

GILLINGHAM FOOTBALL CLUB



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FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 3
SATURDAY 31 MARCH 1979
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1978-79 MATCHDAY MAGAZINE 20p

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INSIDE CHAT

A warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Swindon Town F.C. for what is a game of tremendous importance to both clubs. The vast majority of the many previous meetings have favoured the home side and we've no wish to change that statistic today. However, having said that, it must be remembered that we still have to visit the County ground in early May. Whatever the results, here's hoping for memorable encounters.

Prior to the kick off today Gerry Summers will be presented with a gallon bottle of whisky — his reward for being voted Bell's Third Division Manager of the Month for February.

Defender Mick Buttress was transferred to Southern League Telford a fortnight ago after a period on loan. No fee was involved. Mick joined the Gills from Aston Villa a year ago in a combined £40,000 package deal with Charlie Young, but was unable to win a regular place and only figured in 5(2) Third Division fixtures. We wish him every success with his new club.

The Sponsor-a-Player scheme continues to attract a great deal of interest and apart from the listed items Ron Hillyard's gloves have also been sponsored by Robert Martin of Eldon Road, Chatham to whom grateful thanks are extended.

Can anybody be of assistance to Brighton supporter D. Wheatley? He is anxious to obtain a copy of the Gillingham-Brighton programme for seasons 1950-51 and 1952-56. He's willing to pay £1 for each copy and anybody who can help should reply direct to 26 Ditchling Road, Offham, Lewes, Sussex.

GOALSCORERS

Division 3: Westwood 11, Price 7, Jolley 5, Nicholl 4, Richardson 4, Crabbe 2, Hughes 2, Overton 2, Weatherly 2, Barker 1, White 1.

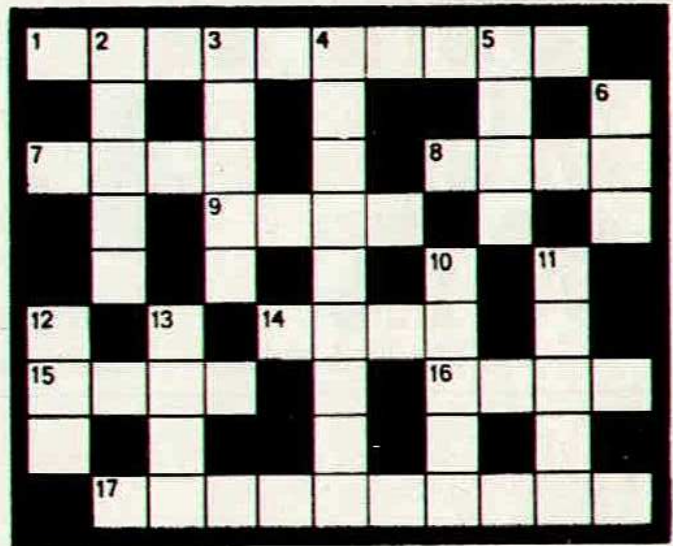
F.A. Cup Westwood 1.

League Cup: Price 1, Young 1.

Reserves: Hughes 2, Jolley 2, Westwood 2, Adams 1, Walker 1, Young 1.

Youth Team: Bottiglieri 16, Bruce 15, Ford 10, Adams 8, Smith 7, Donn 3, Young 3, Manktelow 2, Hewitt 1, Hobday 1, Opps 1.

GILLSWORD



ACROSS

- Much-travelled 150-goal striker who joined Hereford this season (5,5)
- Manager who moved from Millwall to America (4)
- Old Burnley, Manchester United and England winger, trainer of 4 down and manager of Newport, Swindon and Chester (4)
- See 16 across
- Defender with over 500 League appearances, first with Plymouth and latterly with Exeter (4)
- Holmes (Hereford) (4)
- & 9 across. Former Spurs and Birmingham defender with Minnesota last summer (4, 4)
- West of England winger with West Ham? (10)

DOWN

- International who has played under Brian Clough at several clubs (5)
- See 6 down
- Irish League club with whom Danny Blanchflower began his soccer-playing career (9)
- Temporary transfer (4)
- & 3 down. Winger Bournemouth brought from Barnsley last year (3, 5)
- Field is home territory for Toshack (5)
- Oxford's Ground (5)
- & 13. Coventry colour (3, 4)

Solution on page 11

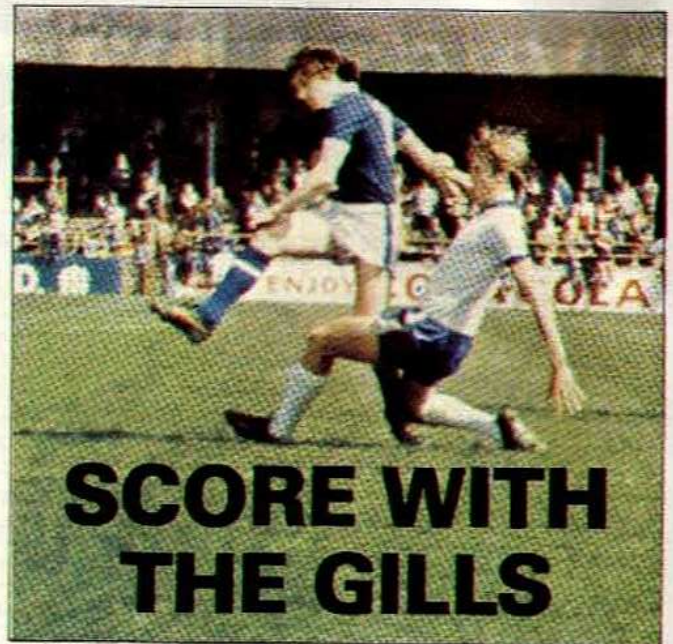


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by Andy Bradley

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The Promotions Office and Shop is, as you know, at 12a High Street, Gillingham and we are open from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday to Friday) and 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday. At the shop we have gifts and souvenirs ranging from 15p to £9.95. The £9.95 item is a all wool jumper with the Club's crest.

On the promotion side we have the ever popular 10p Bingo type ticket and the new 10p 'Make Money with Gillingham' ticket competition, both run by my colleague Denis Prowse. Then there is the 25p Lottery ticket, for which I am responsible for the every day running. If you are interested in becoming an agent for any of these competitions please ring us on Medway 51462.

Helping in the office and shop we have our two 'regular' ladies — Denis's wife Eileen, and our latest signing Eileen Masters — welcome Eileen. On Friday's we have our Friday lady, Maureen Bovis. With the promotion staff we have Paul Antwiss who is our full time collector/representative, plus our part-time collectors Vera Barrett, Jenny Lynch, Angela Flay, Glenis Middleton, Diane McLuckie, Bob Buckland, Jo Sayer and Len McGuire.

Our thanks to them all.

Dave Pomeroy

At the
heart of
sport

KENT EVENING
POST

These notes have had to be written before our mid-week away game v. Rotherham, where I hope we manage to get something out of a very difficult fixture. The less said about our 0-0 draw with Mansfield the better. It was the worst display I can remember, and though conditions were difficult — strong wind and a dry pitch — we not only lacked ideas but determination. If there's ever a time of the year that teams and individuals have got to scrap it's now.

To come so quickly after our good win at Walsall took some understanding. There, on a very heavy pitch, we dominated proceedings and should have won by two or three more goals. The effort and application of the whole side was first class and like a lot of matches it was difficult to pick a star man, because they all had performed so well. Unfortunately, against Mansfield we were four players missing, they were on the pitch but they took some finding.

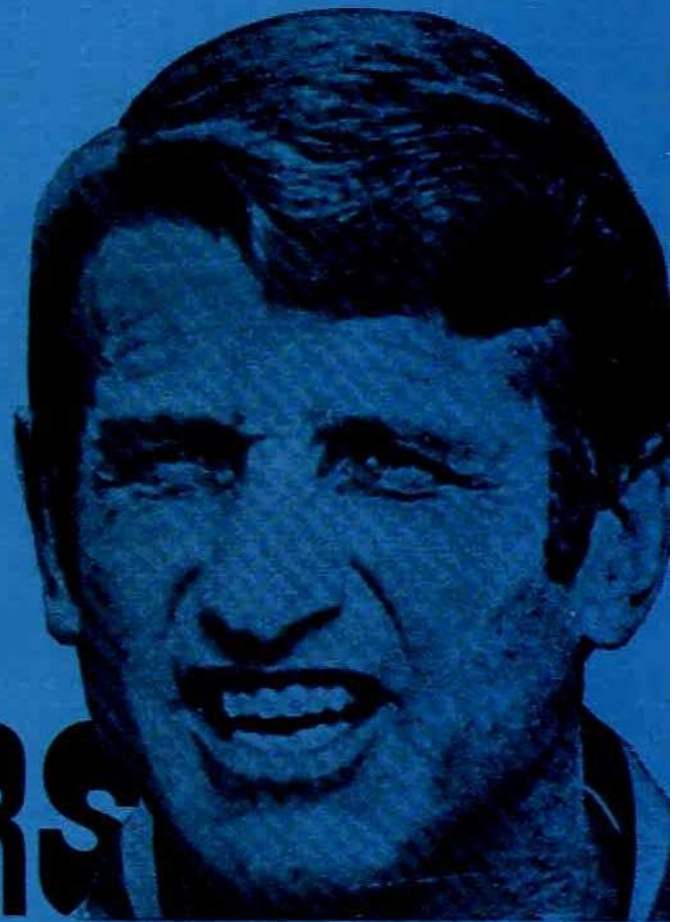
Steve Bruce plays for England v. Italy at Villa Park on 4 April and we are hoping to get Steve's parents down from Newcastle to see his first home game for his country, and I hope I can manage to see this game as well. The Youth Team continue their good performances, beating Southend United 2-1 away last Saturday. Steve Bruce and Nigel Donn being the scorers.

Just a few words to our Supporters, try and keep up the vocal encouragement, it means so much and we will certainly need every bit of assistance we can

get in the last few weeks of the season. All the remaining matches are going to be a test of nerves rather than football skill and any help you can give us will be greatly appreciated by us all. We have a great chance to get up, but so have six or seven other teams. Your vocal support may just tip the scales for us — go on let yourself go.

'Come on you Blues!

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DIV 3 TOPICS

It's tough at the top

In recent weeks a number of the top sides have been struggling to maintain the form that will ensure them promotion to Division Two. A quick look at the top six and their last eight matches confirms this:

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Carlisle Utd | 8 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 6 | 12 |
| Swindon | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| Gillingham | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 10 |
| Swansea | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 14 | 9 |
| Watford | 8 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 10 | 8 |
| Shrewsbury | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 6 |

Clearly, **Carlisle United** are the 'in-form' side at the moment and it is **Watford** and **Shrewsbury** who are really struggling. It is also very clear to see that **Gills' home game with Swindon today is very much a 'four-pointer'**. Carlisle's challenge at the top is no surprise to former Gills star John Simpson who tipped them as far back as last September!

Shock of the day!

Having virtually written off **Lincoln City** in my last column, I cannot let today go past without congratulating them on a fine 2-1 home win against **Swansea City** last Saturday — a result that must be the shock of the season. In fact, Swansea could not break through the Imps defence until the final minute with a Robbie James header. For the record, Lincoln's heroes were Mick Harford (13 mins) and John Fleming with a penalty after 65 mins.

Fantastic Facts — No. 19

About seventy years ago, **Nottingham Forest** and

Notts County played an annual Charity match inside one of the biggest halls in Nottingham. What was so unusual about this was that the game was not 5-a-side or even 7-a-side, but was a full scale match with all 22 players taking part!

Goal Famine

Have pity on the fans who watch soccer at Manor Road, home of **Oxford United** as they haven't seen their side score a goal since 10 February when an own-goal by Hull's Dobson secured both points. In a recent home game against **Southend** this run looked like being broken when the 'U's' were awarded a penalty. But Dave Fogg struck the ball so timidly that former Gills' keeper Mervyn Cawston had no difficulty in saving and earning his side a point from a 0-0 draw.

STATISTICS

Leading goalscorers

| | Lge | FLC | FAC | Total |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Jenkins (Watford) | 24 | 4 | 4 | 32 |
| Binney (Plymouth) | 22 | 2 | 0 | 24 |
| Blissett (Watford) | 17 | 7 | 0 | 24 |
| Edwards (Chester) | 16 | 3 | 0 | 19 |
| Curtis (Swansea) | 10 | 3 | 5 | 18 |
| Kemp (Carlisle) | 14 | 1 | 2 | 17 |
| Gregory (Bury) | 11 | 0 | 6 | 17 |

Highest League Attendance

20,276 Watford v Shrewsbury (26 December, 1978).

Lowest League Attendance

984 Tranmere v Exeter City (16 March, 1979).

Average League Attendances

Watford 13,575, Swansea 12,805, Sheffield Wed 10,709, Plymouth 7,779, Brentford 6,862, Southend 6,632, Swindon 6,277, **Gillingham 6,183**, Blackpool 6,051, Mansfield 5,282, Rotherham 5,277, Peterborough 5,223, Hull City 5,211, Carlisle 5,189, Chesterfield 5,175.

Highest scores

| | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------|---|
| Swindon | 6 | Lincoln City | 0 |
| Brentford | 6 | Chester | 0 |

David Garth

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Two action studies of Terry Nicholl (above) and one of Billy Hughes (bottom) in last Saturday's home game against Mansfield.

Pictures by Mike Gunnill/Kent Evening Post

GOOD AFTER

Formed: 1881.
Nickname: The 'Robins'.
Ground: County Ground.
Record Attendance: 32,000 v Arsenal (F.A. Cup) 1971-72.
Record Receipts: £24,494 v Everton (F.A. Cup) 1976-77.
Record Victory: 10-1 v Farnham United Breweries (F.A. Cup) 1925-26.
Record Defeat: 1-10 v Manchester City (F.A. Cup) 1929-30.
Record Transfer Fee Paid: £85,000 to Bury for Andy Rowland, September 1978.
Record Transfer Fee Received: £150,000 from Crystal Palace for Don Rogers, October 1972.
Record Goalscorer: Harry Morris with 47 goals in season 1926-27.
Honours: Football League Cup Winners 1968-69. Division 3 Runners-up 1962-63, 1968-69. Anglo-Italian Cup Winners 1970.
Manager: Bobby Smith.

Gillingham/Swindon League Record:

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| At Priestfield: | 34 | 19 | 12 | 3 | 61 | 29 | 50 |
| At County Ground: | 34 | 4 | 8 | 22 | 26 | 69 | 16 |
| | 68 | 23 | 20 | 25 | 87 | 98 | 66 |

SWINDON

Just over ten years ago Swindon stormed their way into football history by winning the League Cup at Wembley. Now, a decade later, they are bidding for fame again.

New manager, Bobby Smith, the former Scunthorpe, Grimsby and Brighton inside-forward has steered the Wiltshire side on a promotion course. Since he became boss last summer, he has spent over £250,000 on new men. He has not confined himself to rebuilding a team as the whole County Ground hums with activity. It has its own sports shop, squash club, billiards room, sauna, supporters' lounge and even a betting shop.

Without a doubt, they seem well equipped for the Second Division.

Their team this afternoon will be selected from:
Jimmy Allan (Goalkeeper). Born Inverness. Signed from Brora Rangers in October 1970 and now has made over 150 League appearances.

Chris Ogden (Goalkeeper). Born Oldham. Signed from his local club, Oldham, last August. Made 128 League appearances for the Lancashire side.

John McLaughlin (Defender). Born Edmonton. Arrived at the County Ground in December 1973 from Colchester. Former England Youth International.



MOON

Andy Ford (Defender). Born Minehead. Transferred from Southend during the summer of 1977. Previously with Bournemouth.

Steve Aizlewood (Defender). Born Newport. Former Welsh U/23 International signed from Newport in March 1976. Now approaching his 100th League appearance for the Wiltshire side.

Ken Stroud (Defender). Born London. Former apprentice who signed as a full professional in 1970. Equally at home in a midfield position.

Ray McHale (Midfield). Born Sheffield. Skipper of the side, he joined Swindon from Halifax in September 1976. Previously served Chesterfield.

Brian Williams (Midfield). Born Manchester. Cost a £50,000 fee to Q.P.R. last June. Originally he was with Bury.

Paul Gilchrist (Midfield). Born Dartford. Signed on a free transfer from Portsmouth last August. Appeared for Southampton in the 1976 F.A. Cup Final. Previously served Charlton and Doncaster.

Bryan Hamilton (Midfield). Born Belfast. Joined Swindon as player/coach from Millwall last November. A full Northern Ireland International, he began his League career with Ipswich and later moved on to Everton.

Roy Carter (Midfield). Born Torpoint. Began with Western League side Falmouth before joining Hereford. Signed for Swindon in December 1977.

Chris Kamara (Midfield). Born Middlesbrough. Equally at home in a forward position, he was signed from Portsmouth in July 1977.

Ian Miller (Forward). Born Perth. A £25,000 buy from Doncaster last July, he was previously with Nottingham Forest and Bury.

Andy Rowland (Forward). Born Derby. Cost a club record fee to Bury last September, for whom he had been top scorer for the previous two seasons. Began his career with Derby County.

Phil 'Chic' Bates (Forward). Born West Bromwich. Signed in January 1978 from Shrewsbury Town. Before that he was with Southern League Stourbridge.

Alan Mayes (Forward). Born London. Originally with Q.P.R., he arrived at the County Ground for a £80,000 fee from Watford in February.

Roger J. Triggs

Back Row (left to right): McLaughlin, Kamara, Aizlewood, Prophet (now Chesterfield), Allan, Carter, Roberts, Lewis, Ford, Bates, Guthrie (now Fulham). **Front:** Cunningham (now Aston Villa), Stroud, Williams, Bobby Smith (Manager), Miller, McHale, Gilligan.

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Top: Ken Price gets up to head a cross in the second half of the Mansfield match.

Bottom: After beating his man well, Danny Westwood fires wide — one of Gillingham's better attempts in the disappointing game with Mansfield.

Pictures by Mike Gunnill/Kent Evening Post

INFORMATION

SUPPORTERS ASSN.

With The Gills. There are only four more home matches left after today's so now is the time to get behind the Gills and give them all the vocal support you can muster. Most of the remaining away games are within easy reach so why not make a point of travelling to give the team your encouragement? If you went to Oxford then Southend, Swindon (for the return) and Colchester are as near or nearer. Motorways and good A class road mean that Carlisle, Plymouth, Lincoln and Chesterfield can be reached and returned from the same day. If you can't get away, then the remaining home games are against Walsall, Colchester, Shrewsbury & Exeter. Encourage the Gills today.

Player of The Year. Voting forms for members of the Association will shortly be available and the Awards will be presented at the Rainham Mark Social Club on Thursday evening, 10 May, 1979. Admission is open to everyone, members and non-members alike. The event has been held every season since 1968/69.

Today's Mascot is Andrew Pidduck, who is six-years-old, from Greenfield Road, Gillingham. Likes Fishing, Swimming and Cricket and looks forward to playing Football for his school. Like us all, hopes Graham Knight has a great finish to his Testimonial Season.

Sales Shops. Regular supplies of programmes from the top games are being received. Blue and white scarves and hats always available.

SOCIAL CLUB

Membership check today. All membership cards will have to be shown on request. Members bringing guests into the club will be asked to pay 30p and sign the visitors book. To some people all this is one big pain in the neck, but it does have to happen, so bear with us and show membership cards when asked. Only guest wishing to become a member will have to fill in a application form which is available at the door today and pay a subscription for the year of £1.25. Membership entitles you to use the club any night of the week not only matchdays. The club is open every night from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday lunch-times 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Pool Competition. Monday, 23 April is the starting date for our club pool Knockout Competition which is for members only. Application forms for entering the Competition are available in the club today and will be behind the bar all the week. Entrance forms must be in on Thursday, 19 April.

Raffle. Day out in London with £50 spending money. That's the main prize in a club Raffle that should get off the ground this weekend. Tickets are priced at 10p and will be available in the club every night. We also will require members to sell these tickets for us. If you are interested please contact Dave Taylor or Roger Triggs in the club, Tel: Medway 51385. Generous commission rates will be available.

TEN YEARS AGO

Although a single goal from Brian Yeo gave Gills both points from the home game against Crewe on Wednesday 26 March 1969, the result was tempered with an injury to a player which was to terminate his career.

That player was Gillingham's Terry Simpson who had only joined the Club in the previous close season. He went in for a 30th minute tackle in the middle of the park and emerged with a broken leg. He was never to play again.

The experienced Simpson was a richly creative player with an eye for goal whose ability would be sadly missed.

But Gills had to continue their fight to avoid relegation without him and on the following Saturday they could have done without Yeo missing a penalty in a 0-0 home draw against Torquay.

However, that result did extend the Club's unbeaten record to seven games and hoisted them up to 18th position in the table.

GILLSWORD

Solution to today's puzzle

Across: 1. Bobby Gould, 7. Jago, 8. Page, 9. See 16 across, 14. Hore, 15. Kyle, 16 & 9 across. Tony Want, 17. Devonshire.

Down: 2. O'Hare, 3. See 6 down, 4. Glentoran, 5. loan, 6 & 3 down. Ken Brown, 10. Vetch, 11. Manor, 12 & 13. Sky Blue.

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MATCHFACTS

DATE OPPONENTS F.A. ATT. GOALSCORERS

| DATE | OPPONENTS | F.A. | ATT. | GOALSCORERS |
|---------|------------------|------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Aug. 12 | Reading (F.L.C.) | A | 3246 | Price |
| 15 | Reading (F.L.C.) | H | 5184 | Young |
| 19 | Rotherham | H | 4157 | |
| 21 | Mansfield | A | 5745 | Price |
| 26 | Bury | A | 3414 | Weatherly, Nicholl |
| Sept. 2 | Watford | H | 8248 | Overton, Westwood |
| 9 | Tranmere | A | 1589 | Price |
| 12 | Sheffield Wed. | A | 5385 | Richardson |
| 16 | Chester | H | 4743 | Price, Hughes |
| 23 | Brentford | A | 6970 | |
| 25 | Blackpool | A | 5772 | Westwood, Richardson |
| 30 | Chesterfield | H | 4596 | |
| Oct. 7 | Exeter | A | 4241 | |
| 14 | Hull | A | 5460 | Crabbe (pen), Jolley |
| 17 | Lincoln | H | 5763 | Jolley, Westwood (2), Hughes |
| 21 | Peterborough | A | 5001 | Nicholl |
| 28 | Oxford | A | 4366 | Price |
| Nov. 4 | Swansea | H | 11329 | Price, Crabbe (pen) |
| 11 | Watford | A | 13941 | |
| 18 | Bury | H | 6291 | Jolley (2), Richardson |
| 25 | Reading F.A.C. | A | 6910 | Westwood |
| 28 | Reading F.A.C. | H | 6441 | |
| Dec. 2 | Carlisle | H | 4322 | Westwood |
| 9 | Shrewsbury | A | 3924 | Westwood |
| 26 | Southend | H | 6644 | Jolley |
| 30 | Plymouth | H | 5951 | Nicholl, Westwood |
| Jan. 13 | Tranmere | H | 5480 | Price, Westwood (pen), Nicholl |
| 27 | Brentford (4) | H | 6899 | |
| Feb. 3 | Blackpool | H | 6146 | Westwood 2 (1 pen) |
| 21 | Chester | A | 2421 | Barker |
| 24 | Hull | A | 4349 | Price |
| Mar. 3 | Peterborough | H | 6890 | Richardson |
| 6 | Sheffield Wed. | A | 8205 | Westwood |
| 10 | Oxford | A | 6063 | Overton, Weatherly |
| 16 | Swansea | H | 10832 | White (pen) |
| 20 | Walsall | A | 3084 | Westwood |
| 24 | Mansfield | A | 6935 | |
| 27 | Rotherham | H | 3239 | Westwood |
| 31 | Swindon | H | | |
| April 7 | Carlisle | A | | |
| 10 | Walsall | H | | |
| 14 | Southend | A | | |
| 16 | Colchester | H | | |
| 21 | Plymouth | H | | |
| 25 | Lincoln | A | | |
| 28 | Shrewsbury | H | | |
| May 2 | Chesterfield | A | | |
| 5 | Swindon | A | | |
| 8 | Colchester | A | | |
| 14 | Exeter | H | | |

THE RECORDS PLAYED AT TODAY'S GAME ARE BY COURTESY OF 'STAR TRACK' (CHATHAM & GILLINGHAM)

TABLES

DIVISION THREE
Up to Wednesday, 28 March, 1979

| Club | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Watford | 34 | 18 | 10 | 6 | 66 | 40 | 46 |
| Shrewsbury | 33 | 15 | 14 | 4 | 42 | 27 | 44 |
| Swansea | 35 | 18 | 7 | 10 | 63 | 48 | 43 |
| Cardiff | 36 | 12 | 19 | 5 | 42 | 27 | 43 |
| Gillingham | 34 | 14 | 15 | 5 | 42 | 29 | 43 |
| Swindon | 32 | 18 | 4 | 10 | 53 | 35 | 40 |
| Southern United | 35 | 12 | 14 | 9 | 45 | 35 | 38 |
| Exeter City | 33 | 12 | 12 | 9 | 46 | 39 | 36 |
| Blackpool | 34 | 14 | 7 | 13 | 43 | 39 | 35 |
| Plymouth | 35 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 47 | 48 | 35 |
| Chester | 36 | 12 | 10 | 14 | 46 | 50 | 34 |
| Colchester United | 34 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 35 | 41 | 33 |
| Rotherham | 31 | 13 | 6 | 12 | 35 | 36 | 32 |
| Sheffield Wed | 31 | 9 | 14 | 8 | 32 | 34 | 32 |
| Oxford United | 34 | 9 | 14 | 11 | 29 | 39 | 31 |
| Hull City | 31 | 12 | 7 | 12 | 43 | 48 | 30 |
| Cherterfield | 32 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 43 | 48 | 30 |
| Brentford | 34 | 10 | 9 | 15 | 33 | 37 | 29 |
| Walsall | 35 | 10 | 8 | 17 | 48 | 53 | 28 |
| Bury | 32 | 6 | 16 | 10 | 39 | 45 | 28 |
| Peterborough | 33 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 31 | 47 | 26 |
| Manfield | 30 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 30 | 34 | 25 |
| Tranmere | 34 | 4 | 13 | 17 | 35 | 59 | 21 |
| Lincoln | 32 | 4 | 8 | 20 | 23 | 65 | 16 |

MIDWEEK LEAGUE

| Club | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Brighton | 17 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 33 | 19 | 25 |
| Southern | 15 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 34 | 15 | 22 |
| Peterborough | 14 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 21 | 14 | 18 |
| Northampton | 15 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 29 | 21 | 16 |
| Brentford | 16 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 30 | 30 | 16 |
| Charlton | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 23 | 18 | 15 |
| Watford | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 24 | 24 | 15 |
| Millwall | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 20 | 17 | 11 |
| Wimbledon | 14 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 16 | 29 | 11 |
| Cambridge | 14 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 28 | 10 |
| Portsmouth | 16 | 5 | 0 | 11 | 20 | 42 | 10 |
| Gillingham | 12 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 17 | 7 |
| Brighton | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 6 |
| Gillingham | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Northampton | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 2 |

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE

| Club | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Tottenham | 24 | 17 | 5 | 2 | 68 | 34 | 39 |
| Gillingham | 25 | 14 | 3 | 8 | 49 | 33 | 31 |
| Ipswich | 23 | 12 | 5 | 6 | 51 | 32 | 29 |
| Millwall | 23 | 12 | 5 | 6 | 43 | 28 | 29 |
| Armsal | 25 | 12 | 5 | 8 | 43 | 29 | 28* |
| C. Palace | 21 | 12 | 3 | 6 | 47 | 36 | 27 |
| Portsmouth | 24 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 42 | 42 | 26 |
| Chelsea | 22 | 13 | 2 | 7 | 53 | 41 | 24* |
| Charlton | 24 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 38 | 45 | 22 |
| QPR | 24 | 9 | 1 | 14 | 47 | 55 | 19 |
| QPR | 20 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 34 | 42 | 18 |
| Orient | 21 | 8 | 2 | 11 | 28 | 37 | 18 |
| Norwich | 22 | 6 | 3 | 13 | 23 | 46 | 15 |
| Fulham | 23 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 28 | 42 | 13 |
| Watford | 21 | 5 | 2 | 14 | 17 | 35 | 12 |
| Southern | 22 | 4 | 1 | 17 | 27 | 59 | 9 |

* Points deducted

RESERVES

| Month | Club | F | A |
|-------|----------------|---|---|
| Aug | Brentford | 4 | 1 |
| Sept | Charlton | 0 | 0 |
| | Portsmouth | 0 | 4 |
| Oct | Wimbledon | 1 | 2 |
| | Brighton LC | 1 | 0 |
| Nov | Peterborough | 0 | 1 |
| | Watford | 0 | 1 |
| | Portsmouth | 0 | 1 |
| | Charlton | 0 | 1 |
| Dec | Brighton LC | 0 | 2 |
| | Millwall | 0 | 2 |
| | Northampton LC | 0 | 1 |
| | Northampton LC | 0 | 1 |
| Jan | Brentford | 0 | 1 |
| | Watford | 0 | 1 |

YOUTH TEAM

| Month | Club | F | A |
|-------|----------------|---|---|
| Aug | West Ham | 1 | 0 |
| Sept | Armsal | 3 | 0 |
| | Watford | 0 | 2 |
| | Charlton | 3 | 1 |
| | Dover FAYC | 9 | 0 |
| | Crystal Palace | 3 | 3 |
| | Ipswich LC | 2 | 2 |
| Oct | Fulham | 1 | 0 |
| | Ipswich LC | 2 | 3 |
| | Maidstone FAYC | 1 | 0 |
| | Portsmouth | 2 | 0 |
| | Orient | 3 | 1 |
| | Fulham SJFC | 2 | 1 |
| | QPR | 0 | 2 |
| Nov | Welling FAYC | 1 | 0 |
| | Southern | 4 | 1 |
| | Crystal Palace | 1 | 3 |
| | Norwich | 2 | 0 |

RESERVES

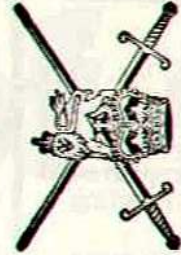
| Month | Club | F | A |
|-------|----------------|----|---|
| Feb | Wimbledon | 8 | 0 |
| | Watford | 22 | 1 |
| | Brentford | 26 | 0 |
| Mar | Millwall | 7 | 2 |
| | Brighton | 12 | 1 |
| | Cambridge | 21 | 0 |
| Apr | Brighton | 28 | 2 |
| | Peterboro | 2 | 4 |
| | Millwall | 4 | 1 |
| | Northampton | 11 | 1 |
| | Cambridge | 18 | 1 |
| | Northampton | 19 | 1 |
| May | Southern | 23 | 1 |
| | Southend | 1 | 1 |
| | Northampton LC | 3 | 0 |
| | Charlton | 8 | 0 |

YOUTH TEAM

| Month | Club | F | A |
|-------|---------------|----|---|
| Nov | Millwall | 25 | 1 |
| | Tottenham | 29 | 3 |
| Dec | Brighton FAYC | 7 | 0 |
| | Chelsea | 16 | 2 |
| | Chelsea | 23 | 1 |
| Jan | Ipswich | 30 | 4 |
| | West Ham | 13 | 0 |
| Feb | Charlton | 27 | 2 |
| | Tottenham | 3 | 0 |
| | Orient | 10 | 2 |
| Mar | Armsal | 24 | 1 |
| | Norwich | 3 | 0 |
| | Southend | 10 | 2 |
| | Portsmouth | 24 | 2 |
| Apr | Portsmouth | 31 | 0 |
| | Watford | 7 | 1 |
| May | Ipswich | 14 | 4 |
| | Fulham | 9 | 1 |
| | Millwall | 3 | 0 |



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Walsall 0, Gillingham 1
Div. 3 — Tues., 20 March.

The first team made amends for their disappointing defeat at Swansea with a much improved display against the struggling Midlands club.

They should have won by more than one goal and had they done would have moved up from fourth to second position in the table. Gills created plenty of chances which, with the exception of one, were either missed or saved by Eire international goalkeeper Mick Kearns.

The exception was in the 72nd minute when Danny Westwood collected a pass from John Crabbe, turned in one swift movement and caught Kearns off his line with a sweetly judged lob.

Earlier, Price had headed a fraction over before John Sharpe gave an exhibition of his creative skills, providing three openings in an eight minute spell.

Crabbe fired the first one over the from the second Price saw his shot kept out by the keeper's legs. Then, after Kearns had made a superb diving save to touch round a fierce 30-yarder from Crabbe, Sharpe set him up again. This time Crabbe's shot took a deflection, looped over Kearns and rebounded off a post.

Terry Austin missed Walsall's best chance in the 55th minute and,

MATCH REPORT

after Gills had scored, was denied an equalizer by Mickey Barker's body.

Another fine pass from action man Crabbe put Price clear but Kearns was out quickly to smother his attempt and in the last minute the keeper went down to prevent Westwood from scoring his second.

Southend 1, Gillingham 2
S.E.C.L. — Sat., 24 March.

The Youth team retained second place in the table thanks first to some great goalkeeping from Gary Sutton and then goals from Steve Bruce and Nigel Donn.

Struggling against a strong wind, the young Gills had to contend with considerable pressure in the first half and included in Sutton's display was a magnificent save to turn a close range header on to the bar.

However, seconds before the change round Steve Bruce, who

had already had a 'bender' disallowed, headed in a Micky Adams corner for 15th goal of the season.

Southend equalized on the hour mark, but 10 minutes later Nigel Donn eased in a low cross for Gillingham's winner.

Gills: Sutton; Ford, Harding, Bruce, Hobday, Dudley, Wakelin, Donn, Bottiglieri, Smith, Adams.

Gillingham 0, Mansfield 0
Div. 3 — Sat., 24 March.

The nearest Gills came to breaking the deadlock in this wind affected encounter was in the 73rd minute when substitute Billy Hughes rammied a cross shot against a post.

Otherwise there was little to excite an above average crowd even though Gillingham had virtually all the play in a one sided second half. Goalkeeper Martin New was only seriously troubled on one other occasion, by a 25-yarder from John Crabbe which he dived to parry and then ran after to kick to safety.

With wind advantage in the first half, Mansfield had more of the play and in the 14th minute they nearly took the lead and would have done but for an amazing double save by Ron Hillyard and Mark Weatherly to keep out Mike Carter's attempts.

Follow the Gills

The RAC recommended route for motorists is by the A2 to London and then M1 and M6 to intersection 43. Turn off there and follow the A69 to Carlisle. Brunton Park will be found on the right after two miles.

Approximate Distance: 345 miles.

Suggested route across London: Through Dartford Tunnel and turn left on to the A13. After six miles turn right on to the A1112 and then left on to the A12 four miles later. Fork right on to the A406 after 3 1/2 miles. The A406 (North Circular) joins the M1 at Brent Cross (17 miles).

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Player of the Year



Pictured above is John Overton who won the Gillingham Player-of-the-Year award for the first time last season. Ken Price was second, John Crabbe third.

Voting starts soon for the official Gillingham Player-of-the-Year award

In the usual competition organised by the Supporters' Association, members will be entitled to vote for the three players they consider have done most for the Club this season.

Then comes the seemingly endless wait until the result is announced at the Annual Dance, to be staged at Rainham Mark Social Club this year, on Thursday 10 May. To the winner will go the coveted honour of receiving the unique floodlight trophy plus a valuable keepsake. The players placed second and third also receive engraved personal mementos.

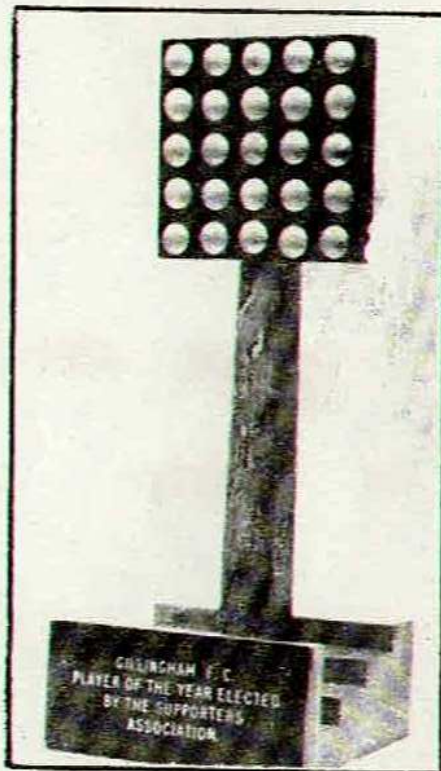
And on the same night the Travel Club will present their magnificent trophy to the outstanding away player as voted by their members.

The Annual Dance has always been a popular attraction with supporters and last May for instance, nearly 500 packed Chatham Town Hall. Therefore the decision to move to larger premises will be welcomed by all.

Dancing this year is to the music provided by popular local group 'King's Ransom'.

If anybody has not yet joined the Supporters' Association it's not too late and can be arranged by calling at their headquarters or by sending 35p to the Membership Secretary, Gillingham Supporters' Association, Gordon Road, Gillingham.

The above events should not be confused with the one being run by the Evening Post. Presentation of



The Player-of-the-Year Trophy.

their awards — competitions being arranged with the approval of the Supporters' Association and of the Football Club — takes place at the Tudor House, Bearsted on the following Thursday.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

| Season | Players |
|--------|-------------------|
| 1968/9 | Brian Yeo |
| 1969/0 | John Simpson |
| 1970/1 | John Simpson |
| 1971/2 | Alan Wilks |
| 1972/3 | Dick Tydeman |
| 1973/4 | George Jacks |
| 1974/5 | Damien Richardson |
| 1975/6 | Dave Shipperley |
| 1976/7 | Dave Shipperley |
| 1977/8 | John Overton |

TEAMS

GILLINGHAM

Blue shirts/white shorts

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Ron Hillyard | 1 |
| John Sharpe | 2 |
| Mick Barker | 3 |
| John Overton | 4 |
| Mark Weatherly | 5 |
| John Crabbe | 6 |
| Terry Nicholl | 7 |
| Dean White | 8 |
| Ken Price | 9 |
| Danny Westwood | 10 |
| Terry Jolley | 11 |
| Billy Hughes | 12 |

SWINDON

Red shirts/black shorts

| |
|------------------------|
| Jimmy Allan |
| Brian Hamilton |
| Andy Ford |
| Ray McHale |
| Steve Aizlewood |
| Ken Stroud |
| Ian Miller |
| Roy Carter |
| Andy Rowland |
| Alan Mayes |
| Brian Williams |
| Phil Bates |

MATCH BALL

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OFFICIALS

Referee: David Hutchinson (Bourn, Cambs)

From 1964 he progressed through the Cambridge, Eastern Counties and Southern Leagues to the Football League list eight year later. He is a police sergeant.

Linesmen: M. Bodenham/red flag, R. Stevenson/yellow flag.

NEXT AT PRIESTFIELD

- MILLWALL
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Football League Division 3
Easter Monday, 16 April, K.O. 3.00 p.m.

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