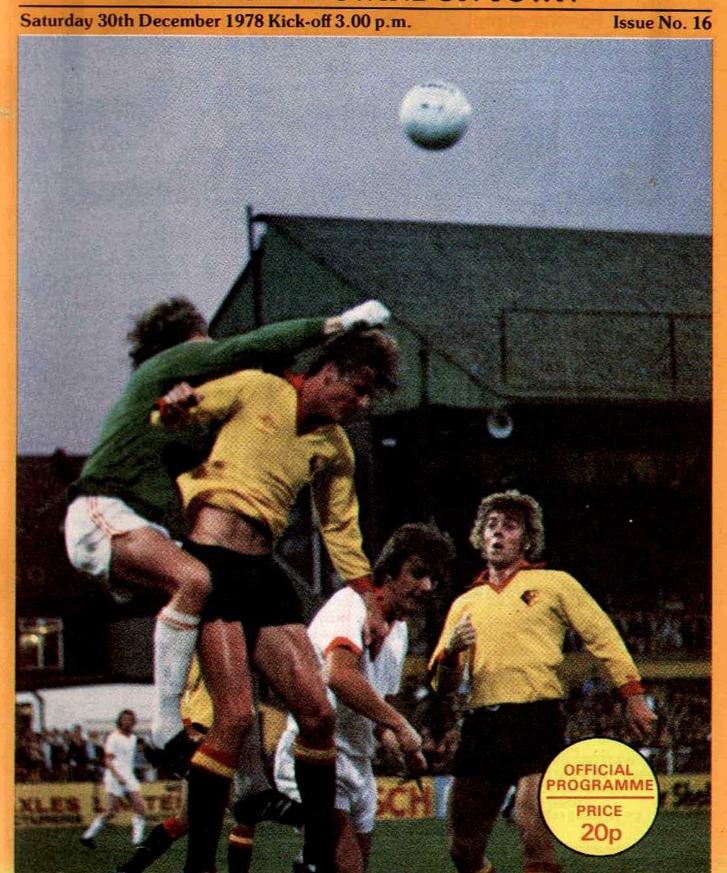
TATFORD

Football League Division 3

WATFORD v SWINDON TOWN





BATCHELOR & LEE LTD

Ridgeway Trading Estate, Iver, Bucks. Tel: Iver 654000

Timber & Building Material Merchants

We offer prompt free delivery of

All types of Softwood and Hardwood Timber, Floorings, Mouldings, Plywood, Hardboards, Wallboards, Doors, Gates, Fencings of all types, Ladders, etc., etc.

W. H. LAVERS & SONS LTD.

MERTON ROAD, WATFORD WD1 7BX

304 ST. ALBANS RD., WATFORD WD2 5PE

Head Office:

Corner Hall Wharf, Hemel Hempstead Also at HATFIELD ROAD, ST. ALBANS

Telephone:

WATFORD 25292 — Merton Road WATFORD 24017 — St. Albans Road HEMEL HEMPSTEAD 51311 — Corner Hall Wharf ST. ALBANS 51078 — Hatfield Road

HEAT FOR HIRE or SALE

Instant Economic Portable Heat within 24 hrs. 30,000 to 1,000,000 B.T.U's per hr. Electric, Propane and Oil fired Heaters. Delivered, Installed and Fuel supplies arranged. For long or Short term hire or Sale. The fastest answer to any Heating problem.

VALES PLANT REGISTER LTD.

TOLPITS LANE, WATFORD, HERTS
Tel: Rickmansworth 76688, 77705 & 77907

WATFORD Football Club



Tel: Watford 49747/9

Life President Jim Bonser

> Chairman Elton John

Vice Chairman Geoff Smith

Directors
Jim Harrowell
John Reid
Muir Stratford, J.P.

Hon. Vice-President Councillor S. L. Deakin (Mayor of Watford)

Chief Executive / Secretary Eddie Plumley, FAAi

> General Manager Graham Taylor

Assistant Manager Bertie Mee M.C.S.P., M.S.R.G.

General Secretary Ron Rollitt, FAAI

Trainer/Physiotherapist Dave Butler

> Coach Tom Walley

Commercial Manager Johnny Hartburn

Medical Officers
Dr. Vernon A. Edwards J.P.
and Partners

Hon. Orthopaedic Surgeon Mr. M. A. Edgar, M.A., F.R.C.S.

Editor Roland Orton
Printed by Alpine Press, Watford

Graham Taylor



Most people at this time of the year stop to think back over the past 12 months and assess what they have achieved.

Our record speaks for itself but I cannot help thinking that it might not have been quite as good if it was not for our away supporters.

There is no doubt about it we have a very special set of fans at Watford, who travel away to support the team.

I don't think many people realise how lonely it can be for the players, myself and the rest of the party when we visit an away ground knowing that virtually everybody there is willing us to lose. It gives us all a great boost when we get out onto the pitch and see pockets of our own fans on the terraces and in the stands. It always gives me a nice warm feeling to know there are at least a few people there we know.

We must have one of the largest contingents of away supporters in the country and at the end of the season there will be a lot of clubs in the Third Division who have us to thank for their best attendance.

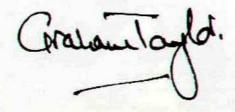
We always go out to score goals and win away from home so when our fans do travel with us they know they are assured of an adventurous and enterprising performance.

It pleases me no end to see the fans driving home after an away match with their scarves hanging out of the windows when we have won and done them proud.

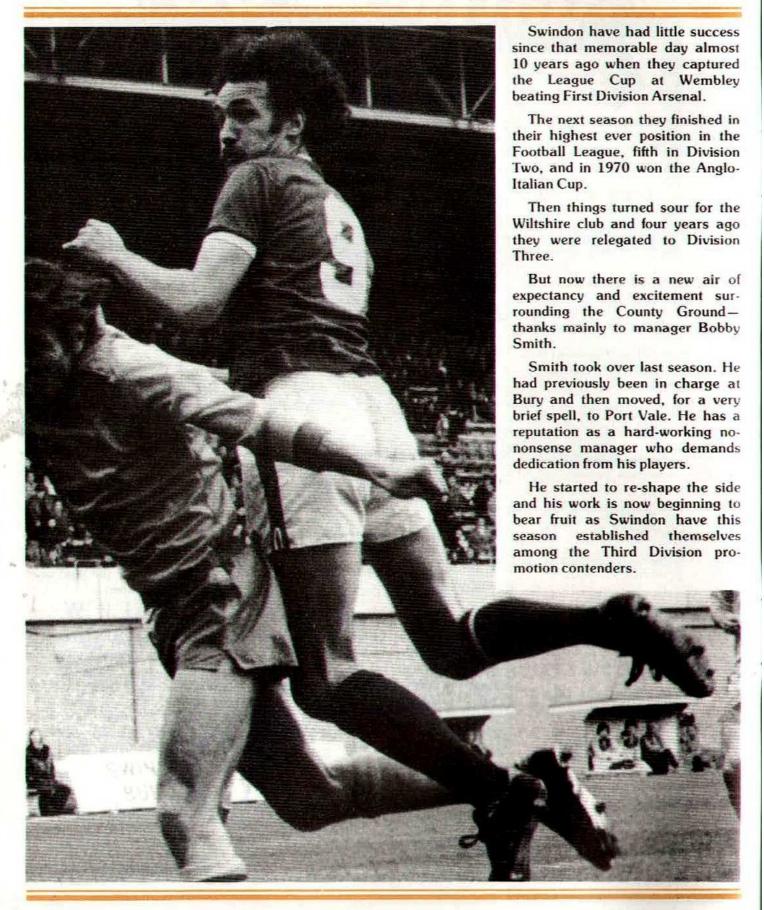
It's also nice to see that a lot of people wear the club's colours around the town. Carry on doing so, we all appreciate it very much indeed.

I would just like to say thank you for your support over the past year and I hope it continues.

I would also like to give an assurance that although we do have a minority element who use bad language and cause trouble every possible step is being taken to keep them out.



Swindon Town



Smith has attempted to blend experience with youth in his teambuilding plans.

He has recently signed Bryan Hamilton, the former Everton, Ipswich, Millwall and Northern Ireland international midfield player, who is now concentrating more on coaching but his wealth of knowledge should still prove to be invaluable to the club.

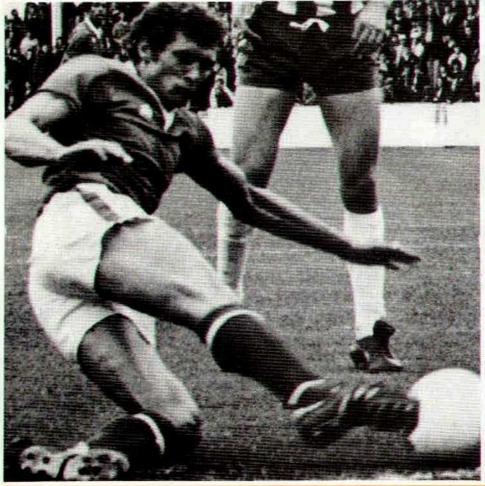
Paul Gilchrist, a member of the Southampton side which won the FA Cup recently has been signed from Portsmouth and Smith has also gone back to his former club Bury to buy prolific goalscorer Andy Rowlands.

> Above: Steve Aizlewood Below: Chic Bates. Right: Chris Kamara.

Smith has also signed an goalkeeper, experienced Chris Ogden, from Oldham, where he had made more than 100 first team appearances.

The new faces have moulded into a team which still contains several players who have been with the club for some time.







Skipper Ray McHale is rated as one of the best midfield players in the Third Division. He, along with defender Kenny Stroud and full-back John McLaughlin, have all made over 100 appearances for the club.

Other Swindon players to watch out for are former Shrewsbury striker Chic Bates and midfield player Chris Kamara.

See 'Spotlight Extra Special'



IND COOPE WATFORD F.C.



HAVE A KICK-OFF DRINK AT ANY OF OUR FOLLOWING PUBS

Pubs	Location	Mine Hosts
ODDFELLOWS	Fearnley Street, Watford	Mr & Mrs G. I. Quigley
ROBERT PEEL	King Street, Watford	Mr & Mrs T. M. Petrie
COACHMAKERS	High Street, Watford	Mr & Mrs M. R. Anderson
ESSEX ARMS	Langley Way, Watford	Mr & Mrs L. B. Kemp
BEAVER	Courtlands Drive	Mr & Mrs R. S. Fountain
THREE HORSESHOES	St Albans Road, Watford	Mr & Mrs D. T. Pullan
RED LION	A41, Aldenham	Mr & Mrs K. F. Oliver
TWO BRIDGES	Watford, Croxley Green	Mr & Mrs E. A. Hatter
ARTICHOKE	Croxley Green	Mr & Mrs L. H. Woods
HERTFORDSHIRE	St Albans Rd, N. Watford	Mr & Mrs S. T. Marshall
HIGHWAYMAN	Tolpits Lane, W. Watford	Mr & Mrs V. J. Bishop
THE BADGER	Gossamers, Meriden Est.	Mr & Mrs F. A. Johnson
THE ONE BELL	90 High Street, Watford	Mr & Mrs R. Scott
THE PENNANT	Station Road, Watford	Mr & Mrs S. Kennedy

IND COOPE BEERS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT CLUB BARS

SPOTLIGHT EXTRA



Action from our 0-0 draw at Stoke in the Football League Cup quarter-final. Luther Blissett (above) gets ready to challenge the Stoke goalkeeper and, below, Ross Jenkins sends a shot goalwards despite the attention of two Stoke defenders.

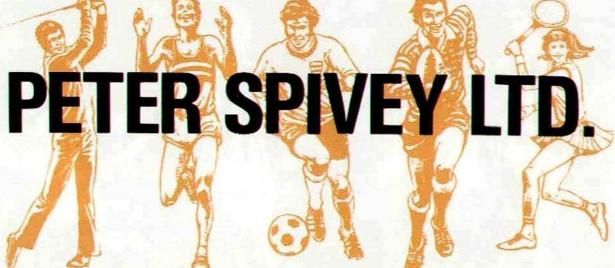


Post-Echo EVERY NIGHT

first with the news and sports reviews

Sports Final EVERY SATURDAY

Get your Sports Equipment from the Specialists



83 THE PARADE WATFORD TELEPHONE 26550 71 MARLOWES
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
TELEPHONE 56760

Sponsorship 1978/79

Player	Match Boots £20	Match Kit £10	Training Boots £15	Training Kit £10	Track Suit £15
Luther Blissett	Barbara & Stanley Levene Mrs Sheila Farebrother			her	
lan Bolton	JOHN DICKINSON & CO.				
Dennis Booth	Watford Observer	R. J. & A. D. Scrimshaw	Watford Observer	Reg Nix	Watford Observer
Keith Cassells	Wayne Hobbs & John Canvin	John Samway	A. Friend		
Bobby Downes	Chris & Andrew Eacott	Alan D. Goodrich	Don & Joe de Luca Sue St		Lynne & Paul Jacksor Sue Stevenson Russ Morgan
Sam Ellis	Mr & Mrs G. Bail Mrs Sheila Fa			Sheila Farebrot	her
Alan Garner	BRIDGEWATER WINDSCREENS LTD.				
Steve Harrison	Tony B. Cummins			T. E. Grace	M. & J. Chandler
Trevor How	Viv Gurney & Liz Durant	Roy Gurney	R. J. Smith	Julie Randell & Mrs Gwen Jordan	Gloria & Barbara Pearce
Ross Jenkins	IN MEMORY OF KEVIN WHITEMAN from his friends				
Roger Joslyn	RODNEY SAUNDERS ASSOCIATES ELSTREE AERODROME LTD.				
Alan Mayes	A. &	D. BUTLER, 17	0 BALDWINS LA	NE, CROXLEY O	GREEN
Albert McClenaghan	Mole, Colin, Gerry, Paul, Roger & Jim	John Boyes & Richard Harbour	Mole, Colin, Gerry, Paul Roger & Jim-Away supporters		
Keith Mercer	I. V. PARSONS & CO. LTD., WATFORD				
Brian Pollard	Watford Observer	Mr & Mrs E. R. Phillips	"Bounce"	Jane	Dick & Robin
Keith Pritchett	Karen Gurney	Linda & Roy Wordsworth	Rod Brook		
Andy Rankin	4 Gingers, Sid & Stick	E. D. Percy	N. J. Murray		
Steve Sherwood	K.B. HEATING LTD.				
John Stirk	P. J. BRIDGEWATER (Glass Merchants) LTD.				
Ray Train	ARROW EXPRESS MOTORCYCLE COURIERS				
Apprentices	THE VICE-PRESIDENTS				

Vice-Presidents 1978/79 E. C. Amey T. D. Batchelor E. E. Beaumont D. N. Broad G. S. Carsons E. H. Carter S. J. Clark T. Cuff J. Culliton T. A. Diamond S. Durrant F. Farebrother S. Farebrother P. Freeman T. Garel-Jones F. Geary R. Gibbons W. Goodall A. Goodrich A. Hill G. Hill H. Jaquest J. R. Joyce F. M. King R. Kitchener H. Lambert R. Leach D. de Luca J. de Luca J. T. Masterton J. G. Masterton C. Morgan J. Nash R. H. Nix W. J. Old R. J. Old W. Osborne F. Pacey C. G. Paul P. Phillips R. G. Phillips J. W. Pyrke J. Ross Sir Stanley Rous, C. B. E. P. R. Sartain A. V. J. Simpson J. Spires J. Squires D. Summers C. E. Walters S. J. Walsham K. J. Walker M. A. Watson

Inside the Hornet's Nest



Members of Watford Football Club gather round and back Chairman Elton John in the first public performance of 'Georgia', which they backed on his latest LP.

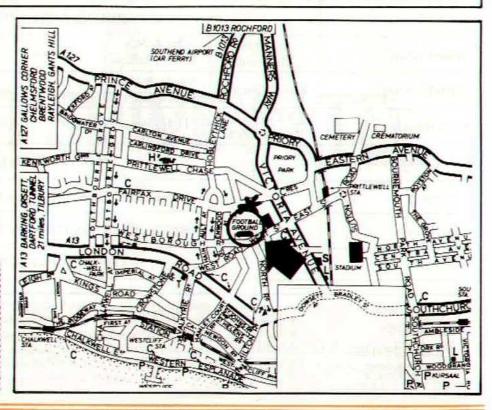
Mascots

Paul Thompson (7), "Trellaine" Lynwood Heights, Chorleywood. Roger Samways (6), Tylers Wood, 246 Amersham Road, Hazlemere, Bucks.

Away Travel

Southend approximately 70 miles. Take M1 southbound and exit junction 2. Turn left onto A406 (North Circular Road), at Redbridge turn left onto A12. Then after Basildon pick up A127. Follow A127 into Southend.









Getting in the Christmas mood! Chairman Elton John, left, thinly disguised as Father Christmas, distributes presents to player's families, whilst on the right—some well-known personalities do some chatting-up at the Club's Christmas dinner-dance.

Estate Agents - Surveyors. Local office of Abbey National

CRACKNELL & CO.

14 & 59 WHIPPENDELL ROAD, WATFORD. Telephone 29205/6 or 48561

We are again supporting Watford F.C. this season, for where Cracknell & Company receive sale instructions from this advertisement the benefit will be shared between Vendor and the Football Club.

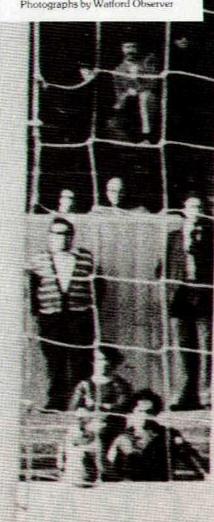
PERSONAL SERVICE IS AVAILABLE FROM EITHER Harvey Jaquest
(a Vice President of the Club) or Michael Hudson



GOALS! Watford fans have had plenty of glorious goals to savour in the past year, many of them from these two men Ross Jenkins and Luther Blissett. Let's hope 1979 brings just as many.

Photographs by Watford Observer













World Leaders in Digital Test and Measurement Equipment for Industry

FLUKE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
COLONIAL WAY
WATFORD WD2 4TT
Telephone Watford 40511/17 Telex 934583

Hornet's Nest Egg



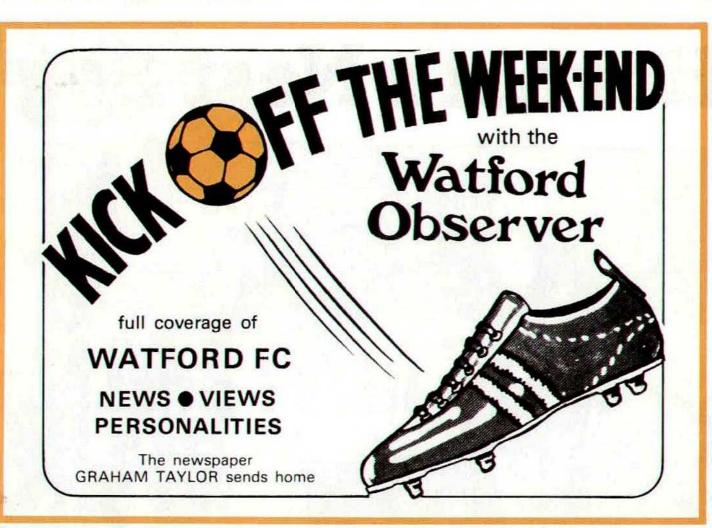
A good time was had by all at a Christmas Party held for our Bingo Agents. More than 150 people turned up to celebrate, among them Keith Pritchett and Bobby Downes.

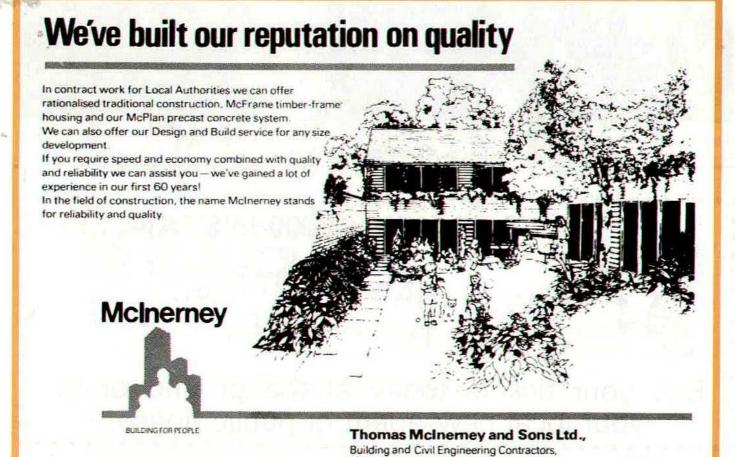
WANT TO WIN £1,000 INSTANTLY?



THE WATFORD FC LOTTERY IS

Buy your tickets today at the ground or at your local newsagent or public house





Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts. Tel: Rickmansworth 76622.

Chairman's Message

As Chairman of the Club, I thought it was about time I put pen to paper to take the opportunity to assess the development of events since the arrival of Graham Taylor, Bertie Mee and Eddie Plumley.

The results on the field have spoken for themselves. A wonderful reflection on the players and management. Graham knows that he has the Board's full support at all times, and I am very pleased that we now have a strong squad of players and that we, as a Club, have resisted approaches to sell players. Watford has a history of always selling their best players and I think quite rightly the fans got a little bit tired of it all.

The results off the field have also improved. I feel for the first time that the Club is now run in a completely business-like manner. As success comes, the bigger the organisation has to be. My thanks to Eddie, Ron, Johnny Hartburn and everyone else in the offices.

There is, however, a long way to go

— I think most people are aware that as Chairman I want only the best for the Club. This does take time and I can only assure you all that we are making every effort to achieve our ambitions. My enthusiasm for the future of the Club is as strong as it ever was.

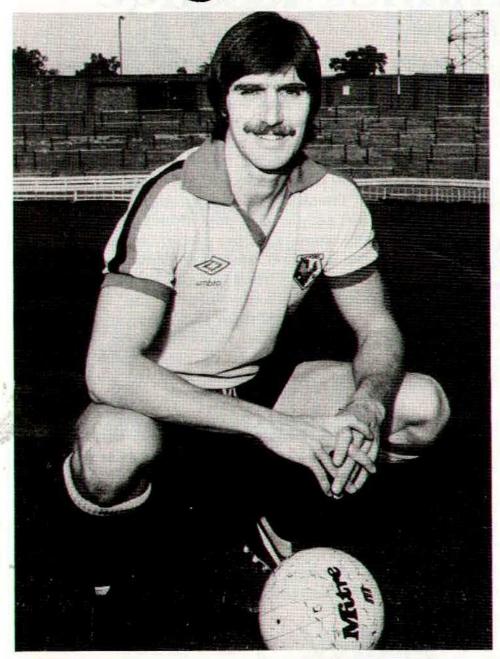
Thankfully, I've been able to silence the people who said that I could not mix sport with my career. In fact, for the first time I've got two singles in the National Chart plus a successful album. Sighs of relief all round!

Your support for the Club has been magnificent — especially the evergrowing number of away travellers. Only one small fault — vocal support tends to be quieter at Vicarage Road than when we travel away. So, get rid of your inhibitions and lets hear some vocal roar at home — but please . . . no violence.

1978 has been an historic and great year for the Club. I speak on behalf of the Directors when I say 'Thank-you.' I hope you are having a great Christmas, and let's hope 1979 will be even better for the Club and spectators.



Player Profile



It took Graham Taylor only a few minutes to convince Steve Harrison that his future lay with Watford.

Harrison admits: "You are never sure what is the best thing. I have known a number of players who were really happy to move to a club, only to find that after a week or two they discovered it wasn't the right set up for them.

"But as soon as I met the boss he soon took away any fears I might have had. He quickly put me in the picture about the way Watford was going. He sounded so confident about the next couple of seasons that I just had to come here.

"I am not just saying this, but he must be one of the top managers in the game today. He has so much talent and all the players look up to his way of doing things."

Harrison certainly does not regret his move from Blackpool. He has already impressed Watford supporters with his defensive qualities and the hard working full back is also showing a rare attacking flair.

He enjoys moving up with the Watford front runners when possible and likes to get into the box. Steve explains: "I suppose every defender thinks he can do a strikers job if he is given the chance. But then it's probably a fair bet that most forwards feel they could play in the back four.

Next football at Vicarage Road

Football League Division 3

Saturday 6th January 1979

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Lincoln City



Steve Harrison

"But these days it is often the case that defenders can score quite a number of goals. It's nice to be given the chance to press into your opponent's box if you want to. Some back four men can't even go outside their own half without a strange look from the manager."

When he first came to the club, Steve was surprised at the standard of the side and the team spirit, which he admits is "superb". He adds: "Everything about Watford is first rate. Nothing is too much. We are not a Third Division outfit. Ever since I came here I have felt a better player.

Organisation

"There can't be a complaint from anyone. We prepare fully for matches and the management make you think and feel like a Division One side. The organisation is out of this world and the whole team responds with results on the field.

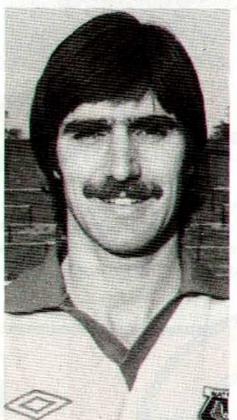
"We are all willing to help and work for each other both on and off the pitch. That helps to build up a good understanding and because we enjoy playing for the club it gives us an extra added boost."

Steve also points out: "I won't name the players in question—it will only make them blush—but they have some brilliant ball control and read the game very well.

"We have some players here who would easily fit into the First Division without any real problems. No wonder the lads came up from the Fourth in one season.

Preparing

"The manager is already preparing us to go up. He is adding players to the first team and with a back up crew like our coaching staff, Bertie Mee, Eddie Plumley and Elton John, I don't think we can fail. Don't get me wrong, I'm



not over confident but our team spirit is so high at the moment that we feel promotion is in sight."

Although Steve is prepared to praise his team mates he is very modest about his own considerable ability. He says: "I simply go out to do my best for the whole game. It is always difficult to comment on your own performances. But it helps any player to have people he can trust around him. I am lucky because each member of our side will give everything."

Steve is an admirer of Everton full back Mike Pejic." He is my type of player. Hard in the tackle, uses the ball well, is not afraid to go forward and has stacks of talent.

Interesting

"He would be in my England team without a second thought. But it is interesting over the last few years how the role of full back, both right and left, has developed. There are some really good players in those positions around just now.

"Maybe in any local team the full back is not important. And at school anybody who can't play anywhere else sometimes get put there to keep him out of the way!

"It is certainly not a place where you can grab the headlines or become a really big star. But now I think people are beginning to see what a vital member of the side he can be."

Today's Match Ball Donor

Paul Freeman



WHERE YOU REALLY DO SAVE MONEY?

RODNEY GIBBONS

High Rd WEMBLEY • off
Broadway GREENFORD •
High Rd NORTH FINCHLEY
• High St RUISLIP Clapton
Common STAMFORD HILL
• Brent St HENDON • The
Broadway CROUCH END •
Station Rd EDGWARE •



What is the reason behind the success of Rodney Gibbons? "It is the very wide selection available in the Supermarket at prices keener than ever before!—that is our success formula, and it will remain our policy in the future.



SPOTLIGHT EXTRA SPECIAL

Today's visitors - Swindon Town



Back row (left to right) McLaughlin, Kamara, Aizlewood, Prophett (now with Chesterfield) Allan, Carter, Roberts, Lewis, Ford, Bates, Guthrie (now with Fulham). Front row (left to right) R. Cunningham (now with Aston Villa), Stroud, Williams, Smith (manager), Miller, McHale, Gilligan.

WATFORD OBSERVER INVITATION PENALTY COMPETITION

1st Round			2nd Round	Semi-Final	Final
23rd September Watford Colts Abbots Langley	5 9	}	Abbots Langley		
30th September			20th January		
Northwood Hillsiders Croxley Youth	6	}	Croxley Youth	a Wr	
14th October				17th March	
Bushey Rangers Ember Echoes	9	}	Bushey Rangers		
28th October			3rd February		-)
Comets Berkhamsted Dynamo	5 9	}	Berkhamsted D		
11th November					28th April
Mill End Sellotape	6	}	Mill End		
2nd December			17th February		* 180
Brookside Boys Garston Boys		}			
(Holders)					
30th December				31st March	}
Chorleywood Minors		1		Part Au Lein	A second
Oxhey Jets		,		WALLS OF THE RESERVE	내 이 집안하는데 휴식이
6th January			3rd March	annon.	A CONTRACTOR OF A STREET
Leggats Youth Gadeside Rangers		}	THE THE	ENTERNO.	EMTHRACAL.



1, QUEENS RD, WATFORD Tel: 20745



The players, management and staff of Watford Football Club wish all the Club's supporters a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.





A.E.C. (PROVINCES) LTD. 144, ST. ALBANS RD WATFORD 31571/2/3

SALES, HIRE & SERVICING

OF ALL OFFICE MACHINES & FURNITURE: TYPEWRITERS: COPIERS: DICT. EQUIP. ETC.

MID-WEEK LEAGUE 1978				
Date		Venue	Opposition	Result
Aug	17	(H)	Northampton T	2-1
	23	(A)	Peterborough Utd	0-0
	30	(H)	Portsmouth	3-1
Sept	6	(A)	Millwall	0-0
A. Cal	12	(A)	Charlton	2-2
	19	(A)	Brighton	4-5
	27	(H)	Brighton	0-1
Oct	2	(H)	Brentford	5-3
	10	(A)	Cambridge (LC)	5-1
	18	(H)	Cambridge (LC)	1-1
	25	(H)	Peterborough Utd	1-1
Nov	7	(A)	Southend (LC)	1-3
	15	(H)	Southend (LC)	1-4
	29	(A)	Portsmouth	P
Dec	6	(H)	Charlton	1-4
	20	(H)	Cambridge	

(S.E. Counties League unless otherwise stated)				
Date		Venue	Opposition	Result
Aug	19	(A)	Norwich	0-2
	26	(A)	Crystal Palace	1-2
Sept	2	(A)	Gillingham	2-0
	9	(H)	Chelsea	1-1
	16	(A)	Portsmouth	0 - 3
	23	(H)	Charlton (LC)	3-1
	30	(H)	Q.P.R.	1-2
Oct	7	(A)	Fulham	1-0
	14	(H)	Arsenal	0 - 3
	16	(A)	Reading (SJFC)	0-1
	28	(H)	Ipswich (LC)	2-3
Nov	1	(H)	Ruislip Manor (FAYC1)2-0
	4	(A)	Orient	1-0
	11	(A)	Q.P.R.	4-3
	25	(A)	Tottenham	0-4
Dec	2	(H)	Norwich	0-2
	9	(A)	Ipswich Town (FAYC2)	0-3
	16	(H)	Charlton	0-3
	23	(A)	Ipswich	
	30	(H)	Tottenham	

SCORE CHECK

-		
A	Peterborough v Southend Utd	
В	Swansea City v Blackpool	310
С	Hull City v Colchester Utd	
D	Brentford v Carlisle Utd	L'USET -
E	Bury v Mansfield Town	THE
F	Gillingham v Plymouth A	71411
G	Oxford Utd v Walsall	11.00
Н	Chesterfield v Shrewsbury	197
I	Exeter City v Lincoln City	109.00
J	Chester v Rotherham United	29 1
K	Bristol City v Manchester City	THE STATE OF
L	Arsenal v Birmingham City	
M	Everton v Tottenham	
N	Middlesbrough v Derby Co	
0	Queen's Park R v Leeds Utd	Trail Line
P	Aston Villa v Bolton Wand	
Q	Southampton v Liverpool	
R	Ipswich Town v Chelsea	
S	Wolverhampton v Coventry C	
T	Manchester Utd v West Brom A	
U	Nottingham F v Norwich City	
v	Brighton v Newcastle Utd	log by
w	Fulham v Luton Town	Nine, Inc. 1
X	Millwall v Leicester City	
Y	West Ham Utd v Blackburn R	
Z	Crystal Palace v Orient	
AA	Oldham A v Charlton A	LE PUT

IN CHARGE

Gilbert J. Napthine (Loughborough). Began refereeing in 1959 in Junior and Senior Leagues in Leicestershire. Promoted to Football Combination in 1966 and then to the Football League in 1972. Officiated in the Anglo-Scottish semi-final in 1976. Hobbies include cricket, tennis, swimming and gardening. Married with three children and is an assistant engineer. Chairman of Football Combination Referees Association.

Teamcheck

WATFORD

- 1 Steve Sherwood
- 2 John Stirk
- 3 Steve Harrison
- 4 Dennis Booth
- 5 Trevor How
- 6 Alan Garner
- 7 Brian Pollard
- 8 Keith Mercer
- 9 Ross Jenkins
- 10 Ray Train
- 11 Keith Cassels

Sub.

SWINDON

- 1 Chris Ogden
- 2 John McLaughlin
- 3 Andy Ford
- 4 Ray McHale
- 5 Steve Aizlewood
- 6 Kenny Stroud
- 7 Ian Miller
- 8 Roy Carter
- 9 Paul Gilchrist
- 10 Chic Bates
- 11 Chris Kamara

Sub.

Crown

HIGH ROAD, BUSHEY HEATH, HERTS. 01-950 3311

THE HONDA SPECIALISTS

HONDA

HONDA ACCORD



10 Demonstration Models

Large Selection of Used Hondas

Terrific Spares Stock