers until the end of February.

03.02.03

DIGBY JOINS THE TEAM!

Former Swindon Town goalkeeper Fraser Digby has joined the Sales and Marketing team at The County Ground. Digby will work part-time here two days a week as the Club continues to develop its business relations with local and national companies. Sales and Marketing Manager Mike Sullivan commented: "A lot of Football Clubs have encouraged past players to get involved in their Club's marketing and they have had high rates of success. Fraser was a great success during his twelve years playing at the Club and Wembley was the pinnacle of his career. We are looking forward to having him on board and it can only be good for both Fraser and the Club. It will allow us to expand and create in other areas of the Marketing Department."



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MATCH

Town's goalscorer and Man of the Match against Wigan, Danny Inveric, looks dangerous at Tranmere last week



SWINDON TOWN 2

INVINCIBILE 24, GURNEY 35

WIGAN ATHLETIC 1

MCCULLOCH 55

At one stage the Town End were singing 'It's Just Like Watching Brazil' as an unchanged side toppled Paul Jewell's high-flyers. And it was Andy King's side that had the better of the first half - Town leading 2-0 at the break and to be fair, it could have been three of four. Town started brightly and on two minutes - had the best chance of the game so far. Invincibile, who was lively in the opening exchanges, seized a speculative ball from Heywood on the left hand side beat two defenders before laying the ball back to Sam Parkin. Parkin, who picked up the PFA Player of the Month Award before the game, swivelled in the area and blazed narrowly over from close range.

Wigan rarely threatened and were reduced to long range efforts from Liddell and McCulloch. Ellington dragged his only wide on 27 minutes having turned Alan Reeves - but it was Town that took the lead shortly afterwards. Wigan failed to clear following a spell of Town pressure before a speculative lob into the Wigan box was flicked on by Parkin to Invincibile. The Australian forward volleyed home with his right foot from 15 yards leaving Filan with no chance in the Latics goal.

Town were clearly on top and Marney should have done better when he had a free header on the half hour mark. A neat move culminated in a Robinson cross finding the 18-year old unmarked in the box. Unfortunately for Town, Marney could only head wide. Gurney soon made it two however, Town's skipper finding himself unmarked in the Wigan box following a Marney cross. The former Reading man turned sharply and hit an unstoppable effort into the net from ten yards.

Invincibile nearly made it three soon after. The Australian ran at full speed from the half way line but was eventually thwarted by three Wigan defenders. Town

came close again when Hewlett whipped in a teasing cross from the left hand side. Unfortunately there was no one on the end to receive it, but the effort and style of play was awesome.

Town started the second half as they finished the first and on 46 minutes, Sam looped over a cross that proved to be just too high for Invincibile.

Wigan pulled one back on 57 minutes and deservedly so. Another good move on the right hand side culminated in a cross that found Liddell unmarked. Liddell made no mistake and headed home from close range. Wigan had really upped the tempo and Town, with Marney limping off (to be replaced by Willis) were struggling to deal with the onslaught of pressure.

However, Invincibile was clearly Town's best outlet and he broke free again on the right hand side on 65 minutes. His cross found Reeves unmarked in the box and, with just the keeper to beat, Reeves headed wide. At the other end Wigan came close again with a well-rehearsed free kick. A long range effort deflected off Tony Dinning in the Town box before rolling past Town's post. Wigan were starting to switch the play with alarming regularity and on numerous occasions, looked dangerous on both wings.

Stefani Milioranzi had a great chance to make it 3-1 when he seized on a mistake by Nicky Eaden. The New Yorkan tackled the right back and with just the keeper to beat, dragged his shot wide of Filan's post. On 74 minutes Invincibile thought he'd won it. Having turned his man on 20 yards the Australian hit a fierce shot that hit the post. However, the ball rebounded off the upright and hit Filan before it rolled agonisingly across the face of goal.

TOWN: Griemink, Gurney, Reeves, Heywood, Marney (Willis 51), Miglioranzi, Robinson, Hewlett, Duke, Invincibile, Parkin **Subs not used:** Farr, Eds, Sabin, Young.

WIGAN: Filan, Eaden, Jackson, De Vos, Kennedy, Teale, Mitchell, Dinning, McCulloch, Liddell, Ellington **Subs not used:** Beasant, McMillan, Breckin, Green, Jarrett.

MATCH

Images courtesy of
the Evening Advertiser



BARNSELY 1

FALLON 14

SWINDON TOWN 0

INVINCIBLE 34

On a sunny afternoon in South Yorkshire, Swindon Town arrived at Oakwell looking for an away win to take them even further from the relegation zone and to keep alive any chances of a late run for the play-offs.

With Barnsley keeper Andy Marriott starting the game with the sun in his eyes, Town were looking to make the most of the early advantage. Despite an early handball appeal in the home box, Town pressed early with Invincible hitting his first time shot straight into the arms of the home 'keeper.

On six minutes Alan Reeves was hacked down by Dave Mulligan, resulting in a booking for the young Barnsley man. After the referee played advantage from the original foul Town earned a corner that was subsequently headed over from six yards out. Reeves then seemed to make contact with Rory Fallon in the box but the referee Mr Pugh waved any penalty appeals away.

After Town had the better of the opening exchanges, Barnsley began to come into the game with Bruce Dyer being denied an opportunity by Heywood who did well to recover. However the opener came on 13 minutes when 6"4 Griemink was seemingly barged into the net by Rory Fallon following a corner from Kevin Donovan. Steve Robinson was then booked for remonstrating with the referee following the goal.

On 16 minutes Town were dealt another hammer blow when Adam Willis was stretchered off with a leg injury. New loan, Jerel Ifil, slotted into the back three for his Town debut. After the restart Fallon hit a low shot at Griemink which the Dutchman reclaimed after dropping the initial left-foot shot.

On 33 minutes following a Barnsley corner, Town broke up the field and the ball was played through to Australian Invincible and he raced into the box before lifting the ball over Marriott to equalise. Despite his first touch in the box being in front of him, Invincible got to the ball to coolly finish a superb counter attack for Town. After the goal Town got into the game with successive

corners from Gurney being cleared, but the visitors continued to build and exert some pressure on the Barnsley goal. Miglioranzi had a shot way off target on 43 minutes before the home side created a chance. A simple ball over the top was gathered by Griemink as Gary Jones approached.

The first cheer of the second half came as the referee Mr D Pugh was replaced by Mr Leek after sustaining an injury. As the game settled down once again after the referee change, Town had to be patient as Barnsley took control of the early exchanges, with Dyer seeing his shot fly over the bar.

The first real opportunity for Town came just after the hour mark as Danny Invincible raced clear once again. The Australian delayed his shot that eventually flashed across goal as Town came into the game. Town Captain Andy Gurney then hit a free kick from just outside the box straight into the stand behind the goal.

Barnsley Manager Glyn Hodges introduced Mitch Ward into the action on 64 minutes, replacing Gary Jones. Ward made an immediate impression on the game as he began to orchestrate the midfield proceedings. Matty Heywood was lucky to escape a booking with a foul on the edge of the area, but the resulting free-kick failed to trouble Bart Griemink in the Town goal.

Just a minute later Mitch Ward hit a pile driver which was tipped round the post by Bart Griemink. The resulting corner was turned over by Alex Neil for the home side. Hodges made his second change of the afternoon with former Huddersfield man Dean Gorre replacing Kevin Donovan in the home midfield.

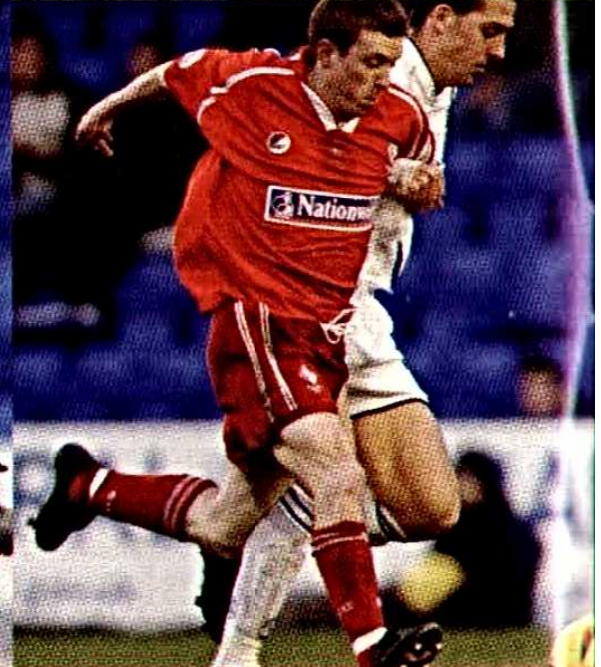
Town did exert a fair amount of pressure on the Barnsley goal with Gurney and Miglioranzi having corners cleared. Danny Invincible saw his acute left foot shot fly wide of Marriott's goal on 83 minutes as Town searched for the breakthrough. Sam Parkin saw his shot tipped round by Marriott with the resulting corner, taken by Gurney – and in the end both sides had to settle for a point.

BARNSELY: Marriott, Mulligan, Morgan, Austin, Williams, Donovan (Gorre 78), Crooks, Gary Jones (Ward 62), Neil, Dyer, Fallon (Sheron 84) **Subs not used:** Ghent, Kay

TOWN: Griemink, Gurney, Reeves, Willis (Ifil 18), Heywood, Robinson, Hewlett, Miglioranzi, Duke, Invincible, Parkin **Subs not used:** Farr, Sabin, Young, Taylor

MATCH

Images courtesy
of Action Images



TRANMERE ROVERS 0

SWINDON TOWN 1

GURNEY 50

Town kept their slim play-off hopes alive with a true 'smash and grab' performance at Prenton Park. Despite hardly threatening in the opening 45 minutes, an improved second half showing, along with a trade mark Andy Gurney free kick was enough to see them snatch three points from fellow play-off hopefuls Tranmere Rovers.

Yet with the carrot of a play-off place being provocatively dangled in front of Tranmere's faces, the home side seemed apparently more hungry for the three points and started much the brighter of the two sides - Town only coming into the game after a torrid opening half hour.

Danny's pace looked as though it might cause the home defence problems early on but as the game progressed, white shirts engulfed the front two and to be honest - Town rarely threatened.

Instead the dangerous duo of Hume and Haworth enjoyed a number of chances - thankfully putting none of them away. After a couple of speculative crosses Rovers's first real chance came on 10 minutes, a Gareth Roberts half volley finishing just wide of the Town upright from 20 yards. A minute later and Haworth enjoyed his first chance of the game - his long range effort from 25 yards was deflected narrowly over the bar - much to the relief of the 150 or so Town fans.

Three minutes later and Hume got in on the action - the youngster heading over from just eight yards following a teasing cross from the right hand side. Town looked pensive, even laborious at times and with Hewlett and Gurney intent on giving the ball away, they invited the home side to attack at every opportunity.

Another Hume effort was blocked by Reeves on 17 minutes before Tranmere really should have taken the lead two minutes later. Another teasing cross was headed inches wide by Gareth Roberts with Griemink scrambling to his right. Town appeared to have soaked up the worst of the pressure, yet their only forays forward came a cross-come shot via Dean Marney. Duke sent a speculative effort into the home crowd from 35 yards and whilst Danny worked hard in the final third, Town looked laboured going forward, with white shirts surrounding red. The best effort came on 39 minutes and to be honest, Heywood really should have

done better. Robinson did well to cut the ball back to Parkin from by-line before Town's leading marksman laid the ball back to Heywood ten yards out. Ideally the two players would have swapped because the burly defender subsequently sent the ball wide of the post.

As the break approached Bart Griemink was called upon to keep Haworth at bay. A looping cross found Haworth unmarked and his half volley was expertly tipped over the bar from point-blank range.

The second half could only get better for Town and after just five minutes of the restart they were one up. A free kick just yards outside the Tranmere area was taken by Andy Gurney and, typically, Town's skipper curled the ball into the top left hand corner of the net leaving Achterberg with no chance in the Rovers' goal.

Rovers almost levelled immediately, with Town seemingly still celebrating their surprise lead. A shot from Roberts went straight at Griemink before Town nearly made it two at the other end. Hewlett seized on a loose ball in midfield (much to the disdain of the home support) and, with Parkin free on his right, the Bristolian fed the Londoner. Parkin, eyeing his 19th of the season, cut inside two defenders only to see his right footed effort rebound off Achterberg's legs.

On 72 minutes Parkin almost grabbed Town's second. Ryan Taylor, having tackled David Duke, sent a tame back pass towards Achterberg and, advancing off his line, the home keeper could only see his clearance rebound off Parkin.

Unfortunately the ball went out of play before Parkin could look to find the net. Another poor clearance found Sabin minutes later, the Frenchman having just come on for Invincible. Unfortunately Sabin's first touch let him down and the chance was spawned.

With just minutes remaining and after a spell of pressure from the home side Town really should have wrapped it up. Ifil broke free on the right and, with just the keeper to beat, tried to slip the ball to Sabin in the middle. Graham Allen managed to seize the ball however, yet he could only send it towards his own net and it took a goal line clearance to clear the danger.

TRANMERE: Achterberg, Allen, Roberts, Sharps, Nicholson (Price 61), Mellon (Harrison 68), Taylor, Connelly, Hume, Haworth, Jones. **Subs not used:** Howarth, Hinds, Hay.

TOWN: Griemink, Marney, Heywood, Reeves, Duke (Ifil 74), Gurney, Hewlett, Miglioranza, Robinson, Parkin, Invincible (Sabin 75). **Subs not used:** Farr, Edds, Taylor.

SOUTHEND UNITED 1

SWINDON TOWN 4

YOUNG 3, DRAYCOTT

STFC line-up: Craig Farr, Daren Dykes, Nathan Edwards, Kevin Halliday, Alan Young, Mark Draycott, Molyneaux, Jamie Cheeseman, Newey, Robertson, Chris Taylor. **Subs:** Steve Smith(GK), Chris Hughes, Luke Garrard, Dave Bampton, Ian Herring

All fixtures are subject to change without prior notification

IN RESERVE



RESERVE TEAM FIXTURES 2002/03

TOWN WERE WITHOUT A GAME AGAIN THIS WEEK - BUT TWO WEEKS AGO THEY HIT FOUR GOALS WHEN THEY BEAT SOUTHEND UNITED AT ROOTS HALL.

With a side containing a number of trialists, Town opened the scoring when a shot from Daren Dykes rebounded off the keeper and fell to the feet of Alan Young who made no mistake in tapping the ball home on nine minutes. Young has been in fine form for the reserves and this goal will have announced Young's intentions to the First Team boss.

After a spell of Southend pressure that culminated in the equaliser from Mark Salter on 33 minutes - Town upped their game and Young was again the scorer as he met a low free-kick in the box from trialist Newey and Young angled his shot into the net. Jamie Cheeseman then hit the Shrimper's crossbar before Chris Hughes went close before the break - Town eventually ended the half 2-1 up.

Youth Team scoring sensation Mark Draycott got his name on the score sheet with a well taken goal. An attempted clearance from Morgan hit his defender and rolled into the path of the prolific Draycott who made no mistake with a smart half volley into the back of the net.

On 84 minutes a Nathan Edwards corner found Young who completed his treble to round off an impressive performance in which they created many chances, but more importantly hit four goals which will do Malcolm Crosby's side no harm at all as they head into February.

'The stiffs' return to action this Monday when they travel to face Crystal Palace away from home. With games in hand and positioned handily in the league - Town will be looking to sneak up the table with a win in the capital - the goal difference will have taken a good boost from the Southend victory.

Wed 14 Aug	Wycombe W	Away	3-0
Wed 21 Aug	Milton Keynes	Home	1-0
Wed 28 Aug	Cambridge United	Away	1-1
Wed 4 Sep	Peterborough United	Away	3-2
Wed 18 Sep	Luton Town	Home	0-4
Wed 2 Oct	Brighton & HA	Away	0-2
Wed 9 Oct	Bristol Rovers	Home	2-1
Wed 16 Oct	Norwich City	Away	0-1
Wed 30 Oct	Reading	Home	1-1
Wed 27 Nov	Barnet	Away	3-2
Tue 14 Jan	Cardiff City	Home	2-0
Tue 28 Jan	Southend United	Away	4-1
Wed 5 Feb	Northampton Town	Home	P-P
Mon 17 Feb	Crystal Palace	Away	
Wed 26 Feb	Bristol City	Home	
Wed 5 Mar	AFC Bournemouth	Away	
Wed 12 Mar	Gillingham	Home	
Wed 26 Mar	Colchester United	Away	
Wed 2 Apr	Cheltenham Town	Home	
Wed 16 Apr	Leyton Orient	Away	
Wed 23 Apr	Oxford United	Home	
Wed 30 Apr	Portsmouth	Away	
TBA	QPR	Home	P-P
TBA	Plymouth Argyle	Home	
TBA	Brentford	Away	

UNFORTUNATELY, AS A RESULT OF TOWN'S RE-ARRANGED FIXTURE WITH BLACKPOOL, LAST WEEK'S SCHEDULED GAME AGAINST CRYSTAL PALACE HAS BEEN POSTPONED.



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MATCH ACTION



SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2003

CHELTENHAM TOWN 0

SWINDON TOWN 2

WYATT 2

STFC line-up: Matty Bulman, Nathan Battie, Shamus Fogerty, Ashan Hulgate, David Edwards, Kirk Willmoth, Richie Stunt, Leigh Henry, Mitchell Wyatt, Chris Zebrowski, Andy Patton. **Subs:** Richard Alexander, Matt Bennett, Ben Price, Russell Newbury.

All fixtures are subject to change without prior notification

UNDER 17'S



UNDER 17'S FIXTURES 2002/03

SWINDON TOWN'S U17 KEPT UP THEIR IMPRESSIVE FORM WITH A 2-0 WIN AGAINST LOCAL RIVALS CHELTENHAM TOWN AND IN DOING SO, CEMENTED THEIR POSITION AT THE SUMMIT OF THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE LEAGUE.

The game was played on a sticky pitch and both sides had to contend with a strong and blustery wind. Swindon came into the game with Mitchell Wyatt working tremendously hard as usual and nearly opened the scoring with a 25-yard thunderbolt that cannoned off the underside of the crossbar.

Wyatt did score the opener on 20 minutes as he coolly lobbed the Cheltenham keeper when played through by a Town midfielder. After the break, Swindon started slowly and struggled to get into the game. Cheltenham created chances but were denied by several top class saves from Matty Bulman in the Swindon goal.

After soaking up the pressure from Cheltenham, Town secured the points thanks to another Wyatt goal. A long kick from Matty Bulman was misjudged by the Cheltenham centre backs and Wyatt took the ball on before lobbing the advancing keeper once again, taking a knock for his troubles.

U17 Manager Jimmy Fraser, speaking after the game, was pleased with the performance: "We had six trialists in our starting line-up as our trial game last week was called off. These lads were playing on recommendation and did well with some being invited back for another go.

"It was a very good performance and Matty Bulman made some excellent saves and kicked well despite the strong wind. It is decision time for the players as we have to give them a decision on their futures by March 1st. It is a nervous time for them with exams also but they performed well."

Sat 17th Aug	Oxford United	Home	5-0
Sat 24th Aug	Exeter City	Away	4-1
Sat 31st Aug	In Service Day		
Sat 7th Sep	Cheltenham Town	Home	4-0
Sat 14th Sep	Swansea City	Away	2-2
Sat 21st Sep	Cardiff City	Home	2-3
Sat 28th Sep	Cirencester	Home	10-2
Sat 5th Oct	Plymouth Argyle	Away	0-1
Sat 12th Oct	AFC Bournemouth	Away	0-3
Sat 19th Oct	Bristol Rovers	Home	4-1
Sat 26th Oct	Free Week		
Sat 2nd Nov	Torquay United	Away	p-p
Sat 16th Nov	Cirencester	Away	4-1
Sat 23rd Nov	Plymouth Argyle	Home	p-p
Sat 30th Nov	Bristol Rovers	Away	1-0
Sat 7th Dec	AFC Bournemouth	Home	p-p
Sat 14th Dec	Torquay United	Home	p-p
Sat 28th Dec	Christmas Break		
Sat 4th Jan	In Service Day		
Sat 18th Jan	Oxford United	Away	2-0
Sat 25th Jan	Exeter City	Home	p-p
Sat 1st Feb	Free Week		
Sat 8th Feb	Cheltenham Town	Away	2-0
Sat 15th Feb	Swansea City	Home	
Sat 22nd Feb	Cardiff City	Away	

HOME MATCHES KICK-OFF AT 11.00AM AT KING EDWARDS PLACE, WANBOROUGH

CONGRATULATIONS FROM JIM FRASER AND THE REST OF THE TOWN TEAM GO TO JIM'S SISTER IN LAW, KIRSTEN, WHO HAD BABY HONOR EARLIER IN THE WEEK.

MATCH ACTION



SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2003

SWINDON TOWN 1

LEWIS

CARDIFF CITY 1

STFC line-up: Steve Smith, Kyle Lapham, Ian Oliver, Mark Jones, Aaron Salter, Dave Bampton, Harry Hambidge, Justyn McKay, Mark Draycott, Michael Pook, Chris Hughes, Leigh Mills. **Subs:** David Stroud, Lance Lewis.

All fixtures are subject to change without prior notification

UNDER 19'S



UNDER 19'S
FIXTURES 2002/03

SWINDON TOWN U19'S ENTERTAINED CARDIFF CITY ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EARNED A DRAW AFTER A BRUISING ENCOUNTER. HOWEVER, DESPITE TOP OF THE TABLE TOWN HAVE ALLOWED THE BLUEBIRDS TO REMAIN IN THE FIGHT FOR THEIR POSITION AT THE TOP OF THE TABLE.

After taking a point in a 1-1 draw at Cardiff earlier in the season, Town knew it would be a tough test and so it proved to be. The visitors took a surprising lead on 21 minutes when they converted a disputed penalty and the score remained the same until the second half.

Just before half time however, Town suffered a double injury blow with Harry Hambidge suffering concussion and Michael Pook receiving a knee injury. Aaron Salter also took a bad blow to his wrist with the injury swelling up badly and two out of the three injured players went to hospital.

This however allowed Town to bring on three youngsters in the shape of David Stroud, Lance Lewis and Lee Mills, the latter who was just fifteen on Saturday. The deserved equaliser came in the second period when a corner from Chris Hughes was headed down into the path of Lewis who finished well inside the area to earn a point.

U19's Manager Viv Busby said: 'It was a decent game and the lads performed well. We were unfortunate with the injuries but it allowed some of the younger players to come on and make an impression. Lee Mills was fifteen on Saturday and it is great for the Club to have a 15-year old playing in the U19's. Hopefully he will go on and develop which will, in turn, allow the older lads to play for the reserves.'

Sat 17th Aug	Cheltenham Town	Away	2-1
Sat 24th Aug	Bristol Rovers	Home	0-0
Sat 31st Aug	In Service Day		
Sat 7th Sep	Cirencester		0-3
Sat 14th Sep	AFC Bournemouth		3-2
Sat 28th Sep	Swansea City	Away	3-2
Sat 5th Oct	Cirencester	Home	4-1
Sat 12th Oct	Cardiff City	Away	1-1
Sat 19th Oct	Torquay United	Away	2-1
Wed 23rd Oct	Salisbury City	Home	4-0
Sat 26th Oct	Exeter City	Home	3-0
Sat 2nd Nov	AFC Bournemouth	Home	3-2
Sat 9th Nov	Plymouth Argyle	Away	
Sat 16th Nov	Cardiff City	Home	
Sat 23rd Nov	Cirencester	Away	
Sat 30th Nov	Torquay United	Home	
Sat 7th Dec	Exeter City	Away	
Sat 14th Dec	AFC Bournemouth	Home	
Sat 21st Dec	Free Week		
Sat 28th Dec	Christmas Break		
Sat 4th Jan	In Service Day		
Sat 11th Jan	Plymouth Argyle	Home	p-p
Wed 15th Jan	Spurs	Away	0-1
Sat 18th Jan	Cheltenham Town	Home	2-0
Sat 25th Jan	Bristol Rovers	Away	p-p
Sat 1st Feb	Swansea City	Home	p-p
Sat 8th Feb	Cardiff City	Away	1-1
Sat 15th Feb	Merit Division Changeover		

HOME MATCHES KICK-OFF AT 11.00AM AT KING EDWARDS PLACE, WANBOROUGH

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A bit of an odd one this week - we feature Fraser Digby who has come back to the County Ground to work in the Sales and Marketing Department. But as well as working for us two days a week - Fraser is also playing for Kidderminster Harriers as well.

Digby's appointment comes as the Club continues to develop their business relations with local and national companies. Swindon Town Chief Executive Mark Devlin said: "I am absolutely delighted that Fraser has joined us. I know him from QPR and he is a very impressive individual. He had a very successful playing career and has chosen to develop his career off the field with us here at Swindon."

Fraser played over 500 games for Swindon Town and is still a firm favourite with the Town fans. He played for Town from September 1986 to May 1998 and made a huge impact during his time here. He also played for Manchester United, Oldham, Crystal Palace, Huddersfield and QPR. He made his last appearance for QPR in the FA Cup in November last year.

He will begin his new career here at The County Ground next Tuesday. For more details on Commercial events, such as the upcoming Sporting Dinner (X 2) with Denis Law, or Gordon Giltrap in concert, please contact the Sales and Marketing team on 01793 333718.



FRY KEEN ON FOTIADIS



Peterborough United manager Barry Fry is hoping to sign Andrew Fotiadis on a permanent deal from Luton Town. The on-loan striker impressed after coming off the bench during the 0-0 draw at Chesterfield last Saturday. And Fry is hoping to make the 25-year-old's stay at the club a more permanent one. "Andrew is currently on-loan, but I am trying to make the deal permanent as soon as possible," the Posh boss told the club's website. "We have Jason Lee out of contract at the end of the season and he won't be offered a new deal. Francis Green is currently injured, but there is a club interested in him. So I think we need to change one or two and there are things in the pipeline, but whether they will happen or not, I don't know."



ELLIS STEPS DOWN



Northampton chairman Andrew Ellis has stood down from his position with immediate effect, citing his commitments to other 'business ventures'. The Second Division club have announced that Ken Good will serve as acting chairman for the foreseeable future. In an official statement, Ellis said: "Being at the helm of a football club is a 24/7 commitment which requires 110% effort. Unfortunately, due to previous unfinished business ventures, I have found myself in a situation where I can no longer devote the necessary time and energy to justify the title of chairman of Northampton Town Football Club. While I am sad and disappointed, I can wholeheartedly assure everyone I am standing down for the best interests of the club."



ALLSOPP FACES TIME OUT



Danny Allsopp's loan move to Luton has been scrapped after the Notts County man was injured in Saturday's 3-2 defeat at Mansfield. Hatters boss Joe Kinnear had hoped to land the centre-forward ahead of the weekend's trip to Colchester United. But the 25-year-old Allsopp could be facing a lengthy spell on the sidelines after damaging a hamstring just 10 minutes into the Division Two match at Field Mill. "We've got a big problem with Danny," Magpies manager Billy Dearden confirmed. "We don't know how long he will be out for. Nicky Fenton is also injured with a dead leg, but Danny's injury is far more serious." Kinnear now says he is lining up a loan swoop for an unnamed First Division player.



BENT PUTS CLUB BEFORE COUNTRY



Plymouth Argyle midfielder Jason Bent has withdrawn from the Canada squad ahead of their friendly international with Libya in Tripoli on Wednesday. Toronto-born Bent could also miss his country's date with Estonia in March as he focuses on cementing his place in the Pilgrims' first team. Bent aggravated a hamstring injury while on international duty at the Gold Cup in January 2002, and was sidelined for two months upon his return to Home Park. He then suffered a hamstring tear in Plymouth's 2-0 home win over Bristol City at the start of this season - and did not make a comeback until the return fixture at Ashton Gate on Boxing Day. Since then, he has featured in seven matches, including the shock FA Cup exit against Dagenham & Redbridge. "Over the past year or so I have had hamstring problems," said Bent. "I have got a couple of games under my belt and I feel alright fitness-wise. But I want to get myself back in the Plymouth team on a regular basis."

LOCAL

FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Devizes Storm Into Quarters With Clitheroe Victory

Devizes Town were the local heroes at the weekend with a superb 3-1 away win over Clitheroe in the FA Vase.

Dave Godley was the toast of the town as he hit a last minute equaliser before hitting a hat-trick in injury time. This now means Devizes have reached the quarter-finals of the Vase and have been rewarded with a favourable draw. Devizes have been given a home tie against Jewson Eastern Division side Maldon Town on March 1st.

FA VASE QUARTER-FINAL DRAW:

Brigg Town	v	Bridlington Town,
DEVIZES TOW	v	Maldon Town,
Oadby Town	v	Winchester City,
Mossley	v	St Blazey or AFC Sudbury

(Ties to be played Saturday, March 1)

Cirencester Town slipped to fourteenth place in the division after a disappointing draw against Rocester at the weekend. After an early 13th minute opener from Rocester, Cirencester got a goal back when skipper Keith Knight hammered home from the spot.

In the Hellenic Premier Division, Fairford Town took a useful three points at Almondsbury thanks to goals from Dave Tyler and Neil Matthews. The win put the Cinder Lane side up into seventh place in the league, with games in hand. Highworth Town picked up a 2-0 win over Wootton Bassett thanks to goals from Jamie Mills and Dave Webb. Purton were beaten 3-0 by Chipping Norton and Shrivenham beat Malmesbury Vics 2-1. New College Academy lost out 2-0 at Headington.

NATIONWIDE SUPPORTERS OF TOMORROW



DEVELOPING GIRL'S/WOMEN'S FOOTBALL



▲ Katie Chapman celebrates with team mate

- Women's football is now not only the fastest growing sport in this country, but it is also the No.1 female sport.
- In 1993 there were 10,400 players Today there are 88,000.
- Compared to Netball, the traditional favourite sport of girls which has 56,000 registered players, football has 61,000 affiliated players.
- There has been a massive growth in participation since The FA took over the running of the sport in 1993. At that time there were just 80 girls teams – in season 2001/02 there were 2,200 teams.
- 56 Football League clubs have affiliated Women's teams.
- Women's Football is also one of the most supported amateur sports in the country (14,000 at the England V Germany international, 13,000 at the 2001 FA Women's Cup Final, and 10,000 at the 2002 FA Women's Cup Final).

For the latest news on the women's game, go to www.nationwide.co.uk/football.

▲ FACTS

The 2002/03 Nationwide Supporters of Tomorrow scheme, an initiative aimed at encouraging female supporters to play and watch football, will focus on maintaining the momentum of the fastest growing game in the UK – Women's Football. Football has overtaken all other sports in terms of girl's participation at schools and clubs around the country.

With this in mind, Swindon Town Football Club have chosen the Nationwide Second Division League game against Notts County on Saturday March 22 to support this scheme.

We are inviting girl's/women's football teams to attend this game and at the same time - raise money for their football team.

If you have not already received a letter and would like to know more, contact Alice Wills, Supporters of Tomorrow Administrator, on 01793 333733. Alternatively you can write to STFC, County Ground, County Road, Swindon, Wilts, SN1 2ED.



▲ England's Kristi Moore and Rachel Yankey

SWINDON TOWN

IN THE COMMUNITY

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO TODAY'S LOCAL DERBY AGAINST WYCOMBE WANDERERS.

Today we extend a warm welcome to the three groups who are here on our Saturday Team Club. George Chadwick and his group from the **STFC Junior Robins**, Roger Littleworth Worton and **Cheverell FC**, as well as Chris King and his lads from **Rodborough FC** all join us today. Many thanks to the three gentlemen for arranging their respective group for today's trip.

We have been busy in the last few weeks going into local schools and running our Smoby table top competition and on Thursday February 20 we are staging the local final here at the club. The winner will then represent our club in the regional finals on Wednesday March 5. Again we are staging the finals and our winner will compete against the other South West regional clubs. We will keep you posted on the outcome in the next set of programme notes. We would like to say a big thank you to **Nythe Junior School** who represented us at Bristol City in the Railtrack Play Safe Trophy on Tuesday February 11. The lads drew three and lost three, but they really enjoyed the day and did well against some strong sides.

Finally, may we take this opportunity in reminding you of **Fraser Digby's Professional Goalkeeping Clinic**. This is a professional clinic run by former Town legend, Fraser Digby, and his team of qualified coaches. Each participant will receive expert advice and tuition throughout the day, and everyone will take away a goalkeeping accessory, along with a Community Office goody bag. To book a place contact us on **01793 421303**, or pick up a form in reception.

Enjoy the game
Clive, Luke and Jono





IF TODAY'S GAME IS ONLY HALF AS EXCITING AS THE TWO SIDES' PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER EARLIER IN THE SEASON – THEN WE SHOULD BE IN FOR AN ENTHRALLING MATCH UP THIS AFTERNOON.

TODAY'S VISITORS

WYCOMBE WANDERERS

Adams Park, home of Wycombe Wanderers.

THIS SEASON

Ins: Frank Talia (Reading)

Outs: Sean Devine (Exeter)

Last five games: DDLWD

Odds to win promotion: 33/1

(Odds courtesy of
www.swindonbet.co.uk)

Top scorer: Sean Devine 8

LAST SEASON

Position last year: 11 (Division Two)

Biggest win: 3-0 v (Notts County,
Peterborough)

Biggest defeat: 5-1 (v Stoke)

Top scorer: Mark Stallard 18

Most league apps: Martin Taylor 51

HISTORY BOOK

Formed: 1884

Biggest win: 5 - 0 v Burnley
1996/97

Most league goals: Miguel De
Souza (1995/96: 18)

Biggest buy: £200,000 S Devine
Barnet & Darren Currie

Record against the Town: STFC
wins 4, WWFC wins 2, Draws 5

Sam Parkin added to Jimmy Davis's solo effort with two impressive goals, the second coming in injury time as Town snatched a 3-2 victory having been 2-1 down. Moreover, at the time of writing, the winner of this particular dual will go above the other side in the league table – with Sanchez's side currently three points behind the King's men.

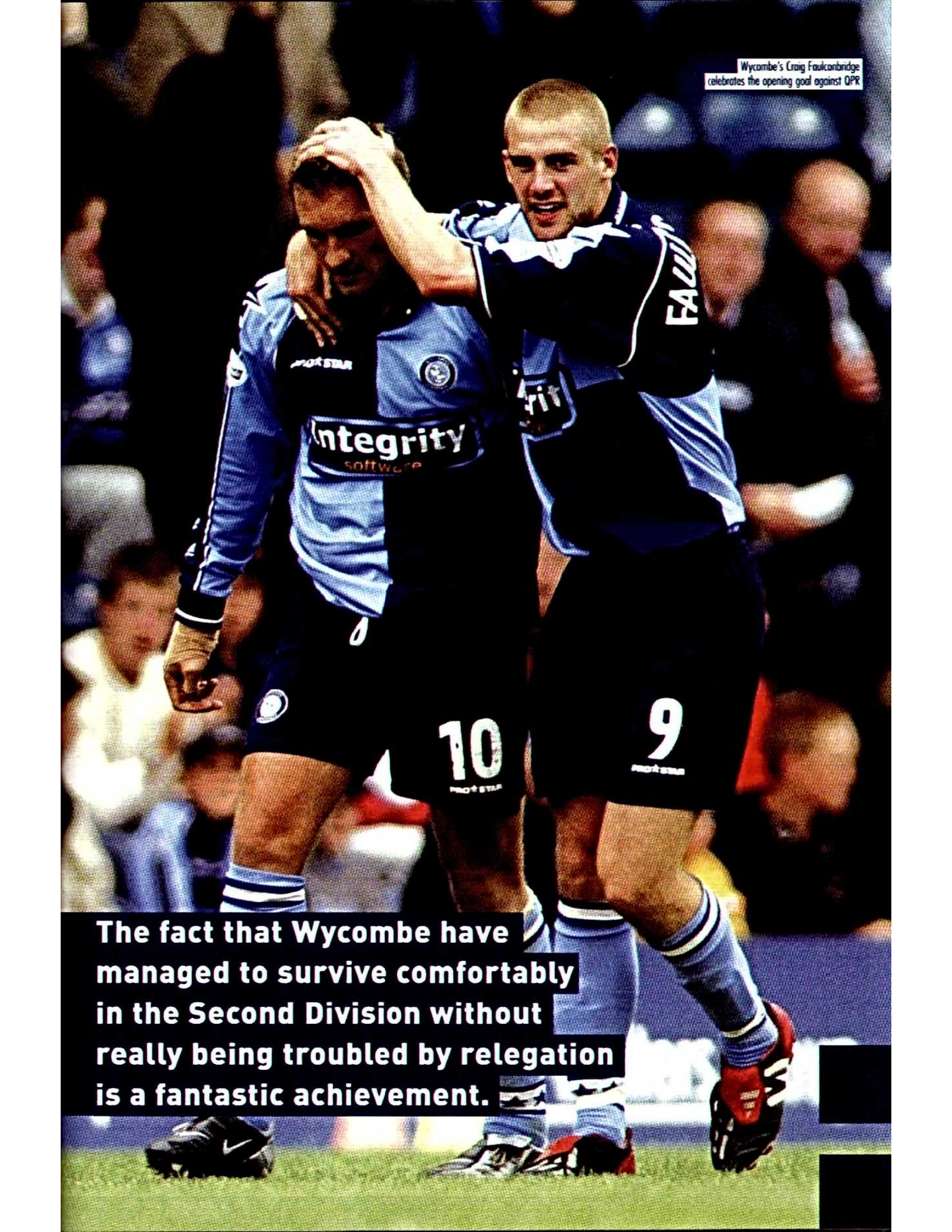
However, one can't fail to be impressed with the Buckingham club's development in the last two decades. Just 15 years ago, Wycombe were still plying their trade in the Isthmian League and in the sixties, they'd turned down the opportunity to play at a semi-professional level when they were invited to join the Southern League. Yet for a club with such a short professional history, the list of players and managers to come out of Adams Park is nothing short of impressive. Martin O'Neill, Alyn Smith and John Gregory have all since gone on to manage 'bigger' clubs, whilst the likes of Steve Guppy and Keith Scott went on to ply their trade in the top flight.

More recently the team plays under the guile of former Wimbledon and Swindon striker, Lawrie Sanchez. Sanchez, enjoying his first managerial berth, has performed wonders in his short time at Adams Park. The fact that Wycombe have managed to survive comfortably in the Second Division without really being troubled by relegation (and on a shoestring budget) is a fantastic achievement. Yet when Wanderers reached the semi-final of the FA Cup in season 2000/01 (only the third side from outside the top two divisions in 20 years to do so), they surpassed the wildest dreams of even the staunchest of supporter. It came as no surprise when Liverpool ended Wanderers' run at Villa Park, but it didn't come easily. A 2-0 lead for the reds was halved to give the Premiership side a nervy last few minutes before securing their place in a final of a competition they would go on to win, coming from a goal behind to beat Arsenal.

Last season, Wycombe remained out of the spotlight, finishing in a creditable 11th place and only missed out on challenging for a play-off place because of a poor away record that brought only four wins from 23 games.

This season, the Chairboys have been dogged by inconsistency leaving them again in mid-table. However, a good run of form now could see Wycombe make a surprising bid for the play-offs, although their current form (two defeats, two draws and one win) would suggest that it could be difficult.

Nevertheless, manager Lawrie Sanchez has a number of experienced professionals on his playing roster with the ability to lead his side back up the table. Goalkeeper Frank Talia, midfielder Darren Currie and front man Sean Devine are reliable and seasoned pros who offer a side peppered with youthful exuberance a mature balance. Devine has weighed in with eight goals so far this season, whilst former Wrexham hot shot Craig Faulconbridge has notched up five more.

A photograph of two football players in blue and black kits celebrating on a pitch. The player on the right, Craig Faulconbridge, is embracing the player on the left. Both kits feature 'Integrity software' and 'PRO STAR' branding. The player on the right has the number 9 on his shorts, and the player on the left has the number 10. The background shows a blurred crowd in a stadium.

Wycombe's Craig Faulconbridge celebrates the opening goal against QPR

The fact that Wycombe have managed to survive comfortably in the Second Division without really being troubled by relegation is a fantastic achievement.

THE GAFFER



LAWRIE SANCHEZ

Lawrie Sanchez was appointed Manager of Wycombe Wanderers on February 5 1999 replacing Neil Smilie at Adams Park. He started his career at Reading playing in the Third and Fourth Divisions before moving to Wimbledon just before Christmas 1984 when Dave Bassett was Manager. In his 10 seasons at Wimbledon he played 317 games and scored 35 goals.

Lawrie came to Swindon for a short period before managing Irish team Sligo Rovers. He took Sligo into Europe in the Cup Winners Cup before losing to FC Bruges. Lawrie was enticed back to Wimbledon by Joe Kinnear to manage the Dons reserve side. He won the Football Combination in his second year in charge, the only time Wimbledon have won the competition. Lawrie's first task at Wycombe was to keep them in Division Two when they were rooted to the table and with 18 games remaining, six away wins ensured that they stayed up and Lawrie has since ensured mid-table safety for the Buckinghamshire club, with an FA Cup semi-final berth to boot.

Managerial track record

Wycombe 1999- P227 W82 D63 L 82

THE SQUAD

FRANK TALIA (Goal)

Frank was born in Melbourne, Australia. He began his football career in England with Blackburn Rovers. During his time at Ewood Park he had loan spells at Hartlepool United and here at Swindon Town. In November 1995, Frank transferred to the County Ground for £150,000 and made over 100 appearances for the Robins. Frank has since had spells at Wolves, Sheffield United and Reading.



YOUNG GUN
DANNY SENDA

Ex-Southampton apprentice and Youth Team player who joined Wycombe during the 1998/99 season. Made his Wycombe debut as substitute during the home game with Oldham in March 1999 but has to wait until January 2000 for his full debut. Has since been converted to a right wing-back role by Lawrie Sanchez and is now a First Team regular.

MARK ROGERS (Goal)

Mark arrived from Canada in July 1998 and fought his way into the side after good displays in the reserve side. 'Ted', as he's affectionately

known, can play as a right-sided defender but does prefer a more central role. He made his league debut at Oldham on November 2 1999 and went on to secure a regular place in the side. He was selected for Canada v Panama in Winnipeg, becoming the first full international for the Wanderers.

STEVE BROWN (Goal)

Martin O'Neill signed Steve in February 1994 for a fee of £40,000 from Northampton Town, where he was team captain. He made over 200 appearances for the Cobblers and by the end of 2001/02 season made 335 full appearances for the Wanderers, together with 38 sub appearances, scoring 35 goals. An Adams Park favourite, Steve has signed a one-year extension to his contract.

DANNIE BULMAN (Goal)

Dannie joined local club Ashford Town at the age of 15 and made his first team debut at 16. He was spotted by John Gregory during his reign at Wycombe and played four games for the reserve side. 'Bullie' signed at the start of the 1998/99 season for £10,000 and made his first team debut against Bristol Rovers on 31 August 1998. Dannie forced his way into the side during the 1999/00 season and became a permanent fixture the following season with some excellent performances.

KEITH RYAN (Goal)

Keith arrived from Berkhamsted Town during the 1990 close season after making a number of reserve appearances the previous year. He is a versatile player, contributing in all areas of the field but his usual position is in the centre of midfield. 'Rhino' scored on his debut for Wycombe and was an FA Trophy



Wycombe's Andy Rammell celebrates the second goal against QPR in August

winner in 1991 and 1993, and a play-off winner in 1994.

MICHAEL SIMSPON (mid)

Michael signed from Notts County by Tribunal in January 1997, having been a trainee with the Magpies from 1992-97. 'Simmo' had a great season in 1999/00 with some sterling performances in midfield and continued his form throughout 2000/01, so much so that he signed a new three-and-a-half-year contract at the start of January 2001 that will keep him at Wycombe until June 2004.

ROGER JOHNSON (def)

A 6'3" defender, Roger joined from Portsmouth in 1998 and gave outstanding performances in the youth team. He made his first team debut at Cambridge United in the last game of the 1999/01 season and his home debut the following season against Reading. He signed a one-year pro-contract in June 2001 and became a regular when both Paul McCarthy and Mark Rogers were out

of the side during January and February of 2002.



Craig signed a three-year contract to join Wycombe on a Bosman from Wrexham in June 2002. He started his career at Birmingham City as a junior before commencing his professional career with Coventry City. He had loan periods with Dunfermline Athletic and Hull City

before joining Wrexham in August 1999. 'Faulco' is a hard-working front man who is good in the air and holds the ball up well on the ground. A proven goalscorer, Craig is the club's top scorer with five.

RICHARD HARRIS (att)

Richard signed for Wanderers from Crystal Palace, whom he had joined when he was just 7 years old. After coming through the YT scheme, Richard was a regular in the reserves and made 18 appearances in the first team. Richard possesses a prodigious long throw that causes havoc in opposition defences, which has already been proven in the few games he featured in towards the end of 2001/02 season.

AND THE REST...

Martin Taylor, Paul McCarthy, Ben Townsend, Gavin Holligan, Ian Simpembera, Steve Williams, Martyn Lee, Lewis Cook, Jonathan Dixon, Marc Leach, Stuart Roberts, Roger Johnson.

THEM AND US



David Kerslake

Born in Stepney on June 19 1966, David Kerslake was a cultured defender. An Ardiles' signing, he joined Town in November 1989 as Ossie looked to build upon the foundations laid by the recently departed Lou Macari.

Kerslake made one appearance for England schoolboys as a Queens Park Rangers apprentice in 1982, turning professional the following year. Later claiming an U-21 cap against Turkey in 1986 QPR, then in the old First Division, gave David his debut in an away defeat at Newcastle in April 1985.

Ardiles' offer of £110,000 brought him to the County Ground where the new right back/left back pairing of Kerslake and Paul Bodin replaced the previous regime of Dave Hockaday and Phil King. Always looking accomplished when attacking, a wing back role suited David and he

should surely have scored more goals from his forward forays. His solitary Swindon strike was in a 2-1 home win against Oxford in January 1992, so Swindon supporters will forgive his lack of proliferation. Added to the ten League and Cup goals that he had previously registered at Loftus Road they comprised the only goals of his professional career.

Wembley victory against Sunderland (followed by events that I prefer not recount) featured prominently in David's spell in Wiltshire and there was anguished gnashing of teeth amongst supporters when he was allowed to leave for Leeds United in return for £500,000 in March 93. After just eight games at Elland Road though, he returned to London on Sept 24 1993 when Spurs parted with £450,000. Injuries were cited as responsible for his reduced number of Leeds' appearances, but it's difficult to

see just how many more he could have made during May, June and July.

37 League outings followed for Tottenham where he linked up once more with Colin Calderwood and Mickey Hazard, and in November 1996 Kerslake made a re-appearance at the County Ground in an eight match loan spell before joining Charlton on a free transfer in August 1997.

If David's spell at Leeds was short, he comfortably beat his own record by signing on another free for Ipswich just two weeks later and by the end of 1997 today's visitors Wycombe were Kerslake's employers. A ten-match loan spell in Division Two which produced five wins and a couple of draws teamed him up with ex-Swindon striker Keith Scott but he just missed re-forming an old defensive partnership as Paul Bodin had

SOME MORE FAMILIAR NAMES REMEMBERED BY DAVE WALLIS THIS WEEK. DAVID KERSLAKE, A MARAUDING RIGHT BACK AND 'SUPER' TY GOODEN, A LEFT WINGER STILL PLAYING AT GILLINGHAM.

Ty Gooden holds his head

spent a five game spell at Adams Park two months earlier.

A third spell at Swindon came as a result of a free transfer in March 1998, when a further 24 games brought David's professional career to a close.

Left-footed Ty Gooden joined Swindon on a free transfer in September 1993. Wycombe had just started their first season in the Football League having claimed the Conference title 15 points clear of Bromsgrove Rovers, and Ty was perhaps surprisingly allowed to leave for Wiltshire. Three appearances and one goal at Adams Park during 1992/93 perhaps did not bear sufficient witness of his potential to Wanderer's manager Martin O'Neill.

An ex-Arsenal apprentice, Gooden developed into a player with a strong

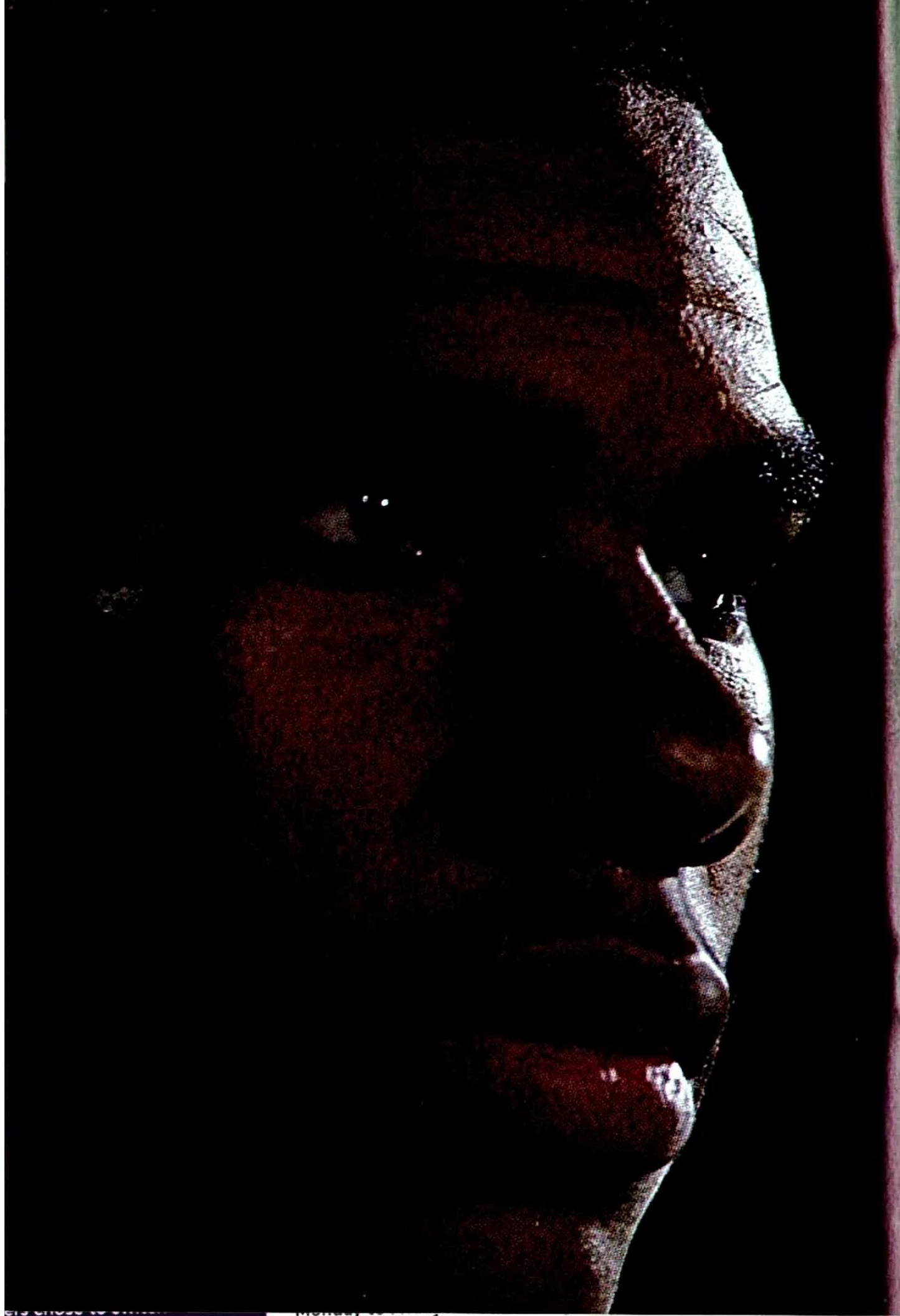
shot and accurate cross, and he slotted in on the left side of Town's pitch. Operating in midfield or at wing-back, he was to offer some of the options that Nicky Summerbee had on the opposite wing after Buzzer left for Manchester City in June 1994. Over a six-season spell at the County Ground, Gooden won a Division Two championship medal in 1996 and made almost 150 appearances, his most consistent spell coming between 1997 and 1999 when he missed just 15 of the 92 League games played.

Born in Canvey Island in October 1972 perhaps Ty saw the move to Gillingham as his roots calling him home, but the double departure that saw him and Ify Onuora leave Swindon for Priestfield in January 2000 was one designed to satisfy Town's bank manager more than team manager. Suffering a terrible

season, Swindon supporters felt they were seeing the prospective of Division One survival lessen as Gillingham's £75,000 was accepted in return for Ty's playing registration.

Sure enough, finishing third in Division Two Ty claimed promotion glory as Gillingham beat Wigan at Wembley in the Play-Off final to take one of the Division One places vacated by Town at the end of 1999/2000.

To the end of last season Ty Gooden had chalked up almost 60 appearances for Gillingham as the club established themselves as consistent First Division campaigners. Injury this season has limited his appearances for the Gills, but always able to chip in with a goal or two, the Kent side will be hoping that Ty regains fitness to add to his career total of 14 strikes so far.



IFIL TOWER

WHEN JEREL IFIL JOINED US TWO WEEKS AGO AHEAD OF TOWN'S TRIP TO BARNSELY – THE YOUNGSTER BECAME THE FIFTH LOAN SIGNING TO ENTER THROUGH THE CLUB'S REVOLVING DOOR SINCE THE START OF THE SEASON.

Like those before him (Jimmy Davis, Luke Nightingale and Johnnie Jackson for example), few had heard of the youngster – yet his performances so far, however brief, suggest that he could be a very useful addition to King's squad.

A centre half by trade, Ifil was introduced to Division Two on the right hand side of Town's defence against Barnsley and after a sterling job, he showed a number of other attributes (ie his unbelievable speed) to his game last week at Tranmere.

Having come on for David Duke, Ifil bolstered Town's defence as they hung on to a slender 1-0 lead in the closing stages of the game. Not only that, but a rampaging run from one end of the pitch to the other in the closing stages suggests that he could also play a part in midfield too. Ifil attempting to cross the ball to Eric Sabin before Graham Roberts cleared the ball off the line. The run was impressive, but the fact that he could keep up with, perhaps even overtake Eric Sabin, caught the eye of the fans and his team mates alike. "My speed has always been an important aspect of my game

thankfully it comes naturally to me and I can get away with going forward when perhaps other defenders can't. The main thing for me though was just to get a taste of the action and it was great to be involved. It's frustrating watching on the side and so to get on was great. I feel as though I played a small part in what was a great win for the Club."

But Jerel is, in a way, accustomed to life in Division Two. The 20 year old joined Huddersfield at the back end of last season and helped the Terriers to a play off berth (they eventually lost out in the semi-final stage of the competition). Andy King, impressed by his performances, will be hoping that history repeats itself and that Town of the Swindon variety will be making it into the illustrious top six this time around.

"The atmosphere was absolutely incredible – I would love to experience that again. And from what I've seen (obviously I've only been here for two weeks) there's no reason why Swindon can't achieve that – there's a good bunch of lads here and they all want

Ifil in action for Huddersfield in the Play offs and right, at Watford



Ifil started his footballing life at Watford, joining the Club as an eager apprentice and signed professional terms from the Academy in February 2000. Ifil then became a regular fixture in the Club's reserve team, his speed and guile complimented by an assured first touch and confident manner. Yet despite his immediate rise from youth squad member to reserve team player – he failed to make an impact on the First Team and he was subsequently shipped out to Huddersfield on loan.

"It was a really valuable experience going up to Huddersfield. Not only was it my first taste of First Team football, but also in an environment when the pressure was really on. Huddersfield managed to sneak into the play-offs and I was lucky enough to be a part of that, the only down side was that we didn't make it to the final because it would have been great to play at the Millennium Stadium. But it was all good experience and it improved me as a player."

Back at Vicarage Road Gianluca Vialli came and went, yet under Ray Lewington Ifil has

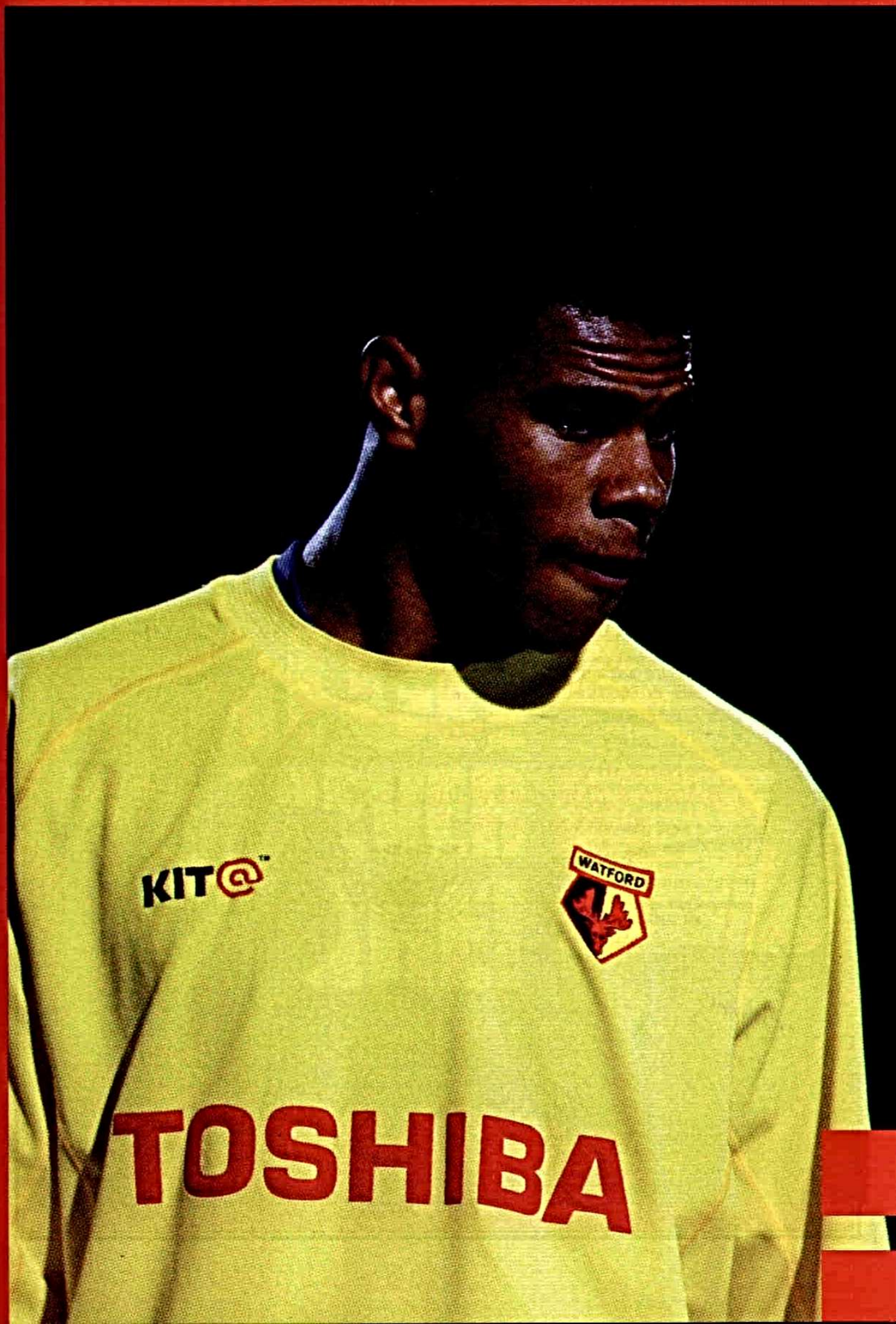
found all passages to the First Team similarly blocked, hardly surprising when the team is on a prosperous run of form as it is at the moment.

"Vialli promised me a run in the side before he left and then when he was replaced - I had to start all over again which was very frustrating! I've been in the squad and on the bench for the First Team, unfortunately I'm still waiting to make my debut, but to be honest with the amount of defenders in the team it's always going to be hard. I play in one of those positions whereby if you mess up you are in the limelight – as a result I've got to get some more experience which is fair enough."

For the time being Ifil is happy to ply his trade here at the County Ground. Still in the formative stages of his career, Ifil recognises the importance of First Team football no matter what level, and whilst at Swindon he will strive to do his utmost to ensure Town keep their prosperous run of form going. "It's a good move for me. I mean I was happy at Watford, but there is

no substitute for First Team Football and I have to use this experience to my advantage. Ray Lewington believes that by coming here I can improve as a player and if I can get in the team on a regular basis, and play well, then I can prove to him that I am capable of succeeding. I'm not naïve enough to think that I'll slot straight into Swindon's team, recent results have been great and the manager isn't going to change a winning line-up. But all I can do is give my all when given the opportunity, like last week, and try and negotiate my way in. Only then can I prove what I'm capable of."

It goes without saying that we wish Jerel the best of luck in his quest for First Team football, be it here or back at Watford at the end of his loan spell. But one thing's for sure, anyone that can keep up with Eric Sabin as Ifil did last week must be pretty useful – and if he can prove to be as lucky charm here as he was with Huddersfield last season – then I'm all for letting him stay on a more permanent basis! Now where's Mr Lewington's phone number...



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COMMERCIAL VIEW WITH MIKE SULLIVAN

GREENHAM, our Matchday sponsors, are regular guests here at the County Ground. They have 19 branches nationwide, those in Newbury, Oxford, Bristol and Cardiff being the closest to Swindon. Their trade shops are open weekdays from 8.00am to 5.30pm, and on Saturdays from 8.00am to 12.00pm for all your 'One Stop Shopping Needs'. Experienced staff are always on hand to give friendly help and service for the vast range of personal protection, hose, ducting and accessories, contractor's site equipment/industrial cleaning, hygiene and maintenance products.

The **FRAMEWORK STUDIOS** party today is led by their Managing Director, Mr. Martin Garnett, and his secretary Sue Garnett. Martin has been helpful to the Club in the framing of various Sporting items in our Executive Lounges and has just recently opened another of his properties in Europe. Despite being based close to Wycombe, Martin enjoys watching the Robins whenever he can. His secretary and wife Sue, also likes watching the Town in action and her ambition is to lead the first team out on the pitch and also be the club's physiotherapist. **CHAIRMAN SOFTWARE LTD** are one of today's matchball sponsors and are based in Wycombe. Their Managing Director, Mr. John Swift, has been a very good sponsor of the 'Chairboys' and always puts this fixture down as a must to attend. John has bought with him today his son Andrew who is a committed Tottenham fan and names Jimmy Greaves and Glenn Hoddle among his all time favourite players. Also joining us today in the Sponsors Lounge are **MADISON COMMERCIAL LTD**. When the Club appealed to all supporters in July for help, Mr. John Heygate-Brown, the Company's Managing Director came forward and offered the Club assistance by providing with some much needed stationary. Another special guest with us today is young **DARREN SIMMONS** from Southsea. He has come along to today's game with his grand parents Mr. Stuart Webb and his wife Sheila for a special VIP Day out at the Club. On behalf of the Club, I would like to wish Darren, his grandparents, and all of today's sponsors an enjoyable day and hope that, at 4.45pm everyone is happy with the final result.

I would also like to make a special mention to **Mr. Mark Austin, BSC Hons PHD BFHCBA Hons**, Director of Sales and Marketing of Wycombe Wanderers. I have known Mark for over ten years now and in that time I have never known him to buy anyone a Chinese meal. Both our Chief Executive, Mark Devlin and myself have been in the company of this superb figure of an athlete, at a local Chinese restaurant in Beaconsfield. It was during one of these visits that we both witnessed, for the first time, someone finishing the fourth course of his (and everyone else's) Chinese meal whilst everyone was still on their first course!!! Enjoy today's game Mark and the next Chinese is on you, but please allow us a half an hour start when the food is served.



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MAN OF THE MATCH

DANNY INVINCIBILE

V WIGAN ATHLETIC 25.01.03



Pictured here is Town's Man of the Match against Wigan two weeks ago, Danny Invincible. Danny was inspirational against the league leaders and scored the opening goal. He later presented matchday guests, New Media, with a signed football.

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BY **DICK MATTICK**

VINTAGE RED

DICK MATTICK TAKES US BACK A DECADE TO 1993 WHEN BOTH SWINDON AND WYCOMBE WERE ON THE UP...

For today's feature match I have taken the unusual step of selecting a friendly match. This is because the game played on July 31 1993 came at a time when both sides were on the up. Martin O'Neill's Wycombe had won the Conference the previous season and were two weeks away from making their first Football League appearance. This had prompted the manufacturers of subbuteo to produce a team in the dark and light blue quartered tops that O'Neill felt showed his team had really arrived on the football scene. Swindon also had cause to look forward to the new season as it would be the first in which they would play in the Premiership. With five first team regulars injured and with Glen Hoddle and Colin Calderwood having departed to join Chelsea and Tottenham respectively it was an unfamiliar team that ran out at Adams Park. Swindon started strongly however and Steve White, who had a benefit match against Bristol City to look forward to, put them in front with just 90 seconds played. Jan Aage Fjortoft, one of Swindon's expensive summer signings, twice went close to increasing Swindon's lead - firstly with a free kick and then with a header but both went narrowly wide. After twenty

minutes (in which Martin Ling described Swindon as "starting off like Brazil") they began to fall away and Wycombe came more into the game. They deserved their equaliser that came after 39 minutes. Fraser Digby came for a corner but failed to reach it and Matt Crossley headed home at the near post.

The second half started as well for Swindon as the first and this time it was Ling who knocked the ball home for his first goal since the previous November. Adrian Whitbread, a £500,000 signing from Leyton Orient made a sound start to his career with Swindon while the tireless Luc Nijholt from Motherwell looked the pick of the Swindon team. Swindon were missing full backs Nicky Summerbee and Paul Bodin and the lack of their accurate crosses limited the supply to the Town strikers. The final goal of the game from a man who was soon to become a Town striker: Keith Scott met a David Carroll corner to bring Wanderers level after 55 minutes. With both sides making several substitutions the game became a bit disjointed at the end, but both sides went home reasonably content. Swindon and Wycombe remained unbeaten in their pre-

season build-up, the Chairboys having held a top flight team to a draw.

A note on the line-ups is perhaps necessary. I have been unable to trace the Wycombe side for this game but imagine it was not dissimilar to the line up in their first League match, a 2-2 draw at Carlisle and have included this line up as it will probably bring back some happy memories for Wycombe fans. An interesting point in the Swindon line up is that White returned after being substituted.

Town: Digby (Hammond 46) O'Sullivan, Viveash, Middleton (Murray 67), Whitbread (White 85), Taylor, Moncur, Nijholt, Fjortoft, Ling, White (Maskell 46).

Wycombe: Hyde, Cousins, Horton, Kerr, Crossley, Ryan, Carroll, Stapleton, Thompson, Scott & Guppy. Subs: Langford & Hutchinson

Last Five Meetings:

Wycombe	2-3	Town	02/11/02
Town	1-2	Wycombe	11/09/02
Town	1-1	Wycombe	20/04/02
Wycombe	1-1	Town	27/10/01
Wycombe	0-0	Town	21/04/01



442

MARK HANRAHAN RETURNS WITH SOME FAKE BOOBS, AN UNDER-ACHIEVING CENTER FORWARD AND THE BEST (AND WORST) OF THE JANUARY SALES.

Whilst I sat enjoying the January transfer window's closure and subsequent flurry of last minute wheeling and dealing (complete with the all new and improved 'realistic' price tags), you could not help but wonder where it has all gone wrong for two of top flight English football's brightest products. More about their problems later – gimme the gossip!

Whatever happened to the promise of Darren Huckerby? Whatever he may be doing with his considerable potential, the Manchester City forward's future seems destined to be away from Maine Road following the signing of Leeds United's England striker Robbie Fowler. The fleet-footed Huckerby has been linked to a loan move to Nottingham Forest, or their local midlands rivals Leicester City and Coventry. It appears that a move to Scottish Champions Celtic may also be a possibility after Martin O'Neill reportedly made an 11th hour move just before the transfer window shut. Huckerby's agent was keen to stress that whilst a move is on the cards, the choice of destination was still far from concluded. "Further to reports in the papers, Darren Huckerby is making it very clear that he has not snubbed a possible move to Celtic FC, or indeed has yet agreed to join Nottingham

Forest on a loan later in the month."

After backtracking on his move to Man City, Robbie Fowler asked the Elland Road faithful to understand his decision in making the £3m switch, which could rise to £6m. The 27-year-old England striker made his debut and missed several chances to wrap up three pointers for the Blues in the defeat to strugglers West Brom. Fowler said the time was right for him to move in a bid to secure the regular first-team football his international aspirations require. "Everyone knows about some of the problems at Leeds and I don't need to add anything more, but I hope the fans there will realise that leaving wasn't a decision I took lightly - as I showed when I first said no to City. I was at Liverpool for 15 years, and I felt I didn't let the fans down, and I didn't want to let the fans down at Leeds either."

Sergei Rebrov finally ended his North London nightmare by signing for Fenerbahce. The 28-year-old signed an 18-month loan deal and the Turkish giants have the option of signing him at the end of the loan period. Rebrov certainly feels he is swapping mid-table mediocrity in England for a genuine tilt at honours in Turkey. He clearly cannot wait

to get his floundering career kick-started after the disastrous £11 Million transfer to Tottenham from Dynamo Kiev. Despite rarely featuring in Glen Hoddle's starting line-up, Rebrov claimed "I am ready to take my place in the team, we will become champions at the end of the season for sure."

Steve McClaren thanked 'moneybags' chairman Steve Gibson for bankrolling his January scramble. McClaren is certain the signing of Derby's much sought after duo Chris Riggott, Malcolm Christie and the surprise swoop for Bolton's England striker Michael Ricketts can turn Middlesbrough into a trophy-winning force. Ricketts arrived for an initial £2.5 million from under the noses of Tottenham. England Under-21 internationals Malcolm Christie and Chris Riggott arrived at The Riverside on loan. McClaren also boosted his Brazilian ranks with the arrival of relatively unknown Brazilian international Doriva. Such a mid-season boost is just what the Boro boss feels the clubs needs to propel them on to major honors. "I always said I came here because this club is ambitious, and this shows that again, I want to build a squad here that can be a success for a great number of years. We always had

our eyes on Chris and Malcolm and when Michael also became available, the chairman made it happen. Complacency is the biggest evil in a football club but we have certainly got competition for places now."

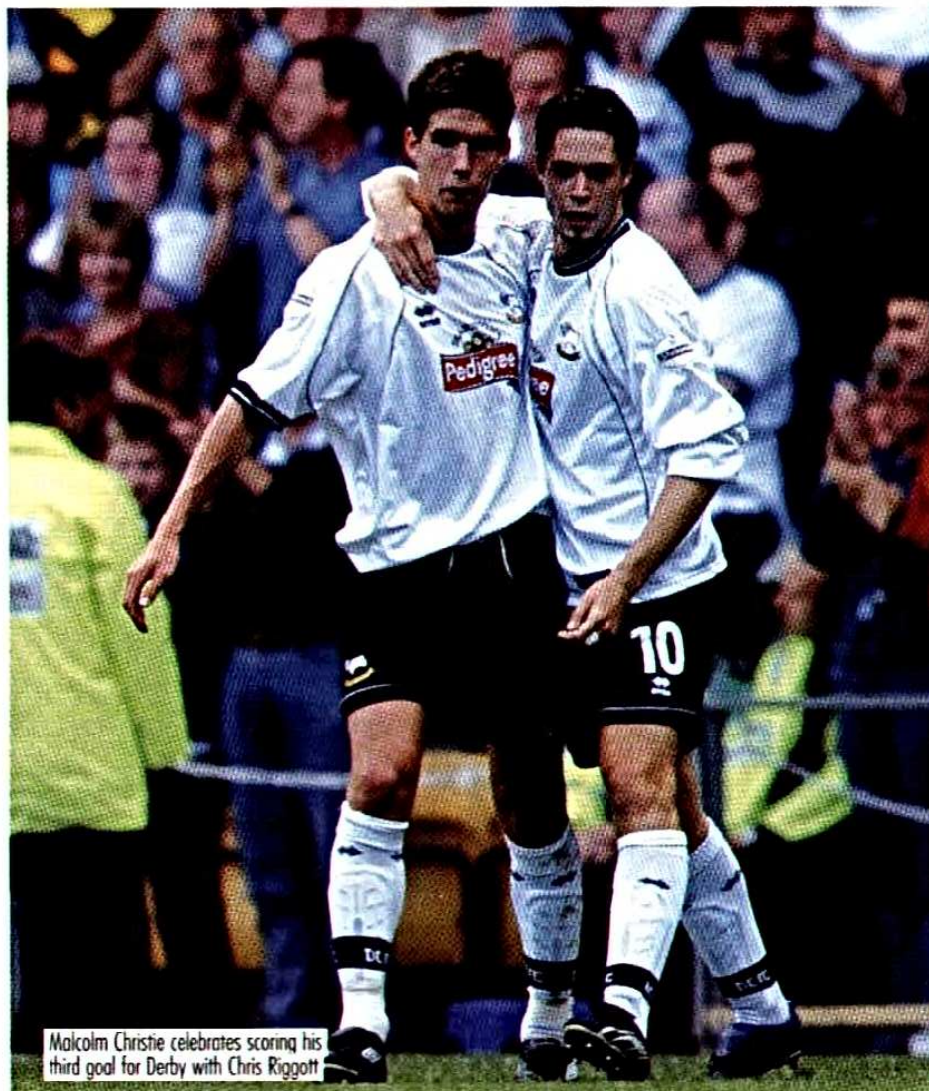
Arsenal are the latest Premiership club to be linked with a move for Brazilian World Cup star Ronaldinho. The 22-year-old striker had been linked with a summer move to Manchester United, but Arsenal now plan to scupper Sir Alex Ferguson's interest with their own £11m bid for the Paris St Germain star. Inter Milan have also been strongly linked with a move for Ronaldinho, whose freak strike sent England packing from the World Cup this summer, David Seaman's tears and all.

Finally, it truly is a sad state of affairs for both Paul Gascoigne and Mark Bosnich. Chelsea chairman Ken Bates has admitted that Mark Bosnich's sacking for a positive drugs test is a "tragedy" for the goalkeeper. Bosnich, who joined Chelsea from Manchester United, lost his case against unfair dismissal from the Blues last week. The Australian No.1 told a Premier League tribunal that Chelsea acted improperly for terminating his contract following his positive test for cocaine in November. Bosnich claimed he failed the test because his drink had been spiked during a night out in Knightsbridge. Bates however was quoted in the London Evening Standard "This whole case is a tragedy from everyone's point of view and so unnecessary. At the end of the day, Mark is in control of his own body and how he behaves."

Meanwhile, having failed to respond to a resurgent Gillingham's offer of first team football in Division one, former England superstar Gascoigne has finally washed-up at a club that currently sits bottom of the Chinese second division. Gazza has signed for the struggling outfit Gansu Tianma, on a one-year deal. I certainly raised an eyebrow at quotes attributed to the club's general manager following the midfielder's signing. "We picked him because he's a real professional football player. He has a good

sense of the game. He has good skills and experience, especially in the big matches. We think he could play a key role in the team. We'd like him to be the spiritual leader of the team," Zhong Bohong said last week. From a purely human perspective I dearly hope that the clearly

troubled Gazza finds peace somewhere and where better than China where he will be well and truly out of the English media's scornful glare. But lets be honest - 'Spiritual leader'? Are we talking about the same fake boob wearing, beer swigging Geordie here Zhong?



Malcolm Christie celebrates scoring his third goal for Derby with Chris Riggott



Darren Huckerby



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Let's hope our footballers fared better than our cricketers on Wednesday night, if only to shut Invincible and Edds up!

At the time of writing England haven't yet played their friendly game against Australia that was due to take place this week. However, I can tell you that in the build up to this game I am getting more and more nervous.

You see, I don't think Sven Goran Eriksson quite yet understands the English sporting psyche. After getting a battering in the cricket this winter, the sporting public desperately need to see us beat the Aussies convincingly at something. This need is even more desperate for those of us with Australian relatives who have had to put up with their crowing as Australia inflict humiliating defeat after humiliating defeat on our sporting stars. This will become almost unbearable if they manage to get a creditable result on Wednesday evening.

As this topic started to play on my mind at the weekend and haunt my waking hours I tried to take solace in the fact that we were playing them at football, and they've never even qualified for a World Cup. Then I started to think about some of their players. Plenty of their side have got Premiership/European experience and they have Viduka and Kewell up front. I am pretty sure that one of those two will score. I am just glad that Christian Vieri chose Italy over Australia or we really would be in trouble!

My frame of mind hasn't been helped by the announcement that England will play a completely different 11 in the second half; an experimental line-up of young players. Do you think that the Aussies will be experimenting or taking it easy in any way? They know what joy it brings down under for them to get one over on the 'Poms'. A good result for them would also be important in further raising the profile of the game over there, especially with the Cricket World Cup taking place.

Don't get me wrong. I understand that Eriksson has a fine balancing act to do. Especially with the FA Cup this weekend and European fixtures resuming next week. He doesn't want to fall out with any of



HELEN WINGROVE



BBC RADIO SWINDON

the top managers, and he has been a successful club manager so has some empathy with them. Some players are probably tired and do not want to risk injury at such an important part of the season. But is it just a coincidence that those managers who complain the most, Ferguson, Wenger and

Houllier are either French or Scottish and not English? Seriously though, I am sure there is no other motive than what is best for their players and their clubs. I am just looking for conspiracy theories to try and temper the enthusiasm of my relatives if we don't win the game.



FIVE OF THE BEST FOOTIE ADS

Normally found in large quantities around the time of a World Cup or any other major championship, football adverts have grown rather popular down the years. Such is the growing relationship between football and its commercial interests that companies such as Nike and Pepsi (both featured in this week's Five of the Best) have jumped on the bandwagon and have used a number of big stars to sell their product. We've selected what we believe to be five of the best – whether you agree or disagree, why not write in and let us know your thoughts?!

5 ADIDAS – SOCCER KISS

This advert encapsulates our love of football. Beginning with David Beckham on the golf course, Adidas feature Joe Cole doing 'keepey uppies' with a golf ball, Steven Gerrard playing football in the street as well as a number of other stars who, in one word, describe their love for the game. The ad finishes with Beckham aiming his free kicks at a golf flag – a sign of his, and others, dedication to the game.

4 PEPSI – FOOSBALL

Pepsi arrives in our top five with this little effort, a 22-sided Foosball game (the old classic table football game) between Manchester United and Juventus – the prize, a life-sized bottle of Pepsi. Two normal sized humans depart a room leaving the footballers to 'play ball'. Cue a war of words between Edgar Davids and David Beckham and a fantastic array of skills on the foosball table. Unfortunately the two humans

interrupt their game and collect the Pepsi bottle – sparking a blaze of abuse from Roy Keane. Great stuff.

3 PEPSI – CARLOS IN JAPAN

It had to happen, an advert that mocked one of the World Cup's host nations and Pepsi perfected it with this friendly effort featuring Roberto Carlos. The Real Madrid and Brazil defender is, of course, known for his banana free kicks and, whilst he is lining one up in this particular advert, he bows (in Japanese greeting fashion) to the wall in front of him. They subsequently bow back, leaving an empty net for Carlos to aim for. Genius!

2 NIKE – SECRET TOURNAMENT

This was perhaps the most famous World Cup advert of the lot – the cage football tournament featuring a plethora of the world's greatest stars. Set on boat in the sea, teams of three contested short games in a 'cage',



each winner progressing to the next round. The eventual winner would survive the ship – and all of this under the watchful eye of ‘master’ Eric Cantona. An actual tournament (staged in a similar cage) was held in London, but kids all over the world tried to recreate the skills witnessed in ‘the cage’.

1 NIKE – BRAZIL AIRPORT

In my opinion, the greatest football ‘ad’ ever made. I mean, how many of you have ever tried to copy the silky skills of the Brazilian national side as featured in this advert? Those cheeky chappies Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Roberto Carlos et al, upon hearing

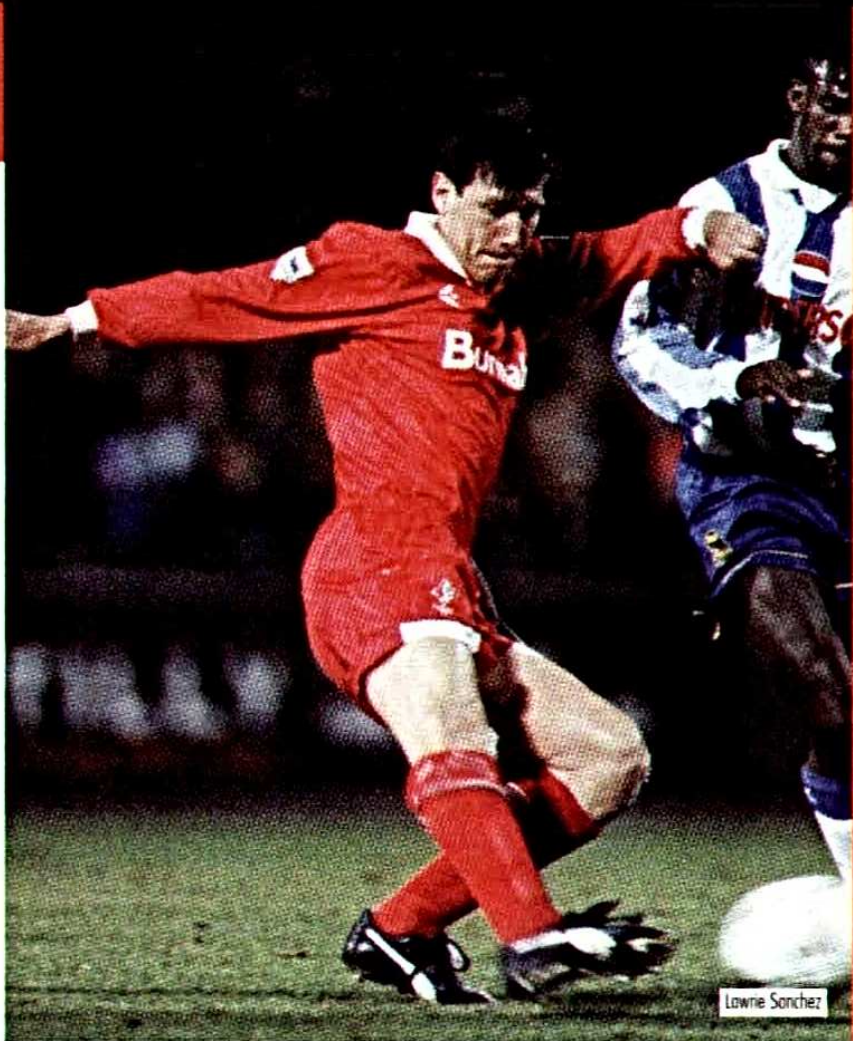
that their plane is delayed, weave, jinx, flick and turn their way past planes, trolleys, people and luggage as they look to entertain themselves, and bystanders. The ‘ad’ finishes with Ronaldo taking a ‘mock’ penalty and hitting the post (or in this case a trolley). And there’s also room for another cameo role for Eric Cantona!

While Andy and the lads deserve all the credit in the world for turning a potentially disastrous season into a possibly memorable one, I feel it is only fair that I reveal the major reason for our transformation.

His name is Owen Houlihan and he is the Evening Advertiser's rugby writer. However he is also a keen follower of Town and has accompanied me to several matches this season. Each time he attends the game it generally ends in a Town victory. But just before the New Year's Day clash with Cardiff he turned his hand to the prediction game. The results have been startling. Prediction after prediction has been spot-on, with his most recent triumph being the 1-0 win at Tranmere last week. So if the 'dream' should happen at the end of the campaign, I think a couple of drinks should be heading in Mr Houlihan's direction.

Seriously, it is fantastic to see everyone at the club buzzing at the moment. We all know there are still problems off the field which need to be tackled but life never seems quite so bad when results are going your way on the pitch. My own view is that we have an awful lot to do if we are to snatch sixth spot but with games against the likes of QPR, Plymouth and a last day clash with Luton still to come, it will certainly be an exciting end to the campaign.

But it's no good really looking beyond the next match and today we take on Wycombe Wanderers for the third time this season. I think our two games with the Chairboys so far have been significant. The Worthington Cup defeat at the County Ground on September 11 was a largely wretched affair and it seemed to sap what little confidence the players had left. Three days later we lost at QPR with the Cheltenham debacle following. But the 3-2 league win at Adams Park in November was a vital step on the road to recovery. Trailing 2-1 most unfairly, the lads refused to give up and victory duly arrived in injury time courtesy of a 'super Sammy' strike. Let's hope Sam can get back on the goal trail today



Lawrie Sanchez

JON RITSON



EVENING ADVERTISER

against a club he spent a very happy loan spell with a few years ago.

Today's game is also important as victory could open up a six-point gap between ourselves and 12th place - strengthening hopes of a top half finish at the very least.

Lawrie Sanchez has never been the most popular manager in these parts. His miserly bid for Danny Invincible a couple of years ago (as well as his less than complimentary comments about Gary Alexander) left him well down the County Ground Christmas card list. Let's hope he heads home with a long face today and that Danny Invincible is on the scoresheet.

Talking of Danny, he is one of the players at the centre of growing transfer speculation. Fans are starting to ask 'will he stay or will he go?'

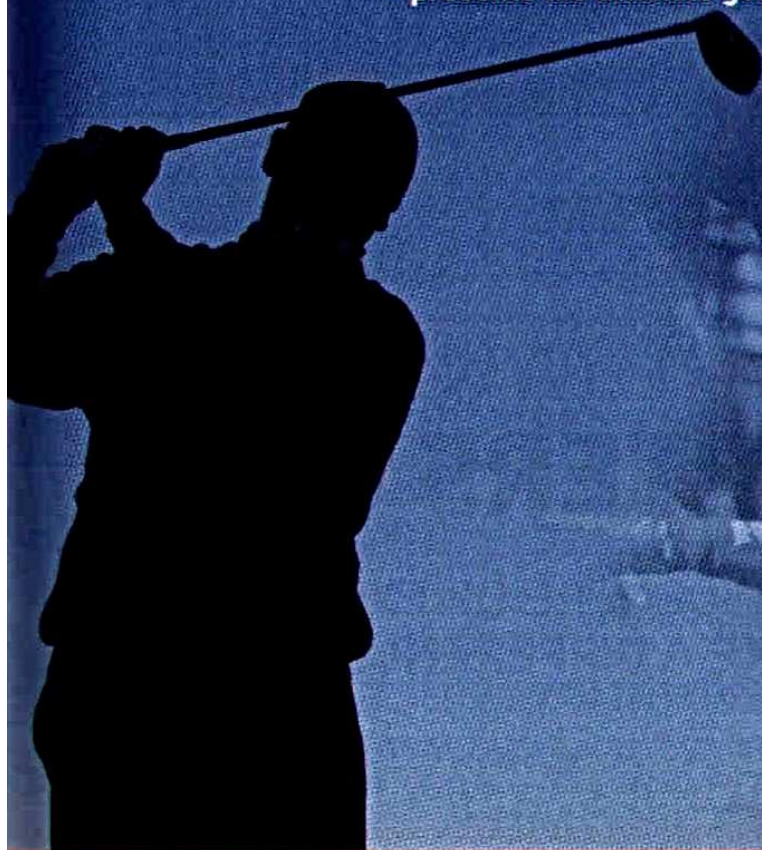
Other players too are yet to have their futures resolved. The next few weeks could prove to be very interesting.

After today's game we have a trip to Port Vale to look forward to. We certainly owe the Valiants after their smash and grab win here in September. But off the field issues are probably at the forefront of Vale supporters' minds at the moment. I'm sure we can sympathise with that - after we've taken the three points of course.

Anyway, get behind the lads today. Hopefully a few more of you have taken advantage of the reduced ticket prices. See you all back here for the visit of Queens Park Rangers on March 1. Now remember to cheer the team in red Mr Devlin. I'm sure you will. Enjoy the match.

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SAS Sponsored half time draw

The draw continues to go from strength to strength thanks to your support. In recent weeks we have bettered previous prize funds. Remember every time we pay a prize, a similar sum is available for the development of football at the County Ground.

The last draw saw the prize fund reach a season's best of £386, only marginally failing to reach our best ever prize at a league game over the past three seasons. The winner was Mr D. Smale with ticket number 803. The prize at the Blackpool match of £287 was won by T Brown with ticket number 187.

Recent events

Since our last notes we have had a busy time with the following events taking place:

1. A race night was held by the Vale & West Oxon group
2. A bingo evening (our first ever) was held in the Winners Lounge
3. A fan's forum was held in Cricklade, attended by Mark Devlin, Mike Sullivan and David Duke on behalf of the football

club. Watch out for a race night in winners on Friday March 7 starting at 8.00pm. These events are great fun and are designed to help our fund raising. Race sponsorship is available at a cost of £20 and individual horse sponsorship at just £5. Please contact Roger Bunce on 01865 820499 if you are interested in supporting the event through sponsorship of a horse or race. Entry on the night will be on the door and cost just 50p, which includes the programme for the races.

Disabled Group

The Disabled Group have also had a busy time, with Gareth Edds attending their January meeting and Matt Hewlett and Andy Gurney attending the recent February meeting. Next date in the diary is March 10 when hopefully Tom Watt (from Eastenders) will be at the meeting.

Junior Robins

The JR's ran a very successful trip to Stockport taking 43 to enjoy the game (what a game!). Today they have arranged a half-time penalty shoot-out against

rivals from Wycombe.

Away travel

The Away Travel Club have already had 16 fans book for their end of season holiday trip to Southern Ireland. The fans will be away for a week and if you wish to join like-minded fans of the Town on this trip, please contact the away travel office. The trip is open to all fans not just supporters club members.

The trip will return well before the play-offs should we reach them...

ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO BOTH MEMBERS AND NON MEMBERS.

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telephone 01225 866012

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ONE FOR THE FUTURE

This week we talk to First Team fringe player, Chris Taylor, on his successes with the youth team, and the prospect of lining up for Town's First XI.

Nickname?

I don't really have one at the moment, well not yet anyway!

Did you enjoy your involvement with the First Team?

It was fantastic to be involved and something I hope to be part of again soon. The lads were good with me when I was involved with the squad and really helped me to settle in.

Career Highlight so far?

Representing England twice at U15 level was pretty good, and also being on the bench for the Town First Team at both Barnsley and Tranmere.

Team Supported?

Manchester United.

Car?

I am not driving although I have my test coming up next month. I am reasonably confident, but I don't want to say I'll definitely pass in case I don't!

Music?

I like R&B and dance, all sorts of music generally though.

What Do You Spend Your Money On?

Clothes and going on holiday. I am trying to save for a VW Polo at the moment too.

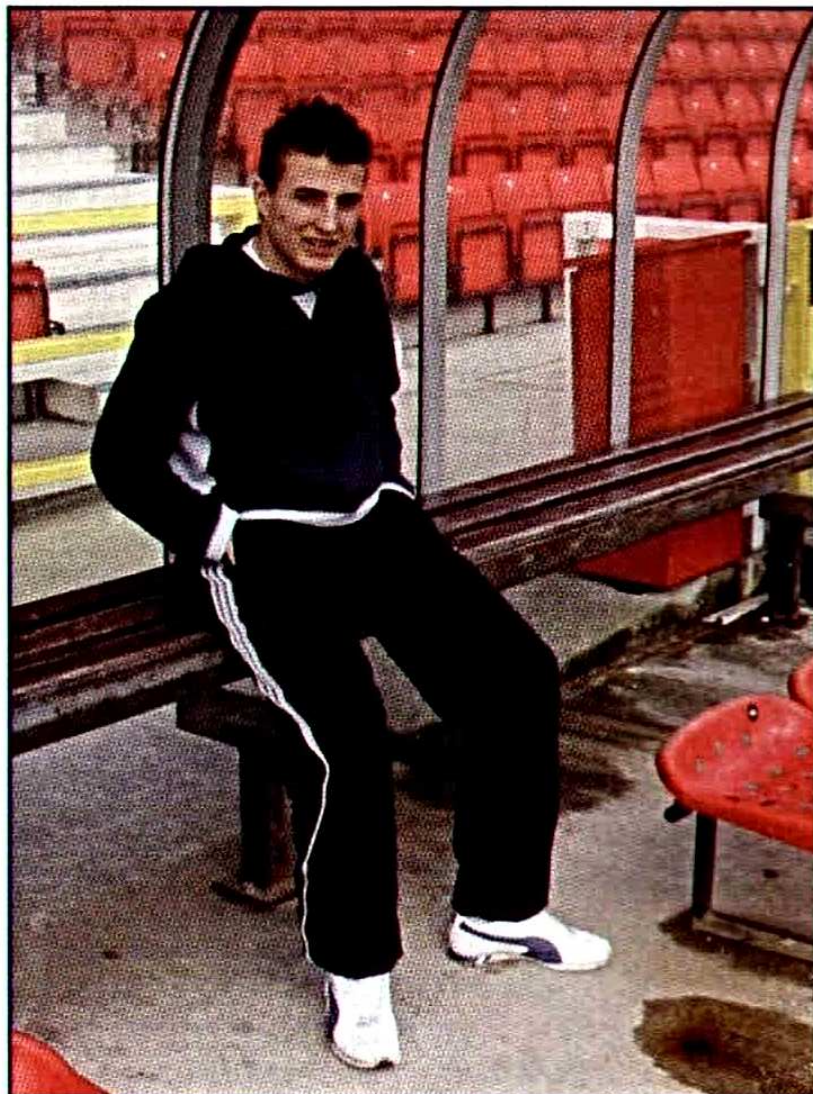
Ultimate Ambition?

To play in the Premiership.

Describe Yourself In Three Words

Laidback, calm and focused.

▼ Chrissy Taylor poses on the bench...



SAM'S BIT

WEEK TWO – PLAY-OFFS?

Sam Parkin returns with his second column of the season. On the agenda of our favourite hitman are the play offs and our two Aussies. Gareth Edds and Danny Invincible. Remember, to read the complete column – be sure to check out the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald – this version is just a fifth of his proper column!

Looking at the league table over the weekend the play-off places may just about still be in our grasp. As this excellent run of form continues each subsequent game becomes bigger than the last. After the 'gaffer's' cancellation of



his May golfing holiday. I also know a couple of ugly centre halves who are beginning to sweat over their holiday bookings. However, Las Vegas will still be there waiting for them after Cardiff, well we can all dream can't we?

This Saturday we entertain Wycombe Wanderers. As you know I spent three very enjoyable months on loan at Adams Park, but in the 2000/01 season, being a part of their fantastic cup run that year still ranks as my favourite footballing memory to date. I still have a good relationship with the people at the Club and their supporters who, up to now, have always given me a lovely reception. This may have changed since my brace against them back in November, but with just three points separating the sides it is a good chance of putting some daylight between us.

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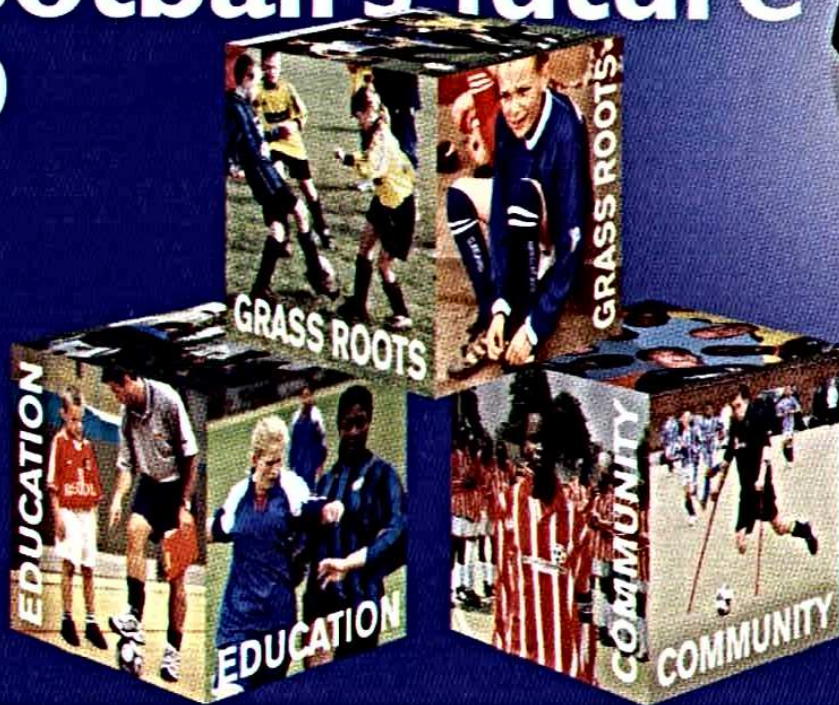
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GOOD AFTERNOON TO ALL OF OUR JUNIOR ROBINS.

JUNIOR ROBINS

We were a bit disappointed with the turn out of Juniors last Saturday for our last trip of the season at Tranmere Rovers. Those who did go saw a fantastic game and what a great result – keep up the good work lads! We know the match wasn't all that well publicised for you regarding reciprocal tickets, but we did try and reach as many of you as possible. It would have been good to have been able to do for you what we did for the Stockport game, but our funds are a bit low and so we're now looking ahead to next season when we hope to be able to run more trips of these for you.

Some time during the coming months you will be receiving all details regarding membership. There are some exciting things in the pipeline for you so keep an eye out for the postman and your notes in the programme.

Today we welcome Wycombe Wanderers to the County Ground and we shall take them on in a penalty shoot-out at half time, so let's hear it for the lads in red and white! Also today is the Juniors' 'Day Out at the County Ground' with Clive and Jono from the Football in the Community Office. I hope you all have a great time.

Finally - some belated Happy Birthday shouts: Happy Birthday to Emma Skinner who was 11 on the 3rd, Nathan Rhodes who will be 11 tomorrow, to Daniel Mindak who's 12 on the 19th and also to twins Robert and Thomas Dean - who will be 13 on the 28th.



ROCKIN'S POSTBAG

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO ROCKIN' ROBIN, MATCHDAY PROGRAMME, STFC, COUNTY GROUND, SWINDON ST1 2ED

Monsieur Robin,

I need your advice because my beloved Liverpool are having ze torrid time at the moment. Suddenly ze wheels have been falling off, being knocked out of the FA Cup by ten-man Palace was a big slap in the face for me – all my boys are misting and my once impenetrable defence is looking dodgy, and I feel there is worse to come – ze fans will be turning against me! What am I to do?!

Gerard Hula-Hoop, Liverpool FC.

Gerard,

On one hand I feel you must do something about Phil Thompson. Surely your vision must be impaired with that great conk by your side. It must be like watching a football match with Concorde in the dug-out. Still, at least his hair is more respectable these days and he looks less like Big Bird. In fact, that reminds me of a team I used to play for years ago. We were struggling for form and the manager decided to buy in a star striker. On the recommendation of his scouts he watched a turkey that had been playing part-time for his local side. Anyway, this turkey was dynamite and scored freely. So, the boss signed him and gave him a long-term contract and good wages, and made him substitute for his first match. Bringing the turkey on at half time, the boss was astonished to see the referee send him off instantly! He rushed on the pitch to confront the ref, only to be told that he had no option but to send him off, for a 'professional fowl'. Hal Now, Gerard, to be a Liverpoolian you must have a sense of humour, so with winning jokes like that one you could get the lads nice and relaxed before the match. Should you gamble on Michael Owen? Give Dudek the 'keeper's Jerzy? Bon chance!

Rocky



NAME: THE TOWN PLAYER

Simply send the correct answer in to us and you could win two free tickets to a Swindon league match of your choice!

Born: 17/1/75 Nottingham

Midfielder

VENISON STROBE

THE ROBIN THAT ROCKS!

by Alyn



01 TOWN OFFER 'LIFE-LINE' TO CHERNOBYL KIDS

Swindon Town Football Club today welcomes 13 children from Smilovichy Orphanage in Belarus to watch the lads in action this afternoon.

The children are spending a month in Wiltshire with local families in a visit arranged by Chernobyl Children Life Line.

Tony Brewer, Chairman of the Link, said that the trip will be a great opportunity for the kids. "Most people believe that the effects of the Chernobyl disaster, which happened in 1986, are receding," he admitted. "The truth is that 99% of the country is contaminated with radioactive fallout and the children eat it every day of their lives because the food is contaminated. This causes cancers, leukemias and heart disease and impairs the children's immune systems. The contamination will last for 20,000 years. Sick children are growing up into sick adults and will have even sicker children.

"One month in England will reduce radiation levels in their bodies and kick-start their immune systems, which will provide a lasting benefit to their physical and emotional health. The charity raises money to pay for airfares, but while the children are here they are looked after by the host parents.

"The children from the orphanage are experiencing the joy of living with loving families. They are breathing clean air and eating good food. The children are experiencing a different way of life and will return home with a greatly increased sense of self worth.

"Attending the match will be a great occasion for them. Photographs will be included in their photograph albums of the visit and I'm sure they will look at them every day."

TRIBUTE TO TOWN FAN WINIFRED

Swindon Town Football Club would like to pay tribute to life-long fan, Winifred Beasant, who died aged 101 two weeks ago. Winifred was an avid Town fan and was a season ticket holder until she reached the age of 97. She witnessed both the good and bad times at The County Ground including the Town's spell in the Premiership during the season 1993/94.

Winifred was the mother of former Town defender Ron Saunders and her late son-in-law was former Wiltshire FA Secretary Mick Parry.

Swindon Town Chief Executive Mark Devlin said: "We were very saddened to learn of Winifred's death and on behalf of everyone at Swindon Town Football Club, we would like to send our deepest condolences to her family."



BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A belated happy 50th birthday goes to Dale Lawrence, a regular guest of Non-Stop Promotions in the Lou Macarie suite. Dale has been a County Ground regular since the late fifties so remembers the club's fortunes at all levels. Although now living in Somerset he still makes the lengthy round trip to visit most home games. Brian Mathieson writes, "Thanks N, and I know I can't spell Mearrie, see it's different again! Have a good weekend. Kind regards and enjoy a great day."

MY SWINDON XI - VOCATIONAL TOWN

Young footballers are often told to safeguard their future by learning another trade. The following ex-Town team seem to have taken this to heart with natural alternative career paths already mapped out for them.

- 1 Mike Turner
- 2 Chris Turner
- 3 Joe Butler
- 4 Mel Nurse
- 5 Nicky Tanner
- 6 Ron Potter
- 7 Ian Miller
- 8 Roy Carter
- 9 Duncan Shearer
- 10 Chris Porter
- 11 Mike Carter
- 12 Eddie Painter
- 13 George Ndah (Congonese for Tree Surgeon)

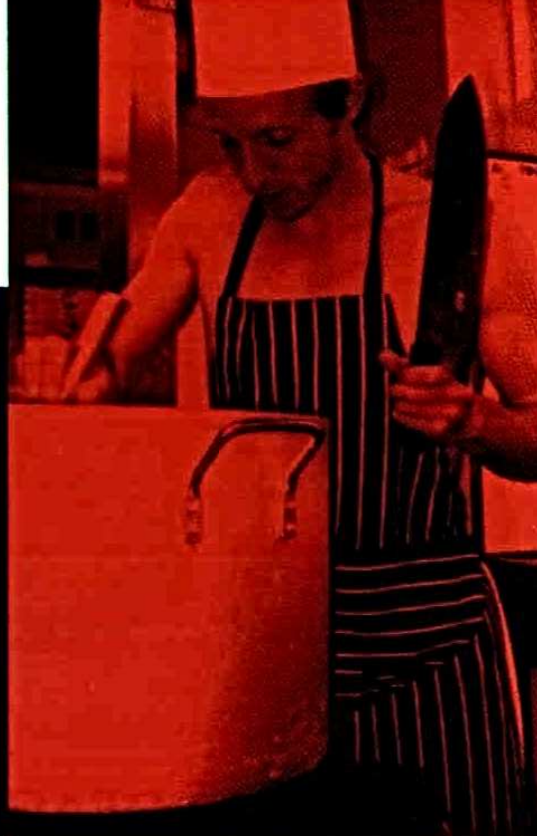
YOU ARE MY SWINDON

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

WIN TWO TICKETS! 25 YEARS AGO by Dave Wallis

Once again send your answer in to the highlighted question below - and you could win two tickets to a Nationwide League game of your choice here at the County Ground.

In February 1978, Town played their first game for over five weeks as the winter weather relented sufficiently to thaw and dry pitches. Who says we don't have a mid-season break in England? The scheduled game with Chesterfield was initially rained off on February 4 then snowed off on the 21st and again on the 22nd. The trip to Shrewsbury on the 25th proved fruitful as Swindon returned home with the two points courtesy of goals from Kenny Stroud and Chris Kamara. The clincher however was an own goal from defender John Keay who gifted the 3-2 win to Swindon. The result kept both teams in mid-table.

Three days later and Town were on their travels again, this time to Bury where another point was claimed. Bury top goal scorer Andy Rowland was kept quiet by Colin Prohett but an equally successful job was carried out by the Shaker's Billy Tucker on Chris Guthrie and new man Chic Bates as the teams cancelled themselves out for a 0-0 draw.

1 Bury's manager at the time had managed the 1973 FA Cup winning team. Who was he?

2 Which member of the Swindon staff left the club to take up the position of chief coach at Portsmouth on February 1?

3 The move prompted a backroom shuffle at the County Ground. Who was appointed assistant manager on the 16th to prevent him also leaving for Fratton Park?

4 And who was appointed youth team coach on 25th?

5 On February 14, an absolute legend of a manager turns down the opportunity to manage Blackpool until the end of the season. His quotes during his time at Liverpool are part of football history. Who?

Answers: 1 Bob Stokoe 2 Frank Burrows 3 Jack Smith 4 Jack Smith 5 Bill Shankly

THE NAKED CHEF

Turbo returns to the kitchen and this week - celebrates Town's recent form with a quick and easy pizza recipe.

NO. 16 TURBO'S PIZZA

1. You'll need the following: enough pizza shells for whoever's eating, pizza sauce (in which you can make your own below), your favorite toppings (chopped veggies, sliced meats, cheeses, etc.)

2. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Everyone puts sauce and toppings on their pizza shells. Cook up to two cookie sheets worth at a time for 15 minutes. If you have two cookie sheets put one on a high rack and one on a low rack. Swap racks halfway through cooking time. This will ensure even cooking.

3. For the sauce use 1 6oz. can tomato paste and 1/2C water -or- 1 14oz. can crushed tomatoes, 1tsp salt, 1tsp oregano, 1/4tsp garlic or onion powder, 1/8tsp pepper

4. Mix all ingredients, let stand for one hour.

5. Simply pour the topping onto the base and heat for longer if required. Sprinkle some cheese on top and job done!


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JIMMY FRASER, ON 01793 333724



Swindon Town's Soccer Centres

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO TODAY'S GAME AGAINST WYCOMBE.

The Soccer Centres have been in full flow for the last two weeks and standards have been, once again, superb. This week coming signals the last week before the half-term holidays and numbers are still at an all-time high, with 700 kids coming to our centres. To make sure your child gets in to the Centres after half-term, please ensure that you have booked for the following courses (on the right):

To book your place on the Swindon Town soccer centres you have to pay in full to your chosen leisure centre reception as soon as possible. The cost of the courses is £3.00 per session (sessions are 1 hour long). Non Swindon borough courses may differ, please check with your centre. All you need to do is make sure the kids have a full playing kit, shin pads, trainers and a drinks bottle- let us do the rest! Finally, the Soccer Centres are still on the look out for sponsors in order to support their sessions in terms of kit and equipment. If you are interested or would like any further information, then give us a call on 01793 333700.

Enjoy the game
Adam Collier

YOUR CHANCE TO PLAY ON THE COUNTY GROUND...

With the end of the season just a few months away now we still have one or two dates available in May for any company who would like to hold their Company football match on the County Ground pitch. The package includes the use of the pitch for a 90 minute game, official referee and two assistants, use of both the home/away dressing rooms, a post match buffet for up to 30 guests and a pay bar facility in the Executive Lounge. If you are interested and would like to know more details on the prices and availability please give me a call on 01793 333719.



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	4.00 - 5.00 pm	5 - 6 years
	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

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...
AND WE LOVE IT!**

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

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

When did you start playing football?

I have two brothers, Lewis and Byron and when I was younger they taught me to play football during the school holidays outside our house.

What about school?

I went to Eldene Junior School and played in the boys school team there. I now go to Dorcan Secondary School and when I was in year seven we had a girls team. The year after that we reached the final of the Swindon Schools Cup and played Wootton Bassett on the County Ground. We eventually won the final with a penalty shoot-out, although I missed mine, which was shattering.

How did you come to join Swindon Town?

My friend at school was Tara Loftis who was playing for Coleview Girls team, (now Swindon Town) and she got me to go along with her and train. I started playing in the Under Twelve team but I now play in the Under Fourteen seven-a-side team. We play in the Wiltshire County League and I have played every game this season so far.

What of the future?

I hope to carry on playing football and one day in the Premiership, with Swindon Town of course.



APRIL POLDEN

AGE 14

POSITION MIDFIELDER

All fixtures are subject to change without prior notification

STFC LADIES

SOUTH WEST COMBINATION LEAGUE FIXTURES 2002/03

TOWN'S LADIES HAVE PICKED UP FOUR POINTS FROM NINE IN THEIR LAST THREE AND HAVE MOVED UP TO SIXTH SPOT IN THE SOUTH WEST COMBINATION LEAGUE.

The Town travelled to face Newton Abbott and picked up a hard-earned point in a 3-3 draw. The home side took the lead before Clare Wheeler put Town level from the spot. Lucy Bailey put the Town ahead, but within a minute the sides were level. Diane George headed in a Pam Ashman corner but with almost the last kick of the game the Abbots equalised.

A visit to Reading to face The Royals is best forgotten as the Town went down by ten goals to three. Michelle Rich scored twice for the Town and Angela Green got the third.

Town then completed the double over Yeovil with a 3-2 home win. After a goalless first half, two goals in two minutes from Nikki Watts and Michelle Rich put the Town ahead and Town got the third when Nikki Watts coolly rounded the keeper to slot home.

Seven Town youngsters featured in the Wiltshire County Under Eighteen side that beat Sussex by six goals to one in the South West Counties Championship. Michelle Brown, Kirby Cliff, Laura Stallard, Nikki Watts, Lucy Bailey, Sam Quinn and Fiona Baldwin all played. The Town players were amongst the goals as Lucy Bailey got a hat-trick and Nikki Watts scored twice.

Tomorrow Town travel to Devon where they face Exeter City in the South West Combination League fixture. The two sides have not played each other before as City gained promotion from the South West Regional League last season. They have found life difficult in the higher division and are currently in eleventh place. Next Sunday, February 22, Town entertain Exeter in the reverse fixture. This game will be played on the Aldbourne FC ground and will Kick Off at 2.00pm.

Sun 18 Aug	Cardiff City	A	0-5
Sun 25 Aug	Aylesbury United	A	P-P
Sun 01 Sep	Plymouth Argle	A	2-4
Sun 08 Sep	Reading Royals	H	3-4
Sun 15 Sep	Clevedon Town	A	2-2
Sun 22 Sep	Portsmouth	H	0-2
Sun 29 Sep	Chesham United	A	1-0
Sun 06 Oct	Newton Abbot	H	5-2
Sun 13 Oct	Yeovil Town	A	P-P
Sun 20 Oct	Cardiff City	H	
Sun 27 Oct	Oxford United		1-2
Sun 03 Nov	Aylesbury United	H	P-P
Sun 10 Nov	FA Cup 2nd Round		P-P
Sun 17 Nov	Exeter City	H	P-P
Sun 24 Nov	Reading	A	P-P
Sun 01 Dec	Clevedon Town	H	P-P
Sun 08 Dec	Exeter City	H	P-P
Thur 12 Jan	Plymouth Argyle	H	P-P
Sun 19 Jan	Yeovil Town	H	3-2
Thur 12 Feb	Newton Abbot	A	3-3
Thur 19 Jan	Reading Royals	A	3-10
Thur 09 Feb	Yeovil Town	H	3-2
Sun 16 Jan	Devon	A	
Thur 26 Jan	Reading	H	
Thur 02 Feb	Portsmouth	A	
Thur 16 Feb	Chesham United	H	
Thur 09 Mar	Aylesbury United	H	

WE OWE PORT VALE A WIN FOLLOWING THE 2-1 REVERSE EARLIER IN THE SEASON AND AFTER LAST SEASON'S 2-0 VICTORY IN BURSLEM, WHO'D BET AGAINST US REPEATING THE SCORE? IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT MAKING YOUR WAY UP TO STAFFORDSHIRE, THEN WHY NOT FOLLOW OUR COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL GUIDE?

A ROUGH GUIDE TO... PORT VALE

WHO? PORT VALE **WHEN? SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22**

WHERE? VALE PARK **KICK-OFF? 3.00PM**

STFC TRAVEL CLUB: The Supporters Club coach will be departing Wootton Bassett (Coped Hall Bus Stop) at 09.30am, West Swindon (Ashington Way) 09.45am, the County Ground at 10.00am and Ermin Street at 10.15am. Adults will pay £12.50, Under 15s £11.00 whilst Supporters Club members get a £1.50 discount (upon showing card).

BY CAR: Leave M6 at Junction 15 and take the A500 north to Stoke on Trent. Continue straight across the two large roundabouts on the A500 heading north. After the second roundabout take the fourth exit sign posted Tunstall (A527). At the roundabout turn right (fourth exit sign posted A527 Tunstall, Longport Road). After 0.5 miles turn right on to the B501 (second exit, Newcastle Street) at the small roundabout. Carry on to the next roundabout and go straight across to the crossroads. Go straight across the crossroads into Moorland Road. Take the second left on to Hamil Road and Vale Park is on the left.

PARKING: The club will charge you £4 to use its car park and so you

may be better off seeking street parking off Hamil Road. Beware of congestion before and after the match.

TRAIN: The nearest train station is about one mile away from Vale Park. However, this has been run down over recent years and many trains no longer stop here. Therefore, the most likely Railway Station to use would be Stoke. This is about three to four miles away from the ground. To catch a bus from the station turn left and head towards Stoke Road, turn right and there's a bus stop across the road, opposite signal radio. Catching a number 24 or 25 will take you to Burslem when you're just a few minutes walk away.

FOOD AND DRINK: Many pubs in the vicinity are 'home pubs', but for those of you without your colours The Vine Inn off Hamil Road could be the way forward. The Pack Horse and The Duke of Bridgewater are two, more family orientated pubs.



Match Ticket Prices:

Adults £17.00

Senior Citizens £12.00

Students/Juniors £10.00



NEXT IN TOWN...



QPR

01.03.03 (3.00pm)



Cheltenham Town

05.03.03 (7.45pm)



Bristol City

19.03.03 (7.45pm)



Notts County

22.03.03 (3.00pm)



Huddersfield Town

12.04.03 (3.00pm)

Ticket Office Opening Hours

Monday-Friday 9.00am-5.00pm Match day (Sat and Wed) 9.00am-5.30pm Non match day Saturdays 9.00am-12.00pm

Telephone Booking

Lines are open from 9.00am weekdays **01793 333777**

On-line booking

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

NEXT PLEASE...

AT THE COUNTY GROUND



WHO? **QPR**

KICK-OFF? **3.00PM**

WHEN? **SATURDAY MARCH 1**

Should Town win today and next Saturday at Port Vale too, then the QPR encounter on March 1st becomes a real play-off 'six-pointer'. A far cry from when the teams last met when there appeared to be a chasm in class between the two sides – Langley and Gallen ensuring the Hoops' third consecutive victory over Town in the Second Division.

However, things have changed somewhat since September when Town endured what was their fifth consecutive defeat, their sixth coming just days later when King's side hit rock-bottom at Cheltenham. QPR on the other hand were riding high at the time and yet whilst they may have lost some of their consistency in recent months, they're now returning to the same kind of form with just one defeat coming in six games (against Tranmere at 'The Loft').

Unfortunately the 'Super Hoops' appear to be one of Town's 'bogey' sides and in the last three meetings, Town have shipped seven goals without reply. However, if Town are ever going to reverse their fortunes then this is surely going to be their time – Town losing just twice in the last 17 league games. And if Vauxhall Motors can do it then surely we can turn them over!

It hasn't always been this way however. Back in the heady days of the Premiership QPR were the only side that Town did the double over and who can forget the day Alan McDonald – a legend at both clubs –

deputised
'between the
sticks' in a
Division One clash?

This time around, with Fraser Digby back in Town's ranks (albeit in the office) Town will be looking to catch Rangers who currently occupy sixth place in the league. The key man to watch will be top scorer, Kevin Gallen, who currently has nine goals to his name. At the other end, QPR fan Sam Parkin will have fun negotiating his way around man-mountain Danny Shittu.



Kevin Gallen











Ian Holloway



FRONT COVER JEREL IFIL
PHOTOGRAPHY ACTION IMAGES

ODD **DENOTES SENDING OFF DENOTES SUBSTITUTIONS

							
			1	2	3	4	5
Invincible	Parkin ³	Sabin	Farr	Reeves	Edwards	Young	Davis
Invincible ²	Parkin ¹	Sabin ^{*1}	Farr	Reeves	Edwards	Young	Davis
Invincible	Parkin	Sabin	Farr	Reeves	Edwards	Young	Dykes
Football	Sabin*	Invincible	Farr	Reeves	Edwards	Young	Parkin
Salford	Parkin	Davis ¹	Farr	Reeves	Edwards	Dykes	Invincible
Salford	Parkin	Davis	Farr	Willis	Edwards	Young	Cobian
Durham	Sabin	Parkin	Farr	Willis	Hewlett	Young	Dykes
Salford	Parkin	Sabin*	Farr	Reeves	Edds	Young	Dykes
Rotherham	Parkin	Sabin	Farr	Edds	Edwards	Young	Cobian
Jarrow	Parkin**	Sabin	Farr	Miglioranzi	Edwards	Young	Dykes
Invincible	Parkin ¹	Sabin	Farr	Miglioranzi	Edds	Reeves	Young
Invincible	Parkin	Sabin	Farr	Edds	Young	Edwards	Reeves
Jarrow	Invincible	Sabin	Farr	Edds	Dykes	Cobian	Bampton
Invincible	Sabin ¹	Davis	Farr	Edds	Miglioranzi	Dykes	Young
Invincible	Davis	Sabin	Farr	Young	Jackson	Edds	Willis
Durham	Parkin ¹	Invincible ¹	Farr	Dykes	Sabin	Hewlett	Reeves
Salford	Parkin ¹	Sabin ¹	Farr	Robinson	Invincible	Edds	Willis
Salford	Parkin ¹	Invincible	Farr	Davis	Miglioranzi	Edds	Willis
Durham	Parkin ²	Sabin	Farr	Invincible	Edds	Willis	Miglioranzi
Invincible	Parkin ¹	Davis	Farr	Young	Edds	Willis	Miglioranzi
Young ¹	Invincible ¹	Parkin	Griemink	Duke	Parkin	Gurney	Hewlett
Invincible*	Sabin	Parkin	Farr	Edds	Willis	Miglioranzi	Young
Miglioranzi	Sabin	Invincible	Farr	Parkin ¹	Edds	Willis	Young
Salford	Parkin ¹	Invincible	Farr	Robinson	Edds	Willis	Young
Salford	Parkin	Invincible	Farr	Willis	Bampton*	Young	Hatfield
Invincible	Parkin	Sabin	Farr	Bampton	Edds	Willis	Young
Salford	Invincible	Parkin ¹	Farr	Sutton	Edds	Willis	Bampton
Invincible	Parkin ¹	Nightingale	Farr	Sabin	Edds	Willis	Marney
Invincible	Nightingale	Parkin	Farr	Sabin	Willis	Edds	Hatfield
Marney	Parkin ¹	Invincible	Smith	Sabin	Willis	Edds	Nightingale
Invincible ¹	Marney	Parkin ¹	Smith	Willis	Sabin	Edds	Nightingale
Football	Parkin ¹	Invincible	Farr	Sabin ¹	Nightingale	Edds	Willis
Rotherham	Parkin	Invincible*	Farr	Sabin	Edds	Nightingale	Willis
Invincible ¹	Parkin	Duke	Farr	Willis ¹	Edds	Sabin	Young
Miglioranzi	Duke	Invincible ¹	Parkin	Farr	Sabin	Young	Taylor
Rotherham	Invincible	Parkin	Farr	Ifil	Sabin	Edds	Taylor

NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO 2002/03

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
WIGAN	31	21	7	3	50	19	70	+31
CREWE	31	18	7	6	55	28	61	+27
CARDIFF	30	17	7	6	47	25	58	+22
OLDHAM	31	15	10	6	46	27	55	+19
BRISTOL C	31	15	8	8	54	34	53	+20
QPR	31	14	8	9	42	35	50	+7
BLACKPOOL	31	13	9	9	42	39	48	+3
LUTON	30	13	8	9	45	40	47	+5
PLYMOUTH	30	12	9	9	40	34	45	+6
TRANMERE	31	13	6	12	41	46	45	-5
SWINDON	31	11	9	11	42	43	42	-1
WYCOMBE	31	10	9	12	43	40	39	+3
BRENTFORD	29	10	9	10	33	32	39	+1
CHESTERFIELD	31	11	6	14	28	41	39	-13
PORT VALE	30	9	7	14	37	45	34	-8
STOCKPORT	31	9	6	16	42	51	33	-9
PETERBOROUGH	31	7	11	13	31	39	32	-8
MANSFIELD	31	9	5	17	48	66	32	-18
NOTTS CO	31	6	13	12	45	52	31	-7
COLCHESTER	30	7	10	13	31	43	31	-12
NORTHAMPTON	31	8	7	16	28	48	31	-20
BARNLEY	30	7	9	14	33	46	30	-13
HUDDERSFIELD	30	7	8	15	21	35	29	-14
CHELtenham	30	6	10	14	27	43	28	-16

APPEARANCES 2002/03

	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A
WIGAN	31	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0
CREWE	31	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
CARDIFF	31	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	1	0
OLDHAM	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BRISTOL C	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QPR	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLACKPOOL	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LUTON	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PLYMOUTH	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRANMERE	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWINDON	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WYCOMBE	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BRENTFORD	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHESTERFIELD	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PORT VALE	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STOCKPORT	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PETERBOROUGH	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MANSFIELD	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOTTS CO	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COLCHESTER	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHAMPTON	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BARNLEY	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HUDDERSFIELD	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHELtenham	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TODAY'S FIXTURES 15.02.03

Nationwide 1

Bradford	vs	Brighton
Derby	vs	Sheff Wed
Gillingham	vs	Grimsby
Millwall	vs	Reading
Rotherham	vs	Coventry

Nationwide 2

Barnsley	vs	Chesterfield
Blackpool	vs	Brentford
Crewe	vs	Wigan
Huddersfield	vs	Cheltenham
Luton	vs	Northampton
Notts Co	vs	Bristol C
Peterborough	vs	Cardiff
Plymouth	vs	Tranmere
QPR	vs	Port Vale
Stockport	vs	Oldham
Swindon	vs	Wycombe

Nationwide 3

Bristol R	vs	Bournemouth
Bury	vs	Leyton Orient
Exeter	vs	Boston Utd
Kidderminster	vs	Torquay
Lincoln	vs	Darlington
Oxford	vs	Carlisle
Scunthorpe	vs	Hull City
Shrewsbury	vs	Macclesfield
Swansea	vs	Cambridge
Wrexham	vs	Southend
York	vs	Hartlepool



SWINDON

Manager Andy King

WYCOMBE

Manager Lawrie Sanchez

✓ = PROBABLE STARTING LINE-UP

BART GRIEMINK ✓	1	MARTIN TAYLOR
GARETH EDDS	2 ✓	DANNY SENDA
DEAN MARNEY ✓	3	CHRIS VINNICOMBE
MATTHEW HEWLETT ✓	4 ✓	ANDY THOMSON
ADAM WILLIS	5	PAUL MCCARTHY
ANDREW GURNEY ✓	6 ✓	MARK ROGERS
KEITH O'HALLORAN	7	DARREN CURRIE
JEREL IFIL	8 ✓	KEITH RYAN
SAM PARKIN ✓	9 ✓	CRAIG FAULCONBRIDGE
STEFANI MIGLIORANZI ✓	10	
DAVID DUKE ✓	11 ✓	DANNIE BULMAN
	12	RICHARD HARRIS
	13	
ERIC SABIN	14 ✓	STUART ROBERTS
DAREN DYKES	15	JERMAINE MCSPORRAN
	16	ANDY RAMMELL
DANIEL INVINCIBILE ✓	17 ✓	ROGER JOHNSON
CRAIG FARR	18	BEN TOWNSEND
MATTHEW HEYWOOD ✓	19	
ALAN JUDGE	20	GAVIN HOLLIGAN
DAVID BAMPTON	21	
ALAN REEVES ✓	22 ✓	FRANK TALIA
NATHAN EDWARDS	23	
KEVIN HALLIDAY	24	STEVE WILLIAMS
STEVE ROBINSON ✓	25	MARTYN LEE
ALAN YOUNG	26	
	27	
STEVE SMITH	28 ✓	MICHAEL SIMPSON
CHRIS TAYLOR	29	
	30 ✓	STEVE BROWN
	35	LEWIS COOK
	36	JONATHAN DIXON

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Clarion
CAT ANDRILLI BOTTLE

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Programme Publisher

SPONSOR

KIT SUPPLIER

PROGRAMME PUBLISHER

FORM GUIDE

TOWN'S

Last 10 Home League Results

W-L-D-W-D-D-L-W-D-W

P	W	D	L	F	A
10	4	4	2	18	10

WYCOMBE'S

Last 10 Away League Results

W-L-D-D-L-D-L-W-D-L

P	W	D	L	F	A
10	2	4	4	9	6

LAST COUNTY GROUND MEETING

Wednesday September 11 2002

Swindon Town 1

Wycombe Wanderers 2 (AET)

MEN IN THE MIDDLE

Referee: M. Halsey
Assistant 1: J. Holbrook
Assistant 2: K. Pike
4th Official: R. Beeby

YOU BET!

Did you know that by having a punt on the lads via the club's official betting site, www.swindonbet.co.uk, you are making the club money? Did you also know that Town are currently 14/1 for promotion? And 'Super Sammy' 16/1 to finish the season as the league's top goalscorer? Visit swindonbet.co.uk and help your club (and yourself to some more money) today!

09068 121640

news updates, match commentaries
and all the latest ticket information
*Calls charged at 94p. at all times