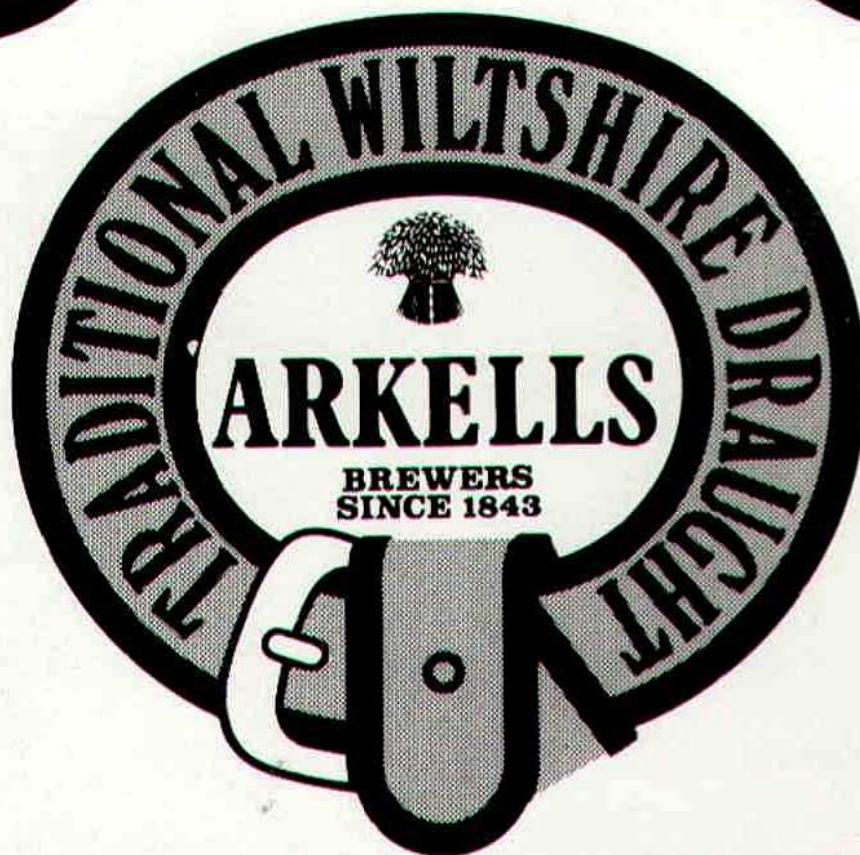




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v

HULL CITY



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Talk of the Town by the Chairman

Today we welcome our visitors from Hull and it seems a long time since their last journey to the County Ground.

This past week has been a week of celebration for members of the staff with number one being John Trollope's presentation to Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace on the occasion of his M.B.E. award. This day I am sure will never be forgotten by John and his family and it will certainly be written into the history of the Swindon Town Football Club. Number two occasion was Bryan Hamilton leading Northern Ireland to victory in Sofia over Bulgaria by two goals to nil. When England play Northern Ireland at Wembley on February 7th I am sure that there will be many fans from Swindon who will be rooting for Bryan. Number three celebration in our camp was the award made to Bob Smith as the Manager of the Month for Division Three and we all hope that he will continue to win these awards because we shall be assured of success in the League if he does.

Talking of celebrities we are honoured today by the presence of our Member of Parliament Mr. David Stoddard together with Mrs Stoddard. We are very pleased to welcome them and hope they enjoy the match. We have had the honour to entertain our Mayor, Councillor Ashley Roberts on a couple of occasions this season but much as he would like to see us every week, his duties keep him busy elsewhere. We are hoping that the end of the season will bring honours to our town. This past week also brought success to our Swindon Schoolboy team against Ply-

mouth in the English Shield and takes them on to round five and we wish them well when they play Barking away.

Our young reserve team with the help of a few of our senior players are picking up useful points and their game against Crystal Palace on the County Ground last Saturday was well worth seeing and four goals shared made entertaining watching. John's Midland Youth team have a break from their fixtures until December 11th when they play Northampton Town away.

We took a side to Trowbridge on Tuesday evening of this week in the first round of the County Shield game and won 3-2, and so we meet Salisbury City in the final later on in the season. This is on a home and away basis.

Next Saturday we entertain Enfield a leading Club in the Isthmian League and we have great respect for four teams from this League, who have reached a very high standard indeed over the years. With the cup-tie at home and Exeter City also on the County Ground on the following Saturday, we have the unusual experience of being on the County Ground for three Saturdays in succession.

We have been told that our fixture with Swansea on Boxing Day, at Swansea is going to be an all ticket game. We hope to have some ground tickets for the game for sale, so do not leave it until the last minute before making enquiries.

Today we hope to switch on our new floodlights for the first time and I am sure that you will agree that it is a wonderful improvement.

Bits and Pieces

PIC OF THE PAST

SWINDON TOWN 1 HULL CITY 0 (18.10.69)



Swindon's Don Heath watches as his shot beats keeper Ian McKechnie but crashes against the crossbar.

SWINDON TOWN v. HULL CITY

'GOALS AND GATES'

(Town score given first)

At Swindon	Season	At Hull
2-0 14,355	1958-59	0-0 12,035
1-1 10,875	1960-61	0-0 5,514
1-1 9,252	1961-62	1-0 3,729
2-0 10,015	1962-63	1-1 4,361
3-1 15,682	1965-66	0-1 23,163
1-0 18,791	1969-70	1-1 10,855
1-1 16,227	1970-71	0-2 20,958
2-1 11,563	1971-72	0-2 10,700
2-1 8,191	1972-73	2-3 9,131
1-1 4,398	1973-74	1-0 5,348

John Ward talks to

Paul Plowman

Paul Plowman is Swindon Town's unpaid archivist. Just for fun he compiles details of all Swindon's past games against visiting teams which you read from time to time in the programme. To do this sort of work you need to be mad about Swindon and have a very retentive memory. Paul possesses both attributes. He remembers clearly how it all began on 16th October 1964, when he was fifteen. Living in Kent at the time he was on holiday staying with his Aunt in Swindon. He was being a nuisance so she sent him off to football to get him out of the way. Swindon drew three all with Cardiff in the thrilling end-to-end game and Paul immediately became a fan of football and of Swindon Town in particular for life.

HELICOPTER

Previously he had shown hardly any interest in the game. He has vague recollections of sharing a stool with some friends behind Bill Brown's goal at White Hart Lane around 1961 when Spurs were playing Manchester United before a full house. Extraordinary though it may seem, since he is now six feet six, Paul was only five feet tall and he did not see enough of the game to be impressed. His apprenticeship as a spectator was served at Southern League Tonbridge but when he went to work at the Post Office he would take every other Saturday off and travelled regularly to Swindon's home games. His real breakthrough came when he joined British Rail as a computer operator. With a certain amount of flexibility over which shifts he works Paul has achieved an unbelievable record since September 69: he has only missed two Swindon Town games during this period, one away at Carlisle and the other on the Saturday his sister was married. Even then he contemplated hiring a helicopter to fly straight from the wedding to the ground! At one stage during this spell he saw 362 consecutive games.

Paul qualifies for membership of the exclusive 92 club, that is he has visited every ground in the Football League; or rather he had until this season because he has yet to go to Wigan Athletic. His next goal is the Scottish League circuit. His most cherished trip north of the border so far is to watch Stonehousemuir, whose ground graces a field behind a toffee factory. Swindon's pre-season tour of Scotland enabled him to clock up several more grounds: in addition to Swindon's own games he managed to fit in St Mirren versus Southampton and - an example of the real fanatic - Clydebank versus Port Vale! All this was at a time when he should have been on holiday in Greece. He was on the way there and had got as far as Yugoslavia only to turn back when the pull of Swindon became too great.

RIOT IN ROTTERDAM

Paul has also watched football abroad. In addition to Swindon's close seasons matches in Tunisia and Majorca, which he saw with his friend Andy Fitzgerald (see the Southend programme), he accompanied a workmate who was a keen Wolves fan to watch them play Juventus in Turin in the UEFA Cup in 1971/72 and stayed overnight to return to the same stadium the following morning to see the other local form, Torino play Glasgow Rangers. Paul was also at the notorious UEFA Cup Final in Rotterdam in 1974 when Spurs played Feijenoord and Spurs supporters started hurling seats down from the stands on to the pitch to such an extent that Bill Nicholson was forced to make an appeal over the loudspeaker system. Paul describes his most obscure footballing experience abroad as the match he saw while touring Scandinavia two years ago. There in the beautiful coast town of Sundsvall he saw a splendid local Derby between two Division Two North teams. The size of the crowd reminded him of his only visit to Workington, where he was one of 1102 spectators to see them beaten by Darlington. By coincidence the month before he had seen Darlington again, this time at Southport, who have subsequently gone the way of Workington, out of the League.

Over the years Paul has got to know a number of Swindon players fairly well. His first contact was Ray Treacy who used to live in Blackheath near Paul's home in Kent. The scheme whereby supporters could sponsor the team coach to an away game and travel with the team provided a good opportunity to get on friendly terms with the players. On one such occasion when the coach arrived back in Swindon Paul, who was then living in Reading, was given a lift home by Will Dixon with whom he struck up a friendship. Will was one of the most popular players with the regular supports and Paul organised a collection to buy him a present when he was transferred to Aldershot.

ODD JOBS

Paul spends many hours in the Swindon library preparing his football statistics. With them the Evening Advertiser have been very helpful and he has now the services of the Edgware Newspaper Library. His collection of football programmes includes most home Swindon programmes since the 1949/50 season. He has the names of every Swindon team for the past forty years. He is now engaged on the major project of writing a history of Swindon Town Football Club which he hopes to complete for their centenary in two years' time. Meanwhile Paul is continually helping out by doing odd jobs at the County Ground. Probably the oddest was

Continued on Page 13

HAVEN'T WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE?

The 'Tigers' first-ever League visit to Swindon was on Wednesday August 27 1958, during the week that the new Third Division had first come into force. Goals by ALAN MICKLEWRIGHT and BOB EDWARDS gave the Town maximum points from the two opening games. On the following Monday, the return was played at Boothferry Park and a goalless draw enabled Swindon to preserve their unbeaten record. Unfortunately, the Town lost at home on the next Saturday - going down 1-2 to Accrington Stanley.

During April 1961, the clubs again met twice within a few days. At the County Ground on Wednesday 12, ERNIE HUNT netted Swindon's goal from the penalty spot whilst CHARLIE CRICKMORE recorded the visitor's. CHARLIE CRICKMORE was also responsible for securing Hull a point when City returned here on September 16 that year, the Town's scorer being the late RALPH HUNT.

Hull were still unable to break their home scoring 'duck' against the Town on February 3 1962, when a first-half goal from JACK SMITH gave Swindon both points. Gate receipts for that match at Boothferry were a paltry £381.

In the Town's first promotion season, 1962-63, the 'Tigers' came to the County Ground on September 8. Swindon's goals, one in each half, came from JOHN TROLLOPE - only the second in his long career - and ERNIE HUNT. Swindon's scheduled visit to Hull that season, on January 19, became one of the many casualties suffered due to the weather. The game actually started, but had run only 45 minutes before the referee abandoned play with the score still at 0-0. This went into the record books as being the first fixture to be abandoned at Boothferry Park since the ground had opened in 1946. The teams finally met again on May 18 when City's JOHN McSEVENEY replied to a first-half goal from ERNIE HUNT.

After Swindon's two-year break in the Second Division, the clubs next met at Hull on the evening of Wednesday September 1 1965 and on this occasion KEN

WAGSTAFF hit the goal to give the home side their first-ever victory over the Town. Swindon gained revenge four months later when goals by KEITH EAST, ROGER SMART and TOMMY HENDERSON ensured a 3-1 victory. Nevertheless, the 'Tigers' still finished Division Three champions that season.

When the Town joined Hull in the Second Division three years later, the clubs met here on October 18 1969. A second-half FRANK BURROWS goal was sufficient to give Swindon both points. At Boothferry on the last day of February, CHRIS CHILTON scored for the home side and DON ROGERS for the visitors.

Hull City opened the 70-71 season with a trip to Swindon on August 15, IAN BUTLER equalising a first-half goal by Town's PETER NOBLE. A superb volleyed goal by KEN WAGSTAFF and a further effort by CHRIS CHILTON gave the Yorkshire side both points in the return encounter on Friday October 16.

Almost twelve months later Swindon were defeated at Hull by an identical scoreline, 0-2, STUART PEARSON and MALCOLM LORD registering the goals this time. In the following January, the teams were level at the interval after goals by PETER NOBLE for Swindon and KEN WAGSTAFF for Hull. ARTHUR HORSFIELD popped up in the second half to give the Town victory.

At Boothferry Park on September 30 1972, the Town took the lead in the eighth minute with a rasping shot from RON HOWELL - his only League goal for the club. Player-manager TERRY NEILL equalised before the break and although Swindon added a second through PETER NOBLE, goals by IAN BUTLER and PHIL HOLME settled the issue for the home side.

Hull last came to the County Ground on January 26 1974 and went home with a point from a ROY GREENWOOD goal. PETER EASTOE was the successful marksman for the Town. On the Easter Monday of that year Swindon journeyed to Yorkshire and returned with both points - the only away victory in that relegation season.



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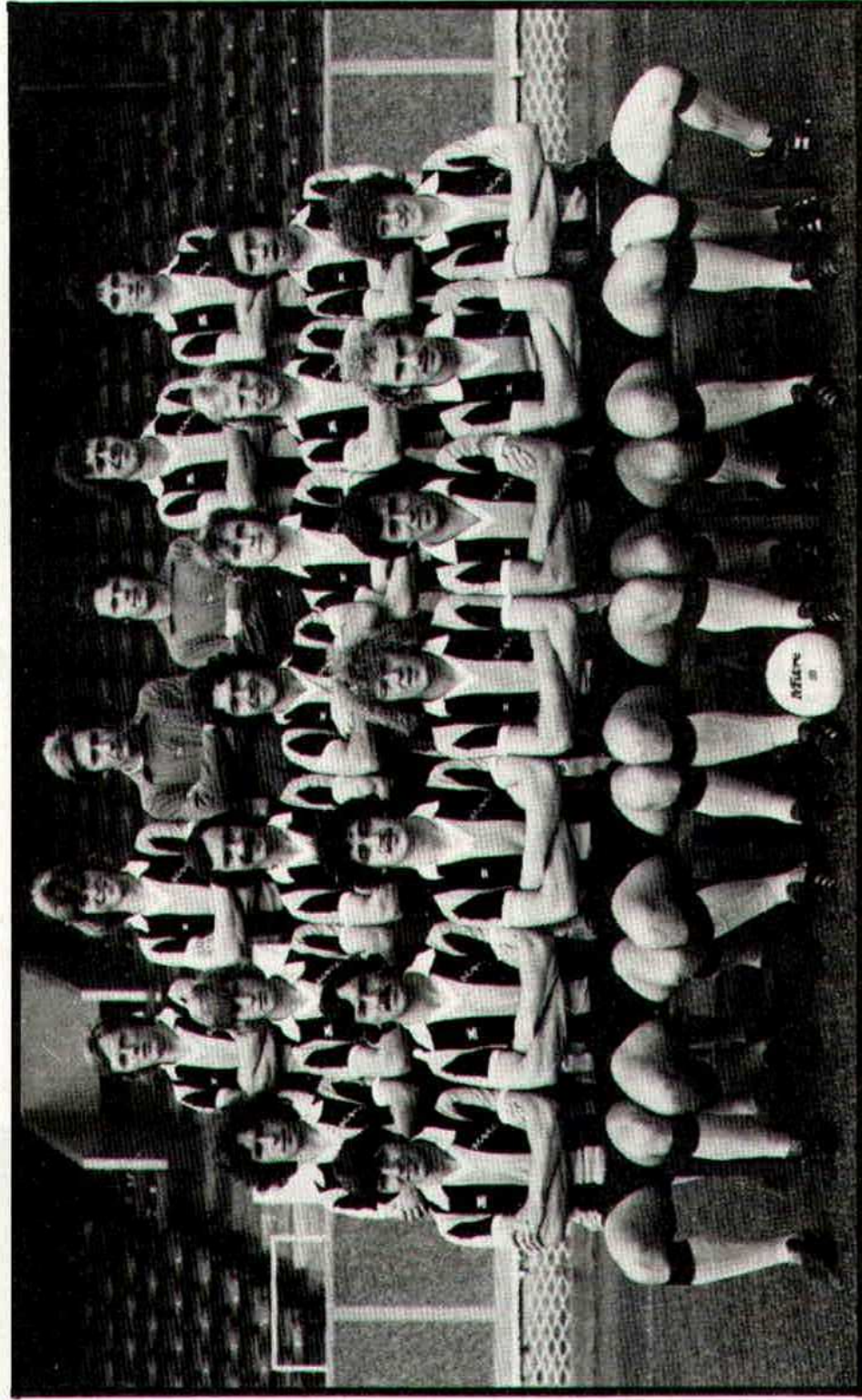
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IN TOWN TODAY



HULL CITY

Back Row: K. Edwards; R. McDonald; J. Wealands; W. Boyd; A. Warboys; D. Stewart,
 Mdle. Row: C. Hartley; C. Norrie; G. Nisbet; B. Bannister; D. Hawker; M. Horswill;
 J. Farley;
 Front Row: R. de Vries; D. Hood; I. Dobson; S. Croft; M. Lord; P. Haigh; B. Marwood

IN TOWN TODAY

HULL CITY By Tony Pullein

Hull City have been through a disappointing period, following a brilliant opening to the season, and it's beginning to look doubtful that they will now be able to regain the Second Division place they lost at the end of last season.

When the Tigers took nine points from their first six games, they looked set for immediate promotion. Then they slumped through nine games without a win and now they find themselves in the lower half of the table.

Manager Ken Houghton has not allowed himself to be panicked into drastic changes, however, and most of the alterations he has made in his line-up have been caused through injuries. Eddie Blackburn, for instance, has recently returned in goal due to an injury to Jeff Wealands.

Blackburn, who served his apprenticeship at Boothferry Park, made his League bow in 1974/75 but then went back to the reserves until taking over from Wealands at the end of last season. Wealands, who joined Hull from Darlington in 1972, returned this season, however, until he was injured. Wealands began his career with Wolves but didn't make their League eleven.

Gordon Nisbet and Roger de Vries seem certain to be the full-backs but there were injury doubts about centre-backs Stuart Croft and Ian Dobson. If Dobson is fit he will probably play alongside Paul Haigh.

Nisbet had the unusual experience of opening his career in the Football League with West Bromwich against Coventry in August 1969 as a goalkeeper! When he next played in the Throstles' senior side he was a right-back and he went on to gain England under-23 caps in that position. After losing his place in the Albion side, he joined Hull in 1976.

All the other members of the back four developed with Hull. De Vries has been the permanent left-back since 1970, Croft won a regular place in 1974/75, Haigh earned a long run two seasons back whilst Dobson took over as a fixture in the side only last season.

Contenders for the midfield places include Mike Horswill, who will be remembered as a member of Sunderland's F.A. Cup winning team in 1973, Malcolm Lord and Derek Hood.

Horswill made his bow in the Sunderland side in 1971/72 and was lucky enough to win a regular place the following season just as the club embarked on its famous run to Wembley. The following season he was transferred to Manchester City for £100,000 but he didn't get a lot of encouragement at Maine Road so he moved on to Plymouth for £30,000 in 1975.

With Argyle, he sometimes played as a central defender, but after joining Hull during the last close-season he has been seen mostly in mid-field.

Lord and Hood both came up from the junior sides. Lord made his first appearances in the League team in 1966/67 and has now played over 400 senior games for the club. Hood was drafted in for a few matches last season and he has been eased steadily into the side again this term.

One-time striker Alan Warboys, signed from Fulham for £25,000 last season, seems to have dropped into a deeper midfield role these days. He hasn't made many full appearances this season but he is invariably in when Hood is not selected. Warboys played his early professional football with Doncaster, Sheffield Wednesday --- when the Owls were in the First Division --- and Cardiff City. Then, following a short spell with Sheffield United, he joined Bristol Rovers for £38,000 in 1973 to begin the most successful phase of his career. For his first two complete seasons at Eastville, he was their top scorer. A £30,000 move took him to Fulham in 1977.

It was while at Bristol that Alan teamed up with striker Bruce Bannister to form one of the most prolific partnerships in the country. Bannister joined Rovers from Bradford City for £23,000 in 1971 and during their four years together at Eastville they hit a total of 134 goals!

Bannister was on three occasions their top scorer until he moved on to Plymouth in 1976. Hull paid £15,000 for him at the beginning of last season.

Mr. Houghton bought two new forwards last summer, paying Sheffield United £60,000 for Keith Edwards and signing John Farley from Wolves for an undisclosed fee.

Edwards, who was the Blades' top scorer with 18 goals in 1967/68, made an explosive start with the Tigers, hitting four goals in his first three League games. He is now their leading marksman with 11 goals.

Farley began his professional days with Watford, making his League debut in 1970/71. After a loan spell with Halifax, he was transferred to Wolves in 1974.

Hull have won two away League games --- at Tranmere (3-1) and Rotherham (2-0). They took a point from a 1-1 draw at Bury but were beaten on their other trips to Brentford (0-1), Exeter (1-3), Shrewsbury (0-1), Gillingham (0-2), Southend (0-3) and Chester (1-2).

From our Tame Statistician Dr. B.E. Cooper

Six wins in the last seven league matches. No wonder bells are ringing for our manager. Cheers Bobby.

It is amazing what six wins do for our league position said he profoundly. However we are still not in the first three because our results in the first eleven matches were not quite so good said he equally profoundly. The league table remembers all matches equally. It does not take special note of the latest.

I make these 'obvious' points to emphasise that the method of forecasting I use considers all matches played so far on equal terms. On this basis the forecast predicts 52 points at the end of the season which is a little short of promotion. Last season 56 points and a good goal difference were necessary for promotion.

I have drawn my forecast on the usual diagram. This shows a number of interesting features of our fixtures. The last seven matches have a magnificent upwards direction which if continued would take us off the top of the diagram before the end of the season. There is no doubt that a forecast giving more importance to the latest matches would be predicting promotion.

The second interesting feature is that the forecast after the next two homes matches is basically flat for about 12 matches. This says that we can expect an average of one point per match during this period.

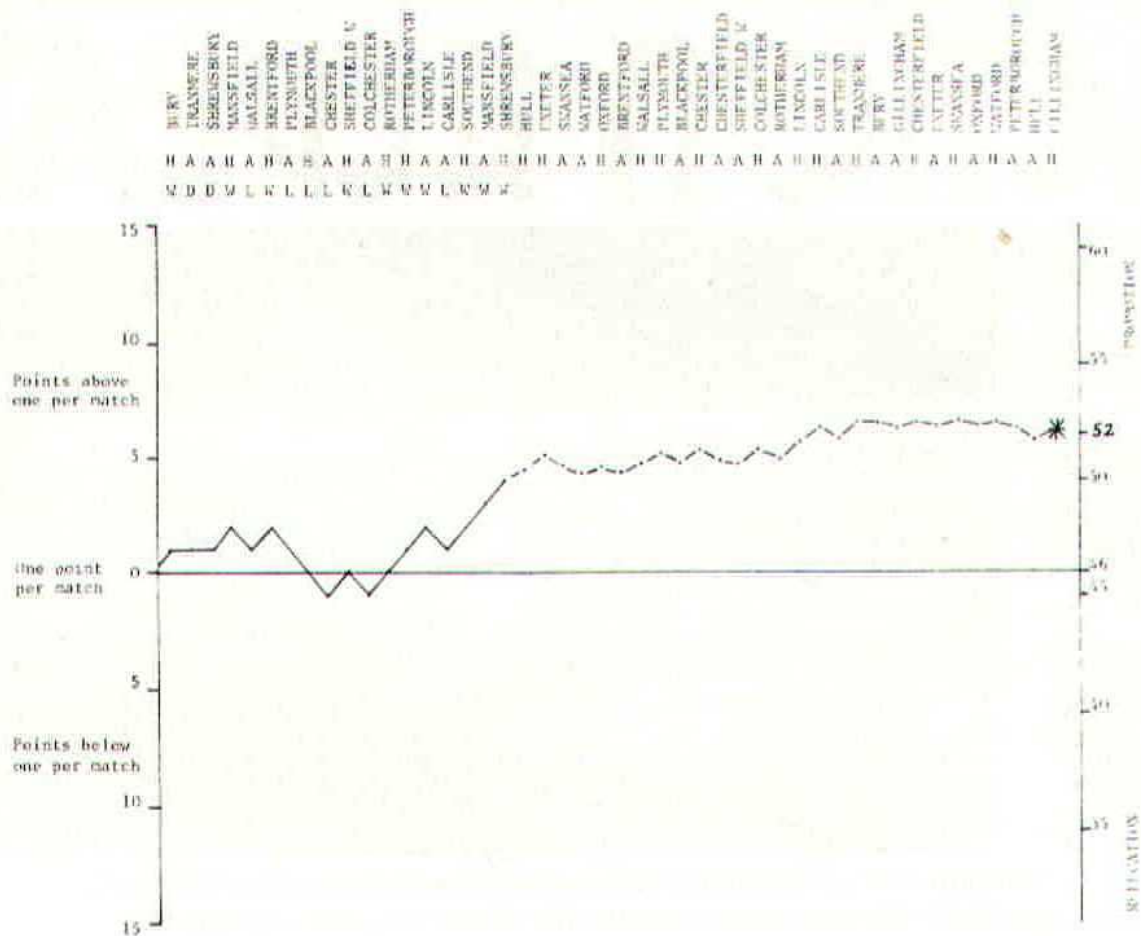
The third feature is that there is a similar flat section for the end of the season. This is due to the tough set of fixtures at the end of the season with more aways than homes and the home matches being against Watford, Swansea and Gillingham.

The message of the forecast is therefore very clear. If we can do better than one point per match during these two flat sequences particularly against the three teams listed above then we should pick up enough points to qualify for Division Two next season.

The task ahead expressed in these terms seems to be well within the bounds of the possible. If we maintain the performance of the last seven matches promotion will be ours.

See you in a few weeks with, I hope, a higher forecast. In the mean time once again - cheers Bobby.

Mr. Bob Smith apologises that he has no notes in this programme. At the time of going to press he is in the process of moving house.



The Boxing Day Match at Swansea City

will be an all-ticket match and terrace tickets will be available price £1.00. Juniors will be able to purchase a reduced price ticket on production of their 'Junior Supporter Pass' and Swansea inform us that this pass must also be shown with the entry ticket on entering the ground. No tickets will be available on the day of the match.

ACTION REPLAY



Swindon striker Chic Bates (second left) heads home Ray McHale's free kick rebound off the bar for the Town's second goal against March Town in the FA Cup tie at the County Ground. Other Swindon players are Paul Gilchrist and Roy Carter.



Swindon's Paul Gilchrist (No 9) heads home a Chris Kamara cross for his side's first goal against March Town during the FA Cup 1st round at the County Ground.

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Continued from Page 5

one very wet night when he was at the ground early to help with forking the pitch. When he went into the dressing rooms the electrician asked him if he could assist in replacing a light-fitting in the players' loo. He got the job because he was the only person present who could reach without the use of a step-ladder!

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NATION WIDE

By Tony Pullein

"Who needs a manager when we're winning every week without one!" That's what one Sunderland wag shouted at Roker last week when his side had crushed Bristol Rovers 5-0. A week earlier Sunderland won 3-0 away to Luton and, though former manager Jimmy Adamson left for Leeds some weeks ago, the team is now challenging for promotion to the First Division.

Sunderland are being run at the moment by coach Dave Merrington, a former Burnley player, but he has turned down the chance of taking over as manager because he plans shortly to join Mr. Adamson at Leeds.

One man who applied for the Sunderland post was the former Republic of Ireland international defender Charlie Hurley, a one-time manager of Reading. "The worst thing that could happen is for a new manager to come in and change things. The team should be encouraged to carry on doing precisely as they are," he said.

Thank heavens our Train was late! That was the reaction at Watford last Saturday when the Third Division leaders Watford drew for the first time this season when held to a 1-1 draw at Vicarage Road by Mansfield. For it was only a last-ditch, long-range effort from record signing Ray Train that saved them from defeat.

Train, signed for a club record £50,000 from Bolton, hit his first goal in the dying seconds from some 25 yards out. Train's career has now turned full cycle. He began in the Third Division with Walsall, then went to Carlisle for a mere £5,000 in 1971. Second and First Division football at Brunton Park sharpened his game and Sunderland signed him for £90,000 in 1976.

Ray remained at Roker for only about a year before joining Bolton's fight for a return to Division One in a £30,000 deal. His invaluable goal averted what would have been Watford's third home defeat of the season.

Watford's crowd of 10,568 was their lowest for a League game this season yet were still above all the other Third Division gates and better than a couple in Division Two.

That dropped Watford point enabled Swansea City to climb back to within a point of the Hornets. Player-manager John Toshack was

back to his old scoring routine with two of the goals in a 4-2 home win over Sheffield Wednesday. Phil Boersma, Toshack's former Liverpool club mate, scored his first of the season while Jeremy Charles weighed in with his 13th of the season.

Alan Cork, the Fourth Division's leading scorer, came up trumps again last weekend when he hit two match winners for Wimbledon against stubborn Halifax. Cork opened the scoring after only four minutes, then got another in the second-half, to take his total for the season to 16.

Halifax, bottom of the table but showing plenty of fight, pulled one goal back very late in the game through Bobby Campbell though they never looked likely to smash the Dons' unbeaten home record. Halifax have now failed to win any of their last 18 League and Cup games and new manager George Kirby, now in his second spell in charge, seems to have an almost impossible task if he is to save the club from having to apply for re-election.

Though Wimbledon extended their lead at the top of the table to four points, they were watched by their smallest crowd of the season - a meagre 2,374.

Portsmouth manager Jimmy Dickinson was named Bell's Fourth Division manager of the month for transforming the outlook at Fratton Park. For years they have faded gloom at Fratton Park as one relegation has followed another. But Pompey's 2-0 win at Northampton last Saturday extended their unbeaten run to five matches and put them into second place in the table.

Pompey haven't conceded a goal in those five matches and last weekend's success over the Cobblers was their second against the same side in successive weeks. Seven days earlier Portsmouth knocked Northampton out of the FA Cup with another 2-0 victory, that being at Fratton Park.

Jeff Hemmerson, who scored both their Cup goals, got another at the County Ground and now has 12 goals to his credit this season.

Exeter City haven't scored a goal since they sold striker Tony Kellow to Blackpool for £125,000 and that means they are still awaiting a goal from the man they signed to replace Kellow - former Millwall forward Ian Pearson who hit 13 goals for the Lions last season.

Last Saturday Pearson even missed a penalty!

Neither has Kellow scored for his new club so, at the moment, it's a move that doesn't seem to have benefited anyone. But, knowing Kellow, we can expect to find his name quite prominently on the score sheet in the not too distant future.

Brentford eased their relegation problems somewhat by defeating Walsall 1-0 at Griffin Park, the only goal coming from Andy McCulloch in the 31st minute following an uncharacteristic error by Republic of Ireland international goalkeeper Mick Kearns. The 'keeper failed to hold a corner and dropped the ball at McCulloch's feet for a gift goal.



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2. J. McLaughlin
3. A. Ford
4. R. McHale
5. S. Aizlewood
6. K. Stroud
7. I. Miller
8. R. Carter
9. P. Gilchrist
10. C. Bates
11. B. Williams
12. C. Kamara

at 3.00pm



NEXT MATCH

Saturday 16th December
F.A. Cup — Second Round

ENFIELD

K.O. 3.0 p.m.

HULL CITY

1. Blackburn
2. G. Nisbet
3. R. DeVries
4. M. Horswill
5. I. Dobson
6. P. Haigh
7. A. Warboys
8. M. Lord
9. K. Edwards
10. B. Bannister
11. J. Farley

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REFEREE:

RAY W. TOSELAND, (Market Harborough)

Commenced refereeing in 1957 then progressed through the Kettering and District Amateur and United Counties Leagues to the Football Combination and Football League Full List. Refereed the 1975 F.A. Vase Final at Wembley and was Linesman for the F.A. Challenge Trophy the previous year. Has also officiated in matches in Holland and Italy.

He is a married man with one daughter, and is an Office Manager for a shoe manufacturer. His hobbies are gardening and walking.

KEY OF THE BOARD

- A Blackpool v Peterborough
- B Carlisle v Exeter
- C Colchester v Bury
- D Lincoln v Oxford Utd.
- E Mansfield v Brentford
- F Plymouth v Watford
- G Rotherham v Chesterfield
- H Sheffield Wed. v Chester
- I Shrewsbury v Gillingham
- J Walsall v Tranmere
- K Birmingham v Everton
- L Bolton v Wolverhampton
- M Chelsea v Aston Villa
- N Coventry v Queen's Park Rangers
- O Derby v Manchester Utd.
- P Leeds v Bristol City
- Q Liverpool v Nottm. Forest
- R Manchester City v Southampton
- S Norwich v Arsenal
- T West Brom. Alb. v Middlesbrough

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