

# BLUES NEWS

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION TWO  
SEASON 1987-88  
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE—60p

**BIRMINGHAM CITY**  
*versus*  
**SWINDON TOWN**



## **INSIDE TODAY...**

- CITY WORK-OUT IN COLOUR
- YOUNGSTER IN FOCUS
- VIEWPOINT



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## ★ TODAY'S V.I.P. GUESTS...

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# GARRY PENDREY

## Good afternoon everyone and welcome.

As I said in my last column, this is a very important period for us. Four games in seven days, twelve points to win or lose. You will find that the League tables are all over the place. The three points for a win means that most clubs in the top half of the table can put themselves in the frame. If they have a good time i.e. four wins. However, if you are bottom of the League after this festive period then you have problems.

I would like to think that 1988 will see NOT so many people continually knocking our sport. It would be



marvellous to see them start pointing out or writing about the good things in the game.

Gates are up, albeit only by a small percentage. However, it is encouraging, 1988 could be the year English clubs are allowed, back into Europe, and let's not forget ENGLAND have qualified for the European Championships in West Germany, I would appeal to everybody, give this great game a chance in 1988.

Finally I hope 1988 is good for Birmingham City; have a very happy and prosperous 1988.

*Garry Pendrey*



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# FOCUS ON YOUTH

**Here is the line-up of City youngsters waiting in the wings hoping they will one day make the big time with Blues...**

**Tony Elliott (Birmingham).** Aged seventeen, a full-time professional, who came to Blues via Bobby Robson's School of Excellence. He is the current England Under-19 'keeper who is building a reputation as a shot stopper. Follows on in the Birmingham City tradition of finding great goalkeepers.

**Jason Lowe (Stourbridge).**

Aged seventeen, a product of the youth training scheme. Played his first game last Saturday since breaking his leg in the pre-season friendly at Highgate. Plays right back who is a tough tackler.

**Paul Masefield (Birmingham).** Aged sixteen, a youth training scheme utility defender who can play bull-back or centre-back. He is a big lad with good ball control who joined the club during the summer.

**Gavin Jones (Tamworth).** Aged seventeen, a youth training scheme left-back in his

second year with the club who came through Mick Murrays ranks.

**Jeremey Healey (Sutton Coldfield).** Aged sixteen, a youth training scheme left full-back who likes to get forward at every opportunity.

**Ian Clarkson (Birmingham).** Aged sixteen, a youth training scheme promising central defender, who works hard at his game and is very quick.

**Matthew Fox (Birmingham).** Aged sixteen, a strong youth training scheme defender

The clubs youth development is something manager Garry Pendrey places high on his list of priorities and certainly under the guidance of Fred Davies who have some real talent coming through.

Fred along with Mick Murry run a school of excellence every Thursday evening at the Fox Hollies Leisure Centre. Mick is the man who scouts the schools and Sunday Leagues looking for potential.



*Fred Davies accompanied by Tony Rees keep a watchful eye on his youngsters.*

who plays along side Ian Clarkson and is the one who wins the ball.

**Micky Burton (Birmingham).** Aged seventeen, a member of the youth training scheme who plays wide on the right. Has good vision and two good feet.

**Andy Rolfe (Birmingham).** Aged seventeen, a hard working youth training scheme midfielder who's a bit on the small side but makes up for it with strong running and aggression.

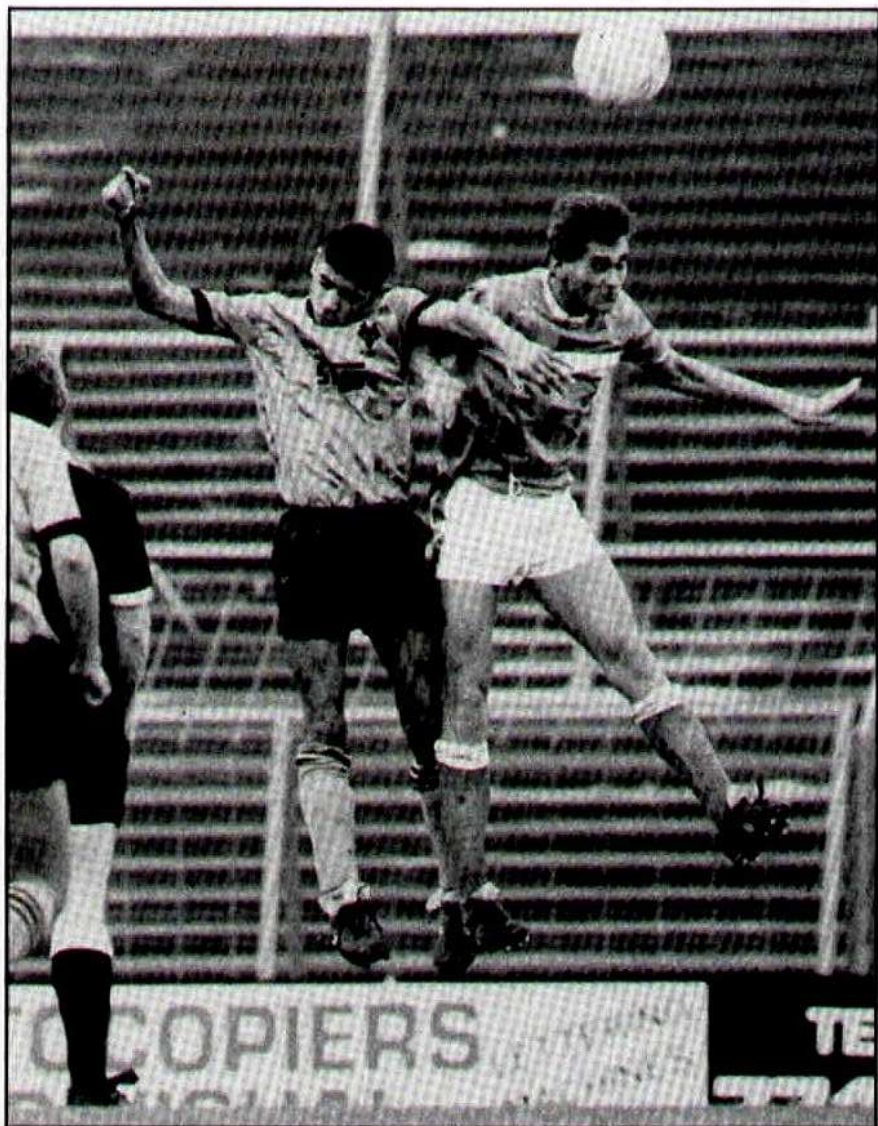
**Dean Peer (Stourbridge).** Aged seventeen, this full-time professional has already played a handfull of games for the first team, and is definitely one for the future.

**Ronnie Morris (Birmingham).** Aged seventeen, a youth training scheme wide left player who came through Bobby Robson's School of Excellence. Big strong winger who scores goals. Has a superb left foot, and likes to get at defenders.

**Andy Williams (Solihull).** Aged sixteen, a youth training scheme wide left midfielder, hard working and honest lad who works hard at his game.

**Neil Sproston (Dudley).** Aged sixteen, a youth training scheme centre forward who has already made his first team debut. Has an eye for a goal and puts himself about.

**Andy Harris (Solihull).** Aged sixteen, a youth training scheme six foot striker with a superb first time touch. Has also scored for the reserve



*Highflying Dean Peer in action against Wolves recently.*

side. One for the future.

**Simon Sturridge (Birmingham).** Aged seventeen, who's brother Mick was once on Birmingham's books. Simon, a youth training scheme member, is a bit on the small side but has an abundance of ability and vision. Is joint top scorer.

**Mark Yates (Stourbridge).** Aged seventeen, who is joint top scorer with Simon Sturridge. A member of the youth training scheme who is and all-round, whole-hearted player and gives everything. He is prepared to play in any position

to get into the team. A good competitor.

**Paul Tate (Birmingham).** Aged sixteen, tall, slightly built lad who oozes ability. A member of the youth training scheme who has scored eleven goals and has potential to go all the way in the game.

**MIDLAND FLOODLIT  
YOUTH LEAGUE (SOUTH)**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Blues .....	4	4	0	0	16	1	12
Moor Green	6	3	1	2	14	9	10
Nuneaton...	5	2	2	1	10	8	8
Tamworth..	5	2	1	2	7	11	7
Hillcroft .....	3	1	2	0	7	6	5
Atherstone.	3	1	1	1	6	9	4
Newtown ..	5	0	1	4	6	15	1
Hinckley ....	3	0	0	3	3	10	0



TO YOU ALL FROM  
*The Directors, Players a*



YOU ALL FROM  
*s, Players and Staff*

# WE'RE TALKING FOOTBALL.

*"Football is not a matter of life and death. It's much more important than that."*

BILL SHANKLY.

*"Soccer is the biggest thing that's happened in creation, bigger than any 'ism' you can name."*

ALAN BROWN,  
Sunderland manager, 1968.

*"And they were lucky to get nil."*

LEN SHACKLETON,  
after six goal debut for Newcastle in 13-0 defeat of  
Newport, 1946.

● ● ● YOU'RE

BETTER OFF

TALKING TO



BARCLAYS

*"It is our new tactics. We equalise before the others have scored."*

DANNY BLANCHFLOWER, 1958.

Source: The Book of Football Quotations, Peter Ball and Phil Shaw (Stanley Paul, an Imprint of Century Hutchinson Ltd).



# FRANK MITCHELL – REMEMBERED

**Frank Mitchell, born at Goulburn, New South Wales, Australia, on 3rd June 1922, was a stylish and constructive defender, equally at home in the full-back or wing half positions.**

His career was delayed by the Second World War but he still managed to appear in more than 300 competitive games between 1945 and 1957.

Particularly adept in his use of the long ball, swung across the field, which he directed almost inch-perfect, Mitchell was never seemingly under pressure. He held his position splendidly, was never flustered and always gave 100% effort.

Standing 5ft 11 in tall and tipping the scales at 12st 12lb, Mitchell was a solidly-built player, always holding his own and he tackled hard and true, hardly ever relying on the robust approach.

As a youngster he was on amateur forms with Coventry City (1938-43) and he joined the St. Andrew's staff in 1943 after having earlier 'guested' for the club during season 1942-43, making 11 appearances. He made 60 appearances for Blues during the hostilities and then proceeded to accumulate a further 106 (in League and F.A. Cup competitions) before transferring to Chelsea in January 1949.

He spent a little over three seasons at Stamford Bridge, making 85 appearances and scoring one goal, and was then 'sold' to Watford (August 1952) for a small fee, this after losing his place in Chelsea's senior side to Billy Dickson.

At Vicarage Road he continued to do well and added another 207 appearances to his overall tally, up to May 1957, when he called it a day and retired from top-class football.

When Blues reached the Semi-Final stage of the F.A. Cup in season 1945-46, Mitchell was part of that wonderful team when, of course, Blues also won the

League (South) Championship. Harold Bodle, Don Dearson, Neil Dougall, Ted Duckhouse, George Edwards, Fred Harris, Dennis Jennings, Wilson Jones, Gil Merrick, Jock Mulraney and Arthur Turner were the other members of that wonderful team of 40 years ago.

Wing-half was by far Mitchell's best position—he always said that—yet he was also a pretty useful cricketer and during the 1940's, being a lower order right-hand bat and medium right-arm off-break bowler. He played 17 county matches for Warwickshire, having 29 innings for an average of 8.29 (highest score: 43). His bowling analysis was 22 wickets for an average of 38.90, with a best return of 4-69. He also played a game or two for Cornwall after retiring from football in 1957.

Frank Rawlinson Mitchell died on 4th April 1984, at the age of 63.



**FRANK MITCHELL**

# TODAY'S

## SWINDON

**Swindon Town have never been in the First Division...but prior to the start of this current season, their manager Lou Macari, the former Celtic, Manchester United and Scottish international, insisted that his priority was to aim for promotion, and try and bring the top clubs to the County Ground on a regular basis.**

During the opening games of 1987-88 Swindon were up with the leading clubs in Division Two, and their overall performances were regarded as being 'professional, methodical' and above all, entertaining, with the emphasis on scoring goals.

Macari, along with so many others manager in the game, believes in attacking football. Goals win matches, we all know that, and the Swindon boss, himself a scorer of fair means as well as being a creator-in-chief, loves to get players going forward in search of strikepower.

When Macari took over the managerial hot-seat at Swindon, the 'Robins' were in the Fourth Division. He knew there was potential there and he immediately set about the challenge of getting Swindon Town into contention for honours. This he has done splendidly, but he's not finished yet!

There is still a long way to go before this 1987-88 season ends, and a lot more points are there to be won; Macari, and Swindon Town will be aiming to collect as many as they can, in a bold and brave effort to finish on a high note, perhaps in the promotion play-offs, which is how they regained their Second Division status at the end of last term.

They had been out of the limelight

(that is out of Division Two) for twelve years, and it had been the first time in their 106 year history that they had tasted Fourth Division football when Macari first took over the reins.

A professional club since 1894, Swindon were, for many years, prominent members of the 'old' Southern League, and were duly elected to the Football League Division Three in 1920, transferring to the Southern section the following year.

Since then they have fluctuated in the three 'lower' Divisions, spending spells in Division Two from 1963 to 1965 and from 1969 to 1974.

Their most successful season, in terms of success, was in 1969 when the 'Robins' beat 'mighty' Arsenal in the League Cup Final at Wembley, when, inspired by Don Rogers, they knocked over the 'Gunners' 3-1 in a classic encounter on a heavy pitch. A year later they triumphed in the Anglo-Italian Tournament, which is now confined to non-League clubs.

Swindon Town of 1987-88 have the following players available for selection, and whoever Macari chooses to pull on the red jersey this afternoon, you can be sure that he will give 100 per cent (and more) for this friendly, family club...

**FRASER DIGBY (goalkeeper).** Aged twenty, England Youth and Under-21 international, who has been on loan to Manchester United and Oldham Athletic, and cost Swindon £30,000 two years ago.

**JON GITTENS (defender).** Aged nineteen, signed from Southampton at the start of this season, and a player who is still seeking to establish himself in the first team.

**PHIL KING (defender).** Twenty last week, a Bristolian, who has served Exeter City and Torquay United and was a key figure during the second-half of Swindon's promotion challenge last season.

**TIM PARKIN (defender).** Aged thirty, the 'Robins' centre-half who has been in the game fourteen years, having served Blackburn Rovers, Malmö FF, Almondsbury Greenway and Bristol Rovers, before joining Swindon last season. He made almost 250 appearances for Bristol Rovers.

**JOHN KELLY (midfield).** Aged twenty-seven, former Tranmere Rovers, Chester City and Preston North End player who has now topped 300 senior appearances in his career. He joined Swindon last August.

**CHRIS KAMARA (midfield).** Aged thirty, in his second spell at Swindon, having also played for Portsmouth (two periods) and Brentford. Has been in League soccer thirteen years and to date has amassed 550 appearances and has scored almost eighty goals. Stands 6' 1" and weighs 12 st 2 lb.

**PETER COYNE (forward).** Aged twenty-nine, former England schoolboy international who has played, in turn, for Manchester United, Ashton United, Crewe Alexandra (147 appearances, 49 goals), Hyde United, and of course Swindon (1984-to date), and has now totted up over 150 appearances for the 'Robins'.

**DAVE BAMBER (forward).** Aged twenty-eight, 6' 3", 13 st 6 lb striker, who has been around a bit, scoring consistently for Blackpool (thirty-six goals), Coventry City, Walsall, Portsmouth and Swindon, who he joined two seasons ago.

**JIMMY QUINN (striker).** Twenty-eight later this month, a Northern Ireland international (thirteen caps) who began with Oswestry, moved to

# VISITORS

Swindon (twelve goals in fifty-eight games first time round), then on to Blackburn Rovers (twenty-three in eighty-two outings) before returning to Swindon last season.

**CHARLIE HENRY (midfield).** Aged twenty-five, one of the club's longest-serving players who has now made 250 appearances for Swindon. Has also been on loan to Northampton Town and Torquay United.

**LEIGH BERNARD (midfield).** Aged twenty-nine from Worsley, who has served Portsmouth, Peterborough United and Exeter City, as well as Swindon, during his twelve years

career which has seen him accumulate over 350 senior appearances, biggest part of them for the 'Robins.

**COLIN CALDERWOOD (defender/midfield).** Aged twenty-two, club captain, a Scot from Stranraer who played 117 games for Mansfield Town before joining Swindon for £27,500 in 1985. Has now had more than 150 outings for the 'Robins.

**STEVE FOLEY (midfield).** Aged twenty-five, signed from Sheffield United five months ago. Began with Liverpool, moved to Fulham (on loan) and then to Grimsby Town before

United. Had a League record of sixteen goals in 100 games at the start of 1987-88.

**KEIRAN O'REAGAN (defender).** Aged twenty, taken on as a full-time professional only this season, and held the number two slot for the opening fixtures.

**STEVE BERRY (forward).** Aged twenty-four, also a competitive midfielder who has been with Portsmouth, Newport County, and Sunderland, and to date has chalked up in excess of 175 senior appearances for his four clubs.



## SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB—1987-88

● *Back row, left to right:* Tim Parkin, Jimmy Quinn, Fraser Digby, Chris Kamara, Nicky Hammond, Charlie Henry, Colin Calderwood (Captain). ● *Middle row, left to right:* Andy Rowland (Reserve Team Coach), David Hockaday, Phil King, Terry Merriman, Dave Bamber, Jon Gittens, John Kelly (now Oldham Athletic), Steve White, Steve Foley, Chris Ramsey (now Southend United), Kevin Morris (Physiotherapist). ● *Front row, left to right:* Alan McLoughlin, Bryan Wade, Peter Coyne, Lou Macari (Team Manager), John Trollope (Assistant Manager), Steve Berry (now Aldershot), Leigh Barnard, Mark Jones.





# BLUES NEWS

## ● He Played for Both Clubs

**Wing-half Stan Harland, a Liverpoolian, appeared in 472 League matches between 1961 and 1973, including 237 for Swindon Town and 38 for Blues.**

Born on 19th June 1940, he joined New Brighton on leaving school in 1956 and later switched to Everton. Sadly, he never broke into Everton's first team and in June 1961 was transferred to Bradford City.

With the Valley Paraders he amassed 120 League outings (scoring 20 goals) and after three years in Yorkshire he switched north to join Carlisle United in 1964.

With the Cumbrians he added a further 77 League appearances to his total (seven goals) and in August 1966 he teamed up with Swindon Town, where he was to stay—and play—for five and a half years, helping the Robins win the League Cup in 1969 and the Anglo-Italian Cup a year later, each time as skipper. He also steered Swindon to promotion from the Third Division in 1970.

Stan became a 'Brummie' in December 1971 and helped steer Blues back into the First Division in 1971-72. He retired from the top-class game in 1973 through injury but continued to play occasionally in minor football and in various Charity matches for a number of years after.

## ● Programme Sale...

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- 50 assorted general League programmes (1970-86) for £5.00.
- 100 assorted general League programmes (1970-86) for £8.50.
- 25 Blues' home (1966-86) for £2.00...50 for £3.50.
- 25 assorted Swindon Town home and aways (1965-84) for £3.00.

*Please add postage to all orders.*

## ● Blues v Swindon Town—Match Facts

**Blues, at present, have a 100 per cent record against Swindon Town—three wins from three games, which were all played inside 26 months (1969-72) all in the Second Division.**

Of the seven previous League encounters Blues have achieved five victories, Swindon one with the other game drawn.

In November 1969 a crowd of 28,167 at St. Andrew's saw Blues win 2-0, Bert Murray and Geoff Vowden the scorers, and there was a turnout of 20,835 at the County Ground for the return fixture in March when Swindon won 4-1, Don Rogers 2, Butler and Horsfield hitting the target with Phil Summerill replying for Blues.

The following season Blues 'doubled-up' over the Robins, winning both games 2-1.

At St. Andrew's in October 18,502 fans saw Johnny Vincent and Dave Robinson bridge the Swindon 'gap' and two strikes from Trevor Francis enabled Blues to collect the points in the away game in February which attracted a near 20,000 gate.

Blues were promoted from Division Two in 1971-72 and 'en route' back into the top flight they whipped Swindon 4-1 at home and earned a point from a 1-1 draw at The County ground.

A crowd of 27,824 witnessed that four-goal romp when Francis, Bob Latchford (2) and Bob Hatton found the net with Horsfield grabbing a consolation goal for the visitors. And at Swindon, Horsfield and Latchford

## BLUES ON VIDEO

**All this season's matches are available on VHS video tape for £15.00 inclusive of VAT. (Last season's matches also available).**

**Contact the main office on 021-772 0101 for further details.**

were on target in front of a 14,024 audience.

Earlier this season Ian Handy-sides and Steve Whitton scored to give Blues a 2-0 win down in Wiltshire, and this afternoon another 'double' could be on the cards for the Brummies. We hope so anyway.

### ● Ex-Brummies in the News...

★ Former Blues goalkeeper **Mark Prudhoe**, has joined Carlisle United on a month's loan from Walsall. It will be Prudhoe's eighth League club during a career which began seven years ago with Sunderland, and since then he has served, in turn, Hartlepool United, Blues, Walsall, Doncaster Rovers, Sheffield Wednesday, Grimsby Town, Walsall (for a second spell) and now Carlisle.

★ **Kevin Dillon**, who appeared in 209 competitive games for Blues (1976-78) was sent-off twice in three weeks while playing for Portsmouth earlier this month.



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The midfielder, who celebrated his 28th birthday on 18th December, was dismissed against Everton and Newcastle United, and now faces a lengthy ban, which could be as much as four matches (or six weeks).


★ **Mark Dennis**, now with Queen's Park Rangers received a

record 53 days suspension following his sending-off (for Queen's Park Rangers against Spurs) in November, and with eleven dismissals 'to his credit' since leaving school (in League, cup and reserve team football) any more misdemeanours recorded against the full-back could lead to a much stiffer sentence!

UNDER 18

00550033

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# FOOTBALL

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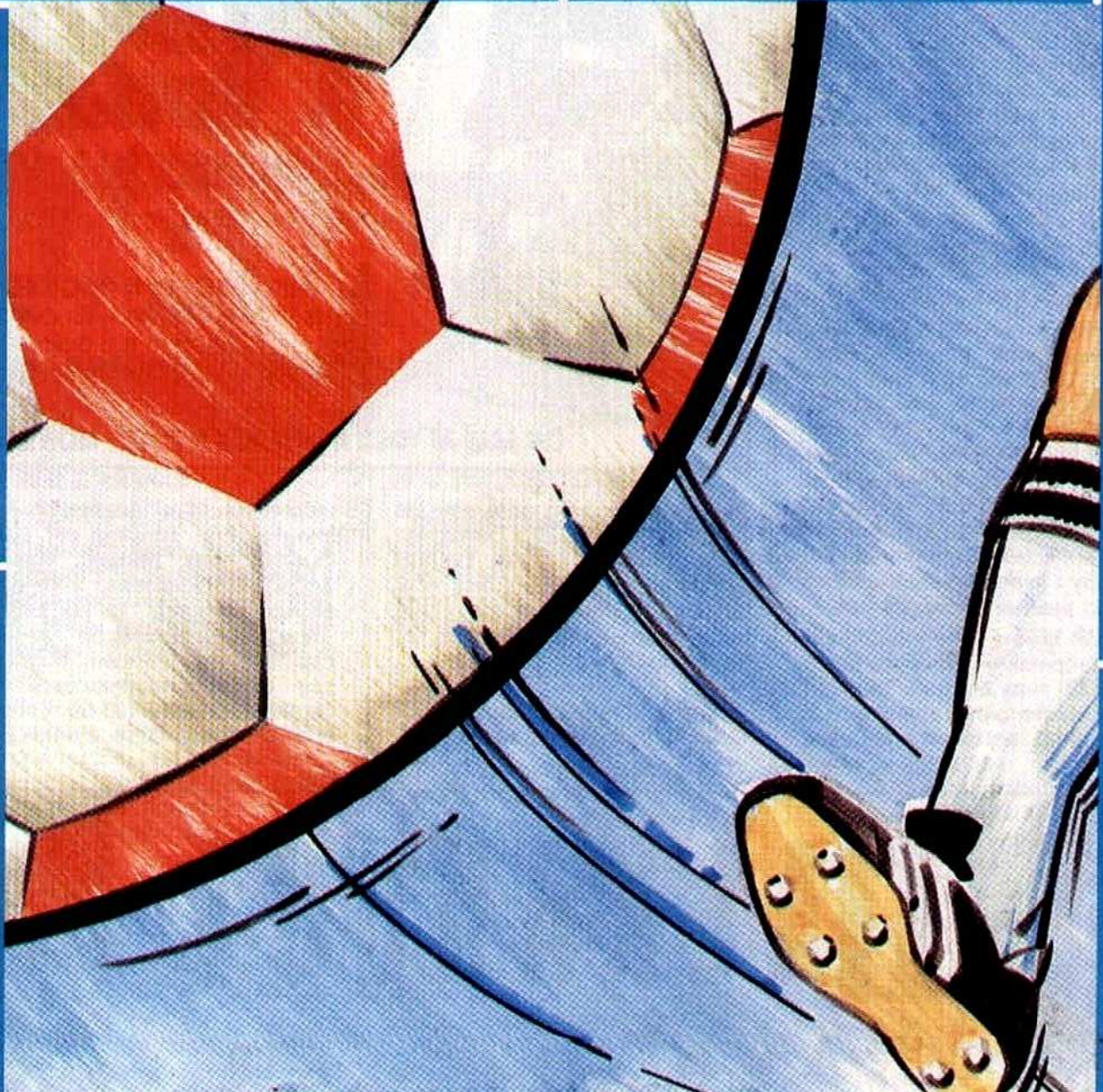
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were a great  
team!

CENTRAL MIDLANDS



THE CO-OP SUPPORTS THE BLUES



# Looking Back...to 5th January 1957

The draw for the Third Round of the FA Cup in 1956-57 paired Blues with Carlisle United, then members of the Third Division (North). Blues, beaten finalists in that 1956 FA Cup Final with Manchester City, wanted desperately to start off with all guns firing in this season's competition but they trekked north to Brunton Park not kidding themselves that they would have an easy passage into the next round.

On the day, Brunton Park was packed to capacity with a record 27,500 crowd eased inside. And those present saw a quite brilliant, all-action ninety minutes which produced six goals and a dozen near misses.

The rain lashed down incessantly and the pitch was nothing more than a quagmire, which perhaps suited the under-dogs Carlisle. Blues, however, adapted themselves to the atrocious conditions expertly and this certainly made the tie a cracker.

Blues went off like a bomb, and inside three minutes had created two chances. Carlisle defended stubbornly and they hit back with persistence and grim determination, Blues' 'keeper Gil Merrick having to save magnificently from Ivor Broadis, the former England international, who had played alongside Merrick in many internationals of the early 1950's.

The first goal arrived on 22 minutes, and it was Peter 'Spud' Murphy who broke the

deadlock, heading home Alex Govan's corner to edge Blues in front. Carlisle, battling like soldiers, fought back and on 47 minutes they equalised, Alf Ackerman sending a brilliant header past the diving Merrick following a free-kick 20 yards out.

A minute later Garvie was put clear by Mooney but he fluffed the simplest of chances by firing wide of the flat-footed Blues' keeper. Within five minutes Blues had made Carlisle pay for that miss when Gordon Astall restored their lead and three minutes later it was 3-1 when Murphy flashed in Noel Kinsey's pass with sweet aplomb.

But, roared on by the supporters, Carlisle launched a magnificent fight-back and that man Ackerman completed his hat-trick with two terrific goals in the space of four minutes at the

death, netting a powerful header and a ferocious shot to earn the underdogs a replay, they so richly deserved.

**Carlisle...**Fairley; Fletcher, Kenny; Johnston, Waters, Thompson; Mooney, Broadis, Ackerman, Garvie, Bond.

**Blues...**Merrick; Hall, Green; Watts, Smith, Warhurst; Astall, Kinsey, Brown, Murphy, Govan.

● The replay, at St. Andrew's on 8th January, drew a 56,000 crowd. It was the first 'floodlit cup-tie' on the ground, and Blues won in style by 4-0, Astall, Kinsey and Brown 2, sinking the Cumbrian battlers.



**GIL MERRICK**

Date	OPPONENTS	F-A	Gate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	SUB
Aug 15	Stoke City	2-0	13,137	Godden	Ranson	Dicks	Williams	Overson	Handysides	Bremner	Kennedy	Whitton	Rees 2	Wigley	Childs/Bird
Aug 18	Mansfield T (LCC1 1 Leg)	2-2	4,425	Godden	Roberts	Dicks	Williams	Overson	Handysides 1	Bremner	Kennedy	Whitton	Rees	Wigley	Childs/Bird
Aug 22	Aston Villa	2-0	30,870	Godden	Roberts	Dicks	Williams	Overson	Handysides 1	Bremner	Kennedy	Whitton	Rees 1	Wigley	Childs/Bird
Aug 25	Mansfield T (LCC1 2 Leg)	0-1	6,054	Godden	Roberts	Dicks	Williams	Bird	Handysides	Bremner	Kennedy	Whitton	Rees	Wigley	Childs/Frain
Aug 29	Bournemouth	1-1	8,284	Godden	Roberts	Dicks	Williams	Bird	Handysides	Bremner	Kennedy	Whitton	Rees	Wigley	Childs/Frain
Sept 1	Millwall	1-3	6,758	Godden	Roberts	Dicks	Williams	Overson	Handysides	Bremner	Kennedy	Whitton	Rees 1	Wigley	Childs/Bird
Sept 5	Crystal Palace	0-6	7,011	Godden	Roberts	Dicks	Bird	Overson	Trewick	Bremner	Kennedy	Whitton	Rees	Wigley	Childs/H'sides
Sept 12	Swindon Town	2-0	9,128	Godden	Ranson	*Dicks	Williams	Overson	Trewick	Bremner	Handysides 1	Whitton 1	Rees	Wigley	Childs/Kennedy
Sept 15	Blackburn Rovers	1-0	6,032	Hansbury	Ranson	Dicks	Williams	Overson	*Trewick	Bremner	Handysides	Whitton 1	*Rees	Wigley	Childs/Kennedy
Sept 19	Shrewsbury Town	0-0	7,183	Hansbury	Ranson	Dicks	Williams	Overson	Frain	Bremner	Handysides	Whitton	*Withe	Wigley	Childs/Kennedy
Sept 26	Plymouth Argyle	1-1	8,192	Hansbury	Ranson	Dicks	Williams	Overson	Trewick	Bremner	Handysides	*Whitton	Rees	Wigley	Childs/Kennedy
Sept 30	West Bromwich Albion	1-3	15,399	Hansbury	*Ranson	Dicks	Williams	Bird	Trewick	Bremner	Handysides	*Whitton	Rees	Wigley	Childs/Kennedy
Oct 3	Huddersfield Town	2-0	6,282	Godden	Roberts	Dicks	Williams	Overson	Trewick	Bremner	Handysides	Whitton 2	*Rees	Wigley	Childs/Kennedy
Oct 10	Reading	2-2	6,147	Godden	Ranson	Dicks	Williams	Overson	Trewick	Bremner	Handysides	Whitton 1	*Rees	Wigley	Kennedy 1/Childs
Oct 17	Bradford City	0-4	12,256	Godden	Ranson	Dicks	Williams	Overson	Trewick	Bremner	Handysides	Whitton 1	Rees	Wigley	Childs/Roberts
Oct 20	Sheffield United	2-0	9,287	Godden	Ranson	Dicks	Williams	Overson	Trewick	Childs	Handysides	Withe 2	*Rees	Wigley	Frain/Roberts
Oct 24	Middlesbrough	0-0	7,404	Godden	Ranson	Dicks	Williams	Overson	*Trewick	Bremner	Handysides	Whitton	Childs	Wigley	Sproston/Frain
Oct 31	Oldham Athletic	2-1	5,486	Godden	Ranson	Dicks	*Williams	Overson	Frain 1	Bremner	Childs	Whitton 1	Withe	Wigley	Roberts/Peer
Nov 3	Barnsley	2-0	6,622	Godden	Ranson	Dicks	Roberts	Overson	Frain	Bremner	Childs	Whitton 2	*Withe	Wigley	Rees/Bird
Nov 7	Hull City	0-2	7,901	Godden	Ranson	Dicks	Roberts	*Overson	Frain	Bremner	Childs	Whitton 2	*Withe	Wigley	Bird/Rees
Nov 14	Leicester City	2-2	8,666	Godden	Ranson	Dicks	Roberts	Overson	Frain	Bremner	Childs	Whitton 2	Withe	Wigley	Rees/Frain
Nov 21	Manchester City	0-3	22,690	Godden	Ranson	*Dicks	Roberts	Williams	Trewick	Bremner	Childs	Whitton	Withe	Wigley	Kennedy/H'sides
Nov 25	Derby County (Simod Cup)	1-3	8,277	Godden	Ranson	Trewick	Williams	Frain	Bird	Bremner	*Childs	Whitton 1	*Kennedy	Wigley	Rees/Ashley
Nov 28	Ipswich Town	1-0	6,718	Godden	Ranson	Trewick	*Roberts	Williams	Frain 1	Bremner	Childs	*Whitton	Kennedy	Wigley	H'sides/Rees
Dec 5	Leeds United	1-4	15,977	Godden	Ranson	Trewick	*Rees	Overson	Frain	Bremner	*Childs	Kennedy	H'sides	Wigley	Bird/Russell
Dec 12	Aston Villa	1-2	27,789	Godden	Ranson	Trewick	Roberts	Overson	*Frain	Bremner	Childs	Kennedy 1	H'sides	Wigley	Russell/Ashley
Dec 19	Blackburn Rovers	0-2	8,542	Godden	Ranson	Dicks	H'sides	Overson	Trewick	Bremner	Childs	Kennedy	Russell	Wigley	Bird/Frain
Dec 26	Plymouth Argyle														
Dec 28	Shrewsbury Town														

**BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION TWO**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesbrough	24	9	2	1	2	26	6
Bradford	23	9	1	2	23	11	5
Aston Villa	24	3	6	3	13	12	9
Crystal Palace	23	9	1	1	27	10	4
Ipswich Town	23	11	1	0	25	4	1
Hull City	24	8	5	0	21	11	3
Blackburn	23	7	3	2	17	9	4
Man City	24	6	2	4	33	16	5
Millwall	24	8	1	2	25	10	4
Barnsley	23	6	1	3	29	16	2
Leeds United	24	8	2	2	21	11	1
<b>BLUES</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Swindon Town</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>
Stoke City	24	6	4	2	16	11	2
Plymouth	23	5	3	3	24	15	2
Oldham	23	4	3	4	12	12	2
Leicester	22	5	3	4	17	11	1
W.B.Albion	24	5	3	4	19	13	1
Sheff Utd.	23	4	4	4	17	16	2
Bournemouth	24	3	5	5	18	18	2
Huddersfield	24	3	4	4	11	15	1
Shrewsbury	24	2	4	5	12	15	1
Reading	23	2	2	6	10	13	1

**BLUES APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS**

	League		LCC/SC		Totals	
	App	Gls	App	Gls	App	Gls
A. Bird	3+3	—	2	—	5+3	—
D. Bremner	23	—	3	—	26	—
G. Childs	11+4	—	1+1	—	12+5	—
J. Dicks	21	—	2	—	23	—
J. Frain	7+1	2	1	—	8+1	2
A. Godden	20	—	3	—	23	—
R. Hansbury	4	—	—	—	4	—
I. Handysides	17+1	2	2	—	19+1	3
A. Kennedy	9+7	5	3	—	12+7	5
N. Overson	20	—	1	—	21	—
V. Sproston	0+1	—	—	—	0+1	—
R. Ranson	19	—	1	—	20	—
A. Rees	15+3	4	2+1	—	17+5	4
B. Roberts	11+1	—	2	—	13+1	—
G. Russell	1+2	—	—	—	1+2	—
J. Trewick	16	—	1	—	17	—
S. Whitton	18	10	3	2	21	12
P. Withe	8	2	—	—	8	2
T. Williams	17	—	3	—	20	—
S. Wigley	24	—	3	—	27	—
Opponents	—	1	—	—	—	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>264+23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33+2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>297+26</b>	<b>29</b>

**ALL STATISTICS ARE UP TO AND INCLUDING SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER 1987**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bournemouth	24	9	2	1	2	26	6
Swindon Town	23	9	1	2	23	11	5
Gillingham (FAC 3)	24	3	6	3	13	12	9
Stoke City	23	9	1	1	27	10	4
Millwall (FAC 4)	23	11	1	0	25	4	1
Hull City	24	8	5	0	21	11	3
Blackburn	23	7	3	2	17	9	4
Man City	24	6	2	4	33	16	5
Millwall	24	8	1	2	25	10	4
Barnsley	23	6	1	3	29	16	2
Leeds United	24	8	2	2	21	11	1
<b>BLUES</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Swindon Town</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>
Stoke City	24	6	4	2	16	11	2
Plymouth	23	5	3	3	24	15	2
Oldham	23	4	3	4	12	12	2
Leicester	22	5	3	4	17	11	1
W.B.Albion	24	5	3	4	19	13	1
Sheff Utd.	23	4	4	4	17	16	2
Bournemouth	24	3	5	5	18	18	2
Huddersfield	24	3	4	4	11	15	1
Shrewsbury	24	2	4	5	12	15	1
Reading	23	2	2	6	10	13	1

\* Substituted Player  
 † Own Goal

# CITY/STATISTICS

Over the years there has not been a full record (in statistical form) of the fortunes of Birmingham City Football Club and its players. There have been paper-backs (in various form) covering the club's history but as yet a detailed breakdown on League, FA Cup, League Cup and European competitions, plus the other 'minor' competitions which Blues have taken part in down the years, indicating the results, team line-ups, goalscorers and attendances, has not yet been published.

I aim to achieve this in the next season, and also included in 'Birmingham City - A Statistical Record: 1874-1988-89' will be a 'Who's Who' on the greatest players who have served the club, match reports of top-class games involving Blues (in all competitions), Wartime match details (in World Wars 1 and 2) plus loads more, everything appertaining to Birmingham City Football Club.

Anyone wishing to offer assistance in this extra-special publication is asked to contact Tony Matthews, c/o 14 Raleigh Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands B71 1DP. (Two people, Dafydd Williams of Selly Park and Roger Baker from Small Heath, have already offered their services).



**Jasper Carrott and Blues players were happy to join our sponsors Midland Papers for the game against Aston Villa.**



## **WARNING TV SURVEILLANCE CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION**

*This ground is equipped with*  
**CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION**

Installed with the help of a grant from the Football Trust, it is there to increase crowd safety and to help the police. Recording facilities enable film and photographs to be taken of disorder, which may subsequently be used in a court of law.

The Football Trust is funded entirely by the pools companies Littlewoods, Vernons and Zellers from their Spotting-the-Ball competition.

# TODAY'S REFEREE

● **IAN HENDRICK.** Commenced refereeing in local leagues in 1972 promoted to West Lancashire League then to the Lancashire Combination and North West Counties League and then onto the Football League. Officiated in 1983 European Youth Championship — linesman, 1983 EUFA Cup Tie in Holland — linesman, 1983 Lancashire FA Junior Cup Final — referee. His interests include Vice Chairman of Preston Referees Society and all aspects of football and collecting football programmes.



## YOUTH ACTION

Above: Andrew Rolfe cuts out a Wolves attack. Below: Youth 'keeper Tony Elliott takes control.



# VIEWPOINT

**A Happy New Year to both my readers—and everyone else, too. Let's hope we will all have more to smile about in 1988.**

We would all help ourselves by being more positive and optimistic. Ask any American how he is and he will invariably answer 'fine' or 'great'. Here, even a raging optimist can hardly force himself to mumble 'not so bad'.

So my personal New Year's Resolution is to be on the sunny side of the street as often as possible. If I am feeling a little low, I will think of something which I know will make me smile.

Like the day a Blues manager solemnly told me he was not retaining a certain goalkeeper because: "His reflections aren't fast enough."

That was years ago, though all us scribes have experience of assault and battery on the English language by some of the people we interview and, of course, we are often guilty ourselves of the same crime.

The most amusing comment of '87 for me came relatively early in the year; the day when Walsall had an F.A. Cup-tie date with Watford at Fellows Park.

It was a bitterly cold Saturday afternoon and I was grateful to be indoors

following the action by proxy, as it were...watching *Grandstand* on TV with the sound turned down, and listening to local radio at the same time.

The *BBC's Radio WM* commentator was warbling away on his warm-up before the kick-off in arctic conditions. He clearly was feeling the pinch where it hurt most, so it was hardly surprising he went waffling on about the weather.

In fact, when the teams ran out he pounced on the fact that John Barnes was wearing gloves – which gave me, and presumably all the other listeners an instant mental picture of the conditions.

But when Jim Barron, a former Wolves Assistant Manager and the other half of that days commentary team, drily observed: "Yes, it's very cold, and I can understand Barnes using gloves. But why is he wearing a short-sleeved shirt?"

Football needs humour particularly now, with so much at stake for the players and a general public fully aware of increasing players earnings and admission charges, less ready to forgive mistakes, pressure to win almost at any cost is getting out of hand.

Referees can, and do, make mistakes. The wonder is that they make so few controlling the current 100

miles an hour playing pattern. If only, like us, they could officiate by watching a TV screen with the benefit of near total vision and instant replays, they would be as faultless as those who are so ready to criticise.

Joe Public, of course, sees things differently. He wonders why footballers paid a fortune, make mistakes at all, and thinks how lucky they are to be so handsomely rewarded for doing something they would do for nothing anyway.

But not all footballers are paid a fortune. Those who are fighting to maintain their high earnings; those who aren't have the fear of the insecurity which is part and parcel of a players career. There is so much risk it might explain why there is so much dissent, and so many more players being ordered off.

A lot more tolerance and self-discipline all round will be more than welcome this year – from the public, the players, the referees, the managers, the directors – and the media.

The late, great Bill Shankly, when asked whether a Liverpool win was a matter of life or death, replied: "No – it's more important than that." He wasn't joking. And for once in his life, he was wrong.

MARTIN RUSSELL



# City of Birmingham FOOTBALL SCHOOL

Colin Morris, Football Development Officer  
The Department of Recreation and Community Services  
B.A.I. Balsall Heath Road, Highgate, Birmingham B12 9DL  
Telephone: 021-440 1021

## TACTICAL AWARENESS

**In a ninety minute game of football, the ball is likely to be in play for only sixty minutes. In an evenly fought contest, each team will be in possession for thirty minutes. Each individual player will have about three minutes with the ball and fifty-seven minutes without it.**

Those three minutes in possession are the key to team selection for the alert and sensible Team Manager. Players must produce consistently in terms of good first touch, range of techniques available, effective passing, accurate finishing and aggressive running with the ball. Tactically, it is essential that each player selected is confident in his ability on the ball so that he can produce consistently and effectively without the stress that stems from anxiety. Being aware, the Team Manager will select the best players he can and sharpen up their techniques. He will attempt to let his players operate in those areas of the field most suited to their ability on the ball.

Factors such as left- and right-sided, good crosser of the ball, good striker of the ball and good passer of the ball will all affect his team selection. But what about those fifty-seven minutes without the ball? Surely, that long period of the game must be taken into consideration of tactical awareness.

Even Glen Hoddle will be expected to take his share of pressurising,

funnelling-back and supporting other defenders in order to win the ball, and then spread out in order to create time and space in attack. Team Managers who are successful, learn from their hard-earned experience what will and will not succeed. They play the percentages and try to get the best performance out of each of their players. Their concern is less about 4-4-2, 4-3-3 or 4-2-1 and more about effectiveness during the game.

Football is a game of opposites and a tactically aware Team Manager thinks in terms of opposites. When the opposition have the ball, we must defend by taking up positions which make it difficult for them to attack. When we have the ball, we must attack by taking up positions which will make it more likely for us to score.

The percentage in such simple tactics is that the players in a team are more likely to understand what is required of them for fifty-seven minutes of the game. They will need to be physically fit and mentally alert in order to work both as individuals and as a team.

Keep it simple, aim for opposites, select the best possible players, play the percentages and aim to occupy all outfield players in both attack and defence—those are the main factors in tactical awareness. Applying them for sixty minutes in a game may still not be enough, however, because (fortunately) one good player can upset any of the best laid plans.

## SOUVENIR AND PROGRAMME SHOP

Start the New Year the right way by visiting the Blues Souvenir and Programme Shop.

The Shop is packed with Souvenirs for supporters of all ages.



Teamstrips, tracksuits, scarves, coffee mugs, official badges plus many other items.

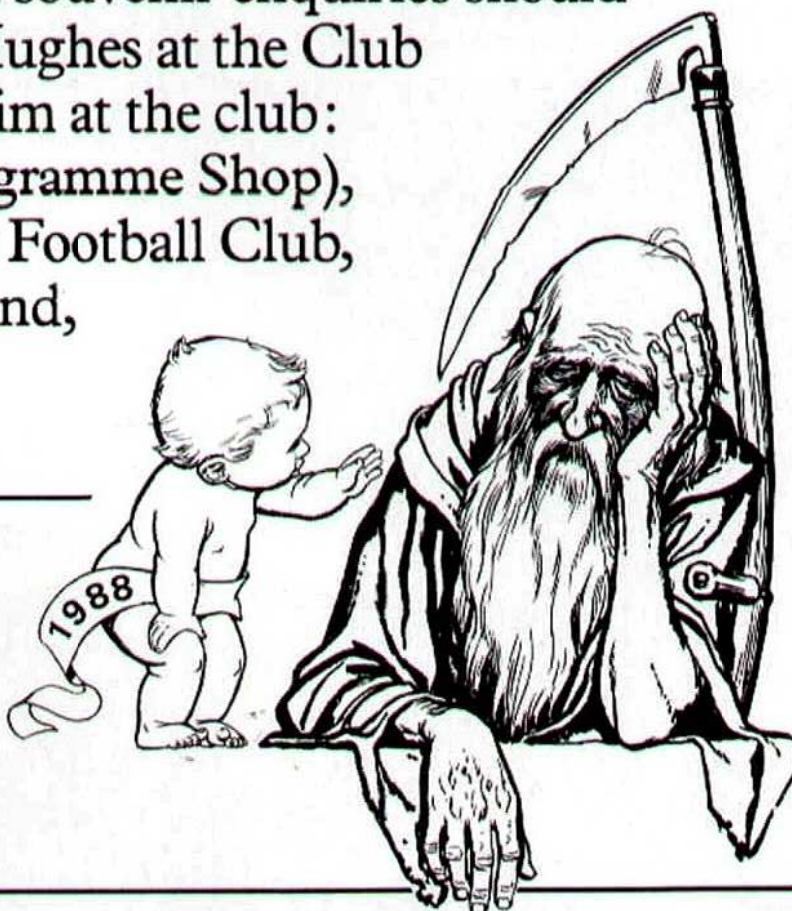
Blues programmes dating back to the 1950's are on sale.

Also this season's Blues home and aways plus a large selection of other club programmes including Cup Finals and Internationals.

Programme and souvenir enquiries should be made to Paul Hughes at the Club Shop or write to him at the club:  
Paul Hughes (Programme Shop),  
Birmingham City Football Club,  
St. Andrews Ground,  
Birmingham  
B9 4NH.

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● *The Club Shop is open before and after every home game.*



**BIRMINGHAM CITY**Colours:  
BLUE AND WHITE

# TEAMS

**SWINDON TOWN**Colours:  
RED & WHITE

<b>TONY GODDEN</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>NICKY HAMMOND</b>
<b>RAY RANSON</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>DAVE HOCKADAY</b>
<b>JOHN TREWICK</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>PHIL KING</b>
<b>BRIAN ROBERTS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>CHRIS KAMARA</b>
<b>VINCE OVERSON</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>JON GITTENS</b>
<b>JOHN FRAIN</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>COLIN CALDERWOOD</b>
<b>DES BREMNER</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>BOBBY BARNES</b>
<b>GARY CHILDS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>DAVE BAMBER</b>
<b>ANDY KENNEDY</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>JIMMY QUINN</b>
<b>IAN HANDYSIDES</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>STEVE FOLEY</b>
<b>STEVE WIGLEY</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>STEVE WHITE</b>
	<b>12</b>	



## OFFICIALS

- Referee . . . . . Mr I. A. HENDRICK
- Linesmen . . . . . Mr M. H. BROWN, Red Trim  
Mr D. J. GALLAGHER, Yellow Trim

## SCORES

A	Barnsley v Aston Villa	
B	Bradford City v Stoke City	
C	Huddersfield Town v Blackburn	
D	Hull City v Leeds United	
E	Ipswich Town v Millwall	
F	Leicester v Crystal Palace	
G	Man City v Shrewsbury	
H	Reading v Bournemouth	
J	Sheffield United v Oldham	
K	W B Albion v Plymouth	
L	Arsenal v Q.P.R.	
M	Chelsea v Tottenham	
N	Coventry v Norwich	
O	Derby Co v Liverpool	
P	Newcastle v Sheff Wed	
Q	Oxford Utd v Wimbledon	
R	West Ham v Luton Town	

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