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OXFORD UNITED
v SWINDON TOWN

SATURDAY 17TH

MARCH 1974



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CLUB TALK

I trust the first Sunday League Fixture at the Manor in the history of the club will coincide with an extension of the more favourable results for the team which began three games ago when we beat Portsmouth 3-0. Sunday soccer is something which we have kept foremost in our minds at Oxford and though the emergency situation has changed and perhaps a little novelty has worn off with attendances having dwindled, I still think we shall get a very interesting response for the visit of neighbouring Swindon Town. After three defeats, it was a good tonic to beat Portsmouth in our last home match, a lighter all round performance that was carried over into our successive away games against Bristol City and Orient. City were on top of the world after beating Leeds and it was great credit to the Oxford team to pull a point out of Ashton Gate. Our next assignment had all the trappings of being a real formidable test of football against George Petchey's promotion challenging side. But it was only an injury time equalizer from Orient, which prevented us taking both points — nothing more than we deserved according to the local press afterwards.



MANAGER GERRY SUMMERS

I feel sure that a measure of the improved form and results over the last month can be geared to the acquisition of Max Briggs. A manager can never be sure that a player will hit off with his new team straight away - sometimes it's never a happy marriage - but I am convinced Briggs' inclusion has had a great influence. Many of his attributes have a first division ring about them and his presence in midfield has given us new steadiness.

We have been a more compact side in the three games he has

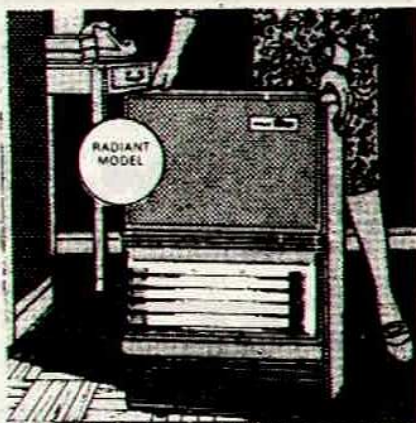
played, something particularly evident in our last away matches. We worked tremendously hard against Bristol and dominated most of the game against Orient, a solid team effort on both occasions. Briggs has had a lot to do with this, his confidence enabling us to operate more smoothly. When ever Oxford played against Briggs in the past, I was always impressed by him, and I bought him after seeing him help Norwich beat QPR.

We were able to sign him, for a very reasonable fee, because as a new manager comes to a club he brings fresh ideas which necessitates the unloading of some players and, lucky for us, John Bond was agreeable to let Max move.

We welcome Swindon this afternoon, an opposition which we shall treat with as much respect as though they were Middlesbrough. The Second division is such a tight challenge, positions relate false gaps in abilities - and as this game is a local derby, League form and merit is not applicable in my estimation. I had the team together at a local hotel last night to try and build the right atmosphere for what is going to be a very vital game for both clubs.

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SWINDON



SWINDON TOWN, 1973-74 . . . Back (from left): *Stroud, Hubbard, Allan, Spratley, Porter, Legg*. Centre: *Collins, Potter, Trollope, Burrows, Clarke, Jenkins, Thomas (now Derby), K. Morris (physiotherapist)*. Front: *M. Owen (reserve trainer), Moss, McGovern, Bunkell, L. Allen (manager), Tuson, Treacy (now Preston), Butler, G. Edleston (coach)*.

After being pushed to the bottom of the table during a disastrous February, which produced only one point from five games, Swindon Town appeared to be coming to the end of an era . . . a six-year span that began with an astonishing triumph at Wembley and continued with the club's longest run in the Second Division.

The promotion and League Cup double of 1969 was the forerunner of exciting times for the

ambitious Wiltshire club whose banner was carried into Europe when they captured the Anglo-Italian trophy and an inter-league prize contested by the winners of the Italian and English League Cup competitions.

By 1970, their first season back in Division II, there was every prospect that Swindon's progress would not stop until they reached the First Division. Three points alone bridged the

gap between the Robins and promoted Blackpool in 1969-70 and when the club invested a big sum in a new grandstand, the whole set-up was geared for the final step up the ladder.

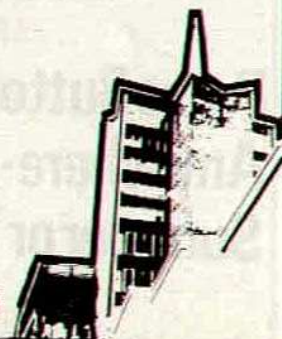
Sadly, however, things have splintered in the last couple of seasons, during which manager Fred Ford was replaced by Dave Mackay, who gave way to Les Allen, who, in turn, left the club on Election Day. This

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steady change in personnel is also reflected on the playing side, where only John Trollope, now the holder of Town's appearance record, Joe Butler and Frank Burrows remain from the Wembley side.

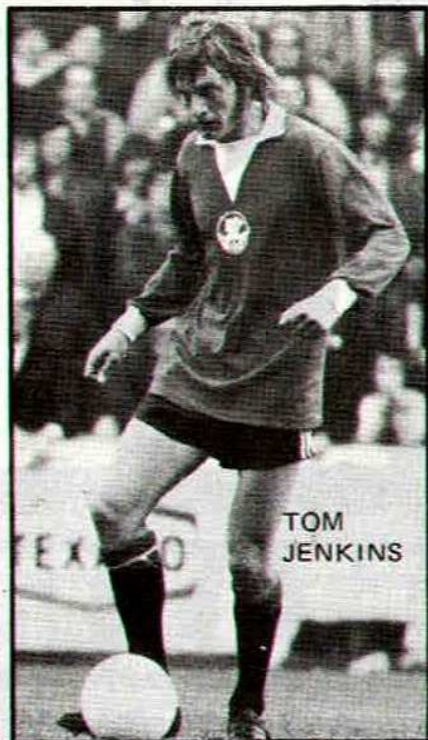
Outsiders probably regarded the big-money transfers of Don Rogers, to Crystal Palace, and Rod Thomas, to Derby County, as inevitable moves, but Swindon kept faith with their supporters by holding on to these assets for as long as possible. Two other League Cup heroes were also up-graded on leaving the County Ground, Stan Harland switching to Birmingham City's 1971-72 promotion team and Peter Noble leaving to assist Burnley on their return to Division I.

Even Swindon's most optimistic loyalists then conceded that the Third Division seemed just around the corner. No one was more dismayed than Les Allen, who had scoured the country for the kind of players that might have arrested the slide. He managed to capture England Youth international full back John McLaughlin from Colchester United, and paid £20,000 for Portsmouth defender David Munks.

Amidst the few bright spots was the discovery of 17-year old David Syrett, who was promoted from last season's junior side and has since won England Youth honours. Additionally, Swindon received fine service from Wolves striker Peter Eastoe, who scored seven goals in 11 games on loan but was recalled to Molineux when the Midlanders realised they had a top asset on their books.



JOE BUTLER



TOM JENKINS

Joe Butler, one of Swindon Town's three "survivors" from their 1969 League Cup-winning team, and Tommy Jenkins, the club's record fee signing when replacing Don Rogers last season, both suffered disappointment of being released without a real first-team chance at their original clubs. But, whereas Butler has fond memories of winning honours with Swindon, the unlucky Jenkins has missed out on the medals despite two big-money moves.

Butler, a stockily-built Geordie who can play in the back four or in midfield, didn't have long to achieve success when leaving behind a three-game League career with Newcastle United to join Swindon in August, 1965. He was part of the club's re-building programme following relegation to the Third Division and now, with just over 300 League games behind him, he can look back on an appearance at Wembley, membership of a promotion team, and success when Swindon won the Anglo-Italian tournament.

Jenkins, a nippy left winger with above-average skills, suffered more than one blow while trying to establish in League soccer. After one appearance for Orient, he dropped into the Southern League with Margate before making a dramatic skip into the First Division. He was given just 21 League games by Reading - and then joined Southampton for £60,000. That was in 1969 and he soon became a regular choice for the No 11 spot. However, his opportunities grew fewer and he switched to Swindon for £50,000 in October, 1972.

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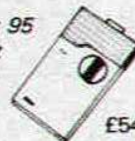
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SPO

MAX BRIGGS

Max Briggs, the one-time insurance clerk who sprung out of amateur football in East Anglia, joined the character "giants" of the First Division and played before a "ten million-plus" audience at Wembley. Now he has taken a brave, calculated step - backwards!

Going back to square one is often the sign of someone, in life, dedicated to succeed - and that's the current story behind the transfer of this 25-year-old midfield ball-winner.

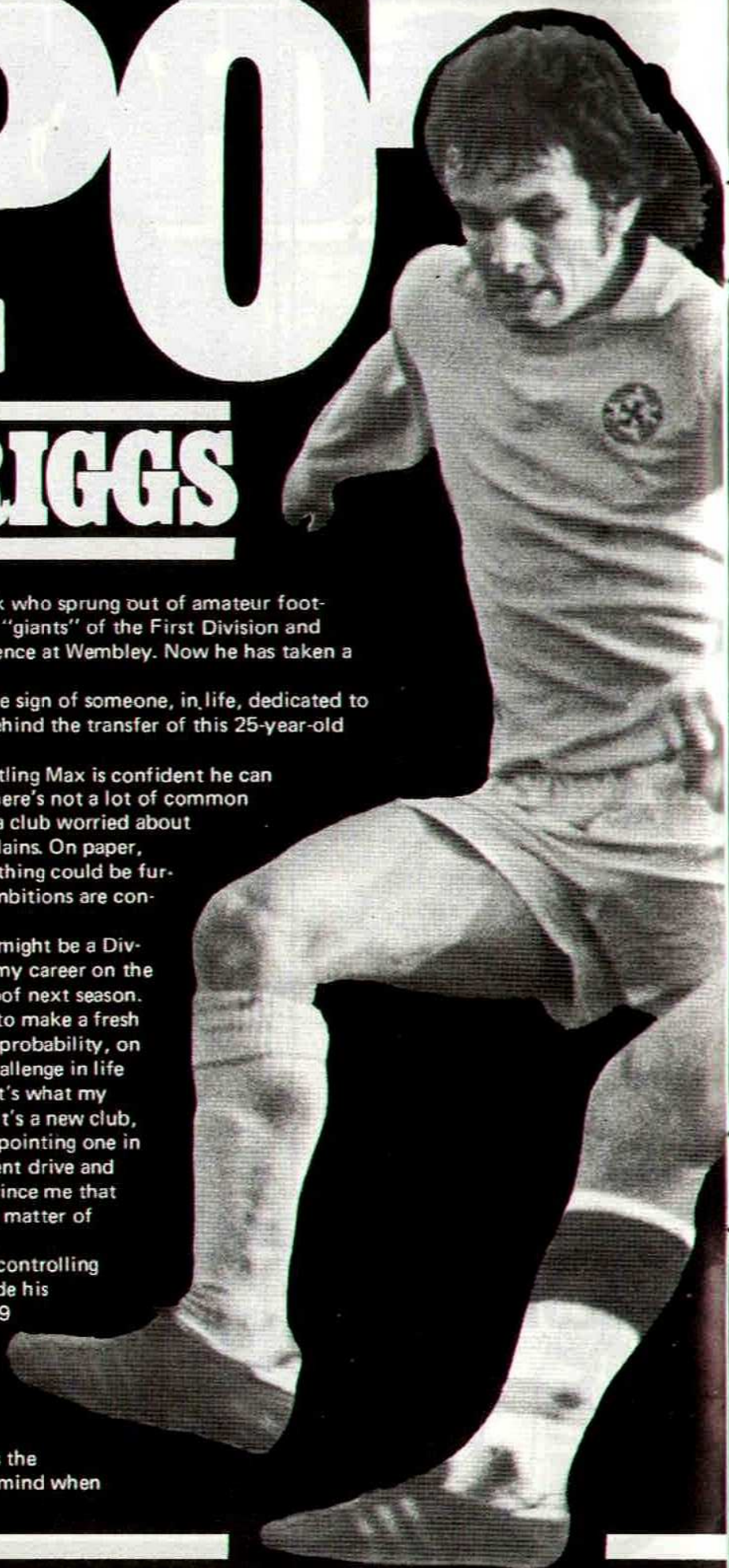
What he has accomplished once, battling Max is confident he can repeat. "Many people may think that there's not a lot of common sense in a move out of Division One to a club worried about relegation into Division Three," he explains. On paper, that smacks of soccer surrender, but nothing could be further from the truth where the Briggs' ambitions are concerned.

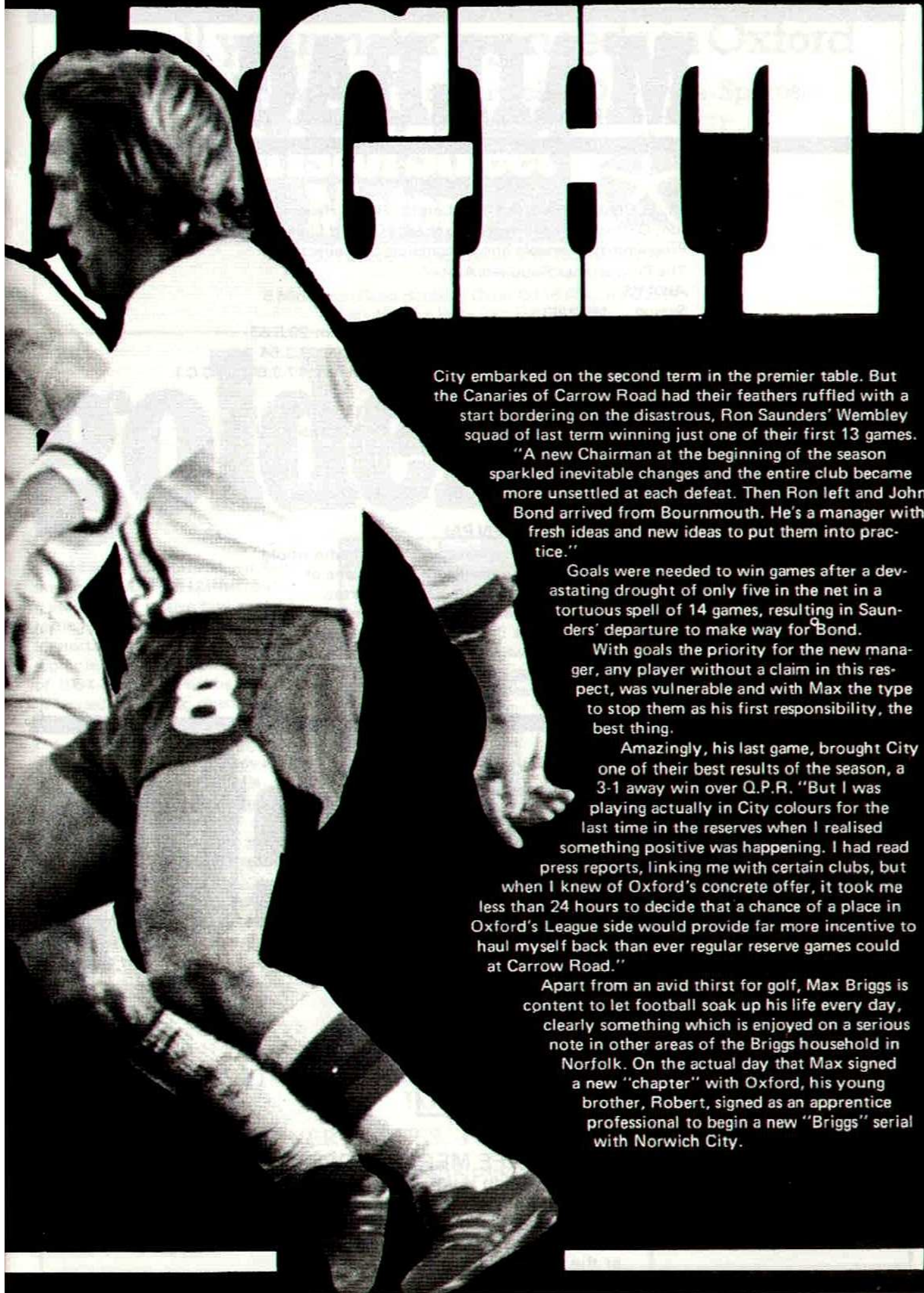
"At this time, Norwich and Oxford might be a Division apart, but I've gambled a term of my career on the fact that both will be under the same roof next season.

"John Bond looks destined to have to make a fresh start in a lower Division, a much bigger probability, on the face of things, than at Oxford. A challenge in life is never something I've shirked, and that's what my move to The Manor throws up for me. It's a new club, and though this season has been a disappointing one in contrast to 1972-73, I can sense sufficient drive and progression in this management to convince me that better days and bigger success are just a matter of time."

Max, who works with the object of controlling the "punishment" area of midfield, made his proud debut for Norwich in the 1968-69 season under Lol Morgan. When City won the Second Division championship, Max made 27 appearances and had pushed that up to 137 League Cup outings at the end of last season.

A move from his native Norfolk was the last thing which could have crossed his mind when





MAX BRIGGS

City embarked on the second term in the premier table. But the Canaries of Carrow Road had their feathers ruffled with a start bordering on the disastrous, Ron Saunders' Wembley squad of last term winning just one of their first 13 games.

"A new Chairman at the beginning of the season sparked inevitable changes and the entire club became more unsettled at each defeat. Then Ron left and John Bond arrived from Bournemouth. He's a manager with fresh ideas and new ideas to put them into practice."

Goals were needed to win games after a devastating drought of only five in the net in a tortuous spell of 14 games, resulting in Saunders' departure to make way for Bond.

With goals the priority for the new manager, any player without a claim in this respect, was vulnerable and with Max the type to stop them as his first responsibility, the best thing.

Amazingly, his last game, brought City one of their best results of the season, a 3-1 away win over Q.P.R. "But I was playing actually in City colours for the last time in the reserves when I realised something positive was happening. I had read press reports, linking me with certain clubs, but when I knew of Oxford's concrete offer, it took me less than 24 hours to decide that a chance of a place in Oxford's League side would provide far more incentive to haul myself back than ever regular reserve games could at Carrow Road."

Apart from an avid thirst for golf, Max Briggs is content to let football soak up his life every day, clearly something which is enjoyed on a serious note in other areas of the Briggs household in Norfolk. On the actual day that Max signed a new "chapter" with Oxford, his young brother, Robert, signed as an apprentice professional to begin a new "Briggs" serial with Norwich City.

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Season 1963/64 Torquay 28.11.63 Newport 2.3.64
Season 1964/65 Newport 26.12.64 Hereford 17.3.65. (H.S.C.).
Season 1966/67 Colchester 21.1.67
Season 1969/70 Huddersfield 24.2.70 Cardiff 28.3.70
Season 1970/71 Carlisle (FLC3) 6.10.70 Cardiff 6.2.71
Season 1973/74 Sheffield Wed. 24.11.73

HOME

Season 1969/70 Preston 27.12.69. (Post).

PEN PAL

I am sure there are many female supporters who would like to form a Pen Friendship with Roger Lane of 88 Greenvale Drive, Timsbury, Bath, Somerset.

Roger who is 22 years travels around the Country watching the Wolves & Bristol City. So come on girls get the pens out and who knows you may convert him to a United Supporter.

man at the top



MERIT TABLE

D. ROBERTS	42
R. BURTON	35
G. ATKINSON	24
H. CURRAN	21
C. CLARKE	21

ABBAY LIFE MERIT TROPHY

Well Dave's still there now holding a seven point lead at the top of the Merit Table, but he can't be too over confident because Roy Burton is still pushing for the No. 1 spot. Remember there's a £100 First Prize plus a Trophy to be presented by Abbey Life at the end of the season.

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golden oldie

Colin Booth only played one full season with Oxford United, but it was enough to give him a secure resting place among the club's immortals. He was leading goalscorer in the promotion season of 1964-5, and one of the key men in United's rise from obscurity.

Then his career was tragically cut short. He had a cartilage operation in 1966 after a serious injury in a Combination game and a specialist declared his League career ended in April 1967.

Now Colin works as an insurance agent, but he still retains a keen interest in football.

He also watches Manchester City when ever he can, because they have always been his team. But though he was born in Manchester



it was with Wolves that he started his career back in 1952 and came on the fringe of international honours.

In fact he was selected as substitute for England under 23 against France at Bristol in October 1957. It was the match in which Alick Jeffrey so tragically broke his leg, and Colin came on in his place.

In 1959 he was transferred to Nottingham Forest for £20,000 and began a remarkable run of goal-getting. In the next two seasons he topped the Forest scoring list and when transferred to Doncaster Rovers in 1962 for £11,000 he did the same for them over the next two seasons in which he scored 62 goals.

Finally transferred to United for £8,000 he became a club's leading goalscorer for the fifth successive season with 23 goals that took United out of the Fourth Division.

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Former England striker Jeff Astle ended a nine-month nightmare when he returned to the West Bromwich Albion team with a point-saving goal against Bristol City. "It was my magic moment," smiled the delighted Astle - and the crowd thought so, too. Hundreds of spectators invaded the pitch to salute the return of the striker they call "The King".

Astle, who underwent a fourth and final cartilage operation during the summer, confessed that he had not been 100 per cent. fit at the end of last season. But the needs of Albion's First Division relegation fight encouraged him to come back for the final 15 games. "I scored five goals," he recalls. "But I believe I'll do much better now."

Like every professional, and particularly those who have sampled the heady atmosphere of meeting Brazil in Mexico four years ago, Astle felt that reserve team football was becoming too much of a drag. Although he admitted that he was not ready before Christmas, he said: "I did my level best for the reserves, but needed the inspiration of a big crowd to bring out the best in me. And I would love to repay the fans by helping Albion back to the First Division."



The Second Division is always interesting in the comparison between the spending attitudes of various clubs. Take Aston Villa, for example. Although armed with £65,000 from a new Share issue, manager Vic Crowe still felt it necessary to take Derby County's £200,000 cheque for Bruce Rioch in order to negotiate for a top-class forward.

On the other hand, Sunderland, a club of equal potential, were content to strengthen their squad in a quietly-publicised deal which saw them take Mansfield man Dennis Longhorn in exchange for a modest cheque and the Roker

team's reserve striker, John Lathan.

Manager Bob Stokoe has never spent more than £65,000 on a player and considers that the 24-year-old Longhorn is the kind of dedicated professional who can do a good job for his side. Mr Stokoe commented: "When a player is desperately keen to join a club like Sunderland that must be a good start. Now it is up to him to justify our confidence."

Longhorn began his career with hometown Bournemouth, playing, incidentally, against Sunderland in an FA Youth Cup semi-final, and had only a handful of first-team outings before joining Mansfield on loan and then transferring permanently for £5,000.

It was around the time of Longhorn's latest move that we were involved in selling John Evanson to Blackpool and buying Max Briggs from Norwich as a replacement. We congratulate both men on bringing good fortune to their new clubs - and, funnily enough, by the same 3-0 scoreline. Evanson helped Blackpool in an impressive away win at Notts County and his new skipper, Glyn James, promises him a good chance of First Division football next season.



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One of the more fortunate moments for the Portsmouth defence which suffered a harrasing time when the Oxford attack fashioned the club's best win since Boxing Day, Portsmouth goalkeeper Ron Tilsed was beaten three times - but this action "snap" wasn't one of them. Keith Gough, who nailed one of the three goals, tries to ram home another from short range. But the Tilsed recovery powers are sharp enough to beat away Gough's shot as it "splices" Portsmouth's two goalmouth guards.



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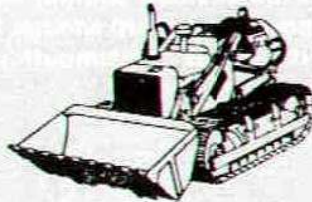
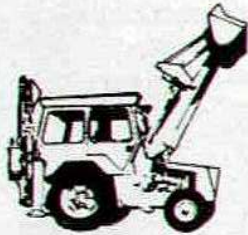
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SUPPORTERS CLUB

When we visited Swindon Town on 20th October this season the headline above the Oxford United team photograph in the Swindon Town programme read "Oxford now desperate for points".

Well, the position hasn't changed much since then because we are of course still desperate for points. What can be said though is that Swindon, having suffered even more than we have, are now entrenched at the bottom of the league.

On 20th October we were nineteenth of twentytwo and that is exactly where we are at the time of these notes going to press. Today's game therefore makes this - the sixteenth league meeting between the two Clubs - the most important to date.

Now, this is where we can all play our part. Let us get well and truly behind our lads and see if we can cheer them to a resounding victory. If anyone can, it is you lads in the London Road stand whose cheers can be music to the ears of our players.
WELCOME TO MAX BRIGGS

Although this is his second home match, and in fact his fourth game in Oxford United colours, this is the first opportunity we at the Supporters' Club have had of welcoming Max Briggs. So we wish you a long and successful stay with the "U's" Max.

Which reminds me that the old slogan "Win or Lose Up the U's" is hardly heard these days, I wonder why? Could it be that the younger generation regard this type of slogan as kids stuff or is it that the earlier enthusiasm when we first pushed into Football League limelight is not quite so visible?

Of course there has been talk of the Commercial Managers introducing the "Don" as an Oxford mascot. I don't know whether this is a definite proposition but if it is then for obvious reasons we could not use the same slogan!

I personally would not like to see the "U's" disappear, to me it is a pleasant reminder of our continuous march forward and I'm sure there is still plenty of scope for "Up the U's".
STOP PRESS

Just before these notes went to press, a week ago last Thursday, I read of the appointment of Mr. Danny Williams as Swindon's Manager once again. He has quite a job on his hands this time but his past achievements have proved he will be well up to the task.

JIM HUNT (Secretary/Treasurer)

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STATISTICS

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO up to and including Saturday 9th March

	HOME						AWAY						HOME GATES	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	P	Best	Average
Middlesbro	31	12	3	1	25	7	7	7	1	21	15	48	37038	21451
Luton	31	9	5	1	29	16	6	4	6	15	20	39	15259	10363
Orient	31	8	4	3	22	11	5	8	3	24	20	38	20611	10893
Blackpool	32	8	4	4	23	12	5	7	4	20	18	37	18575	10087
W.B.A.	31	7	6	2	21	13	6	5	5	19	17	37	43080	16568
Nottm F.	31	9	4	2	30	13	2	9	5	13	16	35	29657	14277
Carlisle	30	8	5	3	29	15	5	3	6	15	20	34	11152	7488
Notts County	33	6	4	6	25	28	6	5	6	22	20	33	30036	12839
Hull	32	8	7	1	20	9	1	8	7	13	25	33	17409	8779
Sunderland	31	7	6	3	25	11	5	2	8	16	19	32	41658	24151
Fulham	30	9	3	3	19	10	3	5	7	10	17	32	14971	9293
Bolton	31	10	2	3	25	12	2	5	9	11	20	31	23315	14816
Millwall	32	7	4	5	22	13	3	6	7	17	27	30	15143	9543
Bristol C.	32	7	5	4	22	16	4	3	9	15	25	30	25438	17802
Portsmouth	31	7	6	3	20	13	3	3	9	13	37	29	20062	14549
Aston Villa	30	5	8	2	22	14	3	4	8	7	16	28	37323	26351
Cardiff	32	6	5	5	19	13	2	6	8	17	31	27	14799	10150
Preston	32	7	6	3	22	16	1	6	9	12	29	27	21747	12741
Oxford U.	31	6	6	3	23	16	1	5	10	6	23	25	10161	7596
Sheff. Wed.	32	6	5	5	22	18	1	4	11	12	29	23	17816	13544
Crystal P.	31	4	6	6	18	19	2	4	9	10	25	22	30054	21036
Swindon	33	5	7	5	20	22	0	2	14	9	34	19	13991	7118

OXFORD FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES INC. CUP					
	A	G		A	G
ATKINSON	23	4	FLEMING	14	-
AYLOTT	14	-	GOUGH	9	2
BRAY	3	-	JEFFREY	10	1
BURTON	34	-	LIGHT	14	-
CASSIDY	25	6	LOWE	10	-
CLARKE C	26	1	LUCAS	20	-
CLARKE D	33	5	ROBERTS	34	1
CURRAN	28	11	SHUKER	32	1
EVANSON	24	-	SKEEN	17	-
FLAY	2	-	BRIGGS	2	-

DIV. 2 LEADING SCORERS	
Brown (T), ALBION	21
Byrom, BOLTON	20
McKenzie, FOREST	19
Fairbrother, ORIENT	18
Halom, SUNDERLAND	18
Wood, MILLWALL	18
Bullock, ORIENT	16
Davies, PORTSMOUTH	14
Foggon, MIDDLES'B	14
Burns, BLACKPOOL	13
McCulloch, CARDIFF	13

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MATCH DETAILS

FIRST TEAM

Sun. Feb. 17th, Lost 2-0 Crystal Palace (away)
Burton, Light, Shuker, Roberts, Clarke C.,
Evanson, Gough, Atkinson, Clarke D., Curran,
Aylott. Sub. Skeen rep. Evanson 70 min.

Sat. Feb 23rd, Won 3-0 v Portsmouth (home)
Burton, Light, Shuker, Roberts, Clarke C.,
Briggs, Gough, Atkinson, Curran, Clarke D.,
Aylott. Sub. Bray d.n.p.
Scorers Gough Curran Aylott

Sat. March 2nd, Drew 0-0 v Bristol City (away)
Burton, Light, Shuker, Roberts, Clarke C.,
Briggs, Gough, Atkinson, Curran, Clarke D.,
Aylott. Sub. Skeen d.n.p.

RESERVES

Sat. Feb. 16th, Lost 2-1 v Ipswich (Home)
Thomas, Lucas, Flay, McFarlane, Smithson,
Lowe, Campbell, Fleming, Cassidy, Foley,
Jeffrey. Sub. Taylor d.n.p.
Scorer Smithson (pen)

Sat. Feb. 23rd, Won 2-1 v Swansea City (away)
Thomas, Lucas, Flay, Taylor, Smithson, Lowe,
Campbell, Fleming, Cassidy, Foley, Jeffrey. Sub.
Bodell d.n.p.
Scorers Cassidy, Foley.

Tues. Feb. 26th, Won 2-1 v Bristol City (home)
Baker, Lucas, Flay, McFarlane, Smithson, Lowe,
Campbell, Fleming, Cassidy, Bray, Jeffrey.
Sub. Taylor d.n.p.
Scorer Bray (2)

YOUTH

Thurs. Feb. 21st, Drew 1-1 v Birmingham
Baker, Pill, Locke, Taylor, Bodell, Tait, McGrogan,
McFarlane, Foley, Styles, Jones, Sub. Duncan
rep. Styles 60 min.
Scorer Tait

Thurs Feb. 28th, Drew 1-1 v Leicester
Baker, Pill, Locke, Taylor, Bodell, Tait, McGrogan,
Duncan, Foley, McFarlane, Jones, Sub. Hles
d.n.p.
Scorer Foley.

THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION

	Pld	Won	Dwn	Lost	For	Agst	Pts
Norwich City	28	17	6	5	58	26	40
A.F.C. Bournemouth	29	18	4	7	53	32	40
Leicester City	28	16	6	6	41	18	38
Ipswich Town	30	15	6	9	60	43	36
Arsenal	28	12	9	7	37	29	33
Luton Town	27	12	6	9	59	42	30
Plymouth Argyle	25	11	7	7	43	34	29
Swindon Town	26	11	7	8	39	35	29
Chelsea	28	11	6	11	44	34	28
Tottenham Hotspur	28	9	10	9	29	32	28
Queens Park Rangers	24	9	9	6	43	31	27
Oxford United	26	10	7	9	25	21	27
Fulham	26	9	8	9	28	29	26
Birmingham City	28	10	6	12	27	29	26
West Ham United	25	10	5	10	31	31	25
Crystal Palace	25	10	5	10	31	36	25
Bristol Rovers	28	8	9	11	37	48	25
Cardiff City	29	8	5	16	31	52	21
Bristol City	21	8	4	16	31	52	20
Southampton	28	5	7	16	30	65	17
Swansea City	23	6	3	14	29	48	15
Reading	25	3	1	21	19	60	7

Up to and including Saturday 16th February 1974.

FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date		Opponents	Att	F A
Aug	25	A Hull City	7721	0-0
Sept	1	H Nottingham Forest	7638	1-0
	8	A Aston Villa	28078	0-2
	12	A Cardiff City	8572	0-5
	15	H Sunderland	9022	0-1
	19	H Notts County	6739	2-1
	22	A Carlisle United	5093	1-2
	29	H Fulham	8046	0-0
Oct	2	A Notts County	9279	0-0
	6	A Portsmouth	11669	1-2
	10	H Fulham (L.C.2)	7131	1-1
	13	H Crystal Palace	10161	1-1
	16	A Fulham (L.C.2)	6435	0-3
	20	A Swindon Town	7537	0-1
	24	H Cardiff City	6127	4-2
	27	H Orient	8830	1-1
Nov	3	A Bolton Wanderers	12709	1-2
	10	H Middlesbrough	8733	0-2
	17	H Preston North End	6750	1-1
	24	A Sheffield Wednesday	7998	1-0
Dec	1	H Millwall		Postponed
	8	A Albion	12098	0-1
	15	H Blackpool	5001	2-2
	22	A Fulham	4973	1-3
	26	H Bristol City	7493	5-0
	29	H Aston Villa	10149	2-1
Jan	1	A Nottingham Forest	18079	1-1
	5	H Man City F.A. Cup 3	13435	2-5
	12	A Sunderland	16509	0-0
	19	H Hull City	6094	1-1
	26	H Millwall	5397	0-3
Feb	2	A Blackpool	508	0-2
	9	H Carlisle United		Postponed
	17	A Crystal Palace (5)	23169	0-2
	23	H Portsmouth	7765	3-0
Mar	2	A Bristol City (LCF)	25438	0-0
	9	A Orient		
	17	H Swindon Town		
	23	A Middlesbrough		
	30	H Bolton Wanderers (SF)		
Apr	6	H Sheffield Wednesday		
	12	H Luton Town		
	13	A Preston North End		
	16	A Luton Town		
	20	H Albion		
	23	H Carlisle United		
May	4	F.A. Cup Final		

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NAME OF THE GAME

RESULTS



ANSWERS TO THE "NAME THE GAME COMPETITION" ARE:—

	OXFORD'S OPPONENTS	THE GOALSCORER	FINAL RESULT
1st Photograph	MANCHESTER CITY	HUGH CURRAN	LOST 5-2
2nd Photograph	NOTTS COUNTY	DAVE ROBERTS	WON 2-1
3rd Photograph	ASTON VILLA	GRAHAM ATKINSON	WON 2-1
4th Photograph	BLACKPOOL	HUGH CURRAN	DREW 2-2

Your response to our recent Picture Quiz resulted in us netting a hefty postbag of entries and, judging by the surprise number, fans near and far enjoyed the competition and the chance of seeing today's game from the Stand.

The three prizes, double seats, were won by the first three correct entries out of the bag drawn in the

Commercial Manager's office by John Moore and Tom Edmunds. The lucky trio turned out to be: J. Cook, Orchard House, Longborough, Moreton-in-the-Marsh; J. Paintin, 1 Common Close North Leigh, Nr. Witney; C. King, 23 Vicarage Close, Chalgrove, Oxford. Well done all three, and we hope that you and your friends enjoy another correct result this afternoon.

behind the scenes

The talking point at the moment is whether the club will ultimately move from the Manor or not. Outline planning permission has been received for what is known as the Horspath Driftway, but strong opposition from residents to the move will now involve us in an enquiry. When this is to be held, or what will be the outcome, is anyone's guess. Alongside this has now emerged a plan for the development of the Manor, and this has very much interested the Directors. When several points at issue have been settled, no doubt the Board will press forward with the new plan.

We are sorry to see our friends from Swindon suffering so much this season, and although we ourselves are far from being safe from relegation, we do have a hope.

Such is fame. When we went to Sunderland last season, it was prior to them entering the 6th round of the F.A. Cup, and we played before a crowd of 40,000 anxious to get tickets. This year we went to Bristol City when they were in the same situation, and had a crowd of over 25,000.

By comparison, Swindon who like ourselves have enjoyed fame in the past, must be suffering their lowest ever "gates", while we have taken a drop in our attendances this season of 20,918 to-date.

A disturbing factor to all concerned, but thankfully our Commercial Managers, Messrs John Moore and Tom Edmunds, appointed at the commencement of the season have replenished our revenue substantially through the medium of the weekly Lottery, but where this was hoped would help in the acquisition of new players, it has only contributed to our efforts to balance our budget and keep our heads above water.

The club has acquired a property which it intends to use as a hostel for our young apprentice players. This commends itself in many ways, the

expense being offset in part by the saving in other directions, plus the Manager and his staff keeping a closer contact with the lads. This also gives a measure of assurance to parents when their sons come to us.

Although the crowds have not been so good this season, one very satisfying feature has been the support accorded to the collections on the ground, sanctioned by the Board. All have increased from previous collections, the Old Folks Party with a sum of £74, and the Horspath Scout Band over £100. Those concerned express their thanks to you all. We have many friends and supporters with the Oxford Operatic Society, and this year, on 25th - 30th March, they are presenting at the Playhouse "The Sorcerer" by Gilbert and Sullivan.

This is the first opportunity I have had this season of communicating with you since the programme was re-devised, and wish to point out that I am not now Editor of it. The column will be shared with Mr. Derek Wright, who from time to time will have Club announcements to make.

VIC COULING.
Director.

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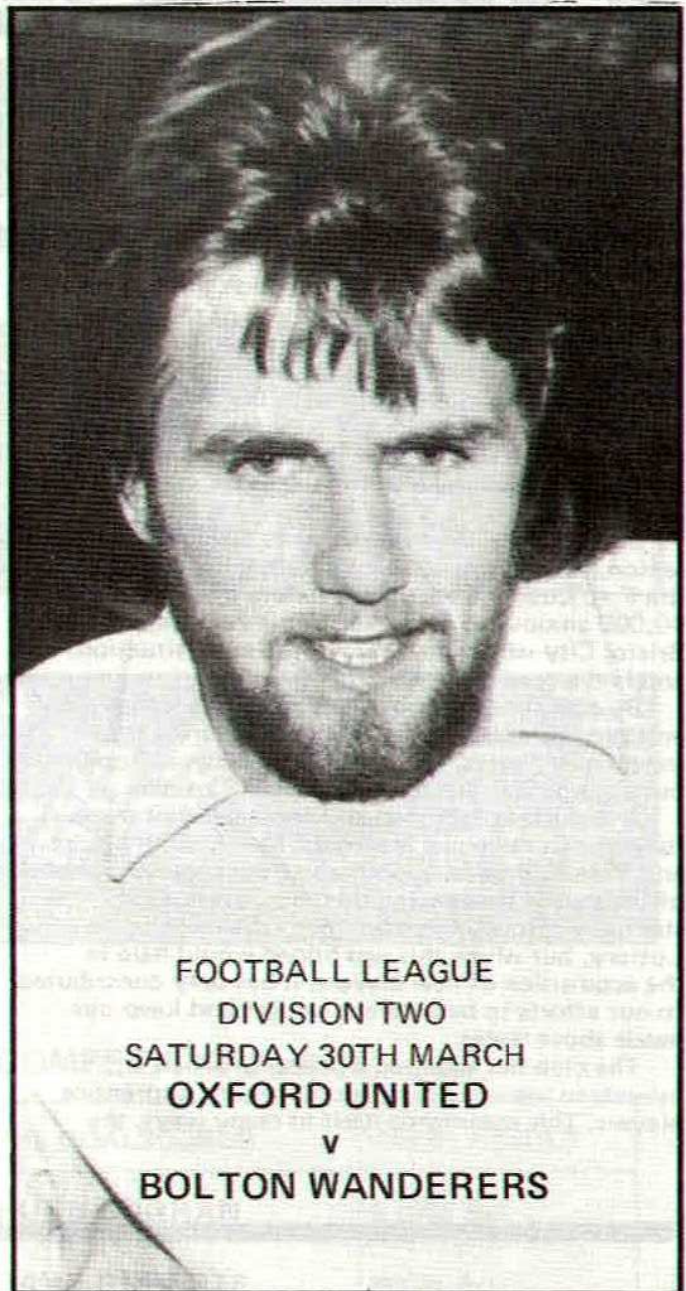
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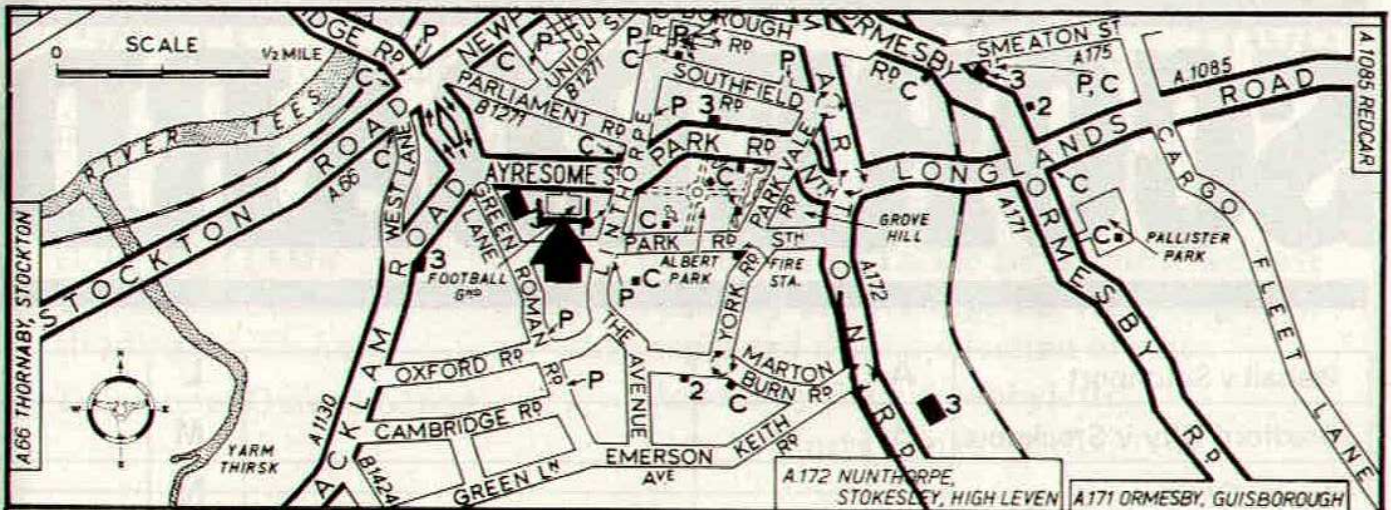
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Hartlepool v Doncaster	F		R	
Newport v Barnsley	G		S	
Workington v Torquay	H		T	
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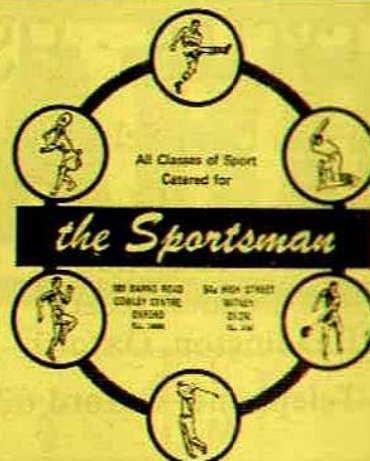


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