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# SWINDONTOWN

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**Swindon, Wiltshire. SN1 2ED**

**Formed** 1881

**Stadium Capacity** 15,728

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

**Record Attendance** 32,000 v Arsenal 1971/72

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

**Most capped player** Rod Thomas: Wales 30

**Most goals in a season** Harry Morris 47 1926/27

**Chairman** Willie Carson

**Directors** Bob Holt, Willie Carson  
James Wills, Sandy Gray, Mark Devlin

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**Manager** Andy King

**Assistant Manager** Malcolm Crosby

**Youth Team Coach** Viv Busby

**Junior Robins/schools Project Manager**

Alice Wills

**Soccer Centres Co-ordinator** Jim Fraser

**Physio** Dick Mackay

**Team Secretary** Linda Birrell

**Youth Administrator** Karen Ainscow

**Sales and Marketing Manager** Mike Sullivan

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## EDITOR'S EYE

It may come as some surprise to you that today's game is the second of the two most eagerly awaited matches for me this season. I lived with a Port Vale fan for three years whilst at

University whilst today's visitors are supported by another close friend of mine - a keen marathon runner in fact. I will never forget last season's 4-0 drubbing, not because the game was memorable (because it certainly wasn't), but because I had to endure 90 minutes of hell sitting next to a smug Hoop. The 1-0 defeat was also hard to bare because, apart from a touch of class from Jerome Thomas, we deserved more from the game when in the end we got nothing.

So lads - for the sake of giving me a tiny bit of ammunition, let's turn the 'Super Hoops' over today or at worst, get a goal! Mind you, whatever the result I'll still remind Mr Brunt of the half marathon he's supposed to be running in next week - be careful how many burgers you eat this afternoon...

Finally, I hope that 'Super Sam' gets on the scoresheet against the side he supported as a kid. Last week he was telling me how much of a legend he was on the terraces at 'The Loft' - let's hope he won't mind sticking one or two past his own team!





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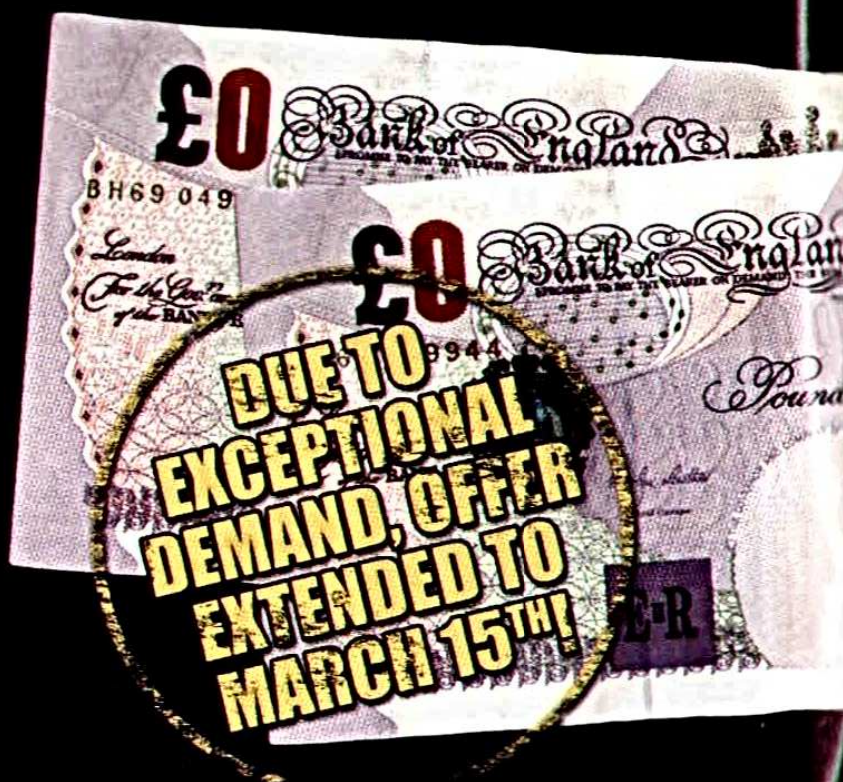
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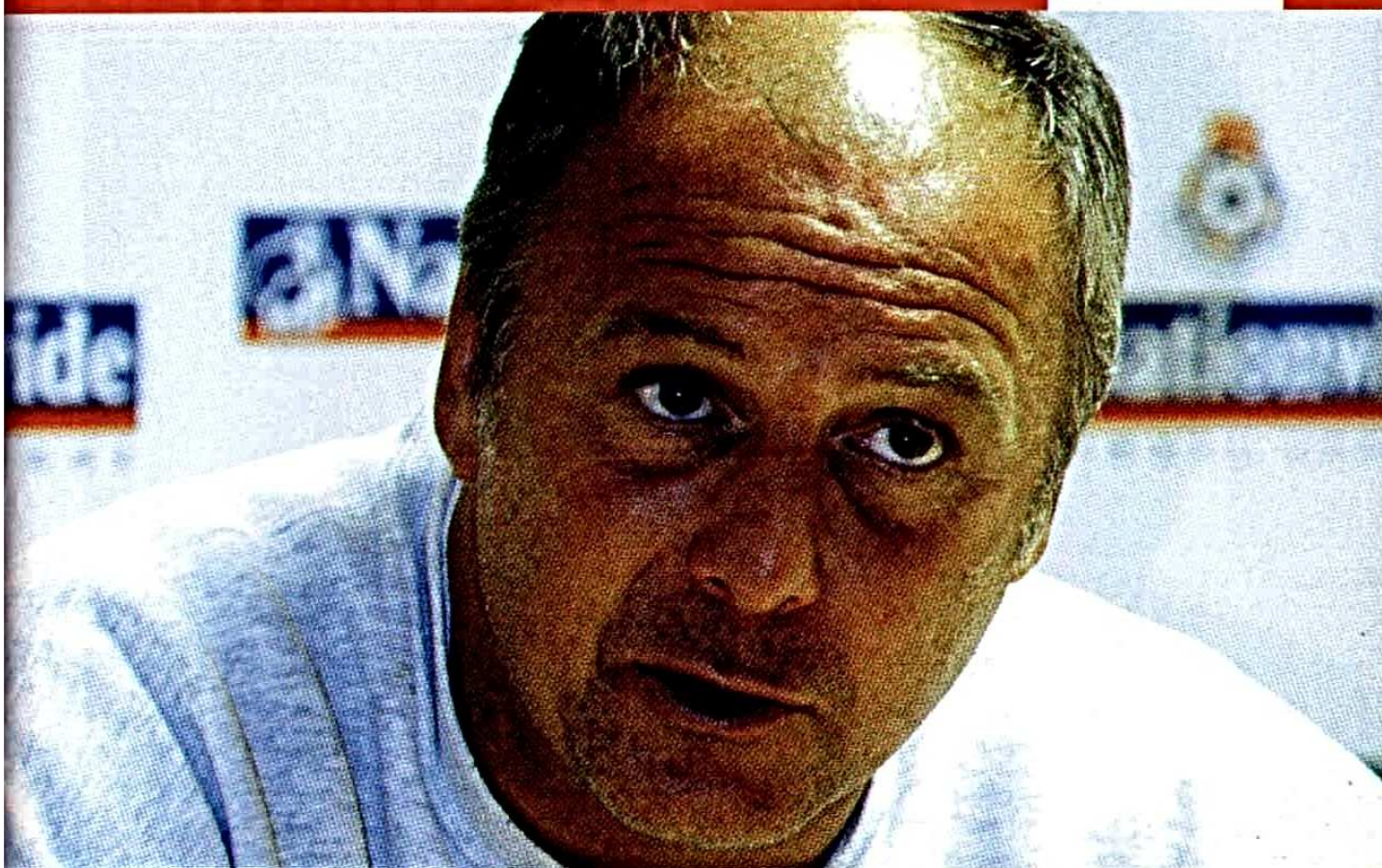
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# THE GAFFER

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**A WARM WELCOME TO THIS AFTERNOON'S GAME AGAINST QPR, A GAME THAT TWO WEEKS AGO I IMAGINE MANY OF YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN AS A KEY FIXTURE IN TERMS OF OUR SURGE TOWARDS THE PLAY-OFFS.**

Unfortunately that dream seems to have died in our last two games and it has been a frustrating couple of weeks. I must admit that I expected much more than one point from two games, especially when you look at the opposition we were facing, but that is what has happened and we must now return to winning ways.

I was more disappointed with the nature of our performances rather than the results themselves. Against Wycombe, for whatever reason we had seven or eight players playing under par and last week at Vale, we just didn't take the game by the scruff of the neck. As I always say you can sometimes get away with one or two performing badly, but when it's most of the team you are always likely to struggle. Wycombe, to be fair to them came here with a game plan and stuck to it and did a good job in preventing our lads from playing their usual game. But after what I hoped would be a one-off blip, I asked for much more from the side at Port Vale and to be honest, it was another poor game and against poor opposition. Defensively Vale weren't that strong, but then we never really put them under enough pressure. They weren't even a great attacking force and so to go a goal down, so quickly after half time put us under unnecessary pressure – the good thing is that we managed to come back quickly.

I just felt that had we taken the game to them more, and had we stepped up a gear we would have won easily – unfortunately we just couldn't find that gear. Perhaps more worrying was the lack of real chances. Danny had a good chance in the first half and Sam almost scored from the rebound, but it wasn't until Eric Sabin came on that we looked to



# THE GAFFER CONT'D...

Sam Parkin

get behind their defence. But I always try and take the positives away from the game and the fact is we didn't lose. There were those that were predicting a slump after the Wycombe game and we showed great resolve in coming back. The pitch made it difficult for both teams and so we couldn't play our passing game, but I think the team worked tremendously hard and to be fair, they were the better team. I was pleased for Sam – I had spoken to him in the week and he needed that goal, it's a great confidence booster for him and I'm sure he'll be looking to reach that 20-mark today.

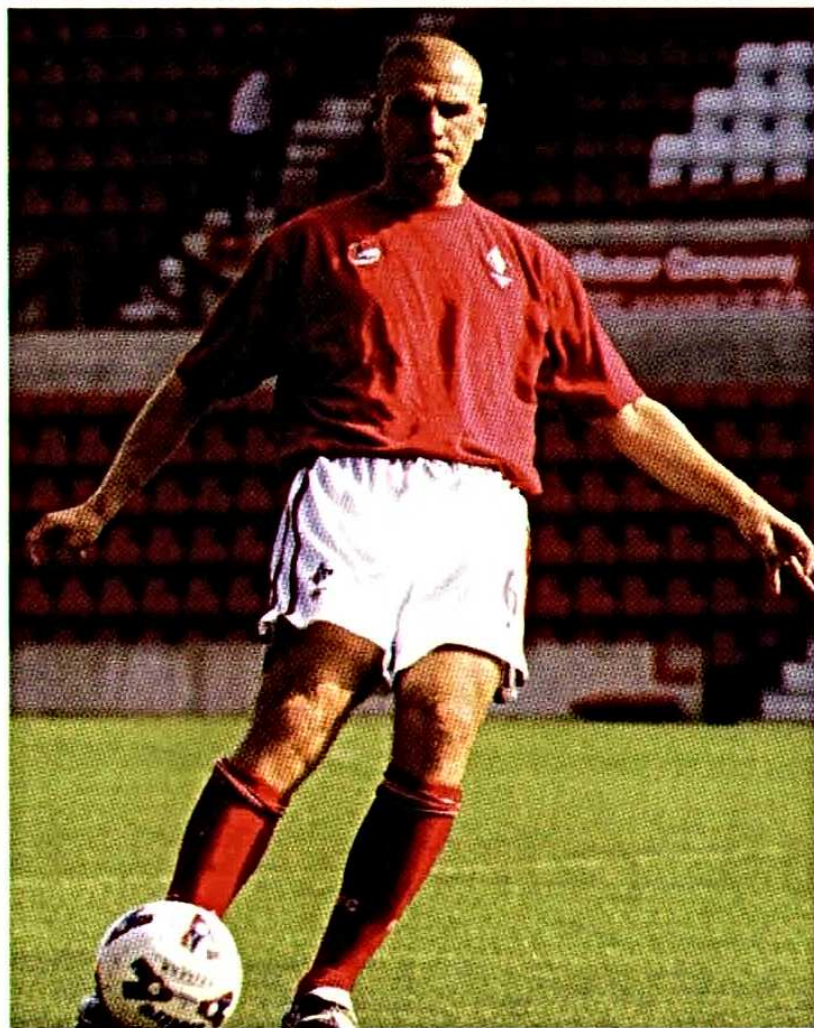
This afternoon we face a side in the top six and on a rich vein of form. QPR, as we know from our previous encounter are a strong side with great attacking prowess and we must play better than we have done if we are to compete with them. They are chasing the play-offs and have recently put a good run together, but if we are to harbour any aspirations of climbing the table, and that is all we can do now – then we must perform to a higher level.

Changing the subject slightly, this weekend I am proud to be wearing a Goal badge supporting child protection in football. Fellow managers up and down the country will also be wearing them and will also be taking the time to write about putting children first as part of an FA initiative. Goal is about doing things the right way, doing things properly. It's about allowing children to enjoy the game without abuse of any kind. That means bullying, physical, emotional or sexual abuse and neglect. Child protection is high on The FA's agenda and a priority at this club too. We already have someone responsible for child protection issues. The goal is to have someone at every club in the country aware of child protection and best practice, whether it's a Premiership Academy or a Sunday morning park side. Already over 45,000 people have attended The FA's Child protection and best practice courses. These people are mostly volunteers who care about the game. I'm lucky – I get paid for managing a football team. But like those who turn out to help run kids' sides every weekend, I care about the future of football. And that means putting children first.

I hope you will all get behind this campaign and for now, enjoy today's game.



# CAPTAIN'S COLUMN



## GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO TODAY'S GAME AGAINST QPR.

Unfortunately I write these notes on the back of a disappointing two weeks and our momentum appears to have slowed in terms of our climb up the table. It started against Wycombe two weeks ago – a game I think we were all confident of winning. Unfortunately we didn't play well at all and Wycombe punished us. I think the 3-0 score-line flattered them, but the fact of the matter is that we weren't on top of our game and it didn't improve at Port Vale last week. Again, I think many of us thought we'd beat Vale and so to pick up a draw is a case of two points dropped as opposed to one gained.

They are struggling at the wrong end of the

table and you can see why. I think our opponents today beat them 4-0 and to be honest, we really should have taken the game to them because they were weak defensively. Instead we didn't play very well at all and didn't create as many chances as usual – hopefully we can put that right today.

QPR, as we know from previous encounters are a strong side. In fact I think we're yet to score against them and I know the lads will be looking to put that right – especially Sam who, following last week's effort, is hoping to get one against his favourite team!

Get behind the lads and enjoy the game.

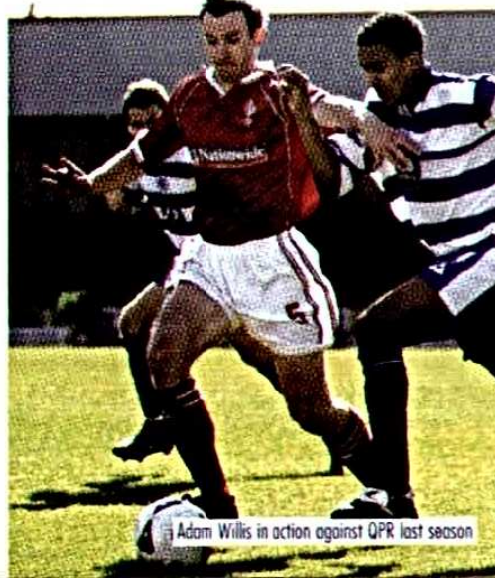


## DICK MACKEY'S TREATMENT ROOM

Welcome back to the County Ground this week following last Saturday's trip to Port Vale. It's been another fairly quiet seven days for us here in the Treatment Room, thankfully no new additions. And there has been some good progress for Adam Willis and Keith O'Halloran too.

Keith is very close to actually playing now and I wouldn't expect it to be too long before he gets a game for the reserves. Whether this week was too early enough or not I don't know – but he's certainly not far away which is fantastic news for him.

Adam Willis has also progressed well. Adam did a lot of walking on Monday and some uneven surfaces and as the week progressed, he worked harder in the gym with some upper body weights as well as in the pool. He did about 15 lengths before running forwards, backwards and sideways in the water. All in all it's good rehabilitation for a sprained ankle and he's coming along nicely.



Adam Willis in action against QPR last season



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Good afternoon and welcome to you all for today's game with Queens Park Rangers. On behalf of the board of directors at the County Ground can I also extend a very warm welcome to the directors, management, players and supporters who have made the journey along the M4 from Shepherds Bush.

I was brought up as a QPR supporter (my Dad took me to my first game when I was about eight) and then I worked at Loftus Road for about four years before taking up my current role with Swindon. This game, therefore, has a little bit more meaning for me than normal. I have great respect for David Davies, the Loftus Road Chief Executive, who I worked alongside for a couple of years, and who is doing an excellent job of managing the club out of administration and through into better times. Having watched at close hand the way David dealt with administration, it certainly assisted me in dealing with the situation I found when I joined Swindon in June last year.

Having said all that, I will be hoping for a Town win today as a good run between now and the end of the season will give the Club very positive momentum going into the close season which will help us with Season Ticket sales and set us up nicely for the new season. A stable football club and an improved league position is the very least our fans and players deserve for their efforts and support during what has been, at times, a very difficult season.

I note that the Alex Ferguson flying boot story continues to dominate the tabloid press. On that subject, I attended last week's very successful Sporting Club Dinner with Nobby Stiles where we were also entertained by a very funny comedian called Jimmy Bright. His version of events was that he had heard that Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger had kicked a boot when they got into their respective dressing rooms at the end of their FA Cup match. Ferguson's, as we know, flew across the room and hit David Beckham above the eye. The boot that Arsene Wenger

David Beckham.



## MARK DEVLIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STFC.

hit spun into the air and lobbed over David Seaman's head and fell just behind him!!!! On the subject of the Sporting Club Dinner my thanks go to Mike Sullivan, James Sparks and the rest of the Sales and Marketing Team for arranging such an enjoyable and profitable event and Mike informs me that sales for the two Denis Law dinners on May 14 & 15 are already excellent. These events do so much good for the Club, not only financially, but they are a tremendous way of hosting companies and individuals who may not have been to the County Ground before and who, hopefully will be back in the future.

You may by now be aware that Swindon Town Football Club and the County

Ground have been selected to host the FA Premier League Ladies Cup Final on Sunday March 30. We are very privileged to have been chosen and delighted that we can play our part in helping to build and develop the Women's game in England. As a coincidence we will have held our own Ladies Day at the game against Notts County on March 22, and having the Final here at the County Ground will give us great assistance in generating even more support from girls and ladies throughout the town and county for Swindon Town FC.

Thanks for your continued support. Enjoy the game and see you back here for the local derby with Cheltenham on Wednesday night.





**14.02.03**

## TOWN TO HOST LADIES CUP FINAL

Swindon Town are delighted to announce that The County Ground will be the venue for the final of this years Women's FA Nationwide Premier League Cup Final. Arsenal and Fulham will compete for the trophy. The two powerhouses in women's football beat off tough competition to make the Final, which will also be broadcast live on Sky Sports at 2.15pm, on Sunday March 30th. Swindon Town Sales and Marketing Manager Mike Sullivan said: "We are obviously delighted that Swindon Town have been chosen to host the FA Nationwide Women's Premier League Cup Final between Arsenal and Fulham. It is always good to be recognised and to receive an FA appointment such as this prestigious fixture is another indication of how the redevelopment of Swindon Town is being recognised in the football world."

**20.02.03**

## OFFERS IN CLUB SHOP

Swindon Town FC currently have various special offers available to supporters in the Club Shop. The first of these enables fans to purchase a full kit (shirt, shorts and socks) for the special prices listed below: Adult Full Kit, Normal Price - £61.97 - Offer Price - £39.99 - SAVING OF £21.98! Child's Full Kit, Normal Price - £48.97 - Offer Price - £29.99 - SAVING OF £18.98! The second offer is to buy any one DGI Squadwear item and obtain a second lower priced item for HALF NORMAL PRICE (offer ends today). Also, STFC 2003 Calendars are now priced at just £2.99. ALSO the Swindon Town Ticket Office can now take enquiries on the following Email address: [swindontickets@hotmail.com](mailto:swindontickets@hotmail.com).

**21.02.03**

## 'BES' SIGNS FOR A MONTH

Sheffield Wednesday left-back Jon Beswetherwick signed in time to be available for selection at Port Vale last Saturday as Andy King secured his target. The 25-year old has signed for Town on a one-month loan with the option of a further stay at The County Ground - with the paperwork expected to be concluded on Friday. To meet Jon turn to page 17.

**20.02.03**

## TOWN PLAYERS COACH THE LADIES

Four Swindon Town first team players appeared at Peatmoor School last week in the first of three coaching sessions as part of a Nationwide promotion. 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. Swindon Town took first team members David Duke, Matty Heywood, Steve Robinson and Eric Sabin to train the ladies team last week. The girls were treated to some basic coaching skills including passing, dribbling and keeping the ball before taking part in a game.

**25.02.03**

## GURNEY FEBRUARY FLAVOUR OF THE MONTH

The Haine & Smith Player of the Month Award (for February), in memory of Rupert Smith, has been awarded to Andy Gurney. 'Gurns' faced stiff competition from Stefani Miglioranza, Bart Griemink and Danny Invincible but members of the STFC Executive Club decided on the former Bristol Rovers player as the man to take the award. The Haine and Smith Player of the Month award has been kindly donated by Barry Smith, whose son Rupert tragically died in 2001. Rupert was a keen supporter of the club and attended as many games as possible.

**25.02.03**

## TOWN SCORE WITH NEW BOARD

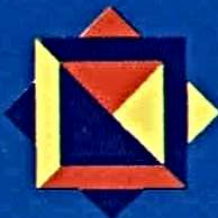
Swindon Town FC will have a new scoreboard in place for today's visit of QPR at the weekend. Town purchased a scoreboard from the old Wembley Stadium and after preparation work finished yesterday, the new board was put into place at the top of the Stratton Bank stand. The Club have been without a functioning scoreboard since the season 2000-2001 and Town now have a piece of Wembley history at The County Ground.





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# MATCH

Images courtesy of Chris Adams





## SWINDON TOWN 0

## WYCOMBE WANDERERS 3

RYAN 25 BULMAN 57 FAULCONBRIDGE 73

Former Town keeper Frank Talia lined up in the Wycombe Wanderers goal in front of the Town End and received the predictable vocals from the Town End, which was at near capacity. Town's faithful sensed an outside shot at the play-offs, however it was Sanchez's side that won all three points and in doing so, leapfrogged Town in the league table.

In the early exchanges Town had the better of possession but Wycombe created the first opening with a shot from Craig Faulconbridge that fell into the arms of Griemink.

Town enjoyed their first proper chance on 16 minutes when a neat ball from Miglioranza found Parkin whose acute inside ball found Invincible who cut inside into the box. Unfortunately his attempted shot was blocked by former Town player Andy Thompson, who performed well upon his return to The County Ground. On twenty minutes Matt Hewlett was fouled on the edge of the box to present Andy Gurney with a chance to put some quality into the box. The ball in was headed on by Reeves to Invincible who headed straight at Talia in front of the Town End.

The opening goal came from a goalmouth melee that saw Keith Ryan score after Steve Brown's header rebounded off the bar. Straight after Miglioranza skipped past a challenge before laying the ball onto Marney who played in Parkin on the right hand side. Parkin cut inside and saw his angled effort palmed away by Talia as the visitors held on to a one-goal lead.

Swindon began the second period attacking the Stratton Bank and Miglioranza saw his clearance deflected into the path of Roberts whose looping effort fell the wrong

side of Griemink's post for the visitors.

Soon after Wycombe scored their second goal, effectively killing the game off on 55 minutes. Following a Town attack, Talia rolled the ball out and a combination of passes found Stuart Roberts who fed Danny Bulman. The youngster coolly slotted past Griemink following some neat close control from just eight yards out.


However just a minute after the second goal Invincible rattled the crossbar with a 30 yard thunderbolt.

This got the crowd going once again and Town boss Andy King made a double change shortly after the goal. Matt Hewlett and Dean Marney were replaced by Eric Sabin and Jerel Ifil, who was making his home debut after impressive substitute appearances at Barnsley and Tranmere Rovers last weekend.

Invincible then saw his attempted lob just fall the wrong side of the post as Town continued to search for their opener. Sabin's control let him down on 70 minutes as he tried to play through Invincible.

Swindon went 3-0 down on 73 minutes as a cross from Brown found Faulconbridge whose header floated across Griemink and into the net at the back post. Goal scorer and former Coventry striker Faulconbridge was replaced by Holligan to a standing ovation from the visiting fans in the corner of the Arkell's stand.

With ten minutes to go substitute Jerel Ifil hit a stinging 30-yard drive that was well saved by Talia who did well to palm the ball away for a corner. The subsequent corner found Ifil but his shot found the empty seats in the Stratton Bank as fans headed for the exits.

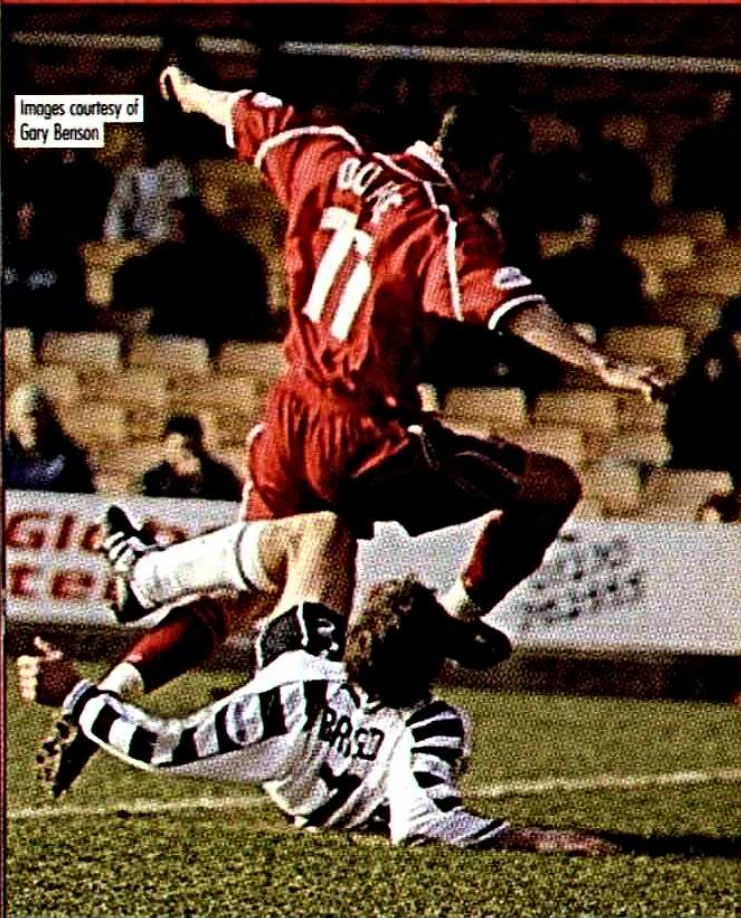
**TOWN:** Griemink, Gurney, Heywood, Reeves, Marney (Ifil 63), Miglioranza, Robinson, Hewlett (Sabin 63), Duke, Invincible,  Parkin **Subs not used:** Farr, Dykes, Edwards.

**WYCOMBE:** Talia, Thomson, Rogers, Johnson, Senda, Bulman, Simpson, Brown (Currie 82), Ryan, Faulconbridge (Holligan 78), Roberts (McSporran 66) **Subs not used:** McCarthy, Cook.



# MATCH

Images courtesy of  
Gary Benson





## PORT VALE 1

ARMSTRONG 46

## SWINDON TOWN 1

PARKIN 54

A case of two points dropped for Andy King's side last week as Town drew 1-1 at Vale Park. Sam Parkin's 19th of the season wasn't enough to ensure that Town returned to winning ways and instead, the 368 Town Fans went home feeling frustrated by their team's efforts - or lack of them.

A dour first half saw just one chance fall to either side and whilst an early Vale goal courtesy of Ian Armstrong threatened to ignite the game, there was little in the second period to suggest that either side deserved anything more than a point. Invincible, who looked bright in the opening stages saw a right-footed effort rebound off the post before Stephen Brooker forced Griemink into a reflex save from eight yards with a powerful strike.

There was just one change to Town's starting line-up with Jerel Ifil replacing Dean Marney on the right hand side of midfield. Ifil was quiet throughout and it was the home side that enjoyed the first chance of the game. Adrian Littlejohn, having joined the club on a short contract basis earlier in the week, had Vale's first effort when the former Sheffield United striker put in a teasing cross. Griemink, seemingly under no pressure, palmed the ball round the goal for the first corner of the game. At the other end Town controlled possession without really threatening and Town's army had to wait until the 18th minute for an effort on goal. Invincible beat two players and, having given himself a yard to shoot, hit a low effort against Vale's post. Sam Parkin collected the rebound but could only see his right-footed drive rebound over the bar for a corner. Town continued to edge forward with Miglioranzi controlling the play in the centre of the park. Duke looked to be a good outlet on the left and Hewlett threatened with a speculative drive from the edge of the area before Brooker came close for the Valiants. A cross from the right hand side wasn't cleared by Town's defence and Brooker, with three goals to his name this season, hit a fierce drive towards Griemink. Fortunately for

Town Griemink was on hand to push the ball round the post as the referee blew his whistle for half time.

The second half started catastrophically for the visitors as Ian Armstrong gave Vale the lead within 18 seconds of the re-start. Armstrong latched on to a through ball and his low shot beat Griemink from 12 yards. Town seemed stunned, yet had little in return and Vale could have made it two soon after. McPhee and Brooker linked well and McPhee hit a right-footed effort before Griemink pushed the ball away from danger. Just as Vale looked to be taking control of the game Town equalised with a scrappy goal from Sam Parkin.

Swindon grew in confidence, yet despite their growing pressure couldn't apply the final through ball. It all seemed laborious and when Town pushed forward again through Marney, they really should have done better. In the end the momentum was lost by the time Gurney supplied Miglioranzi with the ball on the edge of the box. However, Town's Brazilian midfielder did enough to force Goodlad into a low save.

Marney, on for Ifil looked dangerous - but across the board there was not enough urgency in Town's attack - only the introduction of Eric Sabin livening up the proceedings. The Frenchman should have done better when Parkin squared the ball back to him having cut in from the left. Unfortunately, from just seven yards out, Sabin mis-hit his shot and the danger cleared. Sabin broke clear again shortly afterwards when his pace did enough to beat Vale's defence. His low effort, perhaps not hit as hard as he'd like, was tipped around the post by Goodlad.

Town applied a lot of pressure as the game reached the final stages - but their afternoon was summed up by the best effort of the last five minutes when Miglioranzi blazed over from 15 yards.

**VALE:** Goodlad, Carragher, Collins, Clarke, Brightwell, Brisco, Durnin, Boyd, Armstrong, Littlejohn (McPhee 45), Brooker. **Subs not used:** Delaney, McClare, Paynter, Byrne

**TOWN:** Griemink, Gurney, Duke, Heywood, Reeves, Ifil (Marney), Miglioranzi, Robinson, Hewlett, Parkin, Invincible (Sabin). **Subs not used:** Farr, Beswetherick, Young





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## New Arrival

Jon Beswetherick



**Today gives us the first chance to welcome new loan signing Jon Beswetherick to the County Ground.**

Talking to us ahead of the port Vale game, Jon expressed his delight at joining the club. "I have enjoyed it so far. They seem to be a friendly bunch of lads and I am looking forward to the challenge ahead," he said. Jon joins us as a result of his opportunities at Hillsborough being restricted to just seven appearances for the First Team this season.

"Wednesday have spoken to me and have told me that I haven't got a future there. It's disappointing, but ultimately I am looking for first team football and my agent told me that Swindon were interested and that was it - I was up for it as soon as I heard."

Jon started his career at Plymouth Argyle and sampled success in the Third Division, something he is hoping to repeat here. "I started at Plymouth when I was 11 and came through the Youth Team there and was there as a first year pro until I was 24. Sheffield Wednesday then came in for me and thought it was a good time to move on, having just won the Third Division championship. And you're not going to turn down a move to Sheffield Wednesday are you?!"

"Having been a regular for four years to being on the sidelines has been frustrating though and I am hoping to be a regular part of the first team set-up here. I am not sure what the set up is like and whether or not I'll have to work hard to get a spot in the team - but I'm up for the challenge and will do my best."



## CRYSTAL PALACE 3

## SWINDON TOWN 1

CROSBY

**STFC line-up:** Craig Farr, Luke Garrard, Kevin Halliday, Nathan Edwards, Ian Herring, Jamie Cheeseman, Daren Dykes, Alan Young, Eric Sabin, Neil Crosby, Kyle Lapham. **Subs:** Steve Smith, Dave Bampton, Mark Draycott, Ian Oliver, Chris Hughes.

All fixtures are subject to change without prior notification

# IN RESERVE

## RESERVE TEAM FIXTURES 2002/03

### TOWN'S RESERVES RETURNED TO ACTION LAST WEEK AS THEY TRAVELLED TO THE CAPITAL TO FACE CRYSTAL PALACE AT THEIR BECKENHAM TRAINING GROUND.

Having won against Southend 4-1 the week before, Town were confident of further rising up the table, that despite playing the league leaders.

This was another of Town's re-arranged games – the fixture list having been affected by the awful weather over the winter period. Malcolm Crosby fielded a young side including youth teamers Luke Garrard, Ian Herring and Chris Taylor.

Town started brightly and played some good football against a Palace side that are currently top of the table by some margin. And Town took the lead after just 25 minutes when a through ball from Daren Dykes found Neil Crosby who fired home to put Town ahead.

Palace then equalised on the half hour mark and the home side went 2-1 up just five minutes before the break. Town were under pressure for long periods in the second half and Palace added a third before the final whistle.

Despite the defeat Malcolm Crosby was upbeat and he concluded that his youngsters were learning all the time – their mid-table position a reflection of how well they're doing. "The lads were unlucky to get beat 3-1. The game was pretty evenly balanced and I thought we played well throughout the team. Sabin and Crosby worked well upfront, Chris Taylor impressed in midfield whilst the young lads Herring and Luke Garrard also performed well for us. Alan Young played just behind the front two and that suited him in there.

"Palace were a strong side and they are top of the league at the moment and were difficult to break down. We have to take the positives out of the game and that is what we will do this week heading into our next game."

The next game was against local rivals Bristol City and a report of that game will follow in Tuesday night's programme. Ian Herring is set to miss the game due to suspension, the midfield dynamo has picked up ten yellow cards so far this season.

Wed 14 Aug	Wycombe W	Away	3-0
Wed 21 Aug	Millwall	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	1-3
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	







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

**09068 121640**

\*Calls charged at 60p at all times

The advertisement for Jungles Interior Plant Displays. The background is a dark green textured wall with a large, white silhouette of a tropical plant. The word "jungles" is written in a white, cursive font at the top. Below it, in a red horizontal bar, are the words "INTERIOR PLANT DISPLAYS" in white capital letters. To the right, the text "Living tropical plant displays designed for business" is written in a small white font. Further down, the services "Rentals", "Sales", and "Maintenance" are listed. At the bottom right, the website "www.jungles.co.uk", email "email: info@jungles.co.uk", and telephone "telephone: 01488 72321" are provided.

**jungles**  
INTERIOR PLANT DISPLAYS

Living tropical plant displays  
designed for business

Rentals  
Sales  
Maintenance

www.jungles.co.uk  
email: info@jungles.co.uk  
telephone: 01488 72321

The advertisement for Haine & Smith Opticians. On the left, a woman with long brown hair is holding a magnifying glass over her right eye. The background is split into a white top half and an orange bottom half. The company name "Haine & Smith" is written in a large, orange, cursive font, with "OPTICIANS" in small black capital letters below it. A blue circular badge on the right says "OFFER RUNS FROM 1st Feb to 31st March 2003". The text "Eye tests are" is in white, followed by "Half Price" in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, it says "To find your nearest practice, visit us at www.haineandsmith.co.uk" and "NHS eye examinations are free".

**Haine & Smith**  
OPTICIANS

OFFER  
RUNS FROM  
1st Feb to  
31st March  
2003

Eye tests are  
**Half  
Price**

To find your nearest practice, visit us at  
**www.haineandsmith.co.uk**  
NHS eye examinations are free





MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2003

## SWINDON 0

## TORQUAY UNITED 1

**STFC line-up:** Richard Alexander, Aaron Salter, Ben Pryce, Ashan Hulgate, David Edwards, Kirk Willmoth, Matty Bennett, Leigh Henry, Mitchell Wyatt, Chris Zebrowski, David Stroud. **Subs:** James Hambidge, Mark Jones, Leigh Mills, Lance Lewis

All fixtures are subject to change without prior notification

# UNDER 17'S



# UNDER 17'S FIXTURES 2002/03

SWINDON'S UNDER 17S FACED TORQUAY TWICE IN THE SPACE OF THREE DAYS LAST WEEKEND, THE YOUNGSTER WINNING 3-1 ON THE ROAD BEFORE LOSING IN THE RETURN FIXTURE 1-0 ON MONDAY.

Saturday's victory was encapsulated by a phenomenal hat trick by Mitchell Wyatt, the youngster bagging three goals against the home side's one in reply. Matty Bulman had little to do in Town's goal and all in all it was a great performance.

In stark contrast was Monday's offering – Town going down by the odd goal against a much stronger United line-up. Jim Fraser takes up the story, "It was a typical Monday morning performance, the lads seemed tired and there was no spark – as a result there were no clear cut chances. It was good to play a stronger side – it is a real test for our younger lads but to be honest, we just weren't at the races.

"We didn't really deserve anything more than what we got and the only time we threatened was when we brought on James Hambidge and Lance Lewis.

"I just hope that this game was a temporary blip and that we return to winning ways against Plymouth on Saturday. We were top of the league, but more important than that is the nature of our performances and that has to improve this week."

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	Torquay	Away	3-1
Mon 24th Feb	Torquay	Home	0-1

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



# MATCH ACTION



SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2003

**BRENTFORD 4**

**SWINDON TOWN 2**

POOK, CROSBY

**STFC line-up:** Steve Smith, Kyle Lapham, Ian Oliver, Dave Bampton, Luke Garrard, Chris Taylor, Michael Pook, Justyn McKay, Mark Draycott, Neil Crosby, Chris Hughes, Danny Taylor. **Subs:** Harry Hambidge, Mark Jones, Jamie Cheeseman

All fixtures are subject to change without prior notification

## UNDER 19'S



## UNDER 19'S FIXTURES 2002/03

SWINDON'S UNDER 19S WERE THE UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS OF SOME EXTRAORDINARY REFEREEING LAST SATURDAY, THE HOME SIDE WERE AWARDED WITH NO LESS THAN FOUR PENALTIES.

This game was the first of what is called the Merit Division in which the top three teams from the Football League Youth Alliance Leagues play each other, that despite Town not completing their fixture list. Viv Busby explains, "The top three teams go on to play each other so will now play teams like Cardiff and Northampton. However, the league only give you a certain date in which to play all your League Alliance games and because of the frost we still had three games to play!"

And Town started this fixture so well too, the visitors racing to a two-goal lead through goals from Michael Pook and Neil Crosby in a terrific first half hour. However, some sloppy defending and interesting refereeing contrived to allow the home side back in. Viv Busby continues the story, "I've never seen anything like it in all my years in football – four penalties! Out of the four I'd say two were legitimate, but as I said to the lads you can't blame the 'ref' for everything, we were poor at the back and there's no excuse for that.

"I told the players that if in any doubt, don't go in for the challenge because even if the striker beats you – they've still got to beat the 'keeper. I just feel sorry for Steve Smith in our goal because apart from the goals he had to pick out of the net, he had very little to do!

"At the end of the day two goals away from home should be enough to win any game, but then this was no ordinary game. I just hope we can return to winning ways this weekend."

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	0-0
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 ?

This week's where are they now is largely consumed by the news that former Town defender, Terry Fenwick, was sacked after just seven weeks in charge at Northampton.

The Cobblers parted company with the former Tottenham defender, leaving current assistant Martin Wilkinson as caretaker boss at Sixfields.

Fenwick had only been in the Cobblers hot-seat since the turn of the year, but has failed to register a win in his seven games in charge since succeeding Kevan Broadhurst. Town's acting chairman Ken Good said in an official club statement: "Directors are often criticised for not listening to the supporters but we know when something is not working, even if the manager had only been in charge for a short period of time.

"We have taken on board the fans reaction in making this decision. We will not be afraid to make whatever decisions we feel are in the best interests of the club. Although Terry may only have been in charge for a short period of time, nevertheless he had impressed us with his determination both to succeed personally and to see Northampton Town make the progress we all want to see. We wish Terry every success for the future and I'm sure he will go on to be a most successful manager elsewhere."

Other than that did anyone see George Ndah's goal for Wolves? He's still got it and, having run from way inside his own half he finished off in spectacular fashion helping his side to a 2-0 victory against Preston.



## FANS SEIZE CONTROL OF PORT VALE



Fans of troubled Second Division club Port Vale have taken over the club. Supporters' group Valiant 2001 won the battle to become the new owners after administrators announced it as the preferred bid.

The decision, which has to be approved at a creditors' meeting on March 17, allays Vale fears of a merger with Potteries rivals Stoke City. Stoke's Icelandic owners were among those looking to gain control of the club. That raised the spectre among Vale fans of a ground share at Stoke's Britannia Stadium, with an eventual merger of the two clubs. Administrator Bob Young, of Poppleton and Appleby, chose the supporters' group ahead of rival bids from Waterworld owner Mo Chaudry, Summerbank Management, business partners Steve Ball and Iain McIntosh, and Stoke's owners. Peter Walker from Valiant 2001 told BBC Radio Stoke: "We're very pleased with the announcement and the hard work has paid off so far. We want it to be a club owned and run by its supporters."



## TERRIERS TRY TO LIFT EMBARGO



Huddersfield Town are hoping to have their transfer embargo lifted to allow them to sign a replacement goalkeeper. A groin injury to on-loan Southampton keeper Scott Bevan has left Terriers boss Mick Wadsworth with only Phil Senior, who has started just one League game for the club, to call on. The Terriers are under an embargo because of help needed from the PFA to pay wages earlier this season.

They hope they will be permitted to bring in another keeper to help their fight against the drop. Chairman David Taylor said: "If Scott Bevan is out for four or five weeks then I am sure we would be able to bring in a back-up keeper. We do have an embargo but the FA could make particular concessions in extreme cases. We would have to make a case to the Football League and the PFA in order to bring someone in," Taylor told the club's website.





## ROBINS HOPING FOR PERMANENT ROBINS DEAL



On-loan striker Mark Robins is interested in earning a permanent move to Bristol City. The former Manchester United star is spending a month at Ashton Gate after finding himself out of favour at first division play-off hopefuls Rotherham, and after making a scoring debut against Cambridge in the LDV Vans Trophy on Tuesday he admitted that he is interested in a permanent move. "I am very keen to hold down a first-team place and help the team consolidate its place in the play-offs," he told the club's official website. "It is still early days yet and, as far as I am aware, I am only here for a month. Whether I stay on obviously depends on what happens here and how well Rotherham are doing."



## CHAIRBOYS TO WIELD THE AXE?



Wycombe striker Andy Rammell is one of 11 Wycombe players who are still waiting to hear whether or not their contracts will be renewed at the end of the season.

The veteran former Barnsley, Southend and Walsall man fears that he will be a victim of the club's cost cutting measures and knows that if that is the case he will find it difficult to find another club. "There's no money and there's so much insecurity at a lot of clubs. Clubs have to count all the pennies to see if they can keep players. It's bound to feed down to the players," admitted the 36-year-old. "There's 11 of us up in June and we have to just wait for the gaffer to sort the finances out. It's out of our hands but I can only see it getting worse. We have to take it on the chin." Manager Lawrie Sanchez has promised Rammell and the other ten players a decision on their futures before transfer deadline day.



# LOCAL

## FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

This week saw a win for Supermarine and Highworth – unfortunately Cirencester, Fairford and the 'Shriv' were not so fortunate.

Supermarine finally collected three points on Saturday when they recorded a much needed 2-0 home win over bottom club bottom club Racing Club Warwick.

Toby Clark opened the scoring on 62 minutes before former Swindon Town striker Paul Hunt wrapped up the victory with a 90th minute clincher.

Just down the A419 Cirencester Town missed out on a point at home to Evesham United, who came away with a 2-1 victory.

Highworth took all three points with a home victory over Bicester Town thanks to an own goal after pressure from Justin Miller forced a mistake in the visitors defence. Fairford Town could not break down the Brackley defence however as they only took a point at Cinder Lane. Shrivenham were beaten 3-0 at Harrow Hill. Purton defeated Headington Amateurs 4-1 in the supplementary cup.

Want your team covered? Then send in some details perhaps even a brief match report and pictures and we'll publish them on this very page!



# SPORTING CLUB DINNER

**"El Bandido" A Huge Success as Sporting Dinner Sells Out!**



▲ Town manager Andy King in a relaxed mood.



▲ Guest of sponsors Greenham line up for a pre-dinner photo



▲ Can you just sign there please Nobby?

Last week's Sporting Club Dinner at the County Ground was another roaring success. Nobby Stiles (nicknamed 'El Bandido' by a referee), compere Barry Williams and comedian Jimmy Bright entertained nearly 250 guests who, between them, raised more than £7,000 net profit for the Club.

Guests from nearly 20 companies packed the Winners Lounge for what was one of Town's busiest sporting dinners in recent years. And the trio of entertainers including World Cup Winner, Nobby Stiles, resident compere Barry Williams and comedian Jimmy Bright had the vast majority of them in stitches and between the auction items sold (including framed pictures of Nobby himself, George Best and Michael Owen) – they eventually fetched more than £3,500.

The Club would like to thank all those that supported the evening, including the companies that made it such a memorable event. We would also like to thank all the staff involved for making it such a great evening.

Also coming soon is guitarist Gordon Giltrap (Friday March 7). Tickets are now on sale in the Ticket Office for this unique event featuring one of the world's greatest guitarists.

For more information or to book a ticket for any of the up and coming events – contact the Ticket Office on 01793 333777.

**One of Nobby's old team mates, Denis Law, is the next visitor here at the County Ground. Denis will be here for two nights, Wednesday May 14 and Thursday May 15, in a row as guest speaker of two separate sporting dinners. To book your place or for more information call the Sales and Marketing Department on 01793 333718/9.**





▲ And this is how we won the world cup...



▲ Harry Fitchett wins a signed 1966 shirt in the auction



▲ Managing Director Mr Dave Reddihough and operations Director Mr Mike King are both presented with signed shirt by guest speaker Nobby Stiles



▲ Comedian Jimmy Bright in fine form



▲ Keith Lodge and Nobby Stiles pose for a photo



▲ The Collett family with the 1966 memorabilia prize from the auction

This evening was sponsored by Greenham

**GREENHAM**





## TODAY'S VISITORS

Loftus Road, home of QPR.



### THIS SEASON

**Ins:** Marc Bircham (Millwall), Nick Culkin (Man Utd), Paul Furlong (Birmingham), Brett Angell (Port Vale)

**Outs:** (Ben Askar (Laval), Marcus Bignot (Rushden), Junior Agogo (Barnet), Paul Bruce (Dagenham and Redbridge), Hamid Barr (St Albans City), Chris Warren (Bristol Rovers)

**Last five games:** WWDWD

**Odds to win promotion:** 8/1

(Odds courtesy of  
[www.swindonbet.co.uk](http://www.swindonbet.co.uk))

**Top scorer:** Sean Devine 8

### LAST SEASON

**Position last year:** 8 (Division Two)

**Biggest win:** 4-0 (v Swindon)

**Biggest defeat:** 0-4 (v Swansea)

**Top scorer:** Andy Thomson 21

**Most league apps:** Steve Palmer 49

### HISTORY BOOK

**Formed:** 1862

**Biggest win:** 9-2 v Tranmere  
(03/12/1960)

**Biggest win:** 9-2

**Most capped player:** Alan McDonald (Northern Ireland: 52)

**Most league goals:** George Goddard (172: 1926/34)

**Biggest buy:** Mike Sheron  
£2,750,000

**Record against the Town:** Town Wins 34, QPR Wins 39, Draws 22

**IT'S NOT JUST THOSE THAT SPEND THEIR SATURDAY AFTERNOONS INSIDE 'THE LOFT' THAT ARE ASKING THEMSELVES JUST WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO QPR IN RECENT YEARS.**

## QUEENS PARK RANGERS

Following a 'close-call' in 1998/99 in which a last ditch 6-0 victory against Crystal Palace contrived to see the Hoops avoid the drop, there were those that thought that the disastrous season may have been a temporary blip, and that the damage would be repaired as they looked to return to the heady heights of the top half of the table.

However, after a season of relative safety, any signs of survival and future prosperity were quashed a year later when, two managers, one caretaker manager and assistant manager later – the Superhoops slipped into Division Two. It was the first time in over 30 years that the club had plied its trade outside of the top two divisions.


Amazingly, unlike so many other Clubs that have since endured similar falls from grace, (including ourselves and the likes of Oldham, Luton and Huddersfield) the glory days weren't that long ago. In fact many a Hoops' fan will tell you that it wasn't so long ago that they were the highest placed London side in the country, and that in 1976 they were just 13 minutes from winning the league (three goals from Liverpool away at Wolves prevented them from doing so).

Yet quite where the West Londoners have gone wrong in recent years is open to debate, but what is clear is that the level of high wages forked out on underachieving stars contrived, not only to take the side down two divisions, but also threatened the very foundation of a club trying its best to keep up with local rivals, Chelsea. For too many years the Club from Loftus Road became embroiled in tales of off-field controversy and financial mis-management and whilst the Club may still be finding its feet in Division Two, at least financial security and clarity seems to have been achieved by its current management.

On the field Ian Holloway is doing his utmost to make sure that the Club he represented so valiantly as a player returns to whence it came. Joining Rangers from Bristol Rovers, Holloway could not prevent QPR from slipping through the relegation trap door in his first season. With Kenny Jackett installed as Assistant Manager, his side started last year's campaign brightly and they were rarely out of the top eight all season. However, inconsistency and a reliance on one man (Andy Thomson) to score the goals saw them miss out last time around – failure this year is unthinkable.

Amazingly, and despite another overwhelming sense of 'here we go again' following a run of 12 games without a win (in all competitions) before the new year, more than 13,000 saw them beat Port Vale last week. The victory saw them register another win in a run that has seen them lose just twice in the last eight and the fact that they're still attracting Division One – sized grounds speaks volumes for their loyal support. A win today will see them edge away from Blackpool in seventh place and they must be confident of victory – Town are yet to register a goal against them in their previous three encounters. Hopefully today will see a change in fortunes...



A group of football players in white and blue striped jerseys are celebrating a goal. They are huddled together, with some players having their arms around each other. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators. The players' jerseys have blue and white horizontal stripes. One player's jersey has the number 31 visible. Another player's jersey has the number 15 visible. The text "ANDERSON" is visible on the back of one player's jersey. The text "CROOK" is visible on the back of another player's jersey. The text "DPR celebrate's after Steve Palmer's goal against Tranmere." is in the top right corner.

DPR celebrate's after Steve Palmer's goal against Tranmere.

**In fact many a Hoops' fan will tell you that it wasn't so long ago that they were the highest placed London side in the country...**



## THE GAFFER



### IAN HOLLOWAY

Ian returned to Loftus Road in February 2001, taking over from the departing manager Gerry Francis with QPR fighting against relegation to Division Two.

Having made his senior debut as a player for Bristol Rovers back in April 1981, when he made a substitute appearance against Wrexham, he left in 1985 for Wimbledon before going to Brentford. He returned to the Memorial Stadium in 1987 under Gerry Francis and spent a further four years in The Pirates' midfield.

He followed Francis to Loftus Road in 1991 and spent five years at QPR, making 147 appearances and becoming a firm favourite with the Loftus Road fans, before returning to Bristol Rovers as player/manager in May 1996.

After a tricky start to his managerial career, Ian led The Pirates to the Second Division play-offs in 1998, where they lost to Northampton in the semi-finals, then narrowly missed out on a play-off berth in 1999/2000. Bristol Rovers were also struggling against relegation - in Division Two - when Ian was dismissed in January 2001, ending his third spell with his hometown club. Although he was disappointed, he was quickly given the opportunity to return to management, and facing a similar challenge at QPR.

#### Managerial track record

QPR 2001 Present P100 W35 L33 D32  
Bristol R 1996 01 P247 W90 L87 D70

## THE SQUAD

### NICK CULKIN

Goalkeeper who began his career at York City before Manchester United signed him for £250,000 in September 1995. Unable to break into the United side, Nick played four matches on loan at Hull City during the 1999/00 season and then spent the entire 2000/01 season on loan at Bristol Rovers where he made fifty four appearances. Returned to United for 2001/02 but then went out on loan again, this time to Scottish Club Livingston where he benefited from more first team football.

### MARCUS BEAN

Marcus came through the youth ranks at Rangers after first joining the Club as an eleven year old. His first team debut in August 2002 is one that he will want to forget though, as not only did Rangers lose 4-1 at Wycombe, but he was also sent off only eight minutes after coming on as a substitute.

### MARC BIRCHAM

Lifelong Rangers fan Marc joined Rangers on a free transfer from Millwall in July 2002. Marc was a Trainee at The New Den before he first broke into their team in the 1996/97 season when he made six appearances for the Lions. Established himself in the Millwall team at the start of the 1998/99 season and his energetic midfield displays also earned him call up to the Canadian National Team for whom he has now made thirteen full appearances and scored one goal.

### TERRELL FORBES

Versatile defender signed on a free transfer from West Ham in July 2001. Came through the youth system at

Upton Park but never made a first team appearance for the Hammers in his two seasons there. Made three appearances on loan at AFC Bournemouth in 1999/00.

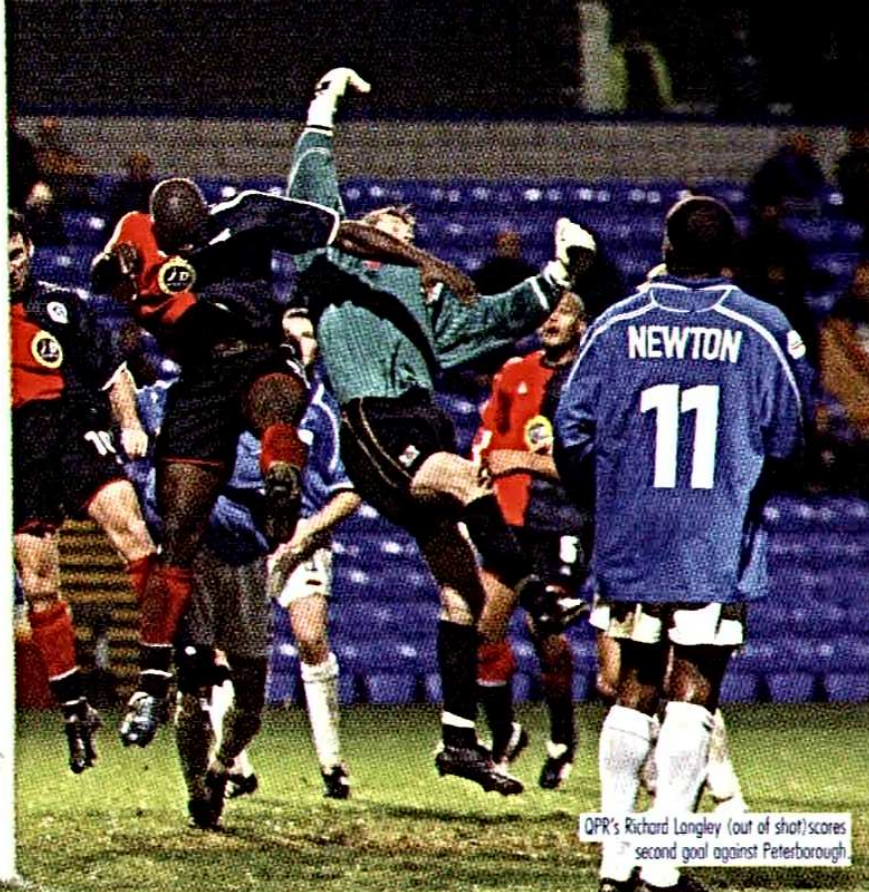
### PAUL FURLONG

Experienced striker who joined Rangers in September 2002 on a free transfer from Birmingham City after an initial loan spell at Loftus Road. Paul began his career in the non-league ranks at Enfield Town before Coventry City snapped him up for £130,000 in July 1991. A year later he moved on to Watford before Chelsea paid £2.3M for Paul in May 1994. Just two seasons later Paul was on the move again, this time to Birmingham City for £1.5M.



Former England Youth and Under 21 striker who rejoined Rangers in November 2001 on a free transfer from Barnsley. Kevin left Rangers at the end of the 1999/00 season to join Huddersfield town where he scored ten goals in thirty nine appearances for the Terriers. Barnsley signed him at the start of the 2001/02 season but less than four months later Kevin returned to Loftus Road where he had previously been brought up through





QPR's Richard Langley (out of shot) scores second goal against Peterborough

the Clubs Youth system.

## DANIEL SHITTU (Goal)

Powerfully built central defender signed in January 2002 from Charlton Athletic for an initial fee of £250,000, after previously spending two months on loan at Loftus Road. Daniel never played a competitive match for Charlton but made 19 appearances on loan at Blackpool towards the end of the 2000/01 season, scoring two goals. Daniel has now established himself in the heart of the Rangers defence and his impressive displays earned him an International call-up in March 2002.

## LEROY GRIFFITHS (Goal)

Striker signed from Hampton & Richmond for £40,000 in May 2001 after he impressed in a Reserve match on trial. Leroy began his career at Corinthian Casuals where he scored 23 goals in 49 appearances for the Ryman League Club. He then joined Hampton & Richmond where he

netted a further 22 goals in 58 starts.

## RICHARD LANGLEY (Goal)

Former Trainee who signed professional in December 1996. Has represented England at Under 16 and Youth level. Richard made his first team debut in October 1998 when he appeared as a substitute against Town, he went on to score his first goal for Rangers on his home debut against Barnsley three days later.



Local player who progressed through the Youth ranks and signed professionally on his seventeenth birthday. Strongly built striker who was a regular goalscorer during his youth team days, once scoring all four goals against Liverpool in a 4-4 draw in an Under 18 match. Richard made his debut for Rangers as an eighteen year old but will remember it with mixed emotions as it came on

the day Rangers were relegated from the First Division at Huddersfield in April 2001

## STEVE PALMER (Goal)

Highly experienced defender signed on a free transfer from Watford in July 2001. Graduate of Cambridge University, Steve joined Ipswich Town in August 1989 and went on to make 130 appearances for the Suffolk club, scoring three times. He joined Watford for £135,000 in September 1995 and during one particular season for the Hornets actually played in every position including goalkeeper.

## GINO PADULA (Goal)

Left back who was first signed by Ian Holloway for Bristol Rovers from Xerez in Spain in October 1999. Gino then joined Walsall a month later where he went on to make twenty seven appearances before joining Wigan Athletic on a free transfer in July 2000. Joined Rangers in July 2002 and made his debut in August 2002 away at Barnsley.



# THEM AND US



Born in Salford in November 1955, Brian Williams made his debut for Bury in a Fourth Division away defeat at Hereford on December 9 1972 while still an apprentice. Signing as a professional in April 1973, he operated in midfield and over 150 Shakers' League games were to feature Brian's name on the team sheet during his spell at Gigg Lane where he took to the field alongside other future Swindon signings in Andy Rowland and Ian Miller. Managed by another future Town recruit Bobby Smith, Bury clinched promotion from the Fourth Division in 1973/74.

In July 1977, Brian was tempted to London to sign for QPR in return for £70,000, a move that stepped him up to the top division and teamed him up

with Gerry Francis and Peter Eastoe. His stay at Loftus Road was to last less than a year and less than 20 appearances before Bobby Smith, now in the Town manager's chair, called to renew acquaintances and bring Williams to Wiltshire. Loftus Road received £50,000 of their initial outlay.

Brian joined a Third Division team that was full of confidence as Smith performed a round up of his old Bury charges. Rowland and Miller were also persuaded to join the club as money was found to bolster the squad in a way that would make Andy King green with envy today. Full reward was tantalisingly close as in 1979/80 Town reached the League Cup semi-finals and looked likely to take the step up to Division

Two. Adopting the affectionate nickname 'Animal', either through his physical similarity to the Muppet character or his style of play (take your pick), Brian made almost 100 appearances for Swindon before moving on to Bristol Rovers (with the Town promotion dream unfulfilled) in a swap with the Pirates' midfielder Gary Emmanuel in July 1981.

In four seasons at Eastville he took to the field 192 times before moving on to rivals Bristol City in July 1985, spending all his time in Bristol in the old Division Three. In July 1987 at almost 32 Brian moved up into Division Two joining Shrewsbury and finishing his career at Gay Meadow after an extremely impressive 642 League games. Alan McDonald joined Swindon when he was



WHILST SOME OF OUR 'MORE SEASONED' SUPPORTERS MAY REMEMBER BRIAN WILLIAMS, THE VAST MAJORITY OF YOU WILL RECALL ALAN McDONALD AND HIS GOALKEEPING HEROICS AT LOFTUS ROAD. THE TWO GO UNDER DAVE WALLIS'S SPOTLIGHT THIS AFTERNOON...

Alan McDonald, a legend at both clubs - and not a bad 'keeper to boot!

released from his playing contract from QPR in the summer 1997. Steve McMahon decided on a defensive old head to help steady the rearguard, and 6'3" Alan's aerial power had performed wonders for Rangers for whom he had signed professionally in August 1981 after serving an apprenticeship.

He actually made his League debut on loan at Charlton where he played the last nine games of 1982/83 and helped the Vallants avoid the drop into Division Three, but at the same time across London QPR were claiming the Second Division championship and breaking into the top division. Making the Rangers first team the following September Alan made five appearances which included games against Arsenal and Liverpool, all

along side another future Swindon defender Terry Fenwick.

402 League appearances and 13 goals would follow at Loftus Road as Alan became the first name on the team sheet. Fifth place finishes in the top flight were achieved in 1984, 88 and 93 until Alan suffered the first relegation of his career in 1995/96.

At Swindon McDonald initially teamed up with Mark Seagraves in the heart of defence but by October Craig Taylor had established himself as Alan's partner as Town fought to avoid relegation to Division Two. Appearing in 33 of the 46 League games, he marked his spell in Wiltshire with his only goal for Swindon in a 1-1 home draw with Stockport.

If a goal was rare for Alan, it wasn't much more common for Swindon who incredibly scored just ten goals in the last 24 games of the season but still finished four points and four places clear of third from bottom and relegated Manchester City. Finishing just one place above the drop zone that year were QPR.

The Belfast born defender gained 52 caps and perhaps the highlight of his career was his trip to Mexico in 1986 on duty for Northern Ireland where he played in the 3-0 defeat to Brazil. Alan was released from his contract with Swindon at the age of 35 at the end of his only season in the West Country, when he returned to Loftus Road to commence coaching duties.







# THE BOY FROM BRAZIL

**SO MANY PLAYERS FROM EUROPE AND BEYOND TRY THEIR LUCK IN THE ENGLISH GAME, WITH MANY OF THEM FALLING BY THE WAY SIDE NEVER TO BE HEARD OF AGAIN. YET THERE ARE SOME THAT SHINE AND WHEN STEFANI MIGLIORANZI LEFT THE SOUTH-COAST TO JOIN SWINDON IN THE SUMMER, TOWN CERTAINLY PICKED UP THEIR OWN LITTLE GEM AS NICK JUDD EXPLAINS.**

It can be a difficult decision for managers. So many players offering them their services, with many claiming to have a glowing background including experience with continental clubs. Just think of the list of names that have been and gone in the last few years; Kim Heisleberg, Mark Tuomelo, Antoine Van Der Linden, not to mention the countless number of unsuccessful trialists that have failed to impress in the last three seasons.

Yet every so often one comes along that outshines the rest and based upon his efforts this season, Stefani Miglioranzi seems to be such a case. Strong, elegant and with time on the ball that others can only dream of – he's been nothing short of a revelation in Andy King's midfield.

Yet when you consider 'Mig's' sporting and cultural upbringing it is easy to see why he plays the way he does. With an Italian passport and a father that once played with Rivelino back in Brazil – it's

hardly surprising to see why Stef's excelled since coming to England.

"My Father was a good player but unfortunately his career was cut short by a knee injury. He started playing for our hometown club, Caldense, before moving on to Corinthians for a short while. Of course Rivelino was there at the time, but unfortunately my Dad returned to Caldense, partly because he wanted to be with my Mother. He then picked up an injury and had five reconstruction operations in an attempt to sort himself out – unfortunately it wasn't to be and he gave it up at just 22."

Miglioranzi started his own footballing life in America whilst at College. "I started with one of the best Youth Development Clubs in New York, FC Westchester, before going on to college. I did well once at College and by the time I went to St Johns University, I decided that I really wanted to pursue a career in it."





In 1999 he decided to try his luck in England and, after an unsuccessful trial at Everton, he turned his attentions to the south-coast and Portsmouth. "Several scouts spoke to me in America and in the end, I went to Everton for a couple of months. I did well there, but unfortunately because of the weather I didn't get to play any games and I subsequently went down to Portsmouth for some match experience. Alan Ball liked what he saw and signed me on a short-term contract."

Unfortunately things didn't work out for our favourite New Yorkan and after 42 appearances (and two goals spread over a period of nearly two and a half years) – he set about finding a new Club, with Swindon offering him a trial with a view to him signing a month-to-month contract. "By the time my contract ran out at Portsmouth I was looking for another Club. Andy King invited me to join the Club to see what I thought, and vice versa – and by the start of the season I was signed on a month-to-month deal."

And what a move it's proved to be. Virtually ever present and in fine form since his league debut against Barnsley – it's been a good season so far for the 25-year old.

Yet despite his success it hasn't all been plain sailing for Miglioranza. He missed a number of games due to a change in Andy King's formation earlier on in the season. Not only that, but despite his impressive displays 'Stef' still finds himself on a month-to-month contract, his reoccurring injury a worry to Andy King (and his contract a symbol of the state of many football clubs these days, with few able to offer permanent contracts).

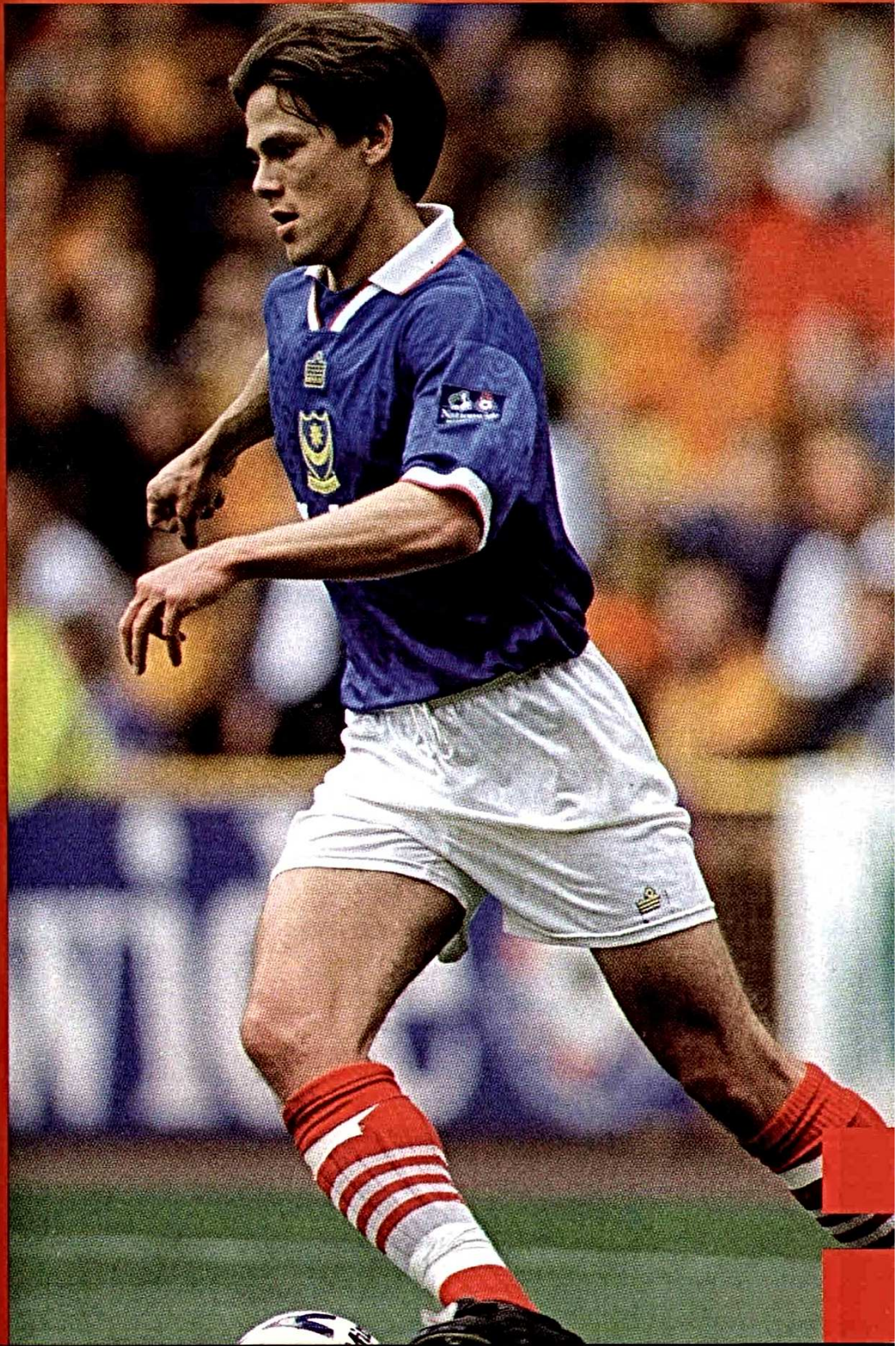
"It's frustrating because the future is so uncertain. But I am hopeful of a more permanent deal and there is one on the table. I'm happy here and would love to sign on a long-term basis – I just hope it all works out. But football is certainly in a bit of a mess at the moment, with teams in the lower leagues unable to offer the sort of contract that was on available a few

years ago."

Still, today's game is just one of 13 that 'Stef' has to try and persuade the coaching staff that he is worthy of a more permanent deal next time around – even if it is against one of the strongest sides in the league.

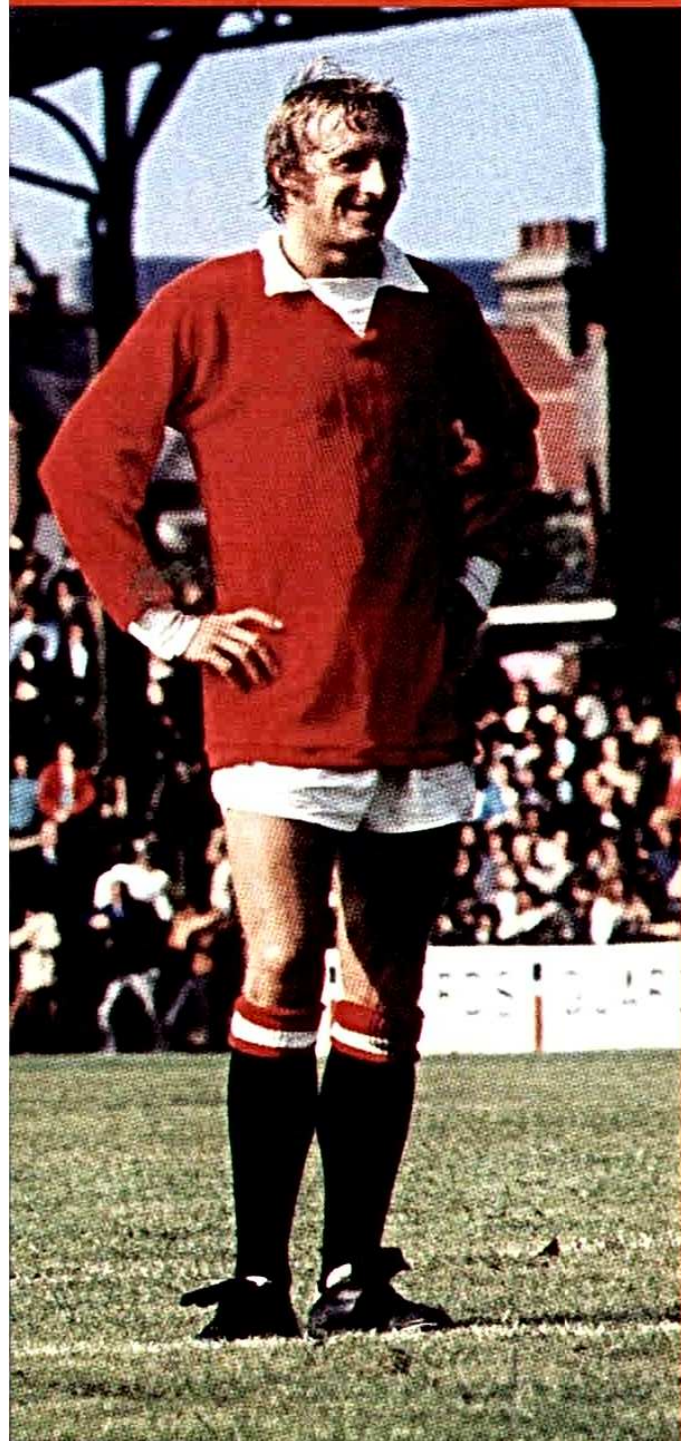
"It's a make or break game for us because although our play-off hopes have faded, a win against QPR will reduce the gap between us and them. They're a strong side with a lot of experience, but when we played them last time we were on an abysmal run of form and so this game will hopefully be a bit closer." The visit of QPR will, no doubt, remind Miglioranza of his recent move to the capital. The New Yorkan was keen to move closer to his family, as well as some of his team mates. Lets hope that come 4.45pm it will be Stef returning to the capital with a smile on his face and not today's visitors. Moreover, let's hope that a good performance today will also a certain Mr King to keep him here for another season.







# EXCITING NEWS OF NOT ONE BUT TWO DINNERS WITH DENIS LAW



Enjoy a fantastic night out at Swindon Town with one of the legends of football, DENIS LAW.

On **Wednesday 14th May** and **Thursday 15th May** we will be holding **TWO Sporting Dinners** in the **WINNERS LOUNGE** at **SWINDON TOWN FC**.

The evenings will be hosted by resident MC **BARRY WILLIAMS** with fun and entertainment from one of the country's leading comedians

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# SWINDON TOWN

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### TODAY WE WELCOME FOUR TEAMS TO OUR SATURDAY TEAM CLUB.

Rachel Webster visits us today with her Wroughton under 7s, Paul Waldron with the North Swindon Panthers AFC under 14s, Mrs Lunn and Lavington Bandits and Chris King with Rodborough F.C. – to all of our visitors today, we hope you enjoy your afternoon! In particular, we'd like to say a big hello to Richard Hale, photographer for the Lavington lads. Richard takes all the team photos, rain or shine, for nothing and he has been a Swindon Town fan since he was a boy.

This week, as many of you will be aware, has been our half term course. Once again the response has been magnificent and we've had just under 200 kids take part in our coaching sessions. A big thank you to all the coaches – a report from the week will appear in the Cheltenham programme.

Finally I'm pleased to report about the progress of our Smoby Table Football Championship. The local tournaments around the country have been a huge success and in it's sixth year, the tournament continues to attract boys and girls of all ages. This year's final is set to be held at Leeds United's ground and representing STFC in the area final will be James Crawley from Westrop Juniors, good luck James!



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## COMMERCIAL VIEW WITH MIKE SULLIVAN

**GREENHAM**, as I'm sure you're all aware now, are one of our more regular sponsors and throughout the 2002/2003 season, have supported the club in so many ways. They have 19 branches nationwide, with the nearest branches to Swindon being in Newbury, Oxford, Bristol and Cardiff. Their trade shops are open weekdays from 8.00am to 5.30pm, and on Saturday's from 8.00am to 12.30pm 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, contractors site equipment/industrial cleaning, hygiene and maintenance products.

Also in the Sponsors Lounge today are **Hacker Young & Partners**. Their party is led by Mr Andrew Andronikou and they are, as you may well be aware, the club's official administrators.

As the largest office of the Hacker Young Group, their London office is home to several leading specialists, providing expert advice. Being one of the top 25 groups of chartered accountants in the UK, Hacker Young provide a full range of accounting and tax services to personal and corporate clients from ten offices around the country.

Hacker Young acts for clients in all areas of business life from publicly quoted companies to partnerships, in all sectors of industry from manufacturing and wholesaling to financial services and professional practices. Established over 75 years ago, the original Hacker Young firm has grown into a national association of accounting firms either trading under the Hacker Young name, or in association with the Hacker Young Group.

Joining us as new Sponsors today are **Highworth Plumbing and Heating (Contractors) Ltd**, situated on County Park Business estate in Swindon, and are headed by Malcom Seagroatt and Richard Moore. Their service includes all Plumbing and Heating requirements without exception to both domestic and commercial customers. The company has been successful in winning a number of residential contracts with several major house builders.

Their distinctive fleet company vans in corporate Yellow and Green



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CHAMPAGNE



### MAN OF THE MATCH

**SAM PARKIN**

V WYCOMBE WANDERERS 15.02.03



**Pictured here is Town's Man of the Match against Wycombe Wanderers two weeks ago, Sam Parkin. Sam bagged his 19th goal of the season against Port Vale last week. He was presented with a bottle of Moët and Chandon by a representative from Greenham.**

Moët & Chandon Brut Imperial is the most fashionable fizz, setting the trend and appreciated by those with an innate sense of style. A champagne for every occasion, Moët & Chandon is pale gold, mature and refined. A truly unique combination of a soft yet dry finish. Moët & Chandon's reputation for turning an event into an occasion is legendary – so feel free – enjoy!





John Swift, Managing Director of Chairman Software is presented with a signed football



The sponsors line up at kick off with the officials

colours makes their presence noticeable, whether it be around town or on site. At the present time the company employs up to 30 ACOPs trained engineers, as well as a number of office based staff, including Tony Hudgell our Contracts Manager.

As a company they are growing at a rapid rate, with all the new build projects being undertaken in the Swindon and surrounding areas, the company are looking forward to a brighter future. Highworth Plumbing & Heating would like to thank all their guests for joining them and are very pleased to offer support at the Swindon Town v QPR match.

The 419ers Sports & Social Club are our final sponsors for the game today. Mr Dave Martin, who is part of the 419ers committee, leads their party. The club operates trips within the Swindon Post Office, including visits in the past to Brussels and various Theatres. The club Secretary Willy Glass, who is a season ticket holder here at Swindon Town has constantly encouraged the committee to come down to the County Ground, and today has finally got his wish.

You may have noticed the club have worked hard to secure a scoreboard for today's game. The scoreboard will be in simple operation until the end of the season, when we hope to update several new programmes during the summer. A big thank you must go to Mr Chris Walker & Mr Dave Walker of Soterch Ltd, and Mr John White of Superint Access Solutions who's support has been essential in making this possible.

## Events Calendar

Don't forget you can still book a team for the ultimate golf and football combination, 'A Game of two Halves'. Enjoy a day's golf at Marlborough Golf Club and the evening Nationwide Division II fixture Swindon Town v Bristol City. Teams of four can enjoy this unique event combining a day's golf and in the evening watching our local derby with Bristol City. Places are priced at only £275 +Val for a team of four so don't delay and book your team in now for this extremely popular event.

Following another sell out success at our last sporting dinner, we are now taking bookings for not one, but TWO sporting dinner dates with ex Manchester United & Scotland legend IAN NIS LAWL. The dates are

Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th May and will be hosted by resident MC Barry Williams, with fun and entertainment from one of the countries leading comedians. Tables of ten are £495 + val or individual places at £55 + val each.

Also approaching us fast is the Swindon Town annual six-a-side football tournament on Sunday 18th May 2003 here at the County Ground. Throughout the day there will be two competitions going on, guaranteeing each team a minimum of five games on the County Ground pitch. With the Peter Goodman Memorial Trophy up for grabs, take this great opportunity to play on the hallowed turf and enter your team today.

To book on any of these fantastic events telephone the Sales and Marketing department on 01793 333718 or fax on 01793 333703.



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BY **DICK MATTICK**



## VINTAGE RED

DICK MATTICK TAKES US BACK TO 1998 AND JUST A WEEK PRIOR TO OUR ENCOUNTER WITH THE HOOPS, WE'D LOST 6-0 TO MIDDLESBROUGH. SURELY IT COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE?!

Swindon's only FA Cup victory of the 1970/71 season came at Loftus Road when Arthur Horsfield and Peter Noble scored the Town goals in a 2-1 Third Round victory. In more recent times it was Rangers who gave Swindon their first home victory and their only double of the Premiership campaign of 1993/94

Today's featured match took place on March 14 1998 just three days after the club had taken a 6-0 hammering at Middlesbrough. The signing of Iffy Onuora from Gillingham for £120,000 indicated Swindon were attempting to fill the gap left by 'The Chief' Wayne Allison and he lined up at the front for Swindon alongside George Ndah who was making his first appearance after a two month injury lay-off. It was the QPR forwards who struck first with just eight minutes played when former England Under 21 man, Kevin Gallen, set up Nigel Quashie who finished coolly. Just over a quarter of an hour had been played when the electrifying pace of Ndah took him past Karl Ready only for him to be brought down. Mark Walters stroked home the penalty and it seemed that the match would be a closely contested one.

After 21 minutes, came the incident that looked likely to ruin Town's afternoon. Darren Bullock headed the ball back to

Fraser Digby who had advanced to the edge of his area to collect the ball. Although his feet were inside the area the linesman flagged and after a lengthy consultation referee Alan Butler sent the goalkeeper off for handling outside of the area and denying the Rangers a goal scoring opportunity. Despite having three substitutes none of them was a goalkeeper so Alan McDonald donned the keeper's shirt and gloves on the ground where he had been a firm favourite for 17 years. With only three wins in twenty matches this might have seemed likely to hand the match to Rangers instead it seemed to galvanise Swindon and every man seemed to be playing as though their very lives depended on it. To rub salt into the London side's wounds the time added on for the stoppage when Digby was dismissed saw Town take the lead. Ty Gooden and Mark Walters worked a short corner that ended with Iffy Onuora diving to head home and score on his debut.

It had been twenty minutes after taking over before McDonald was tested, but the Rangers certainly threw everything at him in the second half but with a combination of skill, bravery and luck he kept them out. He threw himself to tip away a 20-yard shot from Mike Sheron, dived under Ian Dowie's feet and ten minutes from time

when he got his body in the way of a shot from point blank range. His display even earned an ovation from the Rangers fans at the end but the contribution of Town's midfield was equally as valuable as the stand in keeper. Scott Leitch, Lee Collins and Darren Bullock, who was picked by Adver reporter John Cross as man of the match, all gave excellent displays. Town manager Steve McMahon picked out the tremendous work rate of Ndah and Onuora in his after match comments but in truth every Swindon player had raised their game to overcome adversity

**QPR:** Harper, Bardsley (Heinola 45), Yates, Kulcsar, Ready, Maddix, Quashie, Peacock (Bruce 17) (Slade 66), Dowie, Gallen, Sheron.

**Town:** Digby, Kerlake, Borrows, McDonald, Bullock, Collins, Walters (Howe 86), Leitch, Onuora, Ndah (Elliott 86), Gooden.

**Attendance:** 13,486

### Last Five Meetings:

QPR	2-0	Town	14-09-2002
Town	0-1	QPR	06-04-2002
QPR	4-0	Town	21-11-2001
QPR	2-1	Town	08-04-2000
Town	0-1	QPR	03-01-2000





# 442

**PORT VALE, ALEX FERGUSON AND  
HIS INFAMOUS BOOT KICK AND  
GERARD HOULLIER ARE THE  
SUBJECT OF MARK HANRAHAN'S  
THOUGHTS THIS WEEK...**

Many of the 350-odd strong party of 'Town' away supporters may have noticed the fresh wave of optimism that has swept Vale Park over the last fortnight following news that fans of our troubled Second Division rivals have taken the club over. The Valiant 2001 supporters group has won the battle to become the new owners after administrators confirmed they held status as the preferred bid. Whilst the decision still has to be officially approved at a creditors' meeting on March 17th, it seems that at the very least fears of a merger with fierce Potteries' rivals Stoke City have been finally quashed. Stoke's Icelandic owners were among those bidding to gain control of the club.

Manchester United have dismissed reports that Sir Alex Ferguson blames Arsenal for leaking details about his spectacular dressing-room bust-up with England skipper David Beckham. The Guardian has suggested that Ferguson believes the story about Beckham receiving a cut eye was passed to the press by a player or member of staff at Arsenal. The incident took place following United's 2-0 FA Cup exit at the hands of the Gunners. Old Trafford director of communications Paddy Harverson has

moved quickly to deny the rumors that Ferguson is furious with Arsenal over the story describing the suggestion as, "...silly speculation," to the BBC.

Jorg Albertz, the former Rangers colleague of Paul Gascoigne has chosen to follow his erstwhile ex-teammate by opting to play for a Chinese club, Shanghai Shenhua. The 32-year-old German international has struggled to figure in the Hamburg coach's plans this term and has been released from his contract. "I was warmly welcomed in China and I got the feeling I could be useful there," said Albertz. This sentiment was shared by Gazza who pointed out that the buzz around him from players and fans at games and in training had dispelled any fears of isolation or loneliness. Indeed, Gazza even managed to notch a spectacular hat trick on his debut! Albertz is expected to sign in time for the start of the Chinese season in March. Nicknamed 'Der Hammer' by the Ibrox faithful, Albertz played five seasons in Scotland scoring 76 goals in the process. Middlesbrough's diminutive Brazilian International Juninho Paulista will return to action this week. It will be the first time the pint-sized wizard has donned his boots since injury wrecked his

Premiership return to The Riverside. The 30-year-old South American suffered a ruptured cruciate ligament during a pre-season tournament in Italy - just days after securing a shock move back to Boro. The Middlesbrough reserve match against Bradford on Wednesday was moved to The Riverside Stadium to cope with the mass demand for tickets.

Gerard Houllier has this week ruled-out any suggestion linking him with the manager's seat at Monaco. Houllier insists he is "totally committed" to Anfield despite coming under increasing pressure after a dreadful run of results, culminating in the 2-1 defeat at Birmingham last week. Liverpool are currently five points off the critical Champions League qualification goal, the result of which can make or break a club's future - just ask David O'Leary and Peter Risdale. The Frenchman was linked with the manager's job at Monaco a couple of weeks ago. Speaking in an interview with a French newspaper seemed to indicate he would be interested in returning to France. He said: "I would be hasty if I said that Monaco is a club that does not interest me," he said. "I know Prince Albert very well and if the club has a great project in the future, then why not?"



Jody could make a move across London to Spurs this summer after talks on a new contract have thus far failed to materialise. Morris is disillusioned with his failure to break into boss Claudio Ranieri's plans despite impressing on a number of occasions this season when standing in for either Frank Lampard or more commonly Emmanuel Petit. Chelsea have put all contract talks on hold until the summer meaning that Morris is not the only one left waiting. Both John Terry and Eidur Gudjohnsen are awaiting news of improved

deals, although Morris' case appears more pressing as his current deal expires in the summer. Everton have signed Wayne Rooney's 12-year-old brother John.

The news comes hot on the heels of Wayne's impressive first full England cap in the disappointing 3-1 defeat at the hands of Australia. Guess what, sources at the club are already saying John could be an even better player than his big brother, 17 year-old Wayne. Now I am sure that surprised you!

Finally, York City have confirmed that they have been given an eleventh hour stay of execution after fans bankrolled the stricken English Third Division club for the next three weeks. The York Supporters Trust said fans had donated around £50,000 in just four days. "It has been an overwhelming response, not just from City fans, but from football supporters around the country and beyond," says trust spokesman Steve Beck. Fears had been raised that Saturday's home match against Bury would be the last in the club's 81-year history.



Jorg Albertz



Gerard Houllier



The latest issue of FourFourTwo is on sale now, priced £3.30



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A close-up photograph of a man's face, looking upwards with a distressed expression, his hand pressed against his cheek. To his left is a large, ornate brass hourglass, symbolizing the passage of time and financial pressure.

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# 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](http://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 Kristy Moore and Rachel Yankey



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The play-off dream may be dead and buried at the County Ground for another year, but we could yet have a big say in giving several other sides serious nightmares.

Forget all that rubbish you hear each season about taking on a side with 'nothing to play for'. It might once have been the case that teams going neither up nor down could stroll through their remaining fixtures - not any more.

Those going for promotion or trying to stave off relegation (we are still not mathematically safe before you point it out) will find nobody is handing over any cheap points. Too many players' careers could depend on it. Anyone not giving 100 per cent could find themselves on the ever-growing footballers scrap heap in the summer. All in all, it should make for a competitive end to the current campaign.

Looking at our remaining fixtures there is every chance that we could become serious 'spoilers'. Victories over Bristol City, Cheltenham, Crewe, Huddersfield and Oldham could have a massive impact on who goes up and who goes down. But first in the 'queue' are Queens Park Rangers. Ian Holloway's men are currently sixth in the table, some three points ahead of Bristol City. A Rangers win here today coupled with a defeat for Danny Wilson's men could change the picture drastically.

The line between success and failure can be extremely narrow with a late winner here and an equaliser there proving crucial. Having lost our last three games against Rangers (having failed to score on each occasion) we owe them one this afternoon. A goal today would be doubly special for Super Sammy Parkin. It would be a terrific moment to make it 20 for the campaign, against a side followed by your family and friends. It's been a while since Sam netted here at the County Ground so let's hope he gets back on track today. Hopefully, the draw at Vale Park will have done enough to convince the 'missing' fans



It would be a terrific moment to make it 20 for the campaign, against a side followed by your family and friends.

## JON RITSON



### EVENING ADVERTISER

who turned up against Wycombe to give the lads another chance to impress. No doubt QPR will have brought a healthy following so get behind the boys and help them pick up another three points. After the relative calm of February, the games come thick and fast in March.

Hopefully we can have a couple of magical nights under the floodlights against the Robins of Cheltenham and Bristol. Anyway, enjoy the game and see you all back here for the match with Bobby Gould's strugglers on Wednesday night. I'm sure he and Andy are looking forward to a natter!



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# SWINDON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

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## **Away travel sponsored half time draw**

Once again we thank all participating fans as we broke our winning prize record for a league match against Wycombe. Time and again this season we have set new standards with your help and this time the prize of £401 went to Mrs J. Walsh of Witney who held ticket number 111.

Don't forget all proceeds of the draw are reinvested in footballing

activity at the County Ground and tickets cost just £1 or the equivalent of just 50p per week during the season. Visit our web page for details of how to pay in advance. It is really quite simple and the more fans that can join us the quicker we will reach our next target of raising £500 at a league game.

## **Race night**

An apology, our last notes contained an incorrect date for the event.

The correct date should have read that it is taking place on Friday March 14.

The event is in the Winners Lounge and the fun starts at 8.00pm.

Entry costs just 50p and for this you get your race card. If anyone wishes to sponsor a race, this costs £20 and to sponsor an individual horse, within a race, the cost is just £5. Please contact Roger Bunce for further information on 01865 820499.

Please come along and join in

the fun, it also serves as another of our fund raising events, so is a really worthwhile cause

## **End of season holiday trip to Southern Ireland.**

Talking of fun, how about spending a week with fellow town supporters on a visit to Ireland? Taking place immediately after the last league match of the season it should prove to be a week to remember. For further details please contact the Away Travel Office.

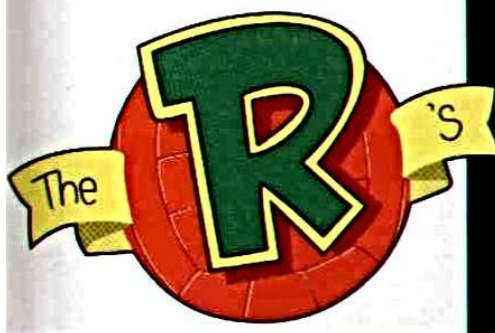
Write to us C/O The County Ground, Visit our web site at [www.go.to/swindontown](http://www.go.to/swindontown) Membership enquiries telephone 01225 866012

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## JUNIOR ROBINS

Good afternoon to all our Junior Robins and welcome to today's match against QPR

I had a great feed-back from the Juniors/parents who attended the 'DAY OUT AT THE COUNTY GROUND' - apparently everyone enjoyed the day and we hope to arrange more of these type of events for you in the future. Our grateful thanks to Clive and Jon of the Community Office for all their efforts.

Our Junior mascot for the day was EDWARD SALMON, Edward was among the Juniors who attended the 'day out'. Well done Edward. The Juniors 'Penalty shoot-out' at half-time against Wycombe Juniors was a success and congratulations to us on a narrow victory. We would like to welcome Alice Wills from the Marketing department who has very kindly 'come on board' as senior co-ordinator from the Club for the Junior Robins. Alice is working with us to formulate a re-launching of the Junior Robins. We are working hard at the moment to put together a package to suit all members. Once this has been achieved look out for the 'postie' as the information enclosed will require you and your parents attention.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS THIS WEEK GO TO: Darren Howlett who will be 10 years old on March 5, George Skinner who will be seven years old on March 25 and Nickie Dalton who will be 14 on March 28.

As some of you may have heard I am now taking on a new role as Junior Robins and Schools Project Manager. This will mainly involve a re-launch of the Junior Robins, our aim to get (and keep) as many children involved with Swindon Town Football Club as possible.

To get some idea of what other clubs offer their junior fans, Mike Sullivan (Sales and Marketing Manager), George Chadwick (Junior Robins Co-ordinator) and I went to Highbury on Thursday February 13. The Junior Gunners consists of nearly 15,000 members and are one of the biggest junior fan bases in the country.

The fascinating thing about Arsenal is that because there are so many members, and the

players are under far greater pressure and scrutiny than our lads - that the opportunity for Junior Gunners' members to meet the players is very limited. Arguably one of the main benefits of being a Junior Robin should be the trips you get to go on and because of this, trips to Highbury, White Hart Lane, Madame Tussauds, etc are being thought of for the next school holidays and next season. If you have any ideas please contact myself on 01793 333733.

We are also looking for a sponsor of the Junior Robins. There are many benefits to this, for example you will get your name or company logo on this page in every programme, (including cup games). We sell roughly 3,000 programmes a game, with 26 games a season. We will also offer a ground board, with your name or company logo sponsoring Junior Robins. We can offer more so for details, please contact Mike Sullivan - Sales and Marketing Manager or Myself on 01793 333719/733.

As part of the new image we are re-designing our Junior Robins logo and we are asking you all for your ideas. Everyone who sends an idea, with their name and address, will be in the draw to win a pennant signed by the players. Please send in all ideas to: Alice Wills, County Ground, County Road, Swindon, Wilts, SN1 2ED, or [alicewills@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:alicewills@ukonline.co.uk). Closing Date is Friday April 11.

We are planning exciting trips, competitions and much more, so watch this space for more information about the re-launch!

Alice Wills  
Junior Robins/Schools Project Manager  
01793 333733



▲ Alice Wills & George Chadwick at Highbury



▲ The famous Arsenal marble hall



▲ Highbury, revisited



▲ Highbury, revisited



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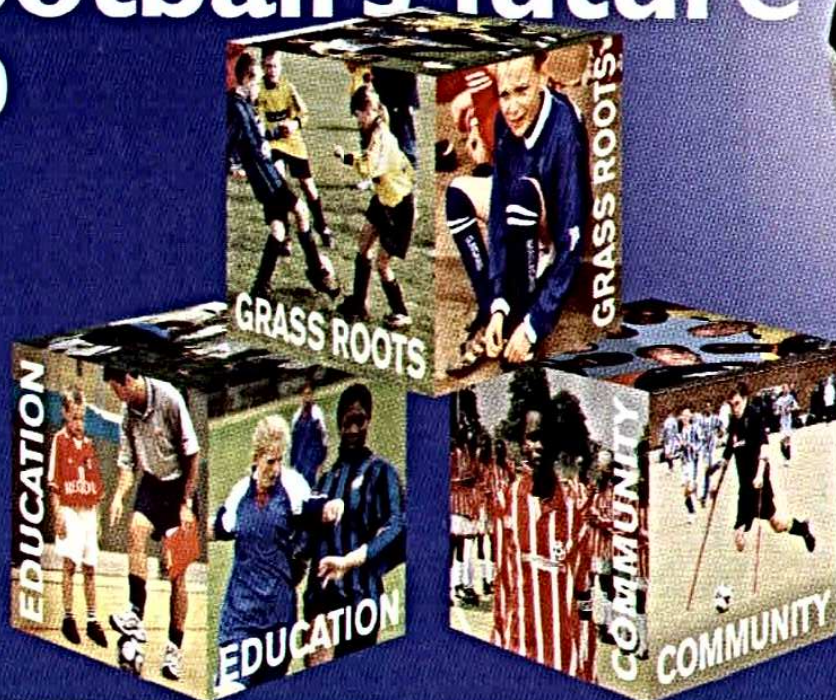
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## TODAY'S MACOTS



Today STFC welcomes three Swindon lucky mascots to the County Ground, as well as two from QPR. Alexander Andronikou is a keen football player, supporting Arsenal and of course, Swindon Town! This will be his first visit to the County Ground although he has been badgering his father to bring him for the past two years! Hopefully this will not be his last visit and he is looking forward to the play-offs. His interests include playing with his numerous bay blades, playing with his Playstation 2 and of course harassing his two sisters Sophia and Natalia.



Jack Allan was seven years old on February 23. He lives in West Swindon and goes to Tregoeze Primary School where he plays football with the older boys as he is too good for his own age! Jack is a BIG Swindon Town fan and goes to most home games with Dad and brother Dan and likes being in the Town End. He says that the atmosphere is getting better and better (of course Dad says it was even better in the 'old days' of the 80's and early 90's!!). Jack's favourite player is 'Super' Sammy Parkin even though he has not scored as many goals as Jack has for his school team. Jack is looking forward to leading the team out and slotting a few past Bart in front of the Town End.



Last but by no means least is Arran Climpson from Nythe. Arran is eight years old and supports both Arsenal and Swindon. His favourite players are Thierry Henry and Danny Invincible - although his favourite player of all time is Edwin Murray. Allegedly.



Michael Cartin, our second QPR mascot is following in his father's footsteps by supporting QPR, although when asked who is his favourite player the likes of Rodney Marsh or Stanley Bowles were not mentioned. This is an important day for the Cartin family and they all hope that this will not be the last time they see their son don the kit of QPR in a professional venue - is the QPR scout here?

From QPR we welcome Martin Barker who is 12 years old and attends Bishopsalt School in Hillingdon. Martin's favourite player is Kevin Gallen.

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



## ROCKIN'S POSTBAG

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

Rockin'

My team and I were the victims of a diabolical refereeing decision recently in the FA Cup. We scored a goal! The ball was clearly over the line and the ref didn't see it! The result being that we went out of the Cup and I am left completely outraged. What can be done about getting these decisions right, it is not funny Rockin'. What do you suggest and can you pull any strings to get some changes made.

Trevor of St. Francis, Crystal Palace.

Trev,

In the words of the great Jimmy Greaves - it's a funny old game. Yes it was a goal, we all saw that on the slow motion replays, and your players up close all knew it was a goal, and the defenders would have known it too. However, as much as we don't like it, the referee has a job to do and has to make decisions as he sees fit, and that was how he saw it. Every time this happens we get the usual cry of getting camera technology in, but I think that is a load of baloney. It would cost a fortune and would end up proving nothing apart from lengthening the game to American Football proportions as every foul, throw-in, corner and handball decision is analysed by the Fifth Official. Now, I have a suggestion - what about the over-riding decision of the mascot on the line. I'm quite often patrolling behind the goal area during the match as I whip up the fans into a frenzy with my cheerleading, and I would be available to assist the 'ref' with a helpful suggestion following a goal mouth scramble, and my unbiased nature would undoubtedly see a fair decision... So there you have it, and better luck in the FA Cup next season.

Yours, sensibly (for once)



NAME THE TOWN PLAYER

Simply send in who you think is described below and you could win two tickets to one of the last remaining games here at the County Ground.

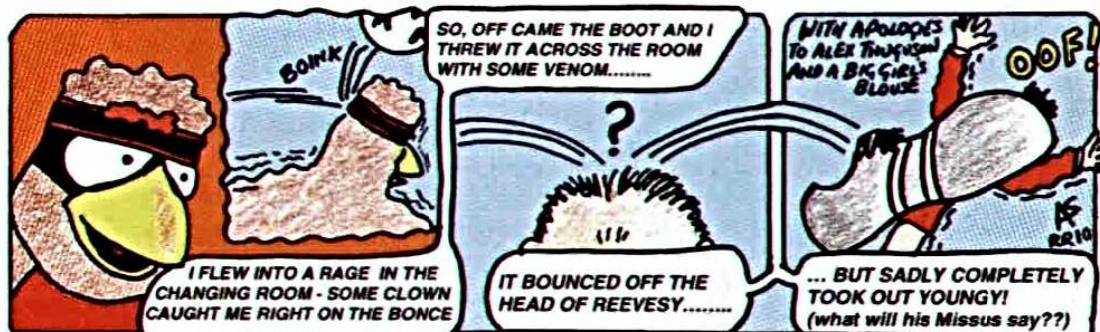
Born: 1/11/72 Erith, Kent

Midfield

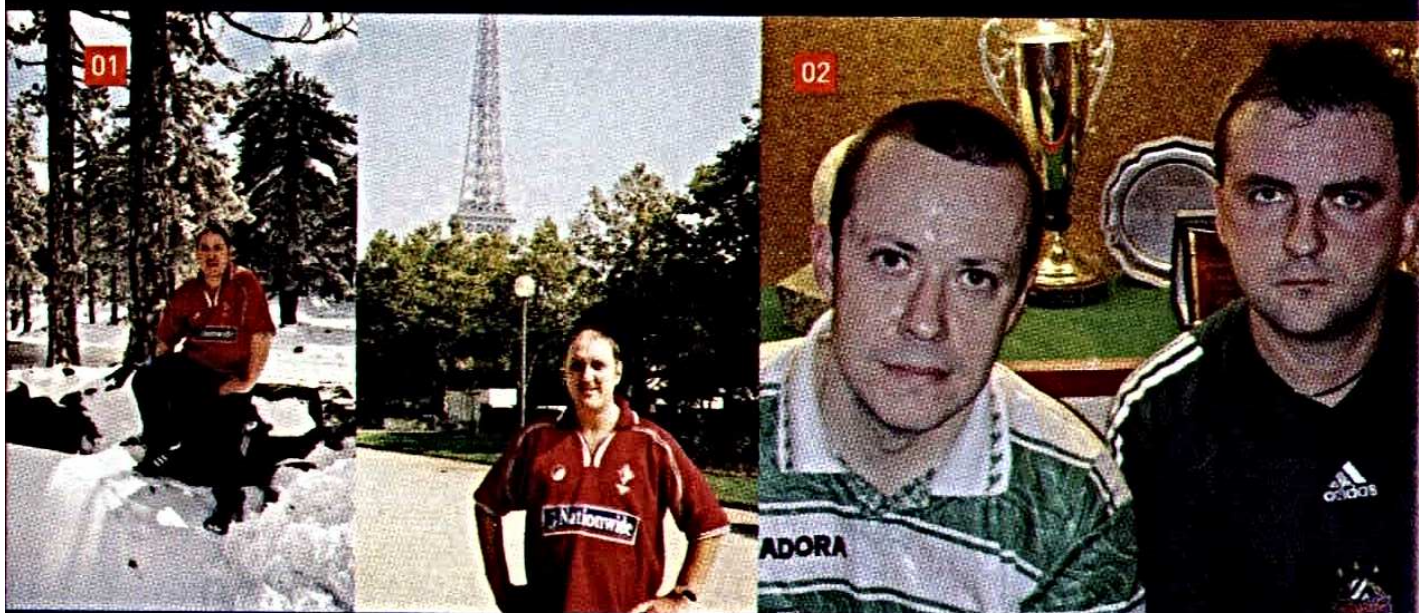
HONK - LIVE ROCK!

## THE ROBIN THAT ROCKS!

by Alyn







#### 01 LEONARD BACK ON THE ROAD

Town fan Steve Leonard has been on his travels again and has been kind enough to send in two photos. Steve, who is a regular in these pages, has just returned from both Cyprus and France and you can see him in front of the Eiffel Tower in one photo. The other shot is of Steve in front of the Troodos Mountain region in Cyprus and apparently Steve froze whilst having his picture taken! Keep them coming Steve...

#### 02 A WARM WELCOME TO OUR AUSTRIAN CONTINGENT!

Swindon Town welcomes two Swindon fans who've made an unusually long journey to be here today. Both Christian and Karl have travelled from Vienna, Austria to watch the Robins against QPR and as Christian explains – they're both very excited about watching the mighty reds in action. "We're loyal supporters of Rapid Vienna, the most successful club in Austria. However, England is the motherland of football, and it's always something special to come here and watch a game. My last memorable events were the 5-1 defeat of the England squad against the Germans that I happily celebrated in a pub in Cornwall and the 2-1 win of England in Slovakia where I joined the English fans in the stadium in Bratislava.

"So, when you see two funny speaking fellows in oddly green-white robes chanting 'We love you, Swindon!' at Country Ground or a local pub, don't mind, this are only two Austrian fellows happy to be back in England! " We hope you enjoy your visit!

#### DIG DEEP

The Rotary Club of Swindon, in partnership with the Club, will be organising a collection before today's game. The collection is in aid of the Prospect Hospice in Wroughton – so please give generously! The Club thanks you for your support.

#### TOWN PAYS RESPECT TO FORMER PLAYER

Swindon Town is sad to reveal the news that former player, James Bain, passed away earlier this year. James was aged 83 and he made over 250 First Team appearances before retiring and emigrating to Canada. Our condolences go to James' family at this sad time.

#### MY SWINDON XI LOAN TEAM 2

Here is a second team of loan stars to have graced the County Ground stage. Some went on to great things, others had already achieved great things, the rest.... well perhaps they didn't fulfil their potential.

- 1 Tim Flowers
- 2 Gary Waddock
- 3 Paul Thirlwell
- 4 Chris Casper
- 5 Nick Tanner
- 6 Paul Franklin
- 7 Lawrie Sanchez
- 8 Michael McCammon

- 9 Michael Reddy
- 10 Frank MacAvennie
- 11 Michael Meaker

#### Subs:

- 12 Terry Gibson
- 13 Wayne Gray
- 14 Andy Gray



# 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

On March 4 1978, Swindon faced Lincoln City at the County Ground in a match that paired Town against a team nine places below them in Division Three. The game was won in the 49th minute when home debutant Chic Bates scored the only goal of the game, his first since his arrival from Shrewsbury 11 days earlier. The win meant Town had risen from 13th to 7th in the space of just eight days.

Three days later Town were in home action again when they faced high-flying Preston North End who were sitting at the top of the table. Goals from Michael Baxter and Alex Bruce clinched the game for the visitors in front of a crowd of 10,213. The game brought John Trollope's 832nd League and Cup appearance for Swindon, a record number of appearances for a single club. Meanwhile, QPR were having a titanic struggle with Nottingham Forest in the fifth round of the FA Cup. A 1-1 draw at the City Ground on February 20 was followed by a similar score at Loftus Road on the 27th. On March 2, Forest finally sealed a place in round six with a 3-1 win in a second replay in Nottingham.

1 March 9 saw Town manager Danny Williams fail in his bid to bring a Doncaster winger to the County Ground. The player eventually joined Swindon in the summer. Who was he?

2 On February 22, an England B team lost 2-1 in Germany. Which QPR star had replaced Charlie George in the line-up?

3 On February 27, which team beat fellow London club Chelsea 2-1 in a Stamford Bridge replay to secure an FA Cup sixth round place? The answer may surprise some.

4 And on the same day, which Northern League club lost 2-1 to Wrexham at a game played at Newcastle's St James' Park, failing to make round six as a result?

5 On this day 25 years ago, Liverpool defeated Benfica 2-1 in the European Cup. The Red's goals were scored by a player who went on to play for Southampton and Brighton, and a player who won a League Cup Winners medal with Wolves. Name the two players.

Answers: 1 Ian Miller, 2 Stan Bowles, 3 Arsenal, 4 Blyth Spartans, 5 Jimmy Case and Emlyn Hughes

## THE NAKED CHEF

'Turbs' makes it look easy once again this week with this, his latest pasta offering...

### NO. 18 TUNA PASTA BAKE

1. You will need: 1 tin (185 grm) tuna in brine/oil, 1 tin (295grm) Campbell's® condensed mushroom soup, 200 grm pasta shapes (twists/bows/shells or penne), 1 medium onion, 1 small tin sweetcorn 2-3oz grated cheese
2. Cook pasta as packet instructions (approx. 4-8mins). Fry chopped onion in a little oil, add tuna, soup and sweetcorn to cooked onion and mix into cooked and drained pasta.
3. Place in a casserole dish. Top with grated cheese and place under a hot grill till cheese is bubbling and turning brown.
4. Alternative topping: add a crushed packet of cheese & onion crisps or mix the grated cheese with breadcrumbs (2 slices of bread) before grilling. Serve with salad or melba toast.
5. To make Melba Toast (1 slice of bread makes 2 slices of melba toast), toast both sides of a slice of pan bread (white/brown) and while still warm, cut off crusts. Slip carving knife sideways through the soft centre part of the toast and toast the 2 uncooked sides. If you don't have a grill or you're in a hurry, this will work ok in a toaster if the 2 toasted sides are placed back to back (inside), the untoasted sides are on the outside, and both placed in the same section of the toaster.
6. Spread toast with butter/low fat spread.





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## CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

IT'S BEEN A BUSY WEEK HERE AT THE CLUB'S CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE, WITH SEVEN AGE GROUPS IN ACTION AT THE WEEKEND AND TWO TEAMS TRAVELLING TO GLOUCESTER IN THE WEEK.

The under 9s, 10s and 11s were in action against Swansea and both the 9s and 10s won 4-2. The under 11s drew 0-0. The under 12s (1-3), 14s (0-1) and 15s (0-3) lost to Swansea – the under 13s drew 2-2 with the Welshman.

In the week our under 12s and 15s travelled to Gloucester as part of a new initiative. We are trying to link with the Club in an effort to get some of their players coming through on our books and this was the first encounter between the two teams. Both games were held on the pitch, a fantastic experience for both the players and coaches alike. There was a bit of a crowd there, and to see the younger ones play under the lights was fantastic.

And the quality of football reflected the experience with the 12s winning 2-0. Jim Fraser continues, "It was a great performance with some superb passing from the lads. Richard Rowe made three great saves in our goal, but to be honest Gloucester rarely threatened. We had plenty of chances and finally took the lead when Fraser Wilson scored with a fantastic effort from the edge of the area. A Gloucester lad himself, Fraser was happy to see his effort find the top corner of the net. Billy Bodin (Paul Bodin's son, an under 11 playing in an older age group) made it two with a neat flick from a corner. Bodin looks set to be a good prospect – he holds the ball up well and is sharp in the box.

"The under 15s, despite playing incredibly well, lost 1-0. They were gutted when they came off the pitch, but they couldn't have done anymore than they did – it was one of those games where we did everything but score. Gloucester scored before the break and we had to pick the lads up in the second half – they responded well but just couldn't score. Ben Wells in particular was unlucky not to find the net.

"All in all it was a great night for the players and coaches – we're hoping to return the favour before the end of the season."

**"ALL IN ALL IT WAS A GREAT NIGHT FOR THE PLAYERS AND COACHES – WE'RE HOPING TO RETURN THE FAVOUR BEFORE THE END OF THE SEASON."**





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# ROBBO HITS THE DUGOUT!

Swindon Town's Ladies side were treated to coaching sessions from four Town players last week as part of a Nationwide promotion.

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. And to do their bit as part of the promotion Swindon Town took first team members David Duke, Matty Heywood, Steve Robinson and Eric Sabin to train the ladies side. The girls were treated to some basic coaching skills including passing, dribbling and keeping the ball before taking part in a game. Despite some controversial

refereeing from Steve Robinson - the ladies appeared to enjoy themselves!

Ladies Manager Roger Reeves said the event was a huge success, "We were very grateful for the lads coming down - it gives us a rest and I'm sure the ladies would rather be trained by professional footballers than by us! And they responded too - they put the effort in and really enjoyed it. I just hope that the lads enjoyed it and that they can come again - they were great."

Swindon Town Football Club has also chosen the Nationwide Second Division League game against Notts County on Saturday March 22 to support the scheme.



All fixtures are subject to change without prior notification

## STFC LADIES

## SOUTH WEST COMBINATION LEAGUE FIXTURES 2002/03

**ANOTHER CASE OF TWO POINTS DROPPED RATHER THAN ONE GAINED (WHERE HAVE WE HEARD THAT BEFORE!) AS TOWN'S LADIES DREW 3-3 AGAINST EXETER IN THE SOUTH WEST COMBINATION LEAGUE.**

Town fell behind as early as the second minute, but four minutes later Nikki Watts put the sides level and a superb Julie Selway volley put Town ahead at the break. The home side drew level before Watts restored Town's lead. Yet with almost the last kick of the game Exeter equalised following a goalmouth scramble. Town were hoping for a better result having had more of the play against a team second from bottom in the league.

As reported above, last week the girls were joined by four of the senior pros for a training session at Peatmoor School David Duke and Eric Sabin took the under 14s, Matty Heywood and Steve Robinson the more senior pros and the evening was enjoyed by all.

Town have, once again, had a large contingent selected for the Wiltshire County Youth squad to face Hampshire at Ringwood. Michelle Brown, Laura Stallard, Nikkie Watts, Sam Quinn, Lucy Bailey, Fiona Baldwin, Kirby Cliff and Chanelle Kirkum will all join the party to travel.

Tomorrow Town entertain Reading in the South West Combination League. The two sides have not yet played each other this season. Reading are on equal points with Town but have played two games more.

This match will be played at Aldbourne's ground and will kick off at 2.00pm. The reserves are without a fixture.

Sun 18 Aug	Cardiff City	A	0-5
Sun 25 Aug	Aylesbury United	A	P-P
Sun 01 Sep	Plymouth Argyle	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 24 Jan	Reading	H	
Thur 02 Feb	Portsmouth	A	
Thur 14 Feb	Chesham United	H	
Thur 09 Mar	Aylesbury United	H	



TWO AWAY FIXTURES ARE SANDWICHED BETWEEN THE DERBIES AGAINST CHELTENHAM AND BRISTOL CITY AND AFTER TOWN'S GAME AGAINST BOBBY GOULD'S ROBINS - THEY TRAVEL TO NORTHAMPTON AND MANSFIELD. IF YOU'RE MAKING THE JOURNEY TO EITHER/OR GAME - YOU'D DO A LOT WORSE THAN USING OUR INDISPENSIBLE GUIDE.

## A ROUGH GUIDE TO... NORTHAMPTON

**WHO? NORTHAMPTON** **WHEN? SATURDAY MARCH 8**

**WHERE? SIXFIELDS** **KICK-OFF? 3.00PM**

**Ticket Prices: £14.00 adults, £9.50 Citizens/students/juniors (under 16)**

**STFC TRAVEL CLUB:** The Supporters Coach will be leaving Wootton Bassett (Coped Hall Bus Stop) at 10.45am, West Swindon (Ashington Way) at 11.00am, The County Ground at 11.15am and Ermin Street at 11.30. The coach fare is £9.00 adult, £7.50 under 15s. A £1.00 discount is available on production of membership card.

**BY CAR:** Exit the M1 at Junction 15a (s/p Northampton, Oxford A43, services). Follow signs to Northampton A43 for 1.3 miles, over three roundabouts to fourth roundabout. Here, go straight on (s/p Coventry A45, Market Harborough A508, Sixfields Leisure). At next roundabout, on Upton Way, turn right into Sixfields complex.

**PARKING:** There is plenty of parking in the Sixfields Leisure complex, but arrive early to ensure a place.

**TRAIN:** You need Northampton Castle station and for the latest train information, call 08457 484950. Alternatively visit [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com). From the station you can either get a taxi or buses numbered 27 or 28. By foot cross the car park and up steps to main road. Turn right towards Esso garage, over bridge passing Shell garage and 'Thomas A Beckett' pub. Bear left where road divides into Weedon Road. Past rugby ground on left hand side and Big Hand Mos pub on right, straight over roundabout by Rover garage, turn left at next roundabout into Sixfields.

## A ROUGH GUIDE TO... MANSFIELD

**WHO? MANSFIELD** **WHEN? SATURDAY MARCH 15**

**WHERE? FIELD MILL** **KICK-OFF? 3.00PM**

**STFC TRAVEL CLUB:** No details available as yet. Visit [www.sastravel.co.uk](http://www.sastravel.co.uk) or phone 01793 825935 for more information.

**BY CAR:** Exit M1 at junction 27 (s/p Mansfield A608). At roundabout take third exit (s/p Hucknall, Mansfield A608) onto the A608. Go straight over two roundabouts, following signs to 'Mansfield A611' and at the third turn left (s/p Mansfield A611) onto the A611. Continue through countryside and suburbs for 3.8 miles to lights at T-junction. Here, turn left (s/p A611 Mansfield) onto the A60 Nottingham Road. Past the 'Trading Post' pub on the LHS after 0.1 miles, and between 'The Talbot' and 'The Plough' after 0.7 miles. Past KFC on LHS and straight through second set of lights (s/p Ring Road, Town Centre). At next lights, (by

church) turn left into Quarry Lane.

**PARKING:** Field Mill has a huge car park (£2), street parking is also available nearby.

**TRAIN:** For the latest train information, call 08457 484950. Alternatively visit [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com). Ten minute walk. Exit platform following signs to Stockwell Gate and Bus Station, down steps. Turn left along dual carriageway. Straight on at lights, continuing along Portland Street. Turn right at lights (by church) into Quarry Lane.

## NEXT IN TOWN...



**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)



**Plymouth**  
23.04.03 (7.45PM)



### 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](http://www.swindontownfc.co.uk)

**EMAIL THE TICKET OFFICE, STFCTICKETS@HOTMAIL.COM**



# NEXT PLEASE...

AT THE COUNTY GROUND



WHO? **CHELTHENHAM**

KICK-OFF? **7.45PM**

WHEN? **WEDNESDAY MARCH 5**

Only when Swindon overturn our new local rivals will we be able to forget that horrendous evening at Whaddon Road in September last year. Hopefully revenge will be sought this Wednesday when the two sides meet for their just second league clash, for the 2-0 defeat (as well as Sam Parkin's sending off) is still fresh in the minds of manager, players and supporters alike. It wasn't just the result that hurt Town's travelling army of fans – the nature of the performance will go down as many fans' worst of the season.

On current form Town should be easy victors – the Robins of the Cheltenham variety languishing at the foot of the table after what has been a difficult season for the new boys of Division Two. However, on paper Town should have been head and shoulders above Cheltenham when the two sides last met, for Bobby Gould's side are yet to exit the bottom four all season.

Yet despite their struggles this time around one can't fail to be impressed by their meteoric rise from non-league football to Division Two in the space of just five years. It wasn't so long ago, 1998/99 in fact, that Cheltenham

romped  
away  
with

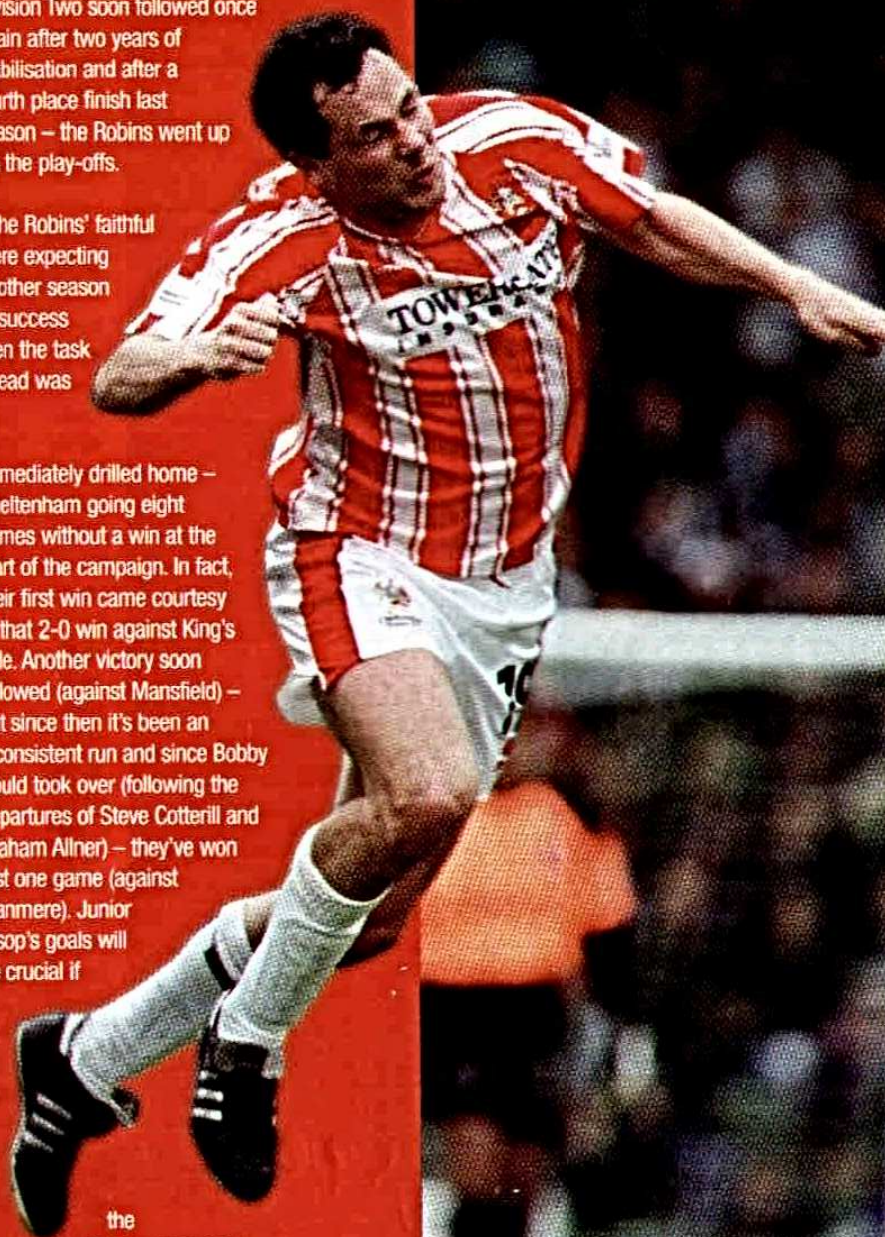
the Conference table. Promotion to Division Two soon followed once again after two years of stabilisation and after a fourth place finish last season – the Robins went up via the play-offs.

If the Robins' faithful were expecting another season of success then the task ahead was

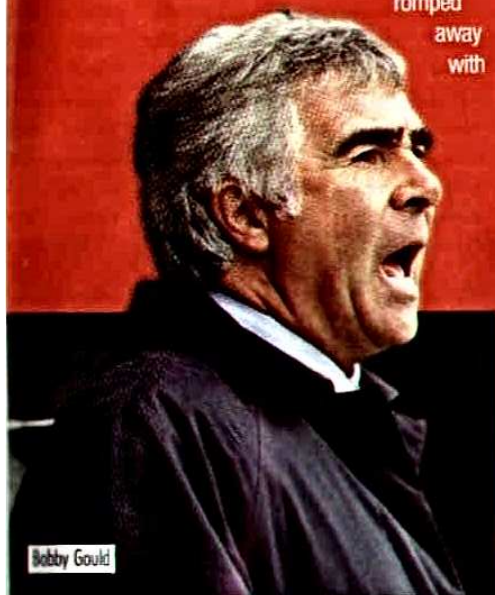
immediately drilled home – Cheltenham going eight games without a win at the start of the campaign. In fact, their first win came courtesy of that 2-0 win against King's side. Another victory soon followed (against Mansfield) – but since then it's been an inconsistent run and since Bobby Gould took over (following the departures of Steve Cotterill and Graham Allner) – they've won just one game (against Tranmere). Junior Alsop's goals will be crucial if

the  
Robins are to stay

up – a Swindon win on Wednesday however will leave them firmly rooted to the bottom of the table and looking likely for a return to whence they came.



Julian Alsop



Bobby Gould



**Happy Birthday to QPR fan Adam Mellis, 15 today.**









## SWINDON

Manager Andy King

## QPR

Manager Ian Holloway

✓ = PROBABLE STARTING LINE-UP

BART <b>GRIEMINK</b> ✓	1	CHRIS <b>DAY</b>
GARETH <b>EDDS</b>	2	✓ TERRELL <b>FORBES</b>
	3	✓ GINO <b>PADULA</b>
MATTHEW <b>HEWLETT</b> ✓	4	✓ STEVE <b>PALMER</b>
ADAM <b>WILLIS</b>	5	CLARKE <b>CARLISLE</b>
ANDREW <b>GURNEY</b> ✓	6	✓ DAN <b>SHITTU</b>
KEITH <b>O'HALLORAN</b>	7	MATTHEW <b>ROSE</b>
JEREL <b>IFIL</b>	8	✓ MARC <b>BIRCHAM</b>
SAM <b>PARKIN</b> ✓	9	✓ RICHARD <b>LANGLEY</b>
STEFANI <b>MIGLIORANZI</b> ✓	10	✓ KEVIN <b>GALLEN</b>
DAVID <b>DUKE</b> ✓	11	KARL <b>CONNOLLY</b>
JON <b>BESWETHERICK</b> ✓	12	DOUDOU <b>EBELI MBOMBO</b>
	13	✓ NICK <b>CULKIN</b>
ERIC <b>SABIN</b>	14	CHRIS <b>PLUMMER</b>
DAREN <b>DYKES</b>	15	LEE <b>COOK</b>
	16	DANNY <b>MURPHY</b>
DANIEL <b>INVINCIBILE</b> ✓	17	LYNDON <b>DUNCAN</b>
CRAIG <b>FARR</b>	18	OLIVER <b>BURGESS</b>
MATTHEW <b>HEYWOOD</b> ✓	19	BRIAN <b>FITZGERALD</b>
ALAN <b>JUDGE</b>	20	DENNIS <b>OLI</b>
DAVID <b>BAMPTON</b>	21	WESLEY <b>DALY</b>
ALAN <b>REEVES</b> ✓	22	✓ MARCUS <b>BEAN</b>
NATHAN <b>EDWARDS</b>	23	
KEVIN <b>HALLIDAY</b>	24	✓ RICHARD <b>PACQUETTE</b>
STEVE <b>ROBINSON</b> ✓	25	PATRICK <b>GRADLEY</b>
ALAN <b>YOUNG</b>	26	BENJAMIN <b>WALSHE</b>
	27	ANDY <b>THOMPSON</b>
STEVE <b>SMITH</b>	28	DAVE <b>WATTLEY</b>
CHRIS <b>TAYLOR</b>	29	✓ PAUL <b>FURLONG</b>
	30	
	31	BRETT <b>ANGELL</b>
	32	TOMMY <b>WILLIAMS</b>

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## FORM GUIDE

### TOWN'S

Last 10 Home League Results

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

P	W	D	L	F	A
10	3	4	3	16	13

### QPR'S

Last 10 Away League Results

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

P	W	D	L	F	A
10	3	4	3	10	14

## LAST COUNTY GROUND MEETING

Saturday April 6 2002

Swindon Town 0

QPR 1 (Thomas)

## MEN IN THE MIDDLE

Referee: S. J. Baines

Assistant 1: E. B. Mackrell

Assistant 2: S. P. Snartt

4th Official: A. J. Prelejowski

## 'Super' Sam's The Man!

Did you know that by having a cheeky punt on [www.swindonbet.co.uk](http://www.swindonbet.co.uk), you are actually making the club money? Did you also know that Town are 11/8 to win today against QPR? And 'Super Sammy' is 12/1 to finish the season as the league's top goalscorer? Remember, every bet you place on [www.swindonbet.co.uk](http://www.swindonbet.co.uk) whether it be on the sportsbook, casino365, or bet365 24/7 telephone betting service benefits your club financially.

**09068 121640**

news updates, match commentaries  
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\*Calls charged at 50p at all times.