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IT was a sad sign of the times for me when we travelled to Bath to play Bristol Rovers last Saturday.

I spent 3½ happy years with Rovers at Eastville during my playing days and it seemed curious not to be making a familiar journey to the stadium where they had been so accustomed to playing.

It goes to show how a club can be placed in jeopardy when it does not own its own ground. Rovers were forced to move due to the financial restrictions largely brought about by the overheads involved in hiring Eastville off the owners.

Quitting their ground must be the last resort for any club in difficulties and I noticed, too, that Rovers have been forced to release former England skipper Gerry Francis because they can no longer afford his wages.

### MANCHESTER UNITED

IT was a grand occasion to receive Manchester United here in the Littlewoods Cup, even though the result and attendance were both disappointing. We gave as good as we got until being sunk by a three-goal burst of scoring that, from a distance, left us looking rather badly bruised.

In some respects I am glad to have the United games out of the way, although we now look forward to doing well in the other two cup competitions coming our way, namely the F.A. Cup and Freight Rover Trophy.

When a big cup game is in the offing it is a manager's job to try to keep the players' minds off it until the day arrives but I feel human nature is sometimes bound to interfere.

Our performances in both games leading up to the Manchester United ties left much to be desired. There was the 3-0 reverse at Bolton and the 1-0 home defeat by Fulham, that was a great disappointment.

The Fulham game resulted in arguably our worst performance of the season and it would be unprofessional to blame the United match as the reason, it makes you wonder whether it was not in the back of players' minds.

### ON TARGET

AFTER United it was back to the important bread and butter of Third Division football at Chesterfield. We were the highest scoring team away from home that day with our 4-2 win, created by our finishing being better than Chesterfield's.

Goals can sometimes hide a multitude of sins and while it was nice to hit four, the game could not hide how vulnerable both defences were under pressure.

It is pleasing that we have hit the net so many times this term, but of concern that we have conceded rather more than was probably expected.

This aspect of our play is something I am taking a close look at, for in recent games we have had to score at least two goals to think about getting a result.

### JIM ARNOLD

MOST of you will be aware that Jim Arnold has now taken up a full-time job as recreation officer with Staffordshire Police.

It means we see little of him from game to game, which may not be ideal, but I am prepared to see how Jim adapts to the situation before making any decisions.

Meanwhile, young Damian Grant, from Ireland, has joined us until the end of the season. He is a keeper of potential and it will be interesting to see how he develops with full-time training.

JOHN RUDGE

# Important Notice to Supporters

Following a decision taken by the Board of Directors of this club and with the full co-operation of Staffordshire Police, it has been decided that persons appearing before a Court of Law, charged with an offence arising out of an incident relating to a football match at Vale Park, or persons ejected from the ground for a breach of the ground's regulations, which are properly displayed, will be liable to be banned from attending any further events held at or staged by this football club.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# The Front Page Photo Story

Andy Jones & Jon Bowden combine in a joint effort for the ball against a Fulham defender. (Photo by courtesy of Evening Sentinel)



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# THE BOBBY BLOOD STORY by Tony Matthews

(Part 2)

Once match-fit Bob began where he had left off in 1915 with Leek. The 1919/20 season was already under way when Port Vale made an approach to Leek for Bobby's services. "I had scored about 20 goals in seven matches at that time" remembered Bobby, "And inside a week I had signed for Vale at a fee of £50."

All this happened in November 1919 - and from then on, until the season's end, Bobby really hit the goal trail and became a great favourite with the Burslem fans. After just one outing for Vale reserves he was promoted to the first XI and made his debut against Tottenham Hotspur. He finished the season with a goal haul of 35 from 44 matches (first, second and friendly fixtures). A great start to his professional career would you say.



**BOBBY BLOOD 1921** 

Although renowned for the pace and accuracy of his shooting, Bobby was also a shrewd user of the ball, specialising in the long pass out to his wingers. One of the secrets of his success was his ability to take advantage of the slightest slip by a defender. He scored eight hat-tricks for Vale and once, against Rotherham, hit four goals in a row.

In his second term with Vale Bobby had netted 20 goals out of his side's 37 when West Bromwich Albion paid out a then club record fee of £4,750 for his signature. This is how Bobby relived that day, 65 years ago, February 16, 1921...

"All I knew of the transfer was when a taxi drew up outside my house and out stepped officials from both Vale and the Albion. The Vale Chairman said that his club was hard-up and needed money. It was the case that either I went (to Albion) or the club did, so it was accepted there and then that I became an Albion player."

Bobby's stay in the Potteries had been a relatively short one, but during that time he became a legend there. His tremendous scoring feats had given the fans plenty to cheer and talk about, and when they heard the news that he had left Vale for Albion they were so incensed that a protest meeting was held in the town centre. It turned out to be a rather noisy, threatening demonstration, which ended quite unexpectedly when someone rushed in amongst the crowd shouting 'Fire, fire - our stand is burning down'. It might have been a carefully planned practical joke to prevent anything absurd erupting at the meeting. Nobody knows the true story to this day, for the woman who raised that 'false alarm' was never traced, despite Police enquiries.

Bob, as it was, stayed almost four years with Albion, scoring 26 goals in 53 First Division matches. He arrived at The Hawthorns lying second to West Ham's Syd Puddefoot in the League scoring charts, and everyone was looking forward to seeing the centre-forward with dynamite packed into his boots.

(to be continued in the next issue)

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### **CRACKING AWAY WIN**

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### TOP OF THE CHARTS

It's nice to see Andy Jones leading the way in the Today Division 3 scoring charts, something that Vale fans have been unable to boast of for a number of years. In fact the only Vale player to finish ahead of the rest since the Second World War was the late Roy Chapman, who scored 25 goals in the 1967-68 season, when the club was in Division 4.

### **HEAVY DEFEAT**

Our last home game v Man. Utd. saw us concede 5 goals at home in a competitive game for the first time since March 1957 when we lost 6-0 to Sheffield United in a Division 2 fixture. Let's hope it's nearly another 30 years before we do it again!

# TRAVEL DESK-

Saturday, 1st November, 1986. Kick-off 3 p.m.

Today League - Division Three

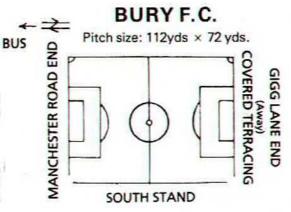
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### Admission

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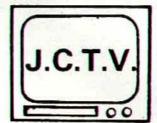
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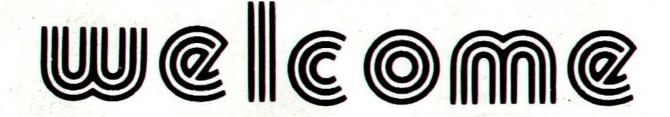
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# SWINDON TOWN

Swindon Town were founded in 1881 and gained a reputation as a talented non-league side, winning the Southern League in 1911 which earned them an appearance in the F.A. Charity Shield although they lost 8-4 to League Champions Man. Utd. They also reached the semi-finals of the F.A. Cup in 1910 and 1912 but weren't elected to the Football League until 1920 when they joined Division 3, which became Division 3 (South) a year later and they remained a member throughout until 1958. Next they had a five year stay in Division 3 which ended with their first promotion by finishing runners-up although they were relegated in 1965.

They finished runners-up again in 1969 but that season will go down as the club's most memorable as they won the Football League Cup by defeating First Division Arsenal 3-1 at Wembley after extra-time. Star winger Don Rogers scored twice after Smart's opener. The following season they finished in their highest ever league position, 5th in Division 2 and also won the now defunct Anglo-Italian Trophy. In 1974 they were relegated to Division 3, again having League Cup success by reaching the semi-finals in 1980 but fell to Division 4 for the first time in 1982.

After 3 mediocre seasons everything suddenly fell into place last season after a poor start when 22 wins out of 25 league games set the club up for a League record 102 points whilst equalling the record for most wins in a season - 32. They also had another good run in the Milk Cup, defeating both Sunderland and Sheff. Wed. before going out 6-1 at Ipswich.

This season they have made a steady start, winning four and drawing two of their first nine games despite a 6-2 home defeat by Blackpool. Away from home they have won twice, at Bolton (2-1) and Fulham (2-0), drawn 2-2 at Newport and been beaten just once, 1-0 at Middlesbrough.

Manager LOU MACARI took over in July 1984 after having been a goalscoring forward with two of Britain's most famous clubs, Celtic and Man. Utd., also gaining 24 Scottish caps on the way. In April 1985 he was sacked but uniquely reinstated after fans protests just 5 days later.

The goalkeeping duties have been shared this season between FRASER DIGBY, a close season signing from Man. Utd. where he was third choice and the experienced KENNY ALLEN who joined Town in September 1985 from Torquay having served Hartlepool, Bournemouth, Bury and Peterborough.

CHRIS RAMSEY, signed in 1984 from Brighton for whom he appeared in the 1983 F.A. Cup Final, occupies the right-back role alongside TIM PARKIN who made over 200 appearances for Bristol Rovers and also appeared for Blackburn and Malmo (Sweden), COLIN CALDERWOOD, an ever-present last season following his transfer from Mansfield, DAVID COLE, a former Sunderland and Swansea player who moved to Swindon in February 1985 and DAVE HOCKADAY, a converted forward who was signed from Blackpool in 1983 after making over 150 appearances for them.

In midfield CHRIS KAMARA returned for his second spell with Swindon from Brentford at the beginning of last season also having had two spells with Portsmouth, whilst CHARLIE HENRY, last season's top scorer with 18 goals has made over 200 senior appearances since upgrading from the apprentice ranks and MARK JONES is currently on loan from Oxford United. Other midfield players include BRYAN WADE, signed from Trowbridge in 1985 and who has 4 goals so far this season and ALAN McLOUGHLIN, a close season signing from Man. Utd.

DAVE BAMBER is leading the way in the goalscoring charts with 6 so far and he arrived from Portsmouth in November 1985, also having served Blackpool, Coventry and Walsall, whilst PETER COYNE is another former Man. Utd. starlet who joined Swindon from non-league Hyde in 1984 after 150 appearances for Crewe Alex. As a youngster he scored a hat-trick at Wembley for England schoolboys.

JIMMY GILLIGAN arrived during the close season from Grimsby having learned his trade with Watford for whom he appeared in European competition and STEVE WHITE also moved to the County Ground during the summer, this time from Bristol Rovers, and he has also played for Charlton, Luton and Lincoln (on loan).

# In Retrospect

Although Swindon romped to a record 102 points last season they only picked up one against the Vale from a 0-0 draw at the County Ground back in March in front of a crowd of 10,122. Earlier in the season Vale romped home 3-0 at Vale Park with goals by Oshor Williams, Robbie Earle and Ally Brown, to continue our unbeaten record here against Swindon having won 10 and drawn 4 of the 14 games played so far. Our best win during this period occurred in April 1960 with a 6-1 success in which Harry Oscroft scored 4 times, the last Vale player to achieve such a feat in a competitive game.

During the 1974-75 season, Swindon took an early 2-0 lead at Vale Park but goals by Ray Williams and a Frank Sharp cracker tied things up at 2-2 with a similar comeback being on the cards in the return after 3 goals in 5 minutes gave Swindon a 3-0 interval lead. Although Dave Harris and Williams pulled it back to 3-2 the home side held on to virtually end Vale's hopes of promotion to Division 2.

Vale have only won one of their last seven visits to Swindon, 1-0 in October 1984 when a chested goal by the now retired Eamon O'Keefe earned us the three points. When Vale visited Swindon in January 1976 an injury to goalkeeper John Connaughton forced us to bring in loan player Dave Ryan from Man. Utd. for his league debut but unfortunately Vale lost 2-1 to a late goal from Dave Syrett. That was Ryan's only game for us and for the last nine years he has been a regular in goal for Northwich Victoria.

Our total record against Swindon is as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	19	13	5	1	42	14
Away	19	4	5	10	16	27
	38	17	10	11	58	41

The two sides have never met in a cup-tie.

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# RESERVE WITH ALAN OAKES

### Huddersfield 2 Port Vale 1

Huddersfield went to the top of the Central League, Division II following a hard-earned victory against Vale at the Leeds Road ground.

In a well-contested match that flowed with good football from both sides, Vale dominated much of the play in the first half and took the lead. Following a corner kick the ball was flicked on at the near post and Chris Banks stormed in to finish off the good work.

Vale stayed in front until shortly before the half-time when the home side were allowed a free shot, but the game remained finely balanced until the closing stages.

Vale then lost the ball in midfield and Huddersfield steamed forward to snatch the winner near the end.

Vale team: Blackley, Porter, Johnson, Banks, Simpson, Finney, Vaughan, Hunter, Whitehouse, Lomax, Hawtin. Sub: Mountford.

# The A Team with Mike Pejic

### Derby 3 Port Vale 1

VALE's run of five games without defeat in the Midland Intermediate League came to an end against a strong Derby County side that included five players of first team experience.

Vale fielded trialist winger Paul Ferris, from Newcastle United, but the general team performance was poor and riddled with defensive mistakes that led to all of Derby's goals.

The home side took the lead but Vale were level when Ferris controlled a cross from the right and cut the ball back for Simon Lomax to slot home.

For a spell Vale played better, but Derby regained the lead before half-time with a 20 yard shot. Second half exchanges were fairly even and the game was decided in the closing minutes. Lomax missed a good chance to equalise with only the keeper

to beat, then Derby made sure of the points with almost the last kick of the match.

Vale team: Deaville, Hawtin, Johnson, Mountford, Simpson, Finney, Creaney, Porter, Barnes,

### Port Vale 0 Stoke City 2

Lomax, Ferris. Sub: Vaughan.

Despite losing to neighbours Stoke at Keele, Vale gave a much better performance against again stronger opposition. Stoke included Paul Crookes and Terry Williams who, the previous week, had been in the first team at Brighton.

There was plenty of action and good football in a fast moving game and Stoke broke the deadlock before half-time following a corner kick.

Vale thought they had drawn level on the resumption when Kevin Finney ghosted in to head home a good cross from the right. The referee awarded the goal and made his way back to the middle until the intervention of a linesman who indicated a puzzling offside decision!

Stoke clinched victory with a goal of similar fashion to their first. Once again the Vale defence was caught by a set piece resulting in a headed goal.

Vale team: Simons, Porter, Johnson, Mountford, Simpson, Finney, Cheatle, Ede, Barnes, Lomax, Brown, Sub: Vaughan.

Vale took their squad of Y.T.S. lads to the National Sports Centre, Lilleshall for a thrilling game against Bobby Robson's School of Excellence that finished in a 4-4 draw.

Vale were slightly older than their opponents and built a 2-0 lead but by half-time the scores were level at 2-2. The national squad then took a grip to go 4-2 in front, but Vale hit back towards the end to level. Kevin Finney (2), Andy Porter and Wayne Simpson netted for Vale.

### MIDLAND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE (as at 13/10/86)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby Co.	7	5	0	2	15	9	15
Port Vale	8	4	2	2	10	7	14
Coventry C.	8	4	2	2	10	9	14
Leicester C.	8	4	1	3	18	12	13
Walsall	7	3	3	1	21	14	12
Nottingham F.	7	4	0	3	17	12	12
Wolverhampton W.	7	3 2	0	2	15	12	12
Stoke C.	7	3	3	1	9	9	12
Birmingham C.	8	2	4	4	15	10	10
Peterborough Utd.	8	2	2	4	15	21	8
Notts Co.	8	2	2	4	11	14	
Shrewsbury T.	7	2	2	3	8	18	8
West Brom. A.	8	1	4	3	10	13	8
Aston Villa	6	1	3	2	8	13	6
Mansfield T.	8	1	3	4	3	10	
Chesterfield	7	1	1		11	13	4

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Saturday, 25th October	GILLINGHAM	Dobson & Co. Ltd. Printers, Morley Street, Hanley
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Saturday, 29th November	A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH	Cargo Auto Spares, 7A Bradwell Lane, Porthill
Saturday, 6th December		(F.A. Cup Round 2)
Sunday, 14th December	CHESTER	Geoff & Ann Crowley, Forresters Arms, Smallthorne
Friday, 26th December	BRISTOL CITY	Burke & Co. Certified Accountants, 267 Newcastle Street, Burslem
1987		
Sunday, 4th January	DONCASTER ROVERS	North Staffordshire Railway Society, Cheddleton Station, Nr. Leek
Saturday, 10th January	MIDDLESBROUGH	Steetley Transport, Holditch Industrial Estate, Holditch Road, Chesterton, Newcastle, Staffs.
Saturday, 24th January	BRENTFORD	M. & S. Foodmarkets
Saturday, 14th February	BOLTON WANDERERS	Signal Radio, 257 Sport. 102.6 VHF
Saturday, 28th February	BLACKPOOL	Geoff & Ann Crowley, Forresters Arms, Smallthorne
Tuesday, 3rd March	BURY	Simon Smith (Professional Entertainer) Leek 385428
Saturday, 14th March	BRISTOL ROVERS	John Smith Autos, 135 Baddeley Green Lane, Milton
Saturday, 21st March	CHESTERFIELD	National Westminster Bank, Fountains Place,
41		Burslem
Saturday, 11th April	CARLISLE UNITED	Computing Services, Town Rd., Hanley, S-on-T
Saturday, 18th April	MANSFIELD TOWN	F.W.B. Products Ltd. Whieldon Road, Stoke
Saturday, 25th April	DARLINGTON	Stoke Spitfires American Football Club
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	Taxis, Newcastle-under-Lyme	
	Vindow Co. (Mr. Tony Barrett), Newcastle, Staffs. Branch	
Vale News		Robbie Earle
Diana and Lee Gidman, S	Saint Saviour's Street, Butt Lane, Talke (Shirt & Shorts)	Jon Bowden
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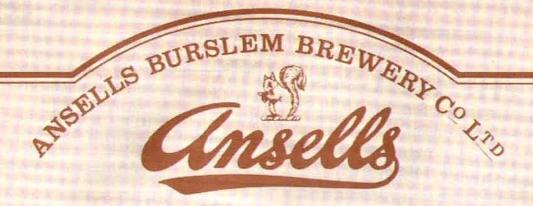
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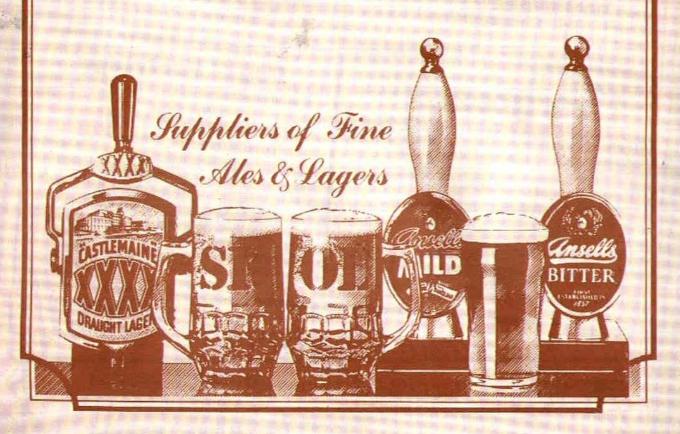
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# GOLDEN GAMES

CHRIS HARPER has been covering the affairs of Port Vale Football Club for the Evening Sentinel newspaper since 1968. In that time he reckons to have covered over 750 games and in this programme feature he selects some of the most memorable.

TELEVISION cameras made one of their rare visits to Vale Park on November 13th, 1976 to capture highlights of the game against Third Division leaders Brighton and Hove Albion.

The occasion was given added spice by the return to Vale of former favourite Brian Horton for the first time since his move to the Goldstone Ground eight months earlier.

Vale were struggling at the other end of the table to Brighton, but they welcomed back striker John Rogers after a bout of flu.

Vale made a lively start with Terry Bailey and Colin Tartt both putting Brighton under early pressure that yielded a goal in 18 minutes. Vale forced a corner and from Bailey's flag kick, Ken Beamish had a header well saved by Peter Grummitt. The keeper failed to hold the ball and Ray Williams knocked in the rebound.

Vale spent most of the first half on top and they were still in front at half-time, but within 10 minutes of the restart the scores were level.

A headed clearance by David Harris went only as far as Ian Mellor, who nodded the ball forward for *Tony Towner* to beat John Connaughton with a well-placed shot.

Neil Griffiths and John Ridley were both shown the yellow card as Brighton stepped on the gas, and it was the visitors who looked more likely to snatch the points when Vale regained the lead after 79 minutes.

A foul by Chris Cattlin, recently sacked as Brighton manager, on Beamish led to Bobby Thomson flighting the free-kick into the Brighton box. Ridley knocked the ball down and as both Bailey and Beamish challenged, Burnett turned it into his own net.

Brighton, though, were not to be denied for their improved showing, but they left it late. There were nine minutes remaining on the clock when Burnett, Horton and Steve Piper all combined to set up *Peter Ward's* equaliser.

Connaughton had to be at his best in the closing minutes to earn Vale a point, for he twice denied Ward the winner in a rousing game of two contrasting halves.

Brian Horton commented: "The boss gave us a real roasting at half-time and it showed in the second half. We played much better and at the finish were well satisfied with a point.

PORT VALE: Connaughton, Thomson, Griffiths, Ridley, Harris, Tartt, McLaren, Bailey, Rogers, Beamish, Williams. Sub: Kennerley.

BRIGHTON: Grummett, Tiler, Cattlin, Horton, Burnett, Cross, Towner, Ward, Mellor, Piper, O'Sullivan. Sub: Winstanley.

Referee: Mr. K. Ridden, Shrewsbury. Attendance: 6,449.

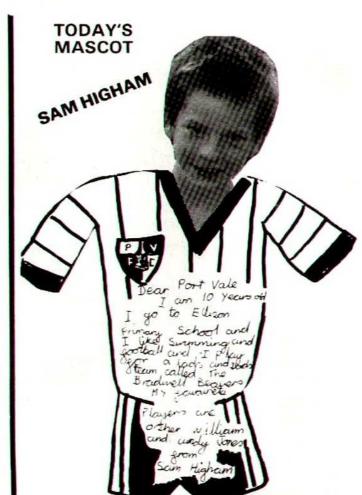
# TRY - VALE PURSUITS

by

Phil

Sherwin

- 1 Which Fourth Division club crashed out of the Littlewoods Cup by losing 7-0 at home?
- 2 Who lost his job as Wolves' manager two weeks ago?
- 3 Who plays at Somerton Park?
- 4 Which Third Division player appeared at Wembley last Wednesday during the England v. Northern Ireland game?
- 5 Who is the secretary of the Football League?
- 6 In what year were Wimbledon elected to the Football League?
- 7 Name the four current Third Division sides to have previously won the F.A. Cup.
- 8 Which British club have competed in Europe on the most occasions
- 9 Name the only team to go from Division 1 to Division 4 in successive seasons.
- O Apart from Peter Shilton, who was the last goalkeeper to play for England? QUIZ ANSWERS on Page 23.



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Date		

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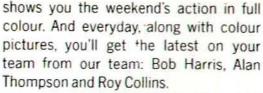
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TODAY LEAGUE, DIVISION Three (as at 20/10/86)		Middlesbrough	Biackpool	Bournemouth	Gillingham	Mansfield	Bristol C.	Notts Co.	Doncaster	Swindon	York C.	Bristol Rov.	Wigan A.	Brentford	Port Vale	Fulham	Bury	Newbort	Chesterfield	Darlington	Chester	Carliste	Bolton	Rotherham	Walsall

Bristol Rov.... Mansfield Town

Bournemouth

Notts Co...

Fulham

Rotherham Utd.

Brentford.

Carlisle Utd. . . Wigan Ath.... Doncaster Roy

Chesterfield. Newport Co

Chester C.

Darlington...

Average Home

Swindon Town.

Middlesbrough

**Bristol City** 

Port Vale ....

Bolton Wand.

Blackpool

Walsall

York City .... Gillingham...

WHERE THE FANS ARE

# Facts on 3

# Notts Co. 5 Rotherham 0 (11/10/86) Blackpool 5 Wigan 1 (20/9/86) Port Vale 4 Walsall 1 (27/9/86) Wigan 5 Walsall 1 (16/9/86) Biggest Home Wins

# Rotherham 1 Middlesbrough 4 (4/10/86) Chester 0 Bristol C. 3 (4/10/86) Darlington 0 Bournemouth 3 (4/10/86) Swindon 2 Blackpool 6 (16/9/86) Biggest Away Wins

# Highest attendances

11,470 Middlesbrough v Blackpool (11/10/86) Middlesbrough v Swindon (30/9/86) Bristol C. v Bury (23/8/86)

# Lowest attendances

,805 Darlington v Newport (16/9/86) ,814 Darlington v Notts Co. (13/9/86) ,675 Doncaster v Brentford (30/8/86)

# Hat-trick Heroes

K. Walwyn - York v Sunderland (away) (Littlewoods Cup 26/8/86)

C. Thompson - Wigan v Walsall (16/9/86) A. Mayes - Blackpool v Wigan (20/9/86) N. Greenwood - Bury v Newport (27/9/86)

# Leading Scorers

Total

Div. 3 7 a a a a a a a a a a a A. Stephens (Middlesbrough)
D. Kelly (Walsall)
A. Walsh (Bristol C.)
B. Laws (Middlesbrough)
R. Carter (Newport)
D. Bamber (Swindon) I. McParland (Notts Co.) K. Walwyn (York C.) P. Scott (Fulham) N. Greenwood (Bury) A. Jones (Port Vale)

# Answers to Try-Vale Pursuits Quiz on Page 20

1. Stockport, who lost to Sheff, Wed. 2. Brian Little. 3. Newport County. 4. Phil Hughes of Bury, who played in goal for N. Ireland. 5. Graham Kelly. 6. 1977. 7. Notts Co., Blackpool, Bolton, Bury. 8. Rangers. 9. Wolves.

# TEAM LINE = UP

### Port Vale

Colours: White and Black

JIM ARNOLD

WAYNE EBANKS

RUSSEL BROMAGE

RAY WALKER

PHIL SPROSON

JOHN WILLIAMS

PAUL SMITH

ROBBIE EARLE

ANDY JONES

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- 4 TIM PARKIN
- 5 COLIN CALDERWOOD
- 6 CHRIS KAMARA
- 7 CHARLIE HENRY
- **8 DAVE BAMBER**
- 9 STEVE WHITE
- JON BOWDEN 10 PETER COYNE
- PAUL MAGUIRE 11 ALAN McLOUGHLIN
- **GEOFF HUNTER 12 MARK JONES**

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