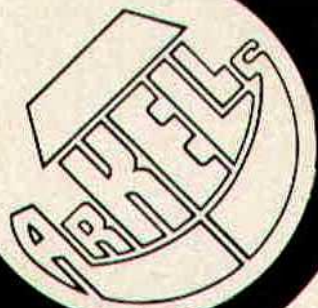




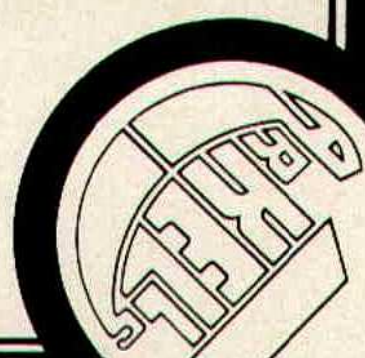
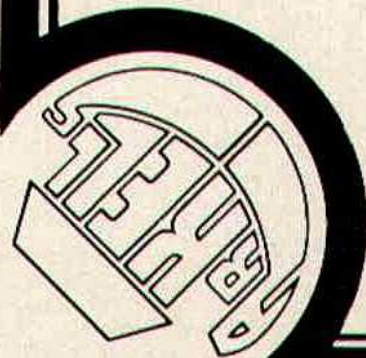
SWINDON TOWN
v

GILLINGHAM



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Administrative Manager/Secretary R. J. Jefferies

Telephone No. 22118

Financial Manager/Company Secretary

R. A. Morse

Team Manager R. W. Smith

Commercial Consultant D. Buswell

Club Medical Officer Dr. J. Nicholas

Wilf Tranter says.....

I am writing these notes today in the absence of Bobby Smith who is keeping up his interest in the younger lads of the Club and travelled with them for their Football Combination game this afternoon at Arsenal. We wish them luck.

Today being our final home game of the present season, on behalf of Bob Smith and myself we would like to thank all our supporters for all the support you have given to the Club, both home and away throughout this season and hope that you have all enjoyed watching us play as much as we have enjoyed performing for you, and also take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped to stage our games - Bob Jefferies, Ron Morse, Jenny and Bert who carry out the work behind the scenes from the office, the gatemen and stewards, catering staff, police, souvenir shop, programme sellers, the St. John's Ambulance Service and anyone else we may have forgotten to mention - thank you all.

We all know how important today's game is and after a grafting performance against Oxford United where we managed to get those two very important points, it puts us in good stead for our match today against Gillingham. We are, of course, looking for another two points this afternoon, to give us a tremendous opportunity to push forward for our final assault in the promotion race. We are also hoping that today's game will bring our biggest



ever home crowd of the season and that everyone will join together in one huge voice to give the lads all the vocal encouragement you can, for this very important game today.

With our final three matches being away from home we hope that as many of you as possible will come along in what is hoped to be a very exciting time for us and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, if not more, next season in 'Division II'.

Bits and Pieces

In Swindon's first ever home game with Gillingham, then known as New Brompton, just before Christmas 1895, the Town fielded a new centre-forward from Kilmarnock by the name of Jimmy Calderwood. Swindon won the game 4-0 and Calderwood scored on his debut, but although he played in every League match from the middle of February to the end of the season, he failed to score again. The fact that he played in goal for this period might have had something to do with it!

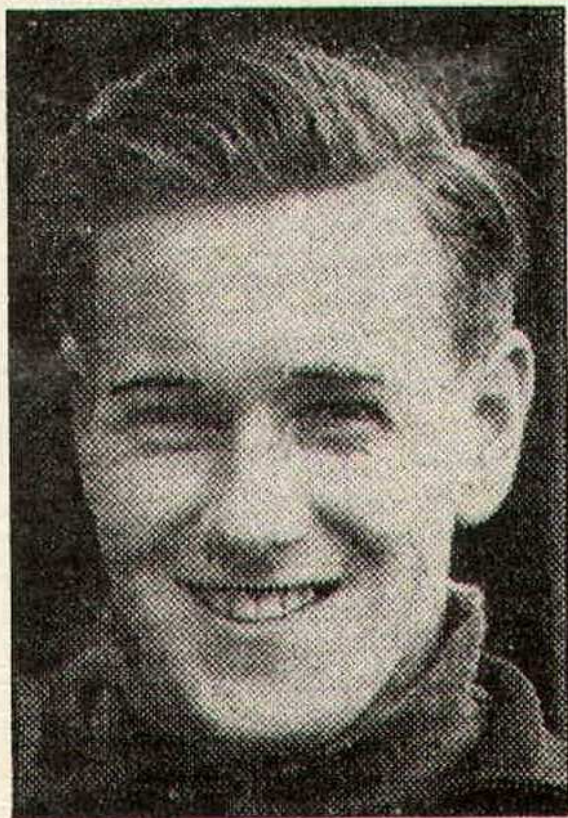
Swindon's record goalscorer Harry Morris took a liking to the back of the Gills' net when he scored in six consecutive home games against the Kentish club between 1926 and 1932. His tally during that spell totalled twelve goals - with four in a 5-2 win in March 1931 his best haul for one game. Morris also scored in a 4-4 draw at Priestfield on April 9 1927, when the Town let a 3-0 interval lead slip from their grasp. One year later to the day, Swindon equalled a best ever 6-1 victory over Gillingham - that record having been set up in September 1908. On that occasion Jim Hogan had scored a hat-trick - following up the four he had netted the previous weekend when Norwich City received a mauling to the tune of ten goals to two.

The three points gained by the Town in the last three trips to Priestfield is Swindon's best achievement there since a run of seven undefeated games back in the 'twenties. The Town's last League win in Kent was on November 15 1930, when a Charlie Munnings goal was sufficient to bring the points home to Swindon.

Twenty-six years ago this summer, Swindon and Gillingham were involved in an exchange transfer deal which saw the former Stirling Albion forward WILLIE MILLAR leave the Town with KEN LAMBERT leaving the Gills for Wiltshire. Millar had made 75 League appearances in three seasons for Swindon, scoring eighteen times and in a further three seasons in Kent scored 34 in 91 League games. Lambert was joint top scorer at Priestfield with ten goals in 1952-53, but scored just five in thirty League appearances after joining the Town and soon moved on to Bradford City.

Peter Downsborough, who wore the green jersey more than 300 times for Swindon, is the new holder of the record for League appearances by a goalkeeper. He recently turned out for his 650th game.

WILLIE MILLAR



KEN LAMBERT



John Ward talks to

Peter Dornan

Not many players can have had such a strange or indeed short-lived introduction to the life of a professional footballer as Peter Dornan. He played hockey throughout his schooldays and for his first three years at Queens University, Belfast. He did not start playing football seriously until his last year at University at the age of 21. But that one season plus six weeks playing for Shots and another six weeks for the premier Northern Ireland Club Linfield brought the English scouts flocking. In a flurry of excitement he was transferred to Sheffield United and pitched straight into the first team. Things began to go wrong immediately: he was not fit enough for English League football; he played badly; training was monotonously the same every day. Peter rapidly came to the conclusion that he was not cut out to be a professional footballer: "It wasn't that I was homesick. I've always liked a lot of travelling although of course I missed my friends and it was Christmas time. I just don't think I was dedicated enough."

Within a month Peter returned disillusioned to Belfast. He worked in a training school for delinquent boys, travelled in the United States and in Morocco and from October 1977 to June 1978 took a course at the Institute of Professional Studies, obtaining the final academic qualifications which he needed to become a solicitor. Meanwhile he was playing for Linfield and enjoying his football again: there were trips abroad to play in European competitions. Unlike some English clubs, whose players give the appearance of trying to pretend that they are still really in England and who fail to notice whether they are actually in Rome or Berlin, the Linfield players took the football seriously enough but were also determined to make the most of their stay in a foreign city at the same time.

Once more Peter began to attract attention from English league clubs. At the beginning of this season the transfer talk started again and fed up with so many rumours Peter said publicly that he was not leaving. How was it then that a week before Easter he was sitting talking in an office under the Swindon Town stand? What had made him change his mind? "The fact that Swindon weren't frightened by what had happened the first time. They were clearly an ambitious club and I was very impressed by the set up. It took me two weeks to decide and they were very patient with me."

Peter is living in a flat on a farm near Cirencester. Although he goes riding and has helped muck out the stables he finds that most of his

free time is taken up with doing his own washing, shopping and cooking. He plans eventually to work in a solicitor's office during free afternoons so as to gain the necessary practical experience to become a solicitor. I asked how he had found Swindon so far. "I've been going through my settling-in period. The standard has been far higher than I had expected. There are a lot of good players at Swindon. This has surprised me a bit, I suppose because there is a lack of publicity in Northern Ireland about Third and Fourth Division clubs. There is a variety about the training here and it's helped having Bryan Hamilton. The boys have a great sense of humour and the atmosphere is completely different from Sheffield. I am determined to give it a real go. After all I've been here over two months this time!"

Peter has usually played in midfield but he can drop into the back four if required. He is very honest about his footballing strengths and weaknesses. He thinks he is at his best going forward but not so good at picking up a man. He admits to having a weak left foot and not always getting in the game. "I would be twice the player if I got stuck in. Sometimes though it really works." Peter certainly gave the impression of being very much at ease in his new surroundings. I asked if he had any particular wishes for the future. "To see my name in the first team," was the reply.



Talk of the Town by the Chairman

Today is our final home fixture and I do not need to say how important this result will be not only to ourselves, but equally important to our visitors from Gillingham. These ingredients do not necessarily produce a classic, but must mean an exciting encounter, as indeed will all of our remaining games.

Gillingham managed by Gerry Summers, formerly of Oxford, have had a great season like ourselves and Dr. Clifford Grossmark, their Chairman, must be very pleased with their progress and being a member of the Football League Management Committee for many years, which has meant giving up a tremendous amount of his own time to help further the progress of the game, must mean an added bonus to him.

Our game against Oxford United on Wednesday again provided an exciting battle with our neighbours, with chances being executed by both sides. An end of the season fixture often produces a stalemate atmosphere, but with so much at stake the game was more like a cup tie. Our final games away at Brentford, Sheffield Wednesday and Blackpool will need all of the vocal support that our fans can muster and if anyone is thinking of travelling away to these games and need transport contact Mick Conley at our Squash Club for details.

This week we heard the sad news that Mr. Leslie Reginald Sims has passed away. To many of our older supporters and members of our Board, Leslie Sims will be remembered as the driver of our team coach when we were travelling with the Bristol Bus Company. Over the many years that we have travelled by coaches, we have always been fortunate in having not only skilled drivers but men that have always been a credit to our Club and the late Mr. Sims was certainly in this category.

Mr. George Hull was another driver of our team coach for many seasons with the Bristol Bus Company.

We have received a letter from the Football Association saying that they have formed an England Travel Club. The objects of the Club are twofold, namely to provide tickets for the genuine supporters travelling abroad to support the England team and also to avoid any repetition of the kind of embarrassing incidents that have occurred from time to time in away matches abroad. In future, tickets for matches abroad will only be sold to those who hold an England Travel Club Identity Card. If you are interested further details can be obtained from the Football Association, 16, Lancaster Gate, London W2. 3LW.

On Sunday, that is tomorrow, an exhibition of programmes and International Caps, medals etc. will be on view in the North Stand gallery. Programmes for collectors will be on sale and the exhibition opens at 10.30 a.m.

All present season ticket holders will be receiving application forms by post for next season and any supporters wishing to become new season ticket holders, should either write to the Secretary or call at the offices for details.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and hope that not only shall we see you all again next season, but that you will be able to persuade your friends to come with you. We need your support to help us make the progress into higher spheres.

Finance is the all important factor in making this progress and we do thank everybody that works for the Club.

Our fund raising efforts, our shops, our clubs and every effort made by sponsorship and donations is such an important part of the club and may I without giving a list of people say how much your efforts are appreciated.

Hoping you will enjoy today's game and the results from our remaining fixtures.



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IN TOWN TODAY



GILLINGHAM

BACK ROW (L to R): J. Crabbe, B. Hughes, S. Wheatley, J. Short, R. Hillyard, G. Knight and C. Young.

MIDDLE ROW (L to R):

A. Hodgekinson, G. Armstrong, M. Buttress, T. Jolley, J. Overton, M. Weatherly, P. Hobday, P. Hunt, B. Collins.

FRONT ROW (L to R): N. Williams, P. Walker, D. Richardson, G. Summers, K. Price, D. Westwood, T. Nicholl.

IN TOWN TODAY

Gillingham could scarcely have hit peak form at a more appropriate time as they seek to go up into the Second Division for the first time in their history. Their 2-0 victory over promotion rivals Shrewsbury last Saturday was their fifth win in six games and placed them in a very strong position to hold on for promotion.

The Gills looked set for promotion last season but then slumped dramatically when the pressure was on. They went to the top of the table at the end of February but then managed to win only three of their remaining matches.

When the Club again emerged as a promotion possible this season, manager Gerry Summers felt he should bolster his defence in order to avoid a repeat of last season's experience so in January he invested a club record fee of £45,000 in Newcastle United's left-back Micky Barker. Earlier on Mr. Summers had paid Southampton £30,000 for John Sharpe, who now plays at right-back.

The defence, in fact, has been completely re-constituted since last season. Centre-back David Shipperley returned to his old club, Charlton, towards the end of last season and Graham Knight has not been in the side of late.

The two central defensive positions have been filled by Mark Weatherley and John Overton with John Sharpe and Micky Barker at full-back.

Weatherley a Gillingham discovery, established himself as a midfield player after coming into the team in 1974/75 but he has switched to defence this season. Overton served his apprenticeship with Aston Villa and made a couple of appearances in their First Division side in 1975/76. He also played on loan to Hereford that season and he was signed by Gillingham in the 1976 close-season.

Sharpe made a couple of dozen first-team appearances for Southampton after making his debut in 1976/77.

Barker made his first appearances in Newcastle's League eleven in 1974/75 but he had to wait until last season before he got another chance. The man to make way for Barker was Gary Armstrong, a Gillingham discovery, who had been a fairly regular performer at full-back since his debut in 1975/76.

Another signing is forward Tony Funnell from Southampton for a fee in the region of £40,000. Tony had been introduced to the Saints' side last season and he made a quick impact with his new club, scoring in three successive games. Other contenders for a place in attack are Kenny

Price, Damien Richardson, Denny Westwood and Terry Jolley.

Price scored two goals in the last three minutes against Shrewsbury last Saturday to clinch a vital 2-0 victory and that took his tally for the season to 14. Price was the club's leading scorer last season with 21 goals. Once with Southend, Kenny got only one game in their League eleven before joining Gillingham in 1976.

Richardson, who has two Republic of Ireland caps, joined the Gills from Shamrock Rovers in October 1972 and he has on three occasions been their top scorer. An injury put him out of the side recently so he is still waiting to add to the 98 League and Cup goals he has netted for the club.

Westwood is currently the club's leading scorer with 17 goals and he has, in fact, been a consistent scorer since his arrival from Q.P.R. in 1975. Last season he netted 19 times. Jolley had made only one fleeting appearance in the senior side prior to this season but he made an explosive return to senior duty by scoring five goals in his first seven full games.

The choice in midfield will probably be made from John Crabbe, Terry Nicholl, Billy Hughes and Dean White.

Crabbe served his apprenticeship with Southampton and made a dozen League appearances for the Saints. Since joining Gillingham, originally on loan in 1976, he has been enjoying regular first-team football. Nicholl started his career with Crewe in 1971/72 and the following season he was signed by Sheffield United. He moved on to Southend in 1975 and joined Gillingham a year later.

Hughes is a local discovery who graduated to the first-team in 1975/76 for a brief appearance as substitute. He has been a regular member of the squad for the past two seasons. White was signed from Chelsea last summer and has proved a most versatile player as a performer in midfield or defence.

Gillingham's successful run has been reflected in the gate figures and they have recently been drawing the highest attendances in their history. The 14,902 who turned up for last week's top-of-the-table clash with Shrewsbury was their best in many years.

Tonight the Gills face one of the most critical games in their history. We are both aiming to claim one of those top three places so we could be in for a real thriller this afternoon.

THE PEOPLE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN EJECTED FROM THE GROUND SINCE OCTOBER 1978, AND BANNED FROM ATTENDING OUR MATCHES DURING SEASON 1978/79.

Brian McDonald, 19, Gidding Way, Covingham, Swindon.
 Kenney Pewsey, 21, Kennet Avenue, Greenmeadow, Swindon.
 Kevin Iles, Jersey Farm, Goatacre, Calne, Wiltshire.
 Nigel Hulbert, 55, Bradenstoke, Chippenham, Wiltshire.
 Edward Johnson, Jays, Lime Kiln, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire.
 Robbie Spurr, 3, Suffolk Street, Swindon.
 Darren Russell, 113, Glebe Road, Minchinhampton, Stroud, Glos.
 Shaun McCluskey, 2, Maskelyn Way, Wroughton, Swindon, Wilts.
 Christopher Bennett, 125A, Home Farm, Highworth, Wiltshire.
 William John Crowther, 59, Edinburgh Street, Swindon.
 Stephen Bradley, 4, Cowley Walk, Swindon.
 Glen Palmer, 1, Oxford Street, Swindon.
 Derek Webster, 11, Gooch Street, Swindon.
 Eamon Gillingham, 55, Elborough Road, Moreton, Swindon.
 Colin Jones, 67, Simmonds Street, Swindon.
 John Curtis, 165, Cranmore Avenue, Swindon.
 Stephen Pearce, 27, Sheringham Court, Liden, Swindon.
 Stephen Drewett, 8, Wallsworth Road, Park South, Swindon.
 Stephen King, 88, Avenue Road, Swindon.
 Raymond King, 88, Avenue Road, Swindon.
 Michael Ford, 22, Bampton Grove, Swindon.
 James Edward Coke, Silver Street House.
 Mark Seward, 59, Stubbsmead, Eldene, Swindon.
 Gary Edwards, 47, Stratton Road, Swindon.
 Gary Mitchell, R.A.F. Lyneham, 1, Harrow Grove, Lyneham, Wiltshire.
 Dean Baker, 150, Clifton Street, Swindon.

Andrew Paul Glover, 5, Windmill Piece, Chiseldon, Wiltshire.
 Perry Boyes, 14 Elborough Road, Swindon.
 Jan Drewett, 2, Martins Close, Bottles Ford, Pewsey, Wilts.
 Richard Lawton, 7, Sackville Close, Walcot, Swindon.
 Neil Pitcher, 51, Marlowe Avenue, Walcot, Swindon.
 John Clarke, Godbys Farm, Cricklade, Wiltshire.
 Shaun Hicks, 3, Rectory Lane, Cricklade, Wiltshire.
 David Balfie, 5, Banwell Avenue, Park North, Swindon.
 Thomas Davies, 190, Whitbourne Avenue, Swindon.
 Keith Acurt, 5, Valley Hill, Gastard, Wiltshire.
 Martin Hewett, 48, Dixon Street, Swindon.
 Paul Antal, 69, Raleigh Avenue, Walcot, Swindon.
 Lorraine Murray, 84, The Rosary, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire.
 Richard Talbot, 1, Daniels Road, Stroud, Glos.
 Stephen Phipps, 184, Bisley Old Road, Stroud, Glos.
 David Turner, 5, Park Street, Stratton, Swindon.
 Andrew Harris, 3, Shute Avenue, Watchfield, Oxon.
 Andrew Barnes, 34, Alvescot Road, Swindon.
 Philip Moorman, 328, Cheney Manor Road, Swindon.
 Robert Moore, 43, Plymouth Street, Swindon.
 Geoffrey Smith, 8, Newburn Gardens, Lower Stratton, Swindon.
 Kevin Smith, 8, Newburn Gardens, Lower Stratton, Swindon.
 Nigel Cowley, 11, Maidstone Road, Swindon.
 Paul Anthony Knight, 14, Thornbridge Avenue, Swindon.
 John Gardner, 5, Manor Crescent, Moreton, Swindon.
 Keith Bull, 61, Moreton Road, Swindon.
 Mark Hammond, 66, Manor Crescent, Swindon.

DIVISION 3 LEAGUE TABLE

up to and including Wednesday May 2 1979

	Home					Away					Pts	G/D	Top Goalscorers
	P	W	D	L	F-A	W	D	L	F-A				
Swansea C	44	15	6	1	55-31	8	5	9	24-37	57	+21	Robbie James 21, Alan Waddle 20, Alan Curtis 19	
Watford	44	14	5	3	43-22	8	7	7	33-28	56	+26	Ross Jenkins 35, Luther Blissett 25	
Gillingham	42	14	7	1	37-15	5	9	6	21-22	54	+21	Danny Westwood 17, Ken Price 14	
Shrewsbury T	42	11	9	0	28-9	7	9	6	23-28	54	+14	Paul Maguire 16, Ian Atkins 12, Steve Biggins 10	
SWINDON TOWN	42	16	2	4	41-13	7	5	8	25-30	53	+23	Chic Bates 16, Andy Rowland 14*, Roy Carter 10	
Carlisle U	45	11	10	1	31-12	4	12	7	22-29	52	+12	Dave Kemp 21, Jim Lumby 9	
Exeter C	42	14	6	3	38-18	3	9	7	21-29	49	+12	Keith Bowker 11, John Sims 11, Steve Neville 9	
Colchester U	43	12	8	1	29-15	3	8	11	20-35	46	-1	Bobby Gough 19, Trevor Lee 11*	
Hull C	41	11	9	2	35-14	6	2	11	25-34	45	+12	Keith Edwards 23, Bruce Bannister 16	
Southend U	45	11	6	5	30-16	4	9	10	21-32	45	+3	Derrick Parker 12, Gerry Fell 7, Colin Morris 7	
Chester	45	11	9	3	42-21	3	7	12	15-38	44	-2	Ian Edwards 23, Ron Phillips 13, Ian Mellor 10	
Brentford	43	14	4	4	34-17	3	5	13	14-28	43	+3	Steve Phillips 12, Andy McCulloch 11	
Plymouth A	45	11	8	3	38-25	4	5	14	27-41	43	-1	Fred Binney 27, Brian Johnson 9, Gary Megson 8	
Oxford U	44	10	8	5	27-20	3	9	9	15-29	43	-7	Jason Seacole 11, Peter Foley 9	
Blackpool	42	11	5	5	33-16	5	4	12	21-37	41	+1	Tony Kellow 21*, Derek Spence 16	
Sheffield Wed.	41	6	8	4	20-14	4	11	8	23-31	39	-2	Brian Hornsby 18, Rodger Wylde 16	
Bury	42	5	11	5	32-29	4	9	8	20-31	38	-8	Ken Beamish 21*, Dave Gregory 18*	
Rotherham U	41	11	3	7	24-21	3	7	10	16-27	38	-8	Dave Gwyther 16, Trevor Phillips 15, Richard Finney 13	
Chesterfield	41	10	5	7	35-32	2	8	9	13-27	37	-11	Rod Fern 13, Phil Walker 9	
Mansfield T	40	4	9	4	21-19	5	8	10	21-28	35	-5	Terry Austin 16*, Kevin Bird 5, Johnny Miller 5	
Peterborough U	42	7	6	8	23-24	3	7	11	16-34	33	-19	Joe Cooke 14*, Barry Butlin 7	
Walsall	44	7	6	9	34-31	3	6	13	21-35	32	-11	Alan Birch 10, Roy McDonough 7, Save Syrett 7*	
Tranmere R	44	4	12	6	25-26	1	4	17	18-47	26	-30	Clive Evans 11, Steve Peplow 7	
Lincoln C	42	4	7	9	20-30	2	4	16	15-48	23	-43	Glenn Cockerill 6, John Fleming 6	

* Includes goals for previous clubs this season

HOW TO GET THERE

Sheffield

Blackpool

Here's how the Automobile Association suggest you travel to Sheffield Wed. F.C.

- SWINDON
- Follow signs Oxford A420
- 1.2 A.A. ROAD SERVICE CENTRE (106)
- At roundabout take 2nd exit A361 (signposted Stow on the Wold)
- 30.1 CHIPPING NORTON
- Follow signs Banbury
- 12.6 BANBURY
- Follow signs Coventry A423
- 13.9 SOUTHAM
- In 0.6 miles Turn Right A426 (sign-posted Rugby)
- 10.6 RUGBY
- Follow signs Leicester
- In 6 miles at roundabout follow sign The North to join Motorway M1
- 45.3 TROWELL SERVICE AREA
- 27.2 WOODALL SERVICE AREA
- 8.2 JUNCTION 33
- Leave Motorway (signposted Sheffield Centre) then at roundabout take 1st exit A630
- 1.3 JUNCTION With B6066
- In 1.2 miles forward A57 (signposted City Centre)
- 3.2 SHEFFIELD
- Follow signs Barnsley A61 to leave by Penistone Road
- In 2.5 miles Turn left A616 (signposted Manchester)
- Shortly Turn Right into Leppings Lane Unclass
- 2.8 SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY F.C. (on right)

Here's how the Automobile Association suggest you travel to Blackpool F.C.

- SWINDON
- Follow signs Cirencester A419
- 14.4 CIRENCESTER
- Follow signs Gloucester A417
- 14 BROCKWORTH
- In 2.7 miles at roundabout take 3rd exit (signposted Cheltenham, Motorway M5)
- In 1 mile at roundabout take 3rd exit A40
- 2.1 miles farther branch left (sign-posted the Midlands)
- At roundabout take 1st exit to join Motorway M5.
- 18 STRENSHAM SERVICE AREA
- Follow signs The North West
- 29.1 FRANLEY SERVICE AREA
- 8.8 JUNCTION 8
- Forward M6
- 12.5 JUNCTION 12 (GAILEY JUNCTION)
- 86.5 RIBBLE VALLEY JUNCTION (JUNCTION 31)
- Follow signs Blackpool, Lancaster (M6)
- 3.8 JUNCTION 32
- Join M55
- 7.8 JUNCTION 3
- In 3.9 miles leave Motorway (watch your speed)
- 4.1 MOTORWAY TERMINAL ROUNDABOUT
- Take 2nd exit A383
- In 2.7 miles Turn Left into Bloomfield Road Unclass for
- 2.8 BLACKPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB (on rt).



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From the **COMMERCIAL OFFICE**

Good Afternoon ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Gillingham and their Commercial Manager and his wife, Dennis and Eileen Prowse. Having known them for the last ten years I am sure that Gillingham are glad that Dennis decided not to throw in his lot with them.

As this is our last home match I would like to say thank you to all who have helped us on match days this season. However the Commercial Office season never finishes and we shall continue to run our Lottery and Bingo Competitions throughout the summer months.

For the new season in August a new type of ticket will be in operation which we hope will boost the income available to the club to progress.

Although at this moment the promotion picture is still not clear I would like to thank Bob Smith and all his team including the coaches, trainers etc, for what to my mind is a progressive outlook to the playing side of the club. I am confident that if promotion eludes us this year then next

season with the basis we have now there will be an even greater push for Division Two.

A date for you all is tomorrow Sunday May 6th "Programme Fair" 10.30-2.30 in the North Stand Gallery Adults 20p Junveniles 10p. This is the first of its kind in Swindon. So please give us your support.

Doug Buswell
Commercial Manager.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

it's the first time they have been forced to go cap in hand to the AGM since 1974. The big factor that could pull against the Grestby Road Club, however, is that in 1974 they were in the ballot for the third season is succession.

So Halifax, Rochdale and Crewe are all in some danger of losing their place when the voting members meet to decide their fate in June. Wigan Athletic's 2-2 home draw with Darlington their fourth game without a win, probably ended their promotion hopes last Saturday though they are, of course, still in with a mathematical chance of taking one of the top four places.

Wigan faced a Darlington side determined to make yet another last-gasp escape bid. In 1972 the Quakers missed the bottom four places by two points, in 1973 they were bottom whilst in 1974 they missed by one point.

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NATION WIDE

By Tony Pullein

Eight months of enterprise and hard work at Watford could be completely nullified unless the Hornets can quickly put an end to the dismal run of results that has placed their promotion chances in jeopardy. Watford slipped again last Saturday when they let a 2-0 lead over Plymouth dissolve in the last half-hour.

Roger Joslyn and Keith Mercer put Watford 2-0 up after 51 minutes but later, not for the first time this season, they relaxed to let Argyle back into the game. The visitors struck twice within three minutes, though Mike Trusson and Gary Megson, and then held on for a point.

As manager Graham Taylor surveyed the table on Saturday night, he realised that both Shrewsbury and ourselves had games in hand which, if won, would place us above them in the table. But if Watford do miss they will have only themselves to blame.

Watford had won only twice, and collected only six points, in eight games since the beginning of April when they had looked so secure at the top of the table.

If Watford do miss out, then their long-planned close-season celebration could turn a little sour. They are due to take a six-day holiday in Majorca at the end of the season as a gesture of thanks from the directors for their efforts in the Third Division this season.

Watford are also due to visit Strasbourg for a friendly game two days before the F.A. Cup final.

Two of the clubs poised to take advantage of Watford's slip met last Saturday. The Gillingham-Shrewsbury clash, watched by Gillingham's best League crowd (14,902) in many years, looked destined to end goalless with only three minutes to go.

Then Ken Price stunned Shrewsbury with two goals in as many minutes to give the Gills both points. That meant Gillingham had picked up ten points from six games and had a wonderful chance of clinching a place in Division Two for the first time in their history.

Even Swansea found themselves in difficulties soon after half-time in their home game with Southend United. Alan Waddle had given them a half-time lead but Derrick Parker hit two snap

goals immediately after the break to put the visitors in front.

But Waddle hit back with two more goals in the last quarter-of-an-hour to claim the first hat-trick of his career and take his tally for the Swans this season 20 - - - quite his best record.

Carlisle's promotion hopes came to an end at Exeter where they went down 2-3. They were twice behind by two goals but in spite of showing tremendous fighting spirit, the Cumbrians could not do enough to earn a point.

Former Exeter striker Tony Kellow took a long while to settle down after joining Blackpool for £125,000 earlier this season but he now seems to be back to his old scoring ways. Kellow scored twice in the closing minutes at Peterborough to earn the Tangerines a 2-1 win that gave him four goals in three games.

Kellow has now scored 12 goals for Blackpool which, added to his efforts for Exeter before his transfer, give him a total of 21 goals this season. So he still has a chance of improving upon his previous best of 22 goals for Exeter in 1976/77.

Reading's 1-0 home win over Halifax enabled them to equal a 27 year-old club record of 61 points though they still had two games to play. It also ensured their promotion to the Third Division.

The all-important goal came from Steve Hetzke in the 38th minute his eleventh of the season. The last time Reading amassed 61 points was in the Third Division (South) in 1951/52 but they finished only second to Plymouth Argyle in the days when only one club was promoted.

One big contrast in Reading's record for that season and this lays in their goals for column --- 112 in 1952 but only 72 this term by last Saturday.

As Reading celebrated promotion their visitors were resigned to that fact that they will have to apply for re-election and that their future as a League club must be in grave doubt. This is Halifax's ninth re-election plea and their second in three years.

One of the clubs gunning for Halifax's place is Southern League Bath City. "If we can finish above Kettering in the table, we think we could get the Southern League's backing to go forward for election to the Fourth Division," said a club spokesman. "And, having come so close last season, we feel sure we shall do it this time."

Halifax are hoping that Rochdale's amazing late recovery does not continue for the Lancashire side would appear to be the more vulnerable if they also finish in the bottom four. Rochdale shook everyone by winning 3-0 away to hot promotion favourites Barnsley last Saturday to run up their third successive victory. There was just a chance that they could make a miraculous escape and thus avoid their second successive application for re-admission.

Crewe's 0-6 defeat at Bradford City definitely doomed them to one of the bottom four places. They will be basing their case upon the fact that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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SWINDON

at 3.00pm

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2. J. TROLLOPE
3. A. FORD
4. R. McHALE
5. S. AIZLEWOOD
6. K. STROUD
7. I. MILLER
8. R. CARTER
9. A. ROWLAND
10. A. MAYES
11. P. BATES
- To be named



1. R. HILLYARD
2. J. SHARPE
3. M. BARKER
4. J. OVERTON
5. M. WEATHERLY
6. B. HUGHES
7. T. NICHOLL
8. D. WHITE
9. K. PRICE
10. D. WESTWOOD
11. T. FUNNELL
12. G. ARMSTRONG

Linesmen:

Red Flag: Mr. J.C. WELLS - Salisbury Yellow Flag: Mr. W.T. WILLIAMS - Cardiff

REFEREE:

Lester C. SHAPTER, (Newton Abbot).

Commenced refereeing in the South Devon League and graduated through the Western League to the Football League full list. Was linesman for an England v. Italy Amateur International in 1972 and lined a European Cup Winners Cup match in East Germany in 1975.

He is a Police Officer, and played for the British Police team at rugby. His interests are cross-country running and flat green bowls.

KEY OF THE BOARD

- A Blackpool v Brentford
- B Carlisle v Oxford United
- C Lincoln v Hull City
- D Mansfield v Chester
- E Plymouth v Swansea
- F Rotherham v Exeter
- G Sheffield Wednesday v Watford
- H Shrewsbury v Bury
- I Walsall v Chesterfield
- J Birmingham v Arsenal
- K Bolton v Aston Villa
- L Chelsea v Ipswich
- M Coventry v Wolverhampton
- N Derby v Middlesbrough
- O Liverpool v Southampton
- P Manchester City v Bristol City
- Q Norwich v Nottm. Forest
- R Tottenham H. v Everton
- S West Brom. Albion v Manch. Utd.

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