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VOL. 18

SATURDAY, 27th APRIL, 1968

No. 28

SATURDAY, 27th APRIL, 1968

DIVISION III

SWINDON TOWN

v.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

Kick-off 3 p.m.

REFEREE:

MR. A. E. DIMOND (Harlow)

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NEWS and VIEWS

After today we have two away games, and so ends a season which opened with great hopes of promotion.

Probably the outstanding feature has been the wonderful support we have received. Our attendance figures are by far the best in Division III, and often much higher than many in Division II. Yet it is most likely a loss will be shown at the end of the Financial Year in May.

It seems changes will have to be made in football finance. Mr. J. Battersby, Chairman of Bolton Wanderers, a club with a great tradition and years of experience speaks out, straight to the point: "Sweeping changes are needed — and quickly — otherwise many clubs will face bankruptcy. The ever-spiralling wage and transfer fee structure is rapidly strangling the life out of all but a few of the 92 clubs. We started it all ourselves when we abandoned the wage maximum and adopted individual contracts. But for heaven's sake, let us admit our mistake and get back to sanity. In falling over backwards to be **fair** to the players we are ruining ourselves.

Rocketing wage bills and the rise in prices for good players is out of all **proportion to incomes**, and the longer we delay the more precarious our position becomes."

He then suggests a scale of wages should be introduced based on the Divisions. Top figure for a First Division player and lower limits for Second, Third and Fourth.

He also wants a ceiling figure for fees, cutting the top prices by at least a half. It really is fantastic for a club to pay £100,000 plus for one man, a sum far in excess of most clubs' **total income in any one season.**

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Mr. Battersby then goes on to suggest ways and means of improving the situation. First, to sweep away the two-thirds majority rule as a means of facilitating immediate reforms.

He considers an extension of the promotion and relegation system in the two top sections — long overdue — to increase the interest to the end of the season.

“Let us keep the top 44 teams on the move all the time by changing to four up and four down. The more the League changes face, the more interesting life will be for the fans. With four chances of climbing back we can help to kill the fear of relegation.”

These ideas provide much food for thought. Certainly the brake will have to be applied to expenditure. Already clubs are suggesting increased prices because of increased costs: Betting Tax (less from the Pools); Selective Employment Tax; Purchase Tax; General Costs (travel, electricity, postal and telephone charges).

One is not sure higher entrance fees would help, except for special games, the attendance could be lower.

Football could easily follow the trend of the theatrical and cinema world. The number of theatres and cinemas becomes less each year, and most are now found only in the big cities.

Will it come to this in League football?

A few weeks ago the top ten in the Championship stakes — Manchester United, Leeds United, Liverpool, Manchester City, Newcastle United, Everton, Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea, Nottingham Forest and Arsenal — were all clubs from the big cities. It surely is a point for reflection.

Will it come to just a group of top clubs, with the smaller ones going to the wall?

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NEWS AND VIEWS—continued

Certainly the smaller clubs cannot possibly survive much longer under the present conditions and regulations. The great majority of League clubs are now living on overdrafts and with greatly reduced professional staffs.

We are bound to agree with Mr. Battersby — urgent action is necessary.

However to turn to football and today's game. We played at Oldham on Saturday, 2nd December. Fortunately we were beginning to reach top form just at the right time — the beginning of the F.A. Cup competition. Swindon won by two goals to nil. Scorers: Rogers and Terry.

Swindon:

Downsborough; Thomas, Trollope; Butler, Nurse, Harland; Heath, Dawson, Terry, Smart, Rogers. Sub.: Penman.

Last season we defeated Oldham Athletic by six goals to three, in what was probably the best game of the season. The visitors scored first through Frank Large (remember him? — now at Leicester City), but Dennis Brown and Don Rogers scored, and at half-time we led 2—1. After the interval Rogers, Brown and Walker scored in that order, so the score line read 5—1. Oldham Athletic staged a fine comeback with two goals by Collins and Towers. The game became most open and interesting, but Swindon finally clinched the issue when Rogers scored near the end. I can only hope we see such a grand game today. The attendance was 10,347. It will be interesting to compare that with today's figures.

The return game was played on 28th April, 1967. Result: Oldham Athletic 1; Swindon Town 0. Attendance: 5,605.

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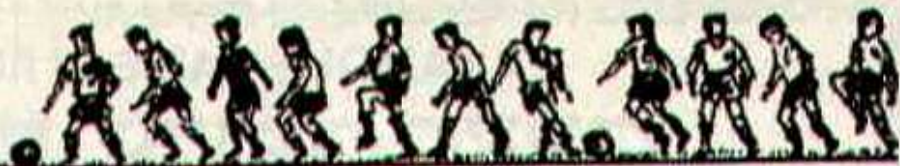
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OUR VISITORS



OLDHAM ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB

DAVID BEST (Goalkeeper)

6ft. 12½st. Signed from Bournemouth September 1966 for £15,000.

BILL MOLYNEUX (Goalkeeper)

5ft. 9ins. 10½st. Signed this season from Liverpool. Played regularly for Liverpool Central League side. A very agile goalkeeper.

RONNIE BLAIR (Right back)

5ft. 10ins. 11st. 3lbs. 17 years old Irish boy who was signed from Coleraine last season. Made quite a name for himself since joining Oldham Athletic.

ALAN HUNTER (Centre half)

6ft. 1in. 13st. Another signing from Coleraine in December, 1966. Made the centre half position his own. Strong in tackle. Irish Amateur International. Was also chosen to represent Northern Ireland against Wales this season but had to drop out owing to injury.

JIMMY FRIZZELL (Left half)

5ft. 8ins. 11½st. Club's longest serving player. Signed from Morton in May 1960. Played in all positions.

REG BLORE (Outside right)

5ft. 8ins. 11½st. Signed from Blackburn Rovers December 1965 for £8,000. Played in all five forward positions. Welsh International.

ERIC MAGEE

5ft. 8ins. 11st. Club's latest signing from Glenavon in June 1967, for £5,000.

IAN TOWERS (Inside right)

5ft. 6ins. 11st. Signed from Burnley in January 1966. Leading scorer last season with 27 goals. Played in all five forward positions.

KEITH BEBBINGTON (Outside left)

5ft. 6ins. 11st. Signed from Stoke City September 1966. Plays either wing.

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OUR VISITORS—continued

IAN WOOD (Right back)

Local amateur. Previously with Radcliffe Borough.

ALLAN LAWSON (Centre half)

5ft. 10ins. 11½st. Signed from Glasgow Celtic in May 1964.

BILLY JOHNSTON (Inside left)

5ft. 10ins. 12st. 3lbs. Signed from Glenavon June 1966. Only played a few times before breaking his leg, which has kept him out of action until recently. A very clever ball player and Northern Ireland International.

JO MAKIN

5ft. 10ins. 11st. An apprentice professional. Drafted into the local side towards the end of last season. Shows great promise. Aged 16 years.

MICHAEL NOLAN

Just signed professional forms after serving apprenticeship at the club. Hails from Eire. Aged 17 years. 6ft. 1in. 12st.

JIMMY BOWIE (Left back)

6ft. 1in. 12st. 3lbs. Signed from Scottish Junior Club, August 1962. Given great service to the Club and can play half back or inside forward positions.

LES CHAPMAN (Centre forward)

5ft. 9ins. 11½st. Local born, signed February 1967. A young player with great promise. 18 years of age.

ALAN PHILPOTT (Right half)

Recently signed from Stoke City at a considerable fee. Is a utility player. Height 5ft. 10ins. Weight 10st. 8lb.

LAWRIE SHEFFIELD

Another recent signing from Rotherham United this season. A man of many clubs but has always been amongst the goals. Height 5ft. 10ins. Weight 11st. 3lbs.

ALISTER DOYLE

Graduated from the Youth Team. Hails from Northern Ireland. Aged 19 years. Height 5ft. 9ins. Weight 10st. 5lbs.

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Terry (9)

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Towers (9)

Frizzell (6)

Lawson (5)

Bowie (3)

Blair (2)

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Jones

(2) Trollope (3)

Nurse (5)

Harland (6)

Terry (9)

Smart (10)

Rogers (11)

KEEP IN TOUCH
EVENING
ADVERTISER
WITH THE NEWS

These teams are subject
to alteration

Oldham's 12th Man

(10) Towers (9)

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SUPPORTERS *CLUB NOTES*

Today is the last home league match of the season, and another performance like last Tuesday would be well received by all. The return match against Bristol Rovers will, no doubt, see a good following of Swindon supporters at Eastville Stadium, which will leave us with next season to look forward to.

With the close season so near, and these the last Notes before next season, on behalf of supporters, I wish the players pleasant summer holidays.

The Supporters' Club Committee, however, carry on throughout the close season with the three summer draws. No doubt other work will fill our leisure time, as the Social Club will remain as active as ever, and, we hope, increase its popularity.

On May 18th — Social Club members please note the date — we have a change in the Saturday Party Night, by making this a masked fancy dress night. So shed your inhibitions, don the motley, and make a ball out of it.

Our youngest member, as from 9.30 p.m. last Tuesday night, is Miss Julia Jones, who weighed in at the Victoria Hospital 24 hours before (Monday, 22nd) at 6lbs. 3ozs. The proud father, our goalkeeper, Roy Jones, enrolled her in the Social Club after the Bristol Rovers match, whilst quaffing a well-earned jug. Congratulations to Mrs. Jones — and to Roy of course.



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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES—continued

On Saturday, May 4th, the Supporters' Club Football Section team have arranged a morning match with Bristol Rovers' Supporters' Club, and will go on to the match in the afternoon.

Don't forget, members, that next season the Membership fee goes up from 1/- to 1/6. This still keeps our membership well below the average for Supporters' Clubs.

The group providing the music at tonight's party night is the ever popular **Ken Kitching Band**. Come early — we are normally busy when Ken is about. Tomorrow night, after Bingo, sees a return of the Mastersound. Why not bring a friend on Sunday for Bingo! Prizes are still increasing with the larger attendance.

Don't forget the three summer draws, and that we would like more agents. Here are all the details:

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				£240	0	0

Last Sunday, the Social Club football team played Chippenham Wanderers at R.A.F. Station, Lyneham, by kind permission of Air Commodore, the Officer Commanding.

After the match both teams and supporters returned to the Social Club for tea and the Bingo and dance session afterwards. This made a most enjoyable evening, more friends were made, and perhaps a few more spectators encouraged to support Swindon Town. Every one of these functions attract a few more — mighty oaks from little acorns grow.

Little remains for me to say now except to thank you all for your support this season, to look forward to seeing you next season, and to hope that you have found these Notes readable and interesting. And a "thank you" to the Sports Editor of the "Evening Advertiser" for quoting me in his column "Behind the Scenes" on Thursday, 18th April, from our Notes in the programme for the Oxford United match. At this stage Oxford United are still in the running, so I don't know, yet, if I was prophetic.

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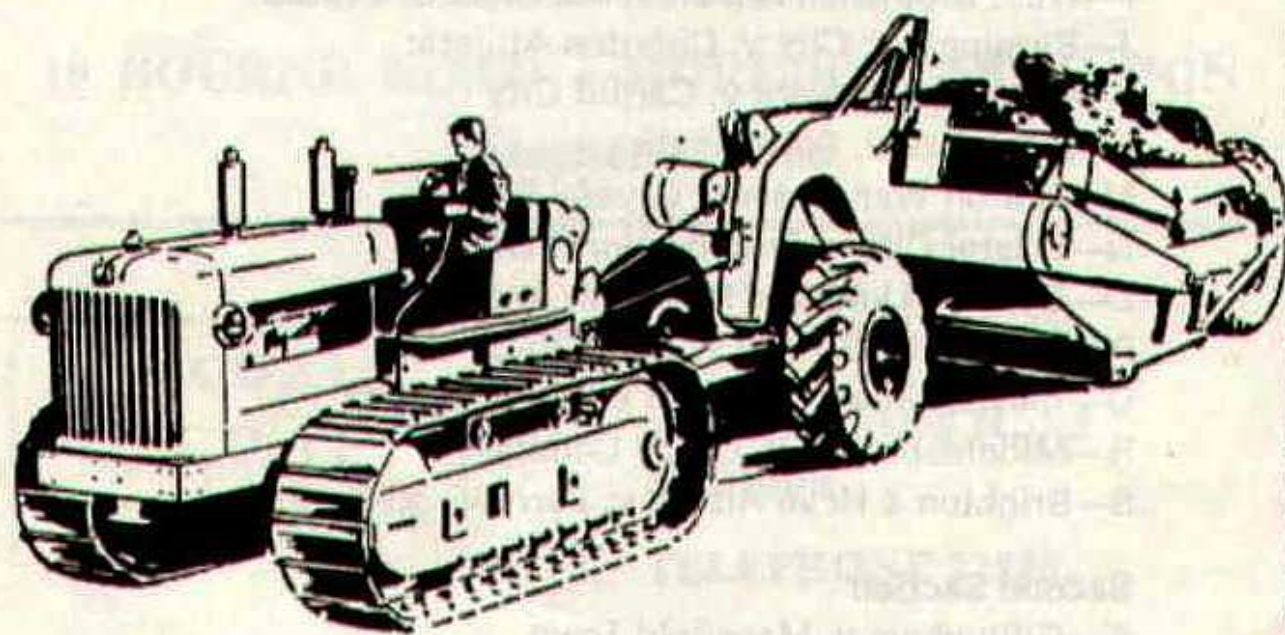
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- C—Liverpool v. Fulham
- D—Manchester City v. Sheffield Wednesday
- E—Newcastle United v. Tottenham Hotspur
- F—Nottingham Forest v. Everton
- G—Sheffield United v. West Ham United
- H—Southampton v. Wolverhampton Wanderers
- I—West Bromwich Albion v. Manchester United
- J—Birmingham City v. Charlton Athletic
- K—Blackburn Rovers v. Cardiff City
- L—Blackpool v. Portsmouth
- M—Bolton Wanderers v. Crystal Palace
- N—Bristol City v. Preston North End
- O—Carlisle United v. Plymouth Argyle
- P—Huddersfield Town v. Aston Villa
- Q—Ipswich Town v. Queen's Park Rangers
- R—Middlesbrough v. Derby County
- S—Brighton & Hove Albion v. Barrow

Second Section

- A—Gillingham v. Mansfield Town
- B—Grimsby Town v. Watford
- C—Northampton Town v. Colchester United
- D—Orient v. Bournemouth & Boscombe Athletic
- E—Reading v. Scunthorpe United
- F—Walsall v. Peterborough United
- G—Bradford v. Lincoln City
- H—Luton Town v. Bradford City
- I—Newport County v. Exeter City
- J—Rochdale v. Aldershot

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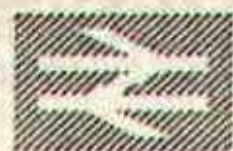
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DIVISION III

(up to and including Wednesday, 24th April, 1968)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bury	43	22	8	13	84	61	52
Shrewsbury Town	43	19	14	10	60	46	52
Oxford United	43	19	13	11	62	47	51
Torquay United	42	20	10	12	56	47	50
Stockport County	43	19	9	15	67	63	47
Swindon Town	43	15	16	12	70	47	46
Watford	43	19	8	16	70	48	46
Walsall	43	17	12	14	67	57	46
Peterborough United	43	18	10	15	68	62	46
Barrow	43	19	7	17	59	52	45
Reading	43	18	9	16	61	58	45
Southport	42	17	10	15	62	60	44
Gillingham	42	16	12	14	53	58	44
Bournemouth & B.A.	43	14	15	14	50	50	43
Brighton & H.A.	42	14	15	13	51	51	43
Oldham Athletic	43	18	6	19	56	57	42
Bristol Rovers	42	16	8	18	66	71	40
Northampton Town	44	14	12	18	56	66	40
Mansfield Town	43	12	13	18	50	59	37
Tranmere Rovers	42	12	12	18	58	69	36
Orient	41	10	16	15	42	56	36
Grimsby Town	42	11	9	22	46	65	31
Colchester United	43	9	13	21	46	79	31
Scunthorpe United	41	9	11	21	50	80	29



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DIVISION III

Date	Opponents	Ground	Result
August 19	Brighton & Hove Albion	15,790 (H)	2—1
22	Newport County (League Cup)	10,870 (H)	1—1
25	Stockport County	9,103 (A)	0—2
29	Newport Co. (League Cup Replay)	6,537 (A)	0—2
September 2	Tranmere Rovers	12,152 (H)	3—1
4	Barrow	7,352 (A)	1—1
9	Orient	4,722 (A)	0—0
16	Northampton Town	13,280 (H)	4—0
23	Walsall	9,132 (A)	2—3
26	Barrow	13,567 (H)	0—1
30	Gillingham	12,983 (H)	2—2
October 4	Reading	17,867 (A)	1—2
7	Bury	8,222 (A)	1—1
14	Bournemouth & B.A.	11,135 (H)	4—0
21	Colchester United	4,907 (A)	1—2
24	Reading	17,229 (H)	5—1
28	Peterborough United	12,215 (H)	0—0
November 4	Mansfield Town	4,619 (A)	2—2
11	Watford	13,327 (H)	2—0
13	Tranmere Rovers	6,519 (A)	2—3
18	Southport	5,008 (A)	1—1
25	Scunthorpe United	11,944 (H)	2—0
December 2	Oldham Athletic	6,965 (A)	2—0
12	(1) Salisbury	12,193 (H)	4—0
16	Brighton & Hove Albion	9,141 (A)	0—0
19	Stockport County	12,856 (H)	2—0
26	Torquay United	12,910 (A)	1—1
30	Torquay United	18,161 (H)	1—0
January 6	(2) Luton Town	18,203 (H)	3—2
20	Northampton Town	10,339 (A)	0—2
27	(3) Blackburn Rovers	20,830 (H)	1—0
February 3	Walsall	17,288 (H)	3—0
10	Gillingham	5,116 (A)	1—3
17	(4) Sheffield Wednesday	37,364 (A)	1—2
24	Bury	14,462 (H)	2—3
27	Grimsby Town	12,791 (H)	5—0
March 2	Bournemouth & B.A.	7,517 (A)	1—2
9	(5) Shrewsbury Town	7,810 (A)	1—0
12	Orient	14,184 (H)	4—0
16	Colchester United	13,515 (H)	1—1
19	Shrewsbury Town	14,541 (H)	0—0
23	Peterborough United	4,667 (A)	1—1
30	(6) Mansfield Town	10,248 (H)	1—1
April 6	Watford	7,569 (A)	0—2
12	Oxford United	17,751 (A)	0—0
13	Southport	11,055 (H)	3—3
16	Oxford United	16,418 (H)	1—1
19	Scunthorpe United	2,725 (A)	1—3
23	Bristol Rovers	11,438 (H)	4—1
27	(S.F.) Oldham Athletic (H)
May 4	Bristol Rovers (A)
11	Grimsby Town (A)

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