

# BRISTOL ROVERS



Football Club  
Ltd. 1883

SEASON 1968-69



BRISTOL STADIUM EASTVILLE

FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
Division III

**SWINDON TOWN**

**Saturday, Sept. 21st**

Kick-off 3 p.m.

PROGRAMME **9**d. INCLUDING FOOTBALL LEAGUE REVIEW

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# Bristol Rovers Football Club

President:

His Grace the Duke of Beaufort, K.G., P.C., G.C.V.O.

Directors:

P. W. Hort (chairman), H. E. L. Brown, E. W. H. Godfrey, J. P. Hare, D. Mearns Milne, C. A. L. Stevens, A. I. Seager.

Medical Officer:

Dr. W. T. Cussen

Manager - Secretary: Bert Tann.



Team Manager: Fred Ford.

## Help us realise our dream



by PHILIP HORT

Today, with our good friends and old rivals Swindon Town providing the opposition, we are expecting a bigger crowd than for any of our other matches so far this season.

It is an opportune time to talk to you about recent events on and off the field and to tell you our ambitions for the club's future and how you can help us achieve them.

There have been disappointments in the early games. Frankly they were expected—a young team like our's has to learn—often the hard way. Bearing with them during their apprenticeship requires patience.

But there have been enough signs of encouragement to suggest that Fred Ford is working along the right lines and that success is not so far around the corner.

My colleagues on the board and I are aware that Fred Ford's task would be easier if there was money to spend in the transfer market.

We believe that finding and developing your own players is a good and sensible policy for a club to follow, and not necessarily just clubs who cannot afford any other.

But we realise there are limitations and that there are times when it is desirable to strengthen a position or two by buying readymade players.

This can only be done when the funds are available. At the moment, they are not but every effort is being made to seek out ways of increasing the club's income.

These can have no real effect without a weight of support from our followers, particularly in the area of direct fund-raising.

We are sorry about the plight of the Supporters' Social Club but its pending closure will give that hard core of ardent supporters the opportunity to redirect their efforts towards the original aim of their organisation—to help the Football Club in every way possible.

Their fine record of achievement in the past is well known. There is no reason why, if given the right support, they cannot achieve as much again in the future and help us to realise our dream of bringing Second Division football back to Eastville and then moving forward to the First Division.

## KEYBOARD TO HALF-TIME SCORES

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LUTON

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HARTLEPOOL

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# Fred Ford's View



At Plymouth last Saturday we lost 3—1 after Plymouth had scored in the first few minutes and the last few minutes. But during the period when the score was 1—1 we missed a couple of chances—real chances that if taken would have put us in front and kept the pattern of the game our way.

Had Larry Taylor not been suffering from a groin injury, he possibly would have saved Plymouth's vital second goal.

Typical of us this season is a tendency to give goals away through a slackness that is not found in a good side. Until we overcome this fault, we will never keep a clean sheet.

It relates partly to skill, partly to confidence. Usually it has been an individual fault and often a different player each time. But even our most inexperienced player should be improving now and eliminating these faults.

Four players received 21 days' suspension this week for offences ranging from swearing to kicking.

Swearing, showing dissent, kicking first, retaliating... is there a

difference? Should the terms of the suspensions vary accordingly?

It is very difficult for the Disciplinary Committee to have a chart drawn up, ruling so many days for this offence, and so many for that. There are many different things to be taken into account in each case.

I think the real offenders should be punished hard in terms of suspensions. Fines are not the answer. Even the hard core of offending players love to play and hate being out of the game.

Make one and all play the game hard... play the ball, accept decisions, no pretence at being injured, all sporting instincts to the fore.

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# SUPPORTERS NEWS AND VIEWS

## SUPPORTERS' CLUB

**Eric Godfrey writes:**

On Thursday, September 12, an extraordinary general meeting was held at the Grand Hotel, when it was decided, with great regret, to close the Social Club for financial reasons.

It was a great Club, with a fine manager in John Corelli. But the membership was too small to meet the ever-increasing overheads. The rent of £1250 per annum, together with the advent of the breathalyser, S.E.T. and a tax on fruit machines proved to be too much for us.

At the meeting, Social Club members expressed a desire to be kept in touch with each other because of friendships which had been formed over the years. The Committee is anxious to comply with this suggestion and would be pleased to know what type of functions the Social Club members have in mind.

We shall be pleased to hear from members but it must be emphasised that ideas must be practicable and self-supporting.

A very keen Rovers' supporter told me recently that he would never travel away again in an official coach because the language used left much to be desired and greatly embarrassed his wife. This week, a shareholder wrote and complained about obscene chanting on the terraces.

I should like to appeal to the small minority of people who are doing this to remember that their conduct is proving to be a liability to the Football Club they are sup-

posed to be supporting and driving away spectators we can ill-afford to lose.

## TRUE BLUES

**Ted Osborne writes:**

The second semi-final of the West of England Talent Contest will be held at the club next Thursday. With an eight-act bill, this looks like being an entertaining and exciting evening.

The effort to create the atmosphere of the Good Old Days was well rewarded when six lovely ladies and one gentleman turned the clock back by arriving in full costume of the Edwardian days.

The stars of the show? The man I had to coax out of retirement, comedian George Cooper, now in his seventies and, after 56 years of show business, as good as ever. I am already planning another Olde Time . . . so ladies start making those lovely hats and win a bottle of Champus.

Our Sunday show this week brings a local artiste to the club for her debut . . . Miss Ann Brewer. Also on the bill, tenor Ken Skidmore, a welcome return of the Jones Brothers, plus one of Bristol's leading groups, The Sherridans.

I am sure many of you will be visiting the Sunday morning market at the Stadium. Make sure you visit the Rovers shop where Mrs. Jan Moules will be pleased to see you . . . and then pop in the club where we shall be happy to supply your refreshments with our special Sunday snacks.

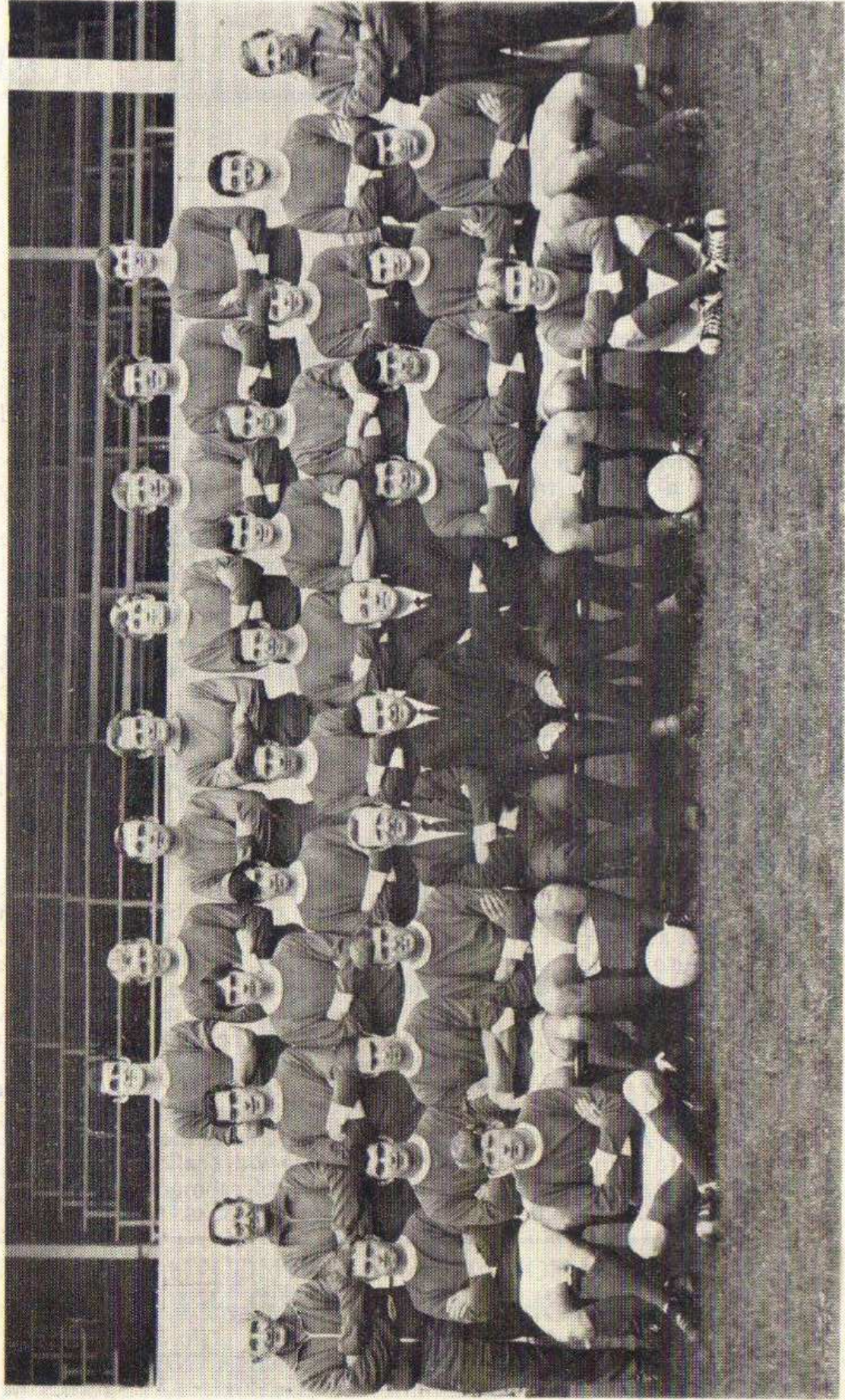
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Club line-up 1968/69 ...

SWINDON TOWN





# TODAY'S TEAMS AND OFFICIALS

## ROVERS

(Blue)

- Ray WHITE
- Lindsay PARSONS
- Ray MABBUTT
- Stuart TAYLOR
- Larry LLOYD
- Frankie PRINCE
- Ray GRAYDON
- Vic BARNEY
- Bobby JONES
- Wayne JONES
- Harold JARMAN

Substitute .....

Referee: Mr. K. A. WYNN  
(Wolverhampton)

## V. SWINDON TOWN

(Red)

- 1 Peter DOWNSBOROUGH
- 2 Owen DAWSON
- 3 Rod THOMAS
- 4 Joe BUTLER
- 5 Frank BURROWS
- 6 Stan HARLAND
- 7 Don HEATH
- 8 Roger SMART
- 9 John SMITH
- 10 Peter NOBLE
- 11 Don ROGERS

Substitute .....

Linesmen:  
Mr. J. R. Davies (red flag)  
Mr. G. M. Hughes  
(yellow flag)

### Next home matches

Saturday, October 5th (3 p.m.)  
**OLDHAM**  
(Football League)  
Saturday, October 12 (3 p.m.)  
**SOUTHAMPTON**  
(Football Combination)

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room, musical entertainment  
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Swindon Town's remarkable run ended at Bournemouth on Wednesday night when they suffered their first defeat of the season and conceded their first League goals in a 2—0 Boscombe win.

But Swindon come to Eastville today still boasting the best defensive record in all four Divisions.

Anchor man in that fine defence is:

**PETER DOWNSBOROUGH** who provided the answer to a problem spot in Town's team when he was signed three years ago from Halifax.

**OWEN DAWSON** lost a regular first team place through injury but regained it this season when John Trollope broke his arm at Hartlepool.

**RODNEY THOMAS**, signed from Gloucester City as an inside-forward in 1964, successfully switched to full-back and has full international and Under-23 caps for Wales.

**JOE BUTLER**, a full-back when signed from Newcastle in 1965, has found a regular place in the senior side at wing-half this season.

**FRANK BURROWS**, signed this summer from Scunthorpe as a replacement for Mel Nurse, has quickly made an impression. A Scot, he had a spell with Raith Rovers before joining Scunthorpe.

**STAN HARLAND**, one of Town's most consistent defenders, played for Everton, Bradford City and Carlisle before signing for Swindon at the start of last season.

## TODAY'S VISITORS

# Swindon's defence best in League

**DON HEATH**, a former Middlesbrough apprentice, was signed from Norwich just a year ago.

**ROGER SMART**, powerful and versatile, is the only Swindon-born player in the side.

**JOHN SMITH**, former England Under-23 international, was signed this summer from Torquay where he was a key player in the side that narrowly missed promotion. Previously with Orient, West Ham, Spurs and Coventry.

**PETER NOBLE** joined Town last January from Newcastle where he played for four years.

**DON ROGERS** needs little introduction. Paulton-born, England Youth and Under-23 international, Town's top scorer with 28 goals last season. The most valuable player in the Third Division.

**CHRIS JONES** was summer signing from Manchester City after he returned from their American tour. Injured early on but he returned to the squad as substitute at Bournemouth this week.

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HAROLD JARMAN ... outnumbered three to one in Plymouth's goalmouth, gets in a header but was out of luck. For Fred Ford's view of the game at Home Park, see Page 5.

## CAREER RECORDS

	To Date		1968/69	
	A	G	A	G
Barney	11(1)	—	1	—
Gadston	4(1)	2	4(1)	2
Graydon	28(2)	1	4(2)	—
Jarman	349(3)	97	9	3
Jones, R.	337	84	9	3
Jones, W.	64	8	9	2
Lloyd	9	—	9	—
Mabbutt	430(3)	25	9	—
Parsons	63(1)	—	9	—
Plumb	42	9	4	—
Prince	12	1	9	1
Ronaldson	65(3)	14	2	1
Stanton	(1)	—	(1)	—
Taylor, L.	57	—	8	—
Taylor, S.	80	9	7	1
White	1	—	1	—
Williams, J.	72(1)	12	4	—

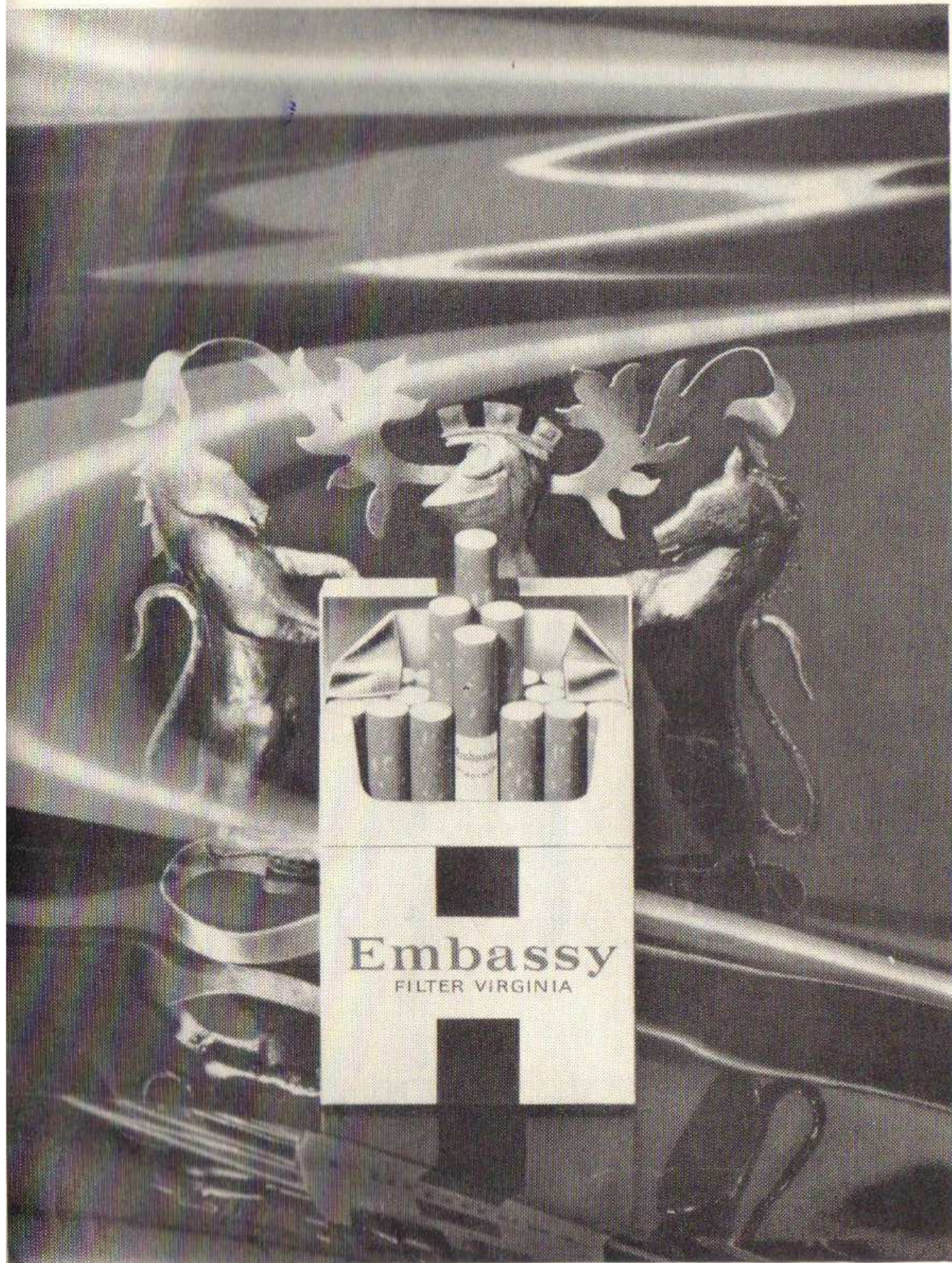
Figures in brackets indicate appearances as substitute.

## THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton T. ....	8	6	2	0	22	6	14
Bournemouth .....	8	5	1	2	15	6	11
Barrow .....	8	4	2	2	11	8	10
Rotherham .....	8	3	4	1	12	9	10
Swindon .....	7	3	3	1	5	2	9
Reading .....	8	3	3	2	15	9	9
Torquay .....	8	4	1	3	12	8	9
Plymouth .....	7	4	1	2	10	8	9
Mansfield .....	8	4	1	3	14	12	9
Stockport Co. ....	8	3	3	2	12	11	9
Orient .....	7	1	6	0	10	9	8
Tranmere .....	8	3	2	3	9	10	8
Brighton .....	7	2	3	2	14	13	7
Crewe Alex. ....	8	2	3	3	14	14	7
Northampton .....	7	2	3	2	9	9	7
Watford .....	8	2	3	3	5	6	7
<b>ROVERS</b> .....	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>
Walsall .....	8	1	4	3	7	9	6
Shrewsbury .....	8	2	2	4	7	11	6
Gillingham .....	8	2	1	5	10	12	5
Southport .....	8	2	1	5	8	14	5
Barnsley .....	8	1	3	4	9	16	5
Hartlepool .....	7	1	3	3	4	12	5
Oldham Ath. ....	8	1	2	5	4	18	4

# YOUR COMPLETE ROVERS FIXTURE GUIDE FOR 1968-69

LEAGUE DIVISION III		COMBINATION CUP		FOOTBALL COMBINATION		GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE	
Date	Opponents	Date	Opponents	Date	Opponents	Date	Opponents
1968/69		1968/69		1968/69		1968/69	
Aug. 10	Watford	Aug. 14	Swansea T.	Oct. 5	Luton Tn.	Sept. 7	Bristol St. Grg.
" 13	Swansea T. (League Cup 1)	Aug. 17	Swansea T.	" 12	Southampton T.	" 21	Cadbury Heath
" 17	Walsall	" 20	Plymouth A.	" 19	Oxford Utd.	" 28	Charlton Kings
" 24	Bournemouth	" 31	Chelsea	" 26	Fulham	Oct. 5	Senior Amtr Cup (first round)
" 27	Shrewsbury T.	Sept. 7	Plymouth A.	" 28	Swansea T.	" 12	Cinderford Res.
" 31	Crewe Alexandra	Sept. 10	Chelsea	Nov. 9	Queens Park R.	" 19	Cirencester
		Sept. 13	Plymouth A.	" 16	Chelsea	" 26	Forest Green
		Sept. 17	Plymouth A.	" 23	Leicester C.	Nov. 2	Senior Amtr. Cup (second round)
		Sept. 21	Plymouth A.	" 27	Reading	" 9	Gloucester Res.
		Sept. 27	Reading	Dec. 7	Birmingham C.	" 16	Hanham Ath.
Sept. 6	Hartlepool Utd.	Apr. 4	Northampton T.	" 14	Arsenal	" 23	Matson Ath.
" 14	Plymouth Argyle	" 5	Reading	" 21	Cardiff C.	" 30	Senior Amtr. Cup (third round)
" 17	Northampton T.	" 8	Stockport Cty.	" 28	Bristol City	Dec. 7	Old Patchweg'ns
" 21	Swindon T.	" 12	Swindon Tn.	Jan. 7	Northampton T.	" 14	Sharpness
" 27	Reading	" 15	Stockport Cty.	" 11	Tottenham Hsp.	" 21	Stonehouse
		" 19	Plymouth A.	" 25	Norwich C.	" 28	Thornbury
		" 26	Mansfield T.	Feb. 1	Ipswich Tn.	Jan. 4	Thornbury
		" 30	League Cup 5.	" 15	Plymouth Argyle	" 11	Brimmscombe
				" 25	Walsall	" 18	Yate Y.M.C.A.
				Mar. 8	Swindon Tn.	" 25	Bristol St. Grg.
				" 15	Crystal Pal.	Feb. 1	Cadbury Heath
				" 19	Luton Tn.	" 8	Charlton Kings
				" 22	West Ham Utd.	" 15	Cinderford Res.
				" 29	Bournem'th & B.	" 22	Cirencester
				Apr. 12	Peterborough U.	Mar. 1	Forest Green
				" 19	Gillingham	" 8	Gloucester Res.
						" 15	Hanham Athletic
						" 22	Matson Ath.
						" 29	Old Patchweg'ns
						Apr. 5	Sharpness
						" 12	Stonehouse



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