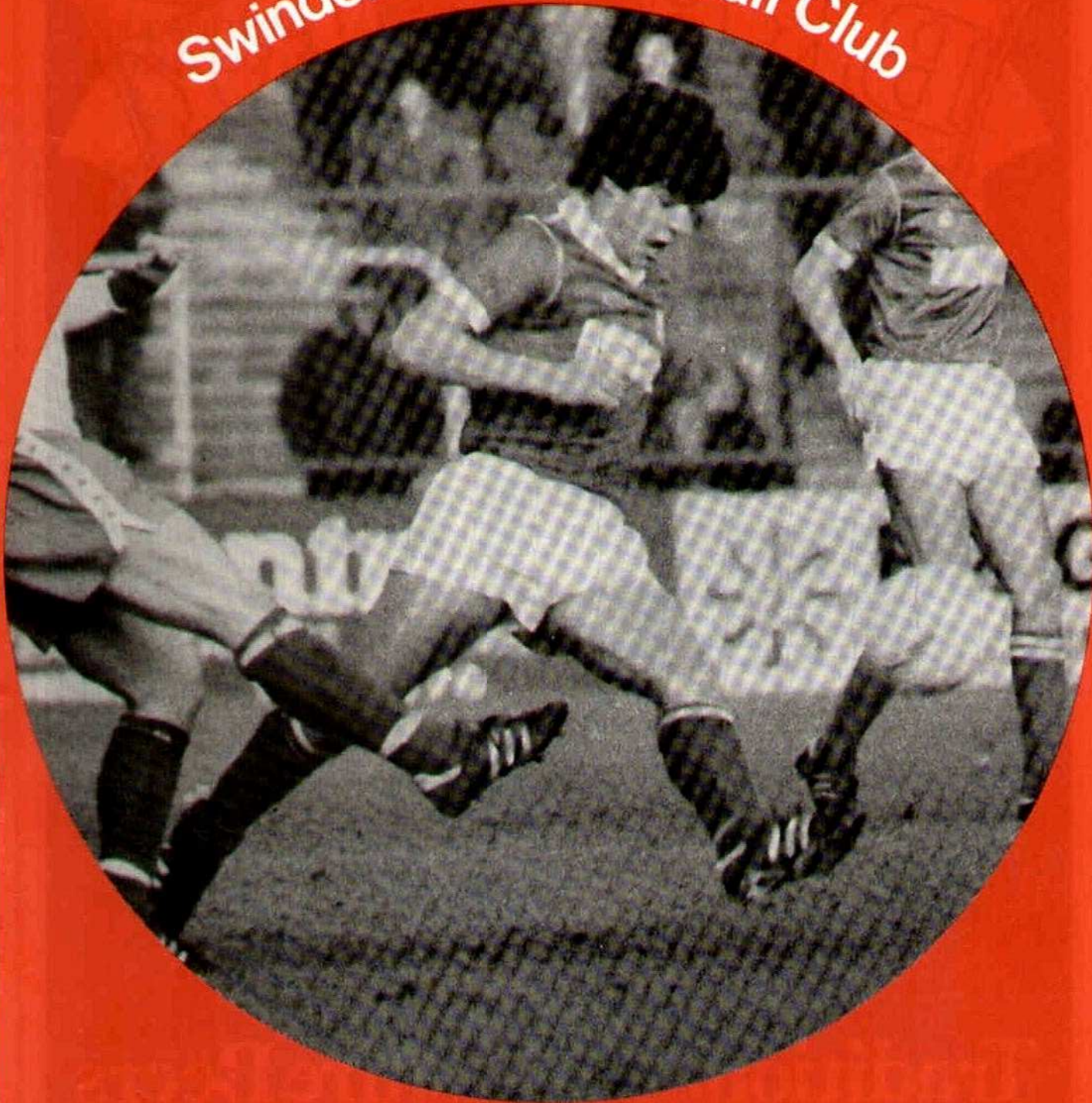


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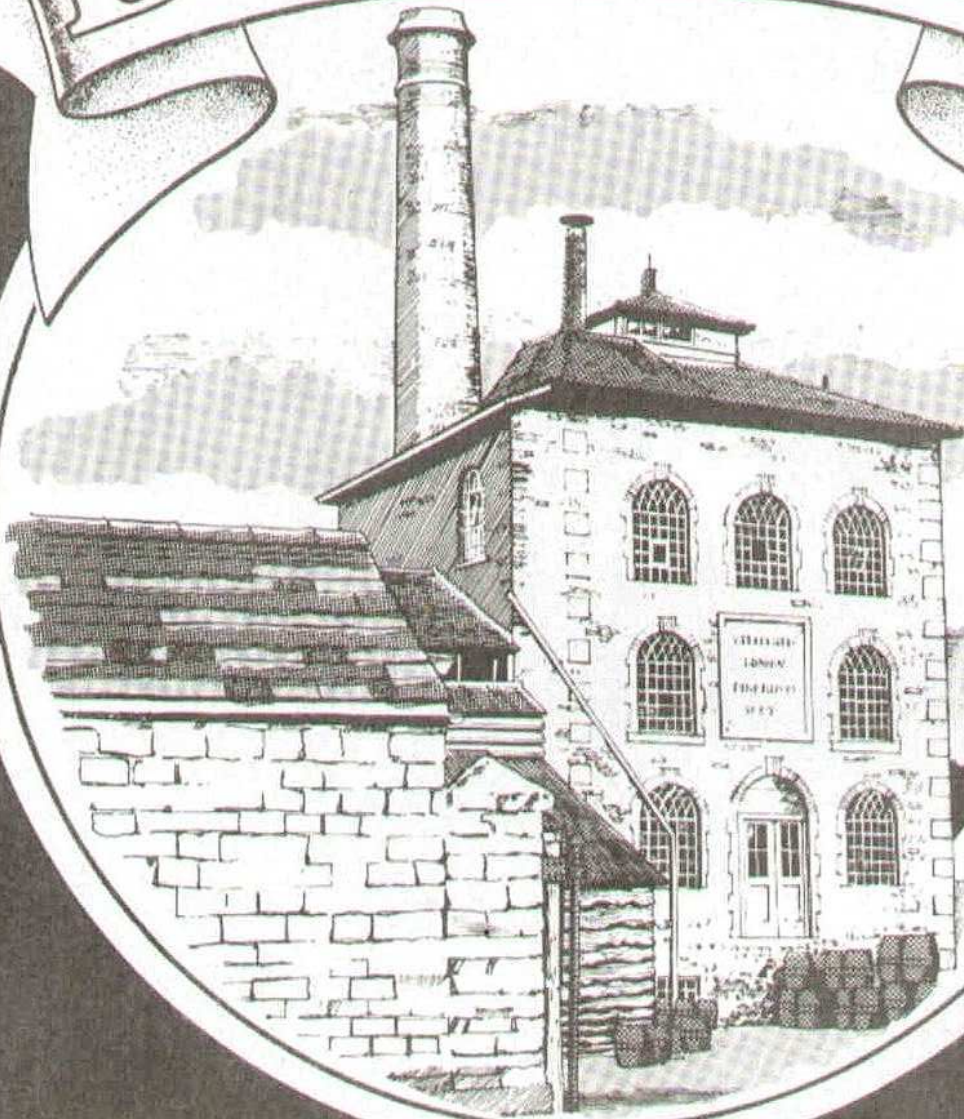


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Tuesday, 28th December
Official Match Magazine 35p

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Talk of the Town by the Chairman

We hope that Christmas has been enjoyed by everyone and that the New Year just ahead of us will bring new hopes of Good Health and Happiness. Football can play a big part in these hopes. A Footballer's life, over the Christmas period, is a difficult one, because of the physical demands of having to play several games in a short period of time, and having to watch their eating and drinking habits at a time when everyone seems to be indulging.

Because our programme printers, E.J.W. Colouprint, are on holiday for two weeks over the Christmas period, we have been put in the awkward position of having to write these notes without the prior knowledge of our past performances or in fact of our opponent's results. Yesterday we played at Aldershot and this game must have a bearing on our next cup round when we meet Aldershot in the Third Round on the County Ground, Saturday, 8 January. I know that the result of this game is not by any means a true guide to a cup result, as Brentford know to their cost, but managers must learn more from these games than from records. Aldershot have always provided strong opposition to us and their performance in beating Portsmouth Football Club, at Portsmouth in the last Round must be proof of this.

We welcome Wimbledon Football Club to the County Ground today and they, like ourselves, are striving to keep to the top of the table.

Our visitors are relative newcomers to the Football League and have done remarkably well since being voted into a system which is like Fort Knox to penetrate. With financial difficulties of running a professional football club to the standards which is really necessary, chiefly because of the fall in attendances, it is really surprising that so many non league clubs show such an interest in joining us.

Wimbledon have enjoyed the success of promotion to the Third Division and I am sure will do their best to climb again this season.

Our Reserve Team have been having mixed results, beating Brighton and Hove Albion on the County Ground by three goals to two, but losing to Crystal Palace by the same score, also on the County Ground.

Paul Rideout continues to catch the eye of the England Youth selectors and was included in the England Youth XI against a Public Schools Representative XI which was due to be played on Monday, 20 December last at Roehampton. I know that everyone will wish Paul every success for his future in the game.

Today's game is sponsored by Arkells Brewery and we extend our grateful thanks for their continued support.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of Swindon Town Football Club, to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Thank you for your support today, and I hope that you will enjoy the game.



JOHN TROLLOPE

As these notes have had to be written before both the Hartlepool and Aldershot games it is obviously not possible to write about these matches, but hopefully we will have consolidated our position in the league table. This lack of news gives me the opportunity to analyse the season so far.

Not knowing what to expect following relegation to the fourth division, coupled with losing two or three players during the summer, it was difficult to assess our chances in the new division.

After a reasonable pre-season, when we had several exciting games, we started off with two fine wins against Port Vale in the League and Bristol City in the Milk Cup. We then suffered an away defeat at Blackpool almost immediately followed by losing at home to Halifax, and then disastrously losing at Bristol City in the Milk Cup which resulted in our exit from that Competition, one which could have been an excellent source of much needed revenue. This indifferent start seemed to spur us to better things and the results picked up so much so that we did not lose for ten successive matches and, in fact, during that period went five games without conceding a goal. This run gave the lads confidence and a belief in themselves that was badly lacking last season.

After this successful run we sustained a disappointing defeat at Darlington, a result that could have knocked us out of our stride, but such was the character of the players, they did not allow this to happen and they have in fact, up to the time of

writing these notes, had a further six successive undefeated games including three in the Football Association Cup Competition. It was important that we had a good run in this competition for not only does it keep the winning trend going and sustains interest into the New Year, but also brings welcome financial benefits to the Club. We are, of course, looking forward to the next round and with a home draw against Aldershot we must have an excellent chance of going through to the fourth round.

All in all it has been quite a pleasing four months of the season having attained a good position in the league, and a place in the third round of the F.A. Cup, augurs well for a good 1983.

One of the biggest factors, in my opinion, for this upsurge has been a new found spirit amongst the lads which was typified in the away performance at Brentford. This obviously comes with good results but we have also been working at it off the pitch both in training sessions and during social functions in the players' spare time which they have given up on behalf of the Club and it's supporters. Speaking of supporters, the backing you have given us so far this season, both here at the County Ground and especially away, has lifted the team on many occasions and if I could just say please continue this encouragement throughout the remainder of the season. It will also help if you will kindly encourage your friends to join you at our games and then our future will look much healthier.

May I wish you all a happy 1983 in which we look forward to your continued support. A Happy New Year.



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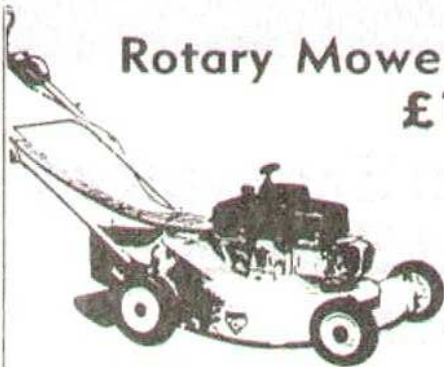
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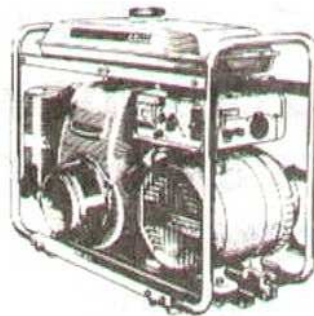
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IN NORTH WILTSHIRE

Picture Parade...

BY DAVE EVANS



Brentford goalkeeper Paddy Roche gathers the ball from the intruding Paul Rideout during the Town's victory at Griffin Park.

WIMBLEDON

DAVID BEASANT (Goalkeeper) Age 23 years. Height 6' 3". Born Willesden. Signed from Athenian League team Edgeware in May 1979 and made his Football League debut against Blackpool in January 1980. Played every game last season and has been ever-present this Season. Has potential to progress.

ALAN CORK. (Striker) Age 23 years. Height 6'0". Born Derby. Has twice been Wimbledon's leading goal-scorer. Last season he had the misfortune to break his leg early in the season and was unable to play again. Alan, who was signed from Derby County in January, 1978 has made over 180 appearances for the Club and scored 67 League & Cup goals.

CHRIS DIBBLE (Forward) Born Morden. Age 21 years. Height 5' 8". Weight 11st 2lbs. As a schoolboy was with Chelsea but joined Millwall as an A.P. in 1977. Spent 5 years at the Den and played 90 games for Millwall.

WALLY DOWNES (Midfield) Age 21 years. Height 5' 10". Born London. Made his debut for the Dons in May 1979 and scored in only his second game. A product of Wimbledon's Youth Scheme, Wally is a versatile player who can play in both defensive or striking roles. Has made over 140 appearances for Wimbledon and scored 10 goals.

WAYNE ENTWHISTLE (Forward) Age 23 years. Height 5' 11". Born Bury. A striker who started his football career as an apprentice at Bury. After two seasons as a professional with them, was transferred to Sunderland. His next move was to Leeds United who signed him for an £80,000 fee. He was then transferred to Blackpool for £60,000. Joined Wimbledon in summer 1982 where it is hoped he will recapture his potential.



BACK ROW: John Leslie, Paul Fishenden, Doug Hatcher, Alan Cork, Steve Jones, Alan Gillett, Alan Gillett (Asst. Manager), Mark Harris, Glyn Hodges, To Stewart Evans, Michael Smith, Steve Jones, Derek Finch (Physio), David Bas
FRONT ROW: Chris Dibble, Wayne Entwhistle, Steve Galliers, Gary Peters, Downes, Kevin Gage.

GARY PETERS (Club Captain/Defender) Age 27 years. Height 6' 0". Born Carshalton. Close season signing from Fulham for whom he played three seasons making 68 appearances and scored 2 goals. Started his career at Aldershot as an apprentice before moving to Reading where he made 156 League appearances in the 4 seasons. His uncle played for Wimbledon in their Southern League days.

MICK SMITH (Central Defender) Age 23 years. Height 6' 0". Born Sunderland. In his fourth season for Wimbledon having signed in December 1979 from Lincoln City for £12,500. A reliable defender who has made over 120 League appearances.

STEVE JONES
Height 6' 0"
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A versatile
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appearance

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WIMBLEDON



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(manager), Mark Harris, Glyn Hodges, Tony Tagg, David Beasant,
es, Derek Finch (Physio), David Bassett (Manager).
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STEVE JONES (Defender) Age 25 years. Height 6' 0". Born Eastbourne. Signed for Wimbledon from Walsall in August 1979 for a £15,000 fee. Had previously been with Queens Park Ranger. Missed most of 1981/1982 season through a cartilage operation. A versatile player who can play in any of the back four positions. Has made over 100 appearances for Wimbledon.

TONY TAGG (Central Defender) Age 25 years. Height 6' 2½". Born Epsom. Signed in the close season from Millwall where he had been for 5 years and for whom he had made over 150 appearances in 2nd and 3rd Divisions. Previous Club was Queen Park Rangers.

STEWART EVANS (Striker) Age 22 years. Height 6' 3". Born Rotherham. Signed from Sheffield United towards the end of the 1981/82 season. He has played over 30 games and scored 11 goals for the Dons. This tall lad creates problems in the air for defenders. Other previous clubs Rotherham United and Gainsboro who received £7,000 from Sheffield United.

PAUL FISHENDEN (Striker) Age 19 years. Height 5' 9". Born Hillingdon, Middx. Another product of the Club Youth policy, who made his league debut last season against Newport County. Made 8 league appearances and scored one goal.

STEVE GALLIERS (Midfield) Age 25 years. Height 5' 6". Though he is one of the smallest players in the Football League, Steve makes up for his lack of inches by effort. He joined Wimbledon in 1977, from Chorley and made nearly 200 appearances for the Dons before being transferred in October 1981, to Crystal Palace for £70,000. He rejoined Wimbledon from the Palace in the close season for £15,000.

KEVIN GAGE (Midfield) Age 18 years. Height 5' 9". Born Chiswick. When he made his 1st team debut against Bury in May 1981 just after his 17th birthday he became the Clubs youngest League player. Won England Caps in the European Youth Tournament and in the Little World Cup in Australia. Has made over 30 League and Cup appearances for Wimbledon. Another former youth team player who looks an excellent prospect for the future.

STEVE KETTERIDGE (Midfield) Age 23 years. Height 5' 11". Born Stevenage. Signed for Wimbledon in 1978 from Derby County. A tall stylish player with athletic ability. Has made over 160 appearances for the Club.

From the League Archives

Compiled by PAUL PLOWMAN

Few people outside the city walls of Durham will realise that the place once possessed a Football League club of its very own. One eminent sports writer, when enthusing over the Middlesbrough goal ace George Camsell's 59-goal season, described the man as having been 'plucked from non-League soccer with Durham' - and even those knowledgeable heads who put together the football bible Rothman's Yearbook somehow contrived to omit the club from a directory of former Football League members. In a world where television and the pools now seem to govern the average football follower's life, if a club ceases to appear every Saturday, it is soon forgotten along with the town it once represented. There were eight such clubs in the League's two Third Divisions in the 1920's and early 1930's - none of which survived there for more than ten years. The demise of Durham City in 1928 was swiftly followed by that of Ashington, who proudly claimed to be England's most northerly League club. Had a footballing family of five Milburns and two Charltons not been born in Ashington, it is doubtful whether the town's existence would ever again have been evident to anyone outside Northumberland. Other coal-rich towns of the 'twenties, particularly in the valleys of South Wales, pushed clubs like Aberdare Athletic and Merthyr Town into prominence. The latter, having joined the powerful Southern League in 1912, automatically booked a ticket into the Football League in 1920 - while neighbours Aberdare produced a glossy brochure announcing to the world that their ground was capable of accommodating some 65,000 customers. The advertising campaign won the club more votes at the League AGM than any other, although interest in Welsh football was never at a greater peak, with Ponypridd, Abertillery and Barry all gaining votes at the poll.

But Aberdare never managed to get even twenty-thousand into their enclosure and just a few short weeks after Cardiff City had taken the F.A. Cup out of England in 1927, Athletic were out of the League.

The careers of two Lancashire clubs elected in 1921, Nelson and Wigan Borough, ran almost in parallel, both bowing out in 1931 - although in quite different circumstances. Nelson, whose top goal scorer for five successive seasons, Joe Eddleston, was transferred to Swindon in 1926, lost every single away game during their last season which virtually wrote off any chance of being re-elected. Wigan Borough, who had never actually finished in either of the bottom two positions in the old Third North, suddenly threw in the towel in the last week of October - leaving the authorities totally unamused. Springfield Park once again became the home of a Football League club in 1974 when Wigan Athletic (who have steadfastly refused to recognise any connexion with the Borough club) were voted into the Fourth Division. For Nelson it was a case of 'what might have been' for they were the only one of the eight clubs to gain promotion during their brief membership. Just 51 points secured Nelson the Third North championship in 1923, but they were relegated again the following year. Stalybridge Celtic and Thames completed the octet. Celtic featured in just seventy-six League games, quitting before financial embarrassment overtook them. Thames Association, formed just three years prior to being elected, similarly lasted only two seasons. Occupying a spacious stadium in the heart of East London's dockland, the club sat practically on West Ham's doorstep and the short-sightedness of those who had voted them in, to the exclusion of far-away Merthyr, soon became apparent when Thames ran out of funds and quietly folded up.

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From the Commercial Office

Seasonal Greetings to All Our Readers

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is said that the pleasure of giving is more enjoyable than receiving. If this is so then we in the Pools Office find a lot of pleasure in our work, and it is true, we do. What we find interesting is that it doesn't seem to matter if the prize being collected is £10 or £1,000. The obvious delight so often shown by such remarks as, "I've been buying these tickets for years and haven't ever had a big winner," "I didn't think it would happen to me" and of course the occasional one, "Didn't think you ever put any winners in the tickets".

As regards the latter remark not everyone would agree particularly Mr Rex Telling of Purton Rd., Swindon who collected his cheque for £1,000 won on our Lottery last week. That can be said too for Mr Stanton of Marlborough Garden, Faringdon and D.

R. McCarthy of Church Way, Hungerford, who both collected £500 each recently, or those 30 or so people who have also collected cheques for between £100 and £10 since the beginning of the month. Certainly nice Christmas presents for them and our pleasure to give it to them. That also holds true for all winners in our competitions and we are referring to a lot of people who win the smaller prizes, up to £5, and these can be numbered in thousands.

There is of course just one more winner from these competitions and not yet mentioned. That is Swindon Town F.C. The gift to the Club is vital at all times so keep buying your tickets, or if you don't buy then start doing so and next year the present to the Club will be bigger and better than ever.

ERIC MOORE

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Let us CLUB together (by Paul Heath)



OUR SOCIAL CLUBS ARE TOP OF THE LEAGUE, and I am sure that most of you, our supporters, have used one of our Clubs' facilities at one time or another, either on match days or on the other days of the week. As you know all Football Clubs are seeking alternative sources of income to supplement falling attendances, and in this respect we at Swindon are in the enviable position of having three licenced clubs offering a variety of entertainment.

A few months ago, the Directors, realising the importance of implementing improvements, approach J. Arkell & Son Limited for assistance and we now have the benefit of that Company's expertise in running our clubs, with the guidance of myself representing the Board of Directors.

Ron Manners, who has recently been appointed Steward of the Supporters' Social Club, and to whom we extend a belated welcome, has a variety of entertainment to offer in the large Supporters' Club, sporting our new Parisienne decor, where there are plenty of seating areas available. Featured weekly at this Club is bingo, disco dancing and for the less energetic, darts, pool and skittles.

The Squash Club, with Alex Hayes at the helm, continues to flourish, a fine reward for his past efforts. A friendly atmosphere prevails in this smaller club and you can be sure of a warm welcome. These premises of course, house our Squash Courts and I would like to mention at least one improvement which will be effected in the New Year and that is to the changing rooms.

The Rendezvous Club, under the Managership of Noel Glass, ably supported by Dave Hollister, Entertainment Secretary, continues to give excellent service and entertainment including weekly dances and bingo and in the New Year Country and Western music will be regularly featured on alternate Friday evenings.

Please remember that our Clubs can be made available for private functions and regular meetings, and if you want further information about this please contact me, Paul Heath, at the Ground. We are able to provide buffet style meals should they be required and we have catered for many successful wedding parties.

However, I would ask you to remember that it is our SWDINON TOWN SUPPORTERS that help to make a success of the clubs, and we look forward to seeing the old, existing and new members using these facilities and hopefully, like our football team, we can say with pride, OUR SOCIAL CLUBS ARE TOP OF THE LEAGUE. A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all

Town through time

What's in a Name?

A LOOK AT SWINDON PLAYERS' NAMES THROUGH THE YEARS

By Paul Plowman

I must admit that people's names have always held some fascination for me and researching one hundred years of Swindon Town players' names has kept me occupied for many an hour - long names, short names, common names, unusual names, nicknames, mis-spelt names and even unknown names - not to mention players preferring to use their second name, third name or some totally different name altogether! Particularly for the pre-1920 era, it has been difficult at times to trace first names. Football annuals, programmes and newspapers seldom referred to anything more than a surname - and when that surname was Smith or Jones, the problems really began. Initials, if given, are sometimes the only distinguishing factor and are not always too accurate. Back in 1897 the Town gave a one-game trial to a wing-half from Grimsby and I have yet to discover the identity of the 'Unknown Mariner' who assisted the club that day and was merely referred to as 'J Smith'. A similar trial was given to a centre-forward from Ebbw Vale in February 1900, who played against Brighton United as 'A Newman' - but this time the newcomer was signed on and later revealed himself as Tommy Green. Inaccuracy in players' initials presented itself twice during the 1920's. Oswald Randall, a goalkeeper, and Archie Archer, who died earlier this year, both appear in the record books with a mysterious 'S' as a second initial - yet Randall's second name was James whilst Archie's was Ellen. There were also discrepancies in the spelling of the names of two other Town men of the mid-War years. Arthur Ruddlesdin, a Swindon scout in much later years, was sometimes referred to as Ruddlesden, although he was a brother to two Sheffield Wednesday players, William and Harold

Ruddlesdin, the latter an England international. F.O. Newberry, better known as 'Nobby' occasionally appeared, perhaps understandably so, as Newbury, yet the register of births lists his full name as Frank Orchard Newbery. To return to the more common occurrences of names, there have surprisingly been only seven Smith's in the Swindon first-team since the turn of the century, three of whom were named John. The last John Smith, of course, played in the League Cup Final in 1969. Of the other two, John of the early sixties was more popularly known as Jack - and the full-back of the same name in the 1930's was actually named Arthur John. The name Jones has appeared with far more regularity for, since the Town became a professional organisation in 1895, there have been no fewer than fifteen - with seven since the last War. Dan Bew, centre-half of the twenties, had the honour of possessing the briefest popular name of all Swindon players, although his full name was Daniel Crombie Bew - while to go to the other extreme, Harry Lyon, a forward of the Edwardian era, had the longest actual title in Herbert Ernest Saxon Bertie Cordey Lyon!

To be concluded

Today's Mascot is
Alan Smith of Cricklade
who will be 9 tomorrow



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- 3 KEVIN BADDELEY
- 4 GARY EMMANUEL
- 5 RUSSELL LEWIS
- 6 MIKE GRAHAM
- 7 HOWARD PRITCHARD
- 8 PAUL BATTY
- 9 PAUL RIDEOUT
- 10 ANDY ROWLAND
- 11 LEIGH BARNARD
- 12

WIMBLEDON

- 1 DAVID BEASANT
- 2 GARY PETERS
- 3 STEVE JONES
- 4 STEVE GALLIERS
- 5 MICK SMITH
- 6 STEVE HATTER
- 7 STEWART EVANS
- 8 STEVE KETTERIDGE
- 9 WAYNE ENTWHISTLE
- 10 WALLY DOWNES
- 11 KEVIN GAGE
- 12



REFEREE:

MR. JEFF E. BRAY (Hinckley, Leics)
Began refereeing in local leagues in 1965. Progressed through the Football Combination to the Football League List in 1975. Chairman of local Referees' Association and fifteen years Secretary of local football league. He refereed the 2nd leg of the F.A. Vase semi-final in 1977/78 and also the 2nd leg of the 1981 F. A. Trophy semi-final.
Married with two children and is an Assistant Works Manager with a dry cleaning firm. Chairman of a local Referees' Association, his spare time is spent recruiting new referees and promoting local football.

LINESMEN

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