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FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 4
SATURDAY 15th JANUARY, 1983
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

40p



PORT VALE FOOTBALL CLUB

Facts and Figures:

Address:

Vale Park, Hamil Road,
Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST6 1AW

Telephone Numbers:

Secretary's Office 0782 814134,
Lottery Department 0782 85524,
Social Club 0782 88204

Year Formed: 1876

Turned Professional: 1885

Limited Company: 1911

Football League record:

Division 2	— 1892-1896
Division 2	— 1898-1907
Division 2	— 1919-1926
Division 3 North	— 1929-1930
Division 2	— 1930-1936
Division 3 North	— 1936-1938
Division 3 South	— 1938-1952
Division 3 North	— 1952-1954
Division 2	— 1954-1957
Division 3 South	— 1957-1958
Division 4	— 1958-1959
Division 3	— 1959-1965
Division 4	— 1965-1970
Division 3	— 1970-1978
Division 4	— 1978-onwards

F.A. Cup Semi-finalists 1954.

Ground Capacity: 35,000

Record attendance

50,000 v Aston Villa, F.A. Cup,
5th Round, 20th February, 1960.

Contents:

3	John McGrath
4	At Vale Park — Swindon Town F.C.
7	Junior Valiants and Reserve Team News
8	Notice Board
17	Do You Remember?
18	Action photos v York City
19	Cover Man — Steve Fox
20 & 21	Statistics
24	Team Line Ups

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The Voice of the VALE



Charity Football Match

The Club have been approached by Jimmy Saville's Stoke Mandeville Hospital Appeal Fund to hold a charity football match at Vale Park in March. Permission has been granted by the Directors for this game to go ahead and we hope to have details of the agreed date for the match in the very near future. It is expected that celebrities from Television and the Entertainment World will take part in the game.

Miss Port Vale 1983

The club are pleased to announce that a date has been arranged for this years Miss Port Vale Beauty Competition. It will take place on Tuesday, 15th February in the Valiants (Social) Club at 8.00 p.m. Applications are now being accepted for entry and these should be sent to the Secretary's Office, Port Vale F.C. Applications will also be received on the night of the event. Dress will be smart casual wear and applicants should be over the age of 17. Last years winner was Miss Susan Wood who went on to represent the club in the Miss Stoke-on-Trent Final, finishing as runner up and also in the Miss Football Supporter Competition at Brighton. There will be several attractive prizes at stake and with the possibility of entry into other competitions, the Miss

Port Vale title is becoming a coveted honour.

Supporters Arrangements at Chester F.C.

Bearing in mind that there is likely to be a large following from Burslem at Chester, we would advise you that the recommended area for Vale fans to watch the match is "The Kop End" (the far end of Chester's ground if you approach from Sealand Road). Admission is £1.50 per head and there are no reductions for juveniles.

Thank you to Port Vale Supporters Club

The photo below shows Chairman, Mr. Jim Lloyd receiving a cheque from Port Vale Supporters Club Committee for £414.79. This amount went towards the cost of a piece of physiotherapy equipment for use in the treatment room. The club greatly appreciate this gesture by the Supporters Club and in turn, wish to thank all Vale fans who contribute towards the supporters club funds by purchasing the matchday lucky draw tickets. There is no doubt that the support given by the clubs various voluntary organisations is the lifeblood of the club.



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Cellarhead	14.10 hrs.	White Lion Bucknall	14.30 hrs.
Werrington P.O.	14.15 hrs.	Northwood	14.35 hrs.
Werrington Hotel	14.20 hrs.		

Buses return from ground on conclusion of match. For information regarding midweek games please phone above number.

I would like to offer a warm Vale Park welcome today to Swindon Town F.C. and their manager John Trollope.

I must say it is nice to be back behind my desk after suffering the worst Christmas and New Year ever. This was because of the frustrations of not being allowed to attend games while ill something which is very hard for someone whose whole life evolves around football. The smashing



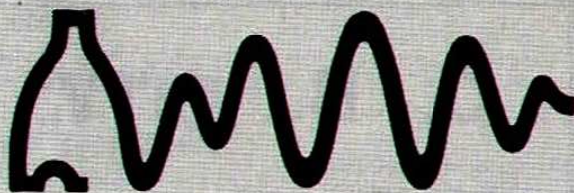
**JOHN
MCGRATH**

John McGrath

results that the team achieved over the holiday period were the best tonic that I could have had. I believe that the support at Bury was magnificent and when Geoff Hunter scored it apparently seemed as though the roof had been lifted off the stand. I spoke to Jim Iley the Bury Manager this week and needless to say he was somewhat disappointed to lose but conceded that it was an exciting and entertaining game although he felt that a draw would have been a fair result between two of what he considers are the better sides in the division. He did however applaud our attacking attitude away from home.

This is the first opportunity that I have had to officially welcome Neville Southall from Everton to the Vale camp — I hope he is enjoying his football with us and continues to do so during his stay here. Talking of goalkeepers Barry Siddall went into hospital on Wednesday to undergo an exploratory operation. I would like to wish him a swift recovery and I am sure it goes without saying that you the fans also wish him the same.

The youth side travel to Goodison Park to take on Everton in the F.A. Youth Cup next Wednesday. I wish them all the best especially in view of the news that they have been drawn at home for the next round to face either Tottenham Hotspur or Bristol Rovers.



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At VALE PARK

Swindon Town returned to Vale Park after an absence of four years, during which time their fortunes have taken an upturn and then a downward trend. Shortly after our relegation to the 4th Division, Swindon looked as though they would be joining the 2nd. Cup exploits pushed their name to the forefront and it seemed as though the club would be starting the 1980s with much to look forward to. Unfortunately, this was not to be and last season they dropped into the 4th Division for the first time in their history.

Current Manager, JOHN TROLLOPE has made every effort to ensure a quick return to the 3rd Division for the "Robins". He has however, been impeded by the club's financial restraints and the Swindon side therefore has a look about it, somewhat similar to last seasons. Goalkeeper, JIMMY ALLAN has been with the club for some time and made his league debut in September, 1971. In fact, he is now the longest serving Swindon player with nearly 350 league appearances.

GARY EMANUEL is another player on Swindon's books,

who has considerable experience. Gary started his career with 1st Division, Birmingham City and went on to make 71 appearances for them before dropping into the 2nd Division with Bristol Rovers. After a further 65 league appearances, he joined Swindon in a player exchange deal during the 1980/81 close season. John Trollope's Number 2 will need little introduction to Vale fans. He is of course, KEN BEAMISH, who was with us during the late Seventies. Although Ken's primary duty at the County Ground is to coach the players, he is also available as a player and made two appearances last season.

Last weekends "hat-trick" hero for Swindon was striker, HOWARD PRITCHARD, who joined them in July, 1981. He started his career in the 1st Division with Bristol City and made 38 league appearances in total for them over the next three seasons. He should operate on the right flank today.

Swindon have two of the most feared central strikers in the 4th Division playing for them. They are PAUL RIDEOUT, an



BACK ROW: Jimmy Quinn, Russell Lewis, Charlie Henry, Jimmy Allan, Mark Stevens, Paul Rideout, Andy Rowland.
MIDDLE ROW: Martin Blackler, Brian Hughes, Howard Pritchard, Ken Beamish, David Bristow, Roy Carter, Kevin Baddeley, David Round.
FRONT ROW: Mike Graham, Gary Emmanuel, Paul Batty, John Trollope M.B.E. (Manager), Ray Baverstock, Leigh Barnard, Gary Williams.

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K SWINDON TOWN F.C.

England Schoolboy International and ANDY ROWLAND who cost a fee in the region of £100,000 when he joined Swindon from Bury. The Vale players won't need reminding that one of the goals that Rideout has scored on his way to being one of the 4th Division leading scorers was against them in the opening match of the season. He is in fact, a highly rated young player who was given a professional contract on his 17th birthday, by which time he had already scored on his league debut against Hull City. It is in fact, his ability to produce goals out of uncompromising situations that makes him a player with the potential to succeed in the highest level. Andy Rowland has been a consistent goal scorer throughout his career, a career that started with Derby County, for whom he failed to make a league appearance. He joined Bury in 1974 and was three times their leading scorer, averaging a goal every three games. The then Swindon Manager, BOB SMITH, remembered his ability and took him to Swindon in February, 1978, a move which triggered off the purchase by Bury of KEN BEAMISH from Port Vale and the purchase by Port Vale of GERRY KEENAN from Bury. Andy has been even more successful with his current club and his average is one goal in every 2.66 games.

CURRENT FORM GUIDE

Swindon, who were relegated last season after 8 seasons in Division 3, are currently in 5th position 5 points behind Vale. Last weekend they beat Aldershot 7-0 in the F.A. Cup, and are the only team outside Division 2, to reach Round 4 at the first attempt, and now visit either Burnley or Carlisle.

They have not won any of their last 4 league games, over the holiday period, with promotion rivals, Wimbledon winning, and Scunthorpe drawing,, at the County Ground, after 7 successive home wins. The Robins away record is impressive with only one defeat in their last 11 games, and they have not conceded more than one goal in any of these games. Although Vale have the best defence in the League, Swindon have conceded fewest away goals, however their lack of goals, only 11, means they have won slightly fewer away games than their rivals. Of their 49 League and Cup goals 30 have been shared by Rowland, with 16 and Rideout 14.

Vale's recent record against Swindon has favoured the home side, Vale winning 3 of the last 5 at Vale Park, with 2 draws, but they have only one draw to show for the last 5 visits to Wiltshire, including this seasons opening day defeat 0-1.

All Our Yesterdays

Ten years ago
13th January 1973

Vale had reached the Third Round of the F.A. Cup with victories over Southport (2-1) and Wrexham (1-0) and were delighted with the draw which brought attractive First Division side West Ham to Vale Park. A sizeable attendance was anticipated and, in a bid to attract as many people as possible to the game, manager Gordon Lee was seen in all parts of the Potteries in the preceding week, armed with loudspeaker, advertising the match. He was rewarded with a gate of 20,619.

Teams — Vale: Boswell, Brodie, Lacey, Summerscales, Cross, Mountford, Williams, Goodwin, Morgan, Tartt, McLaren (Gough).

West Ham: Ferguson, McDowell, Lampard (Charles), Bonds, Taylor, Moore, Tyler, Best, Holland, Brooking, Robson.

Vale more than held their own in the first-half and, in fact, had the ball in the net through a Bob Mountford header, but the goal was disallowed for pushing. The game continued to be closely-fought in the second half, but in the 61st minute the 'Hammers' gained a free-kick. The ball was swung in and Bermudan Clyde Best headed down for Pat Holland to score with a fine shot. Vale then had an appeal for a penalty turned down when Clive Charles appeared to handle on the line. The Londoners then hung on for a 1-0 victory in a game in which most people thought Vale deserved at least a replay.

Today's visitors Swindon Town were then in Division 2, and they disposed of Birmingham City 2-0 that day with goals from Joe Butler and Ray Treacy (penalty) before losing 2-0 to West Bromwich at the Hawthorns in Round Four.

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Junior

VALIANTS



Thanks to everyone who helped to organise the Junior Valiants Christmas party and make it such an enjoyable occasion for the youngsters who attended, particularly to Sam Plank and Mike Sowerby from the Valiants Club and Rob Bailey, Paul McCann, and John Yates who gave up their time so graciously. We would like to thank all Junior Valiants who turned up that afternoon in what were terrible weather conditions and also the playing staff whose carol singing had to be heard to be believed and who all deserve medals for standing their ground when they were pelted by lollipop sticks.

Coach Excursion

Next Saturday, 22nd January the club plan to take a party of Junior Valiants to Chester for the away game. The coach has been reserved, subject to demand, although we are sure that with the team's current successful run there will be no shortage of applicants for the journey and would therefore advise you all to book early. Bookings should be made by telephone to 814134, please have your membership number available at the time of phoning. The trip will

include a tour behind the scenes and the inclusive price for the trip will be £2.50. I would assure parents that the children will be supervised and that the Juniors will all be accommodated in Chester's main stand.



Players and members — ready to tuck in at the Junior Valiants Christmas Party.

Photo — kind courtesy Evening Sentinel.

IN RESERVE

A round up of reserve and youth team news

At the halfway stage of this season we thought it would be useful for Vale fans to note that the following home Central League fixtures still remain:—

Wednesday, 19th January v Bolton Wanderers (home), Kick off 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday, 2nd February v Barnsley (home), Kick off 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday, 9th February v Nottingham Forest (home), Kick off 7.00 p.m.

Monday, 28th February v Rotherham United (home), Kick off 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday, 16th March v Middlesbrough (home), Kick off 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 6th April v Derby County (home), Kick off 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday, 20th April v Notts County (home), Kick off 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday, 4th May v Sunderland (home), Kick off 7.30 p.m.

To be arranged — v Manchester City.

Anyone wishing to watch the Youth Cup Third Round tie between Port Vale and Everton is advised that this fixture will take place at Goodison Park, this Wednesday, 19th

January, Kick off 7.00 p.m. The club are planning to take a coach of supporters to the match, though this will be subject to demand. Anyone interested should contact the Promotions Office on 85524.

No Central League games have been played since our last report, however, two Intermediate matches have taken place, both of which have resulted in defeats. We lost against Derby County 7-2 and Aston Villa by the thankfully narrow margin of 1-0.

In both games, the game fielded a very young and experienced side, a side somewhat similar to the one that represented the club against Greenway in the Sentinel Shield, 2nd Round. Vale went through to the Quarter Finals by a 2-0 margin with goals from Norman Fox and a second half substitute, Paul Sherwin.

MIDLAND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

Chart up to and including 18th December 1982.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Nottingham Forest	17	11	1	5	43	28	23
Aston Villa	16	11	0	5	33	26	22
Stoke City	16	9	4	3	31	25	22
Derby County	15	9	3	3	40	28	21
Leicester City	16	9	2	5	53	31	20
Wolverhampton W.	16	8	2	6	23	30	18
West Bromwich A.	14	6	5	3	26	23	17
Shrewsbury Town	16	5	3	8	27	32	13
Port Vale	16	6	1	9	25	39	13
Birmingham City	14	4	4	6	19	19	12
Coventry City	15	4	2	9	29	32	10
Walsall	13	3	3	7	23	29	19
Mansfield Town	14	4	1	9	25	39	9
Notts. County	16	1	3	12	19	35	5

NOTICE BOARD

Today's team mascot is also a member of the Junior Valiants Club, his name is Craig Wesley, an 11 years old who attends Moorland Middle School. Craig's hobbies include the following:- Port Vale, football programme collecting and sport in general. Craig is also a keen footballer and plays for his school football team.



Train Travel

We are pleased to announce that although the club will not be chartering a train to take supporters to Chester, one will take supporters to Hereford on the 19th February. Tickets will be available from the Secretary's Office in approximately 14 days time, price £3.75 each.



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You could be thanking your lucky stars if you win with a new Vale lottery ticket - your opportunity to win up to a Thousand Pounds for a 25p stake.



Fancy a Drink after today's game, if so, call in at the Travellers Rest, Newcastle Street, Burslem for the best tasting beers in town. Food also available.

Programme Quiz

Once again we feature a quiz competition regarding our opponents. Ten questions on Swindon Town are featured at the foot of various pages throughout today's programme. The answers to the competition appear on page 20.

Pre-Match Refreshments

Opening hours in Chester are 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and there are some excellent drinks available in this fine City. The nearest pub to the ground is The Watergreen, which is by the Chester Racecourse and is believed to serve Cask Whitbread. While in the City Centre a wide variety of beers are available. Look for Higsons at The Bull and Stirrup (Upper Northgate Street), Samuel Smiths at Clavetons (Lower Bridge Street), Burtonwood at the Kings Head (Grosvenor Street), Border Ales at The Boot (Eastgate Street Row) and Tetley Walker at The Liver (Brookes Street).

Going By Car to Chester

Port Vale
A53/A52 to Nantwich junction with A51
A51 to Chester
18 miles
39 miles

Entering Chester on the A51, go right at the traffic lights with the A41 signposted Birkenhead. At the roundabout go left with Hoole Road then right at the next roundabout past the Royal Infirmary. At the second set of lights go right, under bridge and on to Sealand Road (the A548). The football ground is on your right, opposite Sealand Industrial Estate.

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A QUESTION OF JUSTICE

The great escape

LEEDS found yesterday that Football Association punishments can come gift-wrapped.

They were ordered to close their terraces for the next two home games—but could actually make extra revenue from the verdict.

For when they face QPR on December 4 and Shrewsbury on December 13 at Elland Road, all their 20,000 seats will be available to fans who usually pay terrace prices.

An average Elland Road gate concentrated solely in the seated areas would realise approximately £8,000 above the normal take with the terraces open.



That Keegan outrage

Censured

Leeds' Great Escape came at the end of an FA Disciplinary Commission into crowd incidents during their match against Newcastle on October 30.

Newcastle were severely censured and both clubs were asked to pay half the commission costs.

The verdict reached under the chairmanship of Bert Millichip, came after six

hours of deliberation at Elland Road and a further 90 minutes discussion at the FA yesterday.

During the game missiles from the terraces hit Newcastle players Kevin Keegan and John Anderson. The players were taken off the pitch by Stoke referee Malcolm Heath.

Leeds chairman Manny

Incredible, Leeds can actually profit from the latest FA rap!

By STEVE CURRY

Cussins said afterwards: "I feel we had a very fair hearing. I think the FA realise we have done all we can to prevent misconduct at Elland Road."

Leeds director Maxwell Holmes, who also attended yesterday's hearing, said: "The FA have put the onus on the spectator to behave themselves. If they don't,

worse things could happen." But a Leeds "profit" from the punishment could follow. And Cussins admitted: "We are just hoping fans will decide to take seats. It won't affect the club a great deal financially, though." Holmes insisted: "We have not been treated leniently. But the FA are on the same side of the fence as most of us in accepting this is a social problem. We have spent over £200,000 trying to avoid this trouble."

Cut-price

Neither Leeds director, however, denies that the club are now likely to offer attractive cut-price seats to make sure their gate receipts do not suffer against QPR or Shrewsbury.

And that smacks of a very lop-sided kind of justice.

FA secretary Ted Croker confirmed that Leeds previous record had been taken into consideration. In fact, the Leeds ground was closed in 1971 after a pitch invasion.

Clearly this was a less serious offence. But it could still leave Leeds in profit financially. And that, to me, is wrong.



Deserted terraces can provide more revenue.

The reaction of the media to the Football Association's ruling on Leeds United, following crowd disturbances during their home game with Newcastle United, proved a little difficult to digest.

An FA Disciplinary Commission, investigating outbreaks of hooliganism, during which the players were pelted with missiles from the terraces, one of which struck Kevin Keegan and prevented him playing for several weeks, ordered Leeds United to close the terraces at Elland Road for two matches.

What incensed the leader writers evidently was the suggestion that the punishment would in fact boost the Leeds coffers for the subject games against Queens Park Rangers and Shrewsbury Town. For although they could anticipate a drop in the attendance, the extra charge for seating would offset this and in fact produce even more revenue than is usual.

The general feeling was that it is wrong for the club to come out of the ordeal in profit, as was the outcome when Sheffield Wednesday were handed a similar sentence on a previous occasion.

But what might I ask is so immoral about that? Was it Leeds United who perpetrated the crimes?

Of course not and like any football club in the country they are powerless to overcome the mindless hooliganism that is the product of our present society. Combat it they can, to some extent, with very expensive safety fencing and extra policing, but as to overcoming the disease, that can only be achieved by government intervention.

So to suggest that Leeds United or any other club for that matter, have got away with it lightly is simply a distortion of the facts. It is not the morality of Leeds United that is in question but that of a small section of the public who continue to louse up our great sport with their unsocial and unacceptable behaviour.

Clearly the verdict reached under the chairmanship of Bert Millichip, after nearly eight hours of deliberation, was sympathetic to the plight that faces football as a whole. It is extremely difficult to administer justice when the criminals are not answerable to the charge.

However FA Secretary Ted Croker believes that some clubs might be tempted to close their terraces voluntarily in an attempt to curb the violence, particularly in the light of the fact that an overall smaller audience but seated provides more revenue.

The thinking is that club costs would be cut because fewer gatemen and stewards would be necessary as well as less policemen.

In real terms what it means is dearer football for the man on the terrace and that would no doubt add to the declining football supporters trend away from the game.

It is also questionable whether a drift to all-seater stadiums would in fact stamp out the thuggery which has haunted the game for more than a decade now. It certainly did not stop a faction of the Leeds crowd rioting in Paris in 1975, during their European Cup Final defeat by Bayern Munich.

But to suggest that Leeds United had a great escape is really laying blame on the wrong doorstep.

JOHN NOLAN

BRADLEY'S BRIEF

Ray Bradley of the
'Sunday Express'
writes for you



game for a laugh?

If it's laughter you're after, then forget football. Soccer has become a very serious business. The gates are down: the gags are scarce and the shrinks are being called in to lift morale.

As my favourite comedian George Burns once quipped: "Things are so bad I'm paying the customers to come in. But it's still fun performing to a 'live' audience."

Mr. Burns has been around a long time and knows a thing or two about the entertainment business. His mouth is as straight as a ventriloquist's dummy, as he says, deadpan: "When the audience starts to leave it's time to change the act." He has a valid point.

George, who loves to puff eight-inch Havana cigars ("The doctor who told me to give up smoking is dead") also knows a bit about contracts.

He is 87 and still has 13 years of his contract to run. Says genial George: "That takes me up to 100. After that I have told my agent to negotiate one year at a time."

What a great pity that George Burns does not give after-match Press conferences. It would be nice to hear him sum up things like "pressure".

I can just imagine him standing there reeling off the gags before a captive audience. "Pressure? No I don't feel any

pressure. You only feel pressure when you are lying in an oxygen tent and some guy is standing on the oxygen pipe."

Mind you, there are few managers who appear on match days to give the panting Press papal audience. Not like the good old days when Bill Shankly or The Doc held court.

A Shankly sample? "We love playing West Ham at Anfield. They play lovely football. The fans see lots of goals . . . and we win 3-0!"

Tommy Docherty another wise-cracking Scot, also held a quip and when it came to dealing with reporters. Asked to sum up a 4-0 defeat, The Doc admitted laconically: "We started badly and then fell away." A classic line that had reporters scrapping to get back on the phone to the office.

Docherty was a master of the scathing line that has dismissed dissenting reporters or disgruntled players. He still loves to reminisce on his days at Old Trafford where he was both loved and hated by Manchester United players.

A famous Scottish international who had been dropped from the first team once asked if he could be spared a minute to air a grievance.

"Of course," said The Doc. "What's

the problem?" The player stammered: "Well boss, I have just seen the team sheet and I see I am in the reserves again."

Then came the sting. "That's right," replied Docherty. "The third team haven't got a game this weekend!"

Once when he was manager at Derby and results were going badly The Doc reprimanded a player for lack of effort. "Look laddie, you are either brilliant or rubbish. What I need at the moment is consistent mediocrity."

Not many managers see the funny side of life and the more serious ones, often unwittingly, come out with the funniest comments.

SECONDS OUT

Like the First Division manager who was asked by an alert reporter if he had heard who his team had been drawn against in the European UEFA Cup.

"No, tell me," he inquired. "Dukla, Prague," replied the reporter. "Just the draw we prayed for," said the manager, "we love playing those Dutch teams."

Big Jock Wallace had a fair sprinkling of Scottish talent in his side at Leicester and used to love stoking them up for every match. No team that Wallace — now boss of Motherwell — managed was ever allowed to give anything less than 100 per cent effort and were frequently exhorted to give "every drop of blood."

Wallace, a big, hard Scot with a craggy sense of humour showed a touch of the venerated Shankly when he explained: "I want my players to fight to the death for me because I have promised to pay their funeral expenses."

Like many managers Wallace believed that a big heart was worth a multitude of skill and that fitness and aggregate effort would always win the big battle.

Len Ashurst is also a man dedicated to physical fitness. The Cardiff manager set a rigorous pre-season for his team and then accentuated his beliefs by taking his side away for training at the RAF St. Athan centre for 'light relief'.

When they arrived at the centre,

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Ashurst was obviously impressed with the facilities — especially the boxing ring which seemed a perfect platform for toughening-up exercises.

He reinforced his addition to the physical side of fitness by donning the gloves in the ring against all comers. His first — and only — opponent was Tarki Micalleff, a short, stocky striker of Greek descent who has been capped at Welsh Under-21 level.

After sparring around for a few minutes Ashurst insisted they make a real fight of it and declared: "For God's sake put some effort into it". Tenacious Tarki let loose with a terrific right hander which dumped Ashurst on the canvas for a worrying 20 seconds.

Sporting Len was left to assess the damage — a beautiful black eye which necessitated dark bins for a week. End of story.

John Bond is a manager who has frequently dropped into the trap of self-publicity — not without humour on occasions when he meets other members of the Baubles, Bangles and Bright Shiny beads fraternity.

Bond's pre-occupation with cornering the pulicity market — Brian Cough accepted — because if Clough Coughs it's news — has a penchant for the superlative and the hyperbole.

As a famous TV panellist he has uttered such pearls as "We have thrown this lad in at the deep end. So he has to climb a mountain." When he arrived at Maine Road, amid a rolling of drums he castigated the ability of Ken Brown — his successor at Norwich — in unprintable terms. Bond has an eye for the camera and the instant quote — some of which need no embellishing by me.

But among his pearls are such beauties as: "He is among several players I am considering. I have several irons in the fire, but I'm keeping it close to my chest." How hot can you get!

BLIND JUSTICE

Malcolm Allison, that outrageous extrovert, is a man who studies the game deeply. But Allison is a manager who dives for the shrinks couch when things go wrong.

At Crystal Palace — the Palace of Varieties — he once admitted: "Sometimes they hold a board meeting to find out if I am in!" Unlucky Big Mal was soon given the sack. He celebrated in typical Champagne style. Somebody else paid!

Some managers indulge in psychology to find the answers to their problems — and I could name a dozen. But my favourite story of the "psychos" concerns Harry Storer — like Harry Haslam — a master of kidology.

Storer was an old-style shrink: a wonderful, humorous man who is still venerated in the Midlands where he is remembered with great esteem as the

manager of Coventry, Birmingham and Derby.

He was a hard man who stood for little nonsense. Once he marched a player down the tunnel on the pitch after an ill-conceived defeat. "Where are you taking me boss?," inquired the puzzled player.

"We're going to look for t'bloody hole you've been hiding in all afternoon," replied a steadfast Storer, a man who believed in honesty.

He once told an old friend of mine when asked to sum up the attributes of his team: "Well, I've got four good 'uns, three triers and three bluddy cowards. An' I'm not sure about the goalkeeper!"

Who says there is no humour in football? Every day I speak to a manager, a coach or a player who can reel off a funny story.

Presence of mind? Well, I suggest Bobby Moore, captain of West Ham and England might always come up with the right answer. When a referee was once laid unconscious after being struck in the face by the ball everything might have got out of control. But Moore saved the day, picking up the whistle from the poor official and giving an authoritative blast to stop play.

Two years ago I saw Moore in Bobby's bar at the Cafe Royal on the night of the Football Writers' nosh up.

He stood imperious alongside Big Jack Charlton — his 1966 World Cup team mate.

I was standing with Glenn Roeder Brian Horton and Clive Allen — my guests — when Big Jack turned round sharply and pinned Clive to the wall as he went through all our yesterdays.

Quipped Clive, then a mere £1 million striker: "Well I've been close marked all season, but this is ridiculous!" We really rolled up because it is hard to get two words out of Clive.

Who says it does not pay to have a sense of humour? My mate recently appeared before a disciplinary committee — a body who don't always see the funny side of soccer.

Charlie was sent off during a match on his local recreation ground last season. Now Charlie is not short on getting his own back. He borrowed a dog — out for its Sunday morning walk — grabbed a white corner flag, and went straight up to the referee and quipped: "I think you've lost these, ref!"

Blind justice? Poor old Charlie received a 56-day suspension — twice the normal length.

As my old mate Ron Atkinson would say as he examined his new bracelet: "Magic pal, sheer magic."

As my boss says: "It's all about character. Where are they now?"



Ricky Villa (Spurs) sees the funny side of this incident as he prepares to help Norwich skipper Mick McGuire to his feet.

A UNITED IRELAND!

By Colin Benson

When Northern Ireland's romantic journey took them to within 90 minutes of a place in the semi-finals of the 1982 World Cup last summer, it was no more than Irish football deserved.

Who could have believed that Billy Bingham's small band of players which featured a kid of 17 — Norman Whiteside (Manchester United), and a striker, Gerry Armstrong, who spent much of the season on Watford's substitutes bench, would even reach the second phase of this prestigious and strenuous competition.

But reach it they did at the expense of the home nation, Spain and the highly rated Yugoslavs and despite their limited resources, it was Northern Ireland who outshone Britain's other participants, England and Scotland.

Of course one could look at the Irish line-up and see weaknesses. It was only to be expected in such exclusive company, and when it came to the final crunch against Austria and France, those deficiencies were exposed and exploited.

The tragedy of it all was the fact that there were Irish players of true international stature, sat at home in the Emerald Isle, unable to lend a boot to the Irish cause, simply because they come from south of the border.

Had Billy Bingham been able to call on the services of Liam Brady, David O'Leary, considered by many to be the best centre-half in Europe, Frank Stapleton, Mark Lawrenson and Chris Hughton, what a side he would have been able to field, and almost certainly one which would have gone even further than the gallant boyos of 82 did.

"I think that is probably very true," agrees the Northern Ireland skipper Martin O'Neill, who reasons: "If we can do it in rugby why shouldn't we have a decent all-Ireland team in football.

"It is extremely difficult to try and take on the world's best when you are a country the size of Yorkshire, so why divide it? Why not try and get a United Ireland team together.


"I think most of the players would probably agree with it although I'm not suggesting that we shall see such a development in my life-time. It is something that has been advocated for some time without any official response.

"The closest we ever got to it was way back in 1973 when we played under the guise of a Shamrock Rovers team. But we were really an all-Ireland side and we took on Brazil at Dallymount Park, Dublin before 50,000 people. The game was shown live on TV and we lost 4-3 in an absolutely brilliant game for which I consider myself lucky to be picked.

"There were the likes of Johnny Giles, Derek Dougan and big Pat Jennings. Players from North and South playing in the one side and it was an incredibly marvellous experience. I couldn't see why they did not develop the whole of Irish international football on those lines and give the idea a go after that resounding success."

As both the Irish rugby and hockey teams are selected on an all-Ireland basis what is stopping the football team following the same formula.

"It is a deep rooted problem which many people see as insurmountable," explains the Norwich City



Martin O'Neill
the Captain
of
Northern Ireland



The Republic's star striker Frank Stapleton (Manchester United) lends his support to an all-Ireland side.

midfielder: "It concerns the governing bodies. There are two Football Associations and if there is to be a united team then somewhere along the way one of those bodies has to take control which means some officials losing their power and position."

The Irish Football Association was founded in November 1880 and they staged their very first international match, against England, in Belfast on February 18, 1882. Just for the record England won 13-0 but international football had got off the ground and competition between Ireland and the home countries continued to flourish.

Even so it was not until March 17, 1900 that the Irish F.A. staged their first home game in Dublin. Again the opposition was provided by England who recorded a modest 2-0 victory. England were to appear only once more in the Southern capital — in 1912 against an all-Ireland team, when a hat-trick from Fleming spearheaded a 6-1 win for the visitors.

In 1904, 1906, 1908 and 1913, Dublin was again used by the Irish F.A. for the visits of Scotland, but that 1-2 defeat by Scotland on March 15th 1913 was to prove the last time that an Ireland side played in Dublin. Out of 49 home internationals, Belfast had staged 43 of them.

An unprecedented outburst in an Irish Cup semi-final between Glentoran and Belfast Celtic in the season of 1919-20, which resulted in both teams being removed from the competition, and the cup being awarded to Shelbourne without a Final being played, was to later lead to a rupture, which had political implications and resulted in the establishment of two associations.

The Irish Football Association Ltd., and the Football Association of Ireland, which later became the Football Association of the Irish Free State and is now known as the Republic of Ireland.

So after forty years the north and the south were split in terms of football and when civil war erupted and Southern Ireland broke away from the rest of the British Isles and eventually became a Republic the split was irreversible.

Both associations are completely autonomous bodies and there would seem little likelihood of them pooling their resources even just for international matches. For such games generate the main source of income, and the Northern Ireland F.A. would be loathe to share any of the spoils from their lucrative

annual fixture with England, not to mention the estimated £750,000 profit they made from the World Cup, with their poorer brethren in the south.

Political issues aside it seems ridiculous that such a small nation should compete on two different fronts in the same international arena. Dublin born Manchester United striker Frank Stapleton puts it in perspective when he says: "It seems ridiculous that we play in the same competitions, as two sides. In the last European Championships we had both Irish teams drawn in the same qualifying group with England, which was crazy. We took points off each other and as it happens on that occasion England qualified but it could have worked against us all.

"I would like to see a united Irish team just as a test to see what it would be like. Unfortunately it would probably upset a few folk and on each side there is bound to be disagreements about selection.

"But for the good of football if nothing else I think it would be an excellent move, and I'm sure I am speaking for most of the players when I say we should be all together.

"Football at international level is very well supported in Ireland even though league gates over there, in both parts are not too good. With a united team we could really give them something to shout about."

Martin O'Neill positively enthuses at the prospects however remote they might be: "Although we are one of the smallest nations, at this particular point in time we have the potential to become one of the best international sides in Europe," he insists. "Particularly with the North doing so exceptionally well recently and getting results, both in the World Cup and more recently against West Germany in the European Championship.

"If only we could pool our resources and use the best from both worlds. There are players like Brady, Stapleton, O'Leary, Lawrenson — for heavens sake the list is endless. If we joined up with them it would be a privilege to be in the side.

"There are political issues in Ireland which could create problems but this does not affect the rugby code in any way. To be quite honest I'm not exactly sure why it doesn't, but since I have been in football I can not recall any serious or concerted efforts being made to join us on the football field."

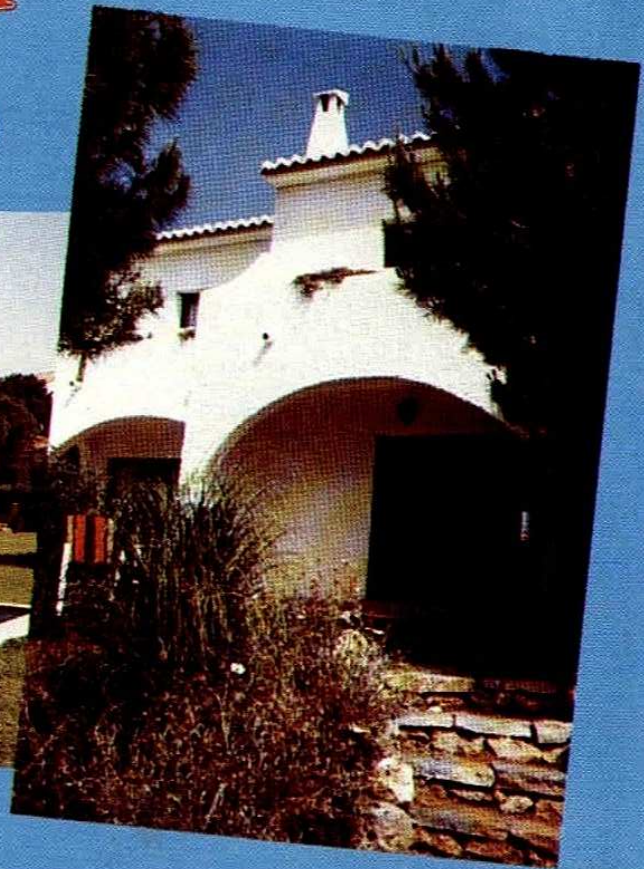
Things being what they are with prejudices, be they political or personal, presenting a seemingly impregnable barrier, it is doubtful whether we shall see a united-Ireland team in the foreseeable future.

It seems such a waste at a time which could prove the most successful in the history of Irish football. Success at international level can do wonders for the domestic game and one would think it possible for both football associations to maintain their independence at local level while at the same time forming a combined international selection panel to cover international matches.

Already in this current European Championship the Republic have found life difficult, and their home draw with Spain would seem to edge them out of a realistic chance of qualifying for the finals. But just think of the potential of a team such as this: Jennings; Nicholl, O'Leary, Lawrenson, Hughton; McIlroy, O'Neill, Brady; Armstrong, Stapleton, Whiteside. And what is even more important is that this team could be supplemented by many class players which would give Ireland quality in depth.

Unquestionably a united-Ireland team would pose a threat to everyone in Europe.

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Taking the Crunch out of Soccer



By John Nolan

Thankfully the Association of Referees and Linesmen endorsed their policy to clean up the game when they held a special meeting in Coventry at the end of November.

With a record 123 players already sent for an early bath in League and Cup games the pressure was on to curb the campaign and institute a more lenient attitude towards football offenders. But despite the complaints John Goggins, the secretary of the Referees Association, claimed that the war on soccer's henchmen was having the desired effect.

"We have no evidence that anyone is asking us to go soft," he said. "We believe the fans are behind us in our bid to do something about the deliberate cheating in the game."

From my observations of crowd reactions this season I would endorse that statement. The soccer going public have thrilled at the skills of the more talented players who now have licence to exercise their ability without the fear of being whacked from behind. The new referees charter has certainly taken the crunch out of the game and left us with more snap crackle and pop, but many observers have questioned the validity of dismissing players for deliberate handball.

The sending off of goalkeepers for example has seemed severely harsh and not in line with overall policy which is to make the game more entertaining for the spectator.

The dismissal for instance of the Stoke City goalkeeper Peter Fox in the first-half of the First Division game against Luton Town could hardly be described as a positive contribution towards the betterment of the game.

THE PRICE TO PAY

Fox had made an instinctive dive just outside the penalty area and was punished accordingly. Stoke were left to battle on with ten men, a far from satisfactory outcome for the paying customers.

Fox himself was so distressed he threatened to give up the game and another Stoke City player, Micky Thomas, has also expressed vehement fears that players will pack up football unless referees take a softer line.

Thomas' outburst was provoked by the sending off at Southampton of Stoke's England Under-21 defender Paul Bracewell: "Bracewell's sending off was disgraceful," roared the Welsh international, "It showed that players can no longer challenge for 50-50 balls."

The divide between a legitimate tackle and a foul is a very thin one in a game of physical contact and although everyone wants to see the cynical foul outlawed and punished severely, it must be remembered that tackling is a skill in its own right and is a perfectly legitimate action.

However apart from these obvious misgivings the Players Union has thrown its weight solidly behind the referees and the PFA chairman, Steve Coppell, says: "If this is the price we have to pay to make the game more entertaining, then it must be paid."

The Manchester United and England forward has always been a player of exemplary attitude himself and

The Chairman of the PFA Steve Coppell

emphasises that he understands what a difficult job referees face in controlling a match.

ENCOURAGING

"I am on their side," he says "although I can see that there are problems in certain areas, but I have been encouraged by the fact that referees seem to be using their discretionary powers to better effect.

"I was involved in an incident during our match at Old Trafford against Spurs, when Glenn Hoddle made an illegal tackle on me. It was obviously an error of judgement rather than a deliberate attempt to injure or intimidate me and although the crowd wanted him off, the referee — quite correctly to my mind — used his discretion and was content to book him."

The PFA are naturally concerned about the number of players sent off this season but as Coppell intimates, they can not do anything about altering the rules at this stage of the season: "We do not make the rules. It is our job to play within them," he points out.

It is quite clear that the stricter interpretation of the laws has helped produce more entertaining football this season but surprisingly of the 123 offenders dismissed in the opening three months, only 39 were guilty of committing professional fouls. The remainder were just dealt with in the traditional way for violation of the rules.

All concerned are obviously aware that the system is not perfect but this is mainly due to that age old problem of inconsistency by officials. However in the main all parties seem to agree that the controversial clean up campaign is gradually sweeping the cynicism out of the professional game... And that can't be bad.

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BENNO AT LARGE

FANS FIRST AND FOREMOST

The realisation that soccer's mass following is in decline has alerted clubs to try and do everything in their power to make sure that they halt the slide.

Football has at last realised that the fans of the eighties need looking after and in this respect many clubs such as Tottenham, Manchester United and Sheffield United have spent millions constructing modern comfortable stands to house their supporters.

But it does not end with bricks and mortar ask Swansea City Chairman Malcolm Struel and he will tell you: "The first people we think about at this club are the fans."

It is good to hear. Swansea, now enjoying their second season in the First Division have evolved a scheme with the local transport authority which provides cheap travel and reduced admission to



Swansea manager John Toshack

matches. From the outskirts of the city special tickets are available only from bus drivers. There are adult tickets and family tickets, the latter saving up to £1.20.

Mr Tom Phillips, Swansea's vice chairman, says "The scheme is aimed mainly at encouraging family support and nothing would please us more than to find that we eventually have to extend our special family enclosure".

The theme is echoed by new Derby director and former Secretary Stuart Webb. "We all need a distinct injection of the old family atmosphere, the sort we fostered at the Baseball Ground several years ago".

So Derby are embarking on a registration plan to keep the "unwanted" out of their family seating area.

The first rule is: No adults unless accompanied by children!

Fans young and old are uppermost in the thinking of Gordon Dimbleby, who recently joined Chelsea's administrative staff.

There are almost permanent reservations at Stamford Bridge for a group of Chelsea Pensioners and for the home match against Shrewsbury Chelsea invited 100 guests from the local Senior Citizens Club.

Meanwhile, Dimbleby, tongue by no means in cheek, has inaugurated for the Under-12's "Gordon'll Fix It" programme so that "The youngsters can have their dreams realised". Those who want to skipper Chelsea may have to wait a while!

Carlisle, who are to make an award to the best behaved visiting supporters this season, are to honour their own fans with a supporter's "Top 10" nominated by the fans themselves.

Says Managing Director Colin Hutchinson, "We want the fans to tell us about the supporters they feel deserve recognition, like the fan who hasn't missed an away match for years, or something totally different like a supporter who makes a contribution to improving the image of football fans."

"An independent panel will decide on the awards at the end of the season. We want to show the bright side of committed football supporters".

MORE WATCHING THE BOX

League football is attracting bigger TV audiences. The Broadcasters Audience Research Bureau report an increase of seven per cent on weekend viewing which so far this season has consisted entirely of League matches.

"I'm not surprised", says Brian Moore of ITV whose figures are up a staggering 57 per cent since switching to Saturday night transmission.

Moore, presenter of 'The Big Match', pays League football a fulsome tribute. "The game has never been more exciting in any of the 14 seasons I've been involved with the programme."

"We've been able to show a number of tremendous matches, with plenty of goals, and I can't help but compliment the managers, coaches and, above all, the players."

"I'm not surprised that more people are returning to the game. Everywhere I've been people have gone out of their way to say how exciting matches have become."

Moore, a director of Third Division Gillingham, adds: "The message from the pitch is that football is very far from dead".

The increase in viewing figures does not surprise Graham Kelly, Secretary of The Football League. "The reason is simple", he says. "The game this season has been better, and more entertaining. Those people who have been staying away from games have missed some magnificent football."

"The trend is very encouraging" adds Mr. Kelly. "The overall increase in TV audiences is probably well in excess of seven per cent when mid-week viewing of Milk Cup and international matches is taken into account."

"I agree with Brian Moore. There has been a dramatic change on the pitch. We all have our own theories on the reasons why, but it is obvious that the players are enjoying the game more and more and that enjoyment is communicating itself to the spectators."

Do you REMEMBER

Featuring Every Player who has worn the Vale shirt during the 1970's

Tommy McLaren (Utility) (1967/77)

Born in Livingston, Scotland, Tommy became one of the most popular Vale players of his era. He began his career with Berwick Rangers but moved down to the Potteries in Nov. 1967 when aged 18 along with a few other Scots attracted by Sir Stanley Matthews scouting system. He made his debut v Exeter C. in March 1968 and he soon endeared himself to the home fans with his wholehearted all-action style. He started as a centre-forward but in the ensuing years he became equally adept as a winger, midfield player and even full-back!

His best known goal occurred in the home game v Huddersfield in Sept. 1973, a cracking volley from outside the box which almost ripped the net off its mountings and brought manager Gordon Lee racing on to the track with delight as Vale won 4-2.

He was given a free transfer at the end of the 1976/77 season, a decision which greatly disappointed him and he moved into non-league football with Telford U. In 1978 he tragically died in a fume-filled garage and a memorial game was held at Vale Park v Birmingham City for his family.

League appearances 301
Goals 28

Alan Lamb (Midfield) (1976/78)

Alan began his career in 1970 with Preston North End and made 76 appearances for them before linking up with Vale on transfer deadline day in March 1977. He helped Vale to remain in Div. 3 that season and played 40 games the following season as this time the fight against relegation faded. He tended to lack the necessary steel for lower league football despite showing some

neat touches and was released in 1978. His next port of call was back home to Scotland and he linked up with Dundee.

League appearances 54
Goals 3

Kevin Kennerley (Midfield) (1976/78)

Although born in Chester, Kevin's first league club was Arsenal but he was released while still an apprentice and he joined Burnley in 1972. He could never claim to be a regular first teamer as he only made 6 appearances in 4 years and he joined Vale on a free transfer in the 1976 close season. His midfield skills earned him 16 appearances the following season and his most memorable moment must surely have been his goal against 2nd Division Hull during extra time in a thrilling cup replay at Vale Park. The following season he could not break into the Vale first team and joined Swansea on a months loan, during which he made 2 apps. Vale released him in the summer of 1978.

League appearances 16
Goals 1

John Lumsden (Defender) (1977/78)

A local lad, John's first league club was Stoke C. whom he joined in August 1973. 2 years later he made his league debut and had made 26 appearances by the time he joined Vale on loan in March 1978 to join the relegation fight. 5 appearances later he returned to Stoke and was subsequently released at the end of the season.

League appearances 5
Goals 0

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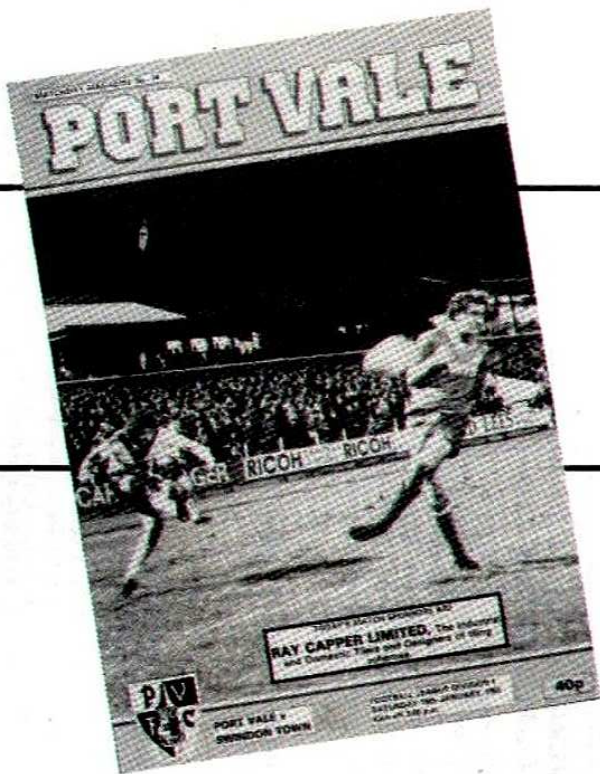
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Cover Man

Steve Fox

with them they had several noteworthy victories. The one that sticks out in Steve's mind the most was last seasons 3-1 win at Nottingham Forest when he laid on two goals. Wrexham gave Steve the experience of European football and he particularly remembers a Cup Winners Cup tie in Magdburgh, East Germany.

Two years ago Steve married Helen, a Wrexham girl and they are now the proud parents of a baby son, named Matthew. As his home life stabilised he decided to invest in a new property in the Wrexham area and that was one of the reasons why he joined Port Vale as opposed to one of the other clubs interested in him last Autumn.

One of the amazing things that has happened to Steve during his career rallies round transfer talks with another club. Whilst with Birmingham he was due to join Sheffield Wednesday, both clubs had agreed fees and Steve had agreed terms with the Sheffield Wednesday Manager, Len Ashurst. Whilst on his way back to Birmingham, Sheffield had a change of heart and a message was left at Steve's home that the transfer deal was off. It was only when Steve picked up the newspaper the following day and saw that Len Ashurst had been sacked he realised the reason. He had no regrets about the change of events, since he then went on to be a regular member of the Birmingham first team. Having had setbacks early in his career, Steve is very philosophical about his future in the game and is grateful for the opportunity to be playing professional football.

As far as his future is concerned, he is confident that the club have the players to get promotion and feels that the team are playing better than at any time since he joined the club. He has been a bit disappointed with his personal form since his signing but feels that in the last few games he has improved. He enjoys the experience of playing at home in front of the Vale Park crowd and gains confidence from the support that he is receiving from the terraces and stands.

Many supporters may be surprised to hear Steve's reservations about his own performances, and if the sponsors "Man of the Match" awards are any guidance, it seems likely that he will be one of the strong candidates for this season supporters "Player of the Year Award".

Although Steve is still in the prime of his career, he has lived quite a varied footballing life. His big time career started as an Associate Schoolboy with Aston Villa when he played several times in the same team as John Dearn, now with Norwich City, Steve Hunt — Coventry City and Gordon Cowans. He was not offered an apprenticeship by Villa and drifted into non-league soccer with a North Birmingham Club, Tamworth. Tamworth, in fact, is Steve's home town and whilst playing part time soccer he took up a job as a tool maker. Factory life suited Steve and he derived considerable enjoyment from his work. It was therefore a difficult decision for him to make when he was approached by several 1st Division Clubs, including Derby County, Coventry and Birmingham City. Steve decided to join the nearest club to his home. His career seemed to be going on the right course and he made his first team debut for Birmingham at Derby in a 0-0 draw in the 1st Division. He played in the following game against Liverpool but shortly after the Manager, Willje Bell was dismissed he lost his first team place. He failed to get into the side under Sir Alf Ramsey, probably due to that mans dislike of wing play but when Jim Smith took over he was given 30 consecutive games. During his time with Birmingham City he could not fail to be impressed by the skills of Kenny Burns and Trevor Francis and lists those two as the best players he has played with to date. Birmingham's financial problems caused them to accept a £95,000 offer from Wrexham for Steve. Steve was a first team regular in the 2nd Division with Wrexham. During his stay

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DATE OPPONENTS

GATE

F-A

DATE	OPPONENTS	GATE	F-A	Siddall	Tartt	Bromage	Hunter	Sproson	Cegielski	Sheldon	Moss	Greenhoff	Ridley	Earle	Armstrong	Lawrence	
1982	28 - Swindon Town	3,602	0 1	A													
Aug.	30 - Rochdale MC 1 (1L)	2,966	0 1	H													
Sept.	4 - Bury	2,888	0 0	H													
Sept.	6 - Colchester United	2,877	0 0	H													
Sept.	11 - Mansfield Town	2,313	0 0	A													
Sept.	14 - Rochdale MC 1 (2L)	1,538	0 2	A													
Sept.	18 - Chester	3,303	0 2	H													
Sept.	25 - Darlington	2,255	0 0	A													
Sept.	28 - Aldershot	1,781	0 0	A													
Oct.	2 - Stockport County	3,474	0 3	H													
Oct.	9 - Hereford United	2,875	0 2	H													
Oct.	15 - Halifax Town	2,009	0 0	A													
Oct.	22 - Hartlepool United	3,664	0 3	H													
Oct.	28 - Crewe Alexandra	4,713	0 2	A													
Nov.	30 - Blackpool	5,449	0 1	H													
Nov.	6 - Scunthorpe United	3,766	0 0	A													
Nov.	13 - Hull City	2,234	0 3	A													
Nov.	20 - Bradford City FAC1	5,298	0 1	H													
Nov.	27 - Peterborough United	6,151	0 0	H													
Nov.	4 - Tranmere Rovers	3,043	0 0	A													
Dec.	17 - Wimbledon	2,761	0 1	H													
Dec.	27 - Bristol City	6,852	0 1	H													
Dec.	28 - Torquay United	4,760	0 0	A													
1983	1 - Northampton Town	3,618	2 2	A													
Jan.	3 - York City	6,056	2 1	H													
Jan.	8 - Bury	4,748	0 1	A													
Jan.	15 - Swindon Town			H													
Jan.	22 - Chester			A													
Jan.	29 - Mansfield T. (FA 4)			H													
Feb.	5 - Darlington			H													
Feb.	11 - Colchester United			H													
Feb.	14 - Scunthorpe U.			H													
Feb.	19 - Hereford U. (FA 5)			A													
Feb.	26 - Halifax Town			H													
Mar.	2 - Hartlepool United			A													
Mar.	5 - Crewe Alexandra			H													
Mar.	12 - Blackpool (FA 6)			H													
Mar.	19 - Rochdale			H													
Mar.	26 - Hull City (MCF)			A													
April	2 - Torquay United			A													
April	4 - Bristol City			H													
April	8 - Tranmere Rovers			H													
April	16 - Aldershot (FA SF)			H													
April	23 - Wimbledon			H													
April	29 - Peterborough United			A													
May	2 - York City			H													
May	6 - Stockport County			A													
May	14 - Northampton Town			A													
May	21 - FA Cup Final			H													

ANSWERS TO QUIZ COMPETITION

1. Arsenal, 2. Ken Beamish, 3. 1977-78, 4. Most league appearances for one club, 5. Paul Rideout, 6. The Railwaymen, 7. Bobby Smith, 8. The Anglo Italian Trophy, 9. 1-0 to Swindon, 10. Wiltshire.

Home Fixtures in **Bold** Port Vale score first; Name in **Bold** = Scorer; Figure = Number of Goals; * Own Goal; + Denotes substituted player

FOCUS ON 4

Over the past few weeks this column has been devoted to talk of the rise and fall of the 4th Division leaders without a mention of ourselves. We are pleased to say that a major improvement over the last four weeks has been in Port Vale. With five wins and one draw out of the last six games only Hull City have managed to withstand the pressure of our surge into 2nd place. Hull have shown promotion form over

the holiday period and their win at Wimbledon last weekend (where Bury were defeated the weekend previous) was evidence of their ability to get results where it matters. Sad to say that today's visitors, Swindon appear to be the only 4th Division club going through to the 4th Round of the F.A. Cup, although Scunthorpe and Torquay have both been involved in replays this week, the results of which are not known before the printing of this programme. Swindon

literally hammered Aldershot with a 7-0 win in front of 7,187 people.

4TH DIVISION LEADING SCORERS as at 11.1.83
15 QUINN - Stockport, **13 ALLINSON** - Colchester, **12 MADDEN** - Bury, **12 THOMAS** - Chester, **12 MARWOOD** - Hull, **12 MASSEY** - Northampton, **12 ROWLAND** - Swindon, **12 LESLIE** - Wimbledon.

STATS

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE APPEARANCES SEASON 1982/83

Player	App	Goals
Siddall	20	1
Bromage	24	3
Sproson	24	3
Sheldon	5	2
Greenhoff	16	1
Earle	7	1
Chamberlain	5	7
Newton	20	1
Bright	1	1
McAdam	1	3
Waddington	3	
Tartt	23	1
Hunter	24	3
Cegielski	23	3
Moss	23	8
Ridley	22	1
Armstrong	21	3
Shankland	3	8
Lawrence	8	1
Fox	12	3
Southall	3	

F.A. CUP AND MILK CUP APPEARANCES SEASON 1982/83

Player	App	Goals
Siddall	3	
Bromage	3	
Sproson	3	
Ridley	3	
Earle	1	
Waddington	1	
Chamberlain	1	
Greenhoff	2	
Tartt	3	
Hunter	3	
Cegielski	3	
Moss	3	
Armstrong	3	
Lawrence	1	
Shankland	1	
Fox	1	
Newton	1	

Port Vale Average home attendances Season 1982/83

Football League 4,071 Milk Cup 2,565 F.A. Cup 6,151

LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR (Up to and including Saturday 8th January 1983)

Last season's positions in brackets

Club	Home					Away					Pts	
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F		
Hull City	25	8	4	0	28	7	6	3	4	15	13	49
Port Vale	24	8	2	2	15	6	6	4	2	19	10	48
Bury	25	8	3	2	25	10	5	4	3	16	11	46
Wimbledon	24	6	3	2	25	14	7	2	4	20	13	44
Swindon Town	23	8	1	2	22	8	4	6	2	11	9	43
Scunthorpe United	23	6	3	2	17	7	6	4	2	16	11	43
Colchester United	25	9	4	0	27	7	3	2	7	10	17	42
Torquay United	23	9	2	0	26	10	2	3	7	9	21	38
Mansfield Town	24	6	2	5	15	17	4	2	5	14	20	34
York City	23	7	2	1	31	14	1	6	6	10	18	32
Chester	25	5	2	7	18	16	4	3	4	11	11	32
Peterborough United	22	6	2	3	16	11	2	5	4	10	11	31
Stockport County	24	6	4	2	22	15	2	2	8	12	25	30
Halifax Town	23	3	4	4	14	15	4	3	5	17	19	28
Rochdale	25	7	4	2	22	13	0	3	9	11	28	28
Aldershot	23	6	2	3	15	13	1	5	6	13	27	28
Northampton Town	23	5	6	2	24	15	1	3	6	7	21	27
Blackpool	23	6	5	2	19	12	1	1	8	8	20	27
Hartlepool United	23	7	2	2	17	10	0	2	10	8	31	25
Tranmere Rovers	23	4	3	4	16	16	3	0	9	11	25	24
Darlington	23	3	4	5	12	14	2	2	7	15	23	21
Bristol City	24	2	5	4	12	16	1	6	6	15	29	20
Crewe Alexandra	24	3	2	7	15	21	2	2	8	9	17	19
Hereford United	24	5	3	4	10	11	0	1	11	11	33	19

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NEW YEAR SOUVENIRS AT THE VALE SOUVENIR SHOP

We are pleased to announce that from Monday onwards and for the remainder of this month and for the month of February all items on sale in the Vale Souvenir Shop will be reduced by **10%**. As you will see, this is a limited offer and we would therefore advise you to take advantage of the reduction as soon as possible, since there is bound to be a great demand for supplies. We would like to draw your attention to the varied range of products available in the club shop which now includes these items at the following reduced prices: —

PORT VALE TOWELS £3.95
PORT VALE CAPS £2.50
PORT VALE PULLOVERS FROM £6.99
PORT VALE SHIELD PENNANTS £2.25
PORT VALE PENS 15p

CENTENARY PLATES 50p
REPLICA FOOTBALL SHIRTS from £7.50
REPLICA FOOTBALL SHORTS from £3.10
REPLICA FOOTBALL SOCKS from 99p
GOALKEEPERS JERSEYS from £7.50
PORT VALE SWEATSHIRTS (Various colours) from £6.75
PORT VALE SHOULDER BAGS £4.25
SOCCER SPECIAL MAGAZINE 30p
PORT VALE GLOVES £1.50
PORT VALE SCARVES £1.50
REPLICA TEAM TRACKSUITS from £12.99
PORT VALE TIES £2.99

All subject to a big 10% discount

Show your true colours when you are following the Vale at home and away.

Also on sale are some attractive ceramic beakers

Our photograph features five of the lads toasting your health for 1983 with the new mugs and features in the foreground John Rudge receiving a ceramic Loving Cup, one of which was also presented to each of the players. The club wishes to thank Mr. K. Smith from Ceramic Marketing Services in Burslem for his company's generosity in donating these souvenirs to the club.



TEAMS

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COLIN TARTT	2
RUSSEL BROMAGE	3
GEOFF HUNTER	4
PHIL SPROSON	5
WAYNE CEGIELSKI	6
STEVE FOX	7
ERNIE MOSS	8
BOB NEWTON	9
JIMMY GREENHOFF	10
TERRY ARMSTRONG	11
To be announced	Sub

Swindon Town

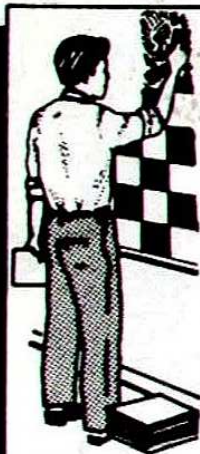
Red shirts, white shorts, red
socks



JIMMY ALLAN	1
RAY BAVERSTOCK	2
COLIN BAILIE	3
BRIAN HUGHES	4
RUSSELL LEWIS	5
MIKE GRAHAM	6
HOWARD PRITCHARD	7
PAUL BATTY	8
PAUL RIDEOUT	9
ANDY ROWLAND	10
LEIGH BARNARD	11
To be announced	Sub

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TODAY'S REFEREE is MR. D. SCOTT from Burnley. He commenced refereeing in 1964 and officiated as linesman in a U.E.F.A. Cup match last season. He is employed as a company secretary/accountant and is interested in Gardening, motoring and sport.

LINESMEN

Red Flag — Mr. J. E. Biddle from Solihull

Yellow Flag — Mr. G. M. McManus from Deeside