

Welcome to St Andrews

the home of

BIRMINGHAM CITY

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION 2
Tuesday March 14th. 1989

**SWINDON
TOWN**

Kick Off 7.30 p.m.

Evans Halshaw

AUSTIN ROVER FLEET SPECIALISTS

*BLUES
NEWS*

60p

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PROGRAMME UPDATE

SWINDON TOWN UPDATE

Since the postponement of tonight's game from the original date of March 14th, Swindon Town have strengthened their chances of a place in this season's playoffs for a place in Division One where they have never yet played. As a side issue they will also be hoping to at least equal their highest-ever position of fifth in 1969/70 just one season after winning promotion from Division Three.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	40	25	11	4	86	43	86
Man City	40	22	10	8	67	40	76
Blackburn	40	18	11	11	63	54	65
WBA	40	16	16	8	58	36	64
Crystal Palace	37	17	10	10	57	44	61
Watford	38	17	10	11	56	43	61
Swindon Town	38	15	13	10	54	47	58
Ipswich Town	40	17	6	17	59	58	57
Bournemouth	39	17	6	16	46	50	57
Leeds United	40	14	14	12	51	44	56
Barnsley	38	14	13	11	54	52	55
Stoke City	38	14	13	11	49	55	55
Portsmouth	40	13	12	15	49	49	51
Sunderland	40	13	12	15	52	55	51
Oxford United	40	13	11	16	54	55	50
Leicester City	39	12	14	13	47	52	50
Brighton	40	14	7	19	54	58	49
Bradford City	40	11	15	14	44	50	48
Plymouth	39	13	9	17	47	56	48
Oldham	40	10	16	14	66	64	46
Hull City	39	11	11	17	49	59	44
Shrewsbury	39	7	14	18	32	58	35
Walsall	39	4	14	21	34	65	28
Birmingham	39	5	10	24	25	66	25

Since the notes for this programme were originally prepared they have played four games at the County Ground, beating Hull City and Bradford City and drawing with Blackburn Rovers and West Bromwich Albion and conceding only one goal in the process while on their travels they have won at Bournemouth and lost at Plymouth Argyle and Manchester City. Most regular scorers during this period have been **Steve Foley** in his second season since moving from Sheffield United and **Duncan Shearer**, the £250,000 close season signing from Huddersfield Town.

Due to the expense of programme production it is of course not possible to produce another programme for the game tonight, but as you see we are issuing the one printed for the game on March 14th last together with this update sheet, which we hope you will accept, although certain parts of the earlier programme are of course now out of date.

We also feel that in fairness to both sets of supporters we again print the reasons for the game being called off on that evening.

During the early part of the afternoon torrential rain descended on St. Andrews. At approximately 4 p.m. the groundsman informed the Secretary that pools of water were beginning to form on the pitch and that 'forking' was not having any effect. Since the match referee had not reported he immediately telephoned the Football League regarding a local referee being contacted to inspect the pitch which is the normal procedure. At 4.20 p.m. the Football League informed him that the referee had left his home in Halifax at 1.30 p.m., and should arrive at the ground very shortly. At 4.40 p.m. he had not arrived and the Football League were requested to appoint a local official to inspect the pitch, and by the time he had arrived and carried out the inspection, telephoned the Football League, who gave the final decision, the time was 5.40 p.m. when the match was postponed. The match referee arrived five minutes later and confirmed that the pitch was unplayable. The local and national radio stations and T.V. stations were notified immediately.

To all supporters of both teams who arrived at the ground we regret the inconvenience caused to you.

Looking at the programme printed for that evening, there is little that has changed other than the possible team line-ups which will be given to you tonight. A new half-time list is enclosed and of course our Chairman Ken Wheldon has indeed already written in the programme for the Walsall game. The travel details are of course now out of date, but for the home supporters these were given in last Saturday's programme.

Tuesday April 11th 1989

HALF TIME SCORES CHECK

- A Millwall v Liverpool
- B West Ham v Middlesbrough
- C Hull Crystal Palace
- D Shrewsbury v B'mouth
- E Watford v Stoke City
- F Bristol City v Brentford
- G Sheff United v Cardiff
- H Wigan v Bristol Rovers
- I Hartlepool v Scarborough
- J Bolton v Blackpool
- K Torquay v Wolves

Now in his fifth season at the helm, Lou Macari is Swindon's longest-serving manager since Bert Head in the early sixties and it remains to be seen whether his current side will reach greater heights than the one fashioned by Bert Head, who at one stage had Peter Noble, John Trollope, Bobby Woodruff, Mike Summerbee and Don Rogers all in the same lineup.

JIM O'DONNELL - Goalkeeper.

Jim, a promising 19-year-old goalkeeper was signed just before the transfer deadline, on loan from Manchester United. He has been bought to the County Ground to replace the unfortunate Nicky Hammond, who has been out of action with a broken leg sustained in a training accident in December. Jim's experience has been confined to Central League soccer at Old Trafford, where he is in direct competition to Scotland International Jim Leighton and the highly promising Gary Walsh.

CURTIS FLEMING - Full Back.

Signed from St. Patrick's Athletic in Dublin before the transfer deadline for a nominal fee. Within days of signing for Swindon Town the Manchester born fullback was selected to play for the Republic of Ireland under-23 side in a friendly international against Northern Ireland. Curtis helped St. Patrick's to the runners-up position in the League of Ireland in season 1987/8 and has also played for them in European competition when they participated in the UEFA Cup.

DIVISION TWO GATES TO DATE

	Highest	Lowest	Average
Manchester City	40,070	16,033	22,774
Leeds United	33,325	15,657	22,088
Sunderland	21,994	10,969	15,657
Chelsea	24,467	6,747	15,419
Watford	15,747	8,667	12,730
WBA	22,950	7,248	12,955
Ipswich Town	15,521	9,067	12,576
Leicester City	13,082	7,750	10,695
Bradford City	13,046	7,553	10,590
Stoke City	24,056	7,025	10,272
Portsmouth	15,263	7,145	10,502
Crystal Palace	12,444	7,006	9,979
Brighton	12,600	6,311	9,099
Plymouth Argyle	10,619	6,703	9,070
Swindon Town	11,347	5,540	8,516
Blackburn Rovers	11,654	5,724	8,463
Bournemouth	11,000	5,499	8,125
Barnsley	9,879	4,937	7,433
Oldham Athletic	19,200	4,550	7,453
Hull City	11,472	4,845	7,217
Oxford United	11,427	4,385	6,694
Birmingham City	11,707	4,579	6,597
Walsall	9,520	3,619	6,363
Shrewsbury	8,271	2,978	4,853

Soccer ROUND-UP

LOOKING AT LAST WEEKEND'S RESULTS with GEOFF ALLMAN.

Though beaten by a much improved Brighton on Saturday we could take some comfort from the promise of our younger players including Simon Sturridge, who found the net for the second successive home game. Brighton meanwhile in the course of their last five games have won 2-1 four times and lost 2-1 once as Gary Nelson's two goals on Saturday, took his tally to ten since the turn of the year.

Shrewsbury's defeat at Barnsley on Saturday was their sixth in successive seasons there and it was Barnsley's third successive home win in the space of three weeks, all without conceding a goal. Shrewsbury, however lost the services of their goalkeeper Steve Perks who was taken ill on the coach and Ken Hughes had to return to the number one spot, he too was off during the second half when the former Albion man Tony Kelly went in goal.

Still going great guns are Chelsea, who made it seven wins in a row with their 3-2 success at The Hawthorns with all the goals coming in the first half and with defender Graham Roberts netting from the penalty spot just as he did in the 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge against Albion at the end of December. Helped by ten penalties he has now netted thirteen goals this season. Chelsea have now won on each of their last three visits to The Hawthorns.

Another regular goalscorer on the mark on Saturday was Portsmouth's Mike Quinn with both his side's goals in the 2-0 win over Sunderland. This was Sunderland's fifth successive away defeat, all without scoring

a goal.

Meanwhile Oxford's Richard Hill, who netted four goals at Walsall on Boxing Day, got two of his side's goals in their 3-2 win over Stoke on Saturday that finally dispelled any relegation worries. Recent signing from Liverpool, John Durnin also scored his third goal in successive games as Stoke City went down to only their second defeat in thirteen games and had defender Chris Hemming sent off in what was an unhappy day for them.

This was a severe setback in Stoke's efforts to win a playoff place while Blackburn Rovers, who were held to a draw by Leicester City for the second successive season now look as though they will have to be satisfied with a playoff place rather than winning promotion directly.

Bournemouth also slipped back when losing at home to Watford, another team intent on a playoff place and a possible immediate return to Division One. This was Watford's first away success since winning at St Andrews in January. They seem to be on the upgrade as do Crystal Palace, whose win over Oldham Athletic on Saturday was their fifth in six games with goal machine Mark Bright getting his third goal in successive home games and his 22nd of the season.

The brightest aspect of Walsall's fourth successive defeat was that they scored their first goal during this spell with Willie Naughton netting from the penalty spot to take his tally to eight this season. Saturday's defeat was their first in their last four visits to Valley Parade

Meanwhile in Division One Liverpool moved seemingly inevitably towards the championship with their tenth win in a row, 5-1 over Sheffield Wednesday, this being the second time they have beaten Wednesday in their last five visits to Anfield. Arsenal are however still making a fight of it and they beat Everton at Highbury on Saturday for the first time in four seasons.

Norwich City seem to be running out of steam - and luck. Their defeat at Coventry was their third in their last four games and they have now failed to win in six First Division visits to Highfield Road. They also had goalkeeper Bryn Gunn both injured and sent off after separate incidents, the one involving a Coventry goal and the other a penalty.

In Division Three the three leading clubs Wolves, Sheffield United and Port Vale all put their recent hiccups behind them to chalk up wins against teams that have over the years been bogey teams. Wolves win over Brentford brought Steve Bull his 44th goal of the season and Wolves' hundredth goal of the season to avenge their defeats by the Bees in their only other two postwar games at Molineux. Sheffield United's Brian Dean got his 28th of the season in the 3-1 win over Preston North End that avenged the 2-0 defeat at Deepdale in December and Port Vale beat lowly Gillingham, who had won two and drawn one of their last three games at Vale Park.

IN THE PROGRAMME SHOP
Programme Packs from other
League Clubs 7 - £1.50.



Ansell's



GARRY TALKING

Good evening to you all.

Once again I have to make comments about press reporting. Before our last home game against Oxford United, an article appeared in a local newspaper that was attributed to Steve Wigley, that he wanted to leave the Club.

This was totally untrue. Steve in fact knew nothing of the article and no one would put their name to it, so once again it was a bad press for us. This without doubt affected Steve in that game. You, our supporters reacted to him as if the press stories were true, and as I have said before, they are not so.

With freedom of contracts, players can move easier than in the past and many players from

numerous clubs are sought after targets by the press, who look for the sensational story. It's just not fair on either the player or his club, so give Steve and the rest of the team your full support tonight as he is a very happy player here at St. Andrews.

To a much more pleasurable note. A week last Sunday the Ian Handysides Benefit Committee put on a superb evening in aid of Ian at the Albany Hotel. Many well know sporting personalities were there to give support to the evening and help raise more money for Ian. It was good to see him getting around the tables and chatting with so many of his friends. I would like to thank those of you who have supported his Benefit Fund

this season, and there are more events still to come.

Tonight we welcome Lou Macari and his Swindon team. He has done so much there and this past season he has been joined by my old friend Chic Bates. Swindon are at present playing well and have only lost three games since the turn of the year, and one of those was an FA Cup replay. So, like so many of our games this season we shall be in for a hard one tonight, but I hope that we can have a little more luck than we did at Portsmouth on Saturday.

Enjoy the game tonight and give the players good vocal support.

Garry.

HELPING THE GAME

The Football Trust receives £9 million annually from the Spotting-the Ball competition run by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zellers and spends it all on projects which benefit football throughout the United Kingdom.

Since 1979 it has been committed to the development of the game at every level and its broad and varying initiatives have ranged from essential safety work at Tottenham to social work at Toxteth; refurbishment at Wembley to repairs at Welling; closed circuit television at all League clubs to community facilities at Oldham Athletic; transport improvements at Sheffield Wednesday to storm damage in the South East of England; from policing costs at Hull City to an artificial pitch at Hyde United.

1988-89 will see The Football Trust increase its commitment by investing further sums in closed circuit television, transport facilities for supporters and projects to bring Football League clubs closer to their local community.

WARNING

At the beginning of the season more than 110 League grounds in England, Wales and Scotland will be equipped with CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION which has been funded by 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.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

SAFETY FIRST

Football grounds in England and Wales have reached their highest ever level of safety thanks to the £23,671,425 invested by the Football Grounds Improvement Trust since 1975.

Almost every League club has been assisted with essential safety work and further substantial sums have been spent to enable them to improve facilities. In the past year alone FGIT grants to Football League clubs totalled:

Safety	£2,254,723
Improvements	£770,561

In addition to its safety programme, FGIT has also allocated £1.5 million to build or improve family and disabled facilities at League grounds during 1988.

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**FROM THE SECRETARY
 JOHN WESTMANCOAT**



I am pleased to see that a local Birmingham County FA referee, John Godfrey, has been appointed to the final of the Littlewoods Cup between Luton Town and Nottingham Forest as linesman.

John, who has officiated in the Birmingham area for many years in the local leagues which have included the Birmingham Works AFA and the West Midlands Regional League now lives at Brownhills. His colleagues will be Roger Milford, from Bristol, the referee and Peter Brennan from Benfleet as the other linesman. The reserve referee is Tony Ward from London.

We wish him well in the game which of course is a live TV broadcast on Sunday 9th April.

**GRAND CHARITY
 AUCTION
 OF AUTOGRAPHED
 SHIRTS**

May we remind you again of The Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy will be holding an unique auction on 27th March. It will include 92 league shirts - one from each club in the Football League - plus a few special shirts.

The auction will take place at the Shepperton Moat House

Hotel, situated to the west of London near the M3 and M25, starting at 6.45 p.m. Viewing can take place during the afternoon.

An interesting catalogue with full details is obtainable from the Club Shop or by sending £2.25 to Paul Webdale, 14 Handsworth Gardens, Armthorpe, Doncaster, DN3 3SZ. Postal bids are acceptable using the form in the catalogue.

**TONIGHT'S MATCHBALL
 SPONSOR**

Tonight's matchball is being sponsored by:



They are also sponsoring the mascot for tonight's game. He or she was selected in a competition on BRMB on Saturday, and at tonight's game their Sports Editor, George Gavin will be presenting the ball to our mascot.

We thank BRMB for the support and hope that it is an enjoyable game for them to report tonight.

PROGRAMMES FOR SALE

Mr.P.Hillen, 25 Shrewsbury Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 6BH., has written to inform us that he has a large number of Birmingham City programmes for sale which include cup finals and European games. If anyone is interested please write to him at the above address and enclose a SAE for his list.

**RESERVE & YOUTH
 TEAM GAMES**

The following reserve and youth team games are scheduled for the months of March and April.

MIDLAND SENIOR LEAGUE
 Played here at St.Andrews.

Wednesday 22 March against Wolves.

Wednesday 29 March against Chesterfield.

Monday 3 April against Walsall.

Wednesday 26 April against Northampton.

All these are 1.00 p.m. kick offs.

PURITY YOUTH LEAGUE.
 Played at Elmdon kick off 10.45 a.m.

Saturday 1 April against Notts Forest.

Saturday 8 April against Stoke City.

Saturday 22 April against West Bromwich Albion.

**MIDLAND YOUTH
 FLOODLIGHT LEAGUE**
 Played at St.Andrews kick off 7.30 p.m.

Monday 20 March against Bilston Town.

Wednesday 12 April against Worcester City.

BLUES AWAY

LEICESTER CITY
 Saturday 25th March 1989.
 Kick Off 3pm.

Leicester City provide 1,200 unreserved seats in the East Stand priced at £5.50 each in their Block T. While these are ticketed they do not refer to a specific seat. A number of these are now available at our offices but they will also be available at Filbert Street on the day of the match.

The Standing

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accommodation is in enclosure SK1, which holds 2,700 and is priced at £4.50 each.

All signs outside the ground which are painted in red for visiting supporters, with the home supporters signs being in blue.

SUNDERLAND

1st April 1989 Kick Off 3pm.

Seat tickets for the Clockstand - Roker End (turnstiles 16 & 17) are on sale at the offices now but seat tickets are also available at Roker Park priced £6.00 on the day of the game at the turnstiles stated, not at the ticket office.

BY ROAD TO SUNDERLAND

Leave Birmingham by A38(M) (signs North, Lichfield). In 2.6 miles continue with signs Lichfield to join A38. Later follow signs Burton A38. Follow signs Derby A38. Junction for Derby - Forward (signs The North). In 0.8 miles at roundabout take 1st exit (signs Chesterfield A61). In 17.2 miles at roundabout take 2nd exit (signs The North) to join Motorway M1 to junction 32.

Follow signs The North. Doncaster to join M18 to junction 2. Follow signs The North to join A1(M). 7.9 miles further forward leaving Motorway to join A1. Follow signs A1. Scotch Corner - In 1.8 miles forward to join Motorway A1(M). In 24.6 miles leave Motorway (signs Sunderland) to join A690. Sunderland - Follow signs South Shields A1018. Cross River Wear then in 0.3 miles turn right into Roker Avenue A183. In 0.3 miles turn left into Gladstone Street. In 0.2 miles turn left then right and right again (one way) then keep forward into Roker Baths road. Sunderland F.C. on left. Total Mileage 200 miles.

BY ROAD TO LEICESTER CITY

Leave Birmingham by A38(M) (signs North, Lichfield). In 2.6 miles follow signs M6 South. London to join Motorway M6 to junction 2. Follow signs Leicester to join M69 to Motorway Terminal Roundabout. At Motorway Terminal Roundabout take 2nd exit A46. In 0.6 miles at roundabout take 2nd exit. In 2.3 miles turn right into Upperton Road. Shortly cross canal bridge and turn right into Easter Boulevard. At end turn left into Filbert Street, Leicester City F.C. on right. Total Mileage 43.1 miles.



Our mascot for the game with Oxford United, Steve Adams at the centre-circle line-up before the game.



BIRMINGHAM CITY

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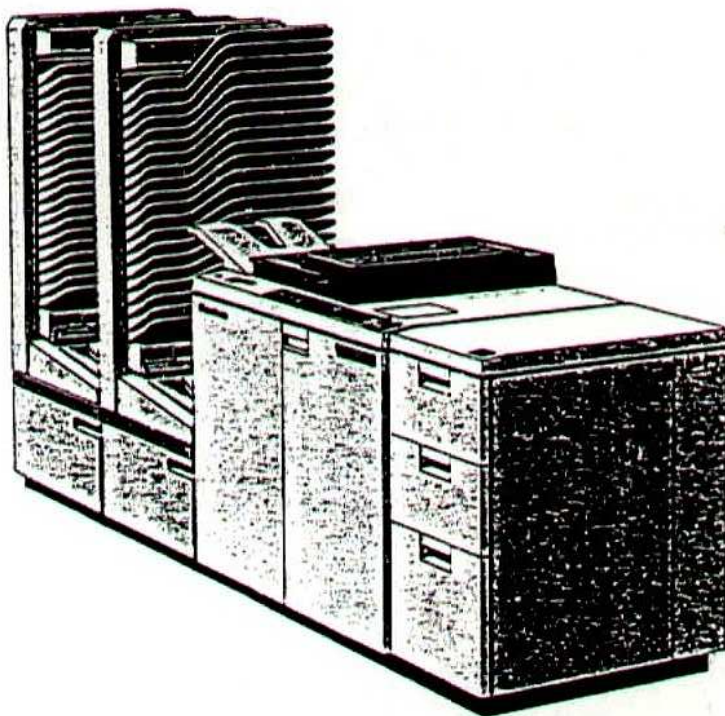
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BLUES M·E·M·O·R·I·E·S

THE 1955/56 FA CUP FINAL TEAM

We made the claim a few weeks ago that the Blues team, which topped the League South in 1945/46, the last season before 'normal' football was resumed after the war, was arguably one of the best ever to wear our colours. Certainly the only one since then that has rivalled it was the 1955/56 FA Cup final team that also lifted us to sixth place in Division One.

In fact had we won at Wembley instead of succumbing 3-1 to Manchester City's deeplying centre forward tactics that team would certainly have been reckoned our greatest-ever for it had romped through the earlier rounds despite being drawn away every time. Incredibly we netted 18 goals up to and including the semi-final and only once were we fully extended, this being at The Hawthorns in the fifth round when after withstanding considerable pressure we got the only goal of the game fashioned by Eddie Brown and superbly executed by Peter Murhpy.

At Torquay we had scored seven, at Orient four and even at Highbury we had out-thought and outpaced the Gunners to win 3-1 while in the semi-final at Hillsborough we had made short work of Sunderland to the tune of 3-0.

Star of the side was Eddie Brown, a centre forward of pace and flair who scored six goals en route to the final, but the contribution of former Plymouth wingers Gordon Astall and Alex Govan was

also immense as was that of Peter Murphy, who also got our consolation goal at Wembley.

Then there was that grand little schemer Welsh international Noel Kinsey, who had come from Norwich and tough tackling Roy Warhurst in midfield together with skipper Len Boyd, another former Plymouth man. The thigh injury that Roy sustained before the semi-final also kept him out at Wembley and this to some extent upset our balance as Len Boyd swapped over the left and Johnny Newman, who was probably happier as a central defender took over on the right flank.

In the centre of the defence Trevor Smith was at his peak and on the flanks Jeff Hall had already won England caps

while Ken Green was still going strong at 32. He had been an England 'B' man a few years earlier while in goal Gil Merrick had won 23 England caps.

By the following season the team was past its peak. Len Boyd retired and several other players were nearing mid-thirties. Roy Warhurst moved after another season and three years later Jeff Hall died at the age of 29. Though we had some good up and coming defenders such as Johnny Schofield, Brian Farmer and Graham Sissons we didn't have many young forwards on the horizon -and we have not had a front line quite of the calibre of Astall, Kinsey, Brown, Murphy and Govan since. Come to think of it, not many other teams have either.



Back Row: Jeff Hall; Trevor Smith; Gil Merrick; John Newman; Ken Green; Noel Kinsey;
Front Row: Gordon Astall; Eddy Brown; Len Boyd; Peter Murphy; Alex Govan.

Player Facts



FRASER DIGBY - Goalkeeper.

Last season was somewhat disappointing for the former Manchester United goalkeeper, who joined the club in December 1986, for a fee of £32,500, after an initial period on loan at the County Ground.

A thumb injury sustained at Crystal Palace in late October, restricted Fraser's appearances to thirty-one league matches. It also cost him his England under-21 position, although he was included in several of the end of seasons squads named by England under-21 Manager, Dave Sexton. League appearances with Swindon Town are 109 and is an ever-present to date.

NICKY HAMMOND - Goalkeeper.

Signed on a free transfer from Arsenal in July 1987, a former Highbury apprentice he was forced into first team action last season, due to the injury that Fraser Digby sustained in October 1987. Previously Nick's league experience had been confined to his spell with Bristol Rovers, on loan. The former Arsenal keeper signed a new two year contract with Swindon in May 1988. League appearances are with Bristol Rovers (loan) 3 and Swindon Town 4.

MARK JONES - Midfield.

Mark missed the whole of last term due to injury. Signed from his home town club, Oxford United, for £25,000 in October 1986 after making 129 appearances for them. He has made 41 appearances for Swindon.



ROSS MACLAREN - Defender.

Ross joined Swindon Town on a conditional transfer fee, decided by a Football League tribunal at £150,000 in July 1988. Ross entered the Football League from Glasgow Rangers on a free transfer to Shrewsbury Town.

After five seasons with the Gay Meadow club, Ross joined Derby County in July 1985, after a Football League tribunal commission had set the fee at £67,000. In three seasons with the Baseball Ground, Ross helped the East Midland Club to win promotion from the Third Division, to the First Division. Ross was an ever-present during his first two seasons with Derby County. League appearances are with Shrewsbury Town 158 + (3) and with Derby County 113 + (9), and has made 29 appearance for Swindon so far this season.

OUR VISITORS

Tonight we welcome a Swindon side who lost only once (at Chelsea) during February and kicked off the month of March with a 2-1 win at Ipswich Town which has been followed up with a 1-0 win over Hull City at home last Saturday. This has carried them well up Division Two and could well equal their highest-ever Second Division position of fifth in 1969/70.

Founded in 1881 they were known at first as Swindon Spartans, then becoming Swindon Town in 1883 and joining the Southern League in 1894. They finished bottom of nine clubs in their first season there, but then after being runners-up in both 1909 and 1910 they topped the table in 1911. Meanwhile they also wrote their name clearly in FA Cup history by reaching the semi-final of 1910 and 1912 and taking Barnsley to a replay in the latter.

They were Southern League champions again in 1914 and together with other members of that league they became founder-members of the new Division Three in 1920. This became Division Three (South) a year later. They stayed in that Division throughout its existence until the reorganisation in 1958, highlights including runs to the FA Cup fifth round in 1948, when beaten at Southampton, and at Luton in 1952.

They qualified for the new Division Three in 1958 and stayed there until winning promotion for the first time ever in 1963. Then although relegated two years later they got together one of the finest Third Division sides ever with Peter Downsbrough in goal, John Trollope in defence and Mike Summerbee, Don Rogers and Ernie Hunt up front. Though these players moved on one by one Swindon still managed to reach the last eight of the FA Cup in 1966/67 and won promotion and the Football League Cup in the same season 1968/69.

They stayed up this time until 1974, but then came a sudden slide that landed them in Division Four in 1982. Then after four seasons they roared back to Division Three in 1986 and the momentum carried them straight up again in 1987 when after ending the season with an 11-game unbeaten run they battled through the playoffs to land in Division Two.

There, they were as high as fourth in October and though they did not quite sustain this they finished in a very creditable twelfth place and also reached the Simod Cup semi-final in which they went down 2-1 at Luton.

SWINDON TOWN

Looking for their first win at St.Andrews.

SWINDON TOWN THIS SEASON

With Lou Macari now in his fifth season at the helm they have won at Watford, Shrewsbury, Portsmouth and Ipswich and have drawn at Barnsley, Blackburn, Oxford, Leicester, Bradford City and Leeds while at home they have lost only to Ipswich in November and to Manchester City in December.

Steve White, a free transfer signing from Bristol Rovers in 1986, netted twice against us at the County Ground last October and two more in the recent win at Ipswich while record signing **Duncan Shearer**, who cost a quarter of a million from Huddersfield in June got two of the goals in the recent win over Sunderland. **Tom Jones** (from Aberdeen in September) may also be up front today while in midfield **Alan McLaughlin**, a one-time Manchester United junior, links up with long-serving **Charlie Henry** and ex-Newport man **Paul Bodin**.

In defence the men to look out for are **Colin Calderwood** (ex-Mansfield) and **Jon Gittens** (ex-Southampton) in the centre and **David Hockaday** (ex-Blackpool) and **Phil King** (ex-Torquay) on the flanks. In goal **Fraser Digby** came from Manchester United just over two years ago.

LOU MACARI, SWINDON'S MANAGER

Lou Macari is one of the comparatively few soccer men to achieve spectacular success both as a player and as a manager. In fact if ultimately he takes Swindon into Division One he may yet outdo as a manager his spectacular feats as a player.

Born in Edinburgh in 1949 he is the descendant of a family that hails from the same part of Italy that has produced at different times Sir Charles Forte, Gina Lollobrigida and former Italian Prime Minister, Signior Guilio Andreotti. He played for Kilmarnock Amateurs before joining Celtic in 1965 with Schoolboy and Youth international honours already behind him. It took him some little time to earn a regular place in the Celtic team, but then in the course of three full seasons he gained three Scottish League medals, two Scottish Cup medals and six full and one under-23 Scottish cap.

Liverpool were keen to sign him, but Tommy Docherty pipped them by taking Lou to Old Trafford in January

PAUL BODIN - Midfield.

Paul signed from Newport County in March last year for a fee of £25,000 after having only been at Somerton Park for four weeks having been signed from Bath City. A former Cardiff City player he made 68 appearances for them and six for Newport. To date he has only made a handful of Swindon appearances and this term he has only been named as substitute on the odd occasion.

BOBBY BARNES - Striker.

Signed from Aldershot for £50,000 in October 1987, Bobby a former West Ham United apprentice gave some dazzling displays and scored 11 goals last season making 26 appearances plus 2 as substitute. This term he has made 19 appearances and scored 3 goals, but these have been confined to the earlier part of the season. Bobby made 31 appearances for West Ham, 6 while on a loan spell with Scunthorpe and 52 for Aldershot.

TIM PARKIN - Defender.

During the close season, Tim signed a new two year contract with the club. The former Blackburn Rovers, Malmö and Bristol Rovers central defender was named 'Player of the Year' in May 1988 by the club supporters. The vastly experienced defender must rate as one of Lou Macari's best signings, when he secured the signature of the Penrith born player in July 1986.

The subsequent fee of £97,500 was settled by a league tribunal. The same tribunal had sat only minutes earlier deciding the fee that Torquay United had to pay for Phil King, who is now on the clubs staff. League appearances are with Blackburn Rovers 13, Bristol Rovers 205 + (3) and Swindon Town 93 + (7). Tim was a regular member of the side until mid-January, but since then has only made substitute appearances.



DUNCAN SHEARER - Midfield.

Duncan, joint top scorer with 11 goals after netting the winner against Hull City on Saturday, was the subject of a quarter of a million pound transfer deal in the close season. He was the target of Lou Macari when he was with Chelsea before he moved North to Huddersfield Town, so he was signed by Swindon's boss as a replacement for Jimmy Quinn, who moved to Leicester City at the same time. He made just two appearances for Chelsea and 80 plus (3) for Huddersfield Town and 23 so far for Swindon.

STEVE WHITE - Striker.

Steve the other member of Swindon's scoring machine as he also has 11 goals to his credit to date, was signed from Bristol Rovers on a free transfer in July 1986 and has now netted 46 goals for Swindon in 77 appearances (plus 18 as substitute), 31 of them this term. A former Charlton Athletic and Luton Town player he was once the subject of a six figure transfer fee between Bristol Rovers and Luton for his first spell with Rovers. His previous appearances have been Bristol Rovers 46 and 89, Luton Town 63, Charlton 29, Lincoln City while on loan 2.

PETER COYNE - Midfield.

A former Manchester United apprentice who was Lou Macari's first signing at Swindon in July 1984. A former England Schoolboy international he only made two first team appearances at Old Trafford before moving to Crewe Alexandra and made 113 league appearances for them. Peter was in fact signed from Hyde United for £50,000 and was a regular in the Swindon side that gained promotion from the Fourth to the Second Division in two seasons. Prior to this season he has made 50 appearances plus 11 as substitute, but this term he has only made the odd appearance in the substitute's shirt.



COLIN CALDERWOOD - Defender.

Colin, who joined Swindon Town from Mansfield Town in June 1985, for a Football League tribunal fee of £27,500, has been a stalwart at the heart of the Town's defence in the last three seasons. Colin had the honour of captaining the club through two successive seasons of promotion in the 1985/86 and 1986/87 campaigns.

After making 131 consecutive league appearances since his signing in July 1985, injury interrupted Colin's progress last season. Although the form of the Scottish born defender has often attracted the attention of several of the country's leading clubs, he remains at the County Ground. League appearances are with Mansfield Town 97 + (3) and Swindon Town 162 + (3). He has made 37 appearances this season to date.

JON GITTENS - Defender.

The former Southampton defender proved himself a firm favourite with the County Ground faithful, with some determined and enthusiastic performances last season. Jon, who moved to the County Ground for a £45,000 football league tribunal fee, in July 1987, he was playing non-league football for our local Midlands Combination club, Paget Rangers, before accepting a successful trial period at the Dell. It was a commanding central defensive performance against Ian Rush, for the 'Saints', versus Liverpool, that first brought him to the attention of Lou Macari. League appearances are with Southampton 14 and Swindon Town 53 + (2).

CHARLIE HENRY - Midfield.

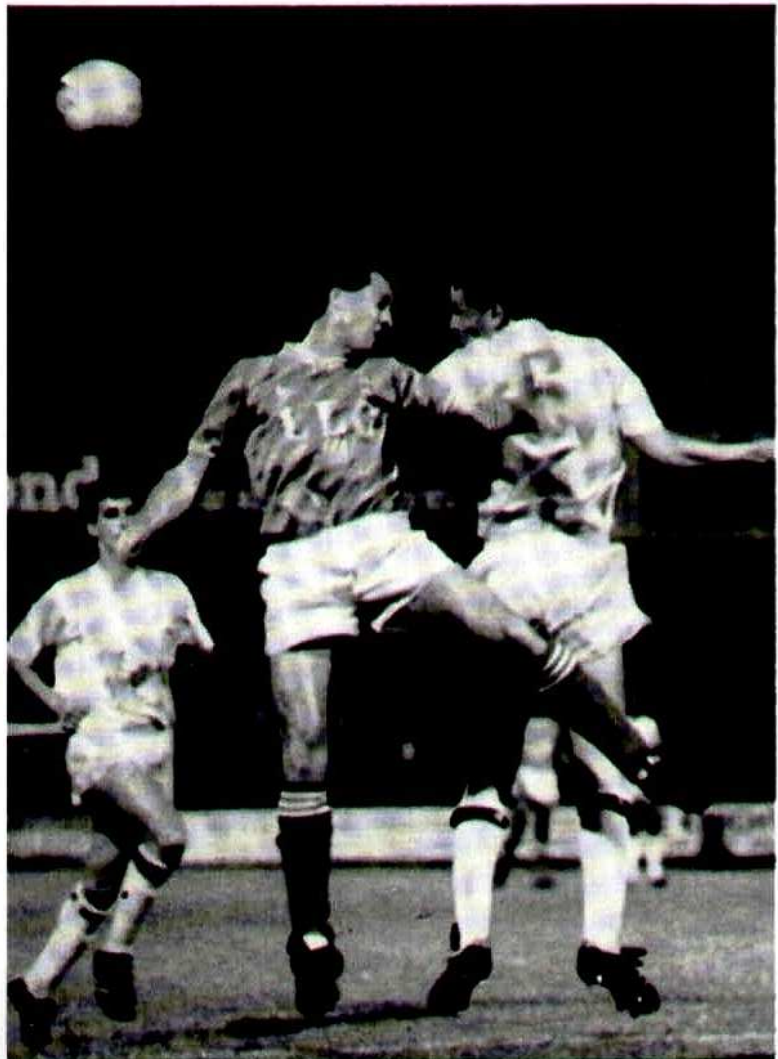
Charlie, who is due a testimonial match this season, after ten years service with Swindon Town, originally joined the club as an apprentice. A utility player, who can virtually play in any position, he was their leading goalscorer in the season that Swindon Town won the Fourth Division championship, with a record number of points - 102 in 1985/86. Charlie signed a new one year contract with them at the beginning of this season. League appearances are, prior to this season, with Swindon Town 187 + (14), Torquay United 6, and Northampton Town 4. This season he has made 15 full appearances and 10 as substitute.

OUR VISITORS

1973. In a spectacular career there he won a further 18 Scotland caps, an FA Cup winners medal in 1977, runners-up prizes in 1976 and 1980 and was a key figure in United's bounce back from Division Two in 1975. He also appeared in the 1983 Milk Cup final in which United went down to Liverpool after extra time at Wembley.

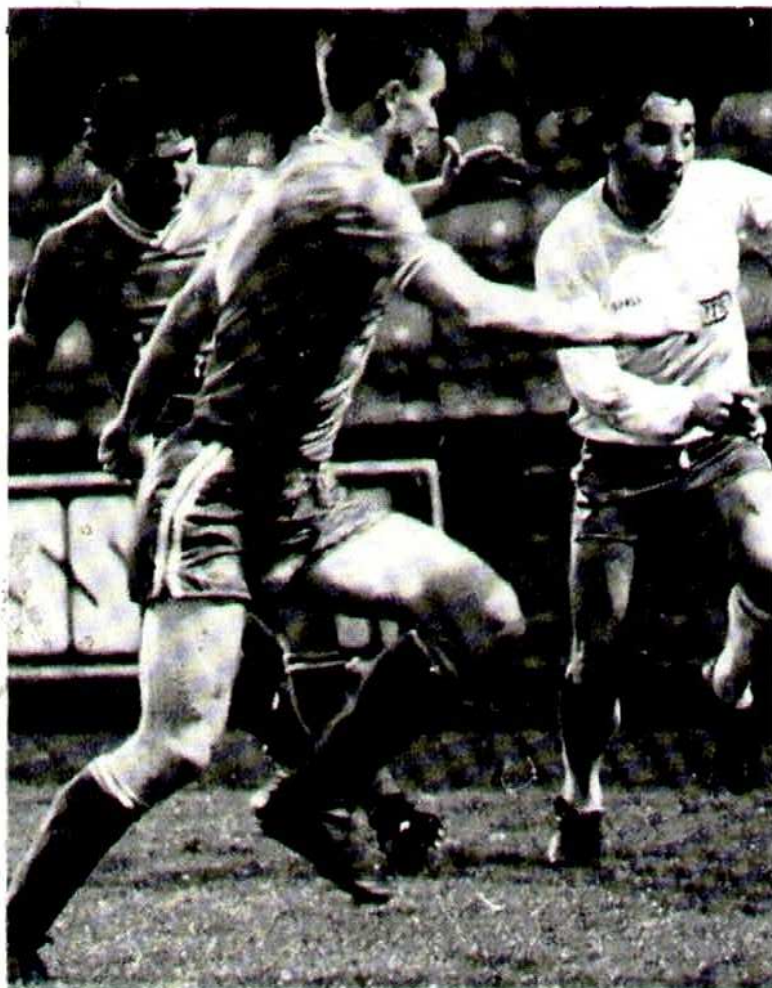
All in all he played in 392 League and cup games for United and scored over a hundred goals in eleven seasons. In July 1984 he moved to Swindon as manager with another former United man Harry Gregg as his assistant, but things did not work out and in the following April both were sacked with Lou re-instated on his own shortly afterwards.

Things then began to hum and a season later Swindon topped Division Four and a season after that they climbed into Division Two where they are currently in the top half of the table after finishing in 12th place last season. They also pulled off two cup-tie wins against First Division Norwich City last season to bring back memories of Lou's Old Trafford days.



Swindon's Steve White in action against Crystal Palace.

OUR VISITORS



Charlie Henry and Dave Hockaday in a ball chase with Shrewsbury's Mickey Thomas, who will be in the Shrews' team here on Easter Monday.

PREVIOUS RESULTS

BIRMINGHAM CITY

v

SWINDON TOWN

	Home	Away
DIVISION TWO		
1969/70	2-0	1-4
1970/71	2-1	2-1
1971/72	4-1	1-1
1987/88	1-1	2-0
1988/89		1-2

We have an excellent record against Swindon in league games with only two defeats in nine games and three wins and a draw in four games here. Our biggest win was in January 1972 when 27,824 fans saw Trevor Francis, Bob Latchford(2) and Bob Hatton on the mark for us in a 4-1 win, Arthur Horsfield pulling one back for the visitors.

DAVID GEDDIS - Striker.

Our former player was signed from Shrewsbury Town in October joining his former manager Chic Bates who is now assistant to Lou Macari. A former Ipswich Town apprentice he made 43 league appearances with them and another 13 on loan to Luton Town before moving to Aston Villa and making 47 with them. A move to Barnsley saw him make 45 appearances and then to us for 46 more and his appearances at Shrewsbury while numbering nearly 40 in the league was cut short last season with an injury which kept him out for most of the season. He has made 12 full appearances for Swindon to date and scored three goals.

TOM JONES - Midfield.

Signed from Aberdeen in September this season he has made the number four spot his own since and has made 31 appearances to date scoring two goals. He made 14 appearances for Aberdeen last season with 12 more in the substitute's shirt, scoring three goals.

PHIL KING - Defender.

Phil was the only player to appear in every league match last season and has missed only seven games this term. Phil began his career with Exeter City in May 1985, before joining Torquay United in July 1986, for a league tribunal settled transfer fee of £3,000. Although Phil originally joined Swindon Town on a months loan in February 1987, his transfer became permanent one month later for a £12,000 fee. Torquay United are entitled to one-third of any transfer fee, if Phil is transferred in the future. League appearances are with Exeter City 24 + (3), Torquay United 24 and Swindon Town 95 + (2).

DAVE HOCKADAY - Defender.

Dave signed a new two year contract with Swindon in the summer of 1988. The former Blackpool Player, who moved to the County Ground in August 1983 as a winger, enjoyed one of the best seasons of his career, last season. Since his conversion to a full-back position, his form has been enhanced. Dave has been a regular member of the Swindon Town team that has risen from the Fourth Division under the guidance of Lou Macari's management. League appearances are with Blackpool 131 + (16) and with Swindon Town 206 + (17), having missed only one game to date this season.



ALAN MCLOUGHLIN - Midfield.

A former Manchester United apprentice moved south to join Swindon Town on a free transfer in August 1986, and is another of the players on the Town's books who can be rightly described as a utility player. Alan, who has spent two loan spells with Torquay United but then signed a new two year contract with Swindon in May 1988. He was a member of the Manchester United Central League side while Lou Macari was at Old Trafford and indeed played alongside him on occasions. He has made 9 full appearances to date and has been named as substitute on 9 other occasions.

PLAYED FOR BOTH SIDES STAN HARLAND

Stan Harland is the man who won promotion and a League Cup winners medal with Swindon Town and an FA Cup semi-final place and promotion with us. Through a playing career of almost 20 years he was the perfect example of a stouthearted defender.

Born in Liverpool in 1940, he played for Liverpool Boys, joined Burnley as an amateur then New Brighton as a professional. He was an outside left or inside left in those days and it was as such that he spent nearly two years with Everton from 1959 to 1961.

He moved to Bradford City in the summer of 1961 and went straight into the first team in midfield. In three seasons at Valley Parade he missed only 18 games and scored a very useful 20 goals. He skippered the side in 1963/64 and then in the following summer moved to Carlisle where in his first season he was an ever-present in their side which topped Division Three.

In the summer of 1966 he moved to Swindon for £8,000 and it was certainly money well spent. In his first three seasons at the County Ground he did not miss a single game and in 1968/69 he captained them to that remarkable League Cup win and to promotion from Division Three. A season later he led them to victory in the Anglo-Italian Cup and by the time he lost his place to new player-manager Dave Mackay in the 1971/72 season he had played in well over 250 league and cup games. Though normally still wearing the number 6 shirt he had taken on a defensive role during his time with Swindon and had scored just six goals.

In December 1971 he came to us for £15,000 and made his debut in a goalless draw at Middlesbrough. Playing as a sweeper in a defence that included Tommy Carroll, Gary Pendrey and Roger Hynd he was only once on the losing side in league games for the rest of that season as we won promotion from Division Two. He also played a great part in our run to the semi-final of the FA Cup in which we went down to Leeds at Hillsborough.

In two seasons he played in 38 games for us and then moved to Yeovil where he was player manager from July 1975 onwards before becoming assistant manager of Portsmouth in 1978 at a time when Jimmy Dickenson was at the helm. He later went back to Yeovil and worked in their commercial department before leaving football to open a mini-supermarket in the town.

Splendidly built at 6ft and 12 stone 5 lbs Stan was a dedicated and wholehearted player, a great inspirer of the men around him and it was our misfortune that he was with us only near the end of his career.



BIRMINGHAM ACTION

Top left: Colin Robinson gets high against the Oxford defence and below: Colin tackles hard. Below: Des Bremner chases to the line early in the Oxford game.



BACK TRACK

30 Years Ago

We climbed to eighth position in Division One after a truly remarkable 7-1 win at Nottingham Forest's City ground on March 7th, 1959. Not only was this our ninth league win in succession but it revenged a 5-0 defeat there in the F.A. Cup a few weeks earlier.

Forest took a 23 minute lead through Roy Dwight but by half time we were 3-1 up with Robin Stubbs(2) and Gordon Astall on the mark. Then after the break we ran riot with Gordon Astall, Harry Hooper, Johnny Gordon and Johnny Watts adding further goals before Billy Gray completed a really unhappy day for Forest by missing a penalty.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Fraser; Whare; McDonald, Whitefoot; Watson; Morley; Dwight; Younger; Wilson; Gray; Im-lach

BIRMINGHAM: Merrick; Hall; Allen; Watts; Smith; Neal; Astall; Gordon; Stubbs; Larkin; Hooper.

Swindon, who were five places off the bottom of Division Three, went down 3-1 at Tranmere with Johnny Skuli, a former Wolves junior, getting their goal while on a day of high scores Spurs beat Leicester 6-0, Wolves beat Arsenal 6-1, Chelsea drew 3-3 with Luton and Manchester City won 4-3 at Portsmouth. Jimmy Greaves was leading scorer in Division One with 27 goals, Brian Clough led Division Two with 31, and Arthur Rowley had got 27 in Division Four.

20 Years Ago

We disappointed our fans when going down 1-0 here to fifth place Crystal Palace in a Second Division game on March 8th, 1969 to leave us in the lower half of the table. Steve Kember got the Palace goal.

BIRMINGHAM: Herriot; Martin; Green(Pendrey); Hockey; Robinson; Beard; Vowden; Greenoff; Pickering; Vincent; Summerill.

CRYSTAL PALACE: Jackson; Sewell; Loughlin; Hoy; McCormick; Blyth; Lazarus; Kember; Woodruff; Taylor(T); Taylor(C).

Attendance: 25,298.

Swindon who were top of Division Three and looking forward to their League Cup final with Arsenal at Wembley lost 2-1 at Stockport with Peter Noble getting their goal, those being the days of John Trollope in defence and Don Rogers up front.

On the same day Leicester won a delayed sixth round FA Cup-tie at Mansfield and Leeds strengthened their grip on the top of Division One with Billy Bremner and Mike O'Grady getting two goals each in their 5-1 win at Stoke.

10 Years Ago

We were held to a goalless draw here by Coventry on March 10th, 1979 and we were now three points behind Chelsea and six behind QPR at the bottom of Division One.

In an uncompromising game Alan Ainscow and Alan Buckley missed the only reasonable chances that came our way and in a game of uncompromising tackles tempers sometimes became ruffled. Kevin Dillon and Alberto Tarantini were rated our best players on the day.

BIRMINGHAM: Freeman; Page; Calderwood; Towers; Gallagher; Tarantini; Ainscow; Buckley; Givens; Dillon; Barrowclough.

COVENTRY: Sealey; Coop; McDonald; Yorath; Holton; Hagan; Green; Wallace; Thompson; Blair; Hutchinson.

Attendance: 17,311.

Swindon Town, who had beaten Lincoln 6-0 a week earlier stayed fifth in Division Three after a goalless draw with Carlisle, those being the days of Alan Mayer and Chic Bates up front and Jim Allan in goal.

In the sixth round FA Cup-ties Liverpool went through with a Kenny Dalglish goal at Ipswich while the other ties were drawn including the one between Wolves and Shrewsbury at Molineux.

Geoff Allman.



WITH OXFORD - but no goals.

Top right: Mark Yates's shot saved by Oxford's goalkeeper Peter Hucker. Below: Des Bremner shoots for goal with Simon Sturridge looking on. Below: Mark Yates looking for a high ball and, Insert: Mark again on the attack.



Month	Day	Home Team	Score	Attendance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14
AUGUST	27	Watford	0-1	12,656													
SEPTEMBER	30	Wolves L.C. Rd. 1 1L	2-3	11,007													
SEPTEMBER	3	LEICESTER CITY	0-0, 2-3	7,932													
SEPTEMBER	6	WOLVES L.C. Rd. 1 2L og 3-3oe	1-0	8,981													
SEPTEMBER	10	Oldham Athletic	0-4	5,796													
SEPTEMBER	17	SUNDERLAND	3-2	6,871													
SEPTEMBER	20	Walsall	0-5	8,780													
SEPTEMBER	24	Blackburn Rovers	0-3	7,562													
SEPTEMBER	27	ASTON VILLA L.C. Rd. 2 1stL	0-2	21,177													
OCTOBER	1	BARNESLEY	3-5	4,892													
OCTOBER	4	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	0-1	4,921													
OCTOBER	8	Bournemouth	1-0	6,186													
OCTOBER	12	Aston Villa	0-5	19,753													
OCTOBER	15	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	1-4	10,453													
OCTOBER	22	Manchester City	0-0	20,205													
OCTOBER	25	STOKE CITY	0-1	6,262													
OCTOBER	28	Swindon Town	1-2	6,937													
NOVEMBER	5	PORTSMOUTH	0-0	5,866													
NOVEMBER	8	Aston Villa, SC Rd 1	0-6	8,324													
NOVEMBER	12	Oxford United	0-3	5,589													
NOVEMBER	19	Hull City	1-1	5,134													
NOVEMBER	22	LEEDS UNITED	0-0	6,168													
NOVEMBER	26	IPSWICH TOWN	1-0	5,932													
DECEMBER	3	Bradford City	2-2	9,503													
DECEMBER	10	CRYSTAL PALACE	0-1	6,523													
DECEMBER	16	CHELSEA	1-4	7,897													
DECEMBER	26	Shrewsbury Town	0-0	7,347													
DECEMBER	31	Brighton	0-4	9,324													
JANUARY	2	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	0-0	5,998													
JANUARY	7	WIMBLEDON FAC Rd. 1	0-1	10,431													
JANUARY	14	Leeds United	0-1	21,838													
JANUARY	21	WATFORD	2-3	6,396													
FEBRUARY	4	Plymouth Argyle	1-0	7,721													
FEBRUARY	11	BOURNEMOUTH	0-1	6,444													
FEBRUARY	18	MANCHESTER CITY	0-2	11,707													
FEBRUARY	25	West Bromwich Albion	0-0	16,148													
FEBRUARY	28	Stoke City	0-1	7,904													
MARCH	4	OXFORD UNITED	0-0	4,954													
MARCH	11	Portsmouth	0-1	8,078													
MARCH	14	SWINDON TOWN															
MARCH	18	WALSALL															
APRIL	25	Leicester City															
APRIL	27	SHREWSBURY TOWN															
APRIL	1	Sunderland															
APRIL	5	Chelsea															
APRIL	8	BRIGHTON															
APRIL	15	Barnsley															
APRIL	22	BLACKBURN ROVERS															
APRIL	28	Ipswich Town															
MAY	1	BRADFORD CITY															
MAY	6	HULL CITY															
MAY	13	Crystal Palace															



Mitro
-official-
suppliers
of goals
in today's
game

PURITY YOUTH LEAGUE
As at March 11th 1989

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A
Leicester City	23	15	3	4	3	65
Coverly City	19	15	6	4	1	49
Derby County	23	13	7	3	63	35
Notts Forest	21	14	4	3	55	31
Notts County	24	10	6	6	52	29
Wolves	19	10	1	8	34	35
Aston Villa	21	9	2	10	36	34
Stoke City	22	8	4	10	29	37
Port Vale	20	6	2	12	37	28
Birmingham	19	5	4	10	23	32
Mansfield	20	5	3	12	24	40
Peterborough	23	4	6	13	34	61
WBA	21	4	5	12	31	54
Walsall	20	4	3	13	25	53
Shrewsbury	17	4	2	11	19	62

MIDLAND SENIOR LEAGUE
As at February 27th 1989

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A
Tranmere	16	11	4	1	43	14
Lincoln City	21	11	3	7	35	32
Wolves	18	11	1	6	49	22
Northampton	17	11	2	4	36	26
Shrewsbury	19	10	3	6	44	27
Birmingham	18	7	5	6	27	26
Walsall	15	8	0	7	27	22
Wrexham	16	7	3	6	26	27
Peterborough	18	5	4	9	26	31
Chester	16	4	3	9	26	36
Hartlepool	16	4	1	11	19	33
Scarborough	15	3	9	27	45	12
Chesterfield	15	3	2	10	20	34
Hullfax	17	3	2	12	14	45

BLUES History

SEASON BY SEASON 1897/98

In our second season back in Division Two we picked up one fewer point and slipped two places to sixth. This was a real disappointment after we had won five and drawn one of our first six games.

DIVISION TWO			
Sept	4	Burton Swifts	A 3-1
	11	Leicester Fosse	H 2-1
	18	Loughborough	A 2-0
	25	Burton Swifts	H 2-1
Oct	2	Darwen	A 1-1
	9	Gainsborough Trinity	H 4-3
	16	Blackpool	A 1-4
	23	Newton Heath	H 2-1
Nov	6	Loughborough	H 1-0
	13	Grimsby Town	A 1-3
	27	Newcastle	A 0-4
Dec	4	Walsall	H 6-0
	18	Walsall	A 2-1
	25	Darwen	H 5-1
	27	Manchester City	H 0-1
Jan	8	Burnley	H 2-2
	15	Lincoln City	A 2-1
	29	Blackpool	H 2-3
Feb	5	Burnley	A 1-4
	12	Luton Town	H 4-2
	19	Gainsborough Trinity	A 0-0
March	5	Arsenal	A 2-4
	12	Grimsby Town	H 0-2
	26	Leicester Fosse	A 0-2
April	2	Luton Town	A 2-1
	9	Newton Heath	A 1-3
	11	Manchester City	A 3-3
	12	Newcastle United	H 1-0
	16	Lincoln City	H 4-0
	23	Arsenal	H 2-1

FA CUP			
Oct	30	3rd Q Rd. Burslem Port Vale	A 1-2

APPEARANCES

Abbott W 30; Archer A 29; Clutterbuck HJ 27; Dunlop T 30; Gadsby W 1; Good M 8; Hare CB 23; Higgins J 6; Inglis JA 10; Kirton JW 18; Leake A 29; Lester F 9; Lewis WJ 20; Oakes TF 22; Pratt W 21; Robertson W 28; Wallace A 2; Walton WH 7; Webb I 23; Wharton SE 7.

GOALSCORERS

Abbott 20; Hare 6; Lewis 6; Oakes 5; Kirton 4; Robertson 3; Higgins 3; Walton 2; Inglis 2; Good 2; Leake 2; Wallace 1; Archer 1; own goal 1.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Burnley	30	20	8	2	80	24	48
Newcastle	30	21	3	6	64	32	45
Manchester City	30	15	9	6	66	36	39
Newton Heath	30	16	6	8	64	35	38
Woolwich A.	30	16	5	9	69	49	37
Small Heath*	30	16	4	10	58	50	36
Leicester Fosse	30	13	7	10	46	35	33
Luton	30	13	4	13	68	50	30
Gainsborough	30	12	6	12	50	54	30
Walsall	30	12	5	13	58	58	29
Blackpool	30	10	5	15	49	61	25
Grimsby	30	10	4	16	52	62	24
Burton Swifts	30	8	8	17	38	69	21
Lincoln	30	6	5	19	43	82	17
Darwen	30	6	2	22	31	76	14
Loughborough	30	6	2	22	24	87	14

*Birmingham City were then known as Small Heath

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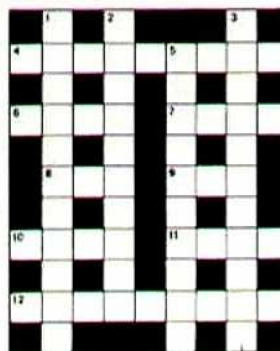
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*
TYRE SUPPLIERS TO THE BLUES
GOOD LUCK FOR THE SEASON
 *

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SPORTING CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- The maiden name of Kathy Cook, one of Britain's most popular runners (9).
- A rugby player may score with a ... kick (4).
- Golf club (4).
- The nickname of Peter Bonetti (3).
- Either half of the name of the gestulatory signalling system used by on-course bookies (3).
- The Wimbledon singles winner immediately prior to Borg's five-year run (4).
- Batsman whose 1988 score of 405 not out could well have been improved had it not been for a careless declaration (4).
- Conceded when unable to get free from a wrestling hold (9).

DOWN

- The name and - one famous instance apart - description of a celebrated yachting trophy (8,3).
- In motor-racing, deliberately stay just behind another car in order to minimise air-resistance (10).
- They compete in two-and three-wheeled configurations (5-6).
- Propulsions of an ice-hockey puck made with a flick and no backswing (5-5).

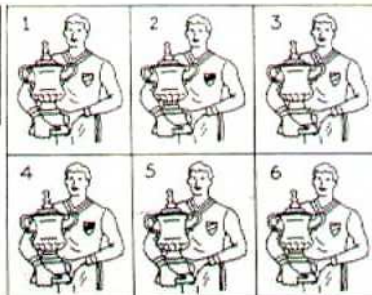
The Answers are on the Facts Page.



FITNESS TEST

Re-arrange all the letters of GAMESMANSHIP to create four, four-lettered words that fit down the edges of the diamond.

Junior spot no. 4



ONLY TWO OF THESE PICTURES ARE IDENTICAL. CAN YOU SPOT WHICH ONES THEY ARE?

SOCCER ROUND-UP

Looking at Current Results with Geoff Allman

For our fourth away game in succession neither side scored more than once on Saturday but unfortunately it was Pompey's Mark Chamberlain who got the winner with his first goal since November. In the course of their last seven games Pompey have twice won 1-0, have four times lost 0-1 and drawn the other game 1-1.

Tonight's visitors Swindon Town chalked up their fourth home win in a row with a Duncan Shearer match-winner against Hull City who had not lost on either of their two previous visits to the County Ground and this leaves the Robins in eighth place.

Apart from the two games mentioned there were only three other home wins in Division Two on Saturday, including that at Bournemouth, the surprise entrants to the promotion race with six wins and a draw in their last seven games. Luther Blissett was on the mark again in Saturday's 3-0 win over Bradford City who are now third from bottom after winning only once (against West Bromwich Albion) since early January.

Watford are proving to be somewhat of a bogey team to Chelsea who failed to beat them at Stamford Bridge on Saturday for the fifth successive season. Graham Roberts penalty took his goal tally to six in just over two months.

Blackburn Rovers also have something of a bogey team in Plymouth Argyle who beat them 2-1 on Saturday and so avoided defeat at Ewood Park for the third successive season. Rovers promotion hopes have not been helped by losing three of their last four games while Tommy Tynan's goal for Argyle was his 23rd of the season.

Currently going well are new leaders Manchester City who beat Leeds United 4-2 for the second season in succession. Oddly enough all four goals came in the second half with Trevor Morley getting a hat-trick.

It was all square at Shrewsbury in the relegation battle against Brighton with new signing Tony Kelly netting for the second time in successive home games. Meanwhile Oldham's 2-2 draw at Walsall was their fourth away draw in succession, the last three by a 2-2 margin.

Unbeaten in ten successive home games Stoke beat Sunderland 2-0 on Saturday with Peter Beagrie netting his tenth goal since early December.

Meanwhile in Division One Nottingham Forest's win at Highbury took their record to two wins and three draws in their last five visits. Wimbledon, however, lost at Norwich City for the first time in four visits and Manchester United's draw at Villa Park leaves them with a record of

two wins and two draws in their last five visits.

Shock result in Division Four last weekend was bottom place Colchester United's 2-1 over leaders Crewe Alexandra on Friday night in a determined attempt to hang on to their Football League place. Colchester have now won five and drawn three of their last eight League games. Peterborough United however seem to be slipping into danger, their 1-0 home defeat by Orient on Saturday being their sixth in their last eight games in front of their home fans.

Wolves defeat at Southend United on Friday evening was their first since losing by the same 3-1 scoreline at Northampton Town early in December and brought back memories of their 1-0 defeat there on their last visit in March 1987 which effectively robbed them of promotion from Division Four that season. Third Division promotion rivals Sheffield United have now taken over from Wolves as the highest goalscorers at home in the Football League, their tally is now 43 goals after their 5-1 win over Huddersfield Town, who oddly enough had not lost on any of their last four visits to Bramall Lane. Prolific Brian Deane's goal on Saturday was his 24th of the season.



SOCCER BOOKS

WINTER OF 47:

Paul Gilligan.
(Doncaster Rovers 1988. £2.00).

This is a fascinating "limited edition" little book published last year with just 500 copies printed in recognising the remarkable season that Doncaster Rovers enjoyed in 1946/47 when in Division Three(North) they won 33 and drew 6 of their 42 games.

In 68 pages not only is there a report of each game but references to the Nuremburg War trials that were going on at the same time, to other games taking place around the country and of course to the shockingly bad weather and the various attempts to get the pitch into playing condition.

Programme addicts will take pleasure in the reproduction of many of the front covers of that season's issue while individual pictures and incidents from games are also reproduced photographically.

Hero was Clarrie Jordan who netted 42 goals but one also warms to players like reserve goalkeeper Bill Lambton, who played just three games.

This is a fascinating little book of interest to fans in general whether interested in Doncaster Rovers or not. One wishes that every club had produced a similar celebration of their best-ever season.



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On match days there is often commentary, or if not full commentary, then there are regular up-to-the-minute reports so that you can keep in touch with the very latest news of how the team is doing.

The service runs all through the year - even during the summer months to bring you news of transfers and pre-season training.

The lines are updated here in the West Midlands, with former Beacon Radio Sports Editor, Pat Foley, heading the operation as Midland Sports Editor. There are also two full-time reporters, Geoff Owen in the West Midlands, and Chris Ashley in the East Midlands.

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We also run competitions, and as you can see from the



photograph on this page, young Peter won such a competition recently by answering questions on Birmingham City. His prize was an autographed ball and seen here, he is being presented with it by Simon Sturridge after being guest at the game with Oxford United.

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BLUES PROGRAMMES

Looking at Yesteryear

BIRMINGHAM CITY v SWINDON TOWN October 31st, 1970.

Today we look back to Swindon's second-ever visit here when we had just advanced our programme to the 24-page 'long and to fit in the pocket' size selling at one shilling (five pence). There is certainly no shortage of material including a detailed personal portrait of Malcolm Beard and a player spotlight on Stan Harland that was rather prophetic for just over a year later he moved to us.

The game itself ended in a 2-1 win for us, all the goals coming in the second half with Johnny Vincent and David Robinson netting for us and Peter Noble for Swindon and 18,502 were here to see it happen.

Geoff Alliman.

In close-up . . . Swindon Town

PETER DOWNSBOROUGH (goalkeeper): Born Halifax. Signed in August, 1965, from Halifax. Regular member of promotion winning side of 1966-69. Played in Football League Cup Final team of 1966-69. Height 5' 10". Weight 13st 2lbs.

ROY JONES (goalkeeper): Born Clacton-on-Sea. Signed in October 1967 after obtaining his release from the RAF. Height 5' 11". Weight 11st 12lbs.

OWEN DAWSON (right back): Born Hatfield. Signed from Portsmouth in June 1962. He was a regular first-team player until losing his place through injury. A former Youth International. Regular member of promotion winning side of 1966-69. Height 5' 9". Weight 11st 12lbs.

ROD THOMAS (full back): Born Glyncoerrwg. A former youth player, he was signed from Gloucester in July 1964. Has gained full and Under-23 caps for Wales. Regular member of promotion winning side of 1966-69. Played in Football League Cup Final team of 1966-69. Height 6' 0". Weight 12st 10lbs.

JOE BUTLER (full back): Born Newcastle. Joined Swindon from Newcastle in August, 1965. Regular member of promotion winning side of 1966-69. Played in Football League Cup Final team of 1966-69. Height 5' 7". Weight 11st.

JOHN TROLLOPE (left back): Born Swindon. A local player who joined the Swindon ground staff from school. He was selected for the first team at the beginning of the 1960-61 when he was just 16, and was ever present during that season. Regular member of promotion winning side of 1966-69. Played in Football League Cup Final team of 1966-69. Height 5' 10". Weight 11st 13lbs.

ROGER SMART (right half or inside forward): Born Swindon. Another local player who joined the club direct from Swindon schoolboys. He excels as a deep lying inside forward. Regular member of promotion winning side of 1966-69. Played in Football League Cup Final team of 1966-69. Height 5' 11". Weight 12st 11lb.

FRANK BURROWS (centre half): Born Larkhall, Scotland. Signed from Scunthorpe, for whom he played three seasons. Formerly with Raith Rovers. Regular member of promotion winning side of 1966-69. Played in Football League Cup Final team of 1966-69. Height 6' 1". Weight 12st 8lbs.

STAN HARLAND (left half): Born Liverpool. Was signed from Carlisle United in July 1966. Formerly with Everton and Bradford City. He has been a regular choice at left half since making his debut at the beginning of the 1966-67 season. Height 5' 0". Weight 12st 5lbs.

DON ROGERS (outside left): Born Paulton. Signed by Swindon when 15. Gained many England Youth Caps and played in the Under-23 team. Regular member of promotion winning side of 1966-69. Played in Football League Cup Final team of 1966-69. Height 5' 10". Weight 12st 10lbs.

PETER NOBLE (inside forward): Born Sunderland. Signed from Newcastle in January, 1966. Regular member of promotion winning side of 1966-69. Played in Football League Cup Final team of 1966-69. Height 5' 8". Weight 10st 10lbs.

JOHN SMITH (inside forward): Born London. Signed from Torquay in June, 1968, and previously played for Orient, West Ham, Tottenham and Coventry. Former England Under-23 International. Regular member of promotion winning side of 1966-69. Played in Football League Cup Final team of 1966-69. Height 5' 8". Weight 13st.

CHRIS JONES (centre forward): Born Altrincham. A hard working centre forward signed from Manchester City. Height 5' 11". Weight 11st 12lbs.

ARTHUR HORSFIELD (inside forward): Born Newcastle. Signed from Newcastle United 18 months ago. Previously played for Middlesbrough, whom he joined as a Youth International. Top goalscorer last season. Height 5' 11". Weight 12st 11lb.

STEPHEN PELOW (outside right): Born Liverpool. Played for Liverpool Schoolboys, and joined Liverpool from school. Made three first-team appearances last season for Liverpool and was a regular member of the team which won the Central League for two consecutive years. Height 5' 9". Weight 10st 12lbs.

TONY GOUGH (half back): Born Bath. Signed for Bristol Rovers from Bath City at age of 17 and subsequently returned to Bath. Signed from Bath City July, 1970, to return to League Football. Height 5' 5". Weight 10st 10lb.

DAVID DANGERFIELD (inside forward): Born Nailsworth, English Schoolboy International. Signed as a professional 1969. Debut last season. Height 5' 8". Weight 11st 2lb.

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT . . . STAN HARLAND

● Stan Harland made several abortive attempts to break into professional football before he eventually succeeded. Yet as a boy it seemed he would have little trouble making the grade.

● Born in Liverpool, he played for the Liverpool Schoolboys XI and attracted the attention of several big clubs. Burnley signed him as an amateur but he made little progress so they allowed him to go. It was with non-League New Brighton that he satisfied his desire to become a professional. But he didn't like the idea of settling down permanently to that standard of football.

● After several good games, he was recommended to Everton, who were impressed sufficiently to take him on their staff. But, again, he didn't quite make it. It was after signing for Bradford City, then in the Fourth Division, that he really began to find his feet. He went straight into the first-team, remaining for three seasons until moving to Carlisle.

● He was an ever present member of the Carlisle team which won the Third Division championship in 1964/65. Then, after one season in the Second Division, he took the step which led to the most successful phase of his career—he signed for Swindon.

● Stan didn't miss a match in his first three seasons, the last of which culminated in Swindon gaining promotion to the Second Division and getting to Wembley for the League Cup final. As skipper, Stan had the thrill of leading his team to success against Arsenal at Wembley. The match went to extra time and Swindon won 3-1—one of their stars in defence being Stan Harland, the player who never gave up.

STAN HARLAND'S LEAGUE CAREER:

	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	
Bradford City			Swindon		
1961/62	42	7	1966/67	46	0
1962/63	41	8	1967/68	46	5
1963/64	37	5	1968/69	46	1
Carlisle			1969/70	41	0
1964/65	46	3			
1965/66	31	4			376 33

LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Home	Gates	Best	wins
Hull	14	9	3	2	19	9	21	25,340	10,225	2-0	2-0
Luton	14	8	4	2	26	8	20	19,855	16,480	4-0	5-1
Leicester	14	8	4	2	24	11	20	17,578	14,254	4-0	3-0
Sheff Utd	14	6	6	2	25	15	18	29,983	21,000	3-1	5-1
Oxford	14	7	4	3	20	15	18	16,058	13,171	2-1	4-0
Cardiff	13	5	6	2	18	13	18	28,026	23,280	2-0	2-0
Carlisle	14	5	6	3	16	14	18	18,623	11,041	3-0	—
Norwich	14	5	5	4	13	12	18	16,840	13,451	2-0	2-0
QPR	14	6	2	6	20	22	14	19,273	15,800	5-1	3-1
Middlesbrough	14	6	2	6	21	21	14	21,104	17,262	6-2	4-3
Swindon	14	5	3	6	16	13	15	18,000	16,254	3-0	—
Sunderland	14	5	3	6	19	16	13	18,741	16,051	4-1	—
Bolton	15	5	3	7	19	24	15	13,130	9,890	4-0	2-0
Watford	14	4	5	5	16	22	15	17,028	14,283	2-1	3-2
Millwall	14	4	4	6	15	18	12	12,160	9,407	3-0	3-1
Sheff Wed	14	4	4	7	18	20	14	23,130	16,112	3-0	3-2
Orient	14	4	3	7	18	18	12	14,746	10,363	3-1	—
Poole	14	4	3	7	18	18	11	18,712	16,433	5-0	—
B'HAM CITY	14	4	3	7	13	18	11	29,796	25,048	2-1	3-0
Blackburn	14	2	6	6	11	19	10	10,421	7,801	2-1	—
Bristol City	14	3	4	7	16	28	10	24,220	16,200	4-3	—
Charlton	14	1	5	8	9	24	7	19,267	11,412	2-1	—

1	Mike KELLY
2	Ray MARTIN
3	Garry PENDREY
4	Geoff VOWDEN
5	Roger HYND
6	Malcolm BEARD
7	Dennis THWAITES
8	Alan CAMPBELL
9	Bob LATCHFORD
10	Johnny VINCENT
11	Phil SUMMERILL
12	

Roy JONES	1
Rod THOMAS	2
John TROLLOPE	3
Joe BUTLER	4
Frank BURROWS	5
Stan HARLAND	6
John SMITH	7
Roger SMART	8
Arthur HORSFIELD	9
Peter NOBLE	10
Don ROGERS	11
	12

Division Two

Maccdonald (Luton)	14	Venables (QPR)	8	Vowden (B'ham C)	8
Hickton (Middlesbrough)	13	Clark (Cardiff)	7	Atkinson, G (Oxford)	5
Horsfield (Swindon)	10	McIlmoye (Middlesbrough)	7	Dearden (Sheff Utd)	5
Poole (Millwall)	9	Summarill (B'ham C)	7	Hiron (Portsmouth)	5
Wigg (Watford)	9	Baker (Sunderland)	6	Lalor (B'ham C)	5
Chilton (Hull)	8	Bennet (Norwich)	6	Niah (Leicester)	5
Claven (Luton)	8	Bridges (Millwall)	6	Sharpe (Bristol City)	5
Hutton (Carlisle)	8	Brown (Leicester)	6	Silverster (Norwich)	5
Marsh (QPR)	8	Farrington (Leicester)	6	Skilton (Bristol City)	5
Partridge (Leicester)	8	Woodward (Sheff Utd)	6	Wagstaff (Hull)	5
Rogers (Swindon)	8				

In Touch In Touch In Touch

It has got to have been one of the worst nights of my life.

A couple of foaming brews in a quaint oldie-worldie alehouse at lunchtime and the prospect of seeing my heroes in action on the coast in the evening put me in the sweetest of afternoon moods. My colleagues eyed me puzzlingly as I scattered bonhomie around the office. Ah! If only I had remembered the saying of my dear old gran who would warn me as a boy that, for sure, if I was reckless at the top of the tree during the day, then sure enough I'd find myself at the bottom of it before the night was through.

Doom set in as I pointed my car onto the motorway and into a ferocious gale which shook the faithful old Granada as vigorously as the appendages on the buxomest belly dancer. Goodness knows how I got over the Thelwall Viaduct: it was like being caught in the crosswind of an Atkinson-Venables chin wag.

I won't identify my destination, save to say that there's a giant obelisk in the town and one or two running about on the pitch as well. Parking the car was easy - one of the more civilised arrangements at this particular venue. The hard part was fighting against the elements to get through the turnstile and then finding one's way through a dimmest of rear-stand gangways, seemingly lit by all the power which can be mustered from a 1.5 volt Ever Ready. The rain tore through an ill-patched roof. Quick, where's the tea bar?

That I found eventually, having negotiated the bogs (how apposite a descriptor on this particular occasion) which consisted of a solitary brick wall, open at either end, affording a generous view to all womankind of their menfolk playing waterfalls, fountains and babbling brooks. Yes, there was the tea room, though a door remarkably similar to one marked 'Directors Only'. I can only imagine that the scene behind each door was remarkably similar, viz. sodden and miserable folk, huddled together for warmth. The only difference would be that they would be hitting the tots of rum, whereas

we were stuck with plastic tea.

Eventually I found my seat in a hotchpotch of a ground which owed more to Uncle Cuthbert's allotment by the railway than a football stadium. The buildings would suit rather better the rearing of assorted poultry, swine and rabbits. So wasn't I glad to see so many familiar faces: it's good to be amongst friends when one is in a strange and hostile place.

With just ten minutes to go before the sides were due to take their bow, something possessed me to reach into my pockets. Wait a minute, there's something wrong here. I checked, double checked. The folk around me must have thought that I looked pretty darn odd - as peculiar as the stand (almost). A tubby, balding geezer delving deep into his pockets and running his fingers round the seams of a jacket whose pockets contain holes big enough for Vincent Jones's size niners to drop through. But no, they definitely weren't there: my credit cards were AWOL.

You must have had the feeling - the old stomach dropping as fast as Joan Collins' undergarments. £££ signs were rattling in front of my eyes as I pictured some prannock of a pickpocket treading the light fantastic on my payroll. Suddenly the old brain clarified and I was off to find the nearest bobby. Eventually I managed to convince him of my plight and that I would have to retrace my steps to the tearoom, now barricaded off by a contraption which might have been used at the Battle of Troy. The fat woman swilling out the char clearly thought I was queue jumping, and proceeded to ignore my animation until every last gut was satisfied. The cards weren't there anyway.

Next hope was an orange-jacketed steward, but I seemed to know more about this ragbag of a stadium than he did. The young constable nearby clearly didn't believe that anyone considering going to a football match would possess such things as credit cards. In blind panic I retraced my steps. There was nothing for it but to sit it out.

Hah! Some chance! By the time I had fumbled my way through the gloom to the allotted place, there in my seat was a huge gyrating beast, bedecked in my team's colours, generously roaring 'here we go, here we go' etc.

"Excuse me" I said, mustering all the civility at my disposal, "but this is my seat".

He looked at me disdainfully through bleary eyes and, breathing a pungent cocktail of brown ale and curry into my face, offered the following generous reply:

"You find me a seat, pal, and I'll go and sit in it".

There was the odd adjective thrown in for good measure.

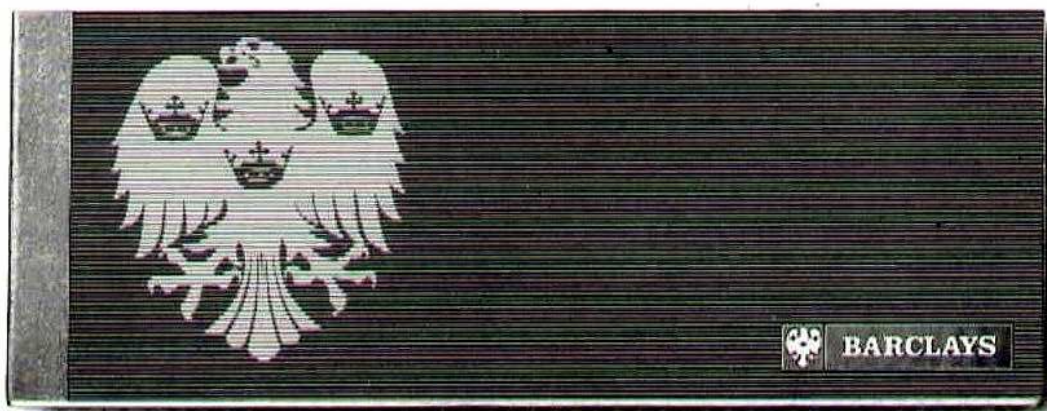
The policeman by the aforementioned barricade looked horrorstruck when I intimated that he might tap the offender on the shoulder and suggest that he might occupy the seat enumerated on his own scrap of paper. The gallant boy in blue, in fact, proffered the suggestion that I might consult a steward. The two young men proudly bearing their orange vests of office were even more gobsmacked by my complaint. Their jaws sagged more than an elephant's accoutrements. In a wavering voice one of them suggested that I "sit anywhere, everyone else is". Indeed they were - in the gangways, assorted steps and innumerable other locations wholly unsuited to civilised soccer watching. I joined them.

The game passed by in a flash - as indeed did the guy in my seat, several times, as he darted to splash his boots at the 'wetting wall' with alarming regularity. Home I darted in blind fury and panic. The lunchtime boozer was phoned - no, the cards weren't there. I called the card protection people and cancelled every last flexible friend. Generally relieved, and totally exhausted, the sack was hit.

By 7.00a.m. next morning a grey, gaunt and grimmacing Bamforth opened the office door. The cards were sitting on the desk.

Charlie Bamforth.

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The Last Word.....

Liverpool may well still have the strength in depth to win this season's First Division title while they must be favourites to win the FA Cup. It is therefore possible that they will achieve something that has eluded even them so far - the FA Cup and Football League double that only Spurs in 1961 and Arsenal in 1971 have won since the war.

If they do manage even one major honour this season the football world will take more notice than usual because their previous multitude of honours have almost all been won with calm efficiency and several times with the ultimate outcome settled weeks in advance of the end of the season. It is perhaps significant that the FA Cup, the one honour which always has to be won 'on the day' near the end of the season has come Liverpool's way only twice and on three other occasions they have lost in the final at Wembley when they have been favourites to win, most notably of course last season.

This season for once their calm efficient approach has been subject to a whole series of varied setbacks. Injury took their key defender out of the game for an indefinite period even before the season started and there is no sign of his return. A less serious injury put goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar out for several weeks and then midfielder Jan Molby landed in jail. To cap it all Ian Rush on his return from Italy failed for two months to deliver the good as far as goals were concerned and it seemed for a time that either he or John Aldridge would have done a much better job individually than the two of them together.

In due course Grobbelaar and Molby got back into the team and Rush and Aldridge ceased to get in each other's way and Aldridge in particular found his shooting boots again, but results have still not achieved the consistency that had so often in recent years made the League Championship a foregone conclusion. For much of the season Liverpool's away record has been better than their home record and even now Anfield is proving less of a frightening experience for visiting teams than it has traditionally been, for more teams have avoided defeat than have actually lost there.

Any thoughts of the SS Liverpool sailing in calmer waters, however, disappeared with

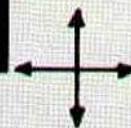
the startling Bob Paisley episode recently when their former player, manager and now highly respected director lashed out in the press against the way the club is currently being run. Even allowing for tabloid exaggeration this was startling stuff particularly as after the most sensational of the revelations he gave another interview to the same newspaper in which he discussed the strong possibility of his dismissal from the club that he has served for nearly half a century.

In the event he made his peace with the club and things have, on the surface at least, settled down again. Liverpool may again win something big or even a double something. But whether they do or not their season has been extremely interesting to fans in general, who now realise that they are subject to the same problems and runs of problems as ordinary clubs. It could well be that they are better at coping with them, but either way the outcome will be very interesting.

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MATCH FACTS

HALF TIME SCORES CHECK

- A Liverpool v Luton
- B Crystal Pal v Stoke
- C Hull City v Leeds
- D Ipswich v Bournemouth
- E Oldham v Portsmouth
- F Plymouth v Barnsley
- G Sunderland v Man City
- H Watford v Walsall
- I Bristol City v Mansfield
- J Bury v Sheff Utd
- K Cardiff v Blackpool
- L Chesterfield v Bolton
- M Fulham v Notts County
- N Hud'field v Bristol Rovers
- O Preston v Swansea
- P Wolves v Gillingham
- Q Crewe v Exeter
- R Halifax v Grimsby

BIRMINGHAM v SWINDON TOWN

Blue and White

Red and White

MARTIN THOMAS	1	FRASER DIGBY
KEVIN ASHLEY	2	DAVE HOCKADAY
JOHN FRAIN	3	PAUL BODIN
IAN ATKINS	4	TOM JONES
VINCE OVERSON	5	TIM PARKIN
BRIAN ROBERTS	6	COLIN CALDERWOOD
DES BREMNER	7	STEVE FOLEY
CARL RICHARDS	8	DUNCAN SHEARER
MARK YATES	9	ALAN McLOUGHLIN
COLIN ROBINSON	10	ROSS MACLAREN
STEVE WIGLEY	11	STEVE WHITE
	12	
	14	

OUR NEXT GAME AT ST. ANDREWS

Barclays League Division Two
WALSALL

Saturday 18th. March 1989 KO 3.00pm

MATCHBALL SPONSOR

Tonight's Matchball is being sponsored by



on 021 359 4481.

EXCLUSIVE In SATURDAY'S PROGRAMME



Chairman Ken Wheldon talks about Birmingham City.

REFEREE: T.SIMPSON

Tonight's referee, Trevor Simpson, from Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, who is a Building Society Agent, commenced refereeing in 1966 and progressed via the Northern Premier League to the Football League. Trevor, who is President of the Halifax and District Referee's Society was a former goalkeeper with Halifax Town.

LINESMEN

B.J.RUDKIN- Red Trim Flag
P.STOKES- Yellow Trim Flag
Reserve Linesman - C.Worrall.

BIRMINGHAM CITY VHS VIDEOS of ALL OUR MATCHES are available at £15.00 each

including VAT
No commentary

