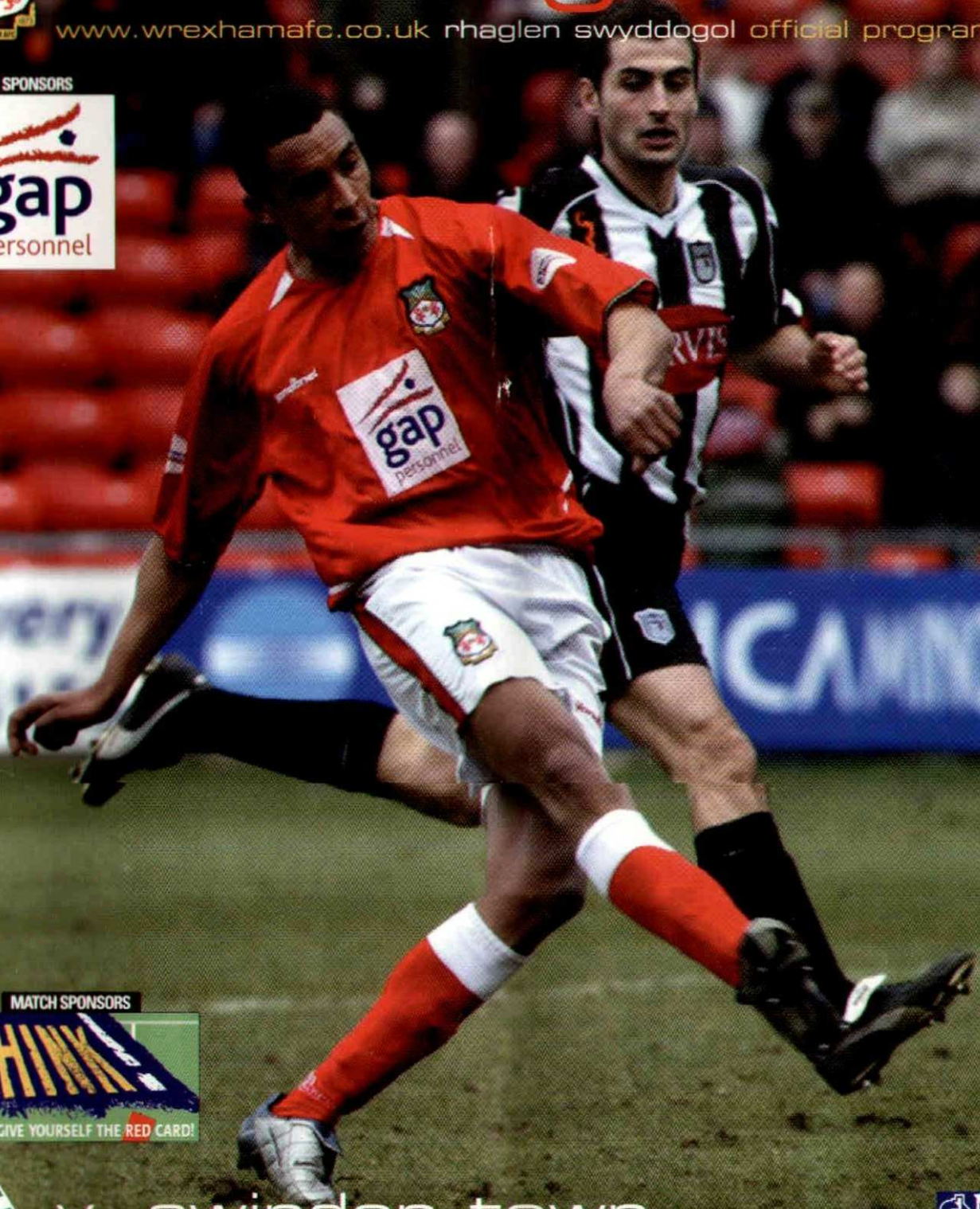




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The Challenge Ahead

Welcome back everyone and thanks for your support after what has been another trying week for the club.

Having only suffered one six-goal defeat in my career, I was hardly expecting to be faced by another in our very next away game and I have to say that this one was more worrying than the first!

We could come up with some creditable excuses at Bournemouth, but not so against Peterborough, even allowing for the injury to Dibbs.

But having fallen off our bicycle last Saturday, we were straight back up for the visit to Queens Park Rangers three days later.

Yes, I was able to recall a couple of players after suspension, but it went a little deeper than that and I was pleased with our performance on the night.

Okay, so we still didn't pick up any points, but I regard QPR as one of the best teams we have played this season, certainly over two games, so it was a good measure of how we were going to react.

I was though disappointed at the manner of their first goal, as we rarely concede from set plays, and indeed, it's one of our strengths with the defensive personnel we had out on the pitch.

Still, there were more positive points than minus ones and now we have to take them forward into our remaining games this season.

I'd also like to welcome Michael Ingham to the club and I'm sure he'll get a good reception on his home debut this afternoon.

Those of you with a good memory for opposing players will surely remember his display for York City here last season and be looking forward to seeing more of the same in the weeks ahead.

I was certainly pleased with his first game at Loftus Road, especially considering he had only joined up with the lads as we boarded the coach south on the day of the match.

In the past I have been able to rely on the financial help from those supporters who contribute their money to the WINS Group, to sponsor the use of loan players like Michael.

But I have to say their response has been a little bit disappointing on this occasion and I'm still a little up in the air as to whether they will be assisting me or not.

I would like it noted once again that their help in the past has been tremendous and I hope this situation will be rectified soon.

I also hope, that they think I have spent wisely the previous money made available to me, as their assistance has always been appreciated by myself.

We all felt awful for Andy Dibble last weekend and the sight of him being carried from the pitch at London Road is not one I want to see repeated.

The good news is that he's expected to make a full recovery from his injuries and we all look forward to seeing him back on the pitch for the start of next season.

He is already showing the same determination to return to action that we are used to seeing in his performances for the team and that can only be a good sign.

This is an exciting part of the season, as we face teams in the thick of the promotion hunt. Well over 13,000 fans were at Loftus Road on Tuesday, Swindon Town at the Racecourse today and then a visit to Plymouth coming up next weekend. On top of which we welcome Cardiff City in the Premier Cup, Tranmere Rovers in a big local derby and travel to face rivals Port Vale!

There is still plenty of football left in this campaign and I'm really looking forward to it.

We continue with today's match against a Swindon side that I saw in action on Wednesday night and very impressive they were to. Manager Andy King has them on fire at the moment and he's also got one eye on an automatic place, which just shows you the confidence that abounds at the County Ground.

There are enjoying one tremendous run of good results and it will be a big test for us, but I think we showed at QPR that it is one which we are more than capable of taking and hopefully passing.

While all the games we play are important, as I have what seems like half of Swindon stopping at my house this weekend, it would certainly be nice for me to get a win today. The last thing I want is to come down to breakfast tomorrow and see a row of smiling faces amongst my guests!

Can I also thank everyone who attended Thursday night's social evening at NEWI Cefn Druids. It was a very enjoyable experience and I hope we managed to raise some much needed funds for our local Welsh Premier club.

While we are not well off ourselves, if we can help out other people, then we will do our best to aid them.

Thanks also to everyone here today for your support and please do your best to bring along a friend to the next league game with Tranmere Rovers - don't forget the early kick-off time - and we also hope to see you here again on Wednesday night for the visit of Cardiff City in the FAW Premier Cup semi-finals (7.00)...

club directory

landanet

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Case for the Defence

Wrexham's defence has been under plenty of scrutiny in recent weeks, particularly after consecutive six goal away defeats at Bournemouth and Peterborough. The inquest has not been easy for those involved in the afore-mentioned disasters, but such tests of character will be the making of young defenders like Shaun Pejic.

Pejic has had to work to get his rhythm going as injuries have disrupted his season: he was glad to get back in the swing of things, helping to earn a clean sheet in the victory over Grimsby. "For myself, I was pleased just to get back into the team really. It was my second game back after injury, and in the first match I felt a bit rusty at first, but today I felt back in the swing of things."

"It has been a bit of a nightmare with injuries, as was last year. I've been out for a month and now I'm looking to get back into it and get my season started again."



Unwilling to duck from difficult issues, a characteristic which will certainly help him to recover from the disappointment of London Road, Pejic is keen to address the criticism which has been directed at him, and particularly his passing, in recent games.

"You get a lot of ball playing from the back the way we play, and I have to play my part in that. I'm mainly in the side to defend, and that has to be my main responsibility; passing isn't my strength, but I work on it."

"I know my confidence has been low, but I've got to forget about that now and just get into it. You've got to forget about the bad things and just think about the positives, haven't you?"

"I think everyone is negative with me, picking at things. Fair enough, no-one's going to be perfect are they? But defensively, I think I'm quite a good defender and if you look at the records we've tended to do well when I've been in the side."

"I'm not sure of the exact stats, but I've got to keep being positive and forget about the negatives and work on my game."

The stats do indeed back Shaun up: Wrexham have kept a clean sheet every 2.5 games in the league this season when Shaun has played, but every 3.6 when he is absent. The average goals conceded per game are also better when Shaun is playing, although the difference between the two figures was naturally much greater before the disaster at Peterborough: Wrexham were conceding less than a goal a game when he played (0.85), compared to 1.22 when he was absent. A successful defence is based on organisation and combining the required elements to make a unit function, and the facts show how valuable Shaun's pace is in a three-at-the-back system.



community news

Putting Wrexham First

On Thursday, 18 March, 2004, Wrexham AFC Chairman Mr. Mark Guterman, Club President Mr. Pryce Griffiths and Board member Mr. David Griffiths met with representatives of the Club's Official Supporters' Association and the Shropshire Reds independent supporters group.

The aim of this meeting was to find a way of promoting a positive view of Wrexham AFC and to mobilise greater support for the Football Club.

Following a frank and open discussion, it was agreed that a working party would be formed, bringing together the Football Club and various Supporters' organisations, which would then meet on a regular basis.

The proposed title of this group is **WREXHAM FIRST** – reflecting both the importance of the Football Club to its genuine fans and their target of a place in the First Division.

Hopefully, the creation of **WREXHAM FIRST** will mark the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Wrexham AFC, where apathy and suspicion will give way to enthusiasm and a determination to succeed.

We would encourage all fans with the club at heart, to join a Supporters' organisation of your choice, to voice your opinion for the way forward for Wrexham AFC and show your support for the club in a positive manner.

Thomas Sanderson

Making the journey across from the Isle of Man to watch us play today are the Sanderson family, originally from Oswestry. In their party is Thomas, who will be 7-years-old next Tuesday, so it's a big happy birthday from all the players at Wrexham AFC.

His older brother Darryl and one of their friends will also be across, we hope they had a safe trip and enjoy the match.



New Opportunities Fund
LOTTERY FUNDED

CROESO

CROESO TREF SWINDON
Dyn ni'n croesawu tim Andy King i'r Cae Ras p'nawn 'ma gan nodi bod y 'Robins' wedi bod ymysg y cefyllau blaen yr Ail Adran trwy'r tymor. Ar hyn o bryd maent yn gorwedd yn bedwerydd yn y tabl, naw pwynt ar y blaen i'r Dreigiau, ac wedi chwarae'r un nifer o gemau 34. Maent wedi ennill 17 gan gael 9 gem gyfartal gan sgorio 56 gol ac lldio 40. Un o'r gemau ddaru'r 'Robins' eu hennill oedd yn erbyn y Dreigiau nol ym mis Medi pan ddaru Dave Gurney sgorio unig gol y gem. Felly, os allwn ni roi ein problemau dynys oddi ar y cae ar un ochr am rhyw ddwy awr, yna gallwn ni gael siawns o ennill tir ar un o'r timau sydd, yr un fath a ninnau, yn anelu at orffen yn y chwech uchaf. A byddai buddugoliaeth dros y tim o Swydd Wilts yn rhyw beth nad ydy'r Dreigiau wedi ei fwyhau er tymor 1995-96, er rhaid gobeithio am well lwc na gafodd y Dreigiau yn erbyn Swindon dau dymor yn ol ar y Cae Ras, pan llwyddodd y 'Robins' i sgorio ddwywaith yn y chwarter awr olaf i ennill pwynt! Triphwynt i'r Dreigiau am bwp o'r gloch? Cawn weld. Mwyhewch y gem!

Good afternoon and welcome back to the Racecourse for today's game.

May we start off by sending our congratulations to the girls of Ysgol Bryn Collen, Llangollen and also Ysgol Plas Coach, Wrexham, who have won through to the Girls Cymru football challenge finals in Cardiff.

Both teams are travelling south this week to compete against teams from Mid and South Wales, we will bring you the results in the next programme, but wish both teams every success in bringing the trophy back North.

Whilst on girls' football, may we congratulate the U13s team from Ysgol Bryn Alyn who have won through to the regional finals of the U13 adidas Cup. The girls will travel to Merseyside on April 1 to compete for a place in the national finals and once again we wish them every success.

Recently the Scheme held the area finals of the Kellogg's Frosties U11 Challenge Trophy and once again the boys from Borrass Park School became the local champions and went forward to the compete for the regional title.

Despite an early success in their opening game, the boys unfortunately found the opposition too strong to progress further. We trust the boys enjoyed their experience and should be applauded for continuing the proud tradition that Borrass Park has in this competition.

You will see a great number of children in the ground today, which is thanks to the club supplying us with over 500 free tickets to distribute amongst various local schools.

What the papers say

"Quick fire Wrexham kept home and promotion fires burning with a blink-and-you'll-miss-it win over Grimsby Town. Three goals in three minutes sunk the Mariners after half-an-hour when you could almost hear some people snoring in the sunshine at The Racecourse. Grimsby, in their bar-ode strip, gave as good as they got for over 30 minutes, but when then all over the shop as Wrexham struck."

David Lovett, Wrexham Evening Leader

"The first – and best – goal of the three came on 33 minutes. Matty Crowell, Wrexham's menacing number 16, played a one-two with Jim Whitley and – bang! Crowell let fly from all of 25 yards and as soon as it left his boot it was in. The ball swerved beyond Andrew Pethering's forlorn leap to open up the floodgates on a game that up to then had a distinctly arid look about it."

David Lovett, Wrexham Evening Leader

"Less than two minutes later, Armstrong latched onto a through ball from Darren Ferguson and hit a cool finish past the hopelessly exposed Pethering. And joy turned to delirium seconds later when the former Premiership striker grabbed his seventh goal of the season, turning in Llewellyn's low cross from the right. Almost inevitably, the second half proved to be a huge anti-climax with Grimsby recovering their poise to turn the match into a dour midfield scrap."

Andy Rose, Wales on Sunday

Andy Rose, Wales on Sunday

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Welcome Return to the Racecourse

North Wales football fans have had to make regular pilgrimages down south in the last half a decade, but with the unprecedented success of the awesome Millennium Stadium, not many of us will argue too much about that.

Indeed, it is hard to envisage when we will actually get to see a Wales competitive fixture at the Racecourse Ground again, at least in the foreseeable future.

There have been calls of late for a long overdue friendly match back at the birthplace of the game and with manager Mark Hughes having his roots in north-east Wales, born in Wrexham and brought up in Ruabon, he has no doubt been touting the FAW International to Committee to consider one of the World Cup qualifying warm-ups being staged in the north.

That wish has been granted in the form of back to back friendlies at the latter end of this season. Wales will visit Norway on Thursday, 27 May and the return home to play Canada at the Racecourse on Sunday, 30 May.

With another build-up game in Hungary on 31 March, Hughes is keen to tune the squad up for the double-header scenario in the coming qualifying campaign, as we have not fared too well in them in the past, and will need to be on song as we face back to back fixtures throughout our Group Six series.

The first matches in September, see us meeting up with Azerbaijan once again and then welcoming Northern Ireland to the Millennium a few days later. Only a month or so later we make the long trip to England and Poland will be in Cardiff before you know it!

Sparky will be hoping that not too many cry off from the build-up matches, but that is always an inevitability, as for one reason or another the names drop off his list. But if certain players want to be included for the important matches they have to be willing to take part in the preparations. Somehow, with such a high profile group, one feels the incentive will be too great not to go AWOL this time around.

While not being regular opponents by any means, Wales do have a certain affinity with the Canadians. The majority of modern fans will remember the two away games played in May 1986 – first in Toronto when we lost 2-0 and then nine days later in Vancouver when goals from Dean Saunders (2) and Malcolm Allen gave us some revenge.

The most recent contest was a 'B' international in March 1992 at the Racecourse, which ended in a 1-1 draw, when the visitors were under the title of Canadian Olympic XI.

Going back through the mists of time and into the chronicles of Welsh footballing history, we undertook our first ever overseas tour to Canada in 1929, when playing a number of matches including games against various regions. This visit to the dominions being a great success.

Between 1 June and 3 July, the FAW touring party, under the managership of the great Ted Robbins and Arthur Thomas (of Cefni) played 15 matches and were undefeated throughout. The games included victories over the likes of Calgary (10-1) and Winnipeg (7-1).

As a matter of interest, the Welsh team sailed on 24 May, 1929 and didn't reach Montreal until seven days later!

However, one has to go back to the 19th Century and the autumn of 1861 for the very first Wales v Canada encounter. The North Americans were on a tour of Britain which included an unofficial match against Wales at the Racecourse that September.

The game was drawn 1-1, although another match was arranged for the following month, again at Wrexham and this time the hosts came out on top 2-1. The players and teams made interesting reading as the Welsh line-up was:

James Trainer (Preston), Dai Jones (Bolton), George Postle (Chirk), Williams Hughes (Bootle), John Mates (Chirk), Ben Lewis (Bolton), W.E. Pryce-Jones (Newtown), Billy Owen (Chirk), Ben Lewis (Wrexham), Richard Lewis Jones (Swindon), Billy Lewis (Crewe). Scores being Richard Lewis Jones and Billy Lewis.

Wales have been playing internationals against Scotland, England and Ireland since 1876, but although 'unofficial games' Canada were in effect their first opponents for Wales from outside of Britain.

All this four years before a certain Billy Meredith put the Welsh shirt on for the first time!

Gareth M. Davies



GET WELL

A quick look at a few of the emails sent to Andy Dibble via the club website:

I remember when you stuck your thumb up to me when I was sitting in the Paddock. I wear your shirt to every home game and I hope you get better soon. I will miss you shouting at the players in the next game and hope to see you saving goals again. You are my favourite goalie. Get Well Soon
Jack Coeshott - Aged 8

Hope you get to a full recovery soon... you are already a hero at Wrexham and if the commitment, focus, strength and energy you show on the field is anything to go by, I am certain you will recover in double quick time! All the best
Colin Williams

I'd just like to wish you all the best and I really hope you can recover from your injury and play football next season. Your injury puts a damper on what was otherwise a great game for a posh fan. You are a great keeper, and it's such a shame that your braveness in goal on Saturday lead to your unfortunate injury. Wrexham will struggle to replace you this season...
Good luck,
Richard - a Posh fan

Very sorry to hear about your injury, you don't have the best of luck in Cambridgeshire. We met in the Supporters Club at the Abbey Stadium a couple of seasons ago, after you had collected a nasty gash above your eye. We all enjoyed chatting to you while you waited for your transport to a Luton Town function, you are a wonderful advert for professional football and we hope this injury isn't as serious as it looked on the TV. Best wishes for a speedy recovery from all your Cambridge United fans,
Barry

So sorry to hear of your awful injury yesterday. I hope the operation is a complete success and look forward to seeing you between the sticks again soon.
Nigel Davies

On behalf of all of us here at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

Rounding up the latest WAFC news

06.03.04 CUP DISAPPOINTMENT

After a fantastic run in the League Cup for the Under 19's it all sadly came to an end at home to Preston in the Northern Section Semi Final. The Dragons were unfortunately outclassed on the day by four goals to one, but certainly there are some positive's to come from this fantastic cup campaign. It is something that many of the young players will have gained valuable experience from and maybe next year they will be able to collect some silverware.

06.03.04 HOME WIN

The Dragons collected three points as they defeated a less than impressive Grimsby Town at home. Matty Crowell got the Dragons off the mark and soon after, Chris Armstrong scored twice in a minute to send the Mariners' support away with their heads hung low. This 3-0 win keeps Wrexham in the fighting pack for the play-off's.

08.03.04 GOOD NEWS FOR WALES

Celtic announced that John Hartson's operation on his back had gone well and he is on course to return to playing by pre-season thus making him available for the up and coming early season World Cup qualifiers for Wales.

08.03.04 WELSH SUCCESS

Wales kicked off their U17's second qualifying stage for the UEFA European Championships by beating Israel by one goal to nil.

09.03.04 RUMOURS

The local press speculated on an International game to be played at the Racecourse on Sunday 30th May between Wales and Canada. The report said that it was likely the game would be confirmed later in the week.

10.03.04 CONGRATULATIONS TO BARRY

Ex-Wrexham defender Barry Hunter has been appointed as Rushden & Diamonds stand in manager until the end of the season. All here at Wrexham wish him the very best and hope this opportunity may become permanent for Barry.

10.03.04 FANTASTIC

Wales U17's team continued their good run of form in their qualifying group for the Championships in France this summer by beating the defending champions Portugal by one goal to nil.

10.03.04 RESERVE'S ROLL ON IN THE CUP

Lee Jones finally put the Reds through to the semi finals of the Reserve League Cup when he put away his penalty in extra time against Grimsby Town after extreme domination of the whole game from the Dragons. The slender 1-0 victory now puts Wrexham into the semi-finals, where they will meet Sheffield Wednesday.

12.03.04 INTERNATIONAL CONFIRMATION

The Welsh FA has announced that on May 30th Wales will play an International against Canada here at the Racecourse as part of their warm up games to the World Cup Qualifying.

12.03.04 DISAPPOINTMENT

Wales' U17's side were finally beaten after some fantastic results put them within an ace of making the finals. Greece came from behind to win 2-1 and so eliminating the Welsh.

13.03.04 OH DEAR

Chris Llewellyn's early goal against Peterborough was quite clearly not enough for the Dragons, as the Posh stuck back and thrashed Wrexham 6-1.

13.03.04 BAD DAY ALL ROUND

Wrexham's day at London Road was made worse by the horrific injury to Andy Dibble, as the goalie had his elbow severely dislocated and broke both bones in his forearm as he bravely came out to collect the ball. The injury has certainly ended Dibble's season, but we all wish him well and hope to see him back in a Wrexham shirt before long.

i.q. test

the questions

1. Who was the top scorer for Swindon Town last season, having netted 26 times in all competitions?
2. Can you name the Welshman who is the Robins most capped player, having won 30 of his 50 caps while at the County Ground?
3. Excluding current boss Andy King's two spells in charge, can you name the last five men to have managed Swindon Town?
4. Which now defunct, and long forgotten, competition did the County Ground outfit win in 1970?
5. Swindon's first ever Football League match, on 28th August 1920, ended in a remarkable 9-1 victory over which fellow current Second Division side, a win that is still a club record to this day?

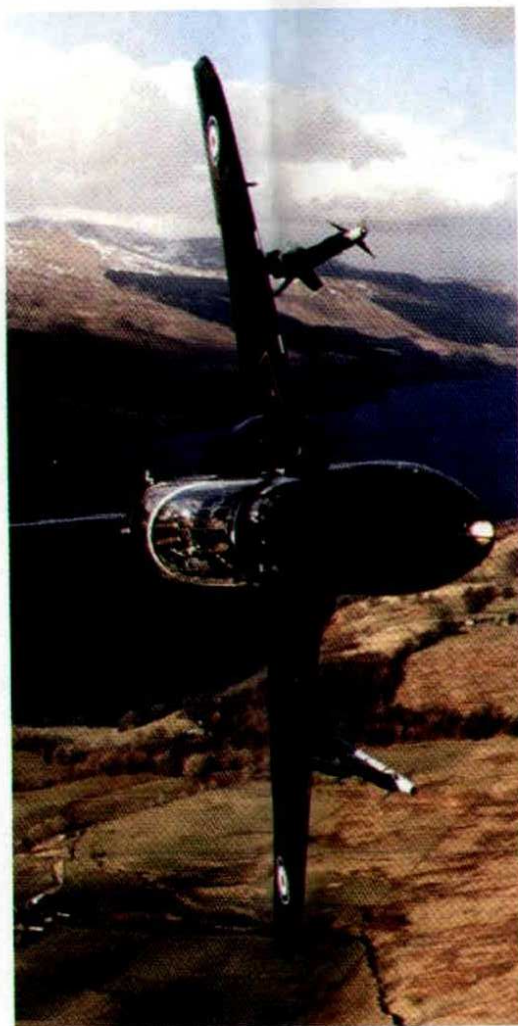


6. Can you name the only player to turn out in all 46 Nationwide League games for Portsmouth during the 2002/2003-season, when Pompey were crowned as First Division champions?
7. The Park, Beeston Cricket Ground and the Castle Ground are amongst the former home grounds of which long established club, who moved to their current home ground on Meadow Lane in 1910?
8. Rugby Park is the home ground of which current Scottish Premier Division side?
9. Ajaccio, Sochaux and Auxerre all come from which European country?
10. Prior to the reorganisation of the Football League in 1992, can you name the last ten different clubs to have won the Fourth Division title?

the answers

1. Sam Parkin
2. Rod Thomas
3. Roy Evans, John Gorman, Steve McMahon, Jimmy Quinn and Colin Todd
4. Anglo Italian Cup
5. Luton Town
6. Shaka Hislop
7. Notts County
8. Kilmarnock
9. France
10. Burnley, Chesterfield, Darlington, Exeter City, Northampton Town, Rotherham United, Swindon Town, Wimbledon, Wolverhampton Wanderers and York City.

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LEADER

oh darren darren

We Need To Step Up!

While I was hoping for us to bounce back from last week's disaster at Bournemouth with a win against Rushden & Diamonds, in the end a draw with the team that came up with us from the Third Division was a decent result on the day.

Having taken the lead through a marvellous Carlos Edwards goal, it was a shame that we couldn't have gone onto record another home victory, but it still keeps us within shooting distance of the play-offs. Although we are now at the stage of the season where we can afford few more slip ups and we have to put a run together to push ourselves back into serious contention.

Sitting in the stands and watching the Rushden game was not a nice experience, but at least I'm free from suspension now and looking forward to getting back out into the middle of the park on matchdays.

I'm a football fan and enjoy watching as many games as I can, but not when it's us playing and I could be out there!

If Chris Llewellyn's header in the second half had dropped another couple of inches and not come back off the bar, then I'm sure we could have collected all three points, but over the 90 minutes I couldn't really argue against a draw being the fairest result.

But that just increases the need on us to win again at the Racecourse. With just one success from our last five home games, you don't have to look too far to find out why we aren't higher up the table.

We also need to score more goals here and I'm looking at the whole side when I say that, as our goals for column does not make for happy reading. My own contribution of just one goal all season illustrates the point and a midfielder must be looking to score more than that, certainly if he hopes to help his side into the play-offs.

One of the positives from the match was the performance of Matty Crowell and it was also nice for him, that on his full home debut, he was voted the sponsors' Man of the Match.

Matty has not had the chance too often this season, but he showed a strength in his game that bodes well for the future and he did a good job of coming into the side with myself missing - I'll have to watch my step in future!

It will now be a big test of the team to see if we can kick on during these last 12 games and see if we can put a run together of similar proportions to the one we enjoyed at the end of last season. We certainly have the capabilities to do just that, what we may need is some luck and a belief in ourselves.

We will miss Brian Carey this afternoon and the last time I saw Steve Roberts his face was well blown up through an abscess, so his involvement doesn't look too promising. Eddie has also been struggling with a hamstring strain and Andy Dibble was suffering with a heavy cold, but apart from that we're all okay!

We took a gamble that the Oldham game was going to be called off on Tuesday and reported in for training as normal, which turned out to be the right decision. This has meant we have a good clear week out on the practice pitches at Colliers Park, although as a player I would have rather the match gone ahead.

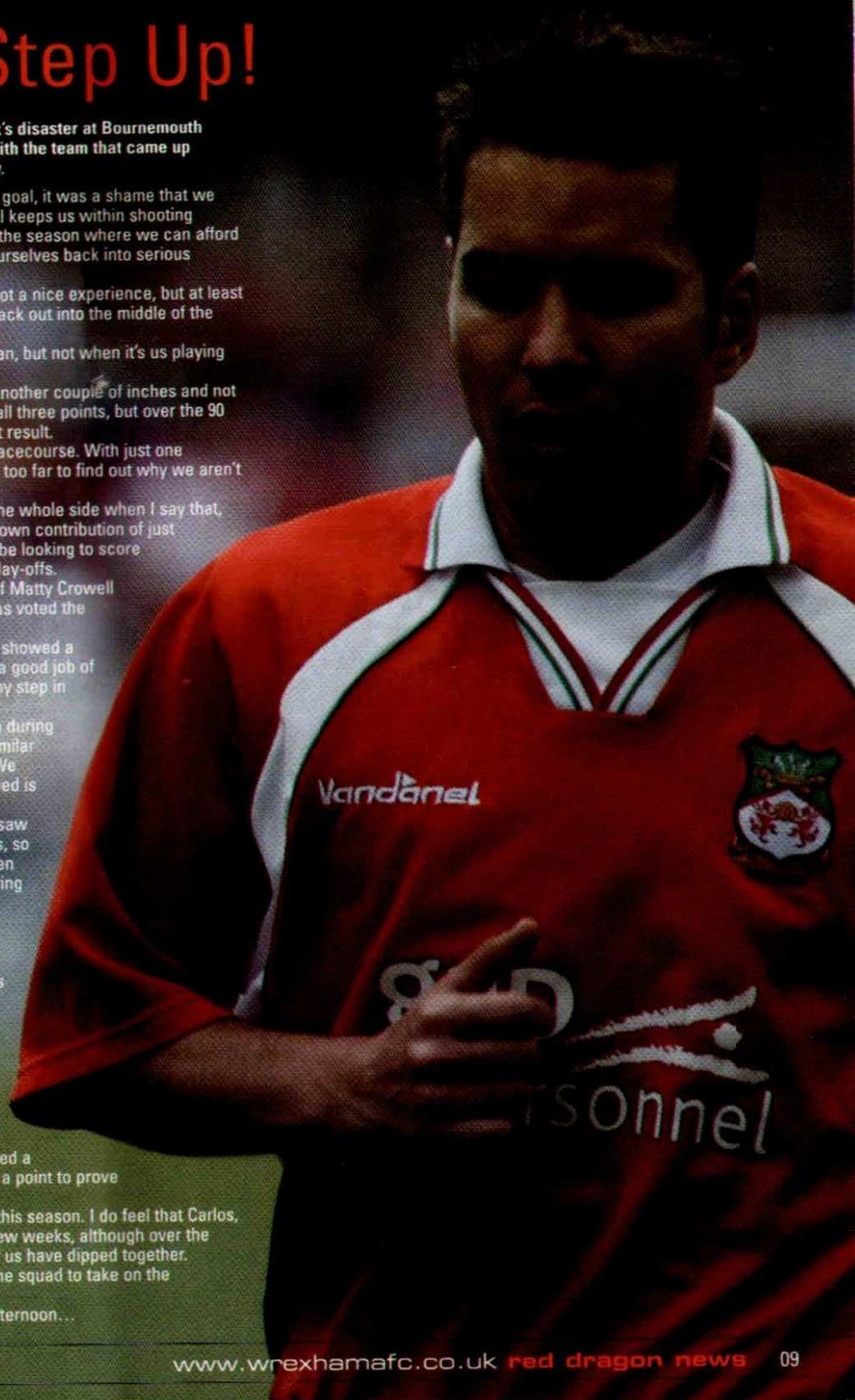
Grimsby have just appointed a new manager, so we will have to wait and see what effect that has on their performance today. It usually brings an up turn in fortunes, but to be fair to the Mariners, they have won three of their last six league games and already started to lift themselves about the relegation trapdoor.

Their 6-1 success over Barnsley last weekend certainly lifted a few eyebrows around the league, but then they probably had a point to prove against the side that has just taken their leading scorer!

But I can not stress enough - it's up to us how well we do this season. I do feel that Carlos, Dennis and myself have seen a dip in our form over the last few weeks, although over the season you would have to expect that, it just that the three of us have dipped together.

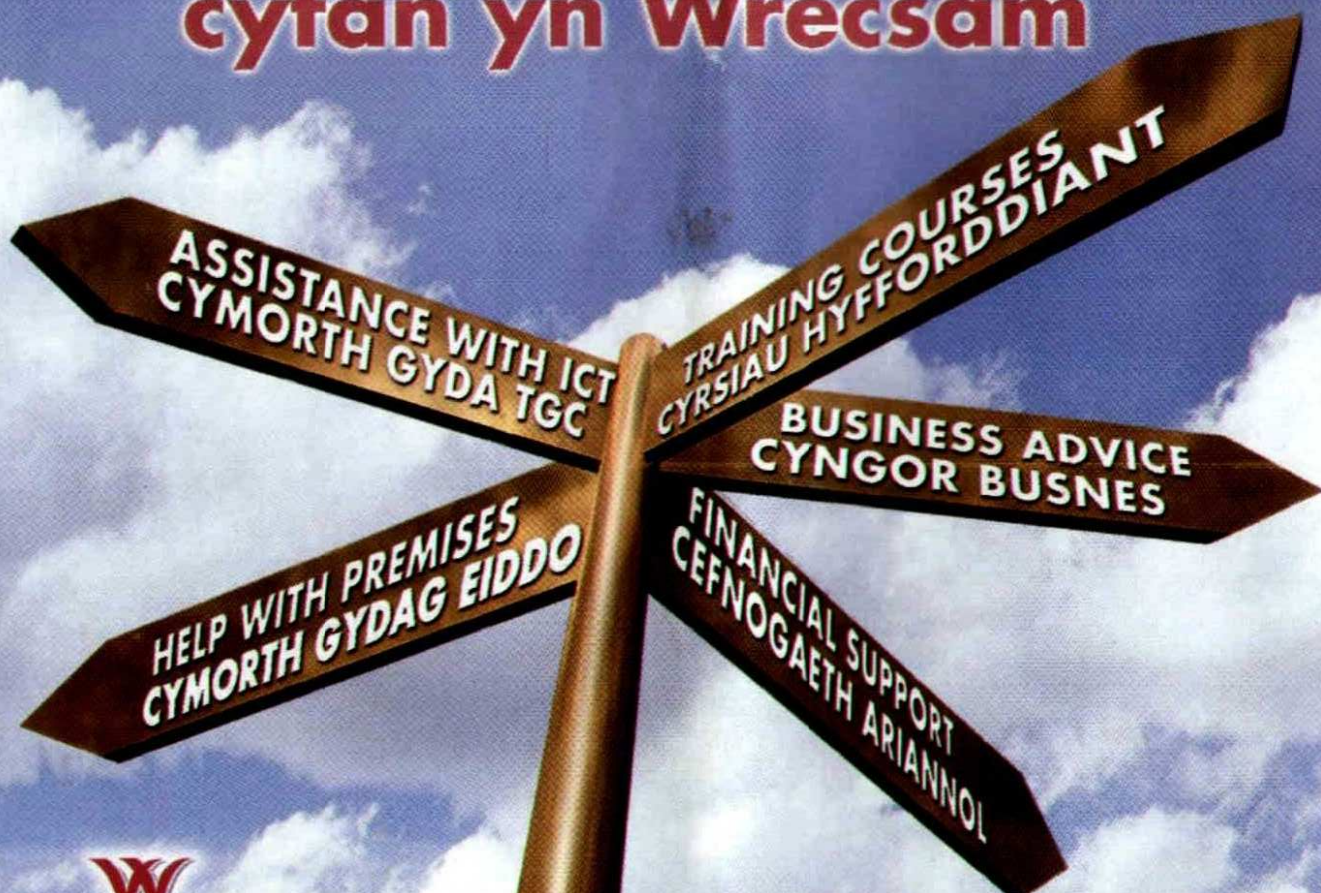
This is a time when we have to look to other members of the squad to take on the responsibility and help push us through a sticky spell.

Let's hope that we are back to firing on all cylinders this afternoon...



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opposing view swindon town

Robins take Magic Roundabout to success

Great Football Clichés Number 743: "At this point in the season, anyone who puts together a run of good results will get promoted/in the play-offs." To the delight of their fans, it is Swindon who are living the cliché.

Saturday's defeat to league leaders Plymouth Argyle brought a fine run to an end: previous to that game they had won five matches in a row, capping off an eleven match unbeaten sequence stretching back to December, nine of which were wins!

That seems to fulfil the cliché's criteria for "put together a run of good results" I reckon! As a result of that run - and Tuesday's return to form; a victory over Grimsby Town - Town arrive at The Racecourse in fourth place, with realistic hopes of an automatic promotion place.

Certainly Tommy Mooney, who added to his goal against Plymouth with both strikes against The Mariners, saw that as a realistic target when he told Swindon's official website: "At this stage of the season



"This is only the second season that I've played upfront completely and I've got 22 and 20 goals respectively. That's also 38 goals between Sam [Parkin] and I this season, so we're going a long way to having a good year between us. If it's Sam's turn to score at Wrexham on Saturday, then great, I just hope if and when we go to Cardiff, it'll be my turn."

◀ Swindon's **Tommy Mooney** on becoming a goalscoring hero at 32!

it doesn't matter about the performance. We are not trying to win over the crowd at this point, you do that by winning games. I don't care how we play...as long as we get the three points.

"We might not get a championship medal, but I think if we put the run together that we have done in the last half a dozen games then we will get that second spot, there is no doubt about that."

The defeat at Home Park was a blow though, because before that match manager Andy King had set his sights even higher:

"There are no positives out of this because we have lost the league title," King told his official website after the match. "If we had beaten them there was a mathematical possibility - but now there is not."

"It's schoolboy errors that cost us the game."

"I think the disappointment from the game is that a) we thought we could win down at Plymouth and b) we feel the championship may have gone now."

"The plus side is that it was probably the most difficult away game we will have this season and we matched them for the most of it. Although we lost we came out of the game with a lot of credit."

"If we can go to Plymouth and put up a good performance without being at our best, then we have very little to fear in the rest of our away games this season."

"I think second place is realistic now and very obtainable, albeit very difficult."

"What it means is that mathematically we have a better chance of catching second place now with the amount of games we have left, especially with one in hand. If you don't strive for it then you won't get anywhere."

"If we go for it and just fall short then we are in the play offs, which is just as important for us at this stage of the season."

Any Wrexham fan who managed to negotiate the Magic Roundabout (Great Swindon Cliché Number One, by the way) to see Town's performance against the Dragons in September, will not be surprised by their rise to the top of the table. With on-loan Jamie Milner outstanding behind the potent pairing of Mooney and Sam



▶ Goal mouth action from the game in September.

Parkin, Town were kept at bay by a fine performance by Andy Dibble and certainly looked the genuine article. However, things fell apart in October: seven games and no wins, with a run of five consecutive defeats wedged in the middle, saw Town slump from second to fourteenth in the table, but they have certainly return to their fine form now!

A further blow from the defeat at Plymouth, apart from the result, is the suspension incurred by skipper Andy Gurney, who scored the only goal in that defeat of Wrexham, after a sending off which King contests:

"Gurney will undoubtedly be suspended for at least one game, so I need to start thinking about what I am going to do for a lot of the other games."

"I will probably look into a loan situation next week but it depends on what becomes available."

"The only players available at this time of year are the ones that are not being used, so it is difficult to pick one that could come in and improve your own squad."

"A lot of players don't want to come into the second division and sit on the bench, so whoever does come in has to be good enough to go straight in and play."

"Some clubs won't even let you have a player if you can't guarantee them a starting place, which is totally naive of them to underestimate the quality of this division."

"I think we need it with the injuries and the size of the squad. Where, what and how I don't really know the answer at the moment."

"I have sixteen to choose from...and that is with Ben Martin, Jon Stevenson, and Grant Smith in the squad, who have not had too much first team action."

Despite the depth of his squad, King has certainly put together a side capable of cutting through this rather mediocre division. If injuries and suspensions hold off, expect them to be up where they belong at the end of the season.

last five results

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Date	Opponents	V	Res	Scorers
21.02.04	Chesterfield	H	2-0	O'Hanlon, Parkin
03.03.04	Tranmere Rovers	H	2-0	Parkin (2)
06.03.04	Brentford	H	2-1	Gurney, Igoe
13.03.04	Plymouth Argyle	A	1-2	Mooney
17.03.04	Grimsby Town	H	2-0	Mooney (2)

◀ Matt Hewlett a driving force in midfield.



On the eve of Wednesday night's clash with Grimsby at the County Ground, Swindon boss Andy King received his Tissot Managers' Performance Award. Not to be confused with the monthly Nationwide gong, this award is presented every quarter to the top manager from all four divisions based on a points system.

"I'm delighted with this Tissot League Trophy – but the real winners are the team, the coaching staff and the Board. We're all working hard here at Swindon, and it's great to get recognition for what we are achieving. It's a little strange receiving the trophy from Paul [Sturrock]. Only a few weeks ago, I was envious of him being Second Quarter winner. Now it's me – and he's manager of Southampton!"

The award actually proved a good omen as King's Swindon chalked up a 2-0 victory later that day against the battling Mariners. "I didn't think it was that great a performance, but it seemed comfortable for us," said King. "At times I thought the game was becoming a little bit dull and it was without a high tempo throughout the whole ninety minutes. The game was not going that well and it wasn't really going either way, but then [Tommy] Mooney pops up and scores that goal [after 34 minutes]."

"The second goal came thanks to the quality of [Brian] Howard going forward, he threads the ball through to Mooney and he slotted it away for 2-0 [on the stroke of half-time]. I thought at that point that the game was then in a comfortable position for us," continued a satisfied King, before expressing concerns over the attacking nature of his side.

"What we do have is goals in the side and maybe sometimes we entertain that little bit too much. We have Brian Howard who is always looking to go forward and Sammy Igoe likes to get into holes and play. [Sam] Parkin and Mooney are always looking for that goal, so maybe sometimes we need to focus on the job of closing games out and being that little bit negative. At times we cause ourselves problems and teams counteract it and it leaves us vulnerable at the back. At the moment we are getting through it because we always look like scoring at the right time."

Summing up the victory, the Swindon boss concluded; "It's another fantastic night in the sense of the result, hopefully the crowd have gone home happy and it's another step in the right direction. I don't think they [the players] are going to throw it away now. I think there is too much spirit, too much desire and too much quality in that dressing room, so I am hoping they are going to continue this wonderful season. [The victory] keeps the automatic dream alive for us which is still a mathematical proposition and if we don't get that then I will settle for second best and try to get through the play offs."

A key member of King's team is midfielder Sammy Igoe who remains focussed on the club's goal of winning promotion despite being charged by the FA with bringing the game into disrepute. After the 2-2 draw with Blackpool in January, Igoe reportedly admitted feigning injury in an incident, which saw Blackpool's Richie Wellens sent off.

With the FA hearing imminent you could understand if Igoe lost some concentration but the 28-year-old has reassured supporters this won't be the case. "I'm just focused on the next three points and then the next three points after that. We'll deal with the other situation when we have to. But it won't affect my game in any way."

If Igoe plays today keep an eye out for his new hairstyle. After Swindon's unbeaten run came to an end after last Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Plymouth, Igoe decided on a new look. "The red streak has gone and I've decided to shave my hair off for the new cut. How long it stays that way might depend on what sort of run we put together from this point."

Meanwhile, Swindon has some big games coming up – none bigger than the Easter Saturday encounter with rivals Bristol City. The club has already confirmed that the Town End of their ground is a complete sell-out and ticket office manager Stuart Pike said: "It's the first time it has sold out in advance during in my time here. The middle of the Nationwide Stand is also sold out and there aren't too many tickets left in the same area in the Arkells Stand. I don't think I'd be too far wrong in looking at a crowd of 14,000."



IN CHARGE

ANDY KING
In his second spell at the County Ground, Andy was originally put in charge during 2000, but later found himself replaced by former Liverpool boss Roy Evans. When Evans moved on, King was back at the helm in January 2002, following a short spell when Malcolm Crosby was in temporary charge, as he was still on the club's payroll and it was deemed to be the best value for money at that time.

Since then the 47-year-old has built steadily with a 13th place finish in 2001/2002 bettered by three places last term, and this time around the Robins arrive at the Racecourse on the back of an excellent run which sees automatic promotion a realistic aim.

Luton-born, as a player he was a midfielder who gained two caps for England at under-21 level but surprisingly never played a full international. Club wise, he will be remembered by most supporters for his two spells on Merseyside with Everton but he actually served no less than seven clubs. The others being Luton (twice), Queens Park Rangers, West Bromwich Albion, Wolves, Cambuur (Holland) and finally Aldershot.

goalkeepers

01 BART GRIEMINK

A custodian with considerable experience in the Football League, Bart has been on the bench recently as back up to current first choice Rhys Evans. A Dutchman, he celebrates his 32nd birthday in just nine days time and came to these shores in 1995 to join Birmingham City on a free transfer from WK Emmen. Followed Barry Fry to Peterborough just a year later and made 67 appearances between the posts for the Posh, prior to moving to the County Ground in the summer of 2000 following a loan spell.

20 RHYS EVANS

Currently the first choice stopper for the Robins, Rhys was given an excellent grounding in the professional game during his time at Chelsea, where he previously worked under the tutelage of former Reds keeper Eddie Niedzwiecki. Swindon-born, despite sounding Welsh the 22-year-old has actually been capped by England at schoolboy, youth and under-21 level and he will be hoping that his time at the County Ground is a steppingstone on his way to a full cap. Released by the Stamford Bridge outfit during the summer, he had previously pulled on the gloves for Bristol Rovers, Queens Park Rangers and Leyton Orient.

defenders

02 SEAN O'HANLON

A recent arrival at the County Ground, Sean joined up on loan from Everton in January, has since been a regular in the Robins defence and netted his first senior goal in the defeat of struggling Chesterfield. Southport-born, the 21-year-old is a former England youth and under-20 international who turned professional in August 2002. Having come through the Toffee's academy set up at Bellefield, he is yet to appear in the first team for the Merseysiders.

06 ANDY GURNEY

The club captain and a vital member of the County Ground defence, Andy is a versatile player who is usually to be found at full-back but is equally at home when operating in the midfield. A Bristolian by birth, the 30-year-old turned professional in his home city with Rovers in 1992 and went onto play well over 100 times in the blue-and-white quarters. Always dangerous when delivering his trademark free-kicks, he joined Reading for a fee of £100,000 in 1999 following a period on the English Riviera with Torquay United.

15 ANDREW NICHOLAS

Has really impressed in recent months since gaining a regular starting spot, Andrew made his first team debut in the LDV meeting with Boston earlier this season. Locally-born, the 20-year-old is a tall and commanding defender who looks to have a promising future in the game and must be in the running for the clubs Young Player of the Year award. Having come through the academy set up at Liverpool, he spent a season as a professional at Anfield but failed to register a first team appearance and moved to the County Ground last summer.

19 MATT HEYWARD

Now into this fourth season in the West Country, Matt has been one of the mainstays of the Robins rearguard and is a strapping central defender who likes to dominate the opposition forwards. Chatham-

born, he is still just 24-years-old and was an ever present for the club last term, a quite rare occurrence for a defender in modern times. Signed from Burnley in January 2001, he played just 13 times in all competitions for the Clarets but since his move south has played around 150 times for Swindon.

22 ALAN REEVES

The brother of former Preston and Chesterfield striker David Reeves, Alan has made a big impression on the County Ground faithful during the six seasons he has spent with the club and came close to clinching the Player of the Year trophy last term. Birkenhead-born, the 35-year-old started out with Norwich City, from whom he joined Gillingham on loan, but it was following a £10,000 move to Chester that he first started to get noticed. Now at the veteran stage of his career, the wholehearted defender moved to Rochdale before playing 27 times for Wimbledon in the Premier League during a four-year spell.

midfielders

03 GRANT SMITH

A well travelled midfielder who is now at the ninth club of his career, Grant was signed from Sheffield United in the summer after failing to make his mark during the two-years that he spent at Bramall Lane, although he had impressed while on loan at both Halifax and Plymouth. Irvine-born, the 23-year-old started out with Wycombe Wanderers and then Reading but failed to register a first team appearance for either. Returned to his native Scotland to pull on the colours of Hearts, Livingston and Clydebank before moving to the Steel City in July 2001.

04 MATT HEWLETT

Another to have previously pulled on the shirt of one of the Bristol clubs, Matt came through the junior ranks at Ashton Gate and went onto amass 153 senior appearances for the Robins after turning pro in 1993. Bristol-born, the 28-year-old made waves in his teenage years and was soon marked out as one to keep an eye on, indeed his reward was a call-up for the England youth side. A former team-mate of Matt Heywood while on loan at Burnley in 1998, he has a good engine and gives his all in the centre of midfield.

07 SAMMY IGOE

Currently in his first season in Wiltshire, Sammy has visited the Racecourse on numerous occasions previously with his former club Reading where he earned a reputation as a hardworking wide man. Born in Staines, the 28-year-old may be short in height but he more than makes up for this with some towering performances on the right wing, where he always shows great enthusiasm. Came through the ranks at Fratton Park and played 177 times for Portsmouth prior to his £100,000 sale to the Royals in March 2000.

10 STEFANI MIGLIORANZI

Having originally joined Swindon on a short-term contract at the start of last term, Stefani has made a big impression and is now one of the first names on the team sheet. Born in Pocos de Caldas, Brazil, the 26-year-old arrived at the club with a question mark over his fitness, but this has since been more than dispelled as his creative midfield play has made him a firm favourite. Originally joined Portsmouth from St John's University in New York in 1999 and went on to play 42 times for Pompey before heading to the County Ground on a free transfer.



11 DAVID DUKE

Likely to feature on the left-hand side of midfield this afternoon, David is usually used in a wing-back role although his natural attacking tendencies do tend to mean that he spends a lot of time pushing forward. Inverness-born, the 25-year-old was spotted by Sunderland in 1997, when turning out for Redby CA, and signed on a free transfer. Despite his versatility, he failed to make the breakthrough at the Stadium of Light but has been a consistent performer in his time at the County Ground.

17 BRIAN HOWARD

A former team-mate and midfield companion of our own Matty Crowell during their time on the South Coast with Southampton, Brian failed to register a first team appearance at St Mary's Stadium. Winchester-born, the 21-year-old was capped by England at both youth and under-20 level during his formative years. Having spent two-years as a professional with the Saints, he was allowed to leave during the summer and took up the offer of a contract with Swindon.

attackers

08 TOMMY MOONEY

A vastly experienced striker who has seen it all in the professional game, Tommy is proving to be an ideal partner for top scorer Sam Parkin and the duo are forming a dynamic understanding. Billingham-born, the 32-year-old has played in the top flight with both Watford and Birmingham but surprisingly his only medal to date was a Second Division championship winners accolade with the Hornets in 1998. Swindon are his ninth professional club and he made over 500 senior appearances to date, for, amongst others, Scarborough, Southend and Derby.

09 SAM PARKIN

One of the most feared strikers in the lower divisions this season, Sam has scored no less than 18 times already this term and is one of the main reasons that the Robins are pushing for a return to First Division football. Roehampton-born, he celebrated his 22nd birthday just last Sunday and the Wrexham defence will have to be at it's best to ensure that the former Chelsea youngster does not celebrate with a goal. Millwall, Wycombe, Oldham and Northampton have all benefited from having him on loan but he eventually joined Swindon at the start of last season, when he came in with a bang scoring 26 times in all competitions.

14 JON STEVENSON

Another player in his first year with the club, Jon is an inexperienced forward who is trying to make his name in the professional game. Leicester-born, the 21-year-old came through the ranks at his home city club, turned professional in March 2001 but made just fourteen appearances for the Foxes in a little over two-years all from the subs bench. A quick and skilful striker, he was released last summer but was then recommended to the Robins by Leicester Director of Football Dave Bassett.

16 RORY FALLON

Has already played against Wrexham this season with his former club Barnsley, Rory was brought on from the subs bench in the 31st minute of our defeat at Oakwell back in October, to replace top scorer Dean Gorre. Born in Gisbourne, New Zealand, today is his 22nd birthday today but hopefully, he will not be returning south with a win bonus to help his celebrations. Moved from Yorkshire last November but has been a regular in the referee's notebook since, including a red-card in the match against Rushden and Diamonds.

« From the top Sam Parkin, Andy Gurney, Rhys Evans



WHO FIGHT TOGETHER ►►

from anglo italian cup to zenith

A is for ANGLIO Italian Cup

Swindon were the inaugural winners of the Anglo-Italian Cup in 1970, beating Napoli 3-0 in the final held in the Stadio San Paolo, Naples. The tournament consisted of six English and six Italian teams split into three groups - two from each country, with each team playing both teams from the other country home and away. Strangely, one extra point was awarded for each goal scored and it was this rule that ultimately sent Swindon through to the final. Swindon beat Juventus 4-0 at home but lost at home to Napoli. Against all odds, they won 1-0 in Juventus and 1-0 in Napoli to progress to the final stage at the expense of Middlesbrough and Wolves. Napoli also qualified, helped by a 5-1 home win over Sheffield Wednesday. Peter Noble and Arthur Horsfield scored the goals that incensed the Italian fans enough to riot! They ripped seats from the ground and hurled them onto the pitch. Though the match was abandoned after 79 minutes, the trophy was awarded to Swindon!

B is for BADGE

The current badge of Swindon Town F.C. is the club's third and was introduced in time for the 1991-92 season following the club's well advertised financial problems. The idea behind the new badge was to give the club a 'brand new' and 'fresh' image following a difficult period. The 'travelling' football represents the club looking to the future with successful progress. The diamond shape clearly has the letter 'S' (for Swindon) running through it, while a green section was also introduced to match a 'green trim' on the team's home (red and white) shirts.

C is for COUNTY Ground

Following their formation, Swindon played on a field in the Old Town area, next to a quarry which is now part of Bradford Road and Avenue Road. The club later moved to Globe Field, now Brunswick Street, and Lansdowne Road. In 1884 they moved to the Croft, home of Swindon Rangers Rugby Club. They remained there until 1895 when they moved to the County Ground, playing on a pitch where the cricket ground is now situated. They eventually moved the playing surface the short distance to its present situation.

D is for DUBONNET Cup

On 5 May, 1910 Swindon won the Dubonnet Cup which was contested for by the two losing FA Cup semi-finalists. The game was played in Paris, where the 'Robins' met Barnsley, who had lost to Everton in their FA Cup semi-final. With both sides at full strength, Swindon went on to win the impressive trophy with a 2-1 victory, both goals being scored by the legendary Harold Fleming. During the match, the cup was guarded by soldiers on either side, both with rifles and fixed bayonet. Team captain Charlie Bannister collected the trophy and after the game the Swindon players celebrated at a theatre performance before the Town director, Mr. H.W. Thomas, sang the old tune 'Sally in our Alley'!

E is for Re-ELECTED

The 'Robins' have suffered the indignation of having to seek re-election to the Football League on three separate occasions. The first time was in 1933 when they finished bottom of the Third Division (South) on goal average from Newport County and Clapton Orient. They then had to seek re-election two years on the trot in 1956 and 1957. In 1956 they finished bottom of Division Three (South) four points adrift from their closest rivals, Crystal Palace. The following season they finished second from bottom, five points ahead of Norwich City. On each occasion the 'Robins' were comfortably re-elected.

F is for FA Cup Semi-finalists

Swindon Town have twice reached the semi-finals of the FA Cup and on both occasions they were still a Southern League side! The first was in 1910 when they lost to the eventual cup winners Newcastle United (2-0), having beaten Crystal Palace (3-1), Burnley (2-0), Spurs (3-2), and Manchester City (2-0). They repeated the feat two years later when they again lost to the eventual cup winners Barnsley (1-0)



Don Rogers turns away to celebrate after putting Swindon 2-1 up in the Football League Cup Final win over Arsenal



G is for GLENN HODDLE

Glenn Hoddle was the man who led Swindon to the FA Premier League in 1993 - the first time that the 'Robins' had ever played in the top division of English football. Having played for Tottenham and Monaco, he joined the 'Robins' in April 1991 and his first job was to rescue them from relegation with eight games left. He succeeded with a 5-2 home win over Leicester confirming their safety. He quickly became a shrewd tactician and his first full season in charge saw Swindon narrowly miss out on a play-off place. The 1992-93 campaign saw them finish fifth and so clinch a play-off place, Hoddle scoring the first goal in the 4-3 Play-Off final victory over Leicester to clinch promotion to the top flight. However, following the Wembley triumph, he resigned to take charge at Chelsea. He later managed England, Southampton and Tottenham.

after a replay having beaten Sutton Junction (5-0), Notts County (2-0), West Ham United (1-1, 4-0) and Everton (2-1).

H is for HARRY MORRIS

No one has scored more goals for Swindon Town than Harry Morris, who netted 216 league goals for the club between 1926 and 1933. He also holds the club record of having scored the most league goals in a season when he netted 47 Third Division (South) goals in 1926-27. Morris still holds the club record of having scored the most goals in one match, scoring five twice, once against QPR in December 1926, and once against Norwich City in April 1930. Only Keith East has equalled that record.

J is for JOHN TROLLOPE

No player has made more league appearances for Swindon than John Trollope. He joined the club in July 1960 as a junior and made his debut for the club on 20 August, 1960 in a 1-1 draw with Halifax aged just seventeen. In total, he played in 770 Football League games for the Robins before hanging up his boots in 1980, an achievement which saw him receive the MBE. During his time at the County Ground, he played in a League Cup Final, Italian Cup final, and played in two promotion winning sides in 1963 and 1969. He even managed Swindon for three years, until he was replaced by Ken Beamish near the end of the 1982-83 season. He later worked under Lou Macari, Ossie Ardiles, Glenn Hoddle, John Gorman and Steve McMahon, whilst his son Paul, now with Northampton, also began his career with the Wiltshire club before going on to gain full international honours for Wales.

K is for KEVIN HORLOCK

Released by West Ham United, Horlock arrived at the County Ground in August 1992. Originally a left-sided defender, he made his debut as a substitute in a 3-1 defeat at Portsmouth in the October. He eventually progressed to a central midfield role and it was from here that 'Super Kev' played a major part in Swindon's 1996 Second Division Championship season, scoring a magnificent 12 league goals which saw him gain international honours with Northern Ireland. In January 1997, he became Swindon's record transfer departure when he was sold to Manchester City for £1.5 million. He scored 22 goals in 163 league appearances for the 'Robins'.

L is for LEAGUE Cup winners

One of Swindon Town's greatest ever achievements came in 1969 when they won the Football League Cup, beating Arsenal 3-1 in the final at Wembley with two extra-time goals from Don Rogers; Roger Smart had given the 'Robins' a first half lead before Bobby Gould levelled with four minutes to go. The 'Robins' had beaten Torquay (2-1), Bradford City (1-1, 4-3), Blackburn (1-0), Coventry (3-0), Derby (0-0, 1-0) and Burnley (2-1, 1-2 & 3-2 in a replay) in the semi-finals. The side that beat Arsenal was: Peter Downsborough, Rod Thomas, John Trollope, Joe Butler, Frank Burrows, Stan Harland, Don Heath, Roger Smart, John Smith (Willie Penman), Peter Noble & Don Rogers.

M is for LOU MACARI

Having enjoyed a distinguished playing career with Celtic and Manchester United, Lou Macari went into management with Swindon in the summer of 1984 and he quickly set about building a promotion winning side. He duly achieved that feat in 1985-86, winning four Manager of the Month awards as Swindon walked away with the Fourth Division championship - breaking fourteen club records, as well as the league record for the



number of points gained in a season. The following season saw him lead the 'Robins' to promotion to Division Two after a play-off final victory over Gillingham at Selhurst Park. He then led the side to the Second Division play-offs in 1988-89. His success had not gone unnoticed and in the summer of 1989 he took charge at West Ham United. He later managed Birmingham City, Stoke City, Glasgow Celtic, Stoke City and Huddersfield Town.

N is for Promoted NOT!

Swindon's second visit to Wembley came in May 1990 when they reached the final of the Second Division play-offs where they met Sunderland. Ossie Ardiles' side secured a 1-0 victory with an Alan McLoughlin goal. The side that memorable day was: Frazer Digby, David Kerslake, Paul Bodin, Alan McLoughlin, Colin Calderwood, Jon Gittens, Tom Jones, Duncan Shearer, Steve White, Ross MacLaren & Steve Foley. However, ten days later the celebrations turned sour as Swindon were relegated by two divisions after being found guilty of making illegal payments. This was subsequently reduced to one division on appeal, thus effectively remaining in the Second Division.

O is for OSSIE Ardiles

The little Argentinean World Cup winner, who had played for Huracan, Tottenham, Blackburn (loan) and QPR, was appointed Swindon manager following Lou Macari's departure in July, 1989. It was his first managerial post and he proved to be a more than capable replacement. Ardiles transformed the side from playing the long ball, to a new 'Samba style'. After just ten months in charge, he led the 'Robins' to a play-off final win over Sunderland. However, the club were denied promotion ten days later due to irregular payments having been made to the players. The following season saw Ardiles leave to take charge of Newcastle United.

P is for PRISONER Of War Camp

Swindon Town were placed in mothballs during the Second World War after just one season in the South-West Regional League. This was due to the fact that the County Ground was requisitioned by the War Office and used as a Prisoner of War camp!

Q is for QUALITY

The 1985-86 season was one of sheer quality for Swindon fans as the club embarked on record after record to finish as Fourth Division champions with a Football League record 102 points. Lou Macari's side beat or equalled seventeen records which included eight straight wins, 22 games unbeaten from 12 January, 1986 to 23 August, 1986, and just eight defeats in a Football League season. That side included the likes of Kenny Allen, Chris Ramsey, Dave Hockaday, Leigh Barnard, David Cole, Chris Kamara, Charlie Henry, Colin Calderwood, David Moss, Dave Bamber, Bryan Wade, Steve White, Peter Coyne & Colin Gordon.

R is for ROMA

Following Swindon's League Cup win in 1969, they were denied entry to the Fairs' (now UEFA) Cup due to them being a Third Division club. In order to compensate for this, the Football League arranged a new competition, the Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners' Cup versus the winners of the Coppa Italia, AS Roma. A two-legged tie was played which Swindon won 5-2 on aggregate, having lost 2-1 in Rome. The 'Robins' squad for the two legs was: Peter Downsbrough, Rod Thomas, John Trollope, Joe Butler, Frank Burrows, Stan Harland, John Smith, Arthur Horsfield, Roger Smart, Peter Noble, Don Rogers, Chris Jones, Mick Blick and Fred Ford. Noble scored in Rome, whilst a Horsfield hat-trick and a Don Rogers goal secured victory in the return leg.

S is for SOUTHERN League

It was in 1894 that Swindon Town began to engage professional players and in doing so they became founder members of then Southern League Division One. With only two divisions of professional football in England, and no automatic promotion between the league and the non-league, the Southern League was one of, if not the best amateur football competition in the country. However, it was not until 1911 that the 'Robins' won their first championship and three years later they promptly won it for a second time. Harold Fleming played in both seasons, winning 11 caps for England in the process, scoring nine goals. A statue of Fleming currently stands in the club's foyer and he has a street in the town named after him, namely Fleming Way.



T is for INTERNATIONALS

Rod Thomas is the 'Robins' most capped player having gained 30 of his 50 Welsh International caps whilst playing for Swindon. The gangling defender had joined the club from non-league Gloucester City in July 1964 for £500. Still then a youth player, it was almost two years before he made his first team debut in 0-0 draw with Scunthorpe in May, 1966. He went on to establish himself as the club's first choice right back, soon being capped by Wales at Under-23 level. Recognised as one of the best defenders outside of Division One, Thomas made his full international debut in a 0-0 draw with Northern Ireland in 1967 and, despite interest from bigger clubs, he remained at the County Ground making almost 300 league appearances, including playing in the 1969 League Cup final victory. He eventually moved to Derby in November 1973, when former 'Robins' manager Dave Mackay paid £100,000 to secure his services. Thomas later played for Cardiff City and Newport County.

T is for THIRD Division

It was in 1920 that Swindon Town were elected to the Football League's Third Division, and they celebrated their Football League status in style beating Luton Town 9-1 in their very first match. Played on 28 August, 1920, the 'Robins' side that day, with goalscorers in brackets, was: Ted Nash, Harry Kay, John Macconachie, Tom Langford, Fred Hawley, Billy Wareing, Bob Jefferson (1), Harry Fleming (4), Dave Rogers, Billy Batty (2) & Bertie Davies (1), with the goal tally being made up with an own goal.

U is for UTOPIA

Swindon fans were in utopia when the club won its first ever promotion in 1963 after 43 years of being a Football League club. Manager Bert Head had instigated a youth policy at the club which eventually saw 'Bert's Babies' bring success to the County Ground when they finished Third Division runners-up to Northampton Town. They clinched promotion with a 1-0 win over Shrewsbury on 4 May, with Roger Smart scoring the goal. The side that day was: Mike Turner, Owen Dawson, John Trollope, Keith Morgan, Ken McPherson, Bobby Woodruff, Mike Summerbee, Ernie Hunt, John Stevens, Roger Smart & Cliff Jackson.

V is for Record VICTORY

Swindon Town's record victory since becoming a Football League club is 10-1, when they beat non-league side, Farnham United Breweries, in an FA Cup first round replay on 28 November, 1925. The Swindon side that day, with goalscorers in brackets was: Ted Nash, Wally Dickenson, Albert Weston, Bob Archer, Danny Bew, Tommy Aday, Bertie Denyer (2), Alec Wall (1), Frank Richardson (4), Sam Johnson (3) & Bertie Davies. The club's biggest victory is a 10-0 win over Ilford in a Southern League game on 14 March, 1896.

W is for Reverend WILLIAM Pitt

It is by and large accepted that Swindon Town came into being in 1881, although 1879 has also been suggested. However, there is no firm evidence that the club's founder, the Reverend William Pitt, who was captain of the Spartans (an off shoot of a cricket club) changed his club's name to Swindon Town before 1883, when the Spartans amalgamated with St. Mark's Young Men's Friendly Society.

X is for X-WreXham

Current Wrexham wing-back Paul Edwards and current Swindon assistant-manager Malcolm Crosby are the most recent connections between the 'Dragons' and the 'Robins'. Edwards made twenty appearances for the Wiltshire club before joining the Dragons, whilst Crosby had a loan spell at the Racecourse in September 1984. Others to have played league football for both clubs include Mike Carter, Kevin Dearden, Stuart Elliott, Gordon Gunson, Ken Jones and Billy Weale.

Y is for YOUNGEST

Paul Rideout is the youngest ever player to have played in the red shirt of Swindon. He was handed his debut in a Third Division game against Hull City on 29 November, 1980 just a few weeks after bagging a hat-trick for England schoolboys. He was just 16 years and 107 days old when he made his league bow and scored in a 3-1 win over the 'Tigers'. Rideout scored 39 goals in 104 league games for the 'Robins' before signing for Aston Villa in a £250,000 deal in May 1983. He later played for Bari (Italy), Southampton, Notts County, Glasgow Rangers, Everton, Kansas City Wizards, Shenzhen Pingan (China) and Tranmere Rovers. He also scored the only goal for Everton in their 1995 F.A. Cup Final triumph over Manchester United.

Z is for ZENITH

Swindon's zenith was in 1993-94 when they played their one and only season in the top flight in England. The previous campaign had seen them win promotion by beating Leicester City in an epic First Division Play-Off final at Wembley, which saw the 'Robins' come back from being 3-0 down to win 4-3, with goals from Hoddle, Maskell, Taylor & a Bodin penalty. The side that day was: Fraser Digby, Nicky Summerbee, Paul Bodin, Glenn Hoddle, Colin Calderwood, Shaun Taylor, John Moncur (Mickey Hazard), Ross MacLaren, David Mitchell, Martin Ling & Craig Maskell (Steve White). However, Swindon's one and only season in the Premier League saw them struggle from the off and it was no surprise when they were duly relegated.

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head to head swindon town



Dragons



Form Guide:

Won: 1
 Drawn: 1
 Lost: 4
 Scored: 5
 Conc: 16
 Points: 4
 Goal Diff: -11

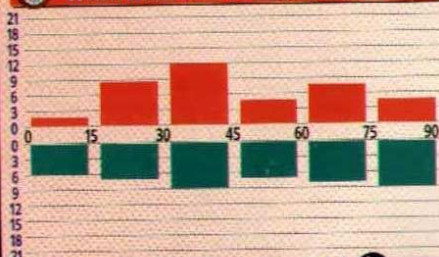
Last 6:
 LLDWLL
 Last 5 Home:
 LDWDW
 Last 5 Away:
 WLLLL

Miscellaneous

Players Used: 23
 Clean Sheets: 13
 Failed to Score: 14

The Guys to Watch		
Headed goals	Lawrence	5
Long range shots	3 players	2
Inside 6 yards	3 players	2
Shots from 6-18 yards	Jones L	3
Volleyed shots	Sam, Llewellyn, Jones L	1
Penalties	Jones L	2
Scored 1st Goal in match	Llewellyn	4
Most goals in last 10	Jones M, Barrett	1
Points gained from goals	Lawrence	8.25

When Goals Scored & Conceded



Goalkeeping	
Opp. attempts on target	186
Goals conceded	46
On target/goals scored	4.04
Division 2 rating	15

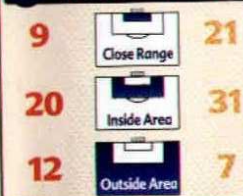
Goalscoring Strike Rate	
Shots on target	212
Goals scored	41
On target/goals	5.17
Division 2 Rating	22

Goals in last 10 mins	
Goals For, last 10	2
Points won	2
Goals Against, last 10	6
Points lost	1

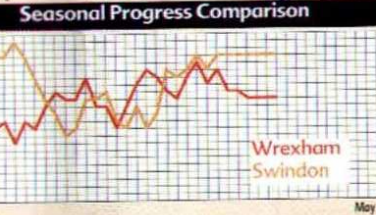
Fouls & Offsides	
Average fouls per game	11.83
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	7
Average Offsides per game	3.58
Div 2 Rating	13

Swings	
WON when behind	3
DRAWN when behind	0
LOST when ahead	2
DRAWN when ahead	2
WON 2 down	0
WON 1 down	3
LOST 2 up	1
LOST 1 up	1
DRAWN 2+ down	0
DRAWN 1 down	0
DRAWN 2+ up	0
DRAWN 1 up	2

Where Goals Scored



How Goals Scored



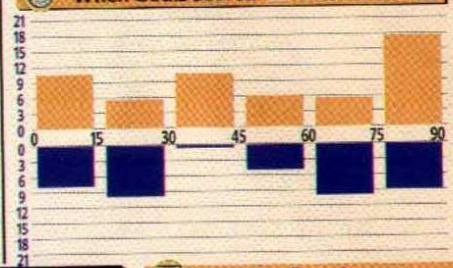
Margins	
WON BY:	LOST BY:
1 Goal	10
2 Goals	3
3 Goals	1
4 Goals	1
5+ Goals	0

Cards	
46	3

The Guys to Watch

Headed goals	Mooney	8
Long range shots	Mooney	2
Inside 6 yards	Parkin	6
Shots from 6-18 yards	Mooney	8
Volleyed shots	Mooney	4
Penalties	Gurney	1
Scored 1st Goal in match	Mooney	9
Most goals in last 10	Parkin	5
Points gained from goals	Mooney	19

When Goals Scored & Conceded



Goalkeeping	
Opp. attempts on target	184
Goals conceded	42
On target/goals scored	4.38
Division 2 rating	12

Goalscoring Strike Rate	
Shots on target	228
Goals scored	59
On target/goals	3.86
Division 2 Rating	6

Goals in last 10 mins	
Goals For, last 10	12
Points won	8
Goals Against, last 10	5
Points lost	2

Fouls & Offsides	
Average fouls per game	12.08
Div 2 Rating (1=least, 24=most)	10
Average Offsides per game	3.11
Div 2 Rating	6

Swings	
WON when behind	2
DRAWN when behind	3
LOST when ahead	2
DRAWN when ahead	7
WON 2 down	0
WON 1 down	2
LOST 2 up	0
LOST 1 up	2
DRAWN 2+ down	0
DRAWN 1 down	0
DRAWN 2+ up	3
DRAWN 1 up	7

Swindon Town's 10-Year Record



EVERY CLUB, EVERY GAME
 ...FROM THE PREMIERSHIP
 TO THE CONFERENCE



Robins



Form Guide:

Won: 5
 Drawn: 0
 Lost: 1
 Scored: 13
 Conc: 5
 Points: 15
 Goal Diff: 8

Last 6:
 WWWLW
 Last 5 Home:
 WWWWW
 Last 5 Away:
 DWDWL

Miscellaneous

Players Used: 28
 Clean Sheets: 12
 Failed to Score: 5

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO, SATURDAY 6 MARCH 2004

Wrexham 3

Crowell 34, Armstrong 36, 37

Grimsby Town 0

The Dragons completed a 'double' over the Mariners amid a strange Racecourse atmosphere. Press reports before the game concentrated on revelations of financial difficulties, the late payment of wages and more speculation surrounding the future of the club.

What it all meant was that pre- and post-match talk centred more on off-field happenings than events on the field, despite once again being within two points of the play-off's.

And with four of our main play-off rivals still to visit the Racecourse maybe there should be a little more optimism on the terraces and, it must be said, in the town itself. A pitifully small crowd of just over 3,000 won't help Denis Smith's cause, and the fact that the attendance was down for the third home game running must be of concern to everyone at the club.

As for the game, the Dragons thoroughly deserved their comfortable victory but perhaps the fact that all three goals were crammed into a sensational 3-minute spell in the first half contributed somewhat to the lacklustre atmosphere around the ground for much of the game.

Maybe there was also the disappointment that the Dragons didn't go on and win the game by an even bigger margin after the break. But nothing should detract from a good victory against a side that changed their manager in the midweek leading up to the game - and we all know what an effect that can often have on a club!

In all honesty, this game could have been over long before that devastating 3-minute spell as several good chances went begging in the opening 20 minutes or so.

But once Matty Crowell had superbly curled a 25-yarder past Andrew Pettinger for his first League goal any anxiety on and off the pitch seemed to be lifted; a fact borne out by two more goals in almost James Hayter-like time.

First Armstrong latched onto a superb Darren Ferguson pass and coolly lifted the ball past Pettinger from the edge of the area and then, within seconds, he met Llewellyn's right wing centre to tuck the ball beyond the keeper's despairing dive.

Thoughts of beating Hayter's treble time briefly drifted around the Racecourse - what a story that would have made - but it wasn't to be, although the former Tottenham striker did waste a great chance to grab his first hat-trick for the club after the break.

The damage had well and truly been done before the break and there was to be no way back for the beleaguered Mariners, though Stuart Campbell was unlucky to see a rasping effort thump against the bar with Andy Dibble a mere spectator.

So a job well done, especially given the difficult week the club had experienced leading up to the game.

"After the week the players have had and with the rubbish that's been going on around the club, I said they would have to show a lot of character and they've done that," said Denis Smith. "You find out about people when things aren't good. Anyone can be good when things are going well but when they are not exactly as you would like, you find out about people and their true colours. That shone through today and I was very, very pleased with the way they went about their job."

MATCH FACTS

Wrexham: Dibble, Lawrence, Morgan, Pejic, C Edwards, P Edwards, Whitley, Crowell (Barrett 84), Ferguson, Armstrong, Llewellyn (Sam 70).

Subs: Whitfield, Holmes, M Jones.

Booked: Morgan, Crowell

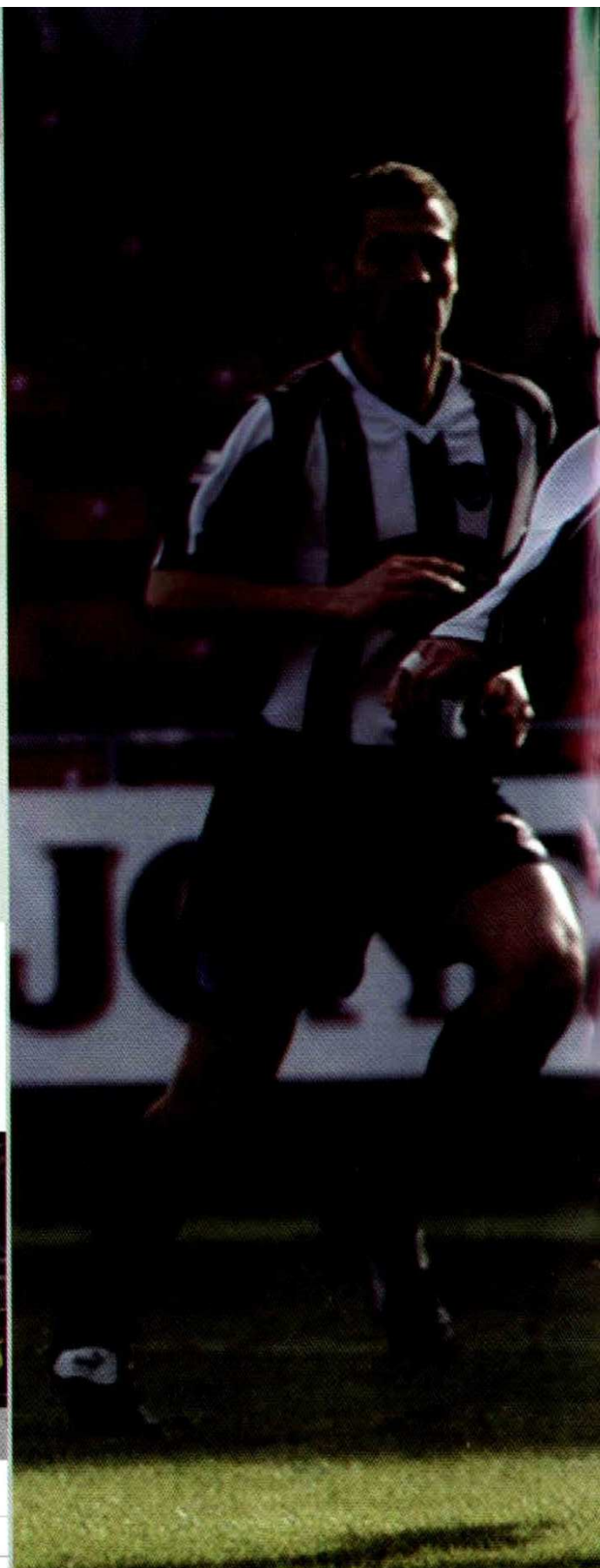
Grimsby Town: Pettinger, Edwards, Barnard, Daws, Crane, Armstrong (Young 26), Jevons, Hamilton, Thorpe (Hockless 79), Mansaram (Soames 58), Campbell.

Subs: Parker, Bolder.

Referee: Mr. B.

Curson

Attendance: 3,127





NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO, SATURDAY 13 MARCH 2004

Peterborough United 6

Willock 24, 54, Platt 32, Burton 60, Clarke 69, Farrell 76

Wrexham 1

Llewellyn 21

If the thumping at Bournemouth was described as "an awful day at the office" then just what do you say about this humiliation at a side with just two home wins all season and occupying 20th place entering the game.

For this was markedly worse than what happened at the Fitness First Stadium. The 6-0 defeat on the Dorset coast wasn't a true reflection of the game, with the sending-off of Steve Roberts at 2-0 not helping our cause and, of course, James Hayter's record-breaking feat can be considered something of a 'freak' event.

But this was different, and despite some mitigating circumstances (i.e. the deeply unfortunate injury to Andy Dibble, and the absence through suspension of both Roberts and Brian Carey) this was still a real 'horror show'. The horrific arm-break suffered by Dibble in an innocuous looking collision with Calum Willock will undoubtedly have played on some players' minds, but that's no excuse for what followed - particularly in the second half.

Okay so we took the lead through an error from Posh keeper Mark Tyler, who let a Chris Llewellyn cross slip under his body and into the net, and were possibly a trifle unlucky to be behind at the interval - but what followed was simply unacceptable.

Strangely though, in a pub after the game home fans were still in a downbeat mood - still fearing relegation for their side and gladly prepared to swap positions with us. They also felt that they were fortunate to be ahead at half time, even suggesting that the Dragons should have been a couple of goals ahead!

You could sort of see where they were coming from. After all, Chris Llewellyn forced a smart save from Tyler early on, a Paul Edwards shot struck a post and Carlos Edwards appeared to dally when put clear seconds before half time.

But those incidents apart the rest of the game was pretty much one-way traffic, with the outfield Dragons doing little by way of stemming the tide towards substitute Paul Whitfield's goal.

I won't bother describing the Peterborough goals - in fact I've done my best to forget each and every one of them!

The last couple of away games have been a shock to the system - even for Denis Smith - who had never had a side he managed concede six goals until recently, only to now have had it happen twice inside three weeks!

As expected, the Dragons' boss was his usual forthright self after the game.

"We've got too many players who think negative, rather than positive," he said. "There were possibly players out there like that. They shouldn't be out there if they are not mentally strong enough to handle it when the pressure comes, when they are two or three down."

"That's when you find the people who still want the ball, who don't hide, the people who still chase and work. Then you find out about people. Unfortunately we didn't have too many of those today."

"On these occasions you find out about certain players. Certain players were out of their depth."

Strong words indeed - as there were on the terraces.

But don't forget to spare a thought for Andy Dibble. All the best mate!

MATCH FACTS

Peterborough United:

Tyler, Burton, Branston, Arber, Newton, Farrell, Woodhouse, Legg (Gill 69), Williams, Platt (Logan 66), Willock (Clarke 66).

Subs: Thomson, Jenkins

Booked: Burton

Wrexham: Dibble (Whitfield 15), Lawrence, Morgan (Barrett 71), Pejic, C Edwards, P Edwards, Whitley, Crowell (Sam 55), Ferguson, Armstrong, Llewellyn.

Subs: Thomas, L Jones

Booked: Pejic

Referee: Mr. N. Miller

Attendance: 4,323





NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO, TUESDAY 16 MARCH 2004

Queens Park Rangers 2

Carlisle 67, McLeod 88

Wrexham 0

What an improvement on Saturday's debacle at London Road! Okay, so the vast improvement still yielded the same return i.e. a defeat, but the home supporters that had clearly expected three points as something of a formality beforehand were looking decidedly edgy for much of this game.

It's tempting just to say that the four changes to the starting eleven from Saturday made all the difference, but the commitment, work rate and passion were all there in much more abundance - a fact appreciated by Dragons' travelling fans at the end of the game.

But the bottom line is still that we suffered a second successive defeat (a fourth successive away defeat), and we can ill afford such a run as we enter the business end of the season.

Remarkably we remained sat in tenth place after this defeat, but with games running out, and several of the sides in the play-off places having games in hand, it's results rather than performances that are required.

Here we got the performance - especially in the opening period when we were clearly the better side - but ultimately not the result.

In fact I'm sure everyone connected with the club will look back on the opening forty-five minutes as a chance wasted to put the home side, and their vociferous fans, under a lot of pressure in the second period.

With the solid foundation set by the returning Steve Roberts and Brian Carey in the heart of the defence, and the confidence exuded by the on-loan Michael Ingham in goal, all the chances in the first half came the Dragons' way. In fact I can only recall Ingham having to make one save in the first half, an easy gathering of a long-range effort.

At the other end Chris Armstrong was only a foot or so wide with a spectacular overhead kick after good work down the right by Chris Llewellyn, and Rangers' on-loan keeper Lee Camp smartly saved a near post Jim Whitley effort. Armstrong and Dennis Lawrence could possibly have done better with headed chances, and Steve Thomas forced another save from Camp as halftime approached.

Unfortunately the home side were a different proposition after the break but still found the Dragons in resolute mood and again didn't force any meaningful save out of Ingham, while at the other end Clarke Carlisle came within inches of heading a Llewellyn cross past his own keeper.

But Rangers' pressure continued to build as the half wore on and they made the breakthrough on 67 minutes - much to the visible relief of the expectant home support - albeit in a fashion that will disappoint Denis Smith.

Steve Roberts had done well to turn a dangerous cross behind but when the corner was delivered, Carlisle headed past Ingham in a manner, which from the opposite end of the pitch at least, looked all too easy.

That solitary goal would have probably represented a fair reflection of the home side's second half domination and it was somewhat undeserving of the Dragons' efforts that Kevin McLeod raced clear to add a second late on.

But a vastly improved display, and something to build-on when Swindon visit the Racecourse, in what could still end up being a play-off showdown. Let's hope so!

MATCH FACTS

Queens Park

Rangers: Camp, Forbes, Carlisle, Rose (Thorpe 36), Gnohere, Bircham, McLeod, Rowlands, Johnson, Gallen, Furlong

Subs: Palmer, Pacquette, Bean, Cureton

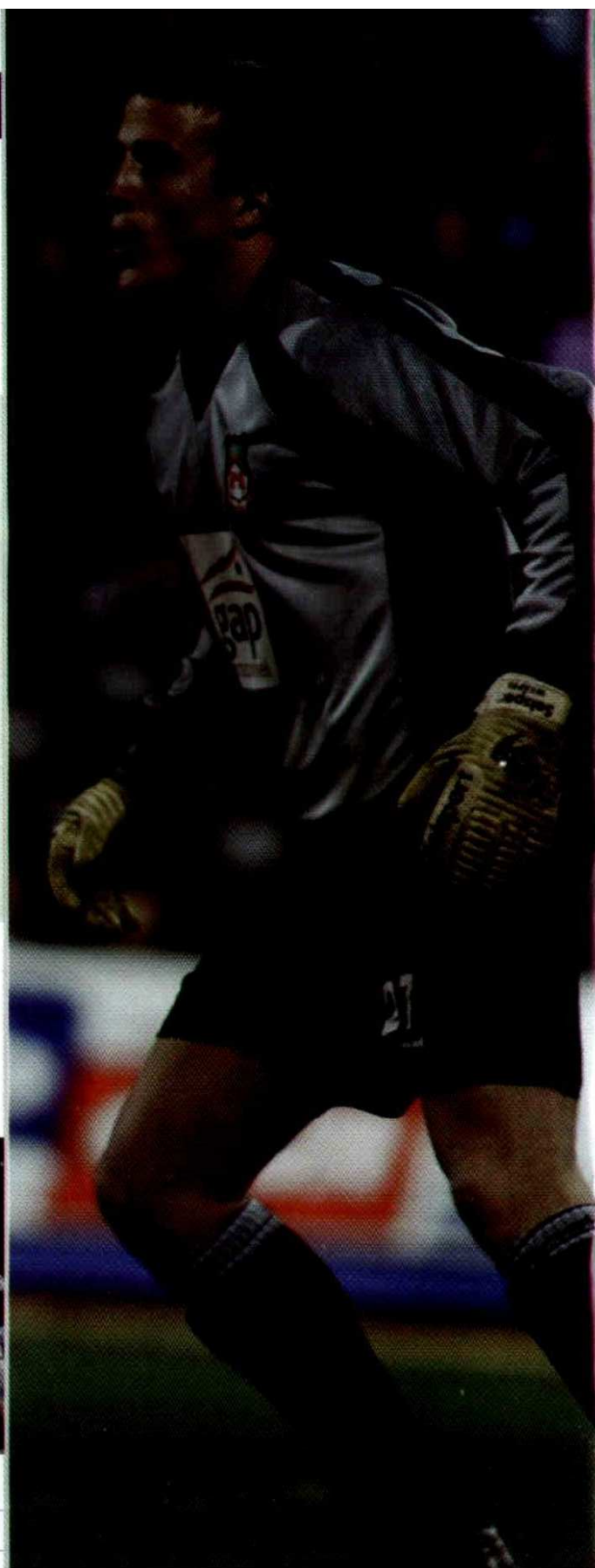
Wrexham: Ingham, Roberts, Carey, Lawrence, C Edwards, P Edwards, Whitley (Crowell 83), Thomas, Ferguson, Llewellyn (L Jones 75), Armstrong

Subs: Whitfield, Holmes, Pejic

Booked: L Jones

Referee: Mr.S.Tomlin

Attendance: 13,363



TÎM DIOGELWCH AR Y FFYRDD LLWYDDIANNUS WRECSAM

PWYLLWCH

PEIDIWCH Â RHOI'R CERDYN COCH I CHI'N
HUN - 'PWYLLWCH! - DIOGELWCH AR Y FFYRDD

GALL BAWB CROESI'N DDIOGEL NAWR
GYDA PHATRÔL CROESI'R YSGOL



PASS PLUS - HYFFORDDIANT AR ÔL EICH
PRAWF - GALL ARBED ARIAN AR EICH
YSWIRIANT A CHYNYDDU DIOGELWCH



ADNODDAU ADDYSGOL AR GYFER HYFFORDDIANT
I YSGOLION CYNRADD, GRŴPIAN BROWNIS
A CHYBIAID A MEITHRINFYDD



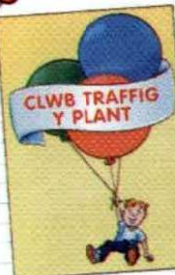
HYFFORDDIANT BEICIO YN YR
YSGOL I BLANT 10-11 OED.



KERBCRAFT - HYFFORDDIANT
PLANT FEL CERDDWYR I
BLANT 5-7 OED



CLWB TRAFFIG
Y PLANT - CLWB
DIOGELWCH AR
Y FFYRDD RHAD
AC AM DDIM I
BLANT 3-4 OED



SHEILA HUMPHREYS-JONES
Swyddog Diogelwch
ar y Ffyrdd
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WENDY DAVIES-WILLIAMS
Swyddog Diogelwch
ar y Ffyrdd Cynorthwyl
01978 297142



GEORGE WALKER
Cychwyndd Hyfforddiant
Plant Fel Cerddwyr
01978 297262



VERONICA JONES
Goruchwyliwr Patrôl
Croesi'r Ysgol
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HELEN HARRISON
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BEICIO (tymhorol) - PATROLAU CROESI
I YSGOLION - HYFFORDDWYR
KERBCRAFT GWIRFODDOL
— gweler y panel am rifau cyswilt.



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Wrexham LL11 1WQ.

Arsenal are gunned down!

This is the one. The giant killing of all time - whatever any outsider would have you believe! The reigning Football League Champions being "turned over" by Fourth Division Wrexham - the outfit that finished bottom of the whole Football League the previous season. This term (1991-92) the Reds were showing a little better but, no way were they being tipped to even hold Arsenal.

Indeed, in rounds one and two, Wrexham were the Football League representatives (certainly not giants) being tipped for a possible early exit at the hands of non-league opposition - despite having the benefit of home advantage in both rounds. In Round One, Winsford United of the H.F.S. Loans League Division One were eventually beaten 5-2. But, it was only in the latter stages that Wrexham made sure of their Second Round place where they met a strong Vauxhall Conference outfit - Telford United. This game was too close for comfort and only Steve Watkin's second half strike finally separated the teams, thus earning our Third Round Racecourse encounter against the "Gunners".

It was almost 14 years earlier that these sides had met in an epic F.A. Cup Quarter Final tie on the Racecourse. The Londoners won that one 3-2, but there had always been the feeling of injustice (thank you for nothing, referee Tommy Reynolds of Swansea) about that result. Now, that "ghost" was soon to be laid to rest and revenge exacted in the most dramatic fashion.

However, the game began with Arsenal, as expected, running the show. David Rocastle was spraying the ball about to good



PURE GENIUS AS MICKEY CREAMS THE GUNNERS



“Mickey Thomas sends the ball screaming into the Arsenal net, and below the celebrations commence.



effect but his forwards were showing profligacy in front of goal as numerous chances were wasted. Mike Thomas tried his best to keep the Reds going and Wrexham goalkeeper Vince O'Keefe made vital saves from Kevin Campbell and Nigel Winterburn. Then, Gareth Owen hit a half chance just wide before "lady luck" deserted us. Owen lost out

in midfield to Rocastle and he got Paul Merson away down the left - Merson had been a thorn in Wrexham's flank throughout the first half. Merson zipped away and played the ball back perfectly for Alan Smith to turn the ball home. In first half stoppage time, Gordon Davies nearly got Steve Watkin through - but it was all still to play for.

The second half began with Wrexham playing the ball in to feet, rather than lofting high balls into the box for David O'Leary and Tony Adams to easily clear. Arsenal showed again and Merson played a neat reverse pass to Winterburn whose effort hit the bar and came down on the goal line.

The Reds wouldn't lie down and frustrated their visitors who had both Lee Dixon and Winterburn booked, with others arguing among themselves. The crowd of 13,343 got behind Wrexham and Arsenal's England International goalkeeper, David Seaman, saved well from Andy Thackeray's blistering shot. Then, at the other end, O'Keefe denied Campbell after a swift counter attack.

Into the final ten minutes and Wrexham won a free kick 20 yards out. O'Leary protested that Gordon Davies had backed into him, but the award was ours. Up stepped Mickey Thomas and crashed a left footer into the top of Seaman's goal. Thomas took off on a run and the ground just took off!

Two minutes later, Davies made ground down the right wing and centered low into the box. Steve Watkin reacted quicker than Tony Adams and steered the cross low into the far corner of the net, past another despairing dive by Seaman - Wrexham were unbelievably ahead and the din was deafening.

Arsenal's Jimmy Carter had an effort disallowed for offside in stoppage time - cue more arguing by the visitors, but there was no arguing about Wrexham's place in Round Four.

There were extraordinary scenes at the end. The ground became a seething mass of red and white with youngsters swarming onto the pitch to mob their players - it was like the "old days". 2-1, WE BEAT THE ARSENAL 2-1 - altogether everyone----!

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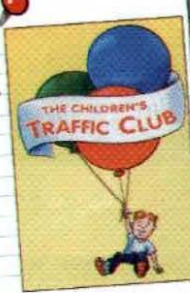
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programmes past

A new era dawns

Saturday, 23 August, 1958 was a momentous day for both Wrexham and Swindon as they met at the County Ground in the first ever Third Division fixture for both sides.

The introduction of a new national Third and Fourth Division meant that supporters now had the opportunity to see teams at first hand that they could only previously have been drawn against in the F.A. Cup and over 15,000 turned out to see this historic encounter.

Sadly for Wrexham, the match ended in a 1-0 defeat but the programme issued for the match is still quite easy to obtain some 46 years on. The 12 small-sized pages contain a limited amount of reading material including the ubiquitous one-line pen-pictures of the visiting Wrexham players. The cover features a superb aerial photograph of the County Ground whilst the teams are featured in 2-3-5 format on the centre pages.



SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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Division III
SWINDON TOWN
v.
WREXHAM
Kick-off 3 p.m.

Official Programme 3^d

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GODDING (Goal)—A local boy. Came into the first team when both Ugolini and Waters were injured last season and held his place.
McGOWAN (R.B.)—A real favourite with the Racecourse crowd because of his wholehearted play. A Scotsman who was previously with St. Johnstone.
PARKER (L.B.)—Longest serving player with the Club, joining them from Crewe Alexandria seven years ago. Club captain. Started his football with South Liverpool.
DAVIS (R.H.)—Now in his fourth season at the Racecourse, arriving there from Reading. A most stylish player who is at home in either wing half position.
FOX (C.H.)—Is considered one of the best centre halves in the Third Division. Was amongst the final 22 players for the Welsh World Cup team but was not selected to go to Sweden. Is still serving in the Forces. A local boy.
EVANS (L.H.)—A local lad who came to the Club from neighbouring Oswestry Town at the beginning of last season. Came into the first team towards the end of last season and held the left half position.
JONES (O.R.)—Born at Nuneaton and started his football career with West Bromwich Albion with whom he was playing when Wrexham signed him four seasons ago. Has been first choice outside right since. Selected for Third North XI two seasons ago.
WESTON (L.R.)—An amateur inside forward who was spotted playing for a local army team last season. Had intended to make his debut for a local team but realised his potential as a first class forward.

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N — Stockport C.	v. Rochdale
O — Bradford	v. Workington
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From Strength To Strength

There's plenty of catching up to do in this issue with both the reserves and youth sides in action over the past few weeks, but we'll begin with a Pontin's Holidays League Division 1 (West) meeting with Macclesfield Town, at the Racecourse, on Wednesday 3 March.

The Dragons were looking to build on the surprise 4-3 victory at League leaders Wigan Athletic a couple of weeks earlier and did so with a hard fought 3-2 victory to earn three points that lifted us two places up the table.

The opening goal arrived on 16 minutes when Mark Jones slipped a lovely ball through the centre of the Silkmen's defence for Lee Jones to race onto before slotting the ball past keeper David Miskelly from a yard or so inside the penalty area.

Back came the visitors and the experienced Martin Carruthers should have done better with a 29th minute header that struck the outside of the goal's stanchion.

The same combination that brought the Dragons' first goal then combined again, but this time Lee Jones' angled shot drifted just wide. A second goal did arrive on 38 minutes - though via rather fortunate circumstances.

It all came about because of a sloppy pass by Andrew Smart that Lee Jones latched onto at the right hand side of the penalty area. He tried to pick out striking partner Hector Sam with a low cross. But, the ball instead struck Michael Welch and deflected past a helpless Miskelly.

However, the Silkmen weren't consigning themselves to defeat and responded with a good spell of pressure as the minutes ticked away to the interval, culminating in Carruthers scoring on 43 minutes after a Smart header had been headed off the line by Steve Thomas.

The second half began with Joe Feeney on as a replacement for Lee Jones who'd been taken off as a precautionary measure with a hamstring problem, but the change did little to disrupt the Dragons as they restored the two-goal cushion on 57 minutes.

It was Paul Barrett that initiated the move with a ball over the Macclesfield back line for Sam to chase. The Trinidadian nodded the ball past a defender and continued on an angled run towards the left-hand corner of the six-yard box. He cut back inside and picked out Mark Jones ghosting into the penalty area, and the young midfielder coolly slotted the ball past Miskelly from 10 yards.

You'd have thought at that stage that the Dragons would be able to see the rest of the game out to a comfortable conclusion. But the visitors had other ideas and halved the deficit almost immediately, when former Liverpool trainee John Miles emphatically found the net at the far post after a left-wing cross had evaded Carruthers at the near post.

Only the width of the crossbar denied Stephen Brackenridge an 84th minute equaliser, as the Dragons were forced onto the defensive in the closing stages. But hold on they did, to make it a profitable couple of weeks for Joey Jones' side.

Mike Williams on the mark against Halifax Town.



Next up was a Youth Alliance League Cup Semi-Final clash with Preston North End at Colliers Park a fortnight ago, a game that saw the Dragons' run in the competition end in disappointing fashion with a 4-1 defeat.

"They are an under-19 side, and a good one as well, while we are a younger side," explained Steve Weaver.

"They were stronger than us - not better than us. We've got to match it when playing a good under-19 side. We had four under-16s on the field at the end.

"It was never a 4-1 game. In terms of keeping the ball we were the better side. But they had four or five chances, whereas we had six or seven but didn't take them. That was the difference!

"We needed to take our chances, but on the day we didn't.

"But overall I was pleased with the performance and couldn't have asked much more from them."

Unfortunately, the Dragons got off to the worst possible start as Preston took the lead inside three minutes, but several chances to equalise weren't taken and the missed chances were rued as Preston doubled their lead from close range after half-an-hour.

But the Dragons kept plugging away and Feeney was unlucky with a shot from the left that squeezed under the keeper's body but a defender raced back to clear from near his own goal line with Duffy closing in. Feeney then forced the keeper to parry away a powerful 20-yard effort just before the break.

Preston extended their lead further early in the second half, which was the signal for Joey and Steve to urge against caution and go for broke, and this bold approach should have yielded a penalty when a Duffy cross was blocked by a defender's arm. But the referee gave a corner - not a penalty!

"We went a bit gung-ho then," added Steve. "We asked the full backs to bomb on."

"But the second half went the same way as the first, with us not taking our chances. We may as well lose by 4 as 2 and, in gong for it, that's where our problems came."

The visitors extended their lead before the Dragons were

« Lee Jones - scored the opening goal against Macclesfield.



rewarded for all their endeavours with the best goal of the game.

A passing movement comprising something in the region of 20 passes starting with Jones in the Dragons' goal, involving two-touch football, ended with Duffy putting Mike Williams in and the full back lifted the ball over the advancing keeper.

"We're disappointed not to win it because we thought before the game that we had a great chance to win. Not doing so was a blow for us," said Steve.

"But we've done alright since October, and this was the first game we've lost this year.

"The Cup was nice while it lasted - but it's gone now."

Finally we cast our minds back ten days to when the Dragons earned a home Pontin's League Cup Semi-Final clash with Sheffield Wednesday with an extra-time victory over a Grimsby Town side that finished the Racecourse encounter with only nine men.

Kirk Wheeler saw red on 25 minutes when, as last man, he brought Hector Sam down a yard or so outside the penalty area, and Tony Crane followed him for an early bath for pulling Lee Jones back for the crucial match winning penalty in the first extra-time period.

It shouldn't have gone that far though - far from it in fact - as the Dragons wasted a whole catalogue of chances to have won the game comfortably in the 90 minutes. But a combination of poor finishing, good goalkeeping and some hard luck - notably when a second half Sam effort struck a post - saw the game head into an additional 30 minutes play.

What would ultimately prove to be the deciding goal came in the last minute of the opening period when, as mentioned earlier, Lee Jones was pulled back inside the penalty area and composed himself before sending Richardson the wrong way from the spot.

Thomas struck a post in the second period but the Dragons were quite content to play keep ball against their nine-man opponents, though Lee Jones did have a 'goal' ruled out for offside late on.

A job well done - though it should have been done a lot earlier than it was!

THE YELLOW SHIRT



Joe Feeney	3
Mark Harris	2
Liam Jones	2
Mark Anderson	1
Andy Spencer	1
Simon Spender	1
Kieran Quinn	1



MATCH LINE-UPS

v. MACCLESFIELD TOWN: Paul Whitfield, Steve Thomas, Shaun Holmes, Wayne Leather, Simon Spender, Craig Morgan, Levi Mackin, Paul Barrett, Hector Sam (Kieran Quinn 84), Lee Jones (Joe Feeney 46), Mark Jones. Subs: Michael Jones, Mark Duffy, Mark Harris.

v. PRESTON NORTH END: Michael Jones, Mark Harris, Mike Williams, Simon Spender, Wayne Leather, Kieran Quinn, Mark Duffy, Levi Mackin, Jamie Reed (Aaron Braisdell), Joe Feeney, Chris Evans (Mark Williams).

v. GRIMSBY TOWN: Paul Whitfield, Mark Harris (Mark Anderson), Shaun Holmes, Simon Spender, Wayne Leather, Paul Barrett, Steve Thomas, Levi Mackin, Lee Jones, Hector Sam (Joe Feeney 98), Mark Jones. Subs: Kieran Quinn, Michael Jones, Mark Duffy, Mark Anderson.



Reserves

PONTIN'S DIVISION ONE WEST

Date	Opponents	V	Res	Scorers
20.08.03	Shrewsbury Town	H	1-1	Reed
26.08.03	Oldham Athletic	A	0-0	
10.09.03	Rochdale	H	4-0	Holmes, One, Whitley, L. Jones
24.09.03	Blackpool	H	4-6	Crowell 2, Spender, Sam
08.10.03	Stockport County	A	2-3	Leather, Thomas
26.11.03	Bury	H	1-3	Duffy
03.12.03	Macclesfield Town	A	2-2	L. Jones 2
10.12.03	Carlisle United	A	3-1	Armstrong 2, Leather
21.01.04	Wigan Athletic	H	1-4	Barrett
11.02.04	Stockport County	H	2-4	M. Jones, L. Jones
18.02.04	Wigan Athletic	A	4-3	Sam (3), Crowell
03.03.04	Macclesfield Town	H	3-2	L. Jones (2), M. Jones
27.03.04	Carlisle United	H	4-0	McNulty, L. Jones, M. Jones, Sam
24.03.04	Bury	A		
31.03.04	Blackpool	A		
07.04.04	Shrewsbury Town	A		
14.04.04	Oldham Athletic	H		
28.04.04	Rochdale	A		

PONTIN'S LEAGUE CUP

17.09.03	Tranmere Rovers	A	2-0	Thomas, Sam
01.10.03	Macclesfield Town	H	2-1	Crowell, Robinson
19.11.03	Carlisle United	H	0-1	
10.03.04	Grimsby Town (QF)	H	1-0	L. Jones
TBA	Sheffield Wed (SF)	H		

under-19's

UMBRO ISOTONIC YOUTH ALLIANCE

Date	Opponents	V	Res	Scorers
09.08.03	Port Vale	H	1-1	Duffy (pen)
23.08.03	Mansfield Town	H	2-1	Reed
06.09.03	Macclesfield Town	H	1-1	Owen
13.09.03	Notts County	A	1-3	Reed
20.09.03	Shrewsbury Town	H	0-2	
27.09.03	Rotherham United	A	0-6	
04.10.03	Chester City	A	1-2	Reed
18.10.03	Chesterfield	H	3-3	McNulty, Done, Filson
25.10.03	Macclesfield Town	A	2-2	Owen, Mackin
01.11.03	Notts County	H	1-6	Owen
08.11.03	Shrewsbury Town	A	3-0	Reed (2), Feeney
15.11.03	Rotherham United	H	0-5	
29.11.03	Chester City	H	0-3	
06.12.03	Chesterfield	A	2-1	Reed (2)
13.12.03	Port Vale	A	1-3	Feeney
24.01.04	Mansfield Town	A	2-1	Reed, Braisdell
14.02.04	Chester City	H	5-1	Reed (2), Duffy (2), Spender
21.02.04	Darlington	A	2-1	Leather, OG
13.03.04	Halifax Town	H	1-2	M. Williams
20.03.04	York City	H		
27.03.04	Rochdale	A		
10.04.04	Burnley	H		
17.04.04	Bury	A		
24.04.04	Macclesfield Town	A		

LEAGUE CUP

11.10.03	Oldham Athletic (1)	A	3-1	Owen, Mackin, Duffy
22.11.03	Port Vale (2)	A	3-1	Duffy, Feeney, Bihon-Price
07.02.04	Rotherham United (3)	H	3-2	Braisdell, Duffy (pen), Reed
06.03.04	Preston North End (4)	H	1-4	M. Williams

« Top of the page **Hector Sam** scored our fourth goal against Carlisle United.



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the picture



Reds draw in T.V. Encounter!

Today's featured photograph takes us back to the glory days of the 1977-78 season when Wrexham virtually swept all before them in both League and Cup.

The Third Division Championship was deservedly clinched with a 1-1 draw at Hereford United, with some 8,500 Reds fans somehow squeezing into Edgar Street. Promotion itself had been secured seven days earlier with a 7-1 demolition of Rotherham United, Graham Whittle scoring a hat-trick on what was a truly memorable day for everyone connected with the club.

The Reds also reached the quarter-finals of both the F.A. Cup and League Cup, falling to Arsenal and Liverpool respectively after two titanic struggles at the Racecourse.

In the F.A. Cup, Wrexham had crushed Bristol City and Newcastle United, both top flight sides, before facing the minnows of Blyth Spartans in the fifth round. On a bitterly cold day, the pitch was very icy and there was much debate as to whether the game itself would be played.

With the BBC Match of the Day cameras in attendance, referee Mr A. Gray gave the game the go ahead much to the delight of the 20,000 spectators crammed into the Racecourse. In a dour encounter, the conditions negated much of Wrexham's free-flowing football and a shock looked on the cards when Terry Johnson capitalised on Alan Hill's back pass to give Blyth an early lead.

Wrexham laid siege to the visitors' goal but it took a last gasp equaliser from none other than Dixie McNeil to force the tie into a replay. Les Cartwright, resplendent in his white boots, took a corner from the edge of the Mold Road Stand. The flag itself would not stand up but despite this, the referee allowed him to continue and so McNeil's was able to force home what proved to be a highly controversial goal.

Our picture features an incident during the first half when Graham Whittle sent a glancing header just wide of the post, with the old Turf viewing room evident in the background.

sponsorship matters

man of the match



Matty Crowell was the MoM choice selected by the Official Wrexham AFC Supporters Association, our match sponsors against Grimsby Town. The Wales U21 international midfielder is seen here presenting a signed shirt to Carroll Clarke, chairman of the Association.

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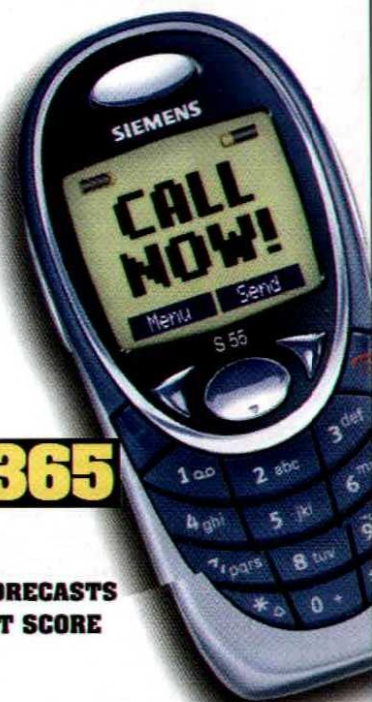
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Nationwide Division 2 Statistics



Margins of Victory

Games WON by	1 gl	2 gls	3 gls	4 gls	5+ gls
Plymouth	6	11	2	1	2
Bristol City	13	3	1	1	1
QPR	9	3	5	1	1
Swindon	8	9	0	1	0
Brighton	6	6	4	1	0
Port Vale	10	2	3	1	0
Bournemouth	12	1	1	0	1
Wrexham	10	3	1	1	0
Luton	8	6	1	0	0
Hartlepool	7	5	1	0	1
Rushden	6	5	1	1	0
Blackpool	9	1	1	1	0
Barnsley	7	4	1	0	0
Colchester	9	3	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	9	2	1	0	0
Grimsby	4	4	0	1	1
Chesterfield	5	4	1	0	0
Peterborough	5	1	2	0	1
Brentford	7	1	0	1	0
Notts County	5	2	2	0	0
Tranmere	7	0	2	0	0
Oldham	4	1	2	0	1
Stockport	4	3	0	0	0
Wycombe	1	1	2	0	0



Scorer's Points Gained & Scoring Run

	Gls	Gls/Gm	Pts	Run	1st Gl
Leon Knight	22	0.63	18	3	6
Scott Taylor	16	0.52	17	3	6
Tommy Mooney	19	0.53	16	4	9
Wayne Andrews	11	0.33	13	4	6
Steve McPhee	17	0.47	12	4	8
Lee Peacock	12	0.38	12	3	7
Guylain Ndumbu-Nsungu	9	0.56	12	2	4
Paul Heffernan	17	0.55	11	3	4
Steve Howard	9	0.36	11	2	5
Kevin Gallen	15	0.43	10	3	6
Warren Feeney	10	0.29	10	4	2
Glynn Hurst	10	0.45	10	3	5
Kevin Betsy	9	0.25	10	1	3

eg if player scores the goal in a 1-0 win, the goal is worth 2 pts as score would have been 0-0, or if 2 goals in 2-1 win, goals worth 3 pts. Also shown is goals per game figure and number of games player scored 1st goal



Fouls & Offsides per game

	Gms	Fouls	Ave	OFFSIDES	Gms	Offsides	Ave
QPR	36	588	16.33	Rushden	37	169	4.57
Tranmere	35	496	14.17	Luton	35	157	4.49
Notts County	37	505	13.65	Peterborough	37	159	4.30
Barnsley	37	503	13.59	Chesterfield	36	154	4.28
Brentford	37	495	13.38	Hartlepool	36	152	4.22
Luton	35	467	13.34	Bristol City	36	147	4.08
Wycombe	37	484	13.08	Oldham	36	139	3.86
Colchester	35	457	13.06	Grimsby	37	139	3.76
Plymouth	37	478	12.92	Blackpool	36	133	3.69
Grimsby	37	476	12.86	Colchester	35	127	3.63
Brighton	37	473	12.78	Stockport	37	133	3.59



Comebacks

WON from	-3	-2	-1	Total
Port Vale	0	0	5	5
Blackpool	0	1	3	4
Bournemouth	0	0	4	4
Luton	0	1	2	3
Chesterfield	0	0	3	3
Rushden	0	0	3	3
Wrexham	0	0	3	3



Throwaways

LOST from	+3	+2	+1	Total
Port Vale	0	0	5	5
Grimsby	0	0	4	4
Peterborough	0	1	2	3
Brentford	0	0	3	3
Luton	0	0	3	3
Oldham	0	0	3	3
QPR	0	0	3	3
Rushden	0	0	3	3



Headed Goals

most goals from headers

Player	Club	Goals
Friio	Plymouth	7
Mooney	Swindon	7
Coughlan	Plymouth	6
Dadi	Tranmere	6
Hutchinson	Brentford	5
Paynter	Port Vale	5
Lawrence	Wrexham	5
Hayter	Bournemouth	4
Peacock	Bristol City	4
Miller	Bristol City	4
Evans	Plymouth	4
Lowe	Rushden	4
Barlow	Stockport	4
Parkin	Swindon	4



Long Range Goals

Most goals from Outside 18 yd box

Player	Club	Goals
Wotton	Plymouth	5
Love	Rushden	4
Carperter	Brighton	3
Peacock	Bristol City	3
Vine	Colchester	3
Anderson	Grimsby	3
Strachan	Hartlepool	3
Padula	QPR	3
Jack	Rushden	3
McSpornan	Wycombe	3



Early Goals Scored

Most goals in FIRST 10 mins of match

Player	Club	Goals
Mooney	Swindon	4
Williams E	Hartlepool	3
Heffernan	Notts County	3
Brooker	Port Vale	3



Scoring Chances per Game

No. of Shots per game	ON Target	OFF Target
Plymouth	8.03	6.59
Bristol City	7.08	5.14
Swindon	6.33	5.17
QPR	6.17	5.22
Notts County	5.81	5.32
Oldham	5.56	5.44
Bournemouth	5.53	5.31
Colchester	5.37	5.37
Luton	6.26	4.43
Peterborough	6.57	4.92
Wrexham	6.89	4.50
Blackpool	6.11	4.25
Hartlepool	5.83	4.53
Rushden	6.06	4.14
Barnsley	5.84	4.30
Brighton	5.62	4.49
Port Vale	5.31	4.67
Tranmere	5.51	4.40
Grimsby	5.41	4.38
Sheff Wed	5.08	4.27
Chesterfield	4.97	4.33
Stockport	4.81	4.43
Brentford	4.65	3.92
Wycombe	4.46	3.68



Scored in last 15 mins

FOR	76-90	Total	%
Bristol City	16	49	33
Swindon	18	59	31
Tranmere	11	40	28
Plymouth	20	74	27
Peterborough	12	45	27
Chesterfield	9	37	24
QPR	16	66	24
Luton	12	55	22
Notts County	9	42	21
Against	76-90	Total	%
Brentford	22	60	37
Sheff Wed	14	48	29
Brighton	10	37	27
QPR	9	34	26
Peterborough	13	50	26
Luton	12	47	26
Notts County	15	60	25
Chesterfield	12	55	22
Swindon	9	42	21



Set Piece Goals

Scored from	Corner	Free Kick	Total
Plymouth	10	13	23
Hartlepool	5	10	15
Port Vale	7	8	15
QPR	5	10	15
Stockport	4	11	15
Swindon	5	10	15
Brentford	8	6	14
Brighton	8	6	14
Bristol City	10	4	14
Luton	6	7	13
Conceded from	Corner	Free Kick	Total
Brentford	13	6	19
Wycombe	11	8	19
Stockport	6	12	18
Chesterfield	10	6	16
Bristol City	5	8	13
Oldham	7	6	13



EVERY CLUB, EVERY GAME
...FROM THE PREMIERSHIP
TO THE CONFERENCE



Don't Panic Captain Mainwaring!

Managerial changes, new signings, clubs in crisis, we have it all here in Division Two. At this stage of the season we are seeing those clubs who are ambitious, those who are resigned to relegation and those who are prepared to fight to get out of trouble or into the play-offs.

It's certainly a strange time to change your manager - I've always thought. Barely ten games left and any new man only has a chance of just a few games to get the blend right for the challenge ahead. On the other hand, a change now allows the fresh face to see who he wants to keep and who he will dispense with in the summer.

This month has seen changes at Oldham and Rushden, the latter appointing former Wrexham centre back Barry Hunter until the end of the season. These are times of change at Nene Park, where the Griggs empire that created the club looks a little more uncertain. The fact that former manager Brian Talbot was not allowed to strengthen the side, obviously played a large part in his decision to walk out on the Irthlingborough club, after seven years, and move to Oldham as their new boss. He gave many a disgruntled press conference after a number of games this season and it must have come as no surprise to the fans that he upped and left.

That he has gone to Oldham is a strange one, as he has of course been promised a pot of gold clearly, but how the fortunes of the Latics have changed over the course of this season.

Talbot has already made his intentions clear in signing a couple of players soon, after last Saturday's goalless draw at Boundary Park against Colchester.

"They did not look like scoring and to be honest we did not either, we had a few chances and I can see why it's been a difficult season here and I know there is work to do. The first job is to keep us up and we still need to reach my target of 50 points, sooner rather than later. I will be working with the players and perhaps having a word with the owners here and asking about the chances of bringing in one or two others."

So what then of Brentford's decision to sack Wally Downes. Mixed views have abounded the internet since his departure on Sunday. The supporters' body 'BIAS' campaigned prior to the weekend for his departure, and all seemed on track following Sunday's announcement, but it appears to have backfired for the Bees' fans after his departure, with a twist in the tale.

BIAS wrote on the Beesotted.com website: "With regret we feel it necessary to write as a body to register grave concern that the BIAS committee harbours regarding the prospects of the club avoiding relegation this season under the managership of Wally Downes."

"At the time of writing, with one win from our last seventeen games, the degree of improvement required as a matter of urgency, greatly exceeds that which it is credible to believe Mr Downes is capable of inspiring."

"We do not wish to question Wally's character or dedication in any way. We are certain that he has striven to the best of his ability to turn our fortunes around, and it is truly unfortunate for all concerned that such an overwhelming number of fans must concede that he has failed."

No punches pulled there and that after this assurance by club director John McGlashan, during the previous week: "Wally's position is not even on the agenda, it's not even an issue. We will do whatever we have to do and will back Wally to get it right. We will give him whatever needs, and we will try to find money from somewhere."

However, fans pressure and a defeat at home to Stockport, despite pulverising the Hatters goal, tipped the balance against Downes.

The club issued a statement that: "It was with regret that the board felt they had to make the decision to relieve Wally Downes of his responsibility as manager of Brentford Football Club."

Quite a turnaround and with just ten games left the gamble had been taken - but then the twist.

Just as supporters were digesting the news that they had wished for, the club revealed that Downes would be receiving compensation.

Chairman Eddie Rogers revealed after the sacking that, part of the considerable fee that Brentford received from Southampton in January for the transfer of keeper Paul Smith, would have to be forfeited to pay off Downes.

This has incensed the fans, but it surely emphasises the perils of decisions to sack your manager, without considering the financial



FANCY A FLUTTER?

First goalscorer and correct results brings big winnings. How about Chris Armstrong and a 2-0 success today - 45/11 For more Wrexham specific odds, click onto: www.wrexhambet.co.uk



considerations. In Brentford's case, the reaction was not in any way knee-jerk, as the club had experienced five straight defeats as well as being locked in the bottom four for much of the campaign.

They then appointed Garry Thompson, Downes' assistant, until the end of the season. So with a six figure sum in Downes pocket and Brentford left with no cash to spend, can Thompson stop the rot? Well if the form guide is anything to go by then he has a thankless task, the goals for column has been the Bees problem this term, averaging just one a game.

On Tuesday, Thomson rallied the side to a 1-1 draw at Blackpool, but that may still not be enough as it is only wins that will keep the club in Division Two. But the glimmer of hope is there and with just three top half sides to play until the end of the season they do have a chance, albeit a slim one.

Fellow strugglers and battlers Stockport are also fighting, with seven points gained from their last three games. They managed an excellent 2-2 draw at Hartlepool on Tuesday and it is an indication of how far they have come in recent times under Sammy McLroy. County also have just three games against top half sides in their run in, and my spies at Edgeley Park report that since the speculation of Aaron Wilbraham coming to the Racecourse in a swap deal with Hector Sam, which was aborted, his form has been sublime. Transfer talk looks to have had a very positive effect on the Knutsford born striker, who has been at the club since his schooldays.

Wycombe cannot buy a win at the moment, they drew for the 15th time this term at Colchester on Tuesday, the Essex side themselves now just four points from safety. Notts County received a setback in their fight for survival, losing 2-1 at Nene Park and, in doing so, handing Diamonds manager Barry Hunter his first win. County have a tough run in and it would be a miracle if they did stay up, given the fact that they began the season in administration.

Chesterfield have to be careful, especially after Tuesday's home defeat by Brighton, a result that also keeps the Seagulls in the play-off hunt.

Those play-offs are now within Bournemouth's reach following a fine 2-0 victory at Sheffield Wednesday three days ago, that result being the Owls' fifth at Hillsborough this term and only Bournemouth's fifth on the road, which takes them level on points with Luton Town in sixth place.

Swindon's promotion push also continued on Wednesday evening and a 2-0 success over Grimsby keeps the east coast side deep in trouble, just above the relegation zone.

Plymouth are not interested in the play-offs, as they remain clear at the top thanks to a midweek win over Peterborough, which was Posh's first defeat in four games. Without Paul Sturrock now, who left the Pilgrims to take over at Southampton, but his legacy clearly lives on at Home Park.

So the final run in has begun, and it was at this stage last season that we started a run that ended in promotion. Twenty eight goals scored and just nine conceded in eight wins and two draws, catapulted us into Division Two. I'm dreaming, are you?

today's fixtures

SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY

Barnsley	v	Port Vale
Brentford	v	Rushden & Diamonds
Brighton & HA	v	Colchester United
Bristol City	v	Oldham Athletic
Grimsby Town	v	Hartlepool United
Luton Town	v	Plymouth Argyle
Notts County	v	Chesterfield
Peterborough United	v	Tranmere Rovers
Stockport County	v	Sheffield Wednesday
Wycombe Wanderers	v	QPR

►► Top: Brian Talbot, Left: Wally Downes

TO SEE YOUR GLORY ►►

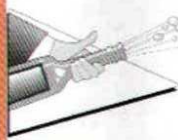
statistics 2003/2004

match by match

DATE	OPPONENTS	V	RES	ATT	AWAY	POS	REFEREE	SCORERS	TEAM
AUGUST									
9 Sat	CHESTERFIELD	H	0-0	5,688	431	-	A. M. Penn		Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas▼
12 Tue	Crews (Carling Cup 1)	A	0-2	3,152	688	-	T. Parkes		Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas▼
16 Sat	Notts County	A	1-0	4,768	400	8	C. Boyesson	Sam (58)	Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
23 Sat	BRENTFORD	H	1-0	4,048	125	4	A. R. Leake	Lawrence (18)	Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas▼
25 Mon	Sheffield Wednesday	A	3-2	24,478	1,513	2	F. Stretton	Lawrence (39), Llewellyn (59), C. Edwards (64)	Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
30 Sat	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H	0-1	4,929	154	6	A. Bates		Dibble Pejc Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
SEPTEMBER									
13 Sat	Swindon Town	A	0-1	6,160	200	10	L. Cable		Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas▼
16 Tue	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	H	0-2	4,539	537	14	G. Laws		Dibble Pejc Carey▼ Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards One▼
20 Sat	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H	2-2	3,945	548	13	M. Ryan	Lawrence (28), L. Jones (42)	Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards One▼
27 Sat	Tranmere Rovers	A	2-1	8,248	1,400	12	C. Webster	L. Jones (63), Holmes (64)	Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
30 Tue	Hartlepool United	A	0-2	4,677	104	16	C. Foy		Dibble Pejc▼ Carey Lawrence C. Edwards Holmes▼ Thomas
OCTOBER									
4 Sat	PORT VALE	H	2-1	5,822	1,998	13	G. Cain	L. Jones (32), (76)	Dibble▼ Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam▼
14 Tue	MORECAMBE (LDV1)	H	4-1	1,076	100	-	E. Evans	L. Jones (37), (51), (54), Sam (64)	Whitfield Roberts Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
18 Sat	BRISTOL CITY	H	0-0	4,405	658	14	M. Clattenburg		Dibble▼ Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
21 Tue	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	4-0	3,968	748	11	M. Messias	L. Jones (32), C. Edwards (41), Lawrence (59), M. Jones (69)	Dibble Roberts Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
25 Sat	Rushden & Diamonds	A	3-2	4,117	434	9	K. Friend	C. Edwards (10), Ferguson (34), Sam (56)	Dibble Roberts Morgan▼ Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
28 Tue	Barnsley	A	1-2	8,196	400	9	M. Cowburn	Holmes 74	Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam▼
31 Fri	COLCHESTER UNITED	H	0-1	4,629	150	9	R. Prosser		Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards Holmes Sam
NOVEMBER									
5 Wed	Stockport County (LDV2)	A	4-5	1,489	138	-	A. Hall	M. Jones (9), Holmes (43), Sam (48), Armstrong (61)	Whitfield Roberts▼ Morgan Pejc Thomas Holmes Sam▼
8 Sat	Yeovil Town (FAC1)	A	1-4	5,049	230	-	C. Penton	Armstrong (88)	Dibble Roberts Carey▼ Lawrence C. Edwards Holmes Sam
11 Tue	Blackpool	A	1-0	4,864	244	7	S. Matheson	Lawrence (74)	Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards Thomas Sam▼
15 Sat	Luton Town	A	2-3	5,505	176	11	T. Kettle	Sam (74), OG (43)	Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards Thomas Sam
22 Sat	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	H	0-0	3,208	200	11	G. Salisbury		Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam▼
29 Sat	Brighton & Hove Albion	A	0-2	5,642	179	14	T. Bates		Dibble Pejc Carey▼ Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
DECEMBER									
13 Sat	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	H	2-0	3,003	156	11	D. Pugh	Carey (67), Sam (75)	Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas▼
26 Fri	Stockport County	A	1-0	6,256	1,500	8	T. Leake	Barrett (88)	Dibble Pejc Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
28 Sun	BLACKPOOL	H	4-2	6,171	1,200	6	M. Cooper	Llewellyn (15), (21), Sam (33), (43)	Dibble Roberts▼ Morgan▼ Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
JANUARY									
3 Sat	SHEFFIELD WED	H	1-2	8,497	1,371	7	D. Crick	Carey (49)	Dibble Pejc▼ Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam▼
10 Sat	Chesterfield	A	1-2	3,585	349	8	K. Wright	Armstrong (76)	Dibble Morgan Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
17 Sat	NOTTS COUNTY	H	0-1	4,212	291	10	R. Pearson		Dibble Morgan▼ Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
20 Tue	Grimsby Town	A	3-1	3,572	78	7	G. Heggley	Llewellyn (19), Thomas (23), Armstrong (63)	Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas▼
24 Sat	Brentford	A	1-0	4,567	350	5	P. Armstrong	Armstrong (72)	Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
27 Tue	TNS (PC-QF)	A	2-0	1,056	700	-	M. Whitby	Sam (15), Roberts (78)	Dibble Roberts Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Sam
FEBRUARY									
7 Sat	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H	0-0	5,056	767	8	L. Mason		Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas▼
14 Sat	BARNSELY	H	1-0	4,086	678	6	M. Warren	Llewellyn 24	Dibble Roberts Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas▼
21 Sat	Bristol City	A	0-1	13,871	507	9	P. Danson		Dibble Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas▼
24 Tue	AFC Bournemouth	A	0-6	5,899	111	9	L. Probert		Dibble Roberts Carey▼ Lawrence C. Edwards L. Jones▼ Thomas▼
28 Sat	RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS	H	1-1	3,680	169	9	E. Evans	C. Edwards 20	Dibble Roberts Carey Pejc C. Edwards P. Edwards Crowell
MARCH									
6 Sat	GRIMSBY TOWN	H	3-0	3,127	179	9	B. Curson	Crowell 34, Armstrong 36, 37	Dibble Pejc Morgan Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Crowell▼
13 Sat	Peterborough United	A	1-6	4,323	339	9	N. Miller	Llewellyn 21	Dibble▼ Pejc Morgan▼ Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Crowell▼
16 Tue	Queens Park Rangers	A	0-2	13,363	200	10	S. Tomlin		Ingham Roberts Carey Lawrence C. Edwards P. Edwards Thomas
20 Sat	SWINDON TOWN	H							
24 Wed	CARDIFF CITY (PC-SF)	H							
27 Sat	Plymouth Argyle	A							
APRIL									
3 Sat	TRANMERE ROVERS	H							
10 Sat	Port Vale	A							
12 Mon	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H							
17 Sat	Colchester United	A							
24 Sat	LUTON TOWN	H							
MAY									
1 Sat	Wycombe Wanderers	A							
8 Sat	BRIGHTON & H.A.	H							
15 Sat	Play-Off SF 1								
19 Wed	Play-Off SF 2								
22 Sat	FA Cup Final								
30 Sun	Play-Off Final								
TBA	Oldham Athletic	A							

Lindsey Matthews

Everyone at the football club would like to wish Linz a happy 18th Birthday – it's such a shame she has to work today though!



18



SUBSTITUTES

Ferguson	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Morgan, Holmes 86▲, Crowell 76▲, L Jones 70▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Morgan, Holmes, Crowell 83▲, Sam 46▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Morgan, Holmes 83▲, Barrett 48▲, Sam 53▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Barrett	Sam	Llewellyn	Morgan, Holmes, Crowell 83▲, M. Jones 83▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Barrett	Sam	Llewellyn	Morgan, Holmes, 73▲, Crowell, M. Jones 90▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Barrett	Sam	Llewellyn	McNulty, Holmes, Whitley, M. Jones 68▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Morgan, Barrett, Sam 81▲, One 65▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Morgan 79▲, Holmes 79▲, Thomas, Sam 61▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Morgan, Holmes 73▲, Thomas 88▲, Sam 46▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Roberts, Holmes 59▲, Crowell, Sam 88▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Roberts 46▲, Sam 46▲, Crowell, P. Edwards 73▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Morgan, Holmes, Thomas 90▲, M. Jones 71▲, Whitfield 7▲
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Holmes, Thomas 64▲, M. Jones 77▲, Crowell 60▲
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Morgan 18▲, Holmes, Thomas 86▲, M. Jones 86▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Morgan, Holmes, Thomas 80▲, M. Jones 86▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Carey 31▲, Holmes, Thomas 57▲, M. Jones, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Pejic, Holmes 73▲, Thomas 81▲, M. Jones 73▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Pejic, Thomas 87▲, M. Jones, Armstrong 59▲, Whitfield
Barrett	Crowell	Armstrong	M. Jones	McNulty 73▲, Spender, Whitley, Llewellyn 68▲, Dibble
Ferguson	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	Morgan 46▲, Thomas 73▲, M. Jones, Armstrong 56▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Barrett	Llewellyn	Morgan, Crowell, M. Jones, L. Jones 80▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Crowell	Barrett	Llewellyn	Morgan, Spender, M. Jones 59▲, Armstrong 44▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Barrett	Llewellyn	Roberts, Crowell, M. Jones 65▲, Armstrong 65▲, Whitfield
Barrett	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Roberts 83▲, Morgan, Crowell, Thomas 70▲, L. Jones 65▲
Barrett	Whitley	L Jones	Llewellyn	McNulty, Crowell 76▲, M. Jones, Sam 70▲, Whitfield
Thomas	Whitley	Barrett	Llewellyn	Roberts, Holmes, Crowell, M. Jones, Whitfield
Ferguson	Thomas	Barrett	Llewellyn	Carey 56▲, Whitley 65▲, M. Jones, Armstrong, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Barrett	Llewellyn	McNulty, Thomas 20▲, M. Jones 88▲, Armstrong 73▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Barrett	Llewellyn	Spender, Crowell, M. Jones, Armstrong 72▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Thomas	Barrett	Llewellyn	Roberts 46▲, Crowell, Whitley 46▲, Armstrong 46▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Morgan, Holmes 86▲, Barrett 87▲, M. Jones, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Morgan, Holmes, Barrett, Sam, Whitfield
Thomas	Crowell	Barrett	Llewellyn	Carey, Holmes 83▲, Ferguson 78▲, M. Jones 78▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Morgan, Pejic, Barrett, Sam 73▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Pejic 70▲, Barrett 86▲, L. Jones, Sam, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Morgan, Barrett, L. Jones 86▲, Sam 46▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Morgan 57▲, Barrett 79▲, Holmes 46▲, Sam, Whitfield
Sam	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Morgan, Holmes, Thomas, L. Jones 68▲, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Holmes, Barrett 84▲, Sam 70▲, L. Jones, Whitfield
Ferguson	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Holmes, Barrett 73▲, Sam 57▲, L. Jones, Whitfield 17▲
Ferguson	Whitley	Armstrong	Llewellyn	Holmes, Pejic, Crowell 82▲, L. Jones 75▲, Whitfield

nationwide league division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Plymouth	37	14	4	1	46	12	8	6	4	28	20	42	76
QPR	36	14	5	0	41	10	5	7	5	25	24	32	69
Bristol City	36	12	5	1	30	9	7	6	5	19	18	22	68
Swindon Town	36	12	4	3	37	18	6	5	6	22	24	17	63
Brighton	37	13	3	2	33	10	4	6	9	21	27	17	60
Luton Town	35	12	3	2	35	17	3	8	7	20	30	8	56
Bournemouth	36	11	5	2	30	15	4	6	8	15	22	8	56
Port Vale	36	12	4	2	36	22	4	3	11	22	29	7	55
Hartlepool	36	7	8	3	27	15	7	4	7	30	33	9	54
Wrexham	36	7	6	5	21	13	8	0	10	20	33	-5	51
Barnsley	37	6	10	2	21	13	6	4	9	22	32	-2	50
Sheff Wed	37	6	8	5	21	20	6	4	8	20	28	-7	48
Rushden	37	9	5	5	35	24	4	3	11	20	32	-1	47
Colchester	35	8	7	4	24	21	4	3	9	12	24	-9	46
Blackpool	36	7	3	8	22	21	5	6	7	21	29	-7	45
Tranmere	35	8	6	3	26	17	1	8	9	14	34	-11	41
Oldham	36	7	6	5	27	19	1	10	7	22	31	-1	40
Chesterfield	36	7	6	5	27	22	3	4	11	10	33	-18	40
Grimsby Town	37	7	5	6	32	22	3	5	11	13	44	-21	40
Peterborough	37	3	6	9	28	28	6	6	7	17	22	-5	39
Stockport	37	3	7	8	23	30	4	8	7	26	32	-13	36
Notts County	37	5	6	7	25	22	4	3	12	17	38	-18	36
Brentford	37	6	3	9	25	32	3	5	11	13	28	-22	35
Wycombe	37	4	5	9	25	30	0	10	9	13	30	-22	27

first team rollcall 2003/04

Player	League Apps	League Goals	Cup Apps	Cup Goals
ARMSTRONG, Chris	13(6)	3	1(1)	2
BARRETT, Paul	13(46)	1	2	0
CAREY, Brian	29(2)	2	2	0
CROWELL, Matty	4(4)	0	2(2)	0
DIBBLE, Andy	34	0	3	0
EDWARDS, Carlos	36	4	4	0
EDWARDS, Paul	31(1)	0	3	0
FERGUSON, Darren	32	1	3(1)	0
HOLMES, Shaun	2(9)	2	2(1)	1
INGHAM, Michael	1	0	0	0
JONES, Lee	13(5)	5	3	3
JONES, Mark	0(10)	1	1(2)	1
LAWRENCE, Dennis	35	5	4	0
LLEWELLYN, Chris	36	5	4(1)	0
McNULTY, Jimmy	0	0	0(1)	0
MORGAN, Craig	9(3)	0	3(1)	0
ONE, Armand	2(1)	0	0	0
PEJIC, Shaun	20(1)	0	2	0
ROBERTS, Steve	14(3)	0	4	1
SAM, Hector	19(11)	6	4(1)	3
THOMAS, Steve	21(9)	1	3(2)	0
WHITFIELD, Paul	0(2)	0	2	0
WHITLEY, Jim	30(2)	0	3	0
Own Goals	0	1	0	0

disciplinary

Player	Yellow	Red	Player	Yellow	Red
Brian CAREY	10	1	Lee JONES	2	0
Jim WHITLEY	8	0	Chris LLEWELLYN	2	0
Darren FERGUSON	5	1	Steve ROBERTS	1	1
Paul EDWARDS	4	0	Paul BARRETT	1	0
Steve THOMAS	4	0	Carlos EDWARDS	1	0
Dennis LAWRENCE	3	1	Jimmy McNULTY	1	0
Chris ARMSTRONG	3	0	Shaun PEJIC	1	0
Craig MORGAN	3	0	Hector SAM	1	0
Matty CROWELL	2	0			

NEXT AT HOME

CARDIFF CITY
FAW Premier Cup semi-final
Wednesday, 24 March – 7.00pm
Adults £6.00 – Concs £4.00

TRANMERE ROVERS
(Ticket – Only)
Nationwide League Div 2
Saturday, 3 April – Noon
Ticket details on website



THE REDS ARE COMING ►►

we're on the road to...

Plymouth Argyle

SATURDAY 27 MARCH 2004 KICK-OFF 3.00PM



It's been a difficult time of late away from the Racecourse for the Dragons and the games don't get any easier with our next fixture when we make the long journey to southern Devon to take on league leaders Plymouth Argyle at Home Park.

Despite the recent setback with the departure of manager Paul Sturrock to take over the Southampton hot seat from fellow Scot Gordon Strachan, the Pilgrims don't appear to have suffered unduly since Kevin Summerfield assumed charge on a caretaker basis. To date they have recorded two further victories and a draw to maintain their position at the top of Division Two which they now lead by a clear seven points following their 2-0 victory over Peterborough United last Tuesday, the same night that nearest rivals Queens Park Rangers kept the pressure on, defeating ourselves by the same score-line.

With only nine league games remaining, the Pilgrims are entering the final furlong of a long campaign and with promotion rivals Bristol City due at Home Park for what is being billed as a possible title decider, Argyle midfielder David Frio stresses that home form holds the key to The Pilgrims fate this season.

Speaking to the Western

Morning News following Plymouth's pulsating 2-1 victory over Swindon Town which ended the Wiltshire club's eleven match unbeaten run, the goal scoring midfielder said: "It was a great result on Saturday. It was really important to win at home and we did it well."

The transition from the Sturrock era to Kevin Summerfield's caretaker spell does not appear to have damaged the Pilgrims determination to finish the season in style by clinching promotion. David Frio believes that continuity is the key and that, with both Summerfield and coach John Blackley having known the squad for a long time, change is unnecessary.

"We are winning," the Frenchman said, "So we work in exactly the same way on the pitch. We know what we have to do to win and we have been successful for three years, so why change now? Later on we will think about the situation of the club, but at the moment we are really focussed"



DANGERMAN

MICKY EVANS is a tall striker, now in his second spell at Home Park, who is sharing the goal scoring duties this season with French midfielder David Frio. The Irish born 31-year-old began his career with Argyle in 1991 as a trainee. In a six-year stint, he turned out for the club over 150 times scoring 42 goals in the process. A short loan spell with Blackburn followed before a £750,000 fee took him to Southampton in March 1997. Things did not work out at The Dell though and Evans moved on to West Bromwich Albion for the same fee in October of the same year. In almost three years at The Hawthorns, Evans managed just 35 league starts, plus another 28 appearances from the bench, and scored six goals. Bristol Rovers took him to the Memorial Stadium, initially on loan in August 2000 before a £250,000 fee secured his services permanently. However, the following March he returned to Plymouth in a cut price £30,000 deal since when he has chalked up another century of league appearances, scoring 25 goals including 12 in the current campaign.

and finally...

It Never Rains ...

I suppose Leicester City boss Micky Adams, as he looked forward to some rest and relaxation in La Manga, Spain, must have thought that he had left the worries of a disappointing season behind him for a short while. With the Foxes looking amongst the favourites to become the lift club of the Premiership he must have been hoping that recharging the batteries on a short holiday cum training session in sunny Spain would have led to the Foxes returning ready, willing and able to mount a late charge for safety.

However, with the events that occurred after a late night drinking session still shrouded in mystery, there is no doubt that the verdict on the trip to Spain has to be disastrous and one that Adams would not have envisaged in his worst nightmare. Even if the remaining three players who are still held in the Spain at the time of writing (Frank Sinclair, Paul Dickov and Keith Gillespie) are released and eventually found innocent, this Sword of Damocles will still hang over the Foxes for a long time.

It's funny how everybody is saying that this state of events has only come about because of the advent of the Premiership and that prior to 1993 all football players were angels who never erred. Well I seem to recall a similar event occurring over twenty years ago concerning top flight players. This also concerned an accusation of rape following a players' night out, only this time it wasn't sunny Spain but snowy Sweden, and Southampton was the team involved.

The aftermath of a night out following a UEFA Cup match in Sweden was two of the Southampton squad being accused of rape; there was a trial and the two players concerned were cleared. However, as they were found not guilty, and, as mud sticks, it would be unfair to name names after all these years.

So, back to the present! Micky Adams will be hoping more than anything for a similar outcome from his holiday from hell in La Manga and, no doubt, he will be promising himself that if there is to be a next time in La Manga for Leicester City he will make sure they will train so hard and so long that they will all so knackered from their endeavours that they won't want to do anything else apart from sleep!

Who knows? It could be an ill wind, if Leicester can develop a siege mentality, and turn all their recent negative publicity and back luck to a positive end then they may well be able to scrap their way out of trouble. Adams is a fighter and a winner as his previous successes with Fulham and Brighton demonstrate. If he can instil that attitude into his players, the Foxes may yet be starting next season in the Premiership! Well... he can but hope!

Clean living Eddie (As long as I don't break the eleventh commandment!)

red dragon news

PROGRAMME TEAM

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getting there

BY CAR From Wrexham, follow the A48 and A5 south to Shrewsbury and then take the M54 to the M6. Continue south to the RAC Control Centre at Watbail and join the M5. Continue south to the end of the M5 at Exeter when it becomes the A38 Devon Expressway. Stay on the A38 into Plymouth and signs will direct you to Home Park. There is a large car park adjacent to the ground.

BY TRAIN The main rail station is Plymouth North Road. It is served by Inter City trains from London Paddington and Cross Country trains from Birmingham New Street. By Coach: As usual the away travel club will be running transport to the game leaving from the main club car park. Please contact the club shop for details of prices and departure times.

AWAY SUPPORTERS Away supporters are housed in a modern covered all seater stand, seats priced £17 (adults) £11 (OAPs & students) and £5 (under 16s). There is a Wetherspoons pub near the ground. The Britannia which welcomes well behaved fans. Food is also available from vendors around the ground as well as within Home Park.



Christina Aguilera

Westlife

Robbie

Williams

Stereophonics

Madonna

Oasis

J Lo

Travis

Kylie

Craig David

David Gray



*Today's Best Mix
for Wrexham & Chester*

WREXHAM IS THE NAME ■

team check

wrexham

- 01 andy dibble
- 02 jim whitley
- 03 shaun holmes
- 04 stephen roberts
- 05 brian carey
- 06 dennis lawrence
- 07 carlos edwards
- 08 lee jones
- 09 chris armstrong
- 10 darren ferguson
- 11 chris llewellyn
- 12 paul barrett
- 13 paul whitfield
- 14 paul edwards
- 15 craig morgan
- 16 matt crowell
- 17 mark jones
- 18 shaun pejic
- 19 steve thomas
- 22 jimmy mcnulty
- 23 hector sam



CLUB SPONSORS



MATCH SPONSORS



BALL SPONSORS



TODAY'S MASCOTS

Today's mascot is 12-year-old JAMES RHYS CROTHWER from Mold. He attends the Castell Alun in Hope, enjoys playing football, cricket and drama. He also names Carlos Edwards as his favourite player. We hope James and his family have a day to remember.



swindon town

- 01 bart griemink
- 02 sean o'hanlon
- 04 matt hewlett
- 06 andy gurney
- 07 sammy igoe
- 08 tommy mooney
- 09 sam parkin
- 10 stefani miglioranzi
- 11 david duke
- 14 jon stevenson
- 15 andrew nicholas
- 16 rory fallon
- 17 brian howard
- 19 matthew heywood
- 20 rhys evans
- 22 alan reeves
- 25 steve robinson
- 26 alan young
- 28 steve smith
- 29 chris taylor



match officials

Referee M. S. PIKE

Assistant Referees A. J. HORTON & D. UNSWORTH

Fourth Official P. EASTWOOD

last racecourse meeting



Saturday, 26 January, 2002

Football League Division Two

WREXHAM 2 SWINDON TOWN 2

WREXHAM: Rodgers, Whitley (Chalk), Holmes, Carey, Roberts, Phillips, Ferguson, Thomas, Sam (Edwards), Faulconbridge, Trundle.

Scorers: Faulconbridge 30, Carey 72

SWINDON TOWN: Griemink, Willis, Davis, Heywood, Reeves, Gurney, Robinson (Hewlett), Foley (Howe), Invincible, Sabin, Duke (Grazioli).

Scorers: Grazioli 73, Reeves 90

Referee: G. Cain

Attendance: 2,879

Having managed just one solitary draw from their previous four games, Wrexham knew a win was essential if they were to harbour realistic hopes of avoiding relegation to the Third Division. The Dragons made the perfect start when Craig Faulconbridge opened the scoring on the half-hour mark, sending a delightful curling shot past former Birmingham City keeper Bart Griemink. Brian Carey doubled the lead on 72 minutes when he capitalised on an error from Griemink to force the ball home from close range. Sadly for Wrexham, the visitors' response was immediate with Guiliano Graziosi reducing the arrears inside 60 seconds. Worse was to follow when Alan Reeves headed home Bobby Howe's last minute corner to deny the Dragons a much needed three points.

ground regulations

■ In the interest of Spectator Safety the following conditions apply at the Racecourse Ground and will be enforced by the Club's stewards, with the full support of North Wales Police:

REMEMBER

■ The club has the right to refuse entry or eject any person who refuses to be searched by a steward or police officer. ■ Any person who fails to comply with instructions from a steward may be ejected from the ground. ■ Any person whose behaviour could reasonably be construed as consisting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators may be ejected.

ALSO

■ It is a criminal offence, for which you may be arrested: ■ to throw anything on to the pitch or at players, officials and other supporters ■ to take part in any indecent or racist chanting ■ to go on to the playing surface at any time ■ to try to enter the ground with intoxicating liquor, to try to enter the ground whilst drunk ■ to possess any article, such as knives, bottles, fireworks, smoke canisters, cans and flagpoles which might be used as offensive weapons ■ to use behaviour which is threatening, abusive or insulting towards another. ■ Persons convicted of criminal offences will become subject of Exclusion Orders banning them from all Football League grounds.