



OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE 15p

SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

SWINDON TOWN
v

WREXHAM

Swindon Town Football Co Limited

Registered Office County Ground
Swindon

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WOULDN'T A PINT GO DOWN WELL TONIGHT?



Bits and Pieces

Wrexham F.C. is the oldest soccer club in Wales, being formed in 1873.

The border town was the venue for the first Welsh Cup Final, played in 1878, between Wrexham and the Druids - from down the road at Cefn-mawr. It remained host every year until 1890 and again between 1901 and 1911. Headquarters of the Welsh F.A. are still there to this day.

Wrexham won that inaugural final 1-0 though the club did not receive a Cup as such. The Welsh F.A. - its founder Llewelyn Kenrick was skipper of the losing side - could not afford a trophy!

In 1890, Wrexham joined the Football Combination and in 1905 the Birmingham and District League. When the Third Division North was set up in 1921, Wrexham became founder members and stayed throughout its thirty-season history, accumulating more points than any other club. Progress in that League was slow until the club attained third position in 1929 and fourth two seasons later. 1933 saw Wrexham reach its highest placing ever - second, with 106 goals, to champions Hull City.

Since the last war Wrexham has twice climbed to third place in the old Northern section, but in 1960 fell into the Fourth Division, remaining there apart from a two year break until 1970.

To date Wrexham has appeared in 35 Welsh Cup Finals and been successful in twenty. Only two wins, however, have come since the competition became a route to Europe in 1962. Wrexham reached the Final that year - the first to be held on a two-leg basis - only to lose in a play-off to Bangor City, a club which finished tenth in the Cheshire County League. Since then the Welsh Cup has been dominated by Cardiff City, but Wrexham chalked up two victories in 1972 and 1975.

Participating in the European Cup Winners' Cup for the first time Wrexham disposed of F.C. Zurich before going out to Hajduk Split on the away goals rule. Wrexham reached the quarter-final stage in 1975-76, defeating Djurgårdens and Stal Rzeszow. After a single goal victory in Belgium, Anderlecht reached the semi-finals by holding Wrexham to a 1 - 1 draw at the Racecourse.

This season has seen Wrexham equal its best ever performances in both major domestic Cup competitions.

Not since the first League Cup games back in 1960-61 has Wrexham reached the Fifth Round. Then, after playing every tie away from home, Wrexham went out to eventual winners Aston Villa.

In the F.A. Cup 1973-74 saw Wrexham gain away victories at Shrewsbury, Crystal Palace and Southampton before falling to Burnley at Turf Moor by a solitary goal.

Over sixty Welsh International players have worn the red shirt of Wrexham. One, George Poland, came to Swindon during the 1934-35 season but failed to make the Town's League eleven. At the end of that season Swindon's former Liverpool forward Gordon Gunson, joined Wrexham.

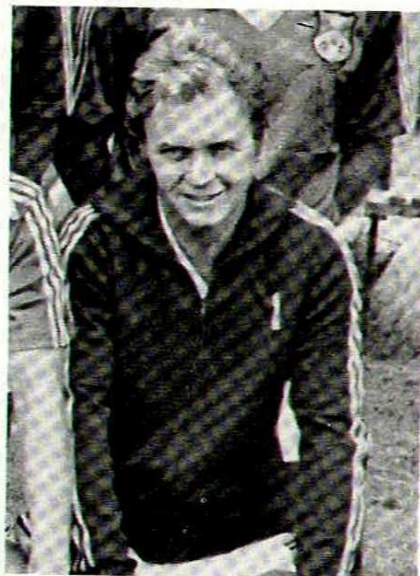
The former Town full-back Johnny Neal, who missed only one game in two seasons here, was manager of Wrexham before returning to his native north-east to take over at Middlesbrough last year.

On September 30, 1959, Swindon Town were guests at the official 'switching on' of the floodlights at Wrexham's Racecourse Ground. The souvenir programme for the occasion

included a pen picture supplement, introducing the home playing staff. Amongst those listed were Don Weston, a consistent goalscorer who later went to Leeds United, and Rolando Ugolini, an Italian-born Scotsman who kept goal for the Welsh club!

Another was Ken Jones, a Welsh Youth International full-back, who later came to the County Ground after a brief stay at Crystal Palace.

A mention was also given to a youngster who had only just signed on as a professional for Wrexham. Described as slightly built but considered by experts as having a great future in the game - it was none other than current manager Arfon Griffiths. After nineteen years and almost 600 League appearances - a club record - that optimism speaks for itself.



Arfon Griffiths

Fact finder

WREXHAM

CURRENT FORM - LAST FIVE SEASONS :

	Div	P	W	D	L	F - A	Pts	Pos	Round Reached	FA	FL	Avge Home Lge Gate	Top League
76-77	: 3	46	24	10	12	80-54	58	5th	4th	4th	9,327	Graham Whittle 28	
75-76	: 3	46	20	12	14	66-55	52	6th	1st	2nd	4,158	Bill Ashcroft 14	
74-75	: 3	46	15	15	16	65-55	45	13th	1st	1st	4,376	David Smallman 17	
73-74	: 3	46	22	12	12	63-43	56	4th	6th	2nd	5,957	Brian Tinnion 13	
72-73	: 3	46	14	17	15	55-54	45	12th	2nd	2nd	4,546	Bill Ashcroft 14	

COMPLETE FOOTBALL LEAGUE RECORD:

DIV.

Third	:	506	190	124	192	750-757	504
Third North	:	1282	501	293	488	2040-1982	1295
Fourth	:	366	149	91	126	607-524	389
TOTAL	:	2154	840	508	806	3397-3263	2188 (to end of last season)

Talk of the Town By the Chairman

Since writing in the programme for the Preston game, we have lost two home and two away points and of course this has been a set back to us, but we are still in with a chance and I know that our lads will fight all the way, to collect what we can from the remaining matches. We were all disappointed to lose both points at Port Vale in the dying seconds, especially when we had scored what looked like a winner in the early part of the game, but we all know that this is what makes the competition so open.

Steve Aizlewood is having a bad run of injuries, which is most unfortunate at this stage of the season and we all hope that Steve's luck will soon turn, because there is nothing worse than an injury to a player of Steve's ability and he must be wondering why it all happens to him. After fighting all the week under the care of Kevin Morris and playing hard at Port Vale, he received a knock on his knee which resulted in a swelling, with Jack Smith taking Steve to hospital on his return to Swindon for an X-Ray and so once again Steve faces another week fighting to get back again.

We hope that Kenny Stroud's rest on Saturday, will enable him to be fit for tonight's game, especially as Danny has Russell Lewis on the injured list.

John Trollope has officially taken over his new duties as Youth Manager and played his first game with his team against Tottenham last Saturday. This doesn't mean that he can't be used in the first team if Danny really needs him and I know that John will always be ready for such an occasion if needed.

John's first job in his new post was to meet a gathering of school-teachers who look after the recreational side of schoolboys education. This meeting held in the Rendezvous Club arranged by Jack Smith was a great success and a very interesting discussion took place.

With the co-operation of such school-teachers who give up so much of their spare time to encourage youngsters to play games, I am sure that we the Football Club, can also play a vital part in helping youngsters enjoy sport, and we hope that this will lead to a better understanding of our present, sometimes troubled youth.

The English Schools Football Association have always zealously guarded a schoolboys interest while attending school and rightly so, but with the leaving age being sixteen, any boy wishing to make football a living, finds that the apprenticeship period

is only two years at the most and we feel that if we can co-operate closely with the schools at an earlier age, of at least thirteen to fourteen then by the time the boy leaves school at sixteen the like of John will have a much better chance of selecting a promising future professional. Although the percentage rate of boys who make the professional grade from school leaving is very low, it must be pointed out that most of the lads who do not make a living with Football League Clubs do find playing careers often with professional non league clubs who usually provide them with a job outside of their football.

We at the County Ground are also very keen that our lads should attend day school at least once a week with an attendance in the evening as well.

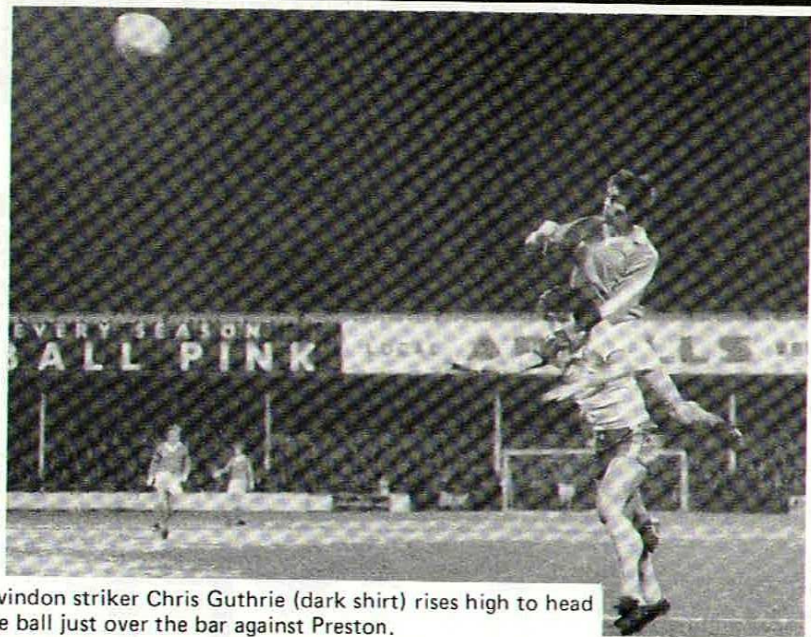
The Freedom of Contract saga is continuing again this week in London at a meeting of all Clubs, to agree if possible on the new regulations which must be adopted by the clubs by a three quarter majority vote. There are many anomalies which are irritating and unacceptable to clubs at the moment and one of these concern the well being of our apprentices. Clubs feel and rightly so, that after training a boy on leaving school to become a professional player, the club concerned should have the right to retain that boys registration for at least one year on completing his apprenticeship and under the proposed new regulation, at the moment, this is not so.

It was refreshing to read Colin Prophetts remarks when John Ward interviewed Colin for our programme,

regarding Freedom of Contract, and I hope many more of our players will have the same thoughts. Many supporters will have read that Ray McHale has had to appear before a Disciplinary Board for accumulating twenty points during this season. A player is given the chance to put his case if he feels that he has been unfairly punished by receiving these marks, but it is not a case of disputing the referee's decisions, unless there are very extenuating circumstances such as mistaken identity etc., These cases are usually reported at the time of the offence and kept in abeyance until such time as the said player reaches the twenty point total. The system of points accumulated is put into practice to try and improve the standard of our game, but unfortunately referees have different interpretations of similar incidents on the field and where one player is usually just cautioned by one referee a similar offence can be punished by the yellow card by another official. Ray's record in the past is very good and the fact that he has played consistently for the last six seasons without this kind of trouble, we hope will stand him and us in good stead.

Tonight we welcome Wrexham Football Club Players and Officials and we congratulate them on their great performances in the Cup. They have been a credit to the Third Division.

I hope tonight's game will be as exciting as our former encounters with them this season and thank you for coming.



Swindon striker Chris Guthrie (dark shirt) rises high to head the ball just over the bar against Preston.

From the POOLS OFFICE!

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. The new Moonraker lottery No. 3 has once again increased and we have been asked by many people when we will commence a Weekly lottery instead of each fortnight. The answer to this is hopefully very soon. It is another step forward to making our club solvent but a step that needs considerable thought. However this step will have to be taken and I can say that thought is being given to commencing a weekly lottery starting in May or late April.

Once again our customers will benefit in that a new prize structure will be operated. I envisage about £3,000 being available in prizes weekly. We shall need some extra agents to sell these lottery tickets. No financial outlay is involved to anyone who becomes an agent. Ten per cent commission is payable on all sales plus a ten per cent bonus on Winners sold. If an agent sells the £1,000 winner he will receive £100. If you can help, please fill in the form below and return it to the Lottery Office or Ring Swindon 31510 for details.

I would like to be a Lottery Agent

Name

Address

.....

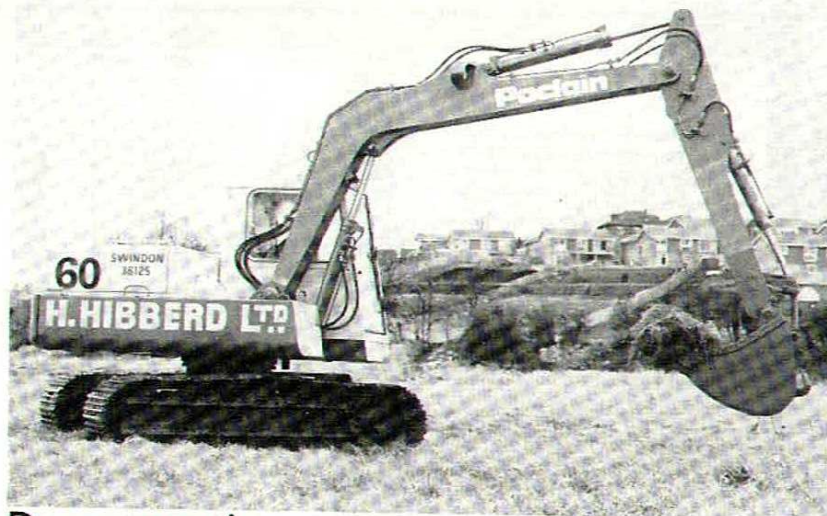
Phone No. if any

I am over 16 yrs. old.

Signature

The £1,000 First Prize Winner of Moonraker Lottery No. 2.

Mr. Alexander of 3 Pinehurst Rd., Swindon. Receiving his cheque from Mr. C. Cowley, Vice Chairman S.T.F.C. In the background Miss J. Alexander the Agent who sold the ticket. She received £100.



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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	1 - 0	19	6945
Mar. 7	Preston North End	H	0 - 2		10211
Mar. 11	Port Vale (6)	A	0 - 1		3723
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				

These fixtures are the copyright of The Football League Limited.

FOR THE RECORD

Feb. 28 v. Fulham (Football Comb.) scorer : Gilligan

Roberts; Reilly, Walker; Collicutt, Gardner, Lewis; Barry, Brinkworth, Gilligan, Cox, Norman.

Mar. 4 v. Lincoln (Div. 3)

Allan; McLaughlin, Trollope; Stroud, Aizlewood, Prohett; Moss, Kamara, Guthrie, McHale, Bates.

Mar. 7 v. Preston (Div. 3)

Allan; McLaughlin, Trollope; Stroud, Aizlewood (Carter), Prohett; Moss, Kamara, Guthrie, McHale, Bates.

Mar. 7 v. Bristol Rovers (Football Comb.) Scorer : Gilligan

Roberts; Reilly, Ford; Lewis, Gardner, Collicutt; Walker, Brinkworth, Gilligan, Cox, Norman.

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	1 - 2
Mar. 11	Tottenham Hotspur	H	0 - 2
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	39	30	5	4
2. McLaughlin	39	30	5	4
3. Trollope	40(2)	30(1)	6(1)	4
4. Stroud	38(2)	28(2)	6	4
5. Aizlewood	34(3)	25(3)	6	3
6. Prohett	40(1)	31	5	4(1)
7. Moss	40(17)	30(11)	6(4)	4(2)
8. Kamara	39(10)	29(9)	6(1)	4
9. Guthrie	34(10)	26(8)	4(2)	4
10. McHale	41(13)	31(9)	6(2)	4(2)
11. Anderson	27(9)	19(4)	6(5)	2
12. Ford	26(1)	20(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	9	9		
19. Bates	3	3(1)		

IN TOWN TODAY

DAI DAVIES (Goalkeeper)

Dai is Wales' number one goal-keeper and he now has 19 caps. Dai opened his career with Swansea and Everton picked him up for a mere £15,000 fee in 1971. Wrexham signed him at the beginning of this season.

League record: Swansea 9 aps; Everton 82 aps; Swansea (loan) 6 aps; Wrexham 23 aps.

MICKEY EVANS (Defender)

Mickey is a former Welsh under-23 international who began his career with Wolves. He didn't get into the senior side at Molineux but was an instant success when signing for Wrexham in 1966.

League record: Wolves nil aps; Wrexham 361(11) aps., 19 gls.

ALAN HILL (Defender)

Alan developed in Wrexham's junior sides and earned his chance initially in 1974/75. Since then he has enjoyed a few outings but this season he has made a number of appearances at right-back.

League record: Wrexham 51(1) aps.

GARETH DAVIS (Defender)

Gareth is another player to learn his game at the Racecourse. He came into the senior side in 1967/68 and later won Welsh under-23 honours. He was ever-present last season.

League record: Wrexham 358(6) aps., 7 gls.

JOHN ROBERTS (Defender)

John is a player of vast experience who has been capped by Wales on 22 occasions. He played his first League football for Swansea in 1965/66.

League record: Swansea 36(1) aps., 16 gls; Northampton 62 aps., 11 gls; Arsenal 56(3) aps., 4 gls; Birmingham 61(5) aps., 1 gl. Wrexham 70 aps., 4 gls.

ALAN DWYER (Defender)

Another product of the club's youth scheme, Alan came through for his League debut in 1974/75 and for almost three years now he has been holding down the left-back position.

League record: Wrexham 91(5) aps., 2 gls.

WREXHAM



BACK ROW

Tony Larkin, Graham Whittle, John Roberts, Mike Williams, Mel Sutton

MIDDLE ROW

C. N. Wilson, Huw Williams, Glyn Griffiths, Wayne Cegielski, Eddie Niedzwiecki, Brian Lloyd, Alan Hill, Alan Dwyer and Leslie Cartwright.

SEATED

G. Showell, John Lyons, Mike Thomas, Gareth Davis, Mickey Evans, Bobby Shinton, Stuart Lee, Arfon Griffiths (Manager)

MIKE THOMAS (Midfield)

Mike was called up to play for Wales in their World Cup quest last season and he has now gained seven caps to add to earlier under-23 honours. Another Wrexham discovery, Mike made his League debut in 1971/72.

League record: Wrexham 187(12) aps., 23 gls.

MEL SUTTON (Midfield)

Mel was once an Aston Villa reserve. He opened his League career with Cardiff in 1968 and Wrexham paid what was then a club record £15,000 for him in 1972.

League record: A.Villa nil aps; Cardiff 135(3) aps., 5 gls; Wrexham 233(2) aps., 18 gls.

LES CARTWRIGHT (Midfield)

Wrexham equalled their then club record payout when they invested £30,000 in Les's transfer from Coventry last summer. Capped by Wales on five occasions, Les made many First Division appearances for Coventry.

League record: Coventry 50(18) aps., 3 gls; Wrexham 24 aps., 2 gls.

DIXIE McNEIL (Forward)

Wrexham signed former Imp Dixie from Hereford for £60,000 this season and he is now top scorer with 19 goals.

League record: Leicester nil aps; Exeter 31 aps., 11 gls; Northampton 84(1) aps., 33 gls; Lincoln 96(1) aps., 53 gls; Hereford 128(1) aps., 84 gls. Wrexham 23 aps., 13 gls.

BOBBY SHINTON (Forward)

Bobby began with Walsall but moved on to Cambridge in 1974 for what was then a club record fee of £22,000. Wrexham invested £20,000 in his transfer last season, when he scored 19 goals. He has netted 17 this term.

League record: Walsall 78(1) aps., 20 gls; Cambridge 99 aps., 25 gls; Wrexham 76 aps., 26 gls.

GRAHAM WHITTLE (Forward/Midfield)

Graham began as a Wrexham amateur, graduating to the club's League eleven in 1971. Last season he was top scorer with 33 goals and he has contributed 13 so far this term.

League record: Wrexham 239(10) aps., 74 gls.

John Ward talks to John Trollope

I had always been a bit mystified when some programmes at away matches listed John Trollope as "N. Trollope" so I asked him to explain. "I was called Norman after my father but I never liked the name so I've been known as John ever since I was a lad". John played for Swindon Schoolboys and after a two month interval in the accounts department of a company in Swindon joined the groundstaff at the County Ground along with several others of the same schoolboys team. They formed the nucleus of the famous Hunt, Summerbee team of the early Sixties. John rates that team and the one which won the League Cup as the best he had played in but would not commit himself as to which was the better of the two. Nor would he be drawn on the qualities of the different managers under whom he has played. "I've been lucky in that they've all liked me," was all that he would say. Although John Robertson of Nottingham Forest had obviously left a deep and not altogether happy impression he would not pick out any outstanding opponents. "It all depends on how you both play on the day. Sometimes a bad player can give you the runaround whereas you can sometimes play a good player out of the game."

Remembering how effective he had been marking Peter Taylor of Crystal Palace I asked whether he preferred sticking close to a particular star opponent or playing as an orthodox fullback. There was no hesitation about this: "If you're put tight on a man it stops you going forward and that's the bit I really enjoy. I developed a good understanding with Don Rogers and that started me overlapping and I've kept it up with David Moss." John has always been a fullback, usually on the left, which he much prefers. I commented on one excursion into the forward line which I remembered in the second half of a terrible home game against Preston, when Swindon were 3-0 down at half-time and John added some much needed punch on the left wing. "I've played a couple of times in the forwards when we've been short and sometimes I've gone up if the substitute's come on and been a defender." He gave the impression that he would not mind if this had happened more often.

I asked about changes in the game since John first played for Swindon.

"Players are a lot fitter now. There's more thought goes into the game. We have dossiers on the opposition prepared before each game. It's all happened gradually over the years." I wondered how he had enjoyed his spell as captain given that he seemed by nature such a quiet and unassuming person. "When I had to give it up because of my Achilles tendon injury I was disappointed because I had started to come out of my shell. Not that I have any complaints against Colin Prohett. I still shout a bit but without waving my arms about. And I give advice to the younger players."

John Trollope must be a manager's dream of an ideal professional: over all his years with Swindon he has never once become restless. In return he has only been dropped twice as far as he can remember, once at the end of the League Cup season when he gave way to Owen Dawson and again for a few games by Les Allen. Had Jimmy Dickinson's record been much on his mind recently? "Quite honestly I'd not realised I was that close or even thought about it up to this season. Just wanted to go on playing for as long as I am wanted.

John had made his mind up that when he finished playing for Swindon he would finish for good and not look to play for a non-League club, but hopefully to remain in some capacity with the club to which he has given so much and of course this ambition

has been realised with his appointment as Youth Team Manager.

John and his wife live in Highworth. His parents are still in Wroughton where he was born. They come to watch every game, as do his brother and brother-in-law. John was quick to point out the Trollope family's contribution towards boosting Swindon's home gates! He has two children, a girl of eight and a boy of five. Would he want him to become a professional footballer? "It's up to him. I'll help if he is interested but he'll have to keep on his schooling."

In the summer John plays cricket in a local midweek league - "I love fielding" and there are family holidays in Cornwall or Devon. But football is obviously as great a love as it ever was, even after sixteen years. "I'm always learning," he said "and nowadays I tend to live more easily with my mistakes." He ended on a note of optimism. "It really does seem that attacking football is coming back. I've been lucky at Swindon because we've always had managers who believed in playing this way. But now even the opposition are playing with wingers."

Let us hope that, despite John's new job, we shall still occasionally see John bottling up opposing wingers at one end and then launching on another of his overlaps at the other as he has thrilled us doing so many times in the past.



John Trollope receives a gift from Mick Lewis, chairman of Swindon Town Football Supporters Club, in recognition of his record breaking appearance against Preston at the County Ground on Tuesday.



Swindon striker Chris Guthrie (almost hidden) is floored in an attempt to beat Preston goalkeeper Tunks to the ball as winger David Moss (right) closes in during a Town attack in last Tuesday's game at the County Ground.

DIVISION THREE LEAGUE TABLE up to and including Saturday March 11, 1978

	Home					Away					Pts.	Lge. Posns This Season		Home Lge. Gates		Top Goalscorers
	P	W	D	L	F-A	W	D	L	F-A	High		Low	Avg.	Best		
Cambridge U.	35	14	3	1	41-9	4	6	7	20-32	45	1st	24th	5258	10998	Alan Biley 22(19)	
Wrexham	31	11	6	0	37-16	6	3	5	17-16	43	1st	18th	9593	16281	*Dixie McNeil 28(16)	
Preston N E	34	14	2	1	41-16	2	9	6	9-14	43	1st	19th	7884	11920	Alex Bruce 24(22)	
Gillingham	35	10	6	2	33-19	4	8	5	25-27	42	1st	15th	6958	10541	Ken Prixe 18(17), Danny Westwood 18(16)	
Tranmere R	34	11	3	3	31-14	3	8	6	15-20	39	1st	6th	4454	7250	Ronnie Moore 14(14)	
Walsall	33	9	6	3	27-14	3	8	4	16-21	38	6th	17th	5279	8341	Alan Buckley 26(21)	
Bury	33	7	9	1	27-13	5	4	7	21-25	37	2nd	14th	4804	6769	Andy Rowland 12(11)	
Peterborough U	32	8	6	1	17-9	4	6	7	8-14	36	2nd	22nd	5803	10156	†Trevor Anderson 12(7)	
Chester	34	9	7	0	27-16	0	11	7	13-29	36	7th	18th	3983	9514	Paul Crossley 11(7)	
Swindon Town	31	10	4	2	32-14	2	6	7	17-27	34	2nd	17th	7724	11054	Dave Moss 16(10)	
Colchester U	34	7	8	1	28-11	4	4	10	16-27	34	1st	13th	4852	6447	Bobby Gough 16(12)	
Shrewsbury T	35	7	6	5	30-18	4	6	7	17-26	34	1st	13th	3678	6116	Ian Atkins 8(8), Brian Hornsby 8(7), Sam Irvine 8(8)	
Carlisle U	34	6	8	2	23-17	3	8	7	21-26	34	13th	23rd	5533	11309	Mick Tait 10(9)	
Chesterfield	32	9	5	2	23-8	3	4	9	16-25	33	1st	19th	5049	12395	Rod Fern 9(8)	
Exeter C	34	9	4	4	24-15	3	5	9	15-30	33	2nd	20th	4986	6722	Tony Kellow 15(12)	
Oxford U	35	10	6	2	30-15	1	4	12	19-35	32	2nd	17th	4900	8746	Peter Foley 18(16)	
Lincoln C	35	6	6	5	20-18	4	5	9	14-26	31	15th	24th	4741	6463	Peter Graham 8(8)	
Sheffield W	33	8	6	3	20-12	0	6	10	14-29	28	13th	24th	11008	18803	Tommy Tynan 16(11)	
Port Vale	34	6	8	3	25-17	1	6	10	12-34	28	12th	23rd	3833	5136	Ken Beamish 12(9)	
Plymouth A	33	3	6	6	18-19	3	7	8	20-31	25	8th	23rd	6632	12399	Terry Austin 11(11)	
Bradford C	33	7	6	4	30-23	1	3	12	11-35	25	11th	24th	5273	12857	Bernie Wright 10(10)	
Hereford U	33	7	7	3	20-16	0	4	12	4-28	25	14th	24th	4748	6392	**Billy Holmes 9(7)	
Rotherham U	30	6	4	4	16-12	2	4	10	19-34	24	2nd	23rd	4898	6599	Richard Finney 11(8)	
Portsmouth	35	3	9	5	24-25	1	6	11	7-33	23	13th	24th	10376	13152	Dave Kemp 21(16)	

*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.

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Spotlight on Division 3

By Tony Pullein

POMPEY LOOK SET FOR DROP

One of the saddest sights in the Third Division at the moment is Portsmouth's position at the bottom of the table. When they were beaten at home by Walsall just over a week ago, they extended their bleak spell to nine League games without a win and it was beginning to look certain that they will drop into the Fourth Division for the first time at the end of this season. Pompey had won only four League games all season and, even though they were only two points behind the safety margin of the fifth-from-bottom club, they had been showing no signs of jumping to safety.

Pompey's present demise comes at a time when it had seemed they might be on the road back to recovery. Last season they had a miraculous escape from financial disaster. At one stage it appeared they might not survive the season.

Though the cash position is still very serious, the critical point has been passed and, now they were in a position to purchase one or two new players, Fratton Park fans had been looking for some improvement from the team. The one encouraging thing for the people who run the club is the size of attendances which still average at well over 10,000.

Another famous Naval port also faces the prospect of seeing its team in Division Four for the first time --- Plymouth. One move to try and improve the situation saw Argyle invest £20,000 in Bristol City striker Keith Fear and the new man opened his account with a goal in their 2-2 home draw with Chester.

Fear lost his regular place in Bristol's team over a year ago and is keen to show that he has not lost the scoring touch that promised to make him a big star when he broke into the City side some five years ago.

Plymouth have also been in the sellers' market. John Delve, the mid-field man they signed from Q.P.R. for £25,000 in 1974, has moved on to Devon rivals Exeter City. The £15,000 fee involved was a record for the Exeter club.

Carlisle, relegated from the Second Division with Plymouth at the end of last season, now seem to be safe from the drop and that's why they agreed to sell top scorer Bill Rafferty to Wolves for £125,000. Carlisle signed Rafferty from Plymouth at the beginning of last season for a mere £20,000 and last season he was their leading marksman with 21 goals.

10

He had scored 18 for the Cumbrians this term.

Rafferty began his career with Coventry City and moved on to Blackpool in 1972. Plymouth signed him for £25,000 two years later.

Like Rafferty, Brendon Batson is also hoping to succeed in the First Division at the second attempt. Batson got only a few games in Arsenal's First Division side before transferring to Cambridge in 1974. But he impressed so much with his right-back performances for the Cambridge club that Albion manager Ron Atkinson, who was formerly in charge of Cambridge, recently completed his transfer to the Throstles.

Chester could be on the point of setting up a new league record for the number of drawn games in a season. Their 2-2 affair at Plymouth was their 17th in 32 games. The record is 22 shared by Tranmere Rovers in 1970/71 and Aldershot a year later.

Wrexham may well have lost interest in the F.A. Cup following their home sixth round tie with Arsenal on Saturday --- these notes having been written before the weekend --- but if they did produce another shock then they could be on the point of making a new breakthrough for Wales. The last time the Principality had a club in the F.A. Cup final was in 1927 when Cardiff City defeated Arsenal to take the trophy out of England for the only time.

Yet, even if Wrexham could win the F.A. Cup they will not necessarily qualify for the European Cup-Winners' Cup. A UEFA rule stipulates that only English clubs can qualify by winning the F.A. Cup.

WREXHAM

By Tony Pullein

What a wonderful season this has been for Wrexham! Prior to last weekend they had equalled club records by reaching the fifth round of the League Cup and the sixth round of the F.A. Cup. And they are running very strongly for promotion.

If they managed to knock Arsenal out of the F.A. Cup on Saturday then they will have become only the sixth Third Division club ever to get as far as the semi-finals.

They had already scored three victories over First Division clubs in Cup competitions this season - Bristol City in both Cups and Newcastle in the F.A. Cup.

On their way to the sixth round of the F.A. Cup, Wrexham beat Burton Albion (2-0), Preston (2-0), Bristol City (3-0 after a 4-4 draw), Newcastle (4-1 after a 2-2 draw) and Blyth Spartans (2-1 after a 1-1 draw).

Striker Dixie McNeil scored in every one of those games and went into the Arsenal game with 10 F.A. Cup goals to his credit - just five short of the record which has stood for 77 years.

We numbered among Wrexham's victims in the League Cup as they progressed to the quarter-finals. They finally met their match in Liverpool, the European Champions, who won 3-1 at The Racecourse with the help of a Kenny Dalglish hat-trick.

In the League, Wrexham are once again hoping to achieve Second Division status for the first time. They seemed guaranteed a place in the Second Division last year when they pulled five points clear of the fourth club with only five games to play. Yet, incredibly, they lost their last four matches and forfeited third place to C. Palace by one point.

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After that bitter disappointment, manager John Neal moved on to accept a new challenge at Middlesbrough but his work is being continued by his former assistant Arfon Griffiths who is the club's player-manager.

Mr. Griffiths pulled off the club's most shrewd transfer deal when he paid Hereford £60,000 for Dixie McNeil who had scored 23 times before the weekend. McNeil came in as replacement for Billy Ashcroft, who followed Mr. Neal to Middlesbrough.

The new manager also signed two Welsh internationals - goalkeeper Dai Davies, from Everton, and midfielder man Les Cartwright, from Coventry.

Wrexham have won six away League games this season - at Exeter (1-0), Walsall (1-0), Preston (3-1), Plymouth (1-0), Portsmouth (1-0) and Lincoln (1-0).

They drew at Peterborough (2-2), Chester (1-1) and Rotherham (2-2).

Wrexham were beaten at Shrewsbury (1-2), Tranmere (1-3), Chesterfield (0-1), Bradford City (1-2) and Oxford (1-2).

The Wrexham club was founded in 1873 and became a founder member of the Third Division (North) in 1921.

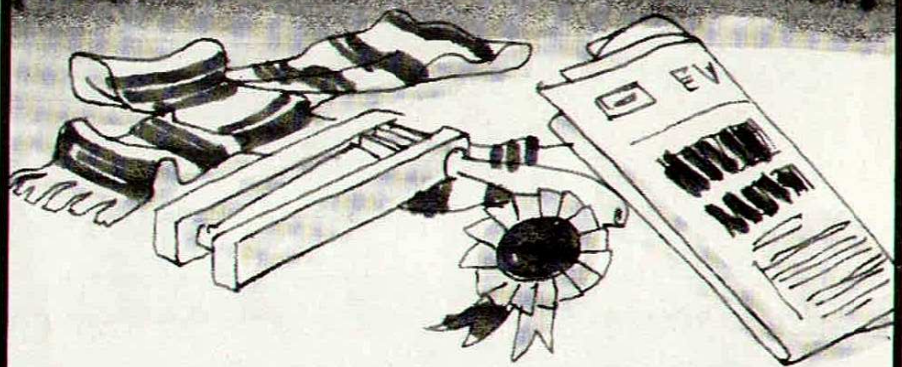
Between 1929 and 1933 they twice finished third and once second, missing promotion by only two points to Hull City. After the war, in 1948 and 1953, they again finished third but they have still to attain Second Division status.

When the two sections of the Third Division were fused to form the new Third and Fourth Divisions in 1958, Wrexham scraped into the higher league on goal-average. But only two years later they were relegated. They regained their place in 1962 only to suffer the drop again within another two years. Their worst season was 1965/66 when they landed bottom of Division IV and had to apply for re-election for the first time in their history.

Wrexham made club history in 1972/73 when they played European football for the first time. In 1975/76 they enjoyed a magnificent run to the quarter-finals of the European Cup-Winners' Cup.

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14th MARCH

1978

SWINDON

at 7.30p.m.

WREXHAM

- 1 ALLAN J.
- 2 McLAUGHLIN J.
- 3 FORD A.
- 4 STROUD K.
- 5 CARTER R.
- 6 PROPHETT C.
- 7 MOSS D.
- 8 KAMARA C.
- 9 GUTHRIE C.
- 10 McHALE R.
- 11 BATES C.



- 1 NIEDZWIECKI E.
- 2 HILL A.
- 3 DWYER A.
- 4 DAVIS G.
- 5 ROBERTS J.
- 6 THOMAS M.
- 7 SHINTON B.
- 8 SUTTON M.
- 9 McNEIL R.
- 10 LYONS J.
- 11 WHITTLE G.

REFEREE:

MR. LESLIE BURDEN (Wimborne, Dorset)
Qualified as a referee in Dorset (1953), then via Southern League to Football League in 1970. Has acted as linesman in England v. Denmark - Under 23 in 1974 and a U.E.F.A. Cup match and Under 23 International in 1975.

Married with three children, he is a Company Director designing interior furnishings for hotels and private houses. He is Secretary to Association of Football League Referees and Linesmen (West of England Section) and also serves on the training committee.

Linesmen: Red Flag: MR. D. A. HOWELL - Patchway, Bristol Yellow Flag: MR. R. RIMMEL - Shepton Mallett

NEXT MATCH

Friday next, 17th March 1978
DIVISION III
CHESTER
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