

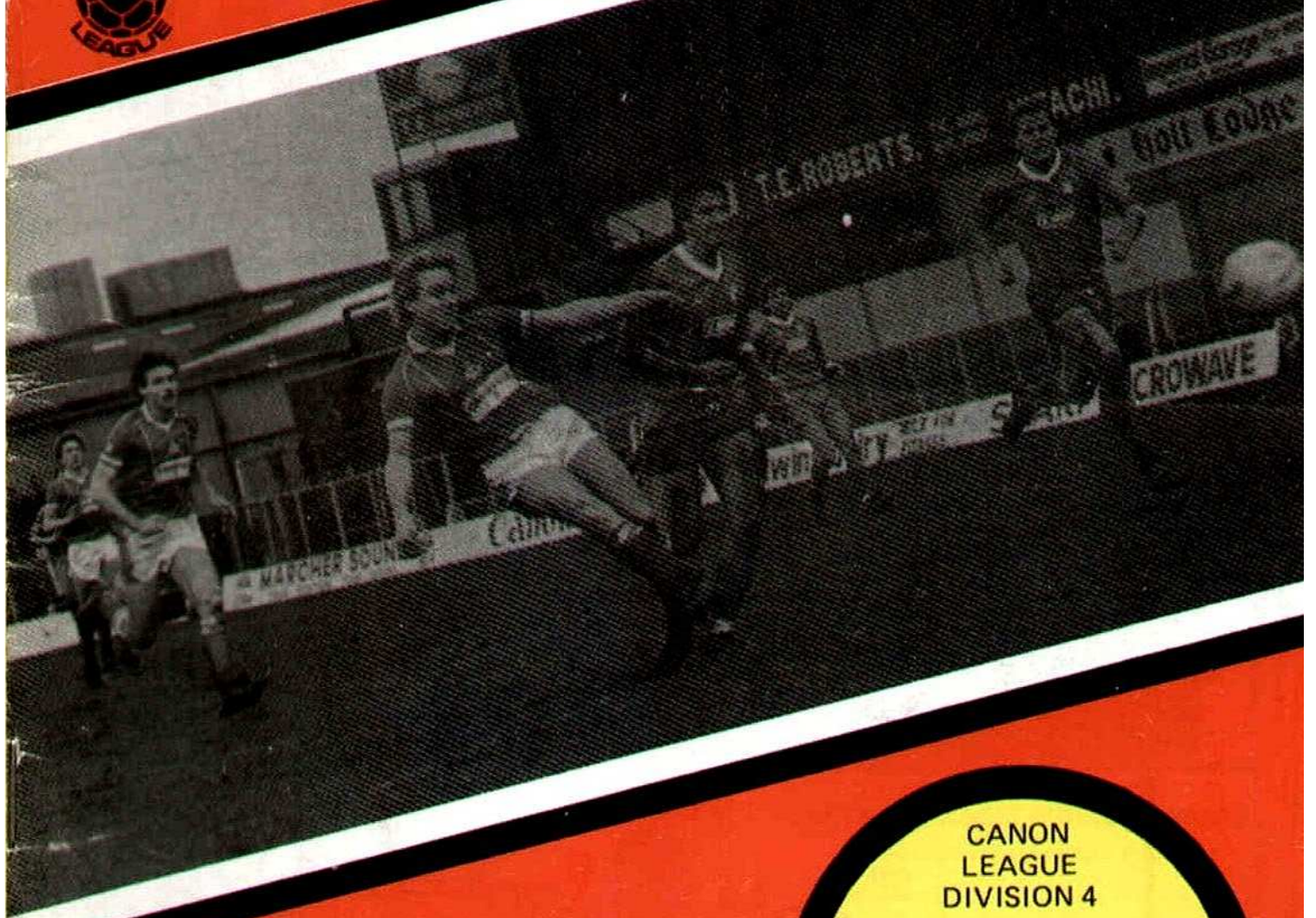
# WREXHAM

# 84-85

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME  
Vol. 1 No. 18

40p

Canon



CANON  
LEAGUE  
DIVISION 4

**WREXHAM**  
VERSUS  
**SWINDON**

SATURDAY  
5th Jan., 1985  
Kick Off 3.00 p.m.

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Views expressed in this programme are not necessarily those of Wrexham F.C.  
Official Match Programme designed and produced by David Roberts, Phil Jones and Geraint Parry of Wrexham Supporters' Association in conjunction with Malcolm K. Davies, Adlink Advertising, Hawarden.

# Bobby Roberts

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone connected with Wrexham Football Club, especially our loyal supporters, a prosperous New Year.



*Front Cover: Andy Edwards goes close against a retreating Blackpool defence.*

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# Welcome



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**Ground: County Ground  
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Arsenal (F.A. Cup),  
15th January, 1972**

**Honours:  
Football League Cup Winners:  
1968-69**

**Anglo-Italian Trophy  
Winners: 1970**

**Football League best season:  
5th, Div. 2, 1969-70**

**Division 3 Runners-up:  
1962-63, 1968-69**

**F.A. Cup Semi-Finalists:  
1910, 1912**

**Record Victory: 10-1 v.  
Farnham Utd. Breweries (FAC)  
28th November, 1925**

**Record Defeat: 1-10 v.  
Manchester City (F.A. Cup)  
25th January 1930**

**Record Transfer Fee  
Received: £175,000 from  
Chelsea for Alan Mayes,  
December 1980**

**Record Transfer Fee Paid:  
£150,000 to Southampton  
for David Peach, March 1980**

# SWINDON TOWN



**Back Row (left to right):** Charlie Henry, Simon Gibson, Alan Churchward, Nigel Gray, Scott Endersby, Andy Wollen, Mark Hughes.

**Centre:** Harry Gregg (Assistant Manager), John Trollope (Youth Team Manager), Jamie Reynolds, Mark Gardiner, Martin Davison, Sean Prowse, Mike Graham, Dave Hockaday, Kevin Morris (Physio-therapist)

**Front Row:** Paul Batty, Gary Nelson, Leigh Barnard, Lou Macari (Player Manager), Andy Rowland, Alan Mayed, Colin Bailie.

**Seated:** Mark Payne, Sheldon Lee.

Wrexham will be all out for revenge today having "unluckily" lost to Swindon on the opening day of the season. Amongst the scorers that day was Lou Macari, the ex-Celtic and Manchester United Scottish International who has taken his first steps in management at the County Ground. Their mid-table position reflects the fact that the team has lacked consistency, making promotion very difficult to achieve although not impossible.

## HISTORY

Swindon Town were formed in 1881 and they spent their early years playing at the Croft, which was also the home of Swindon Rangers Rugby Club. The football club eventually moved to the County Ground in 1895, having firmly established themselves in the Southern League.

In 1910, the Robins reached the semi-final of the F.A. Cup having eliminated Burnley, Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City on the way. They

were beaten by eventual winners Newcastle United but their taste for Cup football had only just been wetted. The following season Woolwich Arsenal succumbed to the challenge of Swindon and it was left to Chelsea to halt their challenge in the quarter finals. In 1911, it was back to the semi-final stage where they lost to Barnsley in a replay, having earlier beaten West Ham United and Everton.

Such consistent performances made admittance to the league a formality when the Third Division (South) was established in 1920. They could not have wished for a better start beating Luton Town 9-1 in their opening game. Their English International Harold Fleming scored four of the goals that day and his association with Swindon Town only came about because of a breakdown in health. On Docotr's orders, Fleming was advised to take up an outdoor occupation. He chose football and was instrumental in Swindon's F.A. Cup giant-killing victories.



Swindon remained in the Third Division until 1963 when they finally won promotion to Division Two. Throughout this spell it always seemed to be a case of their league form suffering from their exertions in the various cup competitions.

Relegation followed in 1965 but within four years they had regained their place in the Second Division as well as winning the League Cup Final. Indeed, 1969 proved to be the most historic year in the club's 88-year existence.

On the 15th March 1969, their supporters arrived at the Twin Towers of Wembley to find the hallowed turf barely visible amongst a mixture of sludge and sand. Arsenal could never master the conditions as well as their Third Division counterparts. Thus, it was no surprise when Roger Smart gave Swindon the lead after Ian Ure's backpass had stuck in the mud. However, with just four minutes left, Town goalkeeper Peter Downsbrough made his only mistake of the match allowing Bobby Gould to equalise for the London side.

In extra time, Don Rogers wrote his name into the history books with two sparkling goals which thoroughly demoralised their famous opponents. Swindon

manager, Danny Williams, called it "A triumph of fitness and attacking football."

For once they managed to harness their cup exploits with league points and they finished runners-up to Watford on goal-average. This time their stay in the Second Division lasted six years and in recent years the gloom was only lifted during the reign of Bobby Smith as manager.

## THE MANAGER

Suffice to say that **Lou Macari** hardly needs an introduction. However, for those of you who have been living on a different planet for the last 14 years, the statistics of his career bear testimony to the "little man's" ability — 24 Scottish International Caps between 1972 and 1978, three Scottish League Championship and two Scottish F.A. Cup winners medals with Celtic. At Old Trafford, Lou helped Manchester United to two F.A. Cup Finals and indeed scored the winning goal against Liverpool in 1977. A Milk Cup runners-up medal in 1983 and a Second Division Championship medal in 1975 also found their way to the Macari household. In all competitions, up to August 1984, he had made 478 appearances, plus another 46 as substitute, scoring 160 goals.

## LINKS

Born in Chester in 1904, **Gordon Gunson** holds the distinction of having been the first Wrexham player to score a goal in the 4th Round of the F.A. Cup. Following a brilliant schools career, Gunson joined Nelson, then a Football League team, at the age of 18 before moving on to Wrexham in 1926. Indeed, he nearly became a Welsh International as he later recalled. "It was in 1928, and I had just received a letter informing me of my selection for the Welsh team, which was quite surprising as I was born in Chester, but instead of just 'cracking on' and joining the squad, I told the club secretary about my selection, and he in turn had to tell the Welsh F.A. about it."

That same year he scored a 30 yard goal against Birmingham in Wrexham's first ever match in the 4th Round of the Cup. He later moved to Sunderland and then on to Liverpool and Swindon before rejoining the Reds in 1935.

## THIS SEASON

Swindon's 4-0 win over Chesterfield on New Year's Day was undoubtedly their best result of the season to date and suggests that we are in for a hard match today.

The Robins away form has been erratic this season with only two wins, at Tranmere (2-0) and Rochdale (1-0). Draws have been obtained at Hartlepool (2-2), Mansfield (0-0) and Exeter (1-1). Their five defeats on their travels have been at Bury (0-2), Crewe (2-3), Northampton (0-4), Darlington (0-1) and Southend.

The last line of defence for Swindon is **Scott Endersby**. Born in Lewisham, he appeared in an F.A. Cup tie for Kettering Town at the age of 15 but served his apprenticeship at Ipswich Town where he won an England Youth Cap. He moved to Tranmere Rovers in the summer of 1981 and made his league debut against Hereford Utd. in September 1981. He made 91 appearances for the Birkenhead club before joining Swindon in July 1983. Scott made 40 appearances last season and was voted Supporters Player of the Season.

The two full-back berths are filled by **Colin Bailie** and **Nigel Gray**. Bailie was born in Belfast and joined the club as an apprentice. He made his league debut at Oxford United in April, 1982 but began to claim a regular place in the side the following season. Colin is now approaching a century of games for the club. Gray was born in Fulham and is

an experienced defender with 262 appearances for Orient, his only other club, plus 3 on loan to Charlton Athletic before joining Swindon in July 1983. Gray made only 16 appearances last season and indeed had a spell on loan to Brentford. The central-defensive pairing is **Andy Rowland** and **Mike Graham**. Rowland began his career with Derby County but had to move to Bury in August 1974 to taste league football. Arrived at the County Ground in September 1978 and in recent seasons has made the successful move from goal-getter to goal-stopper. Graham is a former Bolton Wanderers player who made his debut for them at Mansfield in March 1978 and went on to appear 51 times for that club. He joined Swindon in July 1981 and had made 125 appearances at the end of last season when he was given a free transfer under the Freedom of Contract rules but resigned in August 1984.

In midfield, **Lou Macari** is using his experience to guide his team. He is joined by **Paul Batty**, **Charlie Henry** and **Dave Hockaday**. Batty is a former apprentice who made his league debut against Crewe in September 1982. He quickly became the centre of midfield and had made 91 appearances to the end of last season. Although short for a professional footballer he makes up in determination for his lack of inches. Henry is another former apprentice and he made his debut for the club at Lincoln in 1980. Born in Acton, he is a popular and hard tackling player. Dave Hockaday spent eight seasons at Blackpool before moving to Swindon in July 1983. Born in Billingham, he is a versatile player whose best position is on the right wing although he can also play as a central forward. He made 39 appearances last season.

Up front, **Peter Coyne** has been regularly amongst the goals this season. Peter joined Manchester United in 1975 where he made only one full first team appearance, scoring in a 1-2 defeat at Leicester City. He then joined non-league Ashton United before signing for Crewe in 1978 for whom he played around 120 First Team games. In 1981 he joined Hyde Utd. before signing for Swindon in August 1984. **Gary Nelson** joined Swindon from Southend Utd. in July 1983. He is basically an old fashioned left-winger who likes to get past his full back; he made 43 appearances last season. **Colin Gordon** has made a number of appearances in recent weeks and scored a brace of goals in Tuesday's win over Chesterfield.



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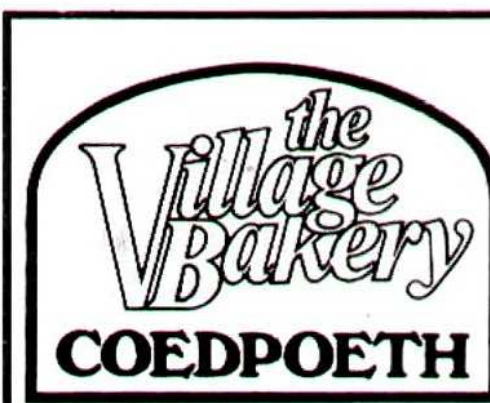
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# PROGRAMME PARADE

The Programme Parade today features our game v. Swindon to mark the occasion of the opening of the floodlights here at the Racecourse Ground.

The match was played on Wednesday, September 30th, 1959, and the lights switched on by Major Evelyn Soames, then President of Wrexham F.C.

THE LEAGUE, Division III.

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halifax	12	8	5	1	19	11	19
Q.P. Rangers	12	2	3	2	22	7	17
Northwich	11	7	3	1	25	12	17
Stamton	12	6	4	2	23	26	16
Coventry	12	1	5	2	20	11	15
Bour'mouth	12	7	1	4	24	19	15
Newport	12	6	3	3	20	19	15
Swindon	11	6	2	3	22	12	14
Grimsby	11	5	3	3	29	17	13
Shrewsbury	12	5	3	4	27	21	13
Colchester	12	5	2	5	25	26	12
Bury	11	5	1	5	15	10	11
Tranmere	12	4	3	5	25	17	11
Barnsley	11	4	3	4	17	13	11
Brentford	12	3	4	5	20	22	10
York	11	3	4	4	12	15	10
Port Vale	11	4	1	6	13	27	9
Bradford C.	11	3	2	6	20	23	8
Southern	11	3	2	6	13	23	8
Reading	12	2	3	7	25	29	7
Accrington	12	2	3	7	14	32	7
Chesterfield	11	3	0	8	15	27	6
Wrexham	10	2	2	6	15	25	6
Manfield	12	1	4	7	14	31	6

(Not including Tuesday's matches)

THIRD DIVISION FIXTURES.

Month	Date	Home	Score	Away
Aug.	22	Newport County	H 0 - 4	
	23	Brentford	A 1 - 3	
	29	Accrington Stanley	A 2 - 3	
Sept.	2	Brentford	H 1 - 3	
	5	Bournemouth	H 1 - 1	
	7	Chesterfield	A 1 - 5	
	12	Tranmere Rovers	A 1 - 4	
	19	Northwich City	A 1 - 2	
	23	Swindon Town	A 1 - 2	
	25	Grimsby Town	H 2 - 1	
	30	Swindon Town	H 1 - 1	
Oct.	3	Queen's Park Rgs.	A 1 - 1	
	7	Bradford City	A 1 - 1	
	10	Colchester United	A 1 - 1	
	11	Bradford City	A 1 - 1	
	17	Southend United	H 1 - 2	
	24	Manfield Town	A 1 - 1	
	28	Chesterfield	H 1 - 1	
	31	Port Vale	H 1 - 1	
Nov.	3	Bury	A 1 - 1	
	14	(1)		
	21	Southampton	A 1 - 1	
	28	Reading	A 1 - 1	
	5	(2)		
Dec.	12	Halifax Town	H 1 - 1	
	19	Newport County	A 1 - 1	
	26	Coventry City	H 1 - 1	
	28	Coventry City	A 1 - 1	
1960				
Jan.	2	Accrington Stanley	H 1 - 1	
	9	Barnsley	H 1 - 1	
	16	Bournemouth	A 1 - 1	
	23	Tranmere Rovers	A 1 - 1	
	30	(4) Shrewsbury Town	A 1 - 1	
	6	Northwich City	A 1 - 1	
	13	Grimsby Town	A 1 - 1	
	20	(5) Queen's Park R.	H 1 - 1	
	27	Colchester United	H 1 - 1	
	3	Southend United	A 1 - 1	
	12	(6) Manfield Town	H 1 - 1	
	19	Reading	H 1 - 1	
	26	(5) Bury	A 1 - 1	
April	2	Barnsley	A 1 - 1	
	9	Southampton	A 1 - 1	
	15	York City	A 1 - 1	
	16	Port Vale	A 1 - 1	
	18	York City	A 1 - 1	
	23	Shrewsbury Town	H 1 - 1	
	30	Halifax Town	A 1 - 1	
May	7	(Final)		

## SHORT HISTORY OF SWINDON TOWN A.F.C.

SWINDON TOWN A.F.C. was founded in the year 1881 by the Rev. W. Pitt for the benefit of the young men of his parish. It became a professional club in 1894 when they joined the Football League, but in 1921 became one of the original members of the Division Three. They are known as "The Robins" from their colours of red shirts with white collars, and their ground stands at 28,400.

## Our Photo Gallery . .

In this issue we present a photograph of Major F. Evelyn Soames, who has been President of Wrexham A.F.C. since the early twenties. Major Soames is the only surviving son of the late F. W. Soames, a former President of Wrexham A.F.C., who was a very keen supporter of football in the Wrexham area. The late Mr. F. W. Soames was responsible for the re-laying of the football pitch when the playing position was altered and for the erection of the old stand on the Mold Road side. Some of the older Supporters of Wrexham will remember the solitary figure standing on the balcony of the Turf Hotel in the far off days.

Major F. E. Soames was prior to the 1914-18 War, a regular officer with the Royal Welch Fusiliers and after services in France during that War, spent some years in Kenya in British East Africa, returning to this country in 1925 to take over the management of his father's Brewery business—F. W. Soames & Co. This business was later amalgamated with Island Green Brewery and is now known as Border Breweries (Wrexham) Ltd., of which Major Soames is Chairman.

Major Soames has followed his father's interest in the welfare of Wrexham A.F.C. and is a frequent attender at Wrexham Home Matches.



Major F. EVELYN SOAMES,  
(President, Wrexham A.F.C.)

## PEN PICTURES OF SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB.

NAN BORTON (Goalkeeper)—Product of local football, joining Swindon in 1945. Played in War-time eleven which reached Goal of Counties Tournament in 1944-45.

PETER CHAMBERLAIN (Right Back)—Became a Swindon player in 1952 coming from Leicester City. Peter also plays in the forward line. Born Busile.

WALTER BINGLEY (Left Back)—Born in Sheffield. Signed in the early part of the 1938 season, making his league debut then for the "Robins". Walter came from Sheffield Wednesday, previously with Bolton.

KEITH MORGAN (Right Half)—Another teenager produced through the ranks of the "Robins" youth team. A County Youth player he made his debut last season playing a dozen League games.

KEN MELLOR (Centre Half)—Joined the "Robins" during the close season from Mansfield Town, coming into a centre half when he joined Mansfield from Leicester.

BOB WOODRUFF (Left Half)—A local lad who joined the "Robins" from the Swindon Schoolboys team that did so well in the National Team Schoolboys Cup.

ARNOLD DARCY (Outside Right)—Born at Blackburn, joining the "Robins" from Wigan during the 1956-57 season. Played as an amateur for Accrington Stanley in 1952-53 season.

BOB EDWARDS (Inside Right)—Was last season's top goalscorer. He joined the team in 1956 from Chelsea. Born at Guildford.

JOHN RICHARDS (Centre Forward)—Signed from the Army during 1957-58 season. A versatile and goal-scoring forward, playing in all inside-forward positions and right wing last season.

JIMMY GAULD (Inside Left)—Was signed at the beginning of this season from Plymouth Argyle for a reputed figure of £3,000. His other Clubs have been Everton and Charlton Athletic.

JOHN HOSKINS (Outside Left)—Signed from Southampton during the close season, being at that Club for six years. Born near Southampton.

## Wrexham Association Football Club, Ltd.

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ON THE OCCASION OF THE SWITCHING ON OF THE FLOODLIGHT SYSTEM  
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th, 1959



Photograph by courtesy of "Wrexham Leader."

WREXHAM  
v.  
SWINDON T.  
KICK-OFF—7.0 p.m.

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10 GAULD

9 RICHARDS

8 WOODRUFF

7 EDWARDS

6 MELLOR

5 BINGLEY

4 MORGAN

3 BURTON

2 CHAMBERLAIN

1 DARCY

SWINDON TOWN

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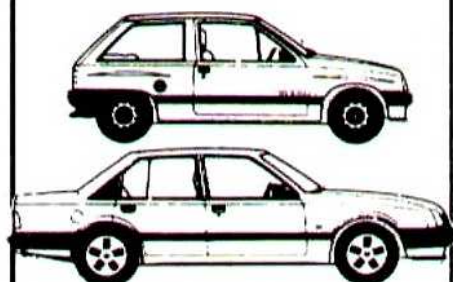


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Peter Houghton powers past two Blackpool defenders.

Photos by Simon Bellis

# Action

v. Blackpool 22nd December

Paul Comstive fires in a free kick for Wrexham.





# Racecourse

It's always nice to welcome old friends back to the Racecourse, and over the holiday period we saw **Simon Hunt** returning from Sweden.

Hunt left Wrexham last summer, but returned last week with his Swedish wife Lena to stay with his parents in Saltney – and he took the opportunity to drop in at the Racecourse and look up some old friends at the club.

"I've kept in touch with a number of the lads since I left," he said, "and even though I wanted to leave Wrexham when I did, I wouldn't have missed visiting the ground while I was over here."

His first contact with Sweden came when he met Lena on holiday in Ibiza. After a whirlwind romance they got married in Lena's home town, and the newspaper there published a 'local girl marries English professional footballer' feature.

Neighbouring first division club Elfborg picked up the story and asked Hunt to train with them.

"I said I couldn't as obviously I was still on contract with Wrexham," he said.

"They decided they wanted to buy me, Wrexham wanted to sell – and after a little haggling over the price, Bobby Roberts actually flew out to clinch the deal.

"I was delighted. It offered me a new start,

and gave me the chance to show what I can do in a completely different style of football."

Hunt's being paid as a student while he learns Swedish "I can hold a conversation now" – and he's playing continental football in a side he feels could more than hold their own in the English second division.

"Most of the clubs in this league could," he said, "while Malmo and Gothenburg could probably make a go of it in the first. And to gauge our standard, we played Manchester City in a friendly in October and beat them 2–1."

He missed out on Wrexham's glory-run in Europe this season after helping them to the Welsh Cup final the previous term, but he feels he's been more than compensated for that.

"I'm on a 2½-year contract at Elfsborg playing an exciting brand of continental football. I've just turned 22, and I've got a far better chance of being spotted by a big-name European side there than I would have done at Wrexham.

"I'm aiming for the top."

\* \* \* \* \*

Spare a thought for Racecourse groundsman **Gordon Rich**.

At this time of the year his beloved pitch takes a particularly heavy pounding – but however much the grass gets churned up, he

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# Round-up

still smiles and applies the sort of tender loving care that gets everything back into shape for the following game.

'Smile' is the operative word with Gordon. Always ready for a laugh, his favourite story concerns re-seeding the Racecourse last summer.

"As fast as we put the seed down, so the pigeons swooped in to eat it," he said.

"We complained to our seed suppliers in East Anglia, who insisted they'd coated the seed in a special chemical that pigeons wouldn't touch.

"But," I said, "don't forget they're WELSH pigeons here!"

\* \* \* \* \*

I've received a letter from an old boy of the Ysgol Morgan Llwyd in Wrexham.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas now lives in South Wales, but is hoping to renew links with the Wrexham area via a tour with his team to this area next Easter.

The team is Llanboidy from the third division of the Pembroke League. Anyone interested in fixing up a game can contact Rhodri at Llanddwyn, Pwlltrap, Dyfed (0994-230121).

**JAMES BOND**

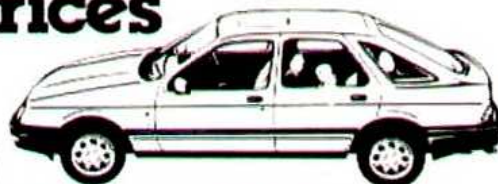
*(Marcher Sound/Wrexham Leader)*

## COMMERCIAL NEWS

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# Club Profile

To continue from where we left off in the Colchester programme, today we feature the 'engine-room' behind the Wrexham reserve set-up, George McGowan. George, who is now in his seventh season with Wrexham, has seen the gradual slide of our fortunes from second division days back in the late 70's.

Even though George was born in Scotland, he did play most of his football south of the border, this after giving up his career as a boxer (he was runner-up in the British Championships), taking his father's advice to choose football. He joined Motherwell 'juniors', however his big break into professional football came at Preston North End. As an outside right George went on to play for Chester and Stockport, where his pro-career was curtailed by ligament damage in his left knee.

To take this kind of blow at the age of 23 must have been heart-breaking for George who then dropped into non-league football, spending eight happy years under Tommy Jones at Bangor before moving on eventually, after a number of transfers, to Porthmadog.

It was here that George McGowan's coaching career took off, for whilst he was at Porthmadog, George attained his coaching badges under, then Wales manager, Mike Smith and was invited to join the Wrexham set-up by Arfon Griffiths, who asked George to supervise the Youth squad.

At that time the Youths were known as Wrexham 'B' and were in the Welsh National League; the reserves being in the Lancashire League under the guidance of Ken Roberts and Mickey Evans. Of course, when Wrexham fortunes changed as they slithered down the tables, Ken and Mickey had to go, as financial cutbacks were enforced and George McGowan found himself as Reserve team coach.

However, he is still dealing with Wrexham's Youth, because our reserve side has an average age of no more than 17, simply because our first team squad is so small. So does George feel happy with the present reserve set-up? He replied:

"I'd like to see the reserve side in a higher grade of football, but I think that we should keep a side in the Welsh National League. It is this stepping stone to league football that has been missing lately, and I think the 'step' into league soccer is too great at present. Our players need this professional step to prepare them for a league career."

Does George feel that better times are ahead with the present 'crop' he's got to deal with? "Oh, yes. Obviously they are a good bunch of lads and I'm confident that given time we'll make it through."

Confidence from George who, with his assistant Brian Prandle, must get extremely frustrated telling players that they'll have to go, simply because there's no chance of them making the grade under the present set-up. One thing is certain, however, this bubbly Scot is making every effort to maintain the excellent standards of youth teams of the past here at Wrexham and one feels that George McGowan will be a key figure in the future of Wrexham F.C. However, I don't think anyone is envious of his task!



**GEORGE MCGOWAN**  
(Reserve Team Manager)

*Full Name:* George McGowan  
*Birthplace:* Carluke (Scotland)  
*Date:* 30th November 1943  
*Height/Weight:* 5'11" - 13st. 4lbs.  
*Previous Clubs:* Preston, Chester, Stockport, Bangor, Wigan, Oswestry, Rhyl, Porthmadog  
*Job or Trade before soccer:* Electrician, work for B-Telecom  
*Most Memorable Match:* Porto (Away)  
*Biggest Thrill:* Signing for P.N.E. as Professional  
*Biggest Disappointment:* Knee injury forcing me to drop into non-League  
*Misc. Likes:* Being satisfied I've done my job well  
*Misc. Dislikes:* Losing  
*Musical Taste:* Most music  
*Favourite T.V. Shows:* Benny Hill, Comedy sketches  
*Favourite Other Sport:* Golf  
*Superstitions:* None  
*Biggest Influence on Career:* Father  
*Personal/Professional Ambition:* Success with Wrexham under Bobby Roberts  
*Which person in the world would you most like to meet?* Brian Clough.

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# 4th DIMENSION

Well, we've reached the halfway point of the season, with most clubs having played 23 games out of the 46 in total.

Reflecting on last Saturday's results, first of all one must feel sorry for the clubs with postponed games — however, this time of the year this is only to be expected. Mansfield took the honours winning handsomely at Southend and Northampton managed the same 3-1 scoreline over lacklustre Torquay United.

Indeed, it has been interesting to note the demise of United since we lost 4-3 there earlier this season. On Tuesday, they lost 3-1 again, this time at home to Aldershot who made it 6 points in 2 games after beating us, of course, last Saturday. I don't think anyone is surprised by this, as Aldershot so nearly made it to the 3rd division last term.

To see three crowds of 4,000 plus was a welcome bonus in Division Four last Saturday, at Chesterfield, Bury and at Blackpool. All home crowds were rewarded, all three sides gaining an invaluable 3 points each.

Of the three, Chesterfield suffered the worst setback last Tuesday, being comprehensively tanned 4-0 at the County Ground, Swindon. As I have said previously this season, Swindon always have good support but dreadful inconsistency plagues them at home. Lou Macari, if he cures this, can take Town places.

Port Vale's topsy turvey season continued, losing 3-2 at Colchester last Friday, stuffed Exeter 5-1 last Tuesday to even matters. Darlington are starting to slip, no game on Saturday, but going down badly at Mansfield on Tuesday.

They know full well that such slips are

costly at this stage of the season. So much for last week's affairs and back to the calm of a 'normal' Saturday after the festivities. Firstly, lets assess the chances of our three fourth division representatives in the F.A. Cup 3rd Round today. Plum draw is at Edgar Street where the gallant 'farmers' of Hereford take on the mighty Arsenal.

This is going to be a cracker with a hint of shock in the air — I think Hereford can do it. As can Darlington! They travel up the road to a depressed Ayresome Park to take on Middlesbrough, currently at the wrong end of Division Two. However, I don't think we'll see Port Vale in Round 4. West Ham may be too hot to handle, but we did it down there four years ago, there's no reason they shouldn't.

Looking at the League fixture list today, match of the day is probably at Prenton Park where Tranmere take on Peterborough. Both clubs are still in with a shout at the top, though 'Boro's resolute defence with John Wile at the back would prove a tough nut to crack. Blackpool should retain their challenge at the expense of Halifax, whilst Aldershot can cash in on Chesterfield's recent hiccup by taking a point. Torquay may decide that it's about time for the third home win of the season by beating Crewe whilst the Northampton revival will continue at Exeters expense. Chester should get a point at Scunthorpe, however Wrexham fans will hope not, and Hartlepool and Stockport looks a banker draw.

Finally, lets wish the three 4th Division teams the best of luck in their quest for the cup today, knowing that if they lose there's always the 'Mickey Mouse Cup' to take them to Wembley on June 1st. I know which one I'd rather win!

## FIXTURES & FORECASTS

### CANON LEAGUE 4

Aldershot	v.	Chesterfield	X
Blackpool	v.	Halifax Town	1
Hartlepool	v.	Stockport County	X
Northampton	v.	Exeter City	1
Scunthorpe Utd.	v.	Chester City	X
Torquay Utd.	v.	Crewe Alex.	1
Tranmere R.	v.	Peterborough Utd.	2

### F.A. CUP THREE

Hereford Utd.	v.	Arsenal	1
Middlesbrough	v.	Darlington	2
West Ham United	v.	Port Vale	1





Players from both sides attempting to regain possession.

Photos by Simon Bellis

# Action












v. Blackpool 22nd December

Blackpool goalkeeper punches clear as other players look on.





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## TODAY'S MATCH BALL SPONSOR

Date	Team & Sponsor
Sat 1st Sep.	Port Vale – Gilbert Adams Furni-Fit Kitchens & Bedrooms, St. Georges Cres., Wxm.
Tues 11th Sep	Exeter City – Dr. Wesley Hill
Sat 15th Sep	Peterborough Utd. – Wishbone Print, B'ham
Sat 29th Sep	Stockport County – Alf Parker
Sat 13th Oct	Tranmere Rovers – Kent Supplies
Tues 23rd Oct	Northampton Town C. M. Owen, Ruthin
Sat 3rd Nov	Hartlepool Utd. Robertson & Jones, Fitted Kitchens
Tues 6th Nov	Chesterfield – Harold Evans
Sat 24th Nov	Southend Utd. – Tudor House Insurance, Ruthin.
Sat 15th Dec	Bury – J. Hickson, Kilhendre Farm, Dodleston
Sat 22nd Dec	Blackpool – Jones & Williams (Printers) Rhosddu
Tues 1st Jan	Colchester Utd. – David J. Wells, 46 High Park, Gwernaffield, Mold.
Sat 5th Jan	Swindon Town – T.E. Armitstead, Smallwood Hotel, Ambleside
Sat 19th Jan	Rochdale – Geoff Beddow
Sat 9th Feb	Crewe Alex.
Sat 16th Feb	Halifax Town – Delmar Travel
Sat 2nd Mar	Hereford Utd. – Raymond Jones (Print & Graphics), Wrexham
Sat 9th Mar	Mansfield Town – G. Barry Davies, Hawkstone Park Hotel
Sat 23rd Mar	Torquay United – Barry Williams & Co. Wrexham
Sat 6th Apr	Chester – Reg Rowlands, President Chester City F.C.
Sat 13th Apr	Darlington
Sat 27th Apr	Scunthorpe Utd. – Tudor House Insurance, Ruthin.
Mon 6th May	Aldershot – P. W. Hale, Jewellers, Bank St., Wrexham



# FLASHBACK

## 10 YEARS

1st Jan., 1975 Charlton Athletic 1 Wrexham 1

This was an encouraging performance after the previous week's debacle against the same side. Perhaps Charlton's easy victory at the Racecourse was one reason why Charlton had their largest league attendance for 3 years. However, this was a much changed Wrexham team, both in terms of spirit and personnel. The Reds were without the injured May, Griffiths and Smallman, but their replacements Alan Hill, Gareth Davis and 'Noddy' Thomas, seized their opportunity well. Yet, the first half definitely belonged to the home side, who took the lead in the 36th minute through a Goldthorpe header. In fact, only some magnificent saves by Brian Lloyd kept Wrexham in the game. Fortunately the second half was much different, particularly when Billy Ashcroft came over for George Davies in the 56th minute. Charlton simply could not cope with his bustling style. Wrexham continually threatened the Charlton goal and were only denied victory through the heroics of Tutt, the Charlton 'keeper. Nevertheless, Ashcroft was rewarded for his hard work in the 86th minute when he scored Wrexham's long overdue equaliser after a goalmouth scramble. After the match manager John Neal denied rumours that injured Eddie May was finished, describing them as scandalous.

**Wrexham:** Lloyd, Hill, Jones, Evans, Gareth Davis, Whittle, Moir, Sutton, Geoff Davies (sub. Ashcroft 56 mins.), Tinnion, Thomas. Att: 10,300.

## 20 YEARS

14th Jan., 1965 Barrow 0 Wrexham 2

Wrexham easily brushed aside Barrow in a match that was even more one-sided than the score-line suggests. This result and the Welsh Cup victory over Colwyn Bay were desperately needed to restore interest in the financially troubled club. This was a fine team performance and Barrow could find no answer to Reds all-round power. Barrow were outclassed both in attack and defence, and their midfield was pretty shaky too. The Reds constantly pulled the Barrow defence out of position and both Webber and King had scoring opportunities early on. But Wrexham took the lead in the 29th minute when McMillan capitalised on a defensive error. In the 35th minute it seemed as if Griffiths would increase Wrexham's lead, but unfortunately he was brought down just outside the box. Wrexham continued to press in the second half. Unfortunately it was not until eight minutes from the end that Wrexham scored their second goal. This was scored by Webber and was his first goal for Wrexham. Although Wrexham achieved victory through team work special mention must go to Ernie Phythian who marked Eddy, the Barrow dangerman, out of the match. Overall, this performance gave Wrexham supporters nothing but optimism for the future.

**Barrow:** Duffin, Holder, Arrowsmith, Worthington, Richardson, Edwards, McCarthy, Eddy, Steadman, Tait, Wright.

**Wrexham:** Fleet, Holland, McClelland, Barnes, Mielczarek, Phythian, McMillan, Webber, King, Griffiths, Colbridge. Att: 2,857.

## 30 YEARS

15th Jan., 1955 Barrow 1 Wrexham 1

Wrexham returned from the 'dead' this week after being outclassed by Barnsley; the Reds played some sparkling football in the snow at Barrow. If Wrexham could produce this type of performance at home the Racecourse terraces would soon be packed. In fact, both teams defied the conditions to play high quality football. It was generally agreed that a draw was a fair result. The first half saw Wrexham on top. There were sterling performances from Betts, Rowley and Tapscott up front and Parker, McGowan and Wynn in defence. But Bannan was the real star. He at last looked like a 'spearhead' and was constantly asking for the ball. It was the Reds who took the lead, with Rowley scoring after being put through by Betts in the 26th minute.

But the second half belonged to Barrow, even though they were reduced to 10 men through Renshaws injury. This cruel blow only served to inspire the home side, who attacked Wrexham relentlessly. They received their just reward when Gordon equalised. But this was the type of match where there are only winners.

**Barrow:** Hindle, Dickinson, Renshaw, Collins, Holt, Keen, Layton, Armstrong, Coald, Gordon, Ormond.

**Wrexham:** Egglestone, Parker, McGowan, Griffiths, Wynn, Tapscott, Gwatkin, Hughes, Bannon, Rowley, Betts. Att: 1,984.

with Clive Littler



# MATCH BY MATCH 84-85

### KEY:

- Figures against names indicate goalscorers.
- Player injured/withdrawn and substitute
- x Sent off
- O.G. Own goal

Canon League 4 Att. Score 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Match	Home	Score	Att.	Goalscorers	Referee	Home	Score	Att.	Goalscorers	Referee	Home	Score	Att.	Goalscorers	Referee	
25	Swindon	1-2	3,591	A.	King	Cunnington	1-2	3,591	A.	King	Cunnington	1-2	3,591	A.	King	Cunnington
26	Wigan (MC1-1st Leg)	0-3	1,423	H.	Parker	Parker	0-3	1,423	H.	Parker	Parker	0-3	1,423	H.	Parker	Parker
SEPTEMBER																
1	Port Vale	1-1	1,849	H.	Parker	Cunnington	1-1	1,849	H.	Wright	Wright	1-1	1,849	H.	Wright	Wright
2	Wigan (MC2-2nd Leg)	0-2	2,021	A.	Parker	Cunnington	0-2	2,021	A.	Wright	Wright	0-2	2,021	A.	Wright	Wright
3	Rochdale	2-0	1,182	A.	Parker	Cunnington	2-0	1,182	A.	Wright	Wright	2-0	1,182	A.	Wright	Wright
4	Exeter City	2-0	1,365	H.	Parker	Cunnington	2-0	1,365	H.	Wright	Wright	2-0	1,365	H.	Wright	Wright
5	Peterborough	1-3	1,704	H.	Parker	Cunnington	1-3	1,704	H.	Wright	Wright	1-3	1,704	H.	Wright	Wright
6	F.C. Porto (ECWC1-1L)	1-0	4,935	H.	Parker	Cunnington	1-0	4,935	H.	Wright	Wright	1-0	4,935	H.	Wright	Wright
7	Crew Alex.	0-3	2,480	A.	Sander	Cunnington	0-3	2,480	A.	Wright	Wright	0-3	2,480	A.	Wright	Wright
8	Stockport County	3-4	1,516	H.	Sander	Cunnington	3-4	1,516	H.	Wright	Wright	3-4	1,516	H.	Wright	Wright
OCTOBER																
1	F.C. Porto (ECWC1-2L)	3-4	30,000	A.	Parker	Cunnington	3-4	30,000	A.	Wright	Wright	3-4	30,000	A.	Wright	Wright
2	Tornbury	OG 3-4	1,195	A.	Parker	Cunnington	OG 3-4	1,195	A.	Wright	Wright	OG 3-4	1,195	A.	Wright	Wright
3	Northampton Town	4-0	2,044	H.	Parker	Cunnington	4-0	2,044	H.	Wright	Wright	4-0	2,044	H.	Wright	Wright
4	Manchester	0-3	1,744	A.	Parker	Cunnington	0-3	1,744	A.	Wright	Wright	0-3	1,744	A.	Wright	Wright
5	A.S. Roma (ECWC2-1L)	0-2	1,779	H.	Parker	Cunnington	0-2	1,779	H.	Wright	Wright	0-2	1,779	H.	Wright	Wright
6	Hereford United	1-2	3,700	A.	Sander	Cunnington	1-2	3,700	A.	Wright	Wright	1-2	3,700	A.	Wright	Wright
NOVEMBER																
1	Hartlepool Utd.	1-1	1,368	H.	Sander	Cunnington	1-1	1,368	H.	Wright	Wright	1-1	1,368	H.	Wright	Wright
2	A.S. Roma (ECWC2-2L)	0-1	14,007	H.	Parker	Cunnington	0-1	14,007	H.	Wright	Wright	0-1	14,007	H.	Wright	Wright
3	Darlington	1-2	3,985	A.	Parker	Cunnington	1-2	3,985	A.	Wright	Wright	1-2	3,985	A.	Wright	Wright
4	Wigan Ath (FAC-1)	0-2	2,927	H.	Parker	Cunnington	0-2	2,927	H.	Wright	Wright	0-2	2,927	H.	Wright	Wright
5	Southend United	1-2	1,129	H.	Parker	Cunnington	1-2	1,129	H.	Wright	Wright	1-2	1,129	H.	Wright	Wright
6	Chirk A.A. (WC3)	4-1	1,370	A.	Parker	Cunnington	4-1	1,370	A.	Wright	Wright	4-1	1,370	A.	Wright	Wright
7	Scunthorpe United	2-5	2,180	A.	Parker	Cunnington	2-5	2,180	A.	Wright	Wright	2-5	2,180	A.	Wright	Wright
DECEMBER																
1	Bury	3-0	1,450	H.	Parker	Cunnington	3-0	1,450	H.	Wright	Wright	3-0	1,450	H.	Wright	Wright
2	Blackpool	1-2	2,109	H.	Parker	Cunnington	1-2	2,109	H.	Wright	Wright	1-2	2,109	H.	Wright	Wright
3	Chester City	1-2	3,968	A.	Parker	Cunnington	1-2	3,968	A.	Wright	Wright	1-2	3,968	A.	Wright	Wright
4	Aldershot	1-2	1,966	A.	Parker	Cunnington	1-2	1,966	A.	Wright	Wright	1-2	1,966	A.	Wright	Wright
1985 JANUARY																
1	Colchester	2-2	1,376	H.	Parker	Cunnington	2-2	1,376	H.	Wright	Wright	2-2	1,376	H.	Wright	Wright
2	Swindon Town			H.					H.					H.		
3	Bury Town (WCA)			H.					H.					H.		
4	Port Vale			A.					A.					A.		
5	Rochdale			H.					H.					H.		
6	Peterborough			A.					A.					A.		
FEBRUARY																
1	Stockport County			A.					A.					A.		
2	Crew Alex			H.					H.					H.		
3	Exeter City			A.					A.					A.		
4	Hull City			H.					H.					H.		
5	Hull City			H.					H.					H.		
6	Hartlepool United			A.					A.					A.		
MARCH																
1	Hereford United			H.					H.					H.		
2	Northampton Town			A.					A.					A.		
3	Manfield Town			H.					H.					H.		
4	Hull City			A.					A.					A.		
5	Tanners Rowers			H.					H.					H.		
6	Torquay United			A.					A.					A.		
7	Cherterfield			H.					H.					H.		
APRIL																
1	Cherter City			H.					H.					H.		
2	Colchester United			A.					A.					A.		
3	Darlington			H.					H.					H.		
4	Southend United			A.					A.					A.		
5	Scunthorpe United			H.					H.					H.		
MAY																
1	Bury			A.					A.					A.		
2	Aldershot			H.					H.					H.		
3	Blackpool			A.					A.					A.		
4	Blackpool			H.					H.					H.		
5	F.A. Cup Final			A.					A.					A.		

Player	Home Goals					Away Goals						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bury	22	8	2	1	25	8	6	3	2	15	18	47
Blackpool	24	3	0	20	5	6	2	5	20	18	47	
Hereford	23	10	1	1	21	5	4	4	3	17	1	47
Darlington	22	3	1	1	19	6	4	7	1	12	9	44
Chirk	22	3	0	24	8	4	4	3	14	14	43	
Peterborough	23	0	1	22	18	3	3	6	12	15	40	
Colchester	23	6	3	24	17	4	4	1	21	22	37	
Torquay	23	0	3	27	15	3	1	7	14	22	37	
Hartlepool	22	5	7	15	11	4	2	5	12	16	34	
Crew Alex	23	6	1	19	18	4	2	5	14	18	33	
Swindon	22	2	3	22	13	2	3	5	10	16	32	
Manfield	22	4	3	18	12	3	2	6	4	5	8	31
Port Vale	23	5	3	22	14	2	4	5	11	15	28	
Stockport	21	5	3	22	15	2	3	7	16	28	28	
Scunthorpe	24	5	4	19	15	2	3	7	24	26		
Stoke	22	4	3	22	13	1	2	7	7	24	26	
Aldershot	22	4	3	16	12	3	0	8	14	22	25	
Exeter	22	3	6	15	13	1	2	7	10	25	20	
Exeter	22	3	7	13	12	3	1	8	14	24	20	
Halifax	20	3	0	5	12	3	4	7	9	21	18	
Cherter	23	3	2	5	12	3	4	7	9	22	18	
Torquay	23	3	5	11	17	2	1	8	11	27	18	
Wrexham	25	3	5	19	18	1	0	9	12	23	15	

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# On the Road

Canon League Division Four

Wednesday, 26th December, 1984

**CHESTER** 2 (Holden 6, Walker 40 pen.)

**WREXHAM** 1 (Edwards 13)

Half-time: 2-1

**Chester:** Butcher, Bulmer, Dixon, Holden, Coy, Fox, Lane, Speight, Walker, Higgins, Sayer. Sub: Brett.

**Wrexham:** Parker, Salathiel, Comstive, Keay, Wright, Williams (Rogers 72), Cunnington, Horne, Steel, Edwards, Charles.

Attendance: 3,968

Referee: Mr. D. Richardson (Great Heywood)

The less said about this match the better. "Traveller" was so upset at losing to "those from over the border" that Boxing Day evening was spent drowning his sorrows in various local hostelryes!

Canon League Division Four

Saturday, 29th December, 1984

**ALDERSHOT** 2 (McNeil 44, 76)

**WREXHAM** 1 (Houghton 55)

Half-time: 1-0

**Aldershot:** Coles, Blankley, Spencer, Massey, Smith, Burvill, Shrub, McNeil, Foyle, McCulloch (Mazzon 69), McDonald.

**Wrexham:** Parker, Cunnington, Comstive, Keay, Williams, Wright, Edwards, Horne, Steel (Gregory 56), Charles, Houghton.

Attendance: 1,966

Referee: Mr. C. Downey (Hounslow)

This was our seventh away defeat of the season by the odd goal and yet again it was a case of what might have been.

In the early stages Wrexham more than held their own and the pace of Peter Houghton combined with the forward surges of Paul

Comstive had the home defence in all sorts of trouble.

However, Wrexham were unable to gain the vital breakthrough and just before half-time Aldershot took the lead. Stuart Parker came for a cross and seemed to be obstructed, allowing the ball to break to Mark McNeil, the ex-Orient striker, who made no mistake from close range.

Despite this setback, the Reds continued to go forward and the persistent running of Andy Edwards was eventually rewarded after 55 minutes. The Aldershot defence seemed content to allow the ball to run out of play but "Super Ted" ran some twenty-five yards to just keep the ball in and his low cross was clinically converted by Houghton.

Aldershot regained the lead after 76 minutes when McNeil broke clear of the defence and steered the ball clear of Parker's despairing dive. There was a suspicion of offside but McNeil made the most of his chance.

So, it was another long journey home without anything to show for our efforts.

**PROGRAMME GUIDE** - Chester (40p, 16 pages). An improvement on last season's abysmal effort, but this 'Double Issue' (it also covered the game with Swindon on 29/12/84) lacked sufficient content to be classed as value for money. A printing deadline of 14/12/84 did not help it's cause. Marks: 5 (out of 10).

Aldershot (40p, 16 pages). The Aldershot programme has always been regarded as one of the best in the lower divisions. The cover is most attractive and the content is varied although somewhat sparse in this season's issue. Marks: 6 (out of 10).

TRAVELLER

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# TEAM CHECK

WREXHAM		SWINDON TOWN
STUART PARKER	1	SCOTT ENDERSBY
NEIL SALATHIEL	2	CHRIS RAMSEY
SHAUN CUNNINGTON	3	COLIN BAILIE
JACKIE KEAY	4	LEIGH BARNARD
MIKE WILLIAMS	5	NIGEL GRAY
STEVE WRIGHT	6	ANDY ROWLAND
ANDY EDWARDS	7	DAVID HOCKADAY
BARRY HORNE	8	PETER COYNE
JIM STEEL	9	COLIN GORDON
STEVE CHARLES	10	PAUL BATTY
KEVIN ROGERS	11	GARRY NELSON
	12	LOU MACARI

# Officials

## REFEREE:

**T. A. JONES**  
(Macclesfield)

Chartered Accountant. Married with two boys. Commenced refereeing in 1963, progressed via local Stockport, Mid-Cheshire and Cheshire County Leagues. Enjoys playing squash and reading. Senior linesman France v. Russia friendly international in March 1983.

## LINESMEN:

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(St. Helens) Red Flag

**G. R. SANT**  
(Altrincham) Yellow Flag

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