



OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE 15p

SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

SWINDON TOWN
v

LINCOLN CITY

Swindon Town Football Co Limited

Registered Office County Ground
Swindon

Telephone No. 22118
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Directors
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WOULDN'T A PINT GO DOWN WELL TONIGHT?



Bits and Pieces

LINCOLN CITY F.C. was formed in 1883 and played on the John O' Gaunts ground before moving to Sincil Bank in 1894, two years after becoming founder members of the Second Division.

In its early days the club reached the Third Round Proper of the F.A. Cup before going out to local rivals Grimsby Town 0 - 1 at Clee Park in the 1884-5 season.

The 1901-2 season saw Lincoln finish in fifth position in the Second Division, which remains to this day the club's best League performance.

After claiming the wooden spoon in 1908, City were kicked out of the League but voted back within twelve months. The same fate befell the club in 1911 but again re-admission came within a year. A third re-election failure in 1920 saw Lincoln out in the cold once more, before returning to form the new Third Division North for the 1921-22 season.

City came within one place of reclaiming a Second Division berth in 1928 when only Bradford Park Avenue finished with a greater number of points - albeit eight more. 1931 saw Lincoln again finish second, this time only one point behind champions Chesterfield.

The championship win arrived just a year later, with City scoring 106 goals - Allan Hall netting 42, a club record. Nine of the Imps' haul came in one game against Halifax Town, when Frank Keetley scored six times in a 21 minute spell. Lincoln conceded 47 goals of which eight came at Crewe.

City enjoyed only a brief return to the Second, being eight points adrift of the twentieth placed club, Manchester United, at the close of the 1933-34 campaign.

Lincoln made a spirited attempt to regain Second Division status before the War, twice in a bid to overhaul promoted Stockport County. But the intervention of the War delayed City's efforts to climb out of the Third until 1948 - and then the club slipped back immediately, along with Nottingham Forest.

When the Imps won the Third North championship again in 1952 the club remained 'upstairs' for nine seasons. In winning that League, Lincoln totalled a mammoth 121 goals, with Andy Graver claiming 36 of them. He notched six in a 11-1 trouncing of Crewe that avenged the defeat nearly twelve years previously.

Andy Graver joined the City four times, the last as coach to the youth team. But as a player he was always bought by the club for less than he was sold. The man who repeatedly paid for his services was manager Bill Anderson who went to Sincil Bank at the end of the War, stayed for over twenty years and was the League's longest-serving manager prior to joining Forest in 1966.

After suffering relegation in 1961, Lincoln crashed straight through the Third the following year and had ended up in the basement of the Fourth by the spring of 1963. In three successive seasons from 1965 to 1967, City had to ask the League for another chance.

Prior to last season, a Lincoln City side has only appeared at the County

Ground on three occasions. The first was in December 1934, in a Second Round F.A. Cup-tie, when the Town won by the odd goal in seven through two by Alan Fowler and one each from Harry Bowl and Gordon Gunson. On the last day of

September 1961, City returned in a League encounter, Swindon again recording four goals, this time without reply. The successful marksmen were Cliff Jackson, Ernie Hunt (2) and the late Ralph Hunt. A Third Round F.A. Cup clash here in January 1975 saw Peter Eastoe and Dave Moss give the Town a comfortable 2-0 victory.

A revival in the fortunes of Lincoln City first came in 1972 when the club hoisted itself to within one point of promoted neighbours Scunthorpe United. In 1975, the margin was closer, City losing out to Chester's better goal average. Ironically, had the goal difference of today been in force Lincoln would have gained promotion.

But there was no stopping the powerful City side during 1975/76, when after losing the opening fixture at Newport, only three further defeats were suffered all season. A League record 74 points were accumulated and Lincoln reached the Fourth Round of the F.A. Cup for only the third time in the long history of the club. In the three major domestic competitions, City hammered in 127 goals, John Ward recording 29, Percy Freeman 25 and skipper Sam Ellis 15 (which included ten penalties). In a 6 - 0 home victory over Southport scorers included two players on loan from Nottingham Forest - one being the coloured striker Bert Bowery and the other a certain Tony Woodcock!

Fact finder

LINCOLN CITY

CURRENT FORM - LAST FIVE SEASONS :

Season	Div	P	W	D	L	F-A	Pts	Posn	Cup Round Reached		Average Home Lge Gate	Top League Goalscorer
									F.A.	F.L.		
76/77	3	46	19	14	13	77-70	52	9th	3rd	1st	7,475	John Ward 17
75/76	4	46	32	10	4	111-39	74	1st	4th	3rd	8,401	John Ward 24
74/75	4	46	21	15	10	79-48	57	5th	3rd	1st	5,794	Sam Ellis, John Ward 13
73/74	4	46	16	12	18	63-67	44	12th	1st	1st	3,930	Dixie McNeil 19
72/73	4	46	16	16	14	64-57	48	10th	1st	1st	4,547	Dixie McNeil 21

COMPLETE FOOTBALL LEAGUE RECORD:

DIV.	:											
SECOND	:	1258	376	260	622	1740-2399	1012					
THIRD	:	92	28	31	33	134-157	87					
THIRD NORTH	:	880	419	171	290	1667-1273	1009					
FOURTH	:	644	235	170	239	963-940	640					
TOTAL	:	2874	1058	632	1184	4504-4769	2748				(to end of last season)	

Talk of the Town

By the Chairman

To-day's game is the first league game at home since we played against Sheffield Wednesday on January 14th and since then we have played three away games, winning at Portsmouth and Shrewsbury and drawing at Bury. This reverse of our past away form is certainly encouraging and is keeping our hopes of promotion very much in our minds. So much seems to have happened inside the Club since January 14th that although our league fixtures have been few, major decisions have had to be taken.

At this point I would like to pay a tribute to Frank Burrows who left us a few weeks ago to join Portsmouth and I know that we at Swindon will wish Frank every success in his fight to keep Portsmouth in the Third Division. The moving of Frank to Portsmouth has resulted in the promotion of Jack Smith to Assistant Manager/Coach and the job of Youth Manager has been taken over by John Trollope. We in the Club are confident that both Jack and John will be successful with their new responsibilities. This new post for John was obviously a major decision for him to take and a chance for him to continue his long and faithful service to the Club.

The work involved means long hours and often at unusual times, and is of course physically strenuous and this is why John will have to relinquish his First Team place to concentrate on his new work. I expect that by the time these notes are printed, John will be very near his record of appearances and I am sure that Danny will be pleased to keep John in the team until he has completed this wonderful achievement. Many people have asked me why we could not have waited for John to finish out his playing career before taking over his new job but our Youth policy cannot be managed on a part-time basis and the work which Jack Smith has been doing over the past couple of seasons must be carried on. I am sure that everyone connected with our Club will wish Jack and John well in their new jobs.

All Football Clubs have their problems, either fighting to remain in their divisions or even when success is on the doorstep, and I know that Danny is no exception to these things he is shrewdly building up a good side

and when this happens, any member of his squad that is out of his side for any particular game feels frustrated, but such a situation cannot be avoided if one's squad is strong enough. It has taken a long time for people to recognise that a team is composed of twelve players these days and the number twelve is every bit as important to the team as the other members and astute managers use their twelve players to advantage tactically.

Our Lottery is proving very successful, both from the point of being popular as well as being a financial boon and we are hoping that this income will increase to enable us to compete in the ever increasing battle for success in the soccer world. The second lottery was drawn at the New Century Working Men's Club, Bright Street. A few of our first team squad, namely Colin Prohett, David Moss,

John McLaughlin, Steve Aizlewood, Roy Carter, David Cunningham, Chris Kamara together with Kevin Morris and Jack Smith represented the Club and of course Doug Buswell and his staff were there to see that everything went off to plan. Everyone has been impressed by the methods used by Doug as at the draw they make certain that every prize number drawn is sold and can be claimed. This means that they have every unsold ticket recorded.

We have all read in the press of unrest running riot throughout the Club and I would like to allay your fears and assure you that everyone within the Club is pulling together and striving for success as our recent results prove.

We hope that you will enjoy today's game against Lincoln City and thank you for your support.



Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper Bolder is too quick for Swindon's Chris Kamara as he collects the ball to halt a Town attack at the County Ground during the 2-2 draw.

From the POOLS OFFICE!

At last a home League Game. Welcome once again to the County Ground.

Well since our last home game we have held two of our New Moon-raker Lotteries. Both have been very successful and the major winners can be seen at the end of these notes. We still need a few more agents. So if you can help ring SWINDON 31510 or 22118 Ext 8 or 9, especially if you live in Cirencester, Marlborough, Melksham or Chippenham area's Remember if you sell the First Prize Ticket for £1,000 you receive £100 as the selling agent. Our first winner Mr. Onions of 4 Canney Close, Chiseldon was also the agent so he received £1,100 not bad for 20p.

LOTTERY 1 WINNERS

1st £1,000 Mr Onions, 4 Canney Close, Chiseldon.
2nd £250 R. F. Britnell, 9 Wasborough Ave, Wantage.
3rd £100 N. G. Dickman, 30 Mer-ton Ave, Swindon.

LOTTERY 2 WINNERS

1st £1,000 Mr. Alexander, 3 Pinehurst Rd, Swindon
2nd £250 Not known at present
3rd £100 Not known at present

Doug Buswell
Pools Manager.



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DIVISION THREE LEAGUE TABLE up to and including Tuesday February 28, 1978

	Home			Away			L	F-A	Pts.	Lge. Posns. This Season		Home Lge. Gates		Top Goalscorer	
	P	W	D	L	F-A	W				D	High	Low	Avg.		Best
Gillingham	31	9	6	1	30-14	4	8	3	24-23	40	1st	15th	6726	10541	Ken Price 16(15), Danny Westwood 16(14)
Cambridge Utd.	32	12	3	1	37-9	4	5	7	19-31	40	1st	24th	5206	10998	Alan Biley 22(19)
Wrexham	28	9	6	0	29-14	6	3	4	16-14	39	1st	18th	8905	16281	*Dixie McNeil 26(15)
Preston N.E.	31	13	2	1	38-15	1	9	5	6-12	39	4th	19th	7632	10930	Alex Bruce 23(21)
Tranmere R.	32	11	2	3	30-13	3	8	5	14-14	38	1st	6th	4500	7250	Ronnie Moore 14(14)
Bury	30	7	8	1	27-13	4	4	6	16-22	34	2nd	14th	4810	6769	Andy Rowland 11(10)
Walsall	30	8	5	3	24-12	2	8	4	14-20	33	7th	17th	5167	8341	Alan Buckley 23(18)
SWINDON TOWN	28	9	4	1	31-12	2	6	6	17-26	32	2nd	17th	7602	11054	DAVE MOSS 16(10)
Colchester Utd.	31	6	8	1	24-11	4	4	8	16-23	32	1st	10th	4938	6447	Bobby Gough 16(12)
Peterborough Utd.	29	7	6	1	15-8	4	4	7	8-14	32	2nd	22nd	5868*	10156	†Trevor Anderson 11(6), Tommy Robson 8(7)
Shrewsbury T.	32	7	5	5	30-18	3	6	6	15-23	31	1st	13th	3742	6116	Brian Hornsby 8(7), Sam Irvine 8(8)
Chester	30	8	6	0	23-13	0	9	7	10-26	31	7th	18th	4098	9514	Paul Crossley 9(5), Ian Edwards 6(6)
Chesterfield	28	9	3	2	21-6	3	3	8	13-21	30	1st	19th	4560	6484	Rod Fern 8(7)
Carlisle Utd.	30	6	6	2	22-16	3	6	7	17-22	30	13th	23rd	5616	11309	Bill Rafferty 18(11)
Exeter C.	31	7	4	4	20-15	3	5	8	14-28	29	2nd	20th	5097	6722	Tony Kellow 14(11)
Oxford Utd.	32	8	6	2	25-14	1	4	11	19-34	28	2nd	17th	4964	8746	Peter Foley 17(15)
Lincoln C.	31	5	6	5	19-18	4	4	7	14-22	28	15th	24th	4794	6463	Peter Graham 8(8)
Sheffield Wed.	31	8	5	3	19-11	0	5	10	12-27	26	13th	24th	11029	18803	Tommy Tynan 15(10)
Port Vale	31	5	8	2	23-15	1	5	10	11-33	26	12th	23rd	3862	5136	Ken Beamish 12(9)
Plymouth A.	30	3	5	6	16-17	3	6	7	19-29	23	8th	23rd	6725	12399	Terry Austin 11(11)
Rotherham Utd.	27	5	4	4	14-12	2	4	8	18-31	22	2nd	21st	4988	6599	Alan Crawford 10(7), Trevor Phillips 10(6)
Portsmouth	32	3	9	4	23-23	1	5	10	7-29	22	13th	24th	10428	13152	Dave Kemp 21(16)
Bradford C.	29	6	4	4	25-19	1	3	11	10-32	21	11th	24th	5070	12857	Bernie Wright 10(10)
Hereford Utd.	30	5	7	3	17-15	0	4	11	4-26	21	14th	24th	4819	6392	**Billy Holmes 9(7)

* Dixie McNeil 4(3) goals for Hereford Utd.
† Trevor Anderson 9(4) goals for Swindon T.
** Billy Holmes 7(5) goals for Wimbledon

No. of League goals scored in brackets

DIVISION 3 1977/78

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Date	Opponents	Ground	Score	Scorers	Attendance
1977					
Aug. 13	League Cup (1) Swansea City	A	3 - 1	11 - 3 - 9	5878
Aug. 16	League Cup (2) Swansea City	H	2 - 1	7 - 11	5415
Aug. 20	Sheffield Wednesday	A	1 - 1	8	12095
Aug. 23	Peterborough United	H	2 - 0	9 - 10	7117
Aug. 27	Portsmouth	H	3 - 1	8 - 10 - 7	9396
Aug. 31	League Cup 2 Cardiff City	H	5 - 1	9 11(2) 7 10	8919
Sept. 3	Walsall	A	0 - 2		4717
Sept. 10	Chesterfield	H	2 - 1	9 - 12	6847
Sept. 13	Preston North End	A	1 - 1	11	6014
Sept. 16	Bury	H	1 - 1	9	8139
Sept. 24	Wrexham	A	1 - 2	7	8002
Sept. 27	Cambridge United	A	2 - 5	7 - 10	4423
Sept. 30	Shrewsbury Town	H	5 - 0	8-5-7-9-3	6809
Oct. 4	Bradford City	H	0 - 1		7569
Oct. 8	Lincoln City	A	1 - 3	9	4852
Oct. 15	Port Vale	H	1 - 1	5	6132
Oct. 22	Chester	A	0 - 1		3539
Oct. 25	League Cup 3 Portsmouth	A	1 - 1	7	14955
Oct. 29	Exeter City	H	4 - 0	7 - 10 - 11(2)	7021
Nov. 1	League Cup 3 Portsmouth	H	4 - 3	8 - 11 - 7 - 10	9378
Nov. 5	Gillingham	H	3 - 2	5 - 7 - 11	7080
Nov. 11	Colchester United	A	0 - 2		4788
Nov. 19	Rotherham United	H	2 - 0	10 - 9	6008
Nov. 26	F.A.C. 1 Boreham Wood	A	0 - 0		2242
Nov. 29	Replay Boreham Wood	H	2 - 0	7 - 10	7016
Dec. 3	Hereford United	A	1 - 1	10	4547
Dec. 7	League Cup 4 Wrexham	A	0 - 2		10015
Dec. 10	Carlisle United	H	2 - 2	7 - 4	5889
Dec. 17	F.A. Cup 2 Brentford	H	2 - 1	6 - 10	8447
Dec. 26	Oxford United	A	3 - 3	8(2) - 9	8746
Dec. 27	Plymouth Argyle	H	3 - 1	7 - 9 - 8	9732
Dec. 31	Gillingham	A	2 - 2	7 - 8	7477
1978					
Jan. 2	Tranmere Rovers	H	1 - 0	10	11054
Jan. 7	Nottingham Forest	A	1 - 4	7	28953
Jan. 14	Sheffield Wednesday	H	2 - 2	10(2)	7609
Jan. 20	Portsmouth	A	2 - 1	7 - 8	11451
Feb. 25	Shrewsbury Town	A	3 - 2	4 - 7 - 8	3112
Feb. 28	Bury	A	0 - 0		4423
Mar. 4	Lincoln City	H			
Mar. 7	Preston North End	H			
Mar. 11	Port Vale (6)	A			
Mar. 14	Wrexham	H			
Mar. 17	Chester (LCF)	H			
Mar. 22	Exeter City	A			
Mar. 25	Plymouth Argyle	A			
Mar. 27	Oxford United	H			
Mar. 28					
Mar. 31	Tranmere Rovers	A			
April 4	Cambridge Utd.	H			
April 8	Colchester United (SF)	H			
April 11	Walsall	H			
April 15	Rotherham United	A			
April 18	Peterborough	A			
April 22	Hereford United	H			
April 26	Bradford City	A			
April 29	Carlisle United				
May 3	Chesterfield	A			
May 6	F.A. Cup Final				

Date	Opponents	Ground	Score
1977			
Aug. 20	Birmingham	H	1 - 1
Aug. 31	Reading	A	1 - 2
Sept. 3	Ipswich Town	H	0 - 3
Sept. 10	Luton Town	A	2 - 1
Sept. 13	Crystal Palace	H	1 - 0
Sept. 20	Orient	H	0 - 0
Sept. 24	Oxford United	H	0 - 1
Oct. 4	Queens Park Rangers	A	1 - 8
Oct. 8	Bristol Rovers	H	4 - 3
Oct. 15	Tottenham Hotspur	A	1 - 3
Oct. 22	Cardiff City	H	2 - 1
Oct. 26	Chelsea	A	0 - 2
Nov. 12	Norwich City	H	2 - 2
Nov. 16	Crystal Palace	A	1 - 4
Nov. 19	West Ham United	A	0 - 3
Nov. 26	Leicester City	H	0 - 5
Dec. 3	Plymouth Argyle	H	1 - 1
Dec. 13	Bristol City	A	3 - 1
Dec. 17	Southampton	A	0 - 4
1978			
Jan. 21	Ipswich Town	A	0 - 3
Feb. 7	Arsenal	H	2 - 0
Feb. 11	Orient	A	6 - 3
Feb. 14	Birmingham City	A	P
Feb. 18	Oxford United	A	1 - 3
Feb. 25	Chelsea	H	3 - 3
Feb. 28	Fulham	A	1 - 2
Mar. 7	Bristol Rovers	A	
Mar. 11	Tottenham Hotspur	H	
Mar. 15	Cardiff City	A	
Mar. 21	Luton	H	
Mar. 25	Southampton	H	
Mar. 27	Arsenal	A	
April 1	Bristol City	H	
April 5	Norwich City	A	
April 8	Leicester City	A	
April 12	Hereford	A	
April 15	West Ham United	H	
April 18	Fulham	H	
April 22	Plymouth Argyle	A	
April 25	Queens Park Rangers	H	
April 29	Hereford United	H	
May 2	Reading	H	

First Team Appearances and Goals 1977-78

Totals include subs (Goals in parentheses)

	Total	League	F.L.C.	FAC
1. Allan	36	27	5	4
2. McLaughlin	36	27	5	4
3. Trollope	38(2)	28(1)	6(1)	4
4. Stroud	36(2)	26(2)	6	4
5. Aizlewood	31(3)	22(3)	6	3
6. Prophett	37(1)	28	5	4(1)
7. Moss	37(17)	27(11)	6(4)	4(2)
8. Kamara	36(10)	26(9)	6(1)	4
9. Guthrie	31(10)	23(8)	4(2)	4
10. McHale	38(13)	28(9)	6(2)	4(2)
11. Anderson	27(9)	19(4)	6(5)	2
12. Ford	25(1)	19(1)	4	2
13. Cunningham	10	7	1	2
14. French	4	3	1	
15. Gilligan	3	3		
16. Roberts	2	1	1	
17. Lewis	4	2	1	1
18. Carter	8	8		
19. Bates	2	2		

These fixtures are the copyright of The Football League Limited.

FOR THE RECORD

14th Jan Football League v Sheffield Wednesday (H) 2-2

Allan, McLaughlin, Trollope, Ford, Carter, Prophett, Moss, Stroud, Kamara, McHale, Cunningham (Gilligan)

20th Jan Football League v Portsmouth (A) Won 2-1

Allan, Ford, Trollope, Kamara, Carter, Prophett, Moss, Stroud, Guthrie (Lewis) McHale, Cunningham

25th Feb Football League v Shrewsbury (A) Won 3-2

Allan, McLaughlin, Trollope, Stroud, Aizlewood, Prophett, Moss, McHale, Guthrie, Bates, Carter (Kamara)

28th Feb Football League v Bury (A) 0-0

Allan, McLaughlin, Trollope, Kamara, Aizlewood, Prophett, Moss, Bates, Guthrie, McHale, Ford (Carter)

IN TOWN TODAY

PETER GROTIER (Goalkeeper)

Though Lincoln paid a club record £20,000 for Peter in 1974 they didn't pay themselves. Supporters clubbed together to raise the cash! Peter grew up with West Ham United. He spent a loan period with Cardiff in 1973/74. League record: West Ham 50 aps.; Cardiff (loan) 2 aps.; Lincoln 165 aps.

BRENDAN GUEST (Defender)

Brendan, who served his apprenticeship with Lincoln, turned professional in December 1976 and he made his League debut against Grimsby at Christmas that year. By the end of the season he was holding a fairly regular place.

League record: Lincoln 28(1) 1 gl.

CLIVE WIGGINTON (Defender)

Clive is one of the newest acquisitions to Lincoln's playing staff, having been signed from Scunthorpe earlier this season. He spent several years as a Grimsby player until signing for Scunthorpe in 1975.

League record: Grimsby 163(8) aps., 6 gls; Scunthorpe 88 aps., 7 gls; Lincoln 26 aps.

TERRY COOPER (Defender)

Terry opened his career with Newport County, moving to Notts. County in 1970. He first joined Lincoln in 1971/72 on loan but then returned again to Meadow Lane.

League record: Newport 64(4) aps., 1 gl; Notts. Co. 3(6) aps.; Lincoln 219(1) aps., 10 gls.

PHIL NEALE (Defender)

Phil is one of the now rare band of cricketer-footballers. He turns out for Worcestershire during the summer and he celebrated his last birthday by scoring a century. He made his first League appearances for Lincoln three seasons ago.

League record: Lincoln 96(4) aps., 7 gls.

DENNIS LEIGH (Defender)

Dennis's first club was Doncaster Rovers but he made the short move to Rotherham in 1968 and he spent more than four years as a permanent member of the Millers' first-team.

League record: Doncaster 33(2) aps., 1 gl. Rotherham 154(5) aps., 10 gls; Lincoln 161 (3) aps., 2 gls.

LINCOLN CITY



Back Row (L to R) T. Cooper, P. Hubbard, D. Smith (Appr.), M. Smith, J. Gordon, P. Grotier, J. Gallagher, S. Ward (Appr.), I. Branfoot (Trainer/Coach).
Centre Row (L to R) B. Loxley (Physiotherapist), D. Burrows (Appr.), G. Cockerill, P. Graham, T. Loxley (Appr.), D. Crombie, J. Ward (Captain), M. Harford, G. Worth.
Front Row (L to R) K. Laybourne, M. Cox (Appr.), B. Guest, D. Smith, G. Kerr (Manager), D. Booth, D. Leigh, J. Fleming, A. Harding.

PHIL HUBBARD (Midfield)

Phil returned to his original club last season for £6,000 though Lincoln had sold him to Norwich for £20,000 in 1972. He was a striker in those days and topped the Imps' scoring list in his first two seasons.

League record: Lincoln 150(1) aps., 41 gls; Norwich 6(4) aps., 1 gl; Grimsby 144(2) aps., 37 gls;

ALAN JONES (Midfield)

Lincoln signed Alan from Chesterfield for £11,000 earlier this season. Once a defender with Huddersfield, he moved onto Halifax in 1973.

League record: Huddersfield 30(2) aps; Halifax 109 aps., 6 gls; Chesterfield 38 aps., 6 gls; Lincoln 13 aps., 3 gls.

ALAN HARDING (Forward)

Alan was once a high-scoring winger with Darlington, heading their scorers' list in 1970/71. He joined Lincoln on the eve of the 1973 transfer deadline and has continued to score goals fairly consistently ever since.

League record: Darlington 125(4) aps., 38 gls; Lincoln 176(6) aps., 36 gls.

PETER GRAHAM (Forward)

Peter is another player with a fine scoring reputation.

But he twice topped Darlington's scoring list before his £12,500 transfer to Lincoln in 1973.

League record: Barnsley 16(3) Halifax 6 aps; Darlington 118(1) aps., 43 gls; Lincoln 130(15) aps., 46 gls.

DAVE SMITH (Forward)

Dave missed the early games this season because of injury. Lincoln signed him from Middlesbrough in 1968 and he was their top scorer in his first season.

League record: Middlesbrough 1 ap; Lincoln 356(11) aps., 52 gls.

MICK HARFORD (Forward)

Mick joined Lincoln as a professional at the beginning of this season and was introduced to the Imps' League team as substitute against Gillingham in December. He then came in as centre-forward and has been holding his place for seven weeks.

League record: Lincoln 11(1) aps., 3 gls.

John Ward speaks to Jimmy Allan

Jimmy Allan comes from Balinthorpe, a fishing village on the north east coast of Scotland 40 miles north of Inverness. "That's 650 miles from Swindon", he pointed out. He got used to living away from home before he moved south: when he went on a pre-apprentice course after school to learn building and engineering trades in Inverness there were no buses or trains to Balinthorpe so he could only go home at weekends. Even then he did not see a lot of home because he was playing football for Brora Rangers a further fifty miles north. While still at school Jimmy was spotted by Northampton and had a fortnight's trial during one school holidays. They turned him down on the grounds that he was too small. In those days he may have been: he was only five feet seven. Now, seven years later, he is six feet. "I seemed to put on an inch each time I went back to Scotland in the summer," he said with a grin.

When he first joined Swindon, signing as an apprentice after a two week trial and turning professional on his seventeenth birthday four months later, he used to go back to Scotland for twelve weeks every summer. He could always find people to take him salmon fishing in the estuaries because being a local boy he knew how and where to set the nets. Now he is married and his wife, Clare, works for Nationwide Building Society in Swindon so they can only go to Scotland for her fortnight's summer holiday. So no more salmon fishing but Jimmy seems to find plenty to occupy his spare

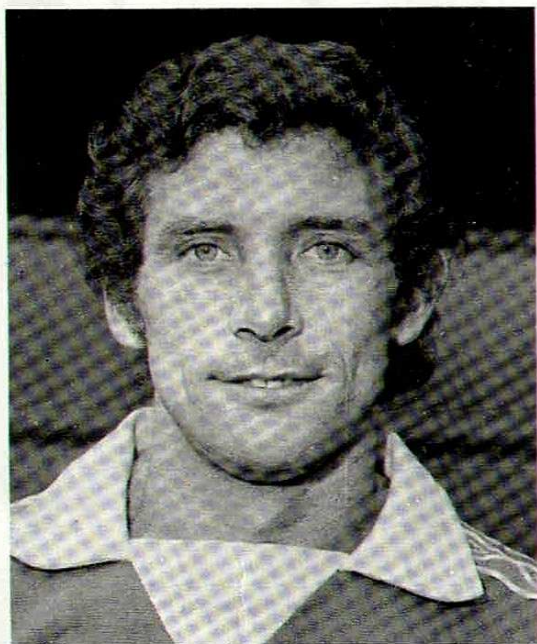
time. In the summer he goes canoeing and although he has never ridden a motor-bike in his life he is a speedway fanatic, an interest shared by Clare even if when it comes to football "she only comes to watch the big games!" Jimmy is currently doing up the house they live in in Scarborough Road on the west side of Swindon. He is also repairing the collapsed deck of his 50 year old model sailing yacht. It is six feet long with a seven foot mast and is clinker-built of mahogany. He plans to sail it in the sailing pool at Fairford.

Jimmy, who comes from a strongly Christian home, is a member of an organisation called "Christians for Sport" which was started in the United States by tennis stars Stan Smith and Roscoe Tanner. They wanted to expand it to include professional footballers in Britain and two years ago Jimmy joined with Alan West of Luton and Don Nardiello of Coventry. He helps by going round schools answering questions with an evangelist. I asked the obvious question, was it not very difficult being a Christian in the apparently unchristian atmosphere of professional football? What about all the swearing, for example? "I've heard swearing ever since I went to college" he replied. "People swear everywhere, not just when they watch football. It's normally because they can't think of anything else to say. It is difficult in that football can be a very selfish game with everyone looking after themselves but I play it because I enjoy it so

much as a game. "I asked whether, since he obviously found some conflict between his Christian ideals and getting on in football, he had thought of becoming a priest and indulging in his love for football by, say, coaching in

a youth club in a depressed area. "Me be a priest? I wouldn't have it in me," was his answer. "If I 'witness' while I am playing football that's enough for me."

When we returned to talking about football I asked why he had decided to become a goalkeeper. Jimmy laughed. "I've often fancied playing outfield but I could never run. That's why I've always been a goalkeeper!" I asked what sort of training he did. "The three goalkeepers will start off training together. We do body work, that's with a medicine ball to strengthen the stomach muscles, then reflex work, sitting on the ground with two balls going from side to side, until it's time for a five-a-side game perhaps." I said that I thought that his style had changed over the years: when he started in the first team he seemed to stay on his line relying on his tall centre-backs like Frank Burrows to deal with any high balls. Nowadays he seemed to go for the crosses much more. "That could well be true," he said. "Maybe I used to be a bit over-awed by crosses. Now that I'm bigger and stronger and more experienced I know what's going to happen. There is one weakness that I'm working on at the moment and that is organising the defence: I haven't got a loud enough shout!"



Phil 'Chic' Bates

- our latest signing from Shrewsbury Town.
Good Luck Chic!



Swindon's Chris Kamara (white shorts) is well covered by the Sheffield Wednesday defence during a Town attack at the County Ground.

DANNY'S DESK

Firstly I would like to say how nice it is to see you after our 'mid season break'. We have been unfortunate in that not only has the weather interfered with our programme but also two of our opponents due to play us in the last two months have had an extended run in the F.A. Cup. The lay off has left us with a congestion of fixtures and we shall in fact be playing two matches a week from now until the end of the season and for those of you who are not yet aware of the new dates of matches, this information can be found on page 6 of this programme. We are sorry for those of our supporters who made the long journey to Chesterfield only to find the match had been called off. There is much, controversy about the time matches are postponed, the League insist in fact that every effort be made for the decision to be made before visiting supporters leave home but on this occasion no one could have foreseen the continual heavy rain which fell hour after hour during the trek North.

It is a simple matter for the Referee to make a decision when there is a foot of snow on the pitch but the conditions are not always so obvious and then we have a problem. In this Country of ours I am sure football supporters appreciate the problem and realise the difficulties but when they

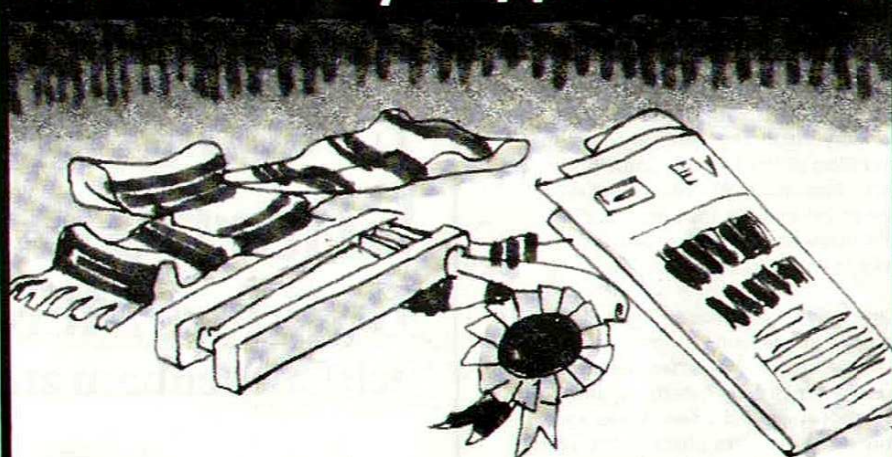
find they have wasted a lot of time and money who can blame them for feeling up tight.

But enough of these thoughts on the depressing side of the game - let's dwell upon the more pleasant aspects and what can be more pleasing than the results of our last two away matches which have brought us three points from a possible four. Perhaps it can be argued that playing against ten men for a part of the game at Bury should have resulted in maximum points for this game but who, in all honesty, would have forecast that we

should have done so well in these two matches, indeed with our win at Portsmouth in January we have collected four points from a possible six away from home in our last three games off our own patch. If we can maintain this form, and I see no reason why we shouldn't, then we must be in with a chance at the end of the season. This game is all about good players and good supporters and I like to think we have both and if we all pull together then I am sure we shall get the results we are hoping for.

Thank you for supporting us this afternoon.

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The Evening Advertiser

Spotlight on Division 3

By Tony Pullein

LINCOLN CITY
By Tony Pullein

If Wrexham become the first Third Division side ever to reach the F.A. Cup final, they will have to thank striker Dixie McNeil for making it possible. On Monday night he hit Wrexham's second goal to kill off those gallant little non-Leaguers Blyth Spartans in a fifth round replay. In the first match it was only a last-minute McNeil goal that saved the Welsh club from a sensational defeat.

McNeil has now scored in each of Wrexham's eight F.A. Cup ties this season and has ten goals so far in this competition. The all-time F.A. Cup record was 15 claimed by Tottenham's Alan Brown back in 1900/01 - - - and that must be a good omen for Wrexham.

For Spur's, in 1900/01, were the last club from outside the two top divisions to win the F.A. Cup. Can Wrexham now emulate that feat?

They face a mighty stiff task next Saturday when they meet Arsenal at The Racecourse Ground. Yet Wrexham have already scored three Cup victories over First Division sides this season so they certainly will not be over-awed.

Wrexham signed McNeil from Hereford for £60,000 this season and he has already netted 22 times for them.

The Third Division leaders Gillingham were surprisingly held to a 1-1 home draw by lowly Plymouth Argyle but they still look back on an unbeaten run of 15 League games. Argyle's equaliser was hit by young Gary Megson - - - only his second goal in league football. It could prove invaluable in the long run as Plymouth struggle to avoid the drop into Fourth Division football for that would be the first time in their history.

Another of the leaders to slip last weekend was Cambridge United who were held to a 1-1 home draw by Preston North End, one of the clubs snapping at their heels. Cambridge, in fact, were quite relieved to get even one point and for that they had to rely upon an Alan Biley penalty with only seven minutes remaining.

Cambridge have smashed two club records this season - - - they drew their record League attendance of 10,998 for the local derby against Peterborough and a few weeks ago they went into top place in the Third Division table for the first time.

Preston, grateful for the point that continued their climb up the table, are unbeaten in their last five games.

Victory over Rotherham last weekend halted a run of seven successive defeats for Bradford City. The Valley Parade Club had looked like ending that run a week earlier when they led Plymouth 1-0 at Home Park when the game was abandoned half-an-hour from the end because of snow.

Scorer of that goal was David McNiven, a striker signed from Leeds United and playing his first game for Bradford. McNiven scored again in their 3-0 victory over Rotherham and has certainly got away to a fine start with his new club.

The Third Division is providing closer competition than any other division this season, with only 19 points separating the top and bottom clubs last weekend.

Bottom dogs Portsmouth picked up a valuable point from a goalless draw at Sheffield Wednesday but Hereford United suffered another defeat at Oxford (0-3). Now Hereford's dismal run since their last victory is extended to 13 matches.

Port Vale suffered their sixth successive away defeat when they went down 0-3 at Bury, the club formerly managed by Vale boss Bobby Smith. Vale have scored only once, and conceded 15 goals, during their recent bleak away spell.

Chester, who have drawn 15 of their 30 League games, recorded a now familiar all-square match with Tranmere. It was their fifth draw in their last eight games. There was perhaps no surprise that this particular game should end level because visiting Tranmere are also running into a draw sequence. This was their fourth draw in six games.

Lincoln have been recovering from a poor start to the season and now the relegation clouds seem to be clearing away from Sincil Bank. The Imps collected only one point from their opening six League games and a later run of adverse results left them in serious trouble by December.

Sadly, George Keer - who had only taken over from Graham Taylor as manager last summer - was forced to leave and he has been succeeded by former Birmingham boss Willie Bell. Lincoln certainly don't want to face another spell of Fourth Division football. When they were last relegated in 1962 it took them 14 years to get back again.

The Lincoln club was formed in 1883 and became founder members of the Second Division of the Football League in 1908. They were voted out in 1908, after two consecutive applications for re-election, but regained their place a year later.

The Imps were ejected again in 1911, once again to regain admission within a year. They were thrown out of the League for a third time in 1920 but, fortunately for them, the new Third Division (North) was formed in 1921 so, yet again, they were deprived of League soccer for only one season.

For some years the Imps flourished in the lower half of the Northern section table but in 1927/28 they emerged as surprise challengers for promotion. In the end they were well beaten into second place by Bradford. Only the top club was promoted in those days.

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Lincoln continued to hover around the top and came second again in 1931, this time finishing only one point behind Chesterfield. A year later they finally won their way back into Division Two, but by the narrowest of margins - they finished level on points with Gateshead but had a superior goal-average.

Within two years they were back in the Third Division where they remained until taking the championship again in 1948. This time they were relegated at the end of their first season but they bounced back again in 1952 for their last spell of Second Division play.

Relegation this time overtook them in 1961. Worse was to follow a year later when they dropped into the Fourth Division for the first time in their history.

It was a depressing experience and it was to take them an exceedingly long time before they were to regain Third Division status.

They looked certain to make it in 1975 when, with most of the other clubs having completed their fixtures Lincoln occupied fourth place with one game to play. They were level with fifth-placed Chester on points, but possessed a marginally superior goal-average.

Lincoln went into their final game at Southport needing one point to make absolutely sure. In the event they lost 2 - 3 - and that narrow reverse was enough to give Chester the edge on decimal points. Lincoln were destined to an extended spell of Fourth Division football.

They made no mistake the following season, though. They lost their opening game but then lost only once in their next 24 League games. They closed with a remarkable unbeaten run of 14 matches which produced 24 points and they finally smashed all previous Football League records by gaining 74 points.

Lincoln have won four away League games to date - at Portsmouth (2 - 0), Carlisle (3 - 2), Shrewsbury (1-0), and Peterborough (1-0).

The Imps drew at Rotherham (0-0), Bradford City (2-2), Colchester (1-1) and Chester (2-2).

They were beaten at Bury (0-1), Port Vale (1-2), Oxford (0-1), Wrexham (0-1), Sheffield Wednesday (0-2), Cambridge (0-5) and Walsall (1-3).

Lincoln were also beaten at Preston (2-3) in the first round of the F.A. Cup and at Bolton (0-1) in the second round of the League Cup. In the first round they won 1-1 at Mansfield.



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SATURDAY**4th MARCH****1978****SWINDON**

at 3.00 p.m.

LINCOLN

- 1 Allan
- 2 McLaughlin
- 3 Trollope
- 4 Stroud
- 5 Aizlewood
- 6 Prophett
- 7 Moss
- 8 Kamara
- 9 Guthrie
- 10 McHale
- 11 Bates
- 12 Carter



- 1 Grotier
- 2 Guest
- 3 Leigh
- 4 Neale
- 5 Wigginton
- 6 Cooper
- 7 Jones
- 8 Graham
- 9 Harford
- 10 Hubbard
- 11 Harding
- 12 Smith

REFEREE:**Mr. ALAN GUNN** (Burgess Hill, Sussex)

From refereeing in local Sussex leagues and the Sussex County League has progressed via the London Combination to the Football League line and, later, the referees list. Has officiated in all three Sussex County F.A. Senior Finals, and was linesman at the England v. Scotland Youth Amateur International in 1971. He refereed the F.A. Vase Semi-Final in 1976.

A married man, with two daughters, he is Buyer for an engineering company and his interests include playing squash and swimming.

Linesmen: Red Flag: MR. R.L. HAMMER, Kingswood, Bristol Yellow Flag: MR. S. JOHN, Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan

NEXT MATCH

Tuesday next — 7th March 1978

Division III

PRESTON NORTH END

K.O. 7.30 p.m.

KEY OF THE BOARD

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| A | Carlisle v Cambridge Utd. |
| B | Hereford v Colchester |
| C | Peterborough v Bury |
| D | Plymouth v Chester |
| E | Portsmouth v Walsall |
| F | Port Vale v Shrewsbury |
| G | Preston N.E. v Bradford City |
| H | Rotherham v Gillingham |
| I | Wrexham v Exeter |
| J | Arsenal v Manchester City |
| K | Aston Villa v Leicester |
| L | Chelsea v Liverpool |
| M | Coventry v Birmingham |
| N | Derby v Newcastle |
| O | Everton v Q.P. Rangers |
| P | Ipswich v West. Brom. Alb. |
| Q | Leeds v Bristol City |
| R | Manchester Utd. v Middlesbrough |
| S | Nottm. Forest v West Ham Utd. |
| T | Wolverhampton v Norwich |

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