



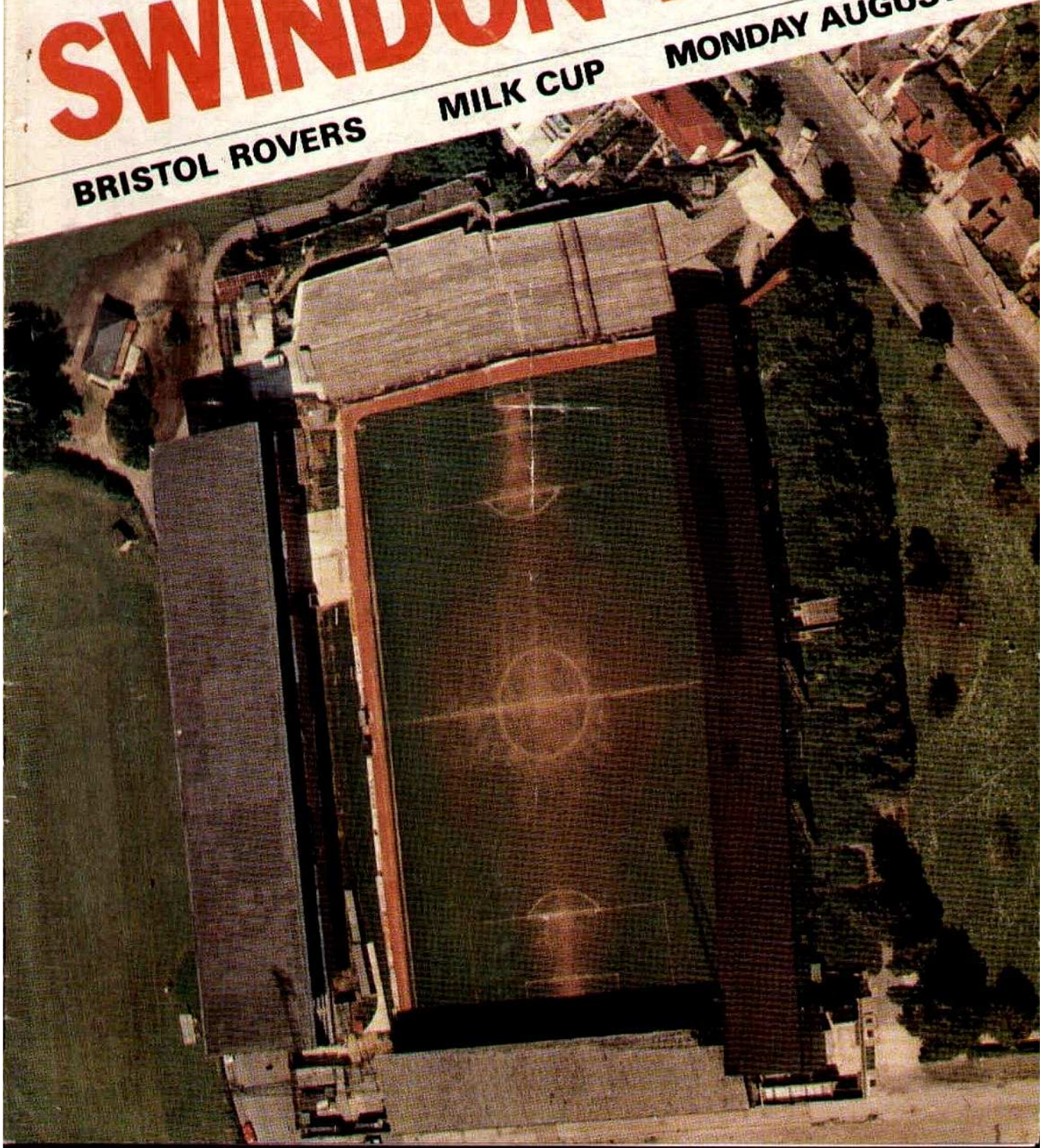
Official Programme 45p

SWINDON TOWN

BRISTOL ROVERS

MILK CUP

MONDAY AUGUST 27



ARKELLS BREWERY



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SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CO. LTD.

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Chairman's Comments

It must be appreciated that these notes have to be written before the result of our first League game with Wrexham on Saturday last.

This afternoon we welcome our old friends and neighbours Bristol Rovers in this the first leg of the first round of the Milk Cup.

The Bristol Club have sent a large number of their Stewards here today to help us with crowd control for we sincerely hope to see a bumper gate and we appeal to everyone to keep their cool, to enjoy the game and to make their way home peacefully. Everyone is appalled by the violence seen on some grounds, let us please show those who criticize the game that two local teams can meet without any crowd problems.

We prefer to play the away leg first in this competition for we then know just what we have to do on our own ground, nevertheless we can take heart in the knowledge that the last time we played at Eastville, we won 4-1. A good run in the Cup is vital to the finances of our Club and does wonders for the moral of the team.

Bob Jefferies will have explained the workings of the Tribunal we attended on Tuesday when a transfer fee was set for Jimmy Quinn. Let me tell you we did not want to lose Jimmy and our final offer on wages was equal to those he agreed with Blackburn.

Lou is looking for a replacement and by the time this is published, he may have already signed a new player.

I hope you will all enjoy today's game and that you will support the Team for the second leg at Bristol on Tuesday September 4th.

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and his team every success
in the coming season*



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LOU MACARI

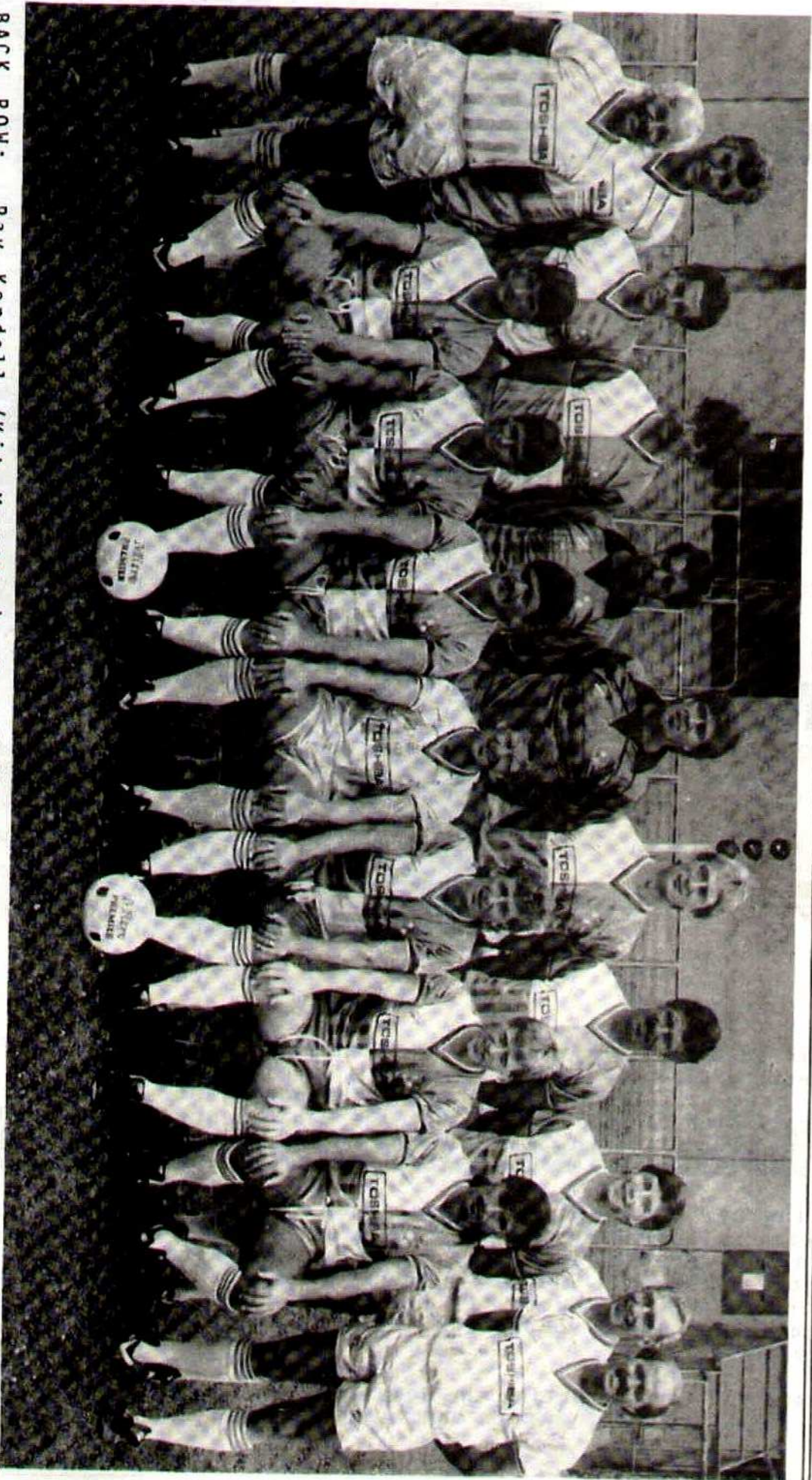


I am sure it is fair to say that the recent tragic death of Mike Barrett, a talented footballer with a promising future in the game, will cast it's shadow upon this afternoons game. Bristol Rovers Football Club can be assured that the Management, Staff and Players of this Club will, at a moments notice, do anything they are able to assist Mike's family in this time of deepest sorrow for them.

Being new to this area I have been made aware that any match between Swindon Town and Bristol Rovers is not only a Derby match but also a 'needle' game but I hope that today everyone both on and off the field will behave in a way that will be fitting to the memory of Mike Barrett. It is perhaps an occasion when we can forget about our Club and show respect for a player who will be sadly missed.

Thank you for supporting the Team this afternoon.

BRISTOL ROVERS



BACK ROW: Ray Kendall (Kit Manager), Roy Dolling (Youth Officer/Trainer), Steve White, Paul Bannon, Ray Cashley, Phil Kite (now Southampton), Tim Parkin, Aidan McCaffery, Geraint Williams, Harold Jarman (Youth Coach), Wayne Jones (Assistant Manager). FRONT ROW: Phil Bater, Neil Slatter, Brian Williams, David Williams, Ian Holloway, Archie Stephens, Paul Randall.

Welcome to Bristol Rovers

BY DAVE KING

The sad news of the death of Rovers talented winger Mickey Barrett two weeks ago stunned all associated with football and our condolences go to his widow, family, friends and Bristol Rovers in their sad loss.

For this first round of the Milk Cup we will probably be experiencing our only Local Derby matches this season. After being in strong contention during the last two seasons the Eastville Club are fancied by many to gain promotion this term. Their pre-season aspirations were not helped by an injury to Full Back WAYNE NOBLE in a pre-season friendly with local club Stapleton, Wayne is expected to be out of action until later next month with cracked bones in two toes.

To replenish his first team squad before setting off on a pre-season tour of the North West, player manager David Williams who, after failing to persuade midfield player Peter Rogers given a free transfer by Exeter City to sign for Rovers in preference to Gola Alliance Club Weymouth, quickly moved to sign MARK O'CONNOR a 21 year old midfield player from Queens Park Rangers who had spent a loan period with Exeter City last season! Playing in thirty eight League matches for the Grecians, scoring one goal, other close season arrivals at Eastville are former player and manager Harold Jarman as Youth Team Coach, and while one brother leaves another arrives for with Tony Pulis joining Newport County for a fee of £10,000, his brother Ray a former Newport player and last season at Trowbridge Town arrived for a trial period, another trialist is winger Chris Smith from nearby Cirencester Town.

Departures have been goalkeeper Phil Kite to Southampton in a transfer deal which could eventually net Rovers £50,000 and central defender Mark Hughes who returned to his native land to become new Manager Colin Appleton's first signing at Swansea. Rovers gave free transfers at the end of last season to Mick Adams, Carl Metcalfe, Aidie Morris, and Paul Vassall.

The Eastville Club enjoyed a successful pre-season tour of the North West where Rovers defeated Rochdale (2-1), Bury (4-2), and Alliance Club Barrow (4-0) and drawing (1-1) with Chester, the only mishap was the return from the tour of forward Steve White with a knee injury being unable to play in any of the tour matches.

The squad of players at David Williams' disposal includes the following:-

Goalkeeper RAY CASHLEY is now the only senior keeper on Rovers staff, the 33 year old former Bristol City player will have junior players TIM CARTER and MARK BRAIN as his deputies; Ray played in twenty seven League matches last season.

The back four consists of the settled quartet of Welsh International Neil Slatter, the 20 year old full back played in forty three League matches last season, with three full caps he has been the subject of much summer transfer speculation. The other members of the back four were all former Rovers Manager Terry Cooper's signings, central defender TIM PARKIN was signed from Swedish club Malmo for a £15,000 fee, 26 year old Tim made thirty

continued on page 18

Some great TOWN gift ideas at the Souvenir Shop

	£	p		£	p
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Plastic Cover	0.50		Hard	0.85	
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FOCUS ON FOUR

BY DAVE KING

During the summer months, most Clubs were busy adding to their playing staff, these were the activities of the Clubs in our Division:

Len Walker the ALDERSHOT Manager was busy replacing the departing Les Lawrence and Les Briley, with former Oxford United veteran Peter Foley who has just returned from Hong Kong, Martin Foyle a £10,000 signing from Southampton, along with Full Back Gary Peters from Wimbledon and Midfield player Andy Massey from Millwall.

BLACKPOOL Manager Sam Ellis has made only one signing in Mike Conroy from Scottish Club Hibernian, previously with Glasgow Celtic. While at Gigg Lane, Manager Martin Dobson has been busy adding to the BURY staff recruiting three of his former Turf Moor colleagues in Defender Mick Phelan, and Midfield player Kevin Young from Burnley along with Welsh International Leighton James from Sunderland, other newcomers are Striker Andy Hill from Man United, the experienced Trevor Ross the former Arsenal and Everton player just returned from Greece, also on three months trial is Paul Williams from Bristol City.

John McGrath the Manager of CHESTER has been busy signing Winger Steve Fox from his previous Club Portvale, Defender Andy Higgins of Rochdale, Midfield players Ron Hildersley of Manchester City, Micky Speight from Grimsby, and Peter Sayer from Preston, along with Nigel Walker of Blackpool, and former Wolves Defender Bob Coy.

Veteran Ernie Moss has returned to CHESTERFIELD from Doncaster Rovers while John Mathews the former Mansfield Midfield player is Manager John Duncan's only other signing.

Cyril Lea of COLCHESTER UNITED has signed Forward Russell Irving from his Old Club Ipswich Town and also Noel Parkinson from Scunthorpe United who once spent a loan period with today's visitors Bristol Rovers when he was with Ipswich Town.

The improved form of CREWE ALEXANDRA last season must have pleased Manager Dario Gradi who has only added Neil Aldridge of Manchester City and Forward Vernon Allat of Rochdale to his squad.

DARLINGTON having lost Alan Walsh to Bristol City for a fee of £18,000 have signed Mark Miller from Doncaster Rovers and Mitchel Cook of Scarborough, these are Cyril Knowles' only signings.

Newly installed Jim Iley at EXETER CITY has made one signing in Defender Jim McNichol from Third Division Brentford, while at the Shay HALIFAX TOWN boss Mick Bullock has signed Defenders Gary Watson and Cec Podd from Bradford City, Central Defender Billy Ayre from Mansfield, Alan Knill of Southampton and Simon Lowe of Barnsley complete the Yorkshire Club's transfer activity.

Defenders Tony Smith from Halifax Town, the experienced John Brownlie of Middlesbrough are two of HARTLEPOOL UNITED signings

along with Forward Les Mutrie from Colchester United, while Graham Hedley formerly of Middlesbrough completes the quartet of summer signings. HEREFORD UNITED have not added to their payroll but have Mike Carter the former Bolton Wanderers and Plymouth Argyle Striker back in training after missing all of last season, Mike once spent a loan period with us while at Burnden Park.

New signings at MANSFIELD are Goalkeeper Kevin Hitchcock from Notts Forest, Gary Pollard a Midfield player from Port Vale, as well as Noel Luke also a Midfield player from West Brom; another Goalkeeper added to the Field Mill Club's staff is Andy Beasley of Luton Town.

Former Villa Park Chief Tony Barton did not take long to add the following to his staff, with Defenders Paul Shirtcliff from Sheffield Wednesday, Michael Barnes of Reading, Midfield Ray Train of Oxford United and Forwards Trevor Lee of Cardiff City and Paul Bancroft of Derby County joining the County Ground Club at NORTHAMPTON.

John Wile of PETERBOROUGH UNITED has signed Midfield player Francis Cassidy from Watford and his teammate David Johnson a Forward, as well as Brian Klug from Chesterfield.

PORT VALE Manager John Rudge once a player with Bristol Rovers has taken veteran Forward Ally Brown from Walsall, also two from West Brom, Defender Alan Webb and Forward Derek Monaghan, along with Stoke City Midfielder Peter Griffiths.

New signings at Spotland, home of ROCHDALE have been Les Lawrence of Aldershot, Defenders Steve Edwards from Crewe, Joe Cooke of Bradford City, Keith Hanvey of Huddersfield, with Ged Keegan of Oldham on a months trial, Barry Diamond of Barrow has also moved to Rochdale.

Newly relegated SCUNTHORPE UNITED and SOUTHEND UNITED report no signings to date, while David Webb at TORQUAY UNITED has recruited Ben Laryeu from Irish Club Dundalk, along with Midfield players Dean Whitehouse from Barnsley and Derek Hall of Coventry City, Winger Steve Carter of Bournemouth.

STOCKPORT COUNTY have signed Midfield players Steve Buxton from Wrexham along with Paul Hendrie of Halifax a former Bristol Rovers player.

Former County Ground player Bryan Hamilton of TRANMERE ROVERS has signed seven new players in Goalkeeper Bob Wardle from Liverpool, Midfield players Seamus Heath of Wrexham, Billy Rodaway from Peterborough United, and John Clayton from Chesterfield, Forwards Dough Anderson from Oldham Athletic and Colin Clarke of Peterborough United along with Non-League signing Andy Lee from Stafford Rangers complete his signings.

TODAY'S

MILK C

TEAM TO BE ANNOUNCED



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oooooooooooooooooooooooo

Applications to the secretary at the above address

TEAM CHANGES	SWINDON TOWN	
1	Alistar Sperring	1
2	Colin Baillie	2
3	Mike Graham	3
4	Len Macari	4
5	Simon Gibson	5
6	Andy Rowlands	6
7	Dave Hochaday	7
8	Peter Coyne	8
9	Alan Mares	9
10	Leigh Barnard	10
11	Gary Nelson	11
12	Mark Hughes	12

Referee	Mr. D.V. Reeves	Uxbridge
Linesmen		
Red Flag	Mr. D.T. Morgan	Westbury
Yellow Flag	Mr. C.E. Topliss	Poole



ROLEX
DEACONS
SWINDON
EST 1848

S LINE-UP

MLK CUP

	BRISTOL ROVERS	TEAM CHANGES
1	RAY CASHLEY	
2	NEIL SLATTER	
3	BRIAN WILLIAMS	
4	GERAINT WILLIAMS	
5	TIM PARKIN	
6	ADRIAN McCAFFERY	
7	IAN HOLLOWAY	
8	DAVID WILLIAMS	
9	ARCHIE STEPHENS	
10	PAUL RANDALL	
11	MARK O'CONNOR	
12		

Next Match Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

Canon League Division 4

TORQUAY UNITED

Saturday, September 8th

REFEREE:

REEVES, DARRYL - Manager, A. Sanderson & Sons. Married with two children. Commenced refereeing in 1961 and progressed via Spartan and Isthmian Leagues. Interests include coarse fishing and listening to popular music. Refereed the 1973 Varsity match and has officiated in the Home Championships.



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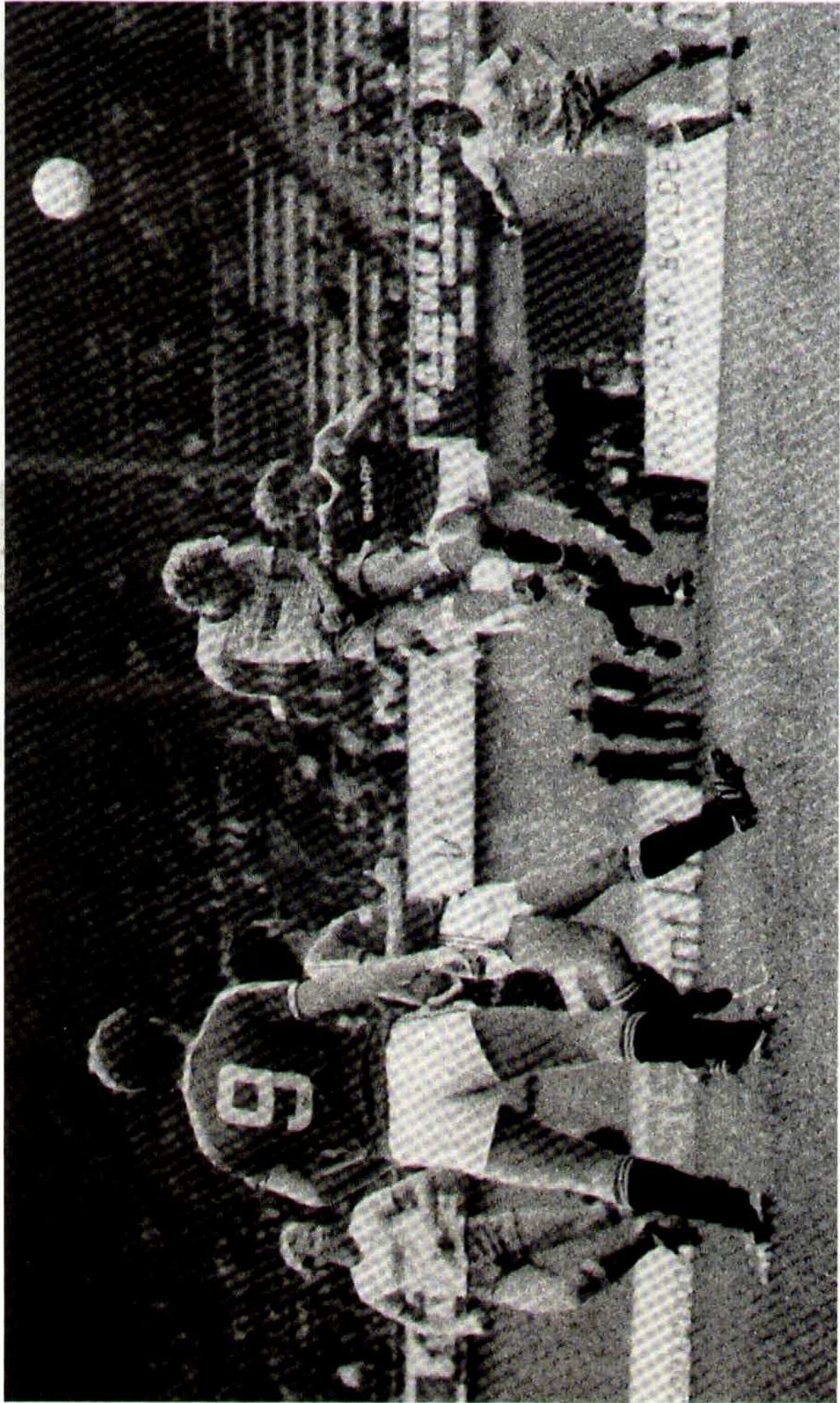
PHOTO CALL BY DAVE EVANS



Mike Graham (left) returns for the Town against Man Utd.



Big Simon Gibson shows his aerial power against First Division Man Utd. at the County Ground.



Leigh Barnard (centre) rises high to head goalwards in the match against Man Utd.
On the left is Simon Gibson and on the right, new Player Manager Lou Macari.

FIXTURES 1984-5

DIVISION 4

Date	Opponents	Results
1984		
Sat Aug 25	Wrexham	H
Mon 27	Bristol Rovers (Milk Cup 1)	H
Sat Sep 1	Hartlepool United	A
Tues 4	Bristol Rovers (Milk Cup 1)	A
Sat 8	Torquay United	H
Sat 14	Tranmere Rovers	A
Tues 18	Bury	A
Sat 22	Hereford United	H
	Milk Cup 2 (1L)	
Sat 29	Mansfield Town	A
Tues Oct 2	Blackpool	H
Sun 7	Peterborough United	H
	Milk Cup 2 (2L)	
Sat 13	Crewe Alexandra	A
Sat 20	Port Vale	H
Wed 24	Exeter City	A
Sat 27	Stockport County	H
	Milk Cup 3	
Sat Nov 3	Rochdale	A
Tues 6	Scunthorpe United	H
Sat 10	Northampton Town	A
Sat 17	F.A. Cup Round 1
	Milk Cup 4	
Sat 24	Aldershot	H
Sun Dec 2	Darlington	A
Sat 8	F.A. Cup Round 2
Sat 15	Colchester United	H
Sat 22	Halifax Town	H
Wed 26	Southend United	A
Sat 29	Chester	A
1985		
Tues Jan 1	Chesterfield	H
Sat 5	Wrexham (F.A. Cup 3)	A
Sat 12	Hartlepool United	H
	Milk Cup 5	
Sat 19	Torquay United	A
Sat 26	Tranmere Rovers (F.A. Cup 4)	H
Sat Feb 2	Mansfield Town	H
	Milk Cup SF (1L)	
Sat 9	Hereford United	A
	Milk Cup SF (2L)	
Tues 12	Blackpool	A
Sat 16	Bury (F.A. Cup 5)	H
Sat 23	Rochdale	H
Fri Mar 1	Stockport County	A
Tues 5	Exeter City	H
Sat 9	Port Vale (F.A. Cup 6)	A
Sat 16	Crewe Alexandra	H
Sat 23	Peterborough United	A
Sun 24	Milk Cup Final	
Fri 29	Scunthorpe United	A
Sat Apr 6	Southend United	H
Tues 9	Chesterfield	A
Sat 13	Northampton Town (F.A. Cup SF)	H
Sat 20	Aldershot	A
Sun 28	Darlington	H
Fri May 3	Colchester United	A
Mon 6	Chester	H
Fri 10	Halifax Town	A
Sat 18	F.A. Cup Final	

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Date	Opponents	Results
1984		
Tues Aug 28	Bristol Rovers	H
Wed Sep 5	Millwall	A
Sat 8	Watford	A
Tues 11	Ipswich Town	H
Sat 15	Birmingham City	H
Tues 18	Chelsea	A
Tues 25	Oxford United	H
Mon Oct 1	Tottenham Hotspur	A
Tues 9	West Ham United	H
Tues 16	Fullham	A
Tues 23	Reading	H
Tues 30	Portsmouth	A
Wed Nov 7	Arsenal	H
Wed 14	Reading	A
Sat 17	Swansea City	A
Tues 20	Brighton & H.A.	H
Wed 28	Norwich City	A
Sat Dec 1	Luton Town	A
Tues 4	Southampton	H
Tues 11	Crystal Palace	A
Tues 18	Queens Park Rangers	H
1985		
Wed Jan 2	Charlton Athletic	A
Wed 9	Bristol Rovers	A
Tues 15	Charlton Athletic	H
Sat 19	Watford	H
Sat 26	Ipswich Town	A
Tues 29	Birmingham City	A
Tues Feb 5	Chelsea	H
Sat 9	Tottenham Hotspur	H
Wed 13	Oxford United	A
Tues 19	Portsmouth	H
Tues 26	Arsenal	A
Sat Mar 9	Fullham	H
Tues 12	Millwall	H
Sat 23	West Ham United	A
Tues 26	Southampton	A
Sat 30	Norwich City	H
Tues Apr 9	Brighton & H.A.	A
Tues 16	Luton Town	H

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COMMERCIAL BREAK

BY DOUG BUSWELL

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am looking for the complete Swindon Town family.

In conjunction with The National Independant Supermarkets and Carters and Sons Supermarket of Faringdon a competition to find a complete Swindon Town family is being held. There will be an award of a very handsome trophy and also £50 worth of vouchers to be spent at Carters and Sons.

What is required to enter is a complete history of your families support for "The Town". How long, how often in fact anything relating your support over the years.

All entries will be judged by Mr. John Carter, myself, and one other independant person. The presentation will be made at the League game versus Blackpool on Tuesday October 2nd. So to all you families out there send your entries to me The Commercial Manager, Swindon Town Football Club, County Ground, Swindon, before Wednesday 19th September.

Our thanks today to Trevor Munday and Mike Quinn of Gorse Hill Motors who have sponsored todays game. We hope that they enjoy the game and their sponsorship is a fruitfull one for them.

WELCOME TO BRISTOL ROVERS - continued

nine League appearances last season, scoring two goals. His partner in the centre of Rovers defence is AIDEN McCAFFREY who will be 27 on Thursday, the former Newcastle United apprentice joined Rovers from Derby county for a £70,000 fee three summers ago, made forty five League appearances last season. The player usually occupying the other Full Back position needs no introduction for former County Ground favourite BRIAN WILLIAMS has been successfully converted from a midfield role; 28 year old Brian was named Rovers player of the year last season, after being on the verge of a free transfer when Bobby Gould was Manager! Brian figured in an exchange deal for the recently departed Gary Emmanuel, ever present last season scoring ten goals in League matches.

Players in contention for midfield positions alongside Mark O'Connor and David Williams now in his tenth season with Rovers after making three hundred and fifteen League appearances including twenty four last season when he netted three of his sixty League goals are 21 year old IAN HOLLOWAY a former club apprentice who played in thirty six League matches last season, netting a solitary goal and 22 year old GERAINT WILLIAMS also a former club apprentice and Welsh Youth International who made thirty four League appearances scoring four goals last season. Also competing for defensive or midfield role is 28 year old PHIL BATER who returned to Eastville for a fee of £50,000 last season from last Saturday's visitors Wrexham, making thirty two League appearances and scoring once.

FLASHBACK

BY MIKE SKINNER

Full Football League results;	HOME	SEASON	AWAY
(Swindon score first)	23 Aug	1-0 1958 - 59	0-1 20 Dec
	23 Sep	4-1 1959 - 60	2-1 30 Sep
	22 Sep	3-0 1962 - 63	0-0 27 Feb
	19 Oct	2-1 1974 - 75	2-1 26 Apr
	29 Apr	2-2 1975 - 76	0-2 18 Oct
	28 Aug	3-2 1976 - 77	2-2 5 Feb
	14 Mar	1-2 1977 - 78	1-2 24 Sep
	27 Dec	0-1 1983 - 84	3-0 20 Apr
League Cup;	1977 - 78	4th Round Away	0-2 7 Dec
	1981 - 82	1st Round Home	2-3 2 Sep
		Away	0-2 16 Sep

The first meeting of these two Clubs in August 1958 also coincided with the teams first game in the National Third Division. While Swindon had qualified by finishing a credible 4th place in Division 3 (South), Wrexham had only just scraped through in 12th place in Division 3 (North) - the last qualifying place, and that was on goal average! Indeed, it was Wrexham's good defensive record that saw them through, as only wooden spoonists Crewe and Southport scored fewer goals.

For such a historic occasion the game was not one of the best seen at the County Ground. With both sides having strong defences it was no surprise that the forwards rarely got a look in, and so when chances came they were rushed, with few direct shots from either side, although Wrexham were lucky when Jim Kelly shot over from close range.

The second half continued in much the same vain until the 60th minute, when Swindon got the break they were looking for. From inside his own half John Stephens, a close - season signing from Hull, passed to Kelly who sent Andy Micklewright off down the right wing. The resulting centre was meant for Stephens, who had continued his run into the box, but he failed to connect. Luckily Arnold Darcy was coming in from the left and managed to nod the ball just inside the post to give Swindon the game. The Swindon team was:- Burton, Neal, Bingley, Tilley, Hudson, Owen, Stephens, Micklewright, Kelly, Edwards, Darcy. Attendance 15,299.

The last week of the 1975 - 76 season was a crucial one for Swindon. Having been in the bottom eight for the whole season, Town were in 19th place with two games to go. Needing three points to be 100% sure of avoiding relegation a 5-1 win over Walsall on the Saturday helped ease the position, and provided fellow relegation strugglers Southend didn't beat Wrexham on the Tuesday (in fact they drew) all the Town had to do was avoid a 4-0 defeat to be safe on goal average.

So on Thursday, 29th April, a crowd of 9,007 turned out to cheer the Town on. Naturally enough the football Swindon played wasn't impressive, but it was just enough to do the job in hand. Wrexham, having nothing but pride to play for, were more relaxed and put the Town fans hearts in their mouths when they went ahead after only 8 minutes: Jim Barron fumbled a John Lyons cross, leaving Bill Ashcroft the simple task of heading into an empty net. But 12 minutes later Swindon were back on level terms with Dave Syrett scoring from a Trevor Anderson pass.

SALAD DAYS BY DAVE KING

A summer of slumber awoke for those interested in the affairs of Swindon Town on Thursday June 21st when the local Radio Station announced the proposal of Lowndes Lambert the Insurance Company to inject money into the empty coffers of the Football Club.

From that day in June they and the Town Club have received a proportion of media exposure that they could not have envisaged at the outset of this disclosure. The following morning a Regional Newspaper carried the Headlines 'Keegan for Swindon', could this possibly be true? Upon closer examination the article was pure speculation, Keegan was in Spain, more out of the need to take advice from his Tax Advisors than climatic conditions, for Wiltshire and its adjoining Counties were bathed in continuous summer sun that was the envy of returning Spanish holidaymakers.

So began a month of rumour, speculation, denial and a publicity campaign no Press Officer could have perceived, photographs of well known soccer personalities appeared in the Local Press ranging from Trevor Brooking, Mick Mills, Billy Bonds, Mike Channon etc., anyone who fitted soccer's Who's Who! One problem! No one knew if they would be interested, most of those mentioned by the media had escaped the beautiful English climate for the rainy European Continent.

Those of soccer's elite left in the Country where attributed to have stated, 'I would not apply, Swindon will have to approach me', as if showing interest in the vacancy would blight their chances. After a week, sanity prevailed, fact took over from fiction, if albeit temporarily. The Town Directors were to interview Lou Macari, Bryan Hamilton and Ken Hibbitt. All the names that had been the subject of speculation, apart from Lou Macari, were not among the nine applications; interviews took place, further names were added, Gordon Lee and Alan Durban among them.

Meanwhile a Nat West Trophy Cricket Match between Wiltshire and Leicestershire seemed to be of minor insignificance as many Town fans present kept a furtive eye between Overs to see who was being smuggled in incognito through the County Ground doors from the vantage point of the adjoining Cricket Ground.

After a meeting of Town Directors and Lowndes Lambert it was clear a Player Manager was to be definitely sought, other names were added to the list Phil Neal, Phil Thompson and Gordon McQueen.

Phil Thompson accompanied by wife came, was impressed but without giving those anxious fans the gut feeling of wanting the job and so it resulted. Rumours abounded the surrounding District, Lou Macari was bringing Joe Jordan from Verona if he was to occupy the Hot Seat. Some soul had obviously been suffering from the summer sun or too much of Shakespeare's, 'Man from Verona'.

At last it was announced Lou Macari was taking the vacancy and bringing Harry Gregg with him as Assistant, the significant point to all who were involved or waiting was that Lou wanted the job. The season was impending, no Manager had been on hand to welcome returning players a week earlier from holiday.

Lou arrived and quickly sought to put the situation he had inherited in perspective, eleven players, two of whom were injured,

two seeking to leave. Beforehand Gary Emmanuel had returned to his native Wales and Jim Quinn was unable to forgive! and about to sign for Blackburn who no doubt were still recalling his F.A. Cup goal of last season.

In his first week as Manager Lou quickly stamped his authority on affairs by cancelling the visit of Aston Villa stating we were not in a situation to face such opposition and within 24 hours announcing a master stroke of publicity by inviting Manchester United to visit the County Ground stating he did not know what kind of Team they would field. The name alone attracts.

Mike Graham, Kevin Baddeley and Gary Fulbrook all released at last seasons finale asked to return on Trial later to be joined by Peter Osborne.

The friendly at Chippenham loomed closer with unusual expectancy the Manchester United connection were to make their first public appearance on behalf of Swindon Town. Alas Lou did not play on that beautiful summers evening, nevertheless he was there to search out attitudes, those who wanted to play. A pre-match photography session with the Chippenham lads, made their evening, the goodwill gesture pleasing those involved and doing Public Relations no harm.

Fans of the Town had come from as far as Melksham, Stroud and Cheltenham, the players were the same as last season, a comfortable 4-0 victory, a larger than normal crowd than could have been expected if Town had been minus Lou, had sent Town followers home feeling they had seen something different, reality knows we had not, but perhaps the start of a reign that we all hope will bring back better days, crowds, and Third Division Football eventually.

The Sponsors and Directors have done their summer job, Lou Macari, Harry Gregg and the Players and all of us who care about this Club must carry on that work this season, support is needed. The friendly with Manchester United was less than a minute old, the ball entered the Town penalty area, a ball was yet to be kicked in anger, a voice bellowed 'Wake up Swindon', we were back, and the Salad Days were over.

FLASH BACK - continued

Despite increased pressure, and better football from Wrexham for the remainder of the first half, and the start of the second, it was Swindon who scored next. In the 71st minute a centre by David Moss from the right was met by Syretts, head and blasted into the roof of the net. Minutes later Swindon should have increased their lead when a solo effort by Anderson was well saved by Brian Lloyd.

Wrexham continued to battle on, and eleven minutes from the end Stuart Lee scored a well deserved equaliser. But with no further score Swindon had the point they needed and safety, and the fans had their obligatory celebration on the pitch at the end, despite a disappointing season. The Swindon team:- Barron, McLaughlin, Trollope, Stroud, Burrows, Prophett, Moss, Dixon, Syrett, O'Brien, Anderson.

BEHIND THE SCENES



On Tuesday last we attended the Football League Appeals Committee at the ground of Manchester United Football Club in order that the amount of compensation, (an involved way of saying transfer fee) might be determined in the transfer of Jimmy Quinn to Blackburn Rovers Football Club. In the last day or two I have been asked what happens on such occasions and I thought perhaps it might be of interest to some readers of the publication.

Firstly the Committee is formed of an independant Chairman, a member of the Football League Ltd., the Professional Footballers' Association provides the third member and the fourth comes from the Football League Executive Staffs Association. At our case the people concerned were Professor Wood, Mr. Graham Kelly, Mr. Gordon Taylor and Mr. John Camkin respectively.

The procedure is that the player goes before the Committee to answer questions pertinent to the case. He then leaves the room and is replaced by representatives of both Clubs who go in together. They state their respective cases and each are given the opportunity to question or answer points raised by the other. The members of the Committee individually then set their own questions following which both Clubs retire whilst the Committee deliberate upon the amount of compensation. They then convey their decision to the three interested parties, namely the two Clubs and the player.

The Committee are scrupulously fair but many in the game feel that the members should have a better knowledge of players and be experienced in the difficulties of obtaining replacements for transferred players. The Committee we faced was comprised of a Professor, two Administrators and an ex player now an Administrator and this must raise questions. However, despite this criticism and although we did not receive our asking price we were not too disappointed with the outcome.

By the way, we were afforded the opportunity of seeing some of the 'set up' at Old Trafford and, whilst realising that the facilities at Swindon are envied by many, this was something else indeed.

I hope you enjoy your afternoon at the County Ground.

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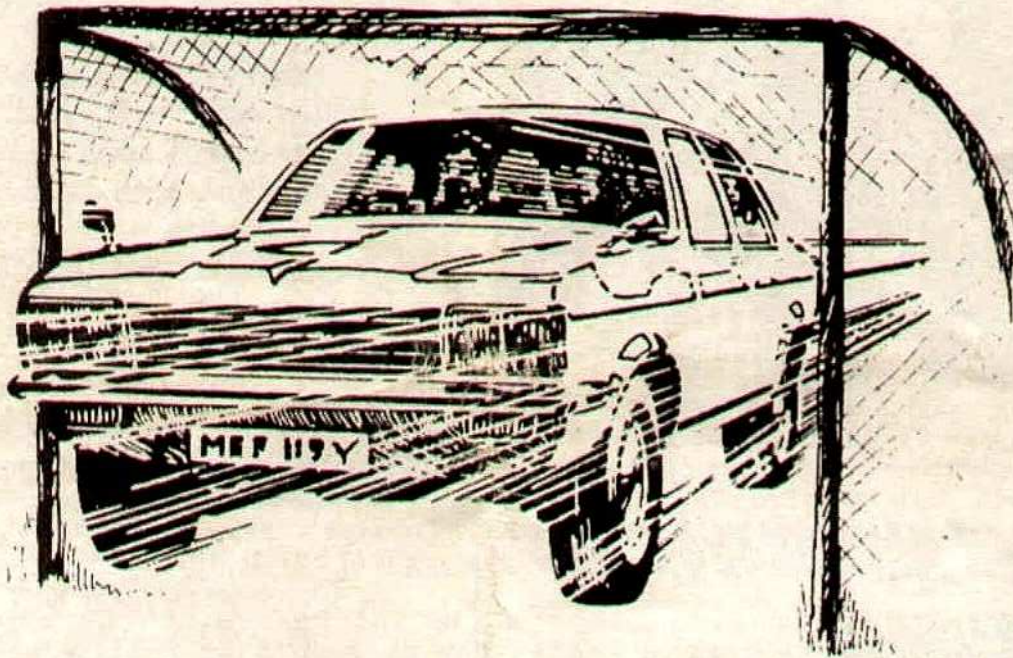
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