

Today

News

Opponents

Player Profile



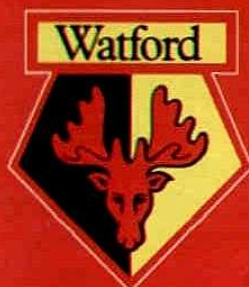
First round, second leg

**Tuesday
August 26
1997**

**WATFORD
v
SWINDON
TOWN**

Kick-off: 7.45pm

**Official
Programme
£1.00**



*100 years of
professional football*

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Background information
[Running our club](#)
[News](#)
[Opponents](#)
[Player Profile](#)
[Past and Present](#)
Club Numbers

-  **Main Club Number**
01923 496000

-  **Ticket Office**
01923 496010

-  **Marketing Department**
01923 496006

-  **Junior Hornets**
01923 496000

-  **Hornet Shop**
01923 496005

-  **Catering**
01923 221457

-  **Main Club Fax Number**
01923 496001

-  **Community Officer**
01923 440449

-  **Watford ClubCall**
0891 10-4 10-4
Calls charged at 50p per minute

Club Officials
Honorary Life Presidents

Elton John CBE, Geoff Smith

Chairman

Elton John CBE

Vice-Chairman

Rumi Verjee

Directors

Brian Anderson, Charles Lissack,

David Meller, Haig Oundjian,

Terry Rosenberg

General Manager

Graham Taylor

Secretary

John Alexander

Head of Sales and Marketing

Mark Devlin

Stadium Manager/Safety Officer

Mick Buttle

First Team Coach

Kenny Jackett

Coach

Luther Blissett

Reserve Team Manager

Tom Walley

Youth Team Coach

Jimmy Gilligan

Youth Development Officer

Gary Johnson

Physiotherapist

Phil Edwards

Football in the Community Officer

Kirk Wheeler

Medical Officer

Dr. Peter Aron

Hon. Orthopaedic Surgeon

Mr. Robert Mackenney

Hon. Vice Presidents

Mayor of Watford, Douglas N. Broad,

Harry Liang (CTX), Mike Evans (CTX),

Dave Stevinson (CTX)

Watford Vice Presidents

Pete Beasley, Sam Beasley, Harry

Black, Robert Black, Michael Bousquet,

Clive Chamberlain, Stephen Conway,

Robin Cox, Neil Dean, Peter Dean, Paul

Freeman, Robin Galletly, Alan Hart,

Peter Ingram, Raza Jessa, Paul Levene,

Brian Levy, Barry Morris, Val Myers,

Richard Norris, Frank Parker, Paul &

Joan Marioni, Tim Shaw, John Simpson

Contents

- Page 3 Graham Taylor
- Page 4 What's happening
- Page 7 Saracens news
- Pages 8-10 Swindon Town FC
- Page 11 Football in the Community
- Page 14 Watford's top 100/A-Z
- Page 16 Lining up

Today's Game
Cup match number 1

League match number 3

League match number 4

League match number 5

League match number 6

CLUB ADDRESS

Watford Football Club
Vicarage Road Stadium
Watford
Hertfordshire WD1 8ER

Opening Times
Ticket Office

9.00am to 5.00pm

Mondays to Fridays.

9.00am to kick-off time

on home first team matchdays

(open again after matches).

9.00am to 12noon or 15 minutes

prior to supporters' coach departure

time on away first team Saturdays.

Hornet Shop

9.00am to 5.00pm

Mondays to Saturdays inc.

Open until kick-off time for midweek

matches. Open again after all matches.

Police Message

Periodically through the season, a special tone will sound prior to kick-off and the Police will give out a message to supporters. This is just to test the system whereby the Police can override the club's PA System should they wish to broadcast an emergency message to those inside the ground. Should the tone sound at any time during the game—please listen carefully!

Future matches
NEXT AT VICARAGE ROAD:
Saturday, September 6

Nationwide Football

League Division Two

WATFORD v

WYCOMBE WANDERERS

Kick-off: 3.00pm

Saturday, September 13

Nationwide Football

League Division Two

WATFORD v

CHESTERFIELD

Kick-off: 3.00pm

Saturday, September 27

Nationwide Football

League Division Two

WATFORD v YORK CITY

Kick-off: 3.00pm



Design: Alpine Press/CC:
Produced and printed by
Alpine Press Ltd
Kings Langley
Tel: 01923 269777



Manager's Notes



Graham Taylor

"Winning is the name of the game"

BECAUSE of the Bank Holiday and printing deadlines these notes are being written prior to the Brentford game.

It is always difficult not being up-to-date but as it happens the result on Saturday will have no effect on tonight's match.

We are in the fortunate position of starting with a two-goal advantage, but as most football people will tell you, a 2-0 scoreline does not settle anything. One goal and the opposition will sense they are back in the tie. A third goal for us will make it very hard for them to recover – so everything is still finely balanced – although I would much rather be starting a game 2-0 up than 0-2 down!

Last Tuesday afternoon the reserve team had an excellent 3-1 win away to Crystal Palace, making it two wins out of two against Premiership opposition, while the juniors, depending upon their result against Cambridge, on Saturday could still be undefeated.

We are trying to change the culture within the Club both on and off the pitch.

The players – at all levels – are beginning to understand that winning has to be the name of the game, although we all should understand that we can only win if someone else loses and it ill-behoves any of us to get too smart with ourselves if the results go our way.

"When you win you stay in, when you lose you go on the booze!"

Finally, many thanks to all of you who made the trek to Carlisle last week. It was smashing to see you all and I think we got the win we just about deserved.



Seeing you in your home and away shirts made me think that we probably have got the most distinctive and well-designed shirts we have had for a number of years. I hope you agree.

Enjoy yourselves!

Best wishes

ELTON'S COMING HOME

I heard over the weekend that Elton John will be at our game against Wycombe Wanderers on Saturday September 6.

It's his debut appearance in his second stint as Watford chairman, so make sure you come along and give Elton a big welcome 'home'.



What's happening



We welcome today's Coca-Cola Cup mascot to

Vicarage Road – Louise Allan.

Louise is nine years old and attends St Peter's School in Rickmansworth. Her favourite player is Tommy Mooney. Have a great day Louise.

Surely that was just a Dream!

THIS week there has been a new team to add to the groundshare at Vicarage Road Stadium. Members of 'Dream Team', Harchester United, under the managerial skills of Ron Atkinson, have been put through their paces at Vicarage Road, by Chelsea's Jodie Morris and Frank Sinclair.

Confused?

'Dream Team' is a new soap from Sky One and the football action has been filmed right here at Watford FC.

The series follows the fortunes of five talented youngsters in the youth team and their dream of playing first-team football. The long-term future of Harchester United –

and the heart of the show – rests with the skills of the lads in the youth team. Serving a two-year apprenticeship, the boys live for their chosen sport and 'Dream Team' captures the agonies and ecstasies of growing up in the unforgiving world of professional football.

The series comes exclusively to Sky One from Tuesday, October 14, and if you look closely you might notice that Harchester United and Watford FC's supporters look surprisingly similar!

At the end of filming, Big Ron was obviously very pleased with his performance: "I think my next role may be as James Bond," he said with a smile.

Now we know we're dreaming!

Pitch problems – African style



Members of the Centaurus High School Under-15s football team

SAM Barratt, an avid Watford fan, came to see Graham Taylor at the club earlier this year to discuss the possibility of taking some footballs to Namibia where he was planning to teach at a Secondary School.

Graham was only too happy to send him packing (with the balls of course) on the condition that he would write to us with news of his exploits.

This extracts comes from a recent letter:

"The main problem facing the school football teams is that we do not have a grass pitch...When I arrived, the green carpet that once belonged to the school was a sea of thorns and weeds. We phoned the local prison to see if they could spare us some of their less dangerous convicts to come and clear our pitch and plant some seed. The authorities told us that this wouldn't be a problem, but we would have to supervise the prisoners ourselves. Surprisingly, few teachers wanted to do this. Therefore, this season we have trained on netball and tennis courts."

Sam returns to England in September and won't he be pleased to see not only a re-vitalised Watford team, but a freshly-watered green pitch too?

Where to park

THIS is a reminder to supporters about car parks near to the ground, available for you to use on matchdays.

Both the car parks below are run on a first-come-first-served basis.

1. Willow Lane

Position: Adjacent to the Watford General Hospital.

Entrance: In Willow Lane.

Open from: 1.30pm Cost: £1.00 Method of payment: Cash
Rate for a seasonal pass: £35

2. Watford Girls' Grammar School

Position: Within the Grammar School grounds, Lady's Close.

Entrance: In Lady's Close.

Open from: 1.30pm Cost: £2.00 Method of payment: Cash
Rate for a seasonal pass: £40

3. Laurence Haines School

Position: Within Laurence Haines School, Vicarage Road

Entrance: In Vicarage Road, 100 yards passed the traffic lights (at Willow Lane). Entrance on the left.

Open from: 1.00pm Cost: £2.00 Method of payment: Cash

Access to and from these car parks, and their proximity to the stadium does make them a better option than the town centre car parks.

England call-up for Watford youth

ON August 17, two of the Club's top young players were called to Lilleshall where they trained with Howard Wilkinson's England Under-18s' squad. Their aim was selection for the European Championship Qualifier against Yugoslavia on Tuesday September 9.

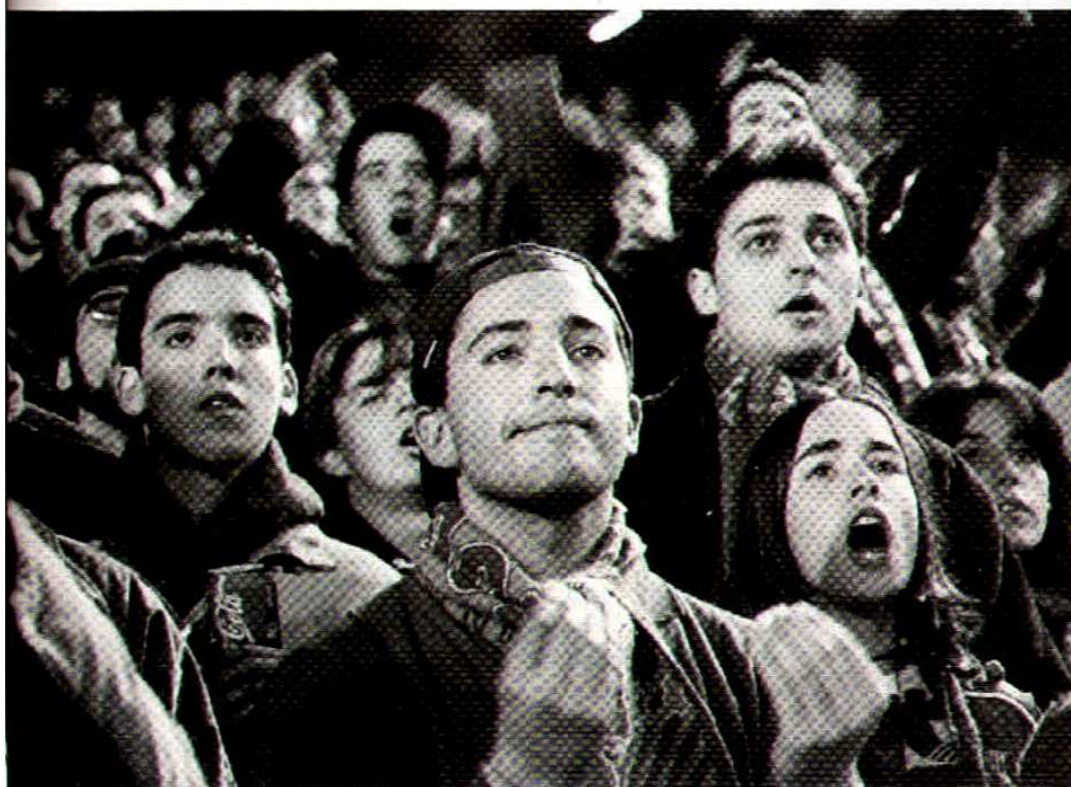
One of the players in question is well known to Hornets' fans; Giffon Noel-Williams, who has already added to his first-team goal tally this season. The other, you may not know – yet. His name is Tommy Smith, and he has been scoring some sensational goals in the current Watford youth team.

Watch this space for news of the outcome of their Lilleshall experience.



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If a team came back from 0-3

*but there was no one there to see it,
would it still be a miracle?*



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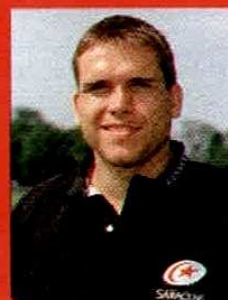
5 DAYS TO GO!



KYRAN BRACKEN



RICHARD HILL



TONY DIPROSE

Sunday	31/08	RICHMOND	(H)
Sunday	14/09	CASTRES	(H)
Sunday	21/09	NEATH	(H)
Sunday	12/10	NARBONNE.....	(H)
Sunday	26/10	GLOUCESTER	(H)
Sunday	02/11	BRISTOL.....	(H)
Sunday	30/11	TONGA	(H)
Sunday	14/12	BATH.....	(H)
Friday	26/12	LEICESTER	(H)
Sunday	11/01	HARLEQUINS.....	(H)
Sunday	18/01	SALE.....	(H)
Sunday	08/03	WASPS.....	(H)
Sunday	29/03	NORTHAMPTON.....	(H)
Sunday	19/04	NEWCASTLE.....	(H)
Sunday	03/05	LONDON IRISH.....	(H)

1997/98 MATCHDAY ADMISSION PRICES

AREA	PRICE
ROUS STAND (upper):	
Adults	£15
Child (Under 16)	£ 5
OAP	£ 5
"The Rover"	
Adults	£10
Child (Under 16)	£ 5
OAP	£ 5



TICKET
OFFICE

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"WORLD CLASS RUGBY AT WATFORD"

News

Opponents 1

Opponents 2

Opponents 3

In charge

Past and Present

The Robins

Visiting today

Previous Cup encounters:

SWINDON TOWN Football Club was founded in 1881 by the Reverend William Pitt, who merged two clubs together from the old and new areas of town.

The early years began successfully as Town were the victors of the Wiltshire Senior Cup for the first seven years of the competition, from 1887.

Swindon had a dazzling run in the 1909/10 FA Cup when they knocked out Crystal Palace, Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City on their way to the semi-finals.

They were beaten by the eventual winners Newcastle United and the same fate befell them again when they lost to Barnsley in their only other semi-final appearance in 1912.

In 1969, Swindon beat Arsenal 3-1 after extra time to lift the League Cup, and they were only denied promotion as Champions of Division Three by goal difference.

However, after these momentous highs, the club's fortunes began to slump, as they found themselves languishing in the fourth division in the early 1980's. At this time, Lou Macari became the club's new manager, and fortunes were revived.

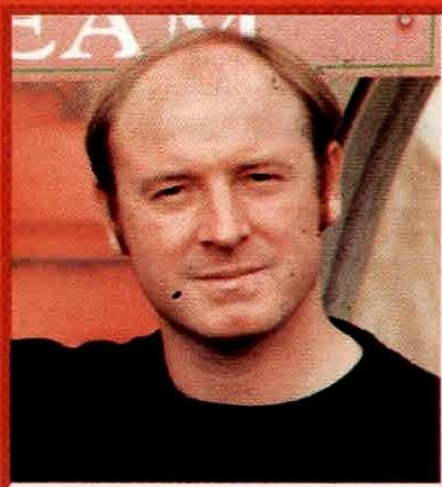
The 1984/85 season saw the team promoted as champions of the Fourth Division with 102 points - a record total. Next season promotion was achieved again when Swindon defeated Gillingham 2-0 in the play-offs at Selhurst Park after the teams had finished all square at 2-2 on aggregate after both legs.

Season	Competition	Result
1970-71	LC2	2-4 (A)
1987-88	LC3	1-1 (A)
1987-88	LC3r	4-2 (H)
1991-92	FAC3	2-3 (A)
1994-95	FAC4	1-0 (H)

* Watford scores given first in each case.



In charge



STEVE McMAHON was a player the media liked to describe as a midfield hardman and he seems to get a similar billing now that he is a manager.

But there was more to him as a player, when he dominated the midfield for both Liverpool and England, and there is more to him as a manager as he has shown by his success with Swindon.

It is true, however, that McMahon was a determined player who demanded that his teammates matched him for effort and he applies similar rules in his

management career.

He was a Swindon player when he was handed the task of replacing John Gorman, now Glenn Hoddle's England assistant, as the club's player-manager.

That was back in November 1994, shortly after Swindon had been relegated from the Premier League and worse was to follow when they dipped down into the Second Division.

But McMahon rebuilt the team into a powerful force again and they regained their First Division status by winning the Second Division title in 1996.

Now, following a season of consolidation, he will be looking to challenge for the promotion places after a good start in the League.

He said: "We could not have had a better start with two clean sheets in our first two games.

"I was happy with that because it is important that you have a strong defence in this division.

"Watford are a well-organised team too and we know we are in for another difficult game, but it is up to us to get an early goal and then who knows what will happen?

"Overall, however, it is just too soon in the season to start making predictions. We have a lot of difficult games coming up and it is my job to keep the pressure on and make sure

we keep improving."

McMahon had already made his name with Everton and Aston Villa when he became one of Kenny Dalglish's first signings as manager of Liverpool.

In the couple of years that followed it became obvious that McMahon was every bit as vital to Liverpool as Ian Rush, Alan Hansen or Ronnie Whelan.

He was to that side what Roy Keane is now for Manchester United. Every great team needs somebody combative in the centre of midfield and that was McMahon's job.

He was a member of the last Liverpool title-winning side in 1991, but then had a transfer request granted and moved to Manchester City in November that year.

He enjoyed three seasons at Maine Road before moving to the County Ground where he is now establishing himself as one of the brightest young managers in the game.

Recent Robins' managers:

Ken Beamish	1983-84
Lou Macari	1984-89
Ossie Ardiles	1989-91
Glenn Hoddle	1991-93
John Gorman	1993-94

The Robins

Visiting today

In charge

Swindon boss Steve McMahon will be hoping to repeat the achievement of his first full season as player-manager two years ago, when he led Town to the Second Division Championship. After leading the team to safety last term, McMahon has assembled an experienced squad for Swindon's promotion push this time around.

IN GOAL for Swindon is 30-year-old Fraser Digby. The former England under-21 international began as an apprentice at Manchester United before moving to the County Ground in 1986.

Challenging Digby is Australian Frank Talia, who signed from Blackburn Rovers in 1995.

Lining up in defence are Mark Seagraves, Mark Robinson, Frederic Darras and Alan McDonald.

Club captain Seagraves played a pivotal role in Town's defence last season until injury forced him out. He joined Swindon in 1995.

Robinson, 28, moved from Newcastle United in 1994, after spells with West Bromwich Albion and Barnsley.

Frenchman Frederic Darras joined Town from French club Bastia in 1996. Darras is an experienced defender who spent 11 years with double winners Auxerre. Veteran defender Alan McDonald earned 53 international caps for Northern Ireland whilst at



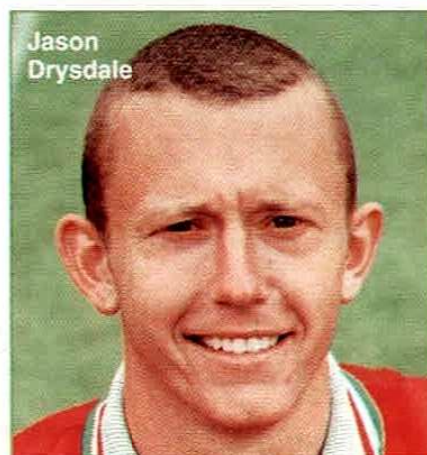
Kevin Watson

Queens Park Rangers. He moved to the County Ground over the summer.

Jason Drysdale is a left-back who began his career at Watford where he won an FA Youth Cup winners' medal.

In the Swindon midfield, McMahon has a choice of Darren Bullock, Scott Leitch, Ty Gooden and Philippe Cuervo.

Midfielder Bullock arrived from



Jason Drysdale

Huddersfield Town this year. Anchorman Leitch has been impressive for Swindon, since signing from Hearts in 1996.

Ty Gooden, 24, was signed in 1993 after being released by Wycombe Wanderers. Cuervo, 28, impressed boss Steve McMahon while on trial recently and was offered a three-year deal.

Attempting to play up front with star man Wayne Allison will be strikers Steve Finney and Chris Hay.

Finney was signed on a free transfer in 1995 from Manchester City.

Hay, 23, made more than 20 first-team appearances for Celtic before moving south to join Swindon a week before the new season began.

● **Key defender**

Ian Culverhouse signed for Swindon in December 1994 for a fee of £250,000, and will be hoping to regain full fitness as his experience will be vital to Swindon's cause. He is steady and reliable in the centre of defence.

● **Key midfielder**

Mark Walters has played for Aston Villa, Glasgow Rangers and Liverpool in a 15-year career to date.

A former England International, Walters will be looking to avoid any injuries such as the one which kept him out of action last season.

● **Key forward**

Wayne Allison, 28, was signed from City in July 1995 for a fee of £475,000 and is noted for his strong aerial presence. The 6'1" striker served his apprenticeship with Halifax Town before a move to Watford in '89.



Swindon Town FC 1997/98

Back row (from left): Wayne Allison, Mark Seagraves, Fraser Digby, Steve Mildenhall, Frank Talia, Steve Finney, Kevin Watson. **Middle row:** Alan McDonald, Mark Walters, Craig Taylor, Gary Elkins, Mark Robinson, Scott Leitch, Ian Culverhouse, Frederic Darras, Alex Finlayson. **Second front row:** Lee Collins, Peter Holcroft, Phil King, Darren Bullock, Wayne O'Sullivan, Ty Gooden, Steve Crowe. **Front row:** Jason Drysdale, Jonathan Trigg (physiotherapist), Ross MacLaren (reserve team coach), Steve McMahon (team manager), Mike Walsh (first team coach), Les O'Neill (chief scout), Alex Smith.

News

Information

Opponents 1

Opponents 2

Opponents 3

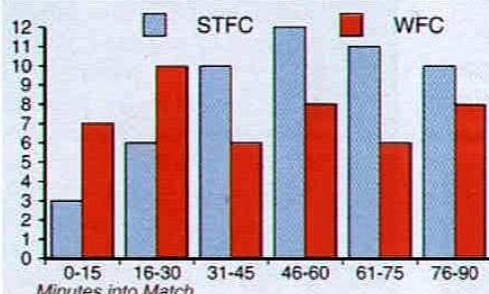
Past and Present

Vital statistics

Key players

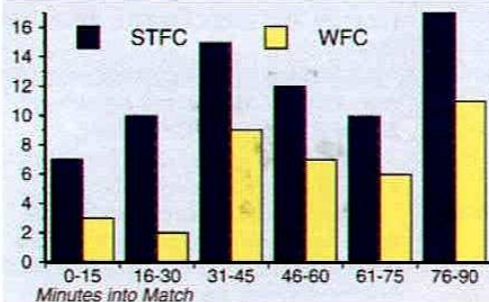
Coming soon...

when goals were scored

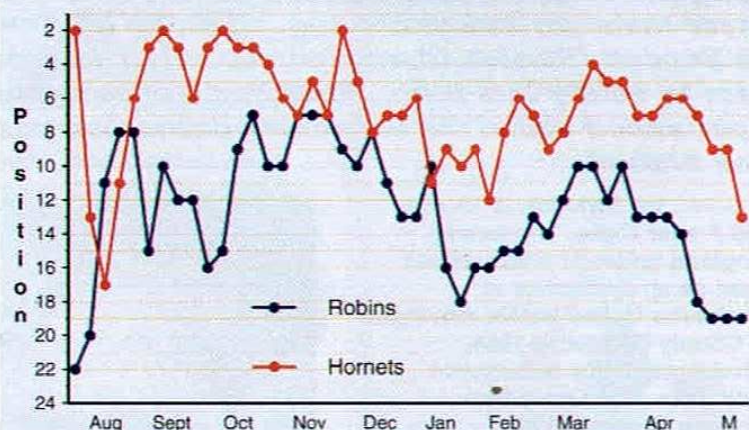


96/97 stats

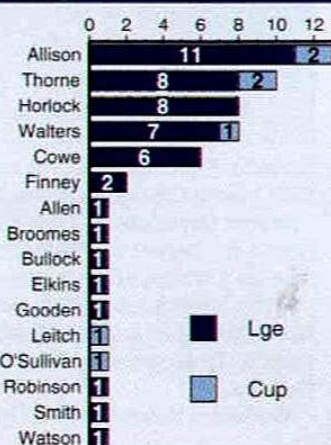
when goals were conceded



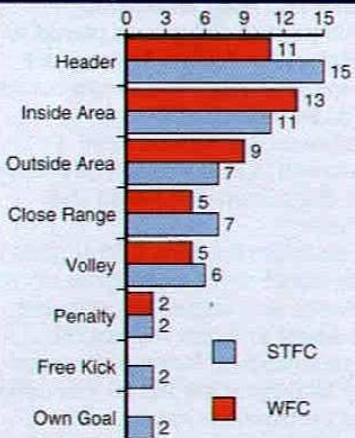
league form over the season



goal scorers



how goals went in



Coming soon...

Wycombe Wanderers -
Saturday, September 6.
Kick-off: 3.00pm

The Herts/Bucks derby is amongst the first date supporters looked for when the fixture list was published.

Having taken four points out of six against the *Chairboys* last season, we will hope to do even better this time, in the first of two consecutive home League games.

The Blues conceded five at Wigan on the opening day, since when manager John Gregory has worked to tighten his defence, taking Bradford's Nicky Mohan on loan, and he could feature.

Looking ahead to the next three visiting clubs at Vicarage Road, with *MIKE VINCE*, voice of Watford ClubCall

Chesterfield -
Saturday, September 13.
Kick-off: 3.00pm

We will be looking to avenge last season's 2-0 home defeat against John Duncan's side. They also narrowly missed out on the play-offs in May, after their superb cup run - which included the scalp of Nottingham Forest - left them with an enormous fixture pile-up. The *Spireites'* boss, the most successful in their history, is now in his second spell in charge (where have we heard that before?), and he has had to reshuffle his squad after some of last season's heroes moved on to higher things.

York City -
Saturday, September 27.
Kick-off: 3.00pm

We took six points off the *Minstermen* last season, including a 4-0 victory here last April, and in the end they had to battle to maintain their Second-Division status.

Defensive weakness nearly cost them dear last season, but they are a club that you underestimate at your peril. Just ask Manchester United, Arsenal and Everton, all of whom have been embarrassed by the men from Bootham Crescent in recent cup ties.

Football in the Community

Junior Hornets

Supporters' views



GOOD evening and may I firstly say a warm welcome to my many friends who have made the trip up the M4 tonight from my hometown of Swindon.

Optimists to the end!

I do hope you had a good journey here because it will certainly be a long one back!

Tonight's match being a cup game gives myself an extra programme page and a chance to plug two of the Scheme's popular matchday packages.

Tonight we are hoping to 'see off' the Robins

But why not take advantage of our community deals and watch us attempt to:

'de-feather' the Swans on Saturday, September 6,

leave the Spireites in a twist on Saturday, September 13, and

make the Lions look like pussycats

on Saturday, October 18!

Yes, the Saturday Clubs are back in full swing and once again the ultimate Hornet experience can be achieved.

Package A

Join the Watford FC Community coaches for a morning of coaching and small-sided games. Lunch follows in the exclusive Junior Hornet Family Room, before you take your seat, programme in hand, to watch the 'Golden Boys' show how to do the business professionally.

The cost of 'Package A' is just £12.00 for kids, £15.00 for adults.

Package B

For the less energetic but more inquisitive amongst you, how about an in-depth look behind the scenes. The mid-day tour provides the chance to soak up the pre-match atmosphere, exploring the hidden and sacred parts of the stadium. You'll also have the chance to ask us any burning questions, preferably football related!



Kirk Wheeler



Rob Smith

The tour completes its journey at the exclusive Junior Hornet Family Room, where once again, all participants receive lunch, a matchday programme and ticket to the afternoon's first-team fixture.

The cost of 'Package B' is just £10.00 for juniors, £15.00 for adults.

To book, or for further information regarding these packages, telephone the Community Scheme on 01923 440449.

Come on you 'Orns!!

Best wishes

KIRK WHEELER



Juniors from the Heath Panthers FC, who recently took up the offer of coaching from the Scheme and the chance to look behind the scenes when they visited us for a ground tour.

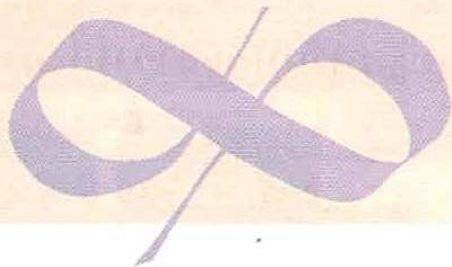
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Watching Watford

News

Opponents

Player Profiles

Past and Present

▲ Match Boots

■ Match Kit

● Training Boots

◆ Training Kit

□ Tracksuit

○ Training Top

The lowdown on all your favourite Watford players

Pen pics on all the current Hornets' professionals

Who's who at Vicarage Road 1997/98 - from first-year pro's to seasoned campaigners



Wayne Andrews
With a superb strike rate in the reserve and youth teams, the speedy striker has now scored six in 21 first-team starts.



Daniel Grieves
Watford-born, Danny recently signed as a pro. A midfielder who will be keen to break into the senior side.



Dominic Ludden
Currently out of action due to a nagging back injury, Dom has proved himself to be a tenacious full-back.



Paul Robinson
One of the most aggressive of the new young pretenders, Paul had no trouble stepping up to the first-team last season.



Darren Bazeley
Great utility player who has featured in defence and midfield, and scored a hat-trick up front for the Hornets during the 1994/95 season.



Micah Hyde
Signed pre-season from Cambridge, Micah was 'Man of the Match' in his home League debut and will look to maintain that form.



Keith Millen
Solid as a rock, the central defender signed from Brentford will play a key role in keeping it tight at the back.



Mark Rooney
Versatile defender who is still waiting to break into the first-team after one season as a pro. Currently a reserves' stalwart.



Vince Cave
Full-back with silky skills who recently turned pro. Vince had a great run in last season's FA Youth Cup.



Andy Johnson
New-pro Andy, displayed a great eye for goal as a youth trainee and doesn't mind taking penalties either.



Tommy Mooney
A fans' favourite, Tommy can play anywhere and last season's top scorer is currently working wonders in Watford's defence.



Ronny Rosenthal
A great catch for the Hornets, Ronny came to Watford from Spurs and immediately scored when he came on as sub against Swindon.



Alec Chamberlain
Last season's reserve 'keeper is making a terrific case for his first-team spot, with three clean sheets so far this season.



Chris Johnson
Twin of Andy, Chris is the midfield rock in the family. His strength and ball-winning may get him into contention.



Giffon Noel-Williams
The big striker is just 17, but it's easy to forget that as he powers past defenders. Off the mark already, he's after a big goal tally.



Stuart Slater
Joined the Hornets last season and is now looking to replicate the form which once took him from West Ham to Celtic.



Chris Day
The man looking to oust Alec from the number-one shirt. Chris joined Watford as part of the deal which took Kevin Miller to Selhurst Park.



Richard Johnson
Scored a 45-yard 'Goal of the Season' contender at Carlisle last weekend, but is also Watford's premier midfield ball-winner.



Robert Page
Club captain and stalwart central-defender, he will look forward to a return to normality after his recent experience with the Welsh team.



Steve Talboys
After a season in the reserves, Steve is beginning to win recognition. Good work this summer has him on the fringes of the team.



Clint Easton
Recently returned from a trip to Malaysia with the England youth team, Clint will be pushing for a regular midfield spot this season.



Peter Kennedy
Summer signing from Notts County, Peter is securing a left-wing back role for himself and has already scored for the Hornets.



Steve Palmer
In central defence or midfield, Steve's strength and experience have proven invaluable to Watford since his move from Ipswich.



David Thomas
Summer signing from Swansea, 'Dai' is yet to feature in the 1st team, but is performing well in the reserves.



Richard Flash
Only first-team action was as sub in the final game last season. His good summer form might earn him more action in this campaign.



Jason Lee
Ex-Nottingham Forest striker who scored on his home League debut against Burnley. At 6'3", he will be a handful for opposition defences.



David Perpetuini
Strong left-sided midfielder with excellent vision, David signed a professional contract after serving as a youth trainee.



Darren Ward
A big, assured defender who stood in for the 1st-teamers on many occasions last season and is a genuine contender in that role.



Nigel Gibbs
The man who has regained the number-two shirt. Nigel has been a major defensive factor for the Hornets for some 14 - despite a lengthy injury layoff.



Nathan Lowndes
Injury has kept the speedy young striker out of action recently but, now fit again, he gives the manager another attacking option.



Colin Pluck
Youth-team captain until he turned pro this year, the central defender will vie with Darren Ward to win a 1st-team spot.

Please note these pen pics were written before last Saturday's game. Apologies if they are not completely topical.

Hornets' One Hundred

Players

A to Z of Watford

EVERY PLAYER'S GOT SOMETHING UNIQUE ABOUT HIS CAREER. SOME WANT TO SHOUT IT FROM THE ROOFTOPS, OTHERS WOULD LOVE YOU NOT TO KNOW ABOUT IT. TREFOR JONES TAKES NO PRISONERS IN A COLLECTION OF 100 WATFORD PLAYERS, PLUCKED FROM OUR 100 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL.

THESPIAN: Guthrie Baker.

Keeping goal for Watford was only one of his accomplishments and interests, and theatricals was another. He trod the boards with one of the greatest figures of music hall – George Robey – and his sister married another – Harry Tate.

PIONEER: Jack Reynolds.

A Watford player for only one season, he later coached Ajax for 30 years. He led them to five Dutch championships in the 1930s, and in the Netherlands is recognised as having laid the foundations for the club's subsequent international stature.

DOUBLE: Bryn Jones.

When one Bill McGarry brought the Welsh full-back to Vicarage Road from Northampton Town, there was potential for a certain amount of confusion, for there was already a Welsh full-back on the books, and his name was Bryn Jones.

SUCCESS: Luther Blissett.

After leaving Vicarage Road for AFC Bournemouth, he lost no time endearing himself to his new home crowd. After scoring in an away match on his debut, he helped himself to four goals on his first appearance at Dean Court.



Still everybody's favourite – Luther Blissett has by far the record number of records with Watford FC

C is for... **CRICKETERS**

There's no telling where our Club historian TREFOR JONES will go next with his alphabetical trawl through the famous and infamous past of Watford Football Club. Obviously though, the following is a subject close to his heart, and one which is undeniably worth drawing to our attention.

THROUGHOUT our club history we have had many cricketing connections, and of course from 1890 to 1922, our home was nearby Cassio Road, at the ground we shared with West Herts Cricket Club, which still plays there to this day.

In those early times a number of our players also appeared in Minor County cricket for Hertfordshire, and subsequently we have had on our books men who have played the summer game at an even higher level. The great **John Goodall's** many accomplishments included appearances for Derbyshire CCC, and **George Gemmell** opened the batting for Rhodesia in the 1920s, after emigrating. In that same period, **Wilf Carter**, **Joe North** and **Alf Moule** all played First Class cricket in addition to their League service here, and after the Second World War the same double distinction fell to **Geoff Morton** and **Frank Mitchell**.



Arthur Grimsdell – a terrific all-round sportsman, who moved from Watford to Spurs and also captained England.

Any attempt to select a well-balanced cricket team from among Watford footballers would have to include **Arthur Grimsdell** behind the stumps. That brilliant wing half enjoyed a career as Herts CCC's wicketkeeper which spanned 26 years – and he made a First Class appearance for Eastern Counties,

for whom he top-scored against the 1927 New Zealand tourists.

A pretty strong cricket XI begins to take shape once we look beyond the footballers who were on our books as professionals. **Reg Sinfield**, for instance, was a registered Watford amateur in 1920/21. He was also an excellent Gloucestershire allrounder who played for England in the 1938 Ashes series. Long-serving Notts bowler **Arthur Jepson** was one of our many wartime guest players, as was **Tommy Spencer** of Kent, who (like Jepson) became a Test Match umpire. **Walter Keeton**, who opened the batting for Notts and England, had a trial in our reserve team before forging a League career elsewhere.

An illustrious Middlesex and England trio would give massive additional strength to the line-up. **Fred Titmus** was on the Vicarage Road groundstaff for a time, and more recently we had both **Mike Gatting** and **Mark Ramprakash** here on schoolboy forms. Unlike his brother, who had a long League career, Gatting turned his back on the chance of football fame by declining Watford's offer of an apprenticeship.

100 years of professional football

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Today's teams

WATFORD
SWINDON TOWN
Alec CHAMBERLAIN 1 Fraser DIGBY
Nigel GIBBS 2 Frederic DARRAS
Peter KENNEDY 3 Jason DRYSDALE
Robert PAGE 4 Scott LEITCH
Keith MILLEN 5 Mark SEAGRAVES
Tommy MOONEY 6 Allan McDONALD
Gifton NOEL-WILLIAMS 7 Mark ROBINSON
Micah HYDE 8 Phillipe CUERVO
Ronny ROSENTHAL 9 Chris HAY
Richard JOHNSON 10 Wayne ALLISON
Stuart SLATER 11 Ty GOODEN
12
13
14
Half-time score:
Full-time score:
Goalscorers:
Cautioned:
Dismissed:
Tonight's other Coca-Cola Cup first round ties:

Birmingham City v Gillingham
 Bristol Rovers v Bristol City
 Burnley v Lincoln City
 Bury v Crewe Alexandra
 Carlisle United v Chester City
 Chesterfield v Wigan Athletic
 Exeter City v Walsall
 Fulham v Wycombe Wanderers

Grimsby Town v Oldham Athletic
 Luton Town v Colchester United
 Manchester City v Blackpool
 Plymouth Argyle v Oxford United
 Preston North End v Rotherham United
 Sheffield United v Wrexham
 Shrewsbury Town v Brentford
 York City v Port Vale

Officials:
REFEREE: BARRY KNIGHT (Orpington, Kent).
ASSISTANT REFEREES:

S.S. Thiarra (Bedford – yellow flag),
A. Legg (East Grinstead – red/yellow flag).

RESERVE OFFICIAL: R. Dodge.