

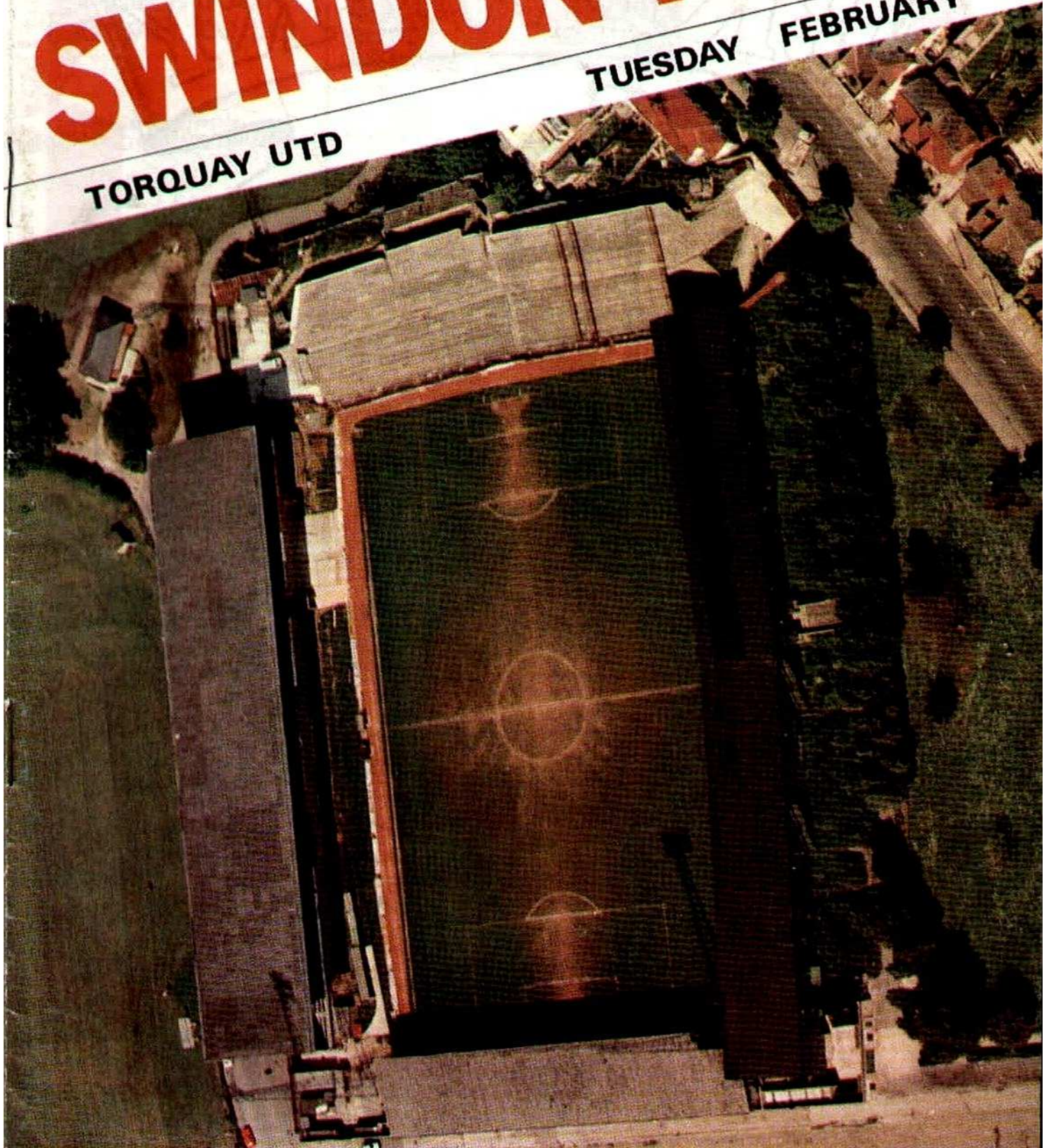


Official Programme 45p

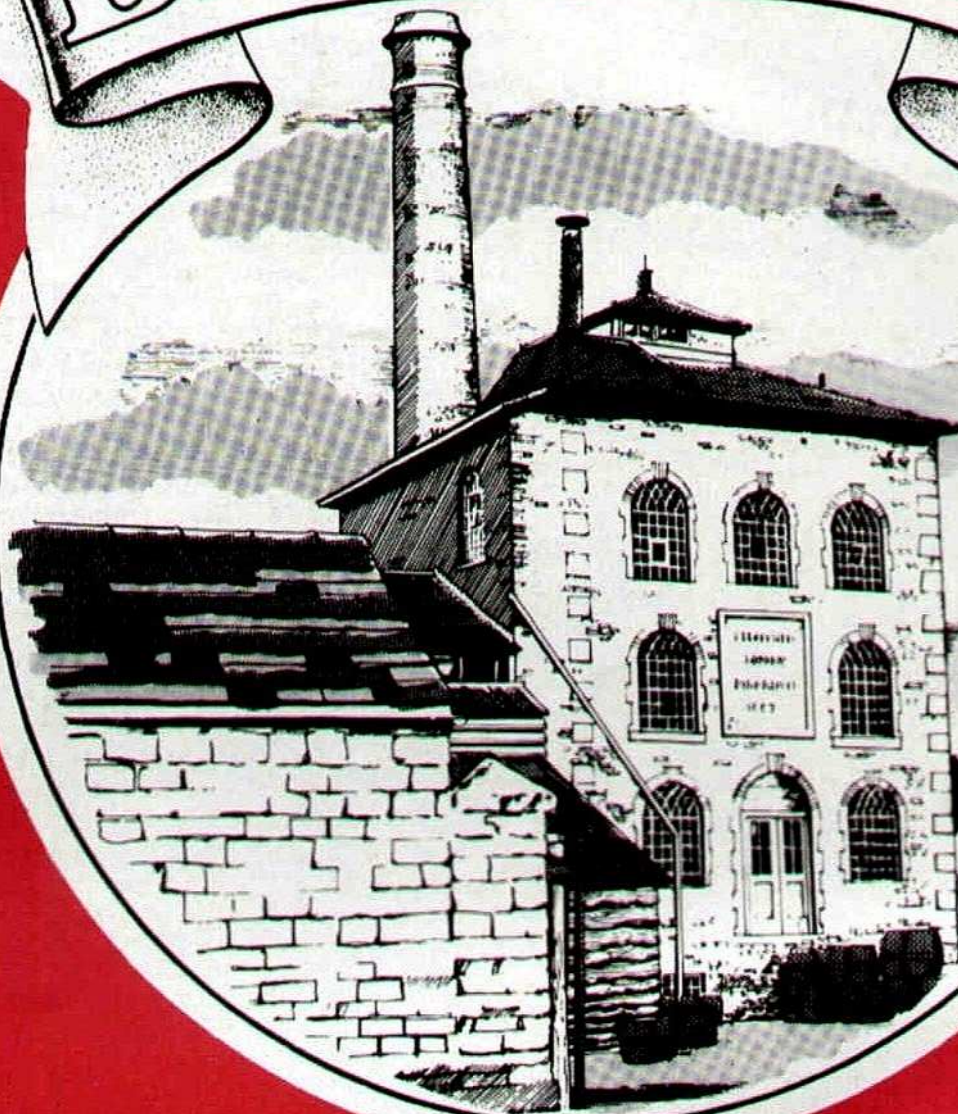
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Chairman's Comments



This evening we welcome to the County Ground the Directors, Players, Officials and Supporters of Torquay United for the second leg of our first round Freight Rover Trophy fixture. Hopefully encouraged by our first leg draw at Torquay we shall be able to go on and progress to the next round.

Last week we attended a seminar at Crystal Palace in connection with the proposed new National Sports Pool which will start at the commencement of the next football season. The rules of the new pool which were outlined by Ron Noades, who is acting for the Board as Managing Director, were very impressive and I am sure that if we at Club level can organise ourselves correctly with our distribution and collection operation, this offers us the possibility of increased revenue on a weekly basis and here at Swindon, under the control of Doug Buswell, I am sure that we shall not let the operation down.

Joining us at tonight's match as guests are the Managing Director Mr John Sudbury and Members of his staff at Swindon Automobiles who are our local Freight Rover agents and we wish them every success in this venture into Football Sponsorship and hope that they may well wish to help us in the future.

On the playing field last week our youth side had a very good win against West Ham United on Tuesday evening in a game that was a credit to the lads at our club who fought for a victory as though their lives depended upon it and hopefully we shall be able to maintain that type of enthusiasm in the next round at Coventry City on Tuesday, 12th February.

At Chester City last Wednesday in a game of two halves we had our fair share of possession and chances in the second half when favoured with the wind but were unable to convert them into goals and consequently had to return home disappointed and pointless.

Next Saturday we make the short journey to Hereford United who are enjoying a very good season so far and hopefully as many of you as possible will make the trip to cheer our lads on to victory to make amends for the defeat they inflicted on us here at the County Ground.

Hope you enjoy the game.

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Lou's One Hundred Goals

When Lou scored his 100th goal in English soccer in the first leg of our Freight Rovers Trophy on January 22nd, he continued a sequence that has seen him score all his personal milestones in the same month.

Lou's first goal in English football came on his Old Trafford debut on January 20th 1973. His 50th goal came on January 29th in an F.A. Cup tie with Queens Park Rangers in 1977 with his 100th goal at Torquay last month. Testimony to his character is borne out by the fact his goals have been evenly distributed 53 at home and 47 away.

Manchester United

1972/73 (5)

1..Jan 20	West Ham	Home	1 (Div I)
2..Feb 17	Ipswich Town	Away	1 (Div I)
3..Mar 3	West Brom	Home	1 (Div I)
4.. " 10	Birmingham City	Away	1 (Div I)
5..Apr 14	Stoke City	Away	1 (Div I)

1973/74 (6)

6..Nov 17	Newcastle United	Away	1 (Div I)
7..Dec 26	Sheffield United	Home	1 (Div I)
8.. " 29	Ipswich Town	Home	1 (Div I)
9..Jan 5	Plymouth Argyle	Home	1 (F.A.C.)
10..Mar 2	Sheffield United	Away	1 (Div I)
11..Apr 6	Norwich City	Away	1 (Div I)

1974/75 (18)

12/13..Sep 11	Charlton Athletic	Home	2 (L.C.)
14.. " 25	Bolton Wanderers	Home	1 (Div II)
15..Oct 19	Blackpool	Away	1 (Div II)
16..Nov 2	Oxford United	Home	1 (Div II)
17/18.. " 13	Burnley	Home	2 (Div II)
19/20..Dec 7	Sheffield Wednesday	Away	2 (Div II)
21.. " 10	Middlesbrough	Home	1 (L.C.)
22/23..Jan 15	Norwich City	Home	2 (L.C.)
24..Mar 1	Cardiff City	Away	1 (Div II)
25.. " 28	Bristol Rovers	Away	1 (Div II)
26.. " 29	York City	Home	1 (Div II)
27.. " 31	Oldham Athletic	Home	1 (Div II)
28..Apr 5	Southampton	Away	1 (Div II)
29.. " 26	Blackpool	Home	1 (Div II)

1975/76 (15)

30/31..Aug 26	Wolverhampton Wand	Away	2 (Div I)
32..Sep 9	Brentford	Home	1 (L.C.)
33.. " 27	Manchester City	Away	1 (Div I)
34..Oct 8	Aston Villa	Away	1 (L.C.)
35.. " 25	West Ham	Away	1 (Div I)
36..Dec 13	Sheffield United	Away	1 (Div I)
37.. " 23	Everton	Away	1 (Div I)
38.. " 27	Burnley	Home	1 (Div I)
39..Jan 31	Birmingham City	Home	1 (Div I)
40..Feb 7	Coventry City	Away	1 (Div I)
41.. " 14	Liverpool	Away	1 (F.A.C.)
42.. " 21	Aston Villa	Away	1 (Div I)
43.. " 28	West Ham	Home	1 (Div I)
44..Apr 19	Burnley	Away	1 (Div I)

1976/77 (13)

45..Aug 24	Coventry City	Away	1 (Div I)
46..Sep 1	Tranmere Rovers	Home	1 (L.C.)
47..Dec 27	Everton	Home	1 (Div I)
48/49..Jan 15	Coventry City	Home	2 (Div I)
50..Jan 29	Q.P.R.	Home	1 (F.A.C.)
51..Feb 5	Derby County	Home	1 (Div I)
52.. " 13	Tottenham H	Away	1 (Div I)
53.. " 26	Southampton	Away	1 (F.A.C.)
54..Mar 19	Aston Villa	Home	1 (Div I)
55..Apr 9	Stoke city	Home	1 (Div I)
56..Apr 30	Q.P.R.	Home	1 (Div I)
57..May 14	Arsenal	Home	1 (Div I)

1977/78 (11)

58-60..Aug 20	Birmingham City	Away	3 (Div I)
61..Sep 3	Derby County	Away	1 (Div I)
62..Oct 1	Liverpool	Home	1 (Div I)
63.. " 15	Newcastle United	Home	1 (Div I)
64/65..Dec 26	Everton	Away	2 (Div I)
66..Jan 6	Carlisle United	Away	1 (F.A.C.)
67/68.. " 11	Carlisle United	Home	2 (F.A.C.)

1978/79 (6)

69..Aug 23	Leeds United	Away	1 (Div I)
70/71..Oct 7	Middlesbrough	Home	2 (Div I)
72.. " 14	Aston Villa	Away	1 (Div I)
73..Apr 7	Norwich City	Away	1 (Div I)
74.. " 25	Norwich City	Home	1 (Div I)

1979/80 (9)

75/76..Sep 1	Middlesbrough	Home	2 (Div I)
77.. " 22	Wolverhampton Wand	Away	1 (Div I)
78..Oct 6	Brighton	Home	1 (Div I)
79.. " 13	Bristol City	Away	1 (Div I)
80..Nov 3	Southampton	Home	1 (Div I)
81.. " 24	Norwich City	Away	1 (F.A.C.)
82..Dec 1	Tottenham H	Away	1 (Div I)
83.. " 15	Coventry City	Away	1 (Div I)

1980/81 (9)

84..Aug 16	Middlesbrough	Home	1 (Div I)
85..Sep 13	Leicester City	Home	1 (Div I)
86..Oct 4	Notts Forest	Away	1 (Div I)
87.. " 22	Stoke City	Away	1 (Div I)
88..Dec 13	Stoke City	Home	1 (Div I)
89.. " 20	Arsenal	Away	1 (Div I)
90..Jan 10	Brighton	Home	1 (Div I)
91.. " 31	Birmingham City	Home	1 (Div I)
92..Apr 18	West Brom	Away	1 (Div I)
1981/82 (2)			
93..Aug 29	Coventry City	Away	1 (Div I)
94..Jan 27	West Ham	Home	1 (Div I)

1982/83 (2)

95..Sep 18	Southampton	Away	1 (Div I)
96..Apr 2	Coventry City	Home	1 (Div I)

Swindon Town

1984/85 (4)

97..Aug 25	Wrexham	Home	1 (Div 4)
98..Oct 27	Stockport	Home	1 (Div 4)
99..Nov 24	Aldershot	Home	1 (Div 4)
100..Jan 22	Torquay	Away	1 (F.R.T.)

Month by Month: August 10, September 12, October 13, November 7, December 15, January 15, February 8, March 8, April 11, May 1.

Competitions: Division 1-68, Division 2-13, Division 4-3, League Cup - 8, F.A. Cup - 7, Freight Rovers Trophy - 1.

Welcome to Torquay United

BY DAVE KING

In welcoming the Plainmoor Club to the County Ground this evening, we extend a warm welcome for the second time this season. On the first occasion, to our cost, we allowed United to turn a first half deficit, due to a twenty-fifth minute penalty from Alan Mayes, into a 3-1 victory. On that September afternoon, an own goal by Scott Endersby, plus further goals from Colin Barnes and Dean Mooney, allowed Manager David Webb's team to return home to the glorious Devon county with their first away win of the season.

Beset by injury problems, which has necessitated in the Club having to utilise twenty seven players in matches this season, has only compounded the problems facing Manager David Webb in his efforts to bring better days to one of England's most attractive South Coast resorts.

With the first leg finishing all square, when a first half shot from United's Derek Hall took a wicked deflection past Scott Endersby, eventually being neutralised by Lou Macari's eighty first minute equaliser. A goal which brought him to a memorable personal milestone of one hundred goals in English football. We come to the County Ground this evening with all to play for.

League results count for less where Cup competitions are concerned. So a look at United's Cup form this season may be more appropriate. In the first round of this seasons Milk Cup they were beaten by South Devon neighbours Plymouth Argyle. Single goal victories in both legs were enough to enable the Home Park Club to emphasise their Third Division status. In this seasons F.A. Cup, two second half goals in the space of two minutes from Ben Laryea, now departed from the Club and player coach Eddie Kelly, were enough to send famed F.A. Cup giant killers Yeovil Town back to Somerset with a 2-0 defeat from their first round visit. Alas, three second half goals in the next round saw the Plainmoor Club make their exit at Brisbane Road, home of East London Club, Orient.

The following players were included in Manager David Webb's squad for the first leg match:-

Goalkeeper KEN ALLEN has missed only two League matches this season. The 33 year old keeper joined manager David Webb for the second time, when he joined United

last season. They were previously together at Bournemouth, which was Ken's first Club after moving to Dean Court from Bath City. He went onto make 152 League appearances in five seasons for the Cherries. Brief spells with Bury and Peterborough United, brought no League appearances and until the enforced break due to bad weather, Ken had brought his total of League appearances to 185 in last month's home match with Crewe.

The injury crisis encountered by United was a blessing in disguise for GARY WRIGHT for it enabled the non contract player to make his League debut in the New Years day fixture at home to Aldershot. Unhappily for Gary it ended in a 3-1 defeat, but he retained his place for the following match at home to Crewe wearing the No.2 shirt.

Full back COLIN ANDERSON is one of three players to be ever present this season. The former Burnley apprentice is now in his third season with the Club. Twenty two year old Colin made his one hundredth League appearance for United in the home match with Blackpool on December 15th. Colin's only goal of the season came three minutes from time in the following home match with Southend United.

Occupying the central defensive positions in the first leg at Plainmoor were DEREK FOWLER and STEVE PUGH. Local born Derek made his League debut at Hartlepool on March 17th 1984. Twenty three year old Derek struggled to make United's team in the early part of the season, but including the home match with Crewe he had brought his total of League appearances to twenty five. Derek's only goal of this season came in the 1-1 draw with Darlington in September at Plainmoor. Steve who reached his twentieth birthday last Friday was a former Wolves apprentice. He joined Torquay last season and went onto make thirty eight League appearances by the end. His appearances have been more limited this season though.

Former Leicester City, Mansfield Town and Bournemouth player DEREK DAWKINS has appeared in every league match this season. The former Leicester City apprentice, made his 100th League appearance in United's final League match of last season at home to Blackpool. Another player to have joined David Webb for the second time. Twenty five year old Derek is still waiting to score his first

League goal.

Player Coach EDDIE KELLY is a veteran of 371 League matches and six League Clubs. Glasgow born Eddie will be 34 on Thursday. The former Scotland Under 23 International began his career with Arsenal, after 175 League matches with the Highbury Club he moved onto the following Clubs with League appearances alongside, Q.P.R. 28, Leicester City 119, Notts County 27, and Bournemouth 13, Eddie won an F.A. Cup Winners Medal in 1971 when he came on a substitute for Peter Storey scoring the second goal in a 2-1 win over Liverpool at Wembley.

On loan from Bristol City in his second month with United is GARY MARSHALL. His move to Plainmoor enabled Gary to make his League debut on December 22nd versus Southend, scoring his first League goal four days later in the Boxing Day derby at Exeter direct from a corner kick.

The third of United's ever present players is former Coventry City apprentice DEREK HALL. The 20 year old midfield player made his League debut for Coventry City on September 18th 1982 at St. Andrews in a 1-0 defeat versus Birmingham. This was his solitary appearance for the Highfield Road Club. After a period on loan to Torquay in which he played in the final ten League matches of last season, he joined the Club on a free transfer last summer. Scored the only goal of the match on his debut for United at home to Mansfield on March 24th 1984. Derek's three goals this season have come in away matches at Bury on December 1st and the Boxing Day derby match at Exeter City also at Port Vale on January 26th.

When 18 year old MARIO WALSH made his

debut in our first leg match at Plainmoor he became the 27th player to don a United shirt this season. Mario is on loan from Second Division Portsmouth.

Veteran striker JOHN SIMS is in his second spell with the Club. For after releasing him last season for financial reasons, Torquay re-signed him from Exeter City in November. His goal tally for the season upto our first leg match was seven - two for United, and another five for Exeter City. Following the home match with Crewe 32 year old John was only six appearances short of 350 in Football League appearances while he needed a further fifteen League goals to reach a century. Despite having appeared for eight Clubs namely Derby, Luton, Oxford, United, Colchester, Notts County, Exeter City, Plymouth Argyle and Torquay United. John has shown a distinct liking for Devon, by playing the majority of his League matches for the three South West Clubs, a total of 256. John holds the unusual distinction of scoring for and against his two League Clubs this season. For Exeter in a 5-0 win over United on the opening day of the season, and for United in their 4-3 defeat at Exeter on Boxing Day.

Local boy ANDY BEST made his League debut this season at Scunthorpe United on October 23rd in a 2-0 defeat. Andy's only two goals to date came in a 3-1 defeat at Northampton on December 29th and in the 2-2 draw at Port Vale on January 26th.

Seventeen year old non contract striker MARK LORAM was one of the substitutes in the first leg. Still waiting for a first team appearance Mark come from South Devon Club Brixham Villa.



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TOWN IN THE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS CUP 1983-84' by Dave King

1st Round

February 22nd 1984

Attendance 4,744

Oxford United 1 (0) (Bailie O.G.)

Swindon Town 3 (0) (Quinn 2, Mayes)

Oxford United: Butcher, Hinshelwood, McDonald, Train, Briggs (Jones), Shotton, Barnett (Gibson), Whatmore, Biggins, Hebbard, Rhoades-Brown.

Swindon Town: Endersby, Bailie, Baddeley, Batty, Gibson, Rowland, Hockaday, Mayes, Quinn, Nelson, Barnard.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

2nd Round

March 12th 1984

Attendance 2,705

Swindon Town: 3 (2) (Gibson, Mayes 2, 1 pen)

Walsall: 0 (0)

Swindon Town: Endersby, Henry, Baddeley, Batty, Gibson, Graham, Hockaday, Emmanuel, Rowland, Mayes, Nelson.

Walsall: Green, Bates, Mower, Shakespear, (Buckley), Brazier, Hart, Handysides, O'Kelly, Jones, Preece, Childs.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

Quarter Finals (Southern Section)

March 27th 1984

Attendance 2,112

Millwall: 3 (1) (Emmanuel O.G. Lovell PEN, Bremner)

Swindon Town: 1 (0) (Nelson)

Millwall: Sansome, Stevens, Coleman, Lovell, Nutton, Cusack, McLeary (Robinson), Bremner, (Sherringham), Neal.D, Otulakowski, White.

Swindon Town: Endersby, Bailie, Baddeley, Batty, Gibson, Graham, Hockaday, Emmanuel, Rowland, Mayes, Nelson.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

Goalscorers: Mayes 3, Quinn 2, Gibson 1, Nelson 1.

Aggregate
Attendance: 9,561

Average
Attendance: 3,187

Millwall progressed to the Southern Section Final by defeating Plymouth Argyle 1-0 away in the Semi Final before losing to Bournemouth 2-1 at Dean Court.



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Focus on the Freight Rover Trophy

BY DAVE KING

The former Associate Members Cup now in it's new guise was introduced during the latter half of last season for Third and Fourth Division Clubs. The tournament was organised on a regional basis with the winners of the the Northern and Southern Finals meeting to decide the ultimate winners of the trophy.

There were no replays, where scores were level after extra time, ties were decided on penalties.

The first round was played on a straight knockout basis, but there was an early incentive to play attacking football, for the two losing Clubs in the second round of both regional competitions who had scored the highest number of goals in the first two rounds also earned a place in the Quarter Finals.

On our visit to Wrexham last month their club programme referred to the competition as the 'Mickey Mouse Cup' in comparison to the F.A. Cup. There should be no comparison, for the F.A. Cup is open to non-League and the First and Second Division Clubs. While the Freight Rovers Trophy is for Third and Fourth Division Clubs alone. Unfortunately it is a widely held view among the media and some within the game itself.

While no conclusive evidence can be put forward in defence for it's existence, all competitions must prove their worth, surely it deserves a chance? Otherwise you would not be here this evening.

Improvements for this seasons competition include sponsorship and an appearance for the two Finalists at Wembley. That alone should be enough incentive for the players. For the majority will have no other opportunity of appearing at the illustrious venue. After witnessing an F.A. Vase Final a few seasons distant between Forest Green Rovers and Rainham Miners Welfare and seeing the joy and pleasure gained by Players and Spectators alike, it is no less a satisfactory emotion than that experienced by followers of such illustrious clubs as Liverpool and Manchester United or Swindon 1969.

There are thousands of fans who will never see their Clubs win at Wembley. This is an extra opportunity, not to be easily dismissed. You will see no miserable faces outside Wembley in June! Not beforehand anyway.

Cynics will quickly ask who won the

competition last season? The retort must always be - who won the first F.A. Cup Final? - And the first Football League Cup Final? In most cases they will not know, why should they, it is history and almost irrelevant to today's modern soccer. The important point is that it was never intended to compete with the two senior Cup competitions, but purely a Cup competition for the lower Divisions. Revenue and a Wembley Final will be well to the fore in most Clubs minds, and I would be very grateful to watch my Club at Wembley again - and so would you.

As already stated the competition will survive or fail on its own merit, if crowds support, it will thrive.

Last seasons competition attracted 133,399 people through the turnstiles. A breakdown of those figures show that twenty-four first round ties attracted 53,970, giving an average attendance of 2,248.

Eleven second round ties were watched by 26,117, a slight increase in the average attendance to 2,379. The Quarter Finals were still on a regional basis, and a further increase in the average attendance to 2,757 from the 22,063 who witnessed the eight matches. Attendances for the four Northern ties were higher with 12,847 giving an average attendance of 3,211. In comparison to the average of 2,304 from the aggregate attendance of 9,216 in the South.

Average attendances still continued to rise, as they usually do in all Cup competitions as they progress. For 15,109 watched the Semi-Finals for an average of 3,777. There were Northern and Southern Semi-Finals, with two Northern Semi-Finals having a slightly higher average attendance of 3,884 compared to 3,670 in the South.

The Northern and Southern Finals attracted 5,478 to watch Hull City defeat Tranmere Rovers 4-1, and 4,058 saw Bournemouth gain a 2-1 victory at the expense of Millwall at Dean Court.

The Final at Boothferry Park saw Bournemouth become the first winners of the Cup when 6,544 saw them defeat Hull City in an away victory by 2-1.

In last seasons competition we were drawn away to Oxford United where after a goalless first half, two goals from Jimmy Quinn and one from Alan Mayes gave us a 3-0 lead, before an own goal from Colin



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Bailie gave the Manor Road Club their only consolation in a 3-1 defeat in front of a crowd of 4,744.

In the second round we met another of last seasons Third Division successful Clubs Walsall. First half goals from Simon Gibson and Alan Mayes sent the Saddlers in at half time with a 2-0 deficit, a further goal from an Alan Mayes penalty sent the Midlands Club home with a 3-0 defeat, watched by 2,705.

We went out of the competition in the Southern section Quarter Final to Millwall by 3-1 in front of 2,112. We trailed 1-0 at half time to a Gary Emmanuel own goal and didn't help ourselves by conceding a second half penalty to Steve Lovell, and a further goal to Kevin Bremner, our consolation was scored by Gary Nelson.

An aggregate of 9,561 attended our three ties, averaging 3,187. Welcomed finance, an opportunity for players to meet higher opposition, a local derby and the only interest in a disappointing second half of last season.

The first hat trick of the competition was scored by Steve Elliott of Preston North End, when he scored all the goals of the Deepdale Club's 3-0 away win at Rochdale. Steve is now with Walsall after a brief spell with First Division Luton

Town, you may recall that Steve was transferred in part exchange in a £150,000 deal that took David Preece the talented Saddlers midfield player to Kenilworth Road.

Stewart Mell the goalscoring hero of Burton Albion, one of this seasons F.A. Cup non-League success Clubs, was the first substitute used in the Associate Members Cup when he came on in the second half of Halifax Town's 2-0 defeat at Tranmere.

The first goal recorded was scored by Glen Pennyfather of Southend United in the Essex Club's 5-0 home win over Reading.

A curious fact of last seasons competition was that Bournemouth defeated Millwall twice, in the second round on penalties after a 2-2 draw at the Den, and 2-1 in the Southern section Final. That we met Millwall came about because of their goalscoring exploits in qualifying for one of the high scoring positions allotted for the two highest scoring losers of the first two rounds.

This evening's match will decide whether we can enter the second round of the newly named Freight Rover Trophy. They above all will be hoping the second year of this newly innovated competition will be a success.

TODAY'S



TEAM CHANGES	SWINDON TOWN	
	SCOTT ENDERSBY	1
	CHRIS RAMSEY	2
	COLIN BAILIE	3
	LOU MACARI	4
	NIGEL GRAY	5
	ANDY ROWLAND	6
	PETER COYNE	7
	IAN MUIR	8
	COLIN GORDON	9
	MARK DEMPSEY	10
	GARRY NELSON	11
	PAUL BATTY	12

Referee:

Mr A.W. Ward (London)

Linesmen:

Red Flag: Mr P. Pirraway (Reading)

Yellow Flag: Mr K.A. Ryman (Stratford-Upon-Avon)


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5 LINE-UP

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	TORQUAY UTD	TEAM CHANGES
1	KENNY ALLEN	
2	DEREK DAWKINS	
3	COLIN ANDERSON	
4	EDDIE KELLY	
5	DEREK FOWLER	
6	STEVE PUGH	
7	ANDY BEST	
8	MARIO WALSH	
9	JOHN SIMS	
10	GARY MARSHALL	
11	DEREK HALL	
12		

REFEREE:

WARD, TONY - Office Manager. Married with two daughters. Commenced refereeing in 1962 progressing via Spartan, South East Counties and Isthmian League. Interested in all sports and the theatre. Member of the London and also the North Middlesex Society of Referees. Refereed London Senior Cup Final, lined West Germany v Brazil 1981, F.A. Cup Semi-finals 1978 and 1983 and F.A. Vase Final 1979.

PHOTO CALL BY DAVE EVANS



Town striker Colin Gordon (left) attempts to hit the goal trail during last week's victory over Tranmere.



Hard-working Platt in the Tranmere goal robs Nigel Gray of an attempt at goal in the Town's 2-1 win.

The Value of Pre-Season Matches

BY DAVE KING

A recent statement by a First Division player refuting the value of pre-season friendly matches was in stark contrast to the belief held by Andy Rowland in his early season article in the local newspaper. It does not take a lot of consideration to agree with Andy's view, but are they given enough thought in planning by Managers?

Many factors govern the arranging of pre-season matches, the state of close season work on pitches, which Division the opposition play in, for instance. First Division Clubs rarely visit each other, preferring to visit the Continent, Ireland or Scotland.

Clubs in the lower echelons of the Football League regularly invite attractive First Division Clubs. Some pay visits of goodwill to Clubs in the local vicinity which also acts as a good public relation exercise. All have their merits, except when you meet over zealous opponents who tend to want to prove a point against the recognised player. We can recall to our cost the injury situation which occurred before the commencement of last season, when we had to cancel several of our pre-season matches.

So what is the ideal build up to the first kick off? A careful study of Clubs in recent seasons who have had successful teams tend to show that it falls into two categories. First, newly promoted Clubs often do well in a higher Division often due to the form and spirit engendered from the previous season, current examples are Oxford United and on a more moderate comparison the early form of Bristol City and York City two of the Clubs from last seasons Fourth Division. Not so in the First Division where finance and crowd support are more inclined to dictate the outcome.

The former category is also dictated by finance although on a much smaller scale, where Clubs, if they can afford the expense, allow the manager to take his players on a regional tour, or play in Scotland. Mostly against slightly inferior opposition, whereby confidence in obtaining satisfactory results allied to cohesion, also benefits the players who experience a growing team spirit within the company of their close knit environment.

It is traditional in English soccer to have the playing staff report

approximately a month prior to the seasons commencement, but there are a few managers now breaking with tradition, especially when as often happens in the lower Divisions, a number of close season signings have been made.

For those players to gel into a cohesive team framework they now ask them to report six and even seven weeks before the late August kick off, this obviously enables the manager to have longer to put their ideas into practice.

One of this seasons successful Clubs outside the First Division adopted this procedure, playing two totally insignificant practice matches against what could be politely called village green opposition. A 10-1 and 8-1 victory was no more than expected, but it did the players no harm. They were taken on a ten day tour of an English region playing two non-League Clubs and two League Clubs of a lower Division. They did not win every match, but they also did not lose. After returning to base they played two more matches against minor Clubs and have not looked back since.

The previous pre-season they toured Scotland with similar results against Scottish 1st and 2nd Division clubs and had a successful season. Does this prove that to break with tradition is right? Of course it does not because it is easy to quote an opposite success, but it does emphasise an old adage, 'that a change is as good as a rest'. When next pre-season comes it will be interesting to note what various Clubs adopt in their build up to a new season.

Finance in our stringent need for economy dictates events. But once again change is occurring in this climate, for sponsorship now enables some Clubs to break with tradition and a watching brief on subsequent events may be a pointer to a change in method in future.

On a lighter note it is often amusing to read newspaper reports of pre-season matches from within the vicinity of Non-League Clubs. When a former European Cup winning team were due to visit a local Non-League Club, the National daily newspapers were running almost daily reports of the Clubs activities in Spain, meanwhile the local newspaper was busy quoting statements from the opposition's various Internationals and headlines that a full strength team would definitely play.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

BY DOUG BUSWELL

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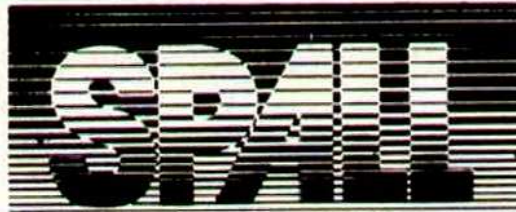
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YOUTH TEAM FEATURE

BY JOHN TROLLOPE

The past five or six weeks have been very frustrating for both the Youth and Reserve teams for they have each only played one game due to the bad weather. In fact the South East Counties side have not played since 22nd December but were due to have their first game of 1985 last Saturday.

The Reserves have suffered badly from postponed fixtures and we have six or seven outstanding games. They were in action last Wednesday from which we gained a well earned draw at Birmingham. This performance was very pleasing as six of the side played the night before in the F.A. Youth Cup having a first team game the same night the team wasn't at its strongest, although we were on the defensive for long periods the lads fought hard and in fact gained a 1-0 lead only to concede a late goal but they gave their all and thoroughly deserved the draw.

The big talking point on the Youth front was our F.A. Youth Cup game against West Ham United. This was one of those games you always hope will happen but very

rarely see. Not only was it a very entertaining game with play going from end to end it finished in a fine 4-1 win in our favour. Being a First Division Youth side they had several lads of good ability and we knew that we needed to deny them the time and space to express themselves as we know they can and with this in mind our lads set about their task right from the first whistle to the last. We needed that little bit of luck at times but few would deny us our splendid victory. The draw for the next round wasn't too kind to us for we have to travel to Coventry on the 12th February, but if we can perform as we have in the other rounds we must be in with every chance of progressing.

The Centre of Excellence continues to be successful with the lads working hard at sessions set for them and the improvement shown is very pleasing. With lads from the age of eleven upwards attending we can hopefully look forward to having some good lads progressing through our junior routes in the future.



John Trollope leads a training run with the apprentices.

FLASHBACK

BY MIKE SKINNER

10 YEARS AGO - February 1975

Saturday the 1st was to have been a home game with Brighton, but the state of the pitch following the previous weeks Cup-tie forced its postponement for three days, when a David Moss penalty six minutes from time gave the Town a 1-0 victory in front of 9,561. The following Saturday the Town made the trip to Cleethorpes to incur a 2-0 defeat at the hands of Grimsby, before the short journey to Aldershot on the 12th. 4,538 saw Peter Eastoe score after 35 minutes to give Swindon both points.

Three days later and Preston were the visitors, marking another landmark in the career of John Trollope - his 600th League appearance. Eastoe got the first-half goal that gave the Town victory and a fourth placed spot, 11,892 looking on. For the return at Deepdale the following Tuesday Swindon were without Moss, who was starting a three match ban, only adding to what was becoming an injury hit side. Indeed Moss's stand in, Tommy Jenkins, managed to collect a groin strain as the Town went down by two goals to nil, and was unavailable for Saturdays match at Gillingham. Mick McGovern fitted into a rearranged team, but despite an eighth minute penalty by Trollope, Swindon lost 3-1 and slid to 6th place in the process. In fact McGovern had turned down a move to Chelmsford earlier in the month, and a proposed move to Aldershot was put on ice at the end of the month, as the injured list now totalled six.

20 YEARS AGO - February 1965

Swindon were still struggling to put a run of good results together, a cause not helped by having to travel for three of the four fixtures this month. A trip to Huddersfield on Saturday the 6th resulted in a 2-1 defeat - after having gone two down by half-time Swindon put on a better display in the second-half but failed to score until six minutes from time, when Dennis Brown converted, but by then it was too late. A similar story was to be had one week later when Derby County played hosts - a Mike Summerbee goal in the 75th minute again coming too late to affect the result as Derby knocked in four, two in each half.

Having now slipped to 19th place a win in the home game against mid-table

Coventry on the 20th was becoming a necessity, and a win it was. Don Rogers scored after 8 minutes to start the proceeding, and got his second just before half-time, interrupted by Summerbee's 39th minute goal. Although Coventry pulled one back in the second-half, Swindon added their fourth through Owen Dawson after 52 minutes to seal a moral boosting win. However a trip to Cardiff seven days later highlighted many of the problems Swindon had to overcome. Despite holding Cardiff until the second-half, Swindon failed to capitalise on their pressure, and instead of coming off worthy winners eventually went down by 2-0, both goals coming from corners.

30 YEARS AGO - February 1955

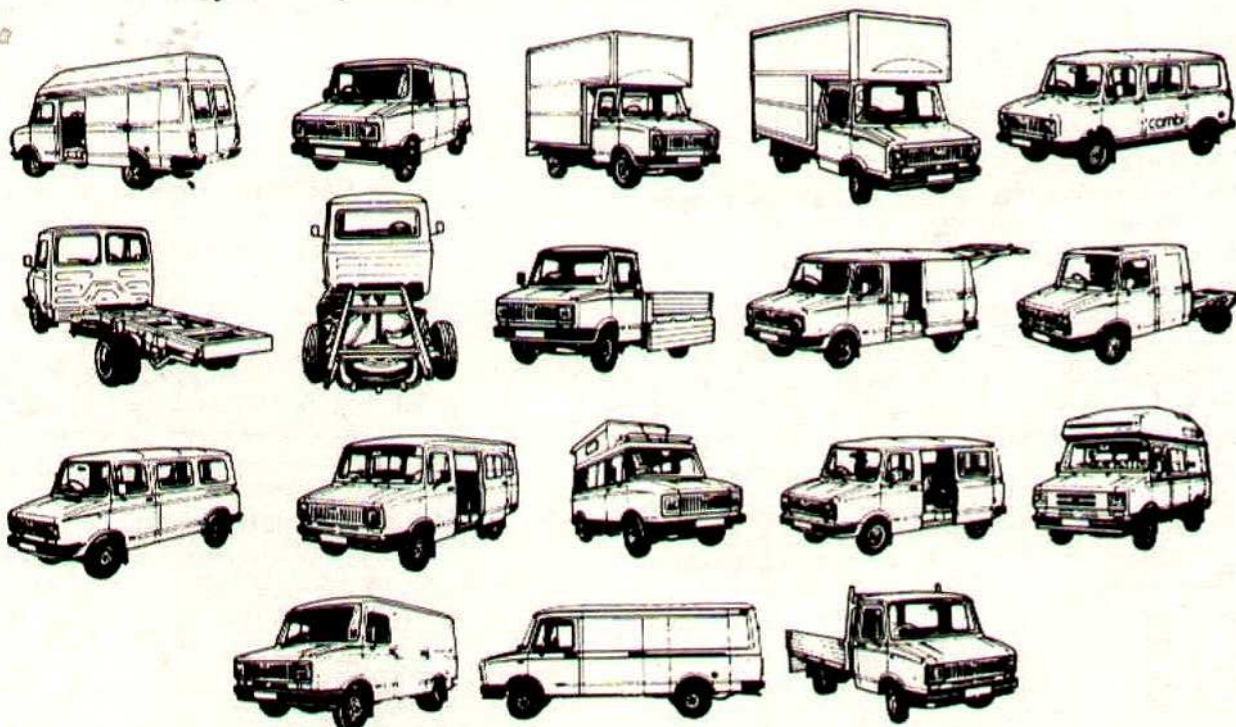
Promotion contenders Gillingham were the visitors on Saturday the 5th, but Swindon produced a minor upset as Roy Sampson scored twice within two minutes, one from a penalty, to secure a 2-1 win and send most of the 6,477 home happy. But despite the win only 4,715 turned out the following Saturday to see the goal-less encounter with Crystal Palace. Inbetween these two games the reserves 4-2 defeat at Brentford was the first competitive game to be played under floodlights at Griffin Park. Wednesday the 16th saw the return friendly against Headington United at the County Ground. Maurice Owen, making his come-back after a leg injury, scored the only goal of the game in the 56 minute, watched by 1,786.

The following Saturdays game at Northampton having already been played in December, Swindon made use of the blank date by playing the Wiltshire Professional Shield reply at Chippenham Town. The Western Leagues managed to hold the Town to a goal-less draw, but goals from David Gibson and Owen in Extra-time secured Swindon's place in the final. The game on the 26th, one week later, at Shewsbury was called off, Swindon ending the month with a free day.

TEAM PICTURE.

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Junior Robins Page

As there is a tendency for a smaller number of Junior Robins to attend evening matches compared with those played on Saturday afternoons, I thought I would use the column this evening to give a few answers to questions relating to the laws of the game. I hope this will be of general interest to programme readers as well as helping Junior Robins to improve their knowledge of the game.

Q. Why does the referee sometimes stand with his hand in the air?

A. This is to signify that a free kick is indirect. The referee should keep his hand in the air until the ball has been played by another player. Players asking referees if a free kick is direct do not know the rules of the game.

Q. Can a player be sent off for using foul or abusive language if it is not directed at the referee?

A. Yes. Law Twelve states that a player shall be sent from the field if in the opinion of the referee he uses foul or abusive language. It does not matter whether it is to the ref, an opponent, a team mate or a spectator. Indeed there was an interesting case recently where a player registered with one club was watching a match between two other teams. He was reported by the referee and punished in exactly the same way as he would have been if he had been playing. So, at the risk of plugging a TV programme it pays to "Mind your language".

Q. What is the point of the six yard box?

A. It indicates the area within which goal kicks may be taken. It is also of importance in relation to the charging of goalkeepers. Charging the goalkeeper is not allowed except when he - a) is holding the ball; b) is obstructing an opponent; c) has passed outside his goal area.

Q. If a ball rebounds off the cross bar and lands three quarters over the goal line is it a goal?

A. No. The Laws of the game state that the whole of the ball must cross the goal line either on the ground or in the air before a goal is scored.

Q. When can you not score from a direct free kick?

A. When it's an own goal. If a player taking a free kick outside his own penalty area accidentally kicked the ball past his own keeper into the goal it would not count even if it was a direct free kick. If a player plays the ball into his own net it is a corner whether the free kick was direct or indirect.

Finally, I would like to urge all supporters to join the Supporters Co-operative. Not only does membership (£1 for adults, 50p if you are Under 16) entitle you to discount from a wide range of shops in the Swindon area, you will be helping make the County Ground a safer place for youngsters to come to.

Video cameras were paid for by the Co-operative for filming the crowd at last season's match with Bristol City. As a result there was no trouble inside the ground. The effectiveness of systems like this has encouraged the League to consider placing such equipment in all First and Second Division grounds so it is good to think that Swindon have once again been pioneers in something which can only be for the good of football.

Dick Mattick
Junior Robins Organiser.



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BEHIND THE SCENES

BY BOB JEFFERIES



The Freight Rover Trophy is the first competition for the Football League's Third and Fourth Division Clubs which will end with the glory of a Wembley Final. The date if we get there is 1st June 1985. That in itself is sufficient to make the Freight Rover Trophy, which replaces last season's Associate Members Cup, a unique event. But there is more to it than that Freight Rover's sponsorship is worth about £50,000. The first £30,000 will go to the prize-fund for the more successful clubs and the two Wembley finalists will each receive a Freight Rover 15 seater minibus worth about £10,000. The Sherpas, as the buses are called, will be presented to the Clubs painted in their colours. As the Sales and Marketing Director of Freight Rover said when the sponsorship was announced "Even in the first round, supporters and players will realise that the Wembley dream is only a handful of matches away - it could be their turn for the big day out".

There is one other major difference between the Freight Rover Trophy and last season's Associate Members' Cup in which A.F.C. Bournemouth beat Hull City 2-1 in the Final and that is that the first round has been made two-legged to give all fans a chance of seeing their team at home in the competition. From then on it is a straight knock-out.

The competition is divided geographically into North and South areas, the final, therefore, will be contested by the winners of the two Area Finals.

The second round will comprise twenty four clubs, the third round will consist of the twelve winners and the two highest

scoring beaten clubs in each area. This creates an added incentive to go all-out for goals in the first two rounds. For example, a club scoring say eight goals in winning the two-legged first round tie and then losing 4-3 in the second round must have every chance, with eleven goals, of making one of the two places available for the top-scoring clubs.

Two other relevant rules are:-

- 1) In all matches if the score is level at the end of ninety minutes an extra half hour shall be played except in the first leg of the first round when only ninety minutes will be played. If the score is still level at the end of extra time the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 2) Up to a maximum of the two substitutes may be used in each match.

The remaining rounds will take place in the following weeks commencing:

Second Round 18th February
Area Quarter-Finals 18th March
Area Semi Finals 1st April
Area Finals 13th May
National Final 1st June

I have been asked many times in the last few weeks who are Freight Rover? They are, in fact, the Birmingham based manufacturers of the well-known Sherpa range of commercial vehicles including panel vans, minibuses, dropsides, Luton vans, crewcabs, chassis cabs and luxury motor homes, and we are extremely grateful to them for this generous sponsorship.

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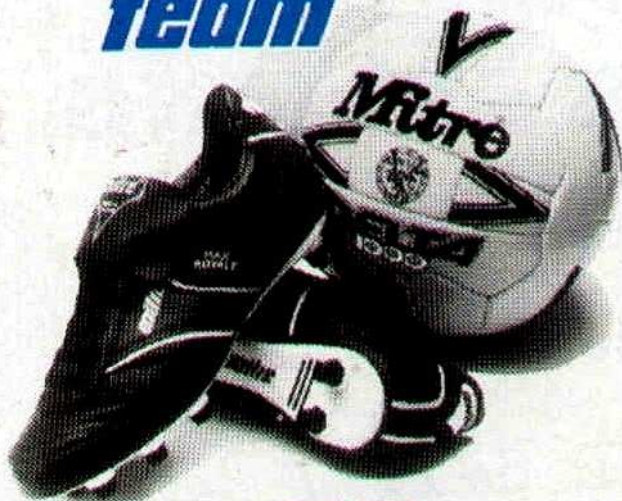
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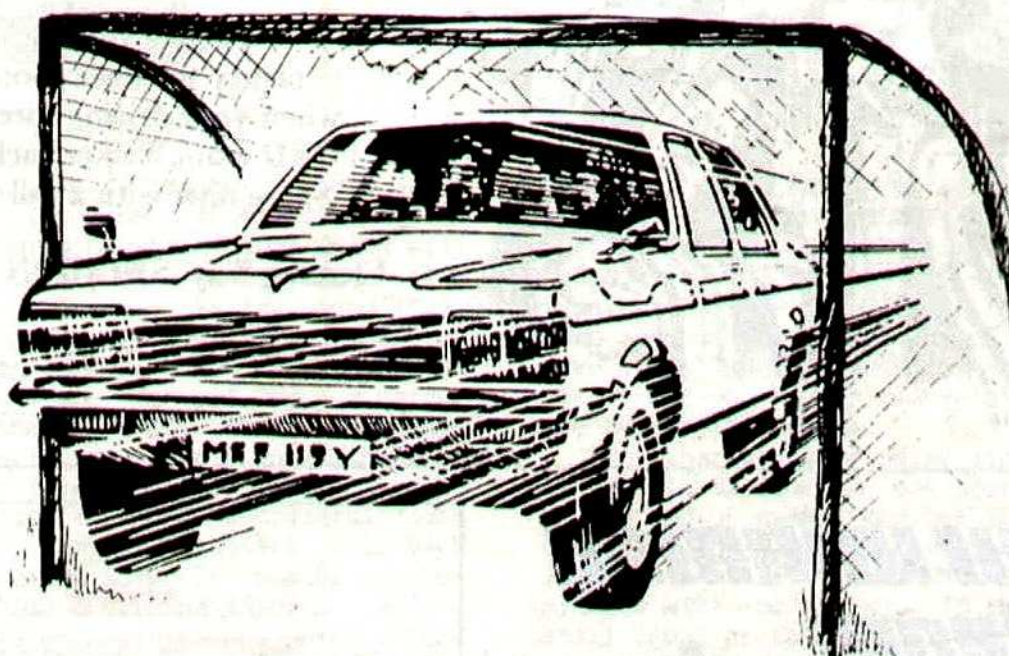
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