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Swindon Town

Nationwide League Division One

Saturday 19th April 1997

K.O. 3.00pm

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In the Mood for a derby



Official Matchday Magazine

Volume 48 Number 28

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Off The Wall

With Ian Davies

OXFORD UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Manor Ground
Headington
Oxford OX3 7RS

Telephone: 01865 761503
Facsimile: 01865 741820
Clubline: 0891 440055

Members of:

Football Association
Nationwide Football League
Oxfordshire Football Association
Avon Insurance Combination
South East Counties League

Honours:

1962 Elected to Football League
1964-65 Division Four promotion
1967-68 Division Three Champions
1983-84 Division Three Champions
1984-85 Division Two Champions
1985-86 Milk Cup Winners
1995-96 Division Two Runners-up

President:

The Duke of Marlborough

Chairman:

Robin Herd CBE

Directors:

Geoff Coppock Keith Cox
Nick Harris Denis Smith

Team Manager:

Denis Smith

Assistant Manager:

Malcolm Crashy

General Manager:

Maurice Evans

Reserve Team Coach:

Mark Harrison

Youth Team Coach:

Mickey Lewis

Physiotherapist:

John Clinkard MCSP

Club Manager:

Ian Davies

Club Secretary:

Mick Brown

Commercial Manager:

Trevor Baxter

Youth Development:

Malcolm Elias

Football Community Officer:

Peter Rhoades-Brown

Soccer Course Directors

Mark Jones Les Taylor

Stadium Manager:

Mick Moore

Ticket Office Supervisor:

Darren Bowler

Safety Officer:

Tony Ashley

Club Doctor:

Dr G E Sacks MRCP

Chaplain:

The Rev M Chantry

INTERNET PAGE:

URL <http://www.netlink.co.uk/users/oufc1/>

The views expressed by individual contributors in this programme are not necessarily the views of Oxford United but of the writer concerned.

Welcome to the Manor for this afternoon's eagerly awaited encounter with Swindon. A special welcome to all from Swindon who have made the long journey up the A420.

Up until now, our 'triangular tournament' with Swindon and Reading has gone very much with the home sides. Needless to say this is a trend we hope is continued today. Over the years our home results against Swindon have not been the best, to put it mildly.

One of the features of this season has been the number of easily accessible away fixtures. With the possible promotion of Luton, Watford and Brentford and relegation of Southampton and Coventry, it is almost like some kind of regionalisation is already taking place! Whatever happens next year, the Nationwide Football League Division One will be a fascinating mix of clubs, largely from the centre and South of the country.

Any games against Swindon conjure up many mixed memories for U's fans. Having worked in Swindon for eight years, and still having many friends there, the game has a particular significance for me. It is fair to say that I tended to make myself a bit 'scarce' after defeats at the County Ground. It was quite amazing how often I had to make an urgent visit to a supplier on a Monday morning. The Monday after our 5-3 win I was already off on holiday, typical!!

Matchday Magazine

Editor Ian Davies

Sub-Editor Ambrose Landon

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One of the most ironic things was that I was not allowed in my regular lunch time watering hole, the Gluepot, on Swindon/Oxford matchdays. The logic being that as I was a regular they knew I was an Oxford fan. Whilst it is clear that football has made great steps since the 70s and 80s there is still room for improvement in the environment in which these games can be played. How we can do this without killing the special 'derby' atmosphere that makes these games so special, is a difficult problem to resolve. A partisan but peaceful atmosphere is surely what all right minded supporters want.

Today is one of our biggest games of the season and we look forward to a good result. You can play your part by shouting us along to another three points.

Come on you yellows.

HELP STAMP OUT CRIME

If you have any information about any person involved in football hooliganism please call the National Criminal Intelligence Service Football Unit on freephone 0800 515495. Your call will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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WATCHING US WATCHING YOU

This ground is equipped with CCTV installed with the help of a grant from the Football Trust.

Hear **Denis Smith** speak on **0891 44 00 55**

OXFORD UNITED'S OFFICIAL CLUB NEWS & INFORMATION SERVICE

Good afternoon and welcome to the fixture that we all look for at the start of the season - the derby between Oxford and Swindon.

We are, obviously, looking for a similar result to last year's encounter here at the Manor when we won 3-0. By then, Swindon were well on their way to Division One, but we were enjoying a superb run that ultimately saw us promoted behind Town.

Today's game does not carry the same importance in terms of challenging for honours - but that does not make it any less important. We want to finish above Swindon and Reading for that matter, and I am sure Steve McMahon, his players and supporters, have the same aim.

Of the three promoted clubs we have probably had the best season, particularly with our pre-Christmas play-off challenge. Obviously, though we have struggled since then and are now below Swindon.

As for the third club, Bradford, they are fighting for their Division One survival. I am sure many people expected all three of us to go straight back down; but Swindon and us will still be here next season and are left to consolidate and build for that campaign.

So, this game is all about objectives and pride, and it goes without saying that both sets of players will really be up for it as you, the fans, will be.

However, I would ask you all to behave yourselves as you have done on recent meetings. We all want the unique atmosphere created by a derby match, but none of the nonsense that also sometimes accompanies them.

Finally, it is that time of the season that managers hate - having to decide which players will be kept on or offered new contracts. Sadly, we all have budgets to work to and I have had to release several youngsters, along with pros Todd Lumsden, Marcus Phillips and Marc McGregor. It is not a pleasant job to tell players that they are no longer required, especially when they have worked so hard.

We wish them all the best for the future; nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see them making the grade somewhere else. Take Howard Forinton, for example. He did not fit in here, but recently joined Birmingham City. Although he still has a great deal to do, I would be delighted to see him in the Blues' first team.

However, the players at this club are my only concern, especially those eleven who cross the white line today at five to three. I will settle for nothing less than 110% and three points today - then we will all enjoy a few drinks tonight.

Enjoy the game.

Denis Smith



"...So, this game is all about objectives and pride, and it goes without saying that both sets of players will really be up for it as you, the fans, will be..."

Denis

Denis Smith's kit is sponsored by **THE MOAT HOUSE** (01865) 489988

SMITH

Swindon Town



Back Row (L-R) Peter Thorne, Wayne Allison, Fraser Digby, Steve Mildenhall, Frank Talla, Shaun Taylor (now left), Kevin Watson, Kevin Horlock (now left) **Middle Row (L-R)** Jonathan Trigg (Physio), Lee Collins, Mark Robinson, Edwin Murray (now left), Steve Finney, Mark Seagraves, Mark Walters, Ty Gooden, Fredenc Darras, Dean Hooper (now left), Steve Cowe, Ross MacLaren (Reserve Team Coach) **Front Row (L-R)** Scott Leitch, Ian Culverhouse, Jason Drysdale, Andy Rowland (now left), Steve McMahon (Team Manager), Paul Allen (now left), Alex Smith, Wayne O'Sullivan

Steve McMahon (Player/Manager)

In his first full season as player/manager the former Liverpool favourite led Swindon Town to the Second Division Championship in style. Alas, injuries prevented him making as big a contribution as he would have liked on the pitch, but he did make 21 League appearances.

As a player he is a competitive dynamo who has won acclaim at the highest level of the game and collected almost all the honours available for both Club and country, yet he declares that winning the Second Division Championship was the highlight of his career. And what a career it has been. Liverpool born and bred he was a ballboy at Goodison Park and on the club's books as an

associated schoolboy. He made his League debut at Sunderland in August 1980 and scored eleven goals in 100 League games before a £300,000 transfer to Aston Villa in 1983. By then Steve was a seasoned England Under 21 International and went on to win a European Championship medal in 1984.

With Villa he emerged as a midfield general of the highest order but his career in the Midlands was short lived; Kenny Dalglish making him his first big buy with a £375,000 move to Anfield.

By the end of his first season with Liverpool Steve had League and FA Cup medals to add to his collection as the Reds clinched the 'double'. There were more to come as he shared in Liverpool's phenomenal success, while at International level he was in the 1990 World Cup squad and won 17 caps.

On Christmas Eve 1991, Manchester City paid £900,000 for his services and until his move to Swindon as player/manager in November 1994, he had continued to perform at the highest level.

Fraser Digby (Goalkeeper)

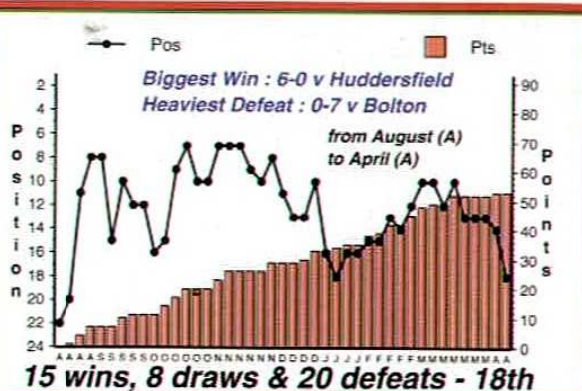
Tall, elegant stylist with a safe pair of hands, Fraser served his apprenticeship at Old Trafford but was not given a first team opportunity by Manchester United. He was loaned out to Oldham Athletic and Swindon for experience but again was not afforded first team exposure. In December 1986 Town paid £32,500 for his transfer and so impressive was he that he gained England Under 21 recognition to add to his England schoolboy and youth honours. A serious thumb injury cost him both his club and Under 21 place but he soon bounced back and has now made over 400 senior appearances for Town. In 1992/93 he did return to Manchester United on loan as cover but his only senior appearance at Old Trafford was for Town in the Premiership. He has played twice at Wembley in the play off-finals and this year celebrates a testimonial season.

Ian Culverhouse (Defender)

Ian is a cultured defender who was a polished fullback with Norwich City and excels in the role of sweeper. Ian is a product of the Tottenham



Steve McMahon



County Ground Gates

Club	Gates
Man City	14,374
Reading	10,874
Barnsley	10,830
QPR	10,811
Oxford	10,249
Norwich	9,256
Charlton	9,127
Grimsb'y	8,948
Bolton	8,909
West Brom	8,878
Stoke	8,811
Sheff Utd	8,706
Port Vale	8,685
Portsmouth	8,591
Ipswich	8,572
Wolves	8,430
Tranmere	8,025
Oldham	7,851
Bradford	7,724
Huddersfield	7,428
Birmingham	6,730
Southend	

Hotspring youth policy. He played only one senior game for Spurs before joining Norwich for £50,000 in 1985. Ian played some 369 games for the Canaries and was outstanding in their first European campaign. Norwich wanted £900,000 for his transfer at the end of December 1994 but a Football League tribunal set the fee at £250,000. He was included in the PFA Second Division representative team last season.

Frederic Darras (Defender)

Frederic signed a three year contract from French club Bastia. Frederic spent eleven years with French double winners Auxerre before moving to Bastia. He represented France at Under 18 and 21 level and has made no fewer than 19 European Cup appearances, including a quarter final tie against Fiorentina.

Jason Drysdale (Defender)

Jason joined Town from Newcastle United in 1995, for a fee of £340,000 but has been desperately unlucky with injuries that have limited his appearances for Town to just ten starts thus far. A former Watford trainee, he won a FA Youth Cup winners medal with the Hornets, and went on to make 160 senior appearances (scoring 13 goals), before a £425,000 move to St James' Park in August 1994. He found his opportunities limited and after less than seven months opted to try his luck with Swindon.

Mark Robinson (Defender)

Mark joined the apprentice ranks at West Bromwich Albion on leaving school in June 1985 and made his League debut against Sheffield Wednesday in 1986. He was not offered a professional contract by the Throstles, he was however recruited by Barnsley. Mark was given his chance with an extended first team run in 1989 and such was his form that Newcastle United swooped in with a cheque for £450,000 in March 1993. Mark lost his place through injury and found himself in the shadow of some great names, so gladly moved to Wiltshire for a then club record £600,000 in 1994, and made his Town debut versus Port Vale in 1994.

Mark Seagraves (Central Defender)

A former Liverpool apprentice and England Youth International, Mark was seen as the ideal partner for Shaun Taylor at the heart of the defence when Town paid Bolton Wanderers £100,000 for his registration in 1995. He made his Town debut at Hull on the opening day of the season and played in the first 17 games before injury curtailed his involvement to 25 starts for the season. Mark's League debut was for

Norwich City at Coventry in 1986 and he played three games while on loan from Liverpool before a £100,000 transfer to Manchester City in September 1987. Mark made 42 League appearances for City and joined Bolton Wanderers for another £100,000 in 1990, clocking up 180 senior games for the Trotters.

Phil King (Defender)

Phil is now in his second spell at the County Ground after signing a two year contract three days before transfer deadline day, following a free transfer from Aston Villa. This talented fullback first played for Swindon under Lou Macari between 1987 and 1987 before a £400,000 move to Ron Atkinson's Sheffield Wednesday. He picked up an England B cap along with a winner and loser's medal after two League Cup finals before being hit by injury. Phil joined Ron Atkinson again, this time at Aston Villa for £250,000 in 1994 and was rated as one of the top five defenders in the country before injury once again left him sidelined. The forgotten man now hopes to rebuild his career back at the County Ground.

Darren Bullock (Midfield)

This tough tackling central midfielder signed a three and a half year contract in February 1997 after a £400,000 move from Huddersfield. He scored twenty goals in 156 appearances for the Terriers and could be described as a late developer as he was only drafted into the full time professional game in November 1993 following a £55,000 move from Nuneaton Borough.

Ty Gooden (Midfield)

Ty was signed by John Gorman in 1993 after being released by Wycombe Wanderers following a successful trial period. He made over 30 appearances and received a Championship Medal last season.

Scott Leitch (Midfield)

This former Motherwell, Dunfermline and Heart of Midlothian £15,000 bargain buy was delighted when Steve McMahon offered him a permanent move after enjoying a successful loan period last season. Scott is determined to help Town continue their climb to the top.

Wayne Allison (Striker)

Wayne was top shot in his first season with Town, scoring twenty goals - sixteen of them in the Second Division Championship. A very popular figure who makes the most of his height and weight to unsettle defenders. A Yorkshireman, he served his apprenticeship with Halifax Town and

caught the attention of Watford who invested £250,000 in his transfer in July 1989. A year later he was on his way to Bristol City for £300,000 where he soon established himself as a local hero finishing top scorer for the third time in 1995 (13 League goals) but deciding to move at the end of his contract. A League Tribunal ruled Town had to pay £475,000 for his registration.

Steven Cowe (Striker)

Steven could prove to be Steve McMahon's most astute signing if he realises his potential. Steven hails from Gloucester but was with Aston Villa as an associated schoolboy graduating to professional status in the Summer of 1993. He is 5' 8" tall yet shields the ball well and has a natural instinct for being in the right place. Has two good feet and great awareness of players around him who he brings into play like a veteran. Steven was recruited on loan initially as cover following the injury to Finney, but impressed the management so much that a permanent move was quickly arranged. He made his League bow as a substitute in the 2-0 defeat of Peterborough (March 1996) and registered his first League goal in a 3-1 win at Chesterfield (April 1996).

Peter Thorne (Striker)

Snatched from the shadow of Alan Shearer in January 1995, Peter is a strong robust striker in the mould of the England hero.

He joined Blackburn Rovers as a trainee in 1989 and made his only first team appearance for them at Wembley in the Charity Shield match with Swindon, scoring four goals in his first two games and netting all five goals against TP Seinajoki of Finland in the Summer of 1995.

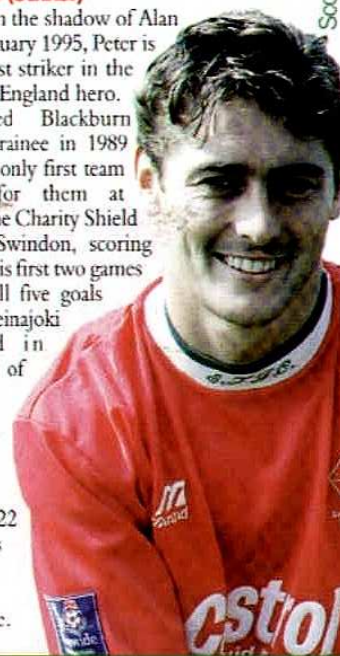
Despite a catalogue of injuries he contributed ten goals in 22 League starts to help win the Second Division title.



Peter Thorne

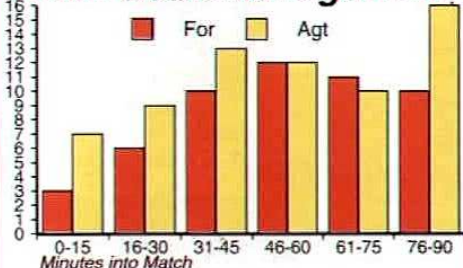


Gary Elkins

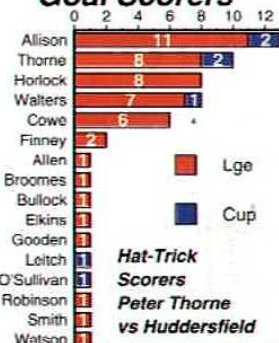


Scott Leitch

When Goals have gone in

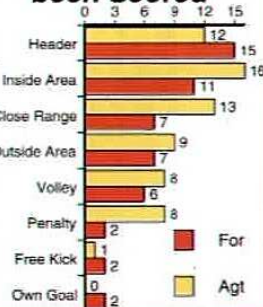


Goal Scorers

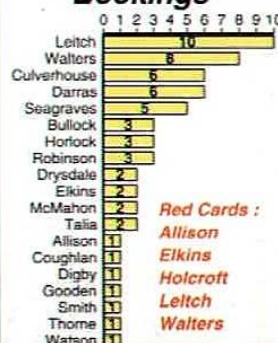


Hat-Trick Scorers
Peter Thorne
vs Huddersfield

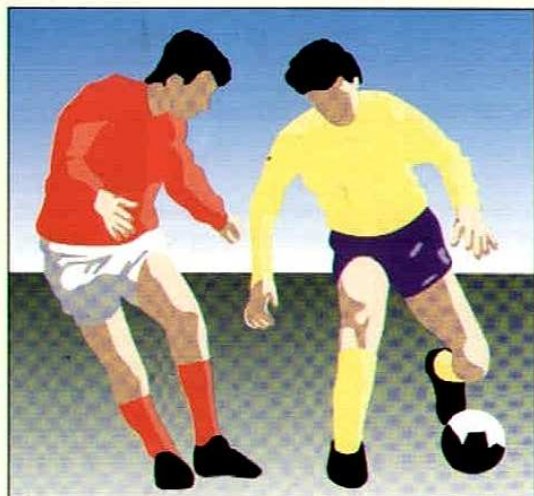
How Goals have been Scored



Bookings



Red Cards:
Allison
Elkins
Holcroft
Leitch
Walters



Getting the tackle in is essential

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THE HOWLAND REPORT

The ability of English clubs to reach the semi final stages of the European competitions has been amazing. It is no surprise to me that they have supplied five semi finalists since 1994, Arsenal (twice), Chelsea, Manchester United and Liverpool. The participation in the European Cup semi finals was phenomenal between 1964-65 and 1984-85 when English clubs reached that stage in 15 of the 20 seasons.

The most dominant spell for the three competitions was between 1964-65 and 1973-74 when the 27 semi final stages included a phenomenal 26 English participants plus Cardiff. My analysis excludes the 1985-90 years when no English club participated in any of the competitions and 1955-56 and 1990-91 when the European Cup did not include an English entrant.

The number of times an English Club has reached the semi final stage of a European competition is well over half of the number of times the competitions have included an English club

The European Cup has featured an English club semi finalists on nineteen occasions, the Cup Winners Cup nineteen and the UEFA and Fairs Cup twenty, thus making a total of 58 appearances by English club sides. English clubs have appeared in less than twice this number of competitions, that is 101, European Cup (35), Cup Winners Cup (32) and UEFA and Fairs Cup (34). This is surely a phenomenal success rate for reaching the semi finals.

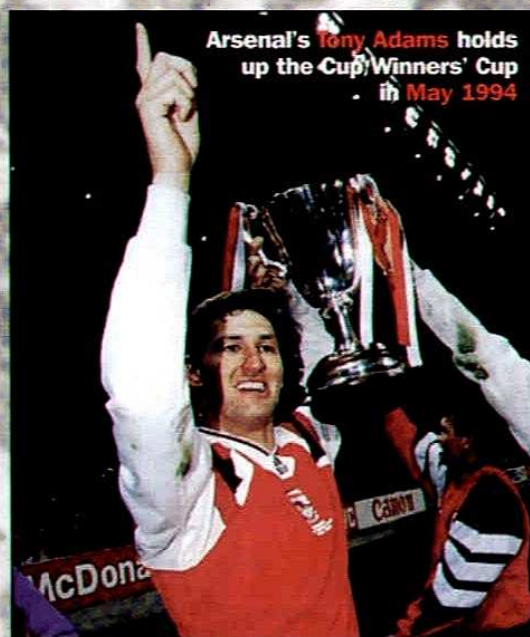
English clubs have triumphed in their last nine European Cup semi final appearances

This amazing sequence goes back to Leeds who beat Barcelona in 1975 and includes two Forest triumphs as well as Villa's victory (1981) and five Liverpool triumphs in nine seasons. Of English clubs, Manchester United have lost the most semi finals (four). England's other semi final losers are Spurs (to Benfica in 1962), Leeds (to Celtic, 1970) and Derby (to Juventus, 1973).

Only once has an English club lost the first leg but then reached the Final of the European Cup

This was when Liverpool lost 2-1

Our Club historians, Andy and Roger Howland, are producing an updated history later in the year (subscription details below). Here, Andy looks at the phenomenal ability of English clubs to reach European Semi Finals.



Arsenal's Tony Adams holds up the Cup Winners' Cup in May 1994

away to Moenchengladback in 1978 and went through by way of a 4-2 aggregate scoreline. Clubs winning the first leg at home but then going out were Manchester United (1958) and Liverpool (1965).

English clubs have triumphed in four of their past five Cup Winners Cup semi final appearances

These were Arsenal (1995 and 1994), Manchester United (1991) and Everton (1985), the only losers being Chelsea in 1995. West Ham and Arsenal have each appeared in an English record three Cup Winners Cup semi final appearances.

Spurs and Leeds have made the most UEFA and Fairs Cup semi final appearances

The highest number for English clubs is four by Spurs and Leeds, followed by three for each of Liverpool and Birmingham City.

Liverpool's eleven European semi finals is the most for an English club

Liverpool's eleven (two defeats, to Leeds and Inter Milan) is followed by Manchester United's nine (two victories over Real Madrid and Legia Warsaw). Leeds appeared in seven European semi finals in their superb era of ten seasons (1965-75) and Spurs have also played in eleven (four victories).

The golden era of 1964-73

It is of course very hard (and futile) to compare teams from different eras, but it annoys me to hear people knocking the Ramsey years. Not only did England win the World Cup and play consistently well over a nine year period, but our club sides were very successful supplying fourteen finalists in just nine seasons.

English football has supplied some great sides since then for example seven European Cup winning teams but it has not matched the strength in depth. Eight different English clubs won European trophies between 1965 and 1973 whereas no English club has reached the UEFA Cup Final in the last eight seasons of participation.

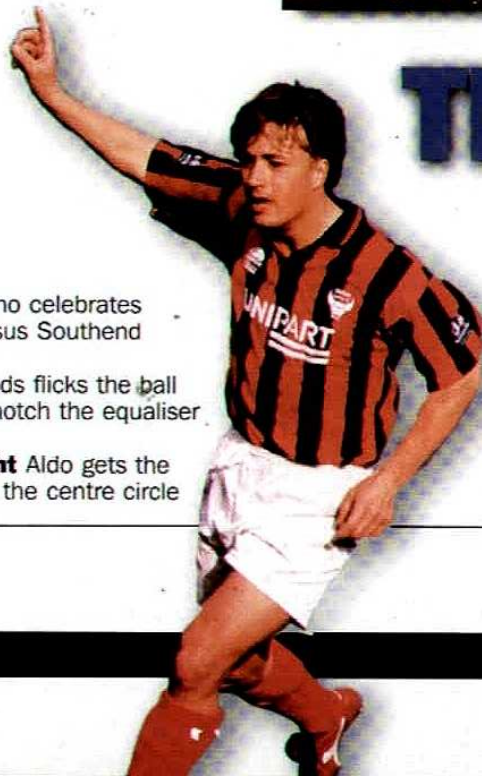
I hope that eight different English clubs can win European competitions over the next nine seasons but expect that it will be much fewer than that.

Our New Club History

Subscribe to our new Club history

Our new Club history will be available later in the year. Subscribers can obtain it from me at the reduced price of £9.50 and get a chosen name included in the book (it will later retail at £9.99).

The book will contain over 200 pages and will heavily feature the 1962-97 period, with particular attention being given to the 1989/97 years. Cheques or postal orders payable to Andy Howland (for £9.50) should be sent to 10 Redshots Close, Marlow, Bucks SL7 3LW. Please include (if possible) a telephone number.



Right Jemmo celebrates our first versus Southend

Above Moods flicks the ball for Aldo to notch the equaliser

Above Right Aldo gets the ball back to the centre circle

TRAVELLING WITH U'S

Oxford go down at Brammall Lane but pick up a last gasp point down at Roots hall



Martin Aldridge pressures the Sheffield United defence



Chris Whyte fires in a shot

by Jon Harwood **Manor** Spotlight

Ian Davies, lifelong Oxford fan and London Road stalwart, arrived behind the scenes at the Manor two years ago and, since then, has become a vital part of the administrative set-up.

His task when he arrived was to improve the commercial activities of the Club and share the burden of the off-field affairs with Mick Brown.

Ian came to United after working as a buyer for business, most recently with British Telecom, although he still found time to contribute to the Oxford fanzine, Raging Bull. He thinks that the skills he picked up outside the world of football have been of some benefit to the Club. He says 'buying has given me a fairly general business discipline and it's one that I have been asked to use here.'

Since his arrival there have certainly been a few changes in the set-up of the Club. One of the most obvious is the re-opening and revamping of the Club Shop. 'It's been going really well and it has become quite an important profit centre,' he says.

With Trevor Baxter (a fellow fan and colleague from BT) and his team now in the Shop, Ian has been able to devote more of his time to other issues. The programme has been an area which has received the Davies treatment.

With the arrival of Ambrose Landon, Ian has set about upgrading and updating the matchday magazine and is now pleased with the results, although he remains modest. 'I think it's alright,' he says, 'it's not the best in the Division but we don't have the resources to do the kind of things that people like Manchester City can.'

'We have only had one manager doing the notes this season,' he quips.

'I think it looks good and it's quite a decent read, and by and large it is quite interesting.'

Elsewhere Ian says 'I've got a few different roles and my position is largely what I make of it. I help sort out the admin and make sure the Club functions well and has the capacity to make money.'

As one of the leading lights with Raging Bull, Ian was not averse to criticis-

ing the Club and had more than a couple of run-ins with Robert Maxwell; but he doesn't see himself as a poacher turned gamekeeper. More, he says, he is part of a new regime that he has tried to involve people who support the Club with its day to day running.

'I don't think my views on how a Club

working here but also to work hard.' Ian's work hard, play hard, attitude has also made a difference and his social activities are well documented around the Manor.

Although the move to the new stadium has not gone as smoothly as anyone would have hoped Ian still sees it as a crucial development for Oxford. Indeed, he

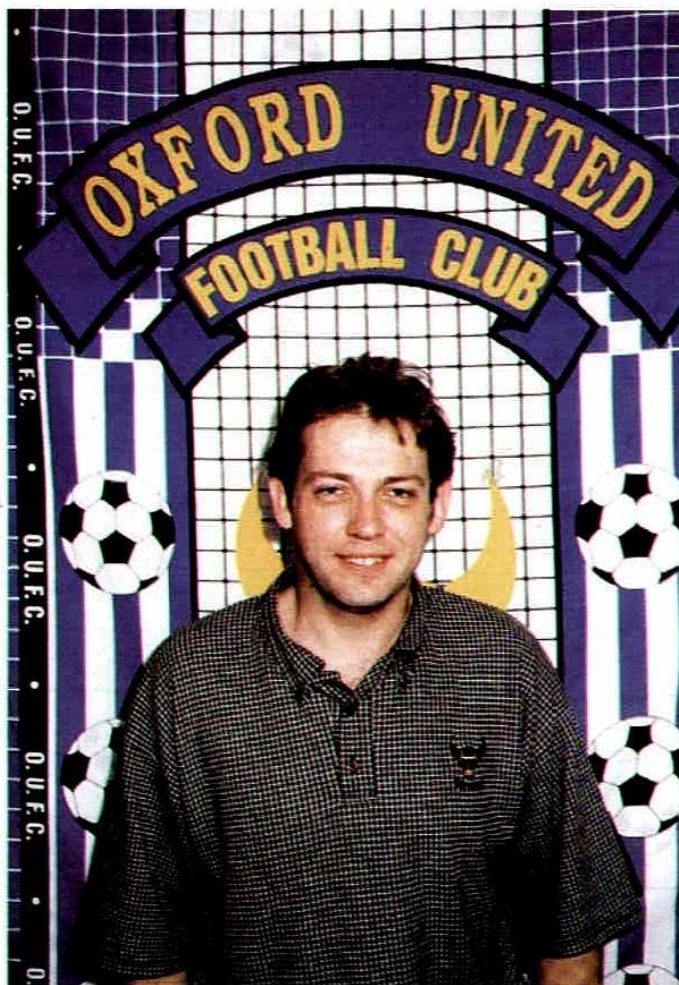
goes as far as to say 'without the new stadium the Club just wouldn't exist. With the best will in the world there is no way you can run a Club at the Manor nowadays.'

Despite the fact that he is one of the most influential people off the field at United, Ian is still an avid fan and travels to most away games and still watches from the London Road end. Although sometimes his job forces him into unusual situations, as those of you who heard his 'live' commentary on the Sheffield United game on Clubline will be able to testify.

'You don't get divorced from it because you're involved, you just get more tied in,' he says. 'In some ways I'm more of an avid fan because you realise the importance of each game. I find cup games very hard to watch because you can't help but think in terms of who we are going to get in the next round and how much it will be worth. It's pretty horrendous really.'

Last season's promotion push was a case in point. 'The sort of nerves I was getting was ridiculous.' In fact, he sees the success of last season in the greatest he has witnessed. 'Other successes were great but in some ways they did not come as a surprise. To go up when you're below halfway at Christmas is just absolutely incredible. I can't really think of anything like it!'

Finally, there is the question of his title which may seem a bit grandiose. Ian explains 'it should really be general manager but that's Maurice Evans' title. Club Manager is okay. People don't think I'm Denis and nobody has rung me up and tried to sell me any players yet.'



"...In some ways I'm more of an avid fan because you realise the importance of each game. I find cup games very hard to watch because you can't help but think in terms of who we are going to get in the next round and how much it will be worth. It's pretty horrendous really..."

should be run have changed,' he says, 'we are getting there, but it is going to take us a few years to get it sorted out.'

'We are trying to be more business-like but also we want United to be a nice place to work, and we want people to enjoy

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OXFORD UNITED'S OFFICIAL CLUB NEWS & INFORMATION SERVICE



■ **Craig Townsend**, our lucky mascot versus West Brom, with **Chris Whyte**



The Club is very fortunate in having supporters with a balanced approach to the Club and its relocation plans. The importance of establishing the Club on a sound financial basis and housed in a new purpose-built stadium is clear to us all.

We are currently involved in discussions to make this plan a reality. The sensitive nature of these negotiations and the importance of commercial confidence does not allow us to conduct these talks in public. The campaign for 'honesty' in the local press ignores these factors and has hindered, not helped the progress of the talks so far.

Please be patient and rest assured that as soon as the Club's Directors are in a position to release information we will do so. When we are in that position a supporters meeting will be held to discuss the whole range of new opportunities presented to the Club.

We are convinced that the Club has a great future ahead of it and the steps we are taking will ensure that this is the case.

A few weeks ago Bolton Wanderers announced a delay in commencing use of their new stadium, coupled with silence as to the future. They then announced the reverse take-over of Mosaic, a leisure company.

Because they have sold their ground the delay, which applies even though there has been a take-over, may mean they will have to play their first five games away from home.

Did the Bolton media scream 'come clean'? It did not, neither was it unduly critical since everyone knows the importance to Bolton of the relocation.

The Oxford Mail invites supporters' views. We welcome those views and use our programme to convey information to supporters. It will be our intention to hold an open meeting but we cannot accept that negotiating in the way we are can properly be described as 'leading our supporters a merry dance'.

Keith Cox

Oxfordshire Senior Cup

Carterton v Oxford City
 Tuesday 6th May Kick off 7.30 pm

Admission: £2.00 adults,
 £1.00 concessions

Under 16 Final

The National Counties Under 16 Final is being held at the Manor Ground on Monday 21st April, kick off 7.00 pm:

Oxfordshire v Northumberland

Admission: £3.00 adults, accompanied with up to 3 children free. Unaccompanied children £1.00

Programme: 50p. Ground entry through the Beech or London Road turnstiles.

Thanks Roger

We would like to say goodbye and a big thank you to Roger Hiscock, who has been a long serving member of Ken Nash's programme sellers, starting out as a 16 year old.

Thanks for your long and dedicated service.

Below: Graham Bristow and party, better known as the 'Marston originals', receive the matchball from **Phil Whitehead** after the Port Vale game.

Traditional London Roaders the 'Marston Originals' swapped their places on the terraces for a seat and access to a bar for the Port Vale game. Despite the result everyone had a good time



Around *the* Manor

All the latest Gossip and News

Home or Away. You're never far from a

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Club Captain Mike Ford tells us how it is...

It has been a long time in coming, a long time since we lost 1-0 at the County Ground at the start of the season, and an even longer period since we won 3-0 here at the Manor towards the back end of last season.

Yes, we're at home to Swindon - a chance of revenge for our defeat at their hands earlier in the season, and a chance to finish the season off on the right note.

A local derby is a local derby whether it be Celtic/Rangers or Oxford/Swindon. The passion, commitment and will to win is just as much evident in both cases. We the players know how important it is to you, the supporters, we know how much you want to win the game and how much you want us to finish above Swindon this season. But I'm sure their players and supporters will be thinking exactly the same.

The game of football is all about eleven men against eleven men, showing skill, desire, passion and commitment. But at the end of ninety minutes three points are very, very important and the same applies today.

However, we play whatever we do the three points are vital not the be all and end

"...The game of football is all about eleven men against eleven men, showing skill, desire, passion and commitment. But at the end of ninety minutes three points are very, very important and the same applies today..."

all, but very, very important. So let's hope the game is played in the right spirit and, of course, we end up the victors, but I'm sure Swindon will have something to say on the matter.

In the cold light of day our defeat at Bolton looks like a good beating but, once again, the result could have been slightly more favourable to us. Their four goals were all high class finishes and we missed several good opportunities - that was the difference on the day. Bolton are a good side who have won this Division by a canter, good luck to them next season, it will be very interesting to see how they do.

Last Sunday was the annual PFA awards ceremony where we, the players, get to choose our Player of the Year, Young Player of the Year and our League side. In my case I voted for David Beckham in both the player categories. Unfortunately for him, a certain Alan Shearer pipped him to the post in the Player of the Year award, so had to be content with the Young Player's Award. He is a prodigious talent, anyone that can play football for his country and go out with a Spice Girl is way up in my estimation.

Back to today, let's all enjoy the game and attempt to finish on a little bit of a high. We've three games left and we are looking for nine points.

Enjoy the game.

Fordy

Here's wishing Oxford United
another great season



ROVER

CARS

Soccer Shorts

Compiled By Mike Evans

Football's a funny old game as someone once said, full of weird and wonderful stories as you'll find out...

SHIRTY

Martin Peters, winner with his colleagues of a World Cup winning medal in the 1966 World Cup won a League Cup winners' medal with Tottenham Hotspur along with several England caps. But along with his many England caps he could also claim several shirts. For England he played at 4, 8 10 and 11, all 10 outfield positions for West Ham as well as deputising in goal for the Hammers also.

WANDERLUST

Ron Lewin, a former parachute jump instructor landed on both feet when he launched into a career in soccer. As a player he saw action with Arsenal, Bradford City, Stockport, Fulham and Gillingham. Managing non-League side Cheltenham, Wellington and Walsall he also coached at Everton and Newcastle United before his wanderlust landed him further coaching experience in Iceland, Norway and Greece.

PET NAMES

Many people choose to name their children or pets after famous sportsmen/women, from film stars or even members of the Royal family. After England's success in the 1966 World Cup a fan named his son after every single player in the winning side. The Queen who presented the Jules Rimet Trophy to Bobby Moore decided three years later to name one of her racehorses after two members of the winning squad with the Charlton brothers name decided upon.

GROUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Notts County's Meadow Lane used to be a cattle market; whereas the Dell, home of Southampton is built upon the site of a Duck Pond; Halifax Town, Southend United and Hartlepool United all have grounds which were previously rubbish tips.

PRESTON ALL TIME SCORE

Preston North End hold the record for the highest score in an FA Cup match with their 26-0 trouncing of Hyde on

October 15. The Preston 'keeper was the only player not to get his name on the scoresheet that day.

LET US PLAY NEXT YEAR

Bradford City versus West Bromwich Albion fixture was postponed three times due to bad weather.

The original fixture was called off on November 20, 1920 due to fog and the rearranged fixture, two days later also found the Yorkshire club fog bound; a third fixture was rearranged for December 13 but a snowbound pitch caused a further delay with the match eventually being played on February 9, 1921.

WELL INTO THE 90S

The highest total of goals scored in one season by a single player in first class football was F. Roberts of Glentoran who scored 55 Irish League goals, four in the Irish Cup; 28 in the Belfast City Cup; seven in the County Antrim Shield and two in the Belfast Charity Cup, making a grand total of 96.

29 DURING '79

Inverness Thistle had their cup tie with Falkirk cancelled no fewer than 29 times in season 1978/79 due to adverse weather.

PRIDE OF LIVERPOOL

The city of Liverpool has never gone one season without one of its teams playing in the top level of the Football League

KNOCKED FOR SIX

During a match between Swindon Town and Southend Utd in the 3rd Division South in 1949, six goals were scored but disallowed for offside.

GAY TIME

Shrewsbury Town play their fixtures at Gay Meadow, previously a field used for fairs and shows. It is the only club to employ a ballboy in a boat. His job is to row the length of the stadium to recover all the balls kicked into the river.

DRAKE'S FINEST HOUR

When Arsenal thrashed Aston Villa 7-1 at Villa Park in December 1935 the Gunners were at the time riding high at the top of Division One, whilst the Villa were heading towards relegation. The most remarkable feature of this game however was that all seven Arsenal goals were scored by Ted Drake from a total of only eight shots, one wayward shot hitting the crossbar.

BRITISH FIRSTS

When England lost 6-3 to Hungary at Wembley in 1953 it was their first defeat at Wembley by a side from overseas; but England's first defeat from a side outside of Great Britain came in 1949 when they were beaten 2-0 by Eire at Goodison Park, whilst Scotland lost their first home match to a foreign side in 1950 losing 1-0 to Austria.

EARLY START

The 2nd FA Cup Final between The Wanderers and Oxford University was played in the morning to allow the players to watch the boat race in the afternoon. The final was played at Lillie Bridge Athletic and the boat race was won by Cambridge.

FA CUP OPEN TO ALL

As well as the Welsh clubs that compete regularly in the English FA Cup, there have been instances in the past where teams from both Ireland and Scotland have entered the competition. Cliftonville, Linfield Athletic and Belfast Distillery all entered the competition in the late 1880s. Cliftonville tasted an 11-1 roasting from Partick Thistle of the Scottish League. Scottish sides stopped competing after the 1886-87 season due to a Scottish League ruling. Queens Park have been the most successful of the sides finishing as runners-up in both 1884 and 1885.

CLEAR AS A BELL

Harold Bell of Tranmere Rovers made 401 consecutive League appearances for the club between 1946 and 1945. Cup.

For all the **Up To Date** and latest **Match Reports** call **0891 44 00 55**
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Calls charged at 50p per minute at all times.

Tickets & Travel

MEMBERS AND SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

With the end of the season approaching details for the 1997/98 season will be sent shortly. Could any season ticket holders or members who have moved since last Summer and not yet notified us, do so as soon as possible. Any non-members/season ticket holders wishing to receive details for next season should submit a request with a stamped addressed envelope and we will send out the details after they have been sent out to members and season ticket holders.

Away Matches

Birmingham City Nationwide Football League Division One

Saturday 26th April 1997
Kick off 3.00 pm

**This match has been moved
back to a Saturday fixture.**

Seating: We have been given the whole of the Railway End (capacity 3,500). Pay £13 cash at the turnstiles.

NO CONCESSIONS

Wheelchair Supporters: Need to con-

tact Eileen Holt at Birmingham on 0121 772 0101

Matchday Programme: £1.50

Car Parking: Very difficult. There might be limited parking at the ground for away fans, costing £3

How to get to St Andrews:

Exit M6 at junction 6 (Spaghetti Junction, s/p A38(M) Birmingham Ctn, A38 Birmingham NE). Where road divides, bear left (s/p A38(M) Birmingham Ctn) onto the Aston Expressway.

After 1.1 miles exit Expressway (s/p

Convention Centre, Nat Indoor Arena, Ring Road).

At roundabout turn left (s/p Ring Road East, Solihull A41, Coventry A45) onto the Dartmouth Middleway. After 0.5 miles, at Ashted roundabout, go straight on (s/p Ring Road, Solihull A41). Straight over next roundabout after 0.2 miles (s/p Middle Ring Road E, A4540, Coventry A45).

Under two railway bridges and at next roundabout (Garrison Circus) after 0.3 miles, start thinking about parking - it is left into Garrison Lane, straight on to the Bordesley Circus roundabout.

LONDON ROAD CLUB

Birmingham City Saturday 26th April

Fare: £8 adults, £7 juniors

Departs: Castle Street: 12.15 pm Manor Ground: 12.30 pm

Oxford United v Barnsley - ALL TICKET

Nationwide Football League Division One

Sunday 4th May 1997 Kick off 1.30pm Category 'A'

Tickets are on sale now and will be sold on a one-person basis to supporters able to prove themselves to be Oxford supporters.

While the Club does not wish to make it difficult to purchase tickets, we have to try to ensure that Barnsley fans do not obtain tickets for home areas at the ground. Barnsley sold their whole allocation within days of going on sale

Members and season ticket holders can now purchase guest tickets for the Barnsley match. However, they should note that they are responsible for the behaviour of the holders of the tickets purchased.

**The Club will NOT replace lost or stolen
Barnsley match tickets.**

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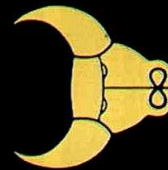
Future of U's



The boys show off their skills on the Manor



Centre of Excellence 1996/97



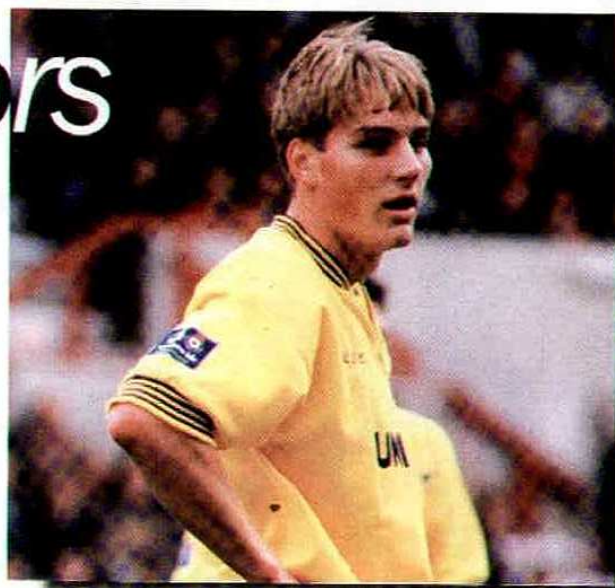
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Mickey Lewis is sponsored by: Oxford United Social Club Tel: 01865 63063	Nigel Jemson is sponsored by: JBL Office Products, The Office Supplier Tel: 01865 739056	Simon Weatherstone is sponsored by: Rebecca Herd

Marketing matters...

With Trevor Baxter

**CLUB SHOP
OPENING HOURS**

Monday-Friday
10am - 5pm

Saturday (Matchdays)
11am - 2.45pm

Saturday (Non Matchdays)
10am - 4pm

Tuesday Home Matchdays
10am - 7.30pm

**Plus half an hour after
each home game**

Welcome to our penultimate home fixture of the 1996/97 season, and to what should be an enthralling game against our local rivals and friends from the County Ground.

Shop News

Novelty Hats

We have a new range of hats (see photo). There are four different designs, and they cost £9.99. An ideal way to celebrate the end of the season.

Leisure Suits

These are available in both child and adult sizes. Priced at £15.99 for children, £21.99 adults. Just the thing for your holiday this Summer.

Duvet Sets

Single duvet comes complete with matching pillow case, a must for any child - only £21.99.



Michael 'Butch' Butcher gives the thumbs up to his new **Oxford United bedroom**

Curtains

Sized 66" x 54" - £24.99.

The above complement our bedroom range, which also includes wall clock, alarm clock, door plate, cushions, pyjama cases, teddy bears and dressing gowns. So, if you are redecorating your child's (or even your own) bedroom, why not pop into the Club Shop and pick up the perfect gift for the finishing touches.

Sponsorship Pack

Get your name down for next season's sponsorship pack NOW! Contact Trevor Baxter or David Crabtree on (01865) 761503.

Match Sponsors

We offer a warm welcome to David Drew and his party from the Oxford, Swindon & Gloucester Co-Op. The Club has had a long association with the local branch, and we wish our visitors an enjoyable and entertaining day.

Matchball Sponsor

We extend a warm welcome to Roy Tuttle and his guests who are today's matchball sponsors. Roy's company, Oxford Project and Facilities Management, specialises in building operations and maintenance, general office services, facility planning and project management.

A one stop company for all your needs. For further details contact Roy on 01865 358822.

Associate Matchball Sponsors

Today's associate matchball sponsor is the Cleenol Group Ltd of Banbury, manufacturers and national distributors of an extensive range of cleaning and hygiene products.

We welcome back Alf Smith and his guests for what will be their second sponsorship this season, and hope they have an enjoyable day.

Our second associate matchball sponsor today is Simon Bean. Simon comes from Farcham, Hants and we would like to wish him and his guests a good day here at the Manor.

Associate Match Sponsor

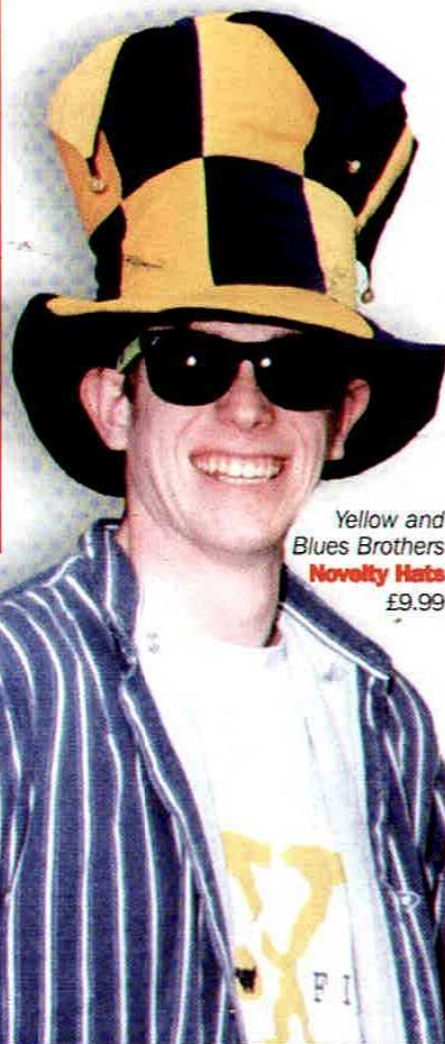
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62 Park Road, Faringdon, Oxon

Enjoy the afternoon's match and remember, the Club shop is open for half an hour after the game.



Yellow and
Blues Brothers
Novelty Hats
£9.99

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PLAYER OF THE YEAR

It's that time of year again when we ask you, the fans, to select your Player of the Season. Not just your favourite player, but the one who you feel has contributed the most during the season to the team's performances and successes. It could be Phil Whitehead, Bobby Ford or perhaps Mike Ford.

The Choice Is Yours!!!

TO SUBMIT YOUR VOTES YOU CAN:-

- A)** Pick up a voting form from any of the ground catering bars or trolleys
- B)** Collect a form from the Social Club
- C)** Enter your vote on a card or slip of paper

Entries should then be sent by post to Gary Whiting at the Social Club, placed in the Suggestion Boxes situated around the ground or handed in to either the Social Club or Football Club reception.





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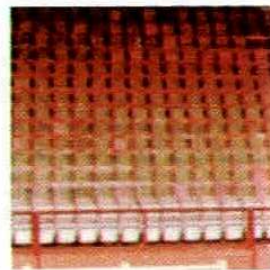


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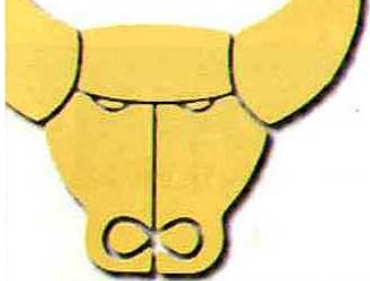
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RESERVES

A look at both the Reserves

Avon Insurance Football Combination Seasons Fixtures 1996/97

Home Match Kick Off: 7.30 pm

Aug 28 (W) Bristol City (a) (LC) 2-2

Sept 2 (M) QPR (H) 4-0

18 (W) Wimbledon (a) 3-3

Oct 2 (W) PORTSMOUTH (H) 0-2

9 (W) Bristol City (a) 1-4

23 (W) MILLWALL (H) 3-2

Nov 6 (W) SWINDON TOWN (H) 3-3

11 (M) Tottenham H (a) 0-5

20 (W) CARDIFF C (H) LC 1-0

27 (W) Charlton Athletic (A) 1-2

Dec 9 (M) Luton Town (a) 2-0

Jan 15 (W) Swansea City (a) 2-0



22 (W) BRISTOL ROV (H) 1-1

27 (M) SWINDON T (H) (LC) 2-1

Feb 5 (W) Cardiff City (a) 0-1

11 (T) IPSWICH TOWN (H) 0-1

26 (W) Brighton & H A (a) 3-4

Mar 5 (W) BRISTOL R (H) LC 2-0

10 (M) Swansea City (a) LC1-1

12 (W) ARSENAL (H) 5-0

19 (W) AFC Bournemouth (a) 2-1

25 (T) SOUTHAMPTON (H) 1-1

Apr 1 (T) CRYSTAL PALACE (H) 2-3

7 (M) Watford (a) 0-1

9 (W) Wimbledon (a) LCSE1-2

15 (T) NORWICH CITY (H) 2-2

21 (M) Chelsea (a)

29 (T) West Ham United (a)

South East Counties League Division Two Seasons Fixtures 1996/97

17 Aug Brentford (a) 1-2

24 Aug BRISTOL CITY (H) 0-2

31 Aug Bristol Rovers (a) 5-1

7 Sept READING (H) 6-4

9 Sept Ipswich Town (a) (SJFC1) 1-3

14 Sept FULHAM (H) 2-1

League Cup 1st Round

21 Sept Colchester United (a) 1-1

28 Sept SOUTHAMPTON (H) 1-0

5 Oct Luton Town (a) 1-1

12 Oct TOTTENHAM H (H) 1-0

19 Oct TOTTENHAM H (H) (LC2) 3-4

26 Oct CRYSTAL PALACE (H) 4-3

2 Nov Swindon Town (a) 1-1

9 Nov CARDIFF CITY (H) (FAYC1) 2-1

16 Nov Wycombe Wanderers (a) 0-0

23 Nov WYCOMBE WANDERS (H) 1-0

30 Nov BARNET (H) 1-4

2 Dec LUTON TOWN (H) (FAYC2) 1-1

7 Dec AFC Bournemouth (a) 3-2

14 Dec BRIGHTON & H A (H) 2-0

19 Dec Luton Town (A) (FAYC2R) 2-3

21 Dec BRENTFORD (H) 1-1

18 Jan Reading (a) 7-1

25 Jan COLCHESTER UNITED (H) 2-2

1 Feb Bristol City (a) 1-1

8 Feb Southampton (a) 1-0

15 Feb LUTON TOWN (H) 2-2

22 Feb Tottenham Hotspur (a) 0-0

1 Mar Crystal Palace (a) 1-1

8 Mar SWINDON TOWN (H) 3-2

22 Mar Wimbledon (a) 0-2

29 Mar Brighton & H A (a) 3-0

5 Apr Barnet (a) 2-1

12 Apr AFC BOURNEMOUTH (H) 2-1

19 Apr BRISTOL ROVERS (H)

26 Apr WIMBLEDON (H)

Avon Insurance Football Combination v Watford (a)

Lost 0-1

Team: Jackson, Lewis, Emsden, Phillips, Greason, Stevens, R Ford, McGregor, Weatherstone, Folland, Cook, subs not used: Rose, Wright, Shepherd

This game was played on a very poor Chesham United pitch which helped

Watford's long-ball style of play. This prevented us getting out of our own half for most of the first 45 minutes.

'We played much better in the second half, getting the ball wide and behind their defence,' said Mark Harrison.

We had the chances to win the game but unfortunately went down to their single goal.

Avon Insurance Football Combination Reserve Team Cup Semi Final v Wimbledon (a)

Lost 1-2

Scorer: Own goal

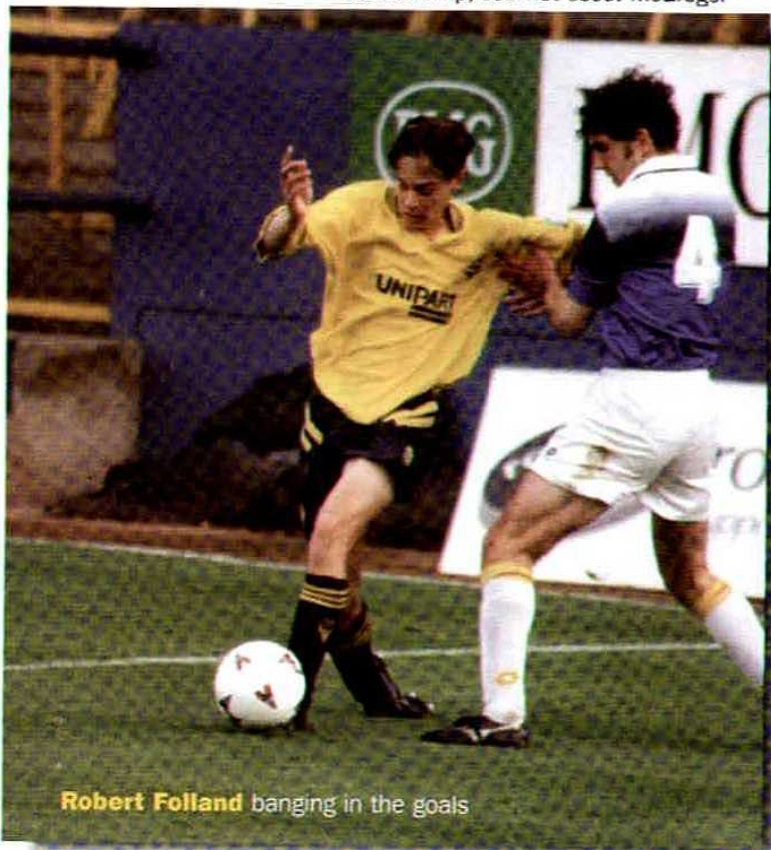
Team: Jackson, Rose, Marsh, Phillips (Cook), Purse, Stevens, R Ford, Murphy, Moody, Weatherstone (Greason), Beauchamp, sub not used: McGregor



Caught.
Ball watching!



The official ball supplier to



Robert Folland banging in the goals

&YOUTHS

and Youth's last action



Mark Harrison



Mickey Lewis

'We seem to be slow starters now,' said Mark Harrison. 'We were under the cosh in the first half.'

We went 1-0 down after 20 minutes as we failed to clear, but pulled one back 15 minutes later when Oxford pressure forced Wimbledon to concede an own goal.

'We were the better team in the second half,' said Mark, 'but we failed to convert numerous chances.' Sadly, Wimbledon took one of their chances to go 2-1 up and win the chance to appear in the Final, with their only real chance in the second half, when they bent a free kick round the defensive wall.

South East Counties League Division Two

v Barnet (a)

Won 2-1

Scorer: Folland 2

Team: Evans, Townsend (Grey), Emsden, Shepherd, Best, Davies, Richards, Wright, Clarke, Folland, Cook, subs not used: Brennan, Nix

This was a good performance from the lads on a very poor pitch.

We took the lead after 20 minutes when Gary Davies released Jamie Cook with a quickly taken free kick. Jamie crossed allowing Rob Folland to tap in.

Barnet equalised from a blatantly offside position to make it 1-1. Shortly afterwards we were down to ten men when Gavin Best was harshly dismissed. 'We showed great character in the second half,' said Mickey Lewis. 'Even though we were down to ten men we played the better football. We always looked likely to get the equaliser.'

And the winner eventually came with just two minutes to go when Rob Folland ran fully 40 yards to lift the ball over the advancing 'keeper and secure the win.

South East Counties League Division Two

v Bournemouth (h)

Won 2-1

Scorer: Folland, Cook

Team: Evans, Greason, Shephard, Shepherd, Davies, Best, Grey (Rose), Wright, Nix (Bennett), Folland, Clarke (Cook)

'We were totally on top for 60 minutes in spite of including two schoolboys who, incidentally, put in good performances,' said Mickey Lewis.

Our first goal came from a through ball from Danny Clarke to Rob Folland who ran 30 yards to steer the ball past their 'keeper.

Our superiority led to some sloppy play and Bournemouth equalised when the defence lost concentration. This had the effect of waking us up and the deserved winner came with five minutes to go when Jamie Cook beat the offside trap to run through and finish well.

Avon Insurance Football Combination

v Norwich City (h)

Drew: 2-2

Scorers: Marsh, Aldridge

Team: Jackson, Rose, Marsh, Phillips, Wilsterman, Stevens, Angel, McGregor, Aldridge, Weatherstone, Cook, subs not used: Lewis, Greason, Wright

'We made an excellent start, going 2-0 up in the first twenty minutes but then stopped playing,' was Mark Harrison's comment after the game. 'We lost the momentum,' he said.

Our first goal followed a free kick on the edge of the area which Simon Marsh (above) curled expertly around the Norwich wall to put us 1-0 up after ten minutes.

We were 2-0 up after twenty minutes when a through ball in the air was misjudged by the Norwich defence, allowing Martin Aldridge to nip in and head over the advancing 'keeper. But we allowed Norwich back into the game ten minutes before half time when they scored. We controlled the second half without 'hurting' Norwich but conceded a second goal two minutes from time.



Mark Harrison's Kit is kindly sponsored by



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Avon Insurance Football Combination

(Up to 9th April 1997)

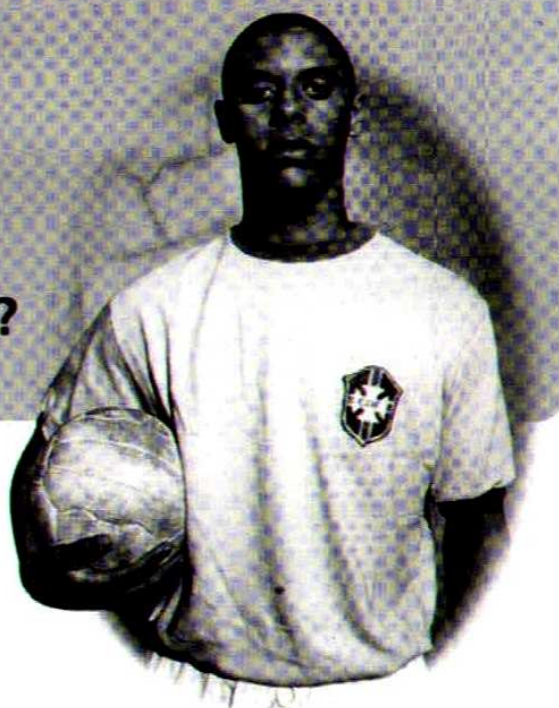
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Ipswich Town	18	12	4	2	38	10	40
Portsmouth	19	13	1	5	36	21	40
Wimbledon	17	10	5	2	35	21	35
Tottenham	19	10	4	5	41	24	31
Crystal Palace	19	9	4	6	32	29	28
Brighton & HA	19	7	7	5	35	30	28
QPR	17	8	3	6	32	26	27
Chelsea	18	8	3	7	27	29	27
Arsenal	18	7	5	6	39	25	26
Swindon Town	17	7	4	6	30	28	25
Bristol City	19	6	4	9	37	33	22
OXFORD UNITED	19	6	4	9	33	34	22
Bournemouth	19	6	4	9	32	40	22
Luton Town	16	6	3	7	18	20	21
Charlton Athletic	16	6	3	7	20	26	21
Watford	16	6	3	7	20	26	21
Swansea City	17	6	3	8	19	29	21
Millwall	17	6	2	9	24	30	20
Bristol Rovers	19	5	4	10	19	36	19
Southampton	17	5	4	8	26	32	19
Watford	15	5	3	7	19	26	18
West Ham United	18	5	3	10	22	33	18
Cardiff City	17	4	5	8	14	33	17
Norwich City	17	3	4	10	24	38	13

South East Counties League Division Two

(Up to 12th April 1997)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Crystal Palace	29	19	7	3	69	26	45
Luton Town	28	20	5	3	65	29	45
Southampton	28	18	2	8	54	25	38
OXFORD UNITED	28	14	10	4	53	35	38
Tottenham	30	12	9	9	48	33	33
Colchester United	28	11	8	9	48	37	30
Swindon Town	27	11	7	9	50	43	29
Wycombe Wand.	29	11	7	11	32	31	29
Brighton & HA	29	11	6	12	39	51	28
Wimbledon	28	10	7	11	36	26	27
Bristol City	27	9	7	11	42	53	25
Bournemouth	24	8	5	11	34	47	21
Bristol Rovers	28	7	5	16	40	56	19
Brentford	28	5	7	16	37	58	17
Reading	30	7	3	20	35	86	17
Barnet	29	2	5	22	25	71	9

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by Jonathon Harwood

Round Up On Division One



Sadly, today's clash at the Manor will have little impact on the rest of the Division although both teams will be giving their all.

Oxford come into today's game after two successive home defeats against Port Vale and Queens Park Rangers and are slipping down the table, although the Yellows look to be safe from relegation.

Nigel Jemson has 21 goals so far this season and will be hoping to score his first against the Yellow's old adversary today. Swindon come to the Manor for maybe the last time, having won only one of their last six games and after losing four of their last five matches.

However, they have two more points than United and stand one place above Oxford in 18th position; both teams having played 43 games. Incidentally, Oxford have not drawn at home for eleven games.

Last week saw Bolton crowned Champions of the Division after beating Manchester City 2-1. Rarely can any team have won the title so comprehensively, especially after being so unfavoured at the start of the season.

After the weekend's game the Trotters topped the Division by an incredible twenty points although Barnsley cut the lead to a mere seventeen on Tuesday night after beating Oldham.

Bolton can expect to fare a bit better in the Premiership next season than they did last time around. In McGinley and Blake they have two strikers who have created a formidable partnership. They have 57 goals between them this season and occupy position one and two in the hot shots table for the Division.

As all those who travelled to Burnden Park last weekend will know Bolton are in no mood to be trifled with and should fare well against Oldham today.

Behind Wanderers Barnsley are still defying the critics and holding onto the second promotion spot, thanks in part to Wolves' collapse. The Midlands have taken only four points from their last six games, while Barnsley have amassed eleven in the same period.

Below the top three the yearly scramble for play off places is hotting up, with at least eight teams fighting it out for three places. Tranmere and Queens Park Rangers are the two form teams outside the play offs at the moment but Port Vale, Ipswich and Sheffield United look as if they could hold on to these places.

All this means that my tips for promotion in August look somewhat ill con-

then, if either Oldham or Southend, or both, lose they are as good as relegated - only being able to match the Yorkshiremen's points tally.

Outside this Division picking the new arrivals is as tricky as ever. In the Premiership Forest's sorry form has continued and sees them languishing in last place and makes them firm favourites for the drop.

Above these five, maybe six, teams are still in trouble. Blackburn have been sucked back into the dog fight while Southampton are suddenly the form team.

In the Second Division Bury top the table and look like prime candidates to go up for the second year running. Cup heroes, Stockport, are also well placed and any

of Brentford, Luton, Crewe, Watford, Walsall and Burnley could be gracing the First Division next season.

Blackpool seem to have blown their chances a little again this season and will be lucky even to make the play offs this time round, although the same was true this time last year.

"...my tips for promotion in August look somewhat ill conceived. Birmingham, Manchester City and Huddersfield (!) all look destined for First Division (or even Second Division) football next season..."

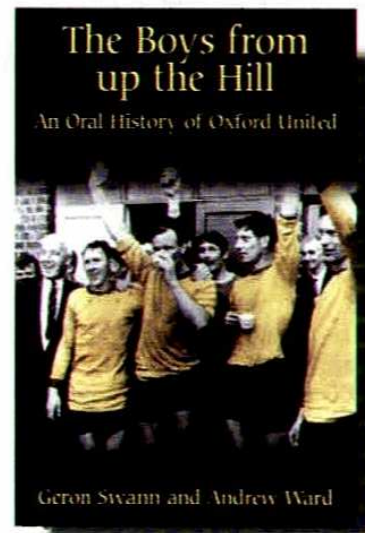
ceived. Birmingham, Manchester City and Huddersfield (!) all look destined for First Division (or even Second Division) football next season.

At the bottom things are as tight as ever although this week Bradford look like the favourites to avoid the drop. Indeed, if Chris Kamara's team win today

"STATTO" CORNER "STATTO" CORNER "STATTO" CORNER					"STATTO" CORNER "STATTO" CORNER "STATTO" CORNER				
as at 18.4.97					Current Season				
					League	Cup	Goals	Goals	
Martin Aldridge	16+11	6+2	7	1	31+14	17+4	17		
Mark Angel	15+9	2+1	2		31+20	8+4	4		
Joey Beauchamp	34+8	9	5		176+22	30+6	38		
Matt Elliott	26	8	4	1	148	33	25		
Mike Ford	39	9	3	1	248+15	62+1	19		
Robert Ford	26+4	6+1		1	84+11	25+2	9		
Marco Gabbiadini	5		1		5		1		
Phil Gilchrist	35	6	2		95	18	6		
Martin Gray	40+2	8	2		46+3	8	2		
Elliott Jackson	3				3				
Nigel Jemson	41	8	16	5	41	8	21		
Mickey Lewis					276+24	38+4	7		
Simon Marsh	6+2		1		16+5	6+2	1		
Stuart Massey	13+13	3+4	2		66+17	19+4	11		
Paul Moody	18+17	3+5	4	2	97+36	20+5	62		
Matt Murphy	4+24	+4	3		28+34	7+10	19		
Marcus Phillips	+1				+1				
Paul Powell					1+2	+2			
Darren Purse	25+7	5+1	1		25+7	5+1	+1		
Les Robinson	33+2	8			240+5	48+1	4		
David Rush	4+10	+2	1		67+24	11+7	24		
Dave Smith	42	9			128+1	31	2		
Simon Weatherstone	+1				+1	1			
Phil Whitehead	40	9			151	27			
Chris Whyte	7				7				
Brian Wilsterman	1				1				
Mr Own Goal			3			3			

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Boys from up the Hill



Maurice Evans

United beat Queen's Park Rangers at Wembley, in April 1986, to win the Milk Cup Final. Afterwards they faced a difficult run-in to the season. Relegation was a serious threat when they lost the next match 3-2 at Ipswich. That left three home matches in six days, as recalled by interviewees in The Boys From Up The Hill.

Chris Fallows (Supporter)

'It came to the last three matches of the season - Everton at home, Forest at home and Arsenal at home - and we had to win two of those games.'

Everton needed to win to keep in the Championship race and there it was, 0-0 with a minute to go, and I turned to my brother and I said, 'what a shame, we've played so well, and it would have been nice to have won tonight because I don't think we can excel ourselves like this again,' and up popped Billy Hamilton in the penalty area, and he laid it back and Les Phillips drilled it into the net. We needed a win out of Nottingham Forest and Arsenal.'

Maurice Evans (Manager)

'I had got to know Cloughie well and enjoyed his company, and he came in after Notts Forest had beaten us. I said, 'Do you want a drink?' He said, 'Yes'. But I never had one.'

He said, 'Why are you not having one?' I said, 'I'm absolutely sick about that result.' He said, 'You're not worried are you?' I said, 'Yes, I am worried.'

He said, 'But all you've got to do is beat Arsenal'. I said, 'It's easier said than done'. He said, 'You will beat Arsenal. I'm telling you. There is no danger whatsoever. You will beat them. I said, 'Well, I wish I shared your confidence, Brian, but thanks very much anyway.'

Chris Bishop (Supporter)

'I remember the Arsenal game because it was Billy Hamilton's last game and, when he scored in front of the London Road, he did a little Irish jig and sent the fans wild.'

Maurice Evans

'We played well again. Arsenal were very disappointed at losing 3-0. None of the Arsenal coaching staff or management came anywhere near the office.'

I remember sitting in my office on my own. Before I saw the press I always had five or ten minutes on my own, to think about the game and what questions might crop up, and calm myself down before seeing the press.

All of a sudden the door burst open. Mr Maxwell came in and said, 'Maurice, what the devil are you doing in here? Why don't you come out on the pitch and run round the pitch with me?' I said, 'No, Mr Maxwell. I'm not really into that sort of thing.' And away he went. I believe he was doing his lap of honour around the pitch. So I sat in here and calmed myself down and went and saw the press.

"...Mr Maxwell came in and said, 'Maurice, what the devil are you doing in here? Why don't you come out on the pitch and run round the pitch with me?' I said, 'No, Mr Maxwell. I'm not really into that sort of thing.' And away he went..."

Maurice Evans

I was probably more pleased with that result than the Milk Cup Final because I think that meant a tremendous amount to the people who had worked so hard to get Oxford into the First Division, and to the crowd as well. I was very pleased about that one, very pleased.'

*Adapted from chapter 15 of
The Boys From Up The Hill:
 An Oral History of Oxford United by
 Geron Swann and Andrew Ward.
 Reproduced with permission of the authors
 and publisher. The book is available
 from the Club Shop at £9.99.*

I need to confide in you, I rely on you not to tell anyone else but I must unburden my soul.

A secret activity has been going on for a number of weeks in the office and I need to tell somebody that I have been a part of it. I am not particularly proud of my participation hence this confession.

You should know that a sweepstake has been running among half a dozen of us predicting the scores for our home and away games. Each clandestine member pays £1 per week for two guesses. Guesses are made in turn so one's first choice may not always be available.

The problem with this apparently harmless (perhaps even puerile) operation is that it perverts the Club loyalty of its members.

I sat next to one member of this syndicate at the away game at Southend. While it was still 2-0 to Southend, this pillar of the Club was rubbing his hands in glee thinking he was going to scoop the massive prize of £5.

But, as Jemmo made it 2-1 then Martin Aldridge 2-2, my delight which should also have been his, was tempered by having his prize snatched from within his grasp.

I had a couple of guesses on the Bolton game last Saturday. By the time my turn came around to make my first prediction the more loyal yet feasible scorelines had gone. To cut it short, I went with 4-0 and 5-1 to Bolton.

Any decent right thinking supporter would not think such horrors in the privacy of his own living room let alone allow such treacherous thoughts to be recorded and shared with others.

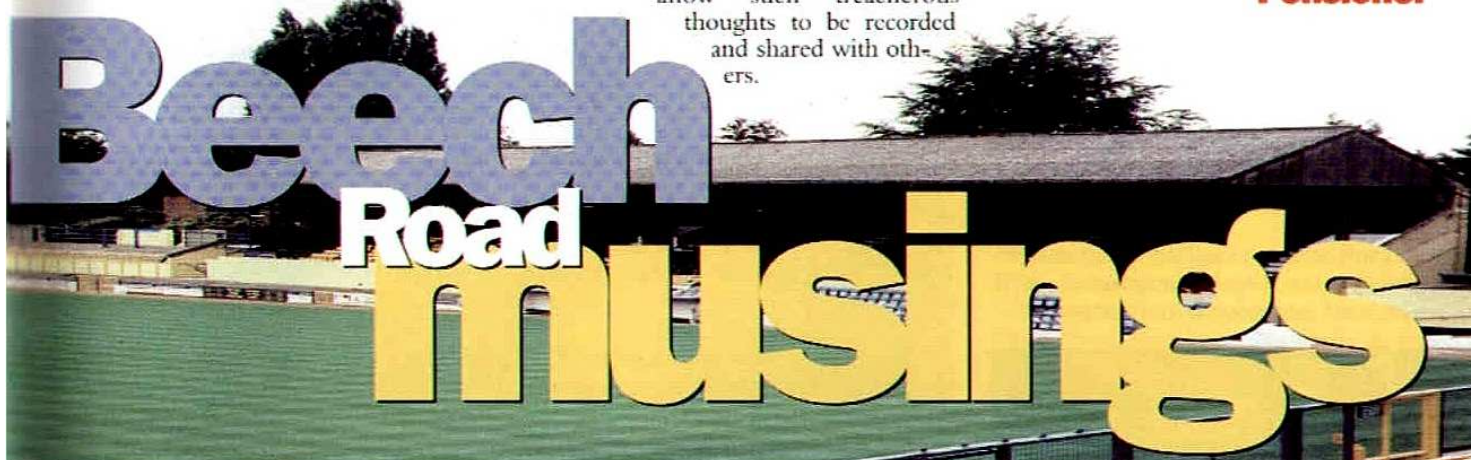
So I settled into my chair with my Saturday afternoon friend, Thames Valley FM, to await Jerome Sale's dulcet tones. I was somewhat heartened to hear him state that anything better than 7-0 would be okay, but I still felt a bit of a traitor.

Well, you know how it went. My spirits sank as the score rose 2-0, 3-0 and then I remembered my 4-0 and 5-1 shouts.

It went to 4-0 and a warm glow overtook my feelings of gloom. As the minutes ticked away I found myself hoping we wouldn't score the consolation goal or if we did, thinking perhaps Bolton might snatch a fifth. Jerome promised not to burst into tears!

So now you know, I am unworthy. But £5 better off!

Pensioner



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Community & Junior News



With Peter Rhoades-Brown

Welcome to you all and, firstly, I hope most of you will know by now - I completed the London Marathon last Sunday, on crutches, because I turned my ankle on Thursday evening. My time was 6 hours 19 minutes and 56 seconds (ish).

I will be giving a full day's account with photos in the Barnsley programme, and I have some interesting stories and quips!



Winning Gladiators team during my soccer course

Lee Collins - Winner

Lee, from Brackley, aged 11, a regular on our soccer courses and a season ticket holder with his Dad Mick, has won a Central TV competition.

Lee had to name as many Central South TV sports personalities within two minutes, which included players from Oxford, Hereford and Swindon, as well as trainers and jockeys, rowers and tennis players etc. All in all he managed a grand total of 30 (and I still didn't get a mention). Well done Lee, and let's hope you enjoy today as well.

Tours

St Andrews School (Wantage) and a group of exchange students from all over the world joined me recently.

The students were from Holland, Germany, France and Nicaragua. It went well with the lovely translator, Cathy, to give me a hand.

Lisa Boyer on Work Experience

Lisa, one of our OUFC Womens Soccer players, joined me last week on work experience and had a busy week - joining in with the reserves training, giving Darren and Jon a hand in the Ticket Office, and many other different activities.

She was great, didn't moan, just got on with it, and even showed up some of the younger professionals in the running.

Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following Oxford United Juniors:

Daniel Taylor and Philip Wood who were both 9 on 6th April, Darren Brain (10) on 14th, Matt Stroud (13) on 15th, and to Matthew Flowers (10) and Daniel Rowles (9) who celebrate today.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL.



On a recent ground tour 1st Ashton Cubs

Mascot

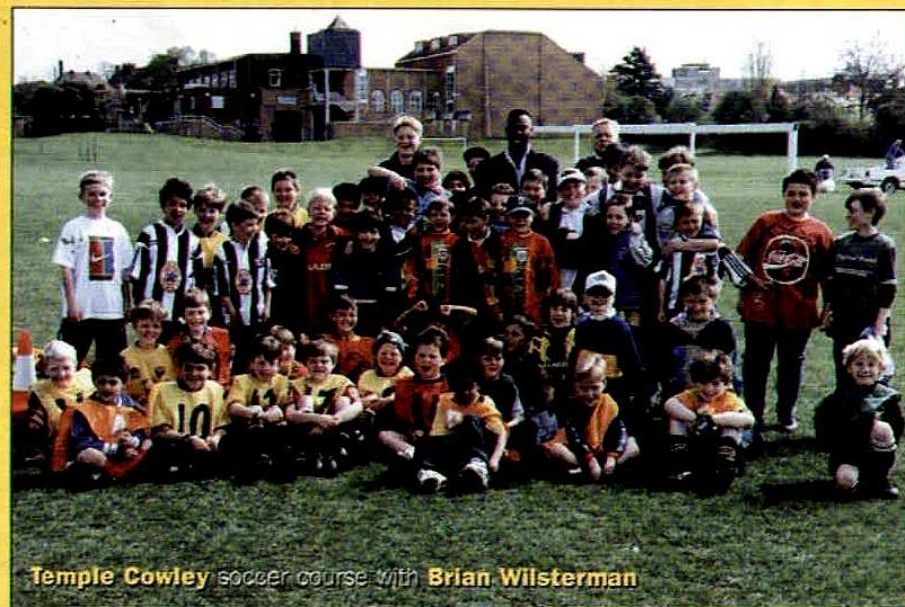
Today's mascot is 10½ year old Adam Young from Cumnor, Oxford. Adam attends Cumnor C of E Primary School and plays for Cumnor Minors U10s.

His hobbies include fishing, travelling by train, football and cricket, and his favourite players are Nigel Jemson, Darren Purse, Paul Moody, Bobby Ford and Mike Ford.

The Swindon mascot is 11 year old Alexander Hockley from Abingdon. Alexander attends John Mason School and his hobbies include tennis, hockey, basketball, crafts and the scouts.

His favourite Swindon players are Ty Gooden and Jason Drysdale.

We hope that they both enjoy their day out.



Temple Cowley soccer course with Brian Wilsterman

SchoolboyScene

With Malcolm Elias

Welcome to the Manor to our Centre of Excellence youngsters whom I have no doubt will be here in force today, as they were for their annual Centre of Excellence photo/skills day a fortnight ago. The youngsters' photo can be seen elsewhere in the programme. My thanks, once again, to Unipart for their continued support of our Centre of Excellence activities.

Congratulations to Jack King and Patrick Malone from our Under 12s who along with James Allen and Dwight

Under 13s v Hereford United (home)

Mark's squad was 'comfortable throughout the game after scoring two early goals.' In a game of six goals ours were scored by Michael Costelloe 3, Andrew Harris, James Allen and Andrew Moreton. Dwight Ciampoli and Michael Costelloe did most to impress Mark.

Under 14s v Luton Town (home)

Huw Jennings' squad participated in a topsy-turvy game where they went from



good football although our finishing was not up to the standard of our approach play'. Anacleit Odhiambho was Rosie's most creative player whilst our goalscorer was a Mathew Davies screamer.

Under 15s v Hereford United (home)

With Rosie performing heroics in the London marathon on crutches, I took his squad versus Hereford. 'We totally dominated the game but our finishing was nowhere near acceptable as we should have been in double figures. Our goals were scored by Lee Evans and Dwaine Strong. Creatively once again Anacleit Odhiambho caught the eye.'

Well done to our youngsters Mathew Davies, Ryan Gostick, Ben Townsend, Alan Inns, Simon King, Brynley Spence and Stuart Jackson on their selection for last weekend's regional trials in preparation for the National Schools Summer courses.

To all our Centre of Excellence players 'work hard to improve and understand the need for movement off the ball'.



Brynmor signing schoolboy forms on the Manor

Ciampoli from our Under 13s performed excellently at the Easter holiday FA regional coaching course. The first class reports from the FA reflected well, not only on Jack, Patrick, James and Dwight but also on the quality of schoolboy players we have at the Club.

Schoolboy Forms

At our last home game at the Manor our Welsh Under 14 schoolboy International defender, Brynmor Jones, put pen to paper much to the delight of our Under 14 manager Huw Jennings, our South Wales representative Nigel Evans and myself. Brynmor will hopefully be with us at today's game having returned from Holland where he has been playing this week for Wales v Holland.

Sunday Schoolboy Teams: Under 13s v Bristol City (away)

Mark Jones' squad produced 'an outstanding team performance in all areas of the pitch and deservedly scored the game's two goals by Stuart Beavon'. Mark was delighted with his boys and particularly Lawrence Allen, Philip van de Mortel and Stuart Wallace.

being in total control to eventually coming out on top in a game of seven goals. Ours were scored by Jonny Boyce, Chris Hackett 2, and Jorden Holder.

Simon King, Chris Hackett and Jonny Boyce were Huw's top players.

Under 14s v Hereford United (home)

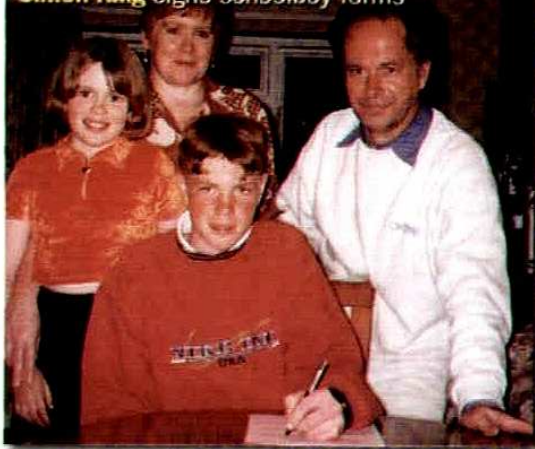
Huw 'was reasonably pleased with his squad who were always in control with our four goals coming from Paul Cooper 2, Jorden Holder and William Harris. Stevie Devonald in his first game for a long time impressed with his excellent skills.'

Our most recent schoolboy signing is Simon King our Under 14 left sided player from Witney this week has signed schoolboy forms for us. His team manager this season, Huw Jennings and Les Taylor last season, have been very pleased with Simon's progress who is a very talented all round player with an excellent left foot.

Under 15s v Bristol City (away)

Rosie's squad 'played some very

Simon King signs schoolboy forms



Division 1 Statistics

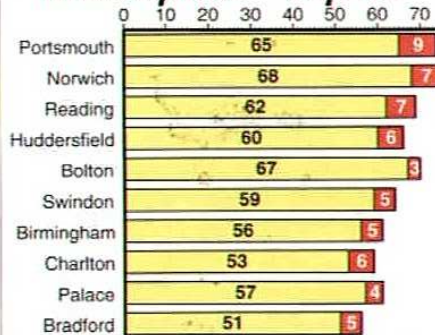
League Table

Last 5 Home and Aways

HOME											AWAY					HOME					AWAY				
	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Gls	Pts	W	W	L	W	W		W	D	D	W	D	
Bolton	43	17	4	1	56	19	10	8	3	38	31	94	93	D	W	D	D	W	Barnsley	D	W	W	L	W	
Barnsley	42	13	4	5	41	19	8	9	3	29	26	70	76	W	W	W	W	W	Birmingham	W	W	W	D	W	
Wolves	42	9	4	7	26	21	11	5	6	35	26	61	69	W	W	L	L	D	Bolton	D	L	L	D	L	
Sheff Utd	43	12	5	5	45	23	7	6	8	28	28	73	68	W	D	W	W	D	Bradford	L	D	W	D	L	
Port Vale	43	9	9	4	35	26	8	6	7	21	24	56	66	W	D	L	W	D	Charlton	L	L	W	L	W	
Ipswich	42	11	6	3	40	22	6	7	9	23	27	63	64	W	D	D	L	D	Palace	L	L	L	L	W	
Palace	42	9	5	6	34	18	8	7	7	37	26	71	63	W	D	L	W	L	Grimsby	L	L	D	L	L	
Tranmere	43	10	7	4	39	24	7	5	10	21	27	60	63	W	W	L	W	W	Huddersfield	W	L	L	W	D	
Norwich	43	9	9	4	28	18	8	2	11	35	45	63	62	W	L	W	W	D	Ipswich	W	D	D	D	L	
Portsmouth	42	11	4	6	28	21	7	4	10	25	27	53	62	W	D	L	D	W	Man City	L	W	L	L	D	
QPR	43	9	5	8	31	25	7	7	7	28	32	59	60	D	W	L	D	W	Norwich	L	L	L	L	L	
Birmingham	43	10	7	5	28	18	5	7	9	19	29	47	59	L	L	W	W	L	Oldham	L	D	D	L	L	
Stoke	43	13	3	5	30	21	3	7	12	17	34	47	58	L	W	W	W	D	Oxford	L	L	W	D	W	
Man City	42	11	4	6	31	20	5	5	11	25	34	56	57	W	W	W	W	W	Portsmouth	W	L	D	L	W	
Charlton	42	10	7	4	34	27	5	3	13	15	33	49	55	W	D	W	L	W	Port Vale	L	W	W	L	D	
Reading	42	12	7	3	35	24	2	5	13	17	35	52	54	W	L	W	D	W	QPR	D	L	L	W	L	
West Brom	43	6	7	9	35	33	7	7	7	30	37	65	53	W	L	W	W	W	Reading	L	D	L	L	D	
Swindon	43	11	6	5	36	25	4	2	15	16	42	52	53	D	W	D	L	L	Sheff Utd	D	L	L	L	L	
Oxford	43	12	3	6	37	25	2	6	14	20	40	57	51	D	W	W	L	W	Southend	L	L	L	L	L	
Huddersfield	43	10	5	6	28	20	2	8	12	18	40	46	49	L	D	L	W	W	Stoke	L	L	L	L	L	
Bradford	42	8	5	7	25	30	2	7	13	18	38	43	42	L	D	L	W	W	Swindon	L	L	L	D	L	
Grimsby	42	5	7	9	25	34	4	5	12	28	44	53	39	W	W	D	D	D	Tranmere	D	W	L	D	L	
Oldham	43	5	7	9	27	30	4	5	13	21	34	48	39	L	W	L	W	W	West Brom	W	L	L	L	W	
Southend	43	7	9	6	31	30	1	6	14	9	46	40	39	W	W	D	L	W	Wolves	L	D	L	L	L	
Most recent result on the left side - Won (W), Drawn (D) & Lost (L)																									

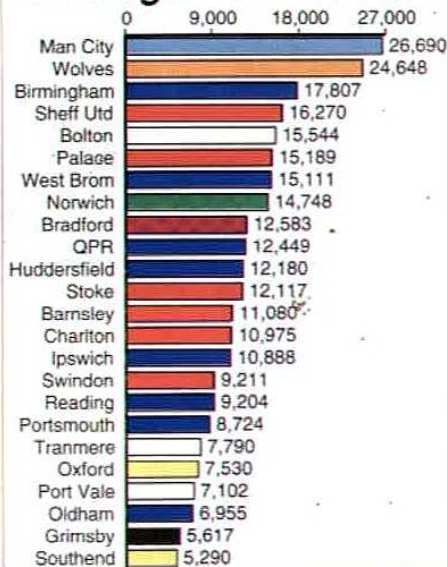
Most recent result on the left side - Won (W), Drawn (D) & Lost (L)

Indiscipline - Top 10



1 point for a Yellow, 3 for a Red Card

Average Attendances



Current Sequences

Highest/Lowest Gates

30,729 Man City v Oldham 8-Mar

3,305 Southend v Grimsby 16-Oct

Highest Aggregate Scores

Sheff Utd 4-4 Birmingham 24-Aug

Port Vale 4-4 QPR 19-Jan

Charlton 4-4 Norwich 22-Feb

Biggest Home Win

Bolton 7-0 Swindon 8-Mar

Biggest Away Win

Reading 1-6 Palace 21-Sep

Consecutive Wins

Bolton, Bolton 7

Games Unbeaten

Bolton (twice), Palace 11

Consecutive Defeats

Birmingham, Oldham 5

Games without a Win

Norwich, Oldham 10

Current Sequences

Consecutive Wins

Bolton 7

Games Unbeaten

Bolton 11

Consecutive Defeats

Grimsby 3

Games without a Win

Oxford, Swindon 5

Most Red Cards

Portsmouth 9

Most Yellow Cards

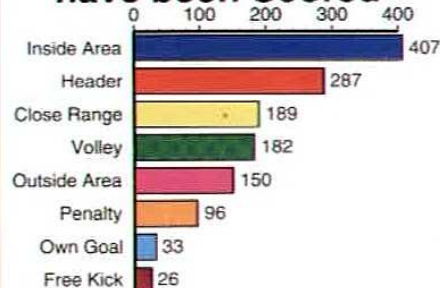
Norwich 68

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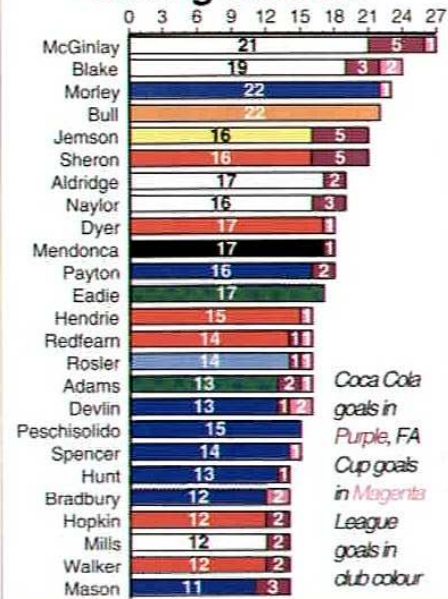
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How all Goals

have been Scored



Leading Scorers



Coca Cola goals in Purple, FA Cup goals in Magenta, League goals in club colour

Date	Opponents	Res	Att	Pts	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Aug 17	Queens Park Rangers (a)	1-2	14,703	0	-	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Rush	Ford R	Aldridge	Jemson	Beauchamp	Moody (9)	Angel (7)	Murphy (10)
20	NORWICH CITY (C.C. Cup 1(1)) (H)	1-1	6,062	-	-	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Angel	Moody (9)	Rush (10)
24	SOUTHEND UNITED (H)	5-0	6,390	3	6	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Gray (8)	Aldridge (9)	Rush (10)
27	SOUTHEND UNITED (H)	0-1	7,436	3	12	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Gray (8)	Aldridge (10)	Angel (4)
31	Port Vale (a)	0-2	6,016	3	17	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Massey (9)	Aldridge (10)	Angel (4)
Sept 4	Norwich City (C.C. Cup 1(2)) (a)	*3-2	6,062	-	-	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse (5)	Aldridge (10)	Angel (4)
8	Reading (a)	0-2	8,099	3	22	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Murphy (4)	Aldridge (11)	Angel (10)
10	WOLVERHAMPTON W (H)	1-1	7,461	4	20	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Murphy (4)	Aldridge (11)	Angel (10)
14	BRADFORD CITY (H)	2-0	6,334	7	17	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Moody (10)	Murphy (7)	Angel (11)
18	Sheffield Weds (a) (C.C. Cup 2(1))	1-1	7,449	-	-	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Moody (10)	Murphy (7)	Purse (4)
21	Grimsby Town (a)	†2-0	4,120	10	14	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Moody (11)	Murphy (7)	Massey (8)
24	SHEFFIELD WEDS (C.C. Cup 2(2))	1-0	6,856	-	-	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Moody (9)	Aldridge (10)	Purse
28	PORTSMOUTH (H)	2-0	7,626	13	10	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
Oct 1	Tranmere Rovers (a)	0-0	4,577	14	9	Jackson	Purse	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
12	Swindon Town (a)	0-1	10,811	14	13	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
15	Barnsley (a)	0-0	6,337	15	10	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
18	BIRMINGHAM CITY (H)	0-0	7,586	16	12	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
22	Port Vale (C.C. Cup 3) (a)	0-0	4,942	-	-	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
26	Charlton Athletic (a)	0-2	10,626	16	16	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
29	STOKE CITY (H)	†3-1	7,909	22	10	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
Nov 2	IPSWICH TOWN (H)	2-0	5,277	-	-	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
5	PORT VALE (C.C. Cup 3 Rep) (H)	3-2	23,079	25	8	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
13	Manchester City (a)	1-0	7,481	28	6	Whitehead	Purse	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
16	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (H)	0-0	7,508	29	6	Whitehead	Purse	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
19	BOLTON WANDERERS (H)	1-2	4,851	29	8	Whitehead	Purse	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
23	Oldham Athletic (a)	1-1	9,469	-	-	Whitehead	Purse	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
26	SOUTHAMPTON (C.C. Cup 4) (H)	0-2	7,079	29	10	Whitehead	Purse	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
30	SOUTHAMPTON ATHLETIC (H)	2-2	17,879	30	9	Whitehead	Purse	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
Dec 7	Crystal Palace (a)	4-1	7,737	33	5	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
14	SHEFFIELD UNITED (H)	2-3	10,737	-	-	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
18	Southampton (C.C. Cup 4R) (a)	3-3	13,782	34	6	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
21	West Bromwich Albion (a)	1-3	26,174	34	9	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
26	Wolverhampton Wanderers (a)	2-1	9,223	37	6	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
28	READING (H)	0-2	13,275	37	11	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
Jan 11	Bradford City (a)	2-1	7,072	40	8	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
18	TRANMERE ROVERS (H)	0-2	9,502	-	-	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
21	Watford (FA Cup 3rd Round)	1-2	7,301	40	12	Whitehead	Murphy	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
28	Portsmouth (a)	1-4	8,824	40	13	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
Feb 2	MANCHESTER CITY (H)	1-2	8,609	40	13	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
7	Stoke City (a)	†3-1	6,868	43	11	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
15	OLDHAM ATHLETIC (H)	1-2	11,483	43	13	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
22	Ipswich Town (a)	1-4	8,583	43	14	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
Mar 1	CRYSTAL PALACE (H)	0-1	11,276	43	15	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
4	Huddersfield Town (a)	1-0	8,502	46	14	Whitehead	Whyte	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
8	WEST BROMWICH ALBION (H)	1-3	16,226	46	16	Whitehead	Whyte	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
15	Sheffield United (a)	3-2	6,421	49	14	Whitehead	Whyte	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
18	GRIMSBY TOWN (H)	2-2	4,102	50	14	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
22	Southend United (a)	2-3	8,365	50	14	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
29	QUEENS PARK RANGERS (H)	1-1	14,644	51	14	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
31	Norwich City (a)	0-2	7,370	51	16	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Smith	Elliott	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
Apr 5	PORT VALE (H)	0-4	15,994	51	19	Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M	Murphy	Whyte	Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
12	Bolton Wanderers (a)					Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M			Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
19	SWINDON TOWN (H)					Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M			Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
26	Birmingham City (a) PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MATCH HAS BEEN MOVED BACK TO A SATURDAY FIXTURE. KICK OFF 3.00PM.					Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M			Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)
May 4	BARNESLEY (H) 'ALL TICKET'					Whitehead	Robinson	Ford M			Gilchrist	Ford R	Massey	Moody	Jemson	Beauchamp	Purse	Aldridge (9)	Murphy (7)

() player came on for scorers in bold * After extra-time † Own goal



The Teams


Oxford United

versus

Swindon Town

Phil Whitehead	1		1	Fraser Digby
Les Robinson	2		2	Mark Robinson
Mike Ford	3		3	Phil King
Matt Murphy	4		4	Scott Leitch
Chris Whyte	5		5	Graham Coughlan
Phil Gilchrist	6		6	Frederic Darras
Bobby Ford	7		7	Steve Cowe
Martin Gray	8		8	Darren Bullock
Paul Moody	9		9	Peter Thorne
Nigel Jemson	10		10	Wayne Allison
Stuart Massey	11		11	Ty Gooden
	12		12	
	13		13	
	14		14	

Matchball Sponsor
Today's Mascot
**Oxford Facilities and
Project Management**

01865 358822

Today's mascot is

10½ year old



Adam Young

from Cumnor, Oxford.



Match Officials

This afternoon's referee is 44 year old **Terry Hellbron**, an area sales manager from Newton Aycliffe, County Durham. Terry is married with one son. He began refereeing 16 years ago in the local leagues, and was promoted to the referees' list three seasons ago. Terry refereed the 1995/96 Italian Cup semi final between Ipswich and Port Vale, as well as that season's play off semi finals between Bradford & Blackpool, and Crystal Palace & Charlton Athletic. His hobbies include golf and keep fit.

 Assistant Referees: **M D Dearing** (Red Trim Flag)  **S J French** (Yellow Trim Flag) 

 Reserve Official: **P R Faulkner**

Next at the Manor Ground: Barnsley 'ALL TICKET'
Nationwide League Division One Sunday 4th May 1997 Kick off 1.30pm Category 'A'