

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
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Swindon Town Town Town Chatter Chatter Chatter

Important discussions took place last week on the new offer by the T.V. Companies for the televising of matches on a similar basis as at present. As you will have read in the press that the clubs turned down their offer, and one assumes now that further meetings will be held with a view to reaching agreement on the terms and conditions before the commencement of the next season. Numerous views have been expressed as to what would be best for all concerned, but we feel that the best we can do at the moment is wait and see.

This afternoon we extend a welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Swindon Town.

And we cannot help but feel that it was a pity that the celebrations of our 2,000th Football League appearance could not have been delayed significantly until today.

Then it would have been a remarkable coincidence that we marked that particular milestone in our history by meeting the club who ushered us into the Football League on Saturday 29th August 1931 . . . Swindon Town of course.

We marked our debut in the League by winning 3-2 . . . a feat we hope we can repeat today to avoid conceding the double having crashed 4-0 at Swindon on October 23rd.

We are pleased to note that our 'A' team got back into winning ways against neighbours Notts County with a 3-0 victory.

It has been a difficult season for this particular team, for with the club needing to operate with a much smaller senior staff, first team calls have necessitated introducing very young players not really ready for the Midland Intermediate standard of football.

Nevertheless it gives them an early indication of what is required of them in the future.

The 'B' team too suffers occasionally because of the needs of the club.

It is essential that there is some vehicle for trying out the number of youngsters who contact the club asking for trials.

There is also the added problem that the majority of the 'B' team are in the 16-year-old bracket . . . and they are competing against players often a couple of years older than themselves in the Under 18 Division of the Notts Youth League.

Consistent performances which can come from sending out unchanged line-ups is a luxury often denied both these teams

Nevertheless a high standard of performance is attained more often than not to bring great credit on the youngsters concerned.

Next Saturday we travel for our away fixture with Darlington then on Monday evening 14th March we are at home to Hartlepool United.

Our outstanding game with Crewe Alexandra has been rearranged for Monday evening 28th March. 7.30 p.m.

FRONT COVER: Presentation to Rod Arnold by the Chairman re his reaching the club record appearances.

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In Town Today

Swindon

JIM ALLAN, (Goalkeeper)

Born Inverness. Experienced goalkeeper who has been with Swindon since signing from Scottish junior football in 1970. Made his league debut in September 1971 and has been the regular first team goalkeeper since 1976. Now the longest serving player at the club with 318 league appearances to the end of last season.

KEVIN BADDELEY, (Defender)

Born Swindon. Although brought up in Swindon Kevin joined Bristol City to serve his apprenticeship and made one league appearance for them against West Ham United in August 1980. Joined Swindon in July 1981 and established himself in the first team last season making 29 league appearances. Can play in either full back position although usually found on the left.

COLIN BAILIE, (Defender)

Born Belfast. Promising young full back who signed professional last season after completing his apprenticeship. Made one first team appearance at Oxford United in April 1982.

LEIGH BARNARD, (Midfield)

Born Worsley. A player who served his apprenticeship with Portsmouth and spent several seasons with them after making his league debut against Exeter City in September 1977. A busy hardworking player he made around 90 league appearances for Portsmouth before joining Swindon in July 1982.

PAUL BATTY, (Midfield)

Born Edlington, Yorkshire. Young player who

completed his apprenticeship last season and signed professional but had not appeared in the first team at the season's end.

RAY BAVERSTOCK, (Defender)

Born London. Young full back who served his apprenticeship with Swindon but had not appeared in the first team at the end of last season.

GARY EMMANUEL, (Midfield)

Born Swansea. Gary started his career with Birmingham City making his debut in January 1975 at Stoke City. He played 71 first division games for the blues before a transfer to Bristol Rovers in December 1978. A further 65 league appearances followed for the Eastville club and he joined Swindon in an exchange deal during the 1981 close season. Gave some all-action displays last season.

MIKE GRAHAM, (Defender)

Born Lancaster. Mike began his career with Bolton Wanderers and made his league debut as substitute at Mansfield in March 1978. He had made 46 league appearances for Bolton, mostly at full back before he joined Swindon in the summer of 1981. He made 30 league appearances last season often in the centre of the defence but also in midfield.

CHARLIE HENRY, (Defender)

Born Acton. Charlie grew up in Swindon and served his apprenticeship with the club signing professional in February 1980. By September 1980 he had made his first team debut in a league cup match at Lincoln City and went on to establish himself in the first team at right full back although he can also play at centre half. Had made 69 league appearances at the end of last season.

BRIAN HUGHES, (Midfield)

Born Ludgershall. A former Swindon apprentice he signed professional in 1980 and made his first team debut in a league cup-tie at Lincoln City in September of that year. A player of considerable potential despite his lightweight build he had made 51 league appearances at the end of last season.

RUSSELL LEWIS, (Defender)

Born Blaengwynfi. Russell joined Swindon from Welsh League Football in 1976 and made his league debut at York City in April 1977. He had to spend several seasons as reserve

centre-half before winning a regular first team place at right full back during the 1979-80 season. The following season he took over at centre-half and at the end of last season had 138 league appearances to his credit. A wholehearted tough-tackling player.

HOWARD PRITCHARD, (Forward)

Born Cardiff. Howard served his apprenticeship with Bristol City and made his league debut against Aston Villa in August 1978. He made 38 league appearances over the next three seasons and was released to join Swindon in July 1981. He made 28 league appearances for Swindon last season and usually plays as an orthodox winger on either side of the pitch although usually favouring the right.

JIMMY QUINN, (Forward)

Born Belfast. Swindon signed Jimmy from Northern Premier League side Oswestry Town in December 1981 after a months trial and he made his league debut as substitute against Walsall in March 1982. He made 2 full appearances and 1 more as substitute last season after a rapid rise from junior football. An old fashioned centre forward who is good in the air.

PAUL RIDEOUT, (Forward)

Born Bournemouth. Paul was the regular centre forward in the England Schoolboys team for two seasons and signed as an apprentice for Swindon in May 1980. He was given a professional contract on his seventeenth birthday but by that time had already scored on his league debut against Hull City in November 1980 and made 16 league appearances last season to take his total to 51 before his eighteenth birthday. His ability to produce goals out of unpromising situations marks him as a player with the potential to succeed at the highest level.

ANDY ROWLAND, (Forward)

Born Derby. Andy was an apprentice with Derby county but did not appear in their first team. During 1974 he was transferred to Bury and made his league debut at Swindon in August that year. He was three times leading scorer for Bury and played 174 league games for them before his transfer to Swindon in September 1978. He made 141 league appearances for Swindon at the end of last season and has a consistent goalscoring record.



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 (now Torquay), Kevin Baddeley, David Round
Front Row: Mike Graham, Gary Emmanuel, Paul Batty, John Trollope M.B.E. (Manager), Ray Baverstock, Leigh Barnard, Gary Williams (now Tranmere)

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Mansfield Town Football Club are merging with the Ashfield Five a side league and a brand new competition will be launched to be played on our 5-a-side courts at Field Mill Ground.

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The competition will be played on a Monday and Tuesday evening.

The league will consist of 6 divisions, 10 teams participating in each division, each league lasting 9 weeks. Two teams being promoted and two relegated each 9 week 'season'! Five 'seasons' will be organised yearly and a knock out competition will be organised following each 9 week 'season'.

There will be an entry fee to the League of £1.60 per 'season' and each team will pay £2.50 per week playing fees.

The league will be affiliated to the F.A. therefore all teams must be registered. Registration forms are available from the Commercial Office at Mansfield Town Football Club.

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TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK
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By COLIN BENSON

ENGLAND's undefeated run in the finals of the World Cup has helped boost their standing in European football, and the 3-1 defeat of semi-finalists France in Bilbao has helped lift them 12 places in the European ranking list compiled by FOOTBALL FRANCE, one of the most influential soccer magazines in the world.

Not surprisingly Italy, the winners of the World Cup in Spain, have been honoured as Europe's top national side in this annual listing, despite their appalling record in the European Championship this season which has seen them draw at home with Czechoslovakia (2-2) and Rumania (0-0), as well as loose to Switzerland (1-0) in a friendly.

But that marvellous run in the later stages of the World Cup which produced victories over Argentina, Brazil, Poland and West Germany, in the final, has provided the Italian's with a notable double — their star striker Paolo Rossi having been named as the European Footballer of the Year.

Poland, the third-placed team in Spain, are nominated behind Enzo Bearzot's Italian masters in second place, and that too is a considerable improvement on last years position which ranked them seventh.

The Poles who were not expected to do well in Spain following the political upheaval the country has experienced over the past year, oust the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia from the runners-up spot.

Russia, who have played just once in the current European Championship, beating Finland 2-0 in Moscow, have fallen to joint sixth position with Belgium, but the slide of Yugoslavia who have slumped to 17th, mirrors the appalling year the highly fancied Slavs have experienced.

WALES IMPROVE

Tipped to do well in Spain they were eliminated at the first stage and their poor showing then has only been further compounded by a string of disappointing results in Group 4 of the European Championship.

That is the group which contains Wales, Bulgaria and Norway and although it has to be admitted that the Slavs are in a transitional stage following the disbandment of the World Cup failures, their 3-1 defeat in Norway, still came as an unexpected shock.

They did pick themselves up with a 1-0 victory in Bulgaria but then lost ground in the thick cloying mud of Titograd when they allowed Wales to come back twice from being two goals down to eventually draw 4-4.

Wales themselves have risen in stature, from 20th to 14th, while their other opponents in the European Championship Norway and Bulgaria are ranked 22nd and 25th respectively.

For England though the rise to joint third place with France and West Germany, the only side to beat them in 1982, has proved a big fillip. This time last year England were languishing in 15th place after their worst ever series of results, but following a cautious start under new manager Bobby Robson, when they were lucky to draw 2-2 in Denmark and lost at Wembley to West Germany in a friendly, the signs have been encouraging.

THE FORM TEAM

A 3-0 win in Greece followed by the 9-0 annihilation of Luxembourg, in the European Championship, has enhanced England's prospects of



ENGLAND IN THE TOP THREE

Terry Butcher and Garry Mabbutt celebrate a goal from Blissett.

ENGLAND IN THE TOP

finishing top of Group 3, and so qualifying for a place in the finals in France.

Hungary, who do not enter the tournament until the end of March, when they travel to Luxembourg, have slipped badly in recent months, falling from fourth position to 17th in the European rankings. Likewise Denmark — rated 8th in 1982 — have slumped badly to 23rd, while Greece have fallen three places from 24 to 27 and Luxembourg from 30 to 33.

Scotland, who suffered yet another poor World Cup series, have also lost ground, dropping from fifth to 10th. Defeats by Switzerland (2-0) and Belgium (3-2) this season in the European Championship have not enhanced their chances in Group 1 where Belgium — sixth — and East Germany — 14th — have both improved their standing and little Switzerland have maintained their position with a second successive joint eighth place, this time with the Austrians.

Northern Ireland, level with England in 15th position last year and



A lot will depend on Kenny Dalglish, here seen in World Cup action for Scotland against New Zealand.

the toast of Spain, have moved up to 12th on the back of that unexpected success in the World Cup and the subsequent defeat of West Germany in Group 6 of the European Championship.

However their 2-0 defeat against Austria who have beaten Albania (5-0) and Turkey (4-0) has set them back in this very tough qualifying group. Austria as previously mentioned are rated joint eighth — an improvement of four places, and although West Germany have fallen from the poll position they unquestionably held last year, they still remain a formidable opponent. Albania 30th and Turkey 31st would appear to be only nuisance value.

CHANGES

In Group 7, the Republic of Ireland would also appear to be up against it. Spain are the top seeded team in this division with a ranking of 13, but like all the other competitors in the group it is a downward trend.

The Spanish really let their supporters down during the summer when they flopped in the World Cup Finals in their own backyard and although their points return of three, from their opening two European Championship matches would seem satisfactory, the manner of their performances did little to suggest that they will quickly emerge as a European soccer super power.

The 1-0 home win over Iceland was far from convincing, even if it came as a welcome relief for new manager Miguel Munoz. In this, Spain's first game of the new season, there were only four survivors from the World Cup squad and the winning goal scored in the 59th minute, was scored by debutant Juan Pedraza (Atletico Madrid).

The third point was achieved in Dublin where Spain took a 3-1 lead before the Irish clawed back to 3-3 with two goals from Frank Stapleton. Having already lost 2-1 in Holland, the Republic's chances would seem to have evaporated in favour of the Dutch, who also dropped a point with a 1-1 draw in Iceland.

1983 EUROPEAN NATIONAL TEAM RANKINGS

(The 1982 positions are shown in brackets)

Position	Team(s)
1	Italy (12)
2	Poland (7)
3	ENGLAND (15), West Germany (1), France (11)
6	Belgium (10), USSR (2)
8	Austria (12), Switzerland (8)
10	SCOTLAND (5), Czechoslovakia (12)
12	NORTHERN IRELAND (15)
13	Spain (6)
14	WALES (20), East Germany (22), Portugal (22)
17	Hungary (4), Rumania (26), Yugoslavia (2)
20	Holland (18), Norway (27)
22	Sweden (18)
23	Denmark (8)
24	REPUBLIC of IRELAND (17)
25	Bulgaria (20)
26	Finland (28)
27	Greece (24)
28	Iceland (24)
29	Cyprus (30)
30	Albania (30)
31	Malta (29), Turkey (30)
33	Luxembourg (30)

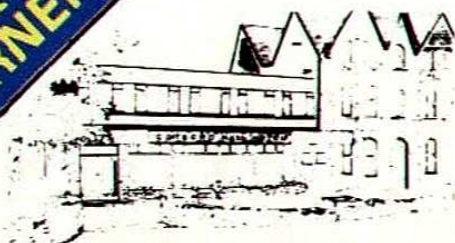
Liechtenstein have not been included as they have not played a sufficient number of games.

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THREE

RUMANIA

The statistics show that England have made the biggest advancement over the past twelve months, improving their standing by a clear 12 places. Next comes the World Champions Italy, eleven rungs up the ladder, and perhaps surprisingly Rumania, which has quietly progressed by nine positions.

Two countries have maintained their status — Albania and Switzerland but for the rest 1982 has proved a negative year.

Denmark, Yugoslavia and Hungary provided the most dramatic slides. The Danes dropped 15 places from eight to 23 and that was the measure of Yugoslavia's decline which took them from second to 17th. The Magyars on the other hand only plummeted 13 places from fourth to 17.

The Republic of Ireland joined Spain with a drop of seven places while Scotland slipped five rungs down the scale.

The demise of West Germany and Russia is not uncontrollable but Holland must be disappointed that their slide continues even if it is only a slight one.

Here is the table of merit showing the teams who have made the most progress in international football during 1982:

Team	No of places improved
ENGLAND	12
Italy	11
Rumania	9
France	8
East Germany	8
Portugal	8
Norway	7
WALES	6
Poland	5
Austria	4
Belgium	4
NORTHERN IRELAND	3
Czechoslovakia	2
Finland	2

And so to current form and the European Championship. Here are the results so far with the corresponding league tables. Remember only one team qualifies from each group, the seven winners joining the host nation France in the finals.

Group 1

Belgium	—	Switzerland	3-0
Scotland	—	East Germany	2-0
Switzerland	—	Scotland	2-0
Belgium	—	Scotland	3-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BELGIUM	2	2	0	0	6	2	4
SCOTLAND	3	1	0	2	4	5	2
SWITZERLAND	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
EAST GERMANY	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Belgium head the group with maximum points from two games but they have yet to play away and the first big test will be at the end of March when they visit East Germany. For Scotland it has been a disappointing series with just two points and half their programme completed. The home game with Switzerland on 30-3-83 is now vital to their chances.

Group 2

Finland	—	Poland	2-3
Finland	—	Portugal	0-2
Portugal	—	Poland	2-1
Russia	—	Finland	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PORTUGAL	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
RUSSIA	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
POLAND	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
FINLAND	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

Play in this group does not resume until April when Poland face Finland and Russia host Portugal in a key fixture. The 2-1 defeat of Poland — third in the World Cup — by Portugal was the shock of the group. Portugal lead 2-0 through Nene and Gomes before Janas replied for Poland in the last minute. This result opened the door for Russia, who are also under new management — Valeri Lobanovsky — but the form book still suggests that the winner of this group will come from the two representatives of Eastern Europe.



Sammy Lee — one of the new generation of England Internationals.

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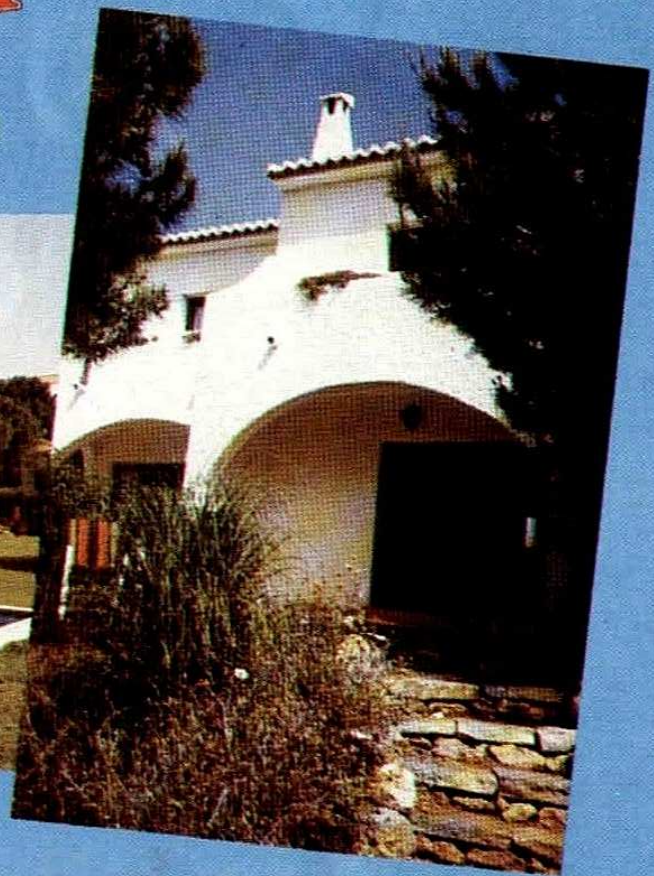
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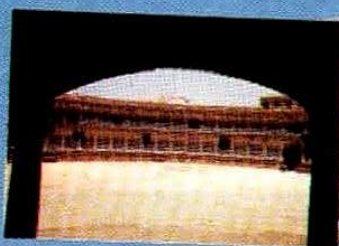
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ENGLAND IN THE TOP THREE

Group 3

Denmark	—	England	2-2
Luxembourg	—	Greece	0-2
Luxembourg	—	Denmark	1-2
Greece	—	England	0-3
England	—	Luxembourg	9-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	3	2	1	0	14	2	5
DENMARK	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
GREECE	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
LUXEMBOURG	3	0	0	3	1	13	0

England's landslide 9-0 victory over Luxembourg established them as the highest scoring team in the competition, an extra string to their bow should the group be decided by goal difference. Realistically both Luxembourg and Greece must be discounted as serious contenders which leaves England to battle it out with Denmark and Hungary who enter the fray towards the end of March, away to Luxembourg. The Magyars are never easy opponents in Budapest but their away form of late has been very poor and England must remain favourites to qualify from this group.

Group 4

Wales	—	Norway	1-0
Norway	—	Yugoslavia	3-1
Bulgaria	—	Norway	2-2
Bulgaria	—	Yugoslavia	0-1
Yugoslavia	—	Wales	4-4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WALES	2	1	1	0	5	4	3
NORWAY	3	1	1	1	5	4	3
YUGOSLAVIA	3	1	1	1	6	7	3
BULGARIA	2	0	1	1	2	3	1



Bernd Schuster, was back in the West German team in Belfast.

Welsh hearts were lifted when Mike England's team gave an inspired performance in Titograd to earn a valuable point in a 4-4 draw with Yugoslavia. The Slavs who slumped badly in Spain are in the process of rebuilding their team under new manager Todor Veselinovic and the more settled Welsh team would seem to have a fine chance of winning the group. Bulgaria — also under new management, with only one point from two home games and Wales still to play, would appear to be out of contention now, but Norway provide a serious threat.

Group 5

Rumania	—	Cyprus	3-1
Rumania	—	Sweden	2-0
Czechoslovakia	—	Sweden	2-2
Italy	—	Czechoslovakia	2-2
Cyprus	—	Sweden	0-1
Italy	—	Rumania	0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RUMANIA	3	2	1	0	5	1	5
SWEDEN	3	1	1	1	3	4	3
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
ITALY	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
CYPRUS	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

The form of World Cup holders Italy since their great triumph in Spain has been to say the least embarrassing. As if defeat on their home soil by Switzerland was not enough in a friendly (incidentally it was their first defeat on home soil for 11 years), they then dropped a vital point in a home game against the Czechs after twice taking the lead. But even more upsetting was a dismal goalless draw at home to Rumania who top the group by virtue of their home wins over Cyprus and Sweden. Certainly Italy's despair has given the Czech's hope as their fighting display in Milan gave notice that the apathy of Spain had been swept away by new boss Frantisek Havranek, who fielded seven players from Bohemians against the Italians. Now they must make sure that Rumania do not creep in through the back door.

Group 6

Austria	—	Albania	5-0
Austria	—	Northern Ireland	2-0
Turkey	—	Albania	1-0
Northern Ireland	—	West Germany	1-0
Austria	—	Turkey	4-0
Albania	—	Northern Ireland	0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AUSTRIA	3	3	0	0	11	0	6
NORTHERN IRELAND	3	1	1	1	1	2	3
TURKEY	2	1	0	1	1	4	2
ALBANIA	3	0	1	2	0	6	1
WEST GERMANY	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

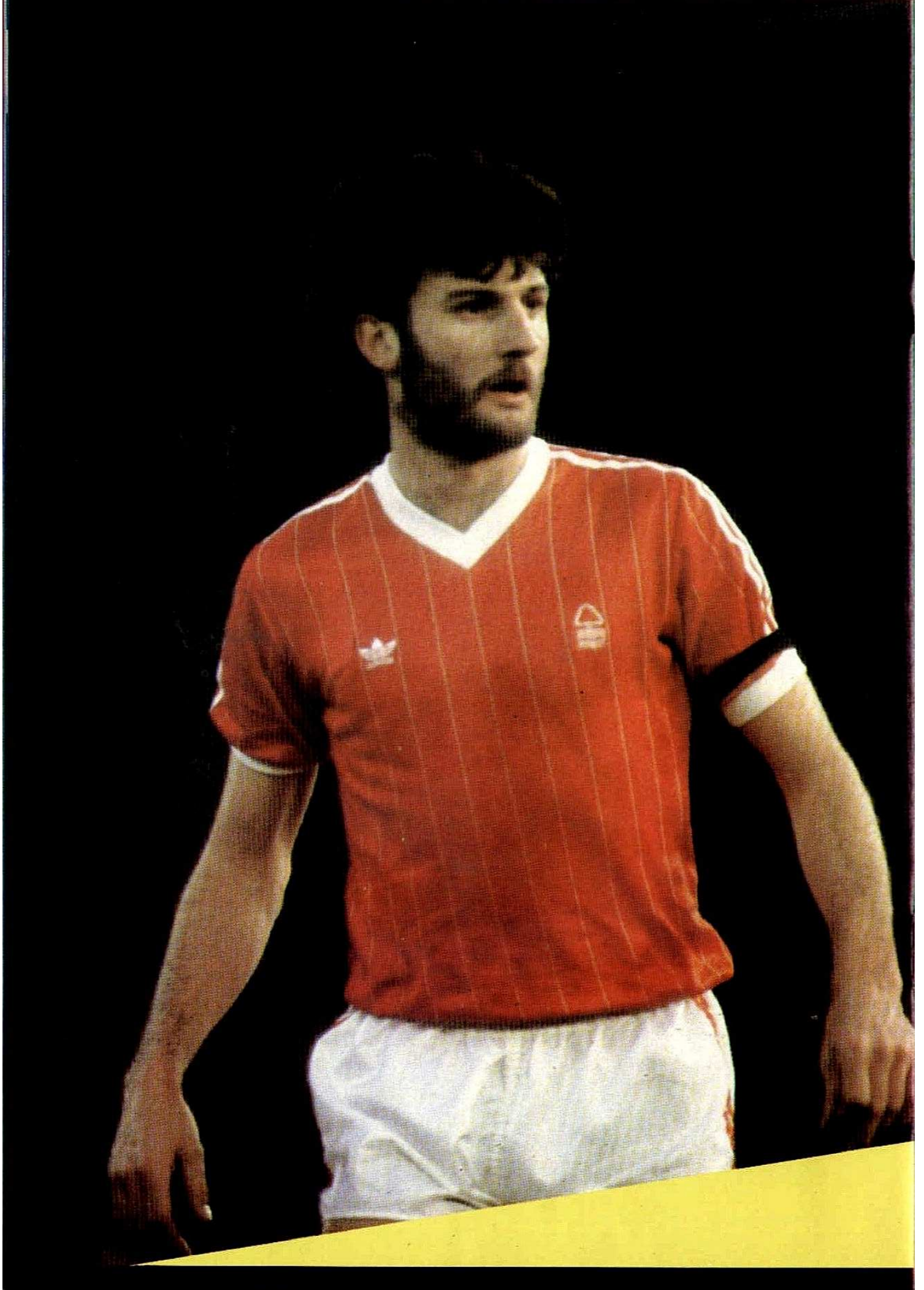
Northern Ireland completed the biggest upset of the tournament so far when they became only the second European team to beat the holders, West Germany, in the last four years. The champions were beaten by a goal from Queens Park Rangers' Ian Stewart, a former Windsor Park ballboy. It was Stewart's first ever goal and unfortunately for the Irish, the only goal the side has scored in three outings. Consequently Austria have emerged as clear leaders in this group which could be decided by their two games against West Germany who are no longer on the boil. But with Austria still to visit Belfast, the Irish will still have a big say in the eventual outcome.

Group 7

Malta	—	Iceland	2-1
Iceland	—	Holland	1-1
Holland	—	Republic of Ireland	2-1
Republic of Ireland	—	Iceland	2-0
Spain	—	Iceland	1-0
Republic of Ireland	—	Spain	3-3
Malta	—	Holland	0-6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HOLLAND	3	2	1	0	9	2	5
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
SPAIN	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
MALTA	2	1	0	1	2	7	2
ICELAND	4	0	1	3	2	6	1

This group provided the first major shock of the competition when Iceland held Holland to a 1-1 draw. But this has proved the only blemish on the Dutch performance so far although they were more than fortunate to beat the Irish 2-1. The disappointment of dropping both points in that game was only compounded for Ireland when they drew 3-3 with Spain in Dublin. In the end Eoin Hand's team were thankful for the point, having been 3-1 down after 60 minutes but the result places Spain in a stronger position to challenge the Dutch.



GARRY BIRTLES is the striker who cost Manchester United almost £100,000 a goal during two years of frustration and disillusionment at Old Trafford, following a big fee transfer from Nottingham Forest.

Birtles failure proved just another nail in Dave Sexton's coffin and although Ron Atkinson also recognised the potential of the lean bearded Birtles, when he took over the Old Trafford empire, like his predecessor he was unable to get the goal return out of the highly priced striker.

The stark reality was that during his two years at United, Garry scored only 11 goals in 58 League appearances, a sad sad tale for a player who had promised so much as a youngster in his native Nottingham, having left Forest with a record of 32 League goals in 87 matches.

It was Brian Clough who had sold the shy youngster to United in the first place and it was Clough who this season brought him back home in a deal which realised him a profit of almost £1 million.

Ironically the move did the trick. Garry Birtles refound his touch and the goals began to flow once more. In the first three months back at Forest he scored more goals than he had mustered in two years at Manchester. Suddenly the chemistry was right and Birtles was bombing defences left right and centre.

But why should a player who has represented England suddenly dry-up when he moves to a new team? Garry himself can not be certain but suggests; "it is probably to do with the different styles of play."

After trying so hard to prove himself to the Manchester fans Garry is far more relaxed at the City Ground where he is respected and loved by the locals and he admits: "I prefer the style of play at Nottingham. I know what John Robertson is going to do and he knows what I am going to do and I think the kind of mental telepathy some players develop with each other has a lot to do with it.

"Obviously my partnership with Ian Wallace — which was going so well before I left Forest in the first place — has blossomed again and benefited the both of us and this has helped the team.

"It is not just an individual thing playing football and this is particularly the case at Nottingham Forest where the emphasis is on team play and not individuals. If the team are functioning well then we will gain success, and that's what it is all about you know, winning!

"In a team game you rely on corporate success. You have to string the passes together and work for each other for the common goal."

Forest's sustained challenge for the title many believe is already Liverpool's, ends a couple of years in the doldrums following the heady successes in Europe and on the domestic front. But for Garry Birtles and his team mates it has come as no surprise.

He smiles: "I think a lot of people have been taken by surprise but we weren't ourselves. At Forest we believe in our own ability. And what is more important is that we play as a team and not as individuals and that is the thing that matters most in the end. Any success we gain this season is because of our team work not because of any individual players."

Garry defines the difference between Manchester and Nottingham as style and yet from the lay-man's point of view it would seem that Brian Clough's defensively cautious tactical web would provide less opportunity for a striker than the more flamboyant approach of Manchester United who tend to fling everything into attack, particularly at home.

But Garry cautions: "I think that is what does Manchester United at home in all honesty. At Old Trafford they go forward too quickly and if they don't score in the first twenty minutes or so the crowd begins to get very edgy and it affects the players on the pitch.

"Then they try too hard and everything is knocked forward far too quickly, sometimes without any thought.

"Here at Forest we are far more patient as a team and we play the ball to feet much more than United do and that is my game."

There was a certain quiet disbelief when Forest were pole axed out of the FA Cup by struggling Second Division Derby County at the beginning of the year but even that and a substantial points lead opened up by Liverpool at the top of the First Division could not quench the belief in the Forest camp that they have a realistic chance of winning the Championship.

"There would be no point in us playing if we didn't believe we had a chance," claims Garry. "We are playing well away from home this season and have got some good results behind us so there is no reason to doubt our capability.

"We went to Liverpool with a very young side and were 3-2 up with only eight minutes to go and lost 4-3. Hopefully that will not happen again."

Certainly the new Forest side are showing glimpses of recapturing that winning formula but how does Garry compare the current squad with that he left to join Manchester United.

"Obviously that side was a very very good side. And again it was all based on team-work. There were no outstanding individuals. Personalities yes, but all within the framework of the team. Martin O'Neill for instance did a very good job for us hustling and bustling but it was all about team effort. That is what won us the League Championship and two European Cups.

"And now that pattern is emerging again. The young lads have learned from what they saw in the past and also their enthusiasm is rubbing off on the more senior professionals, and this is a good thing. Once more the blend seems to be right and I don't think it will be too long before Nottingham Forest's name appears on the winners list in some major competition."

Such success would also enhance Garry's credentials for further international recognition as well. Although he has won three England caps, Garry has yet to play a full 90 minutes international football. His debut at Wembley in May 1980 was as a late substitute for David Johnson and his full baptism against Italy in the finals of the European Championships the following month was more an act of desperation by manager Ron Greenwood than a calculated gamble. . . It certainly did not give the young striker a fair chance to establish himself as an international striker and he was pulled off in the second-half to be replaced by Paul Mariner.

The following autumn brought a third opportunity in a World Cup qualifying match in Bucharest. Again Garry was unfortunate to find himself in a badly balanced side and again he was substituted — this time by Cunningham — during England's 2-1 defeat by Rumania.

Now that Garry has shaken off the nightmare of Manchester and once more found the finishing touch that made him one of the best young prospects in the country, he can once more start to rebuild his personal career and aim for that England shirt.

GARRY BIRTLES

The Sun Rises Over Japan

The mere fact that the World Football Club Championships have been played in Tokyo over the last two years and have drawn huge crowds is indicative of the fact that football in Japan is beginning to "take off". Of all the football nations (except possibly the U.S.A.) Japan is the one where soccer is most likely to succeed in absolute terms.

Not only have large Japanese companies taken an important interest in our Football League by sponsoring various Clubs and Competitions for example Hitachi, Pioneer and J.V.C. spring easy to mind, but they have also shown a desire to put the money into the game at large.

Canon and Seiko are just two of these but as time goes by more and more are involving themselves with the game even though all over the world, it has been plagued with violence and controversy.

The Japanese have welcomed British teams to play exhibition matches in Japan and London clubs, Arsenal and Spurs were amongst the first to go there and Spurs actually took part in and won a now annual competition known as the "Japan Cup".

The World's ruling body FIFA have been, for some time, sending coaches, referees and administrators to Japan to teach and assist them with the development of their football and in order to supplement this, the second World Youth Championships were held there in 1979 and were a great success.

At the beginning of the season before last, the Japanese National squad paid a short visit to Britain to play some of our clubs in pre-season friendlies and whereas the results in terms of victories were not great, so far as emerging countries are concerned, victory is not always the most important commodity.

The Japanese National squad under their manager, Mr. Takaji Mori and his coach Mr. Hidemitsu Hanaoka were very pleased with the experience they gained and to be given the opportunity to play neat attractive football close to the ground, which is the system they seem to like best.

Mr. Mori was quite open in his views about Japanese football and said "I think at the present time we stand very low in World rankings but this is probably due mostly to the fact that we are all amateurs. When we construct a fully professional League, we will, I feel, have a chance to leap up in those rankings.

"There are certainly one or two things I would like to change if I could. It is most important for us to train more good coaches.

"At the moment in the schools the boys are taught in a kind of strict and military fashion which leads to a too rigid system of play. The players are told what to do and not encouraged to think for themselves, and they must be taught to use their own initiative.

"Essentially, we are now aiming at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984, so for the time being we are developing our style of play and we are hopeful that our football ability will achieve a better result than the third place we achieved in the Mexico Olympics in 1968."

Japanese football has of course been developing for over a hundred years and it is the British Navy who are credited with its introduction there. Since that time there have been other influences on the style.

Mr. Mori confirmed: "We have had many influences in our game but in particular Detmar Cramer when he was FIFA's main coach and also Hannes Weisweiler, also a German, have had perhaps the greatest affect on our play in recent years.

"We have never copied, as such, the styles of other countries or their respective teams because we think there are good points in most countries' play, but we think that perhaps the German and English are best.

"However if we were to tell the Japanese team to do what they do, it would be disastrous for us. We are trying to develop our own style so that we can be regarded as having a tactical formation and system of our own and one which suits us best.

"For example Japanese players are not so physically strong as the Europeans so we have to play differently from them. We play a lot more on the surface of the pitch, to the feet of our players and take the game at a slower pace.

"We feel the way to survive in International Football for us, is to concentrate on technique and tactics and not the game's physical features."

Since the sponsorship aspects of Japanese companies are now well pronounced, it was interesting to note that the equivalent type of financial assistance in Japan is not on the same level.

Mr. Mori says: "We do not have any sponsorship and some of the companies who sponsor English football actually have teams in our league.

"Hitachi, Mitsubishi, Nissan and Yamaha all turn out teams and the plyers of course who play for these teams are employees of the companies. What happens is that the players are given various dispensations and assistance in work time, so they will probably work for the company in the morning and then go off to training or practice in the afternoon."

There is no doubt that given the natural Japanese desire to compete at World level in all things, at sometime in the not too distant future, their soccer is set to ignite like a rocket. It will be interesting whether that will in fact take place at the Los Angeles Olympics and certainly it will be fascinating to see how they compete against the USA, their one time financial backers and now their competitors, in the realms of football expansion.

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H NOTTS COUNTY TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	Q SHEFFIELD UNITED EXETER CITY	Y YORK CITY STOCKPORT COUNTY

Towns Factfile

Home matches and scorers in heavy type. * Number of goals scored. † Own Goal. p penalty. ‡ after extra time.
 • Substitute used. †† Copyright of the Football League Ltd. F.A. Cup Rounds in brackets, subject to alteration.



1982/83

Opponents

	Opponents	F	A	Att.	Scorers
Aug	28 Blackpool	2	1	2,627	Woodhead
Sept	1 Bradford City (MC1 1st Leg)	0	1	3,285	Woodhead
	3 Halifax Town	0	0	2,225	Nicholson
	6 Tringmere Rovers	0	3	1,280	Nicholson
	11 PoR Vale	0	2	2,313	Cannell
	13 Bradford City (MC1 2nd Leg)	0	2	2,260	Bell
	18 Hereford United	2	0	1,960	Dungworth
	25 Rochdale	2	0	2,001	Bell
	27 Peterborough United	0	0	2,414	Dungworth
Oct.	1 Crewe Alexandra	2	1	1,737	Woodhead
	9 Bury	1	4	2,415	Woodhead
	16 Chester	3	1	1,668	Woodhead
	18 Scunthorpe Utd.	0	2	2,647	Woodhead
	23 Swindon Town	0	4	3,917	Woodhead
	30 Darlington	0	2	1,817	Woodhead
Nov	3 Hartlepool United	4	0	1,325	Woodhead
	5 Colchester United	0	2	2,009	Blackhall
	13 Bristol City	0	2	2,035	Blackhall
	20 Stockport County FAC1	3	2	2,286	Blackhall
	27 York City	1	6	2,119	Reynolds
Dec	4 Stockport County	1	1	1,661	Bird
	11 Bradford City FAC2	1	1	3,018	Bird
	15 Bradford City FAC2R	2	3	3,081	Bird
	17 Torquay United	2	1	1,293	Bird
	27 Wembleton	1	1	2,517	Bird
Jan	1 Aldershot	2	0	2,841	Bird
	3 Hull City	1	2	2,235	Bird
	8 Halifax Town	3	1	2,398	Bird
	15 Hereford United	1	2	2,217	Blackhall
	22 Port Vale	0	1	1,655	Woodhead
Feb	19 Rochdale	1	4	4,102	Woodhead
	5 Bury	2	2	1,028	Woodhead
	26 Chester	0	1	2,304	Blackhall
Mar	1 Scunthorpe United	2	1	1,803	Blackhall
	5 Swindon Town	2	2	3,562	Blackhall
	12 Darlington (6)				
	14 Hartlepool United				
	19 Colchester United				
	26 Bristol City (Milk Cup Final)				
	28 Crewe Alexandra				
April	2 Northampton Town				
	5 Wembleton				
	8 Stockport County				
	16 Tranmere Rovers (F.A.S.F.)				
	23 Torquay United				
	30 York City				
May	2 Hull City				
	7 Peterborough United				
	14 Aldershot				
	21 F.A. Cup Final				

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	Home				Away				Pts			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D		L	F	A
Hull City	33	11	6	0	41	10	7	5	4	18	15	65
Port Vale	31	12	2	2	26	9	7	5	3	23	13	64
Wimbledon	31	9	3	2	33	19	8	5	4	24	16	59
Bury	34	10	4	3	32	14	6	6	5	23	18	58
Colchester United	32	12	4	0	35	11	5	2	9	16	25	57
Scunthorpe United	30	7	6	2	23	10	6	6	3	19	15	51
Swindon Town	30	10	2	2	30	12	4	6	6	11	18	50
York City	31	11	2	1	40	15	2	7	8	18	28	48
Stockport County	33	9	5	2	30	20	3	3	11	17	38	44
Peterborough United	31	8	4	4	22	14	3	6	6	13	15	43
Halifax Town	32	7	4	5	24	17	5	4	8	20	27	43
Chester	33	7	2	8	23	19	5	3	7	18	22	42
Torquay United	30	9	3	3	28	17	3	3	9	12	25	42
Mansfield Town	31	7	2	6	17	19	4	4	8	20	31	39
Aldershot	32	8	3	4	22	21	1	9	7	17	32	39
Northampton Town	32	7	7	3	33	21	2	3	10	12	32	37
*Blackpool	31	8	6	3	24	16	2	1	11	12	29	35
Tranmere Rovers	32	7	5	4	25	19	3	0	13	13	33	35
Bristol City	32	6	5	5	20	19	1	7	8	16	34	33
Darlington	31	4	4	7	15	19	4	4	8	26	29	32
Hartlepool United	32	8	5	3	22	16	0	3	13	10	40	32
Rochdale	30	7	6	2	25	16	0	4	11	12	33	31
Crewe Alexandra	31	6	4	7	27	27	2	2	10	12	23	30
Hereford United	33	6	5	6	15	17	1	1	14	15	41	27

* 2pts deducted for fielding ineligible player

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