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Saturday 7th March 1998

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Nationwide 1

v Portsmouth

Kick-Off 3.00pm

Today's Matchday Sponsors

TRESPAPHAN

Action pages 14-15
All the best shots from the game against Man City

Today's visitors pages 6-9

Profile page 44
Interview with Steve Cowe

FREE! INSIDE Stuart Elliott Poster

NEXT HOME MATCH Wednesday 18th March vs Wolves

SEE PAGE 26 For Important Announcement

ISSUE No.18

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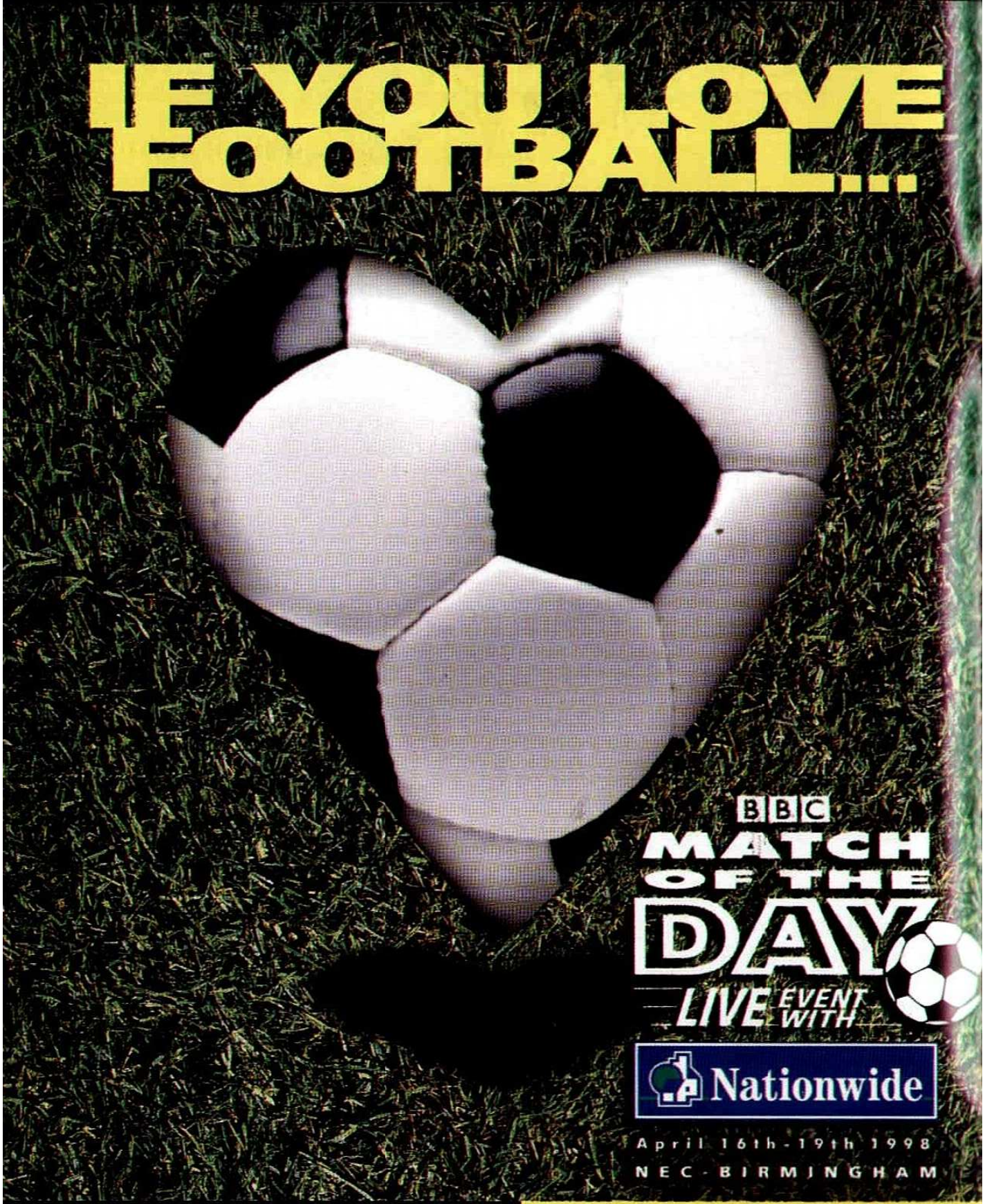

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welcome to today's game

Today we face Portsmouth who are on form at the moment, they drew with Bury midweek, the team that beat us 1-0 in our last game, so today's affair will be anything but easy.

Off the back of two poor results we need to get back to the winning ways of earlier in the season. I'm sure you've all got memories of the last time we met Portsmouth. The game was featured live on Sky Sports and showed a gritty performance from the lads.

Nobody will forget the heroics of young keeper Steve Mildenhall who made some great saves after receiving a nasty gash between his legs that would make anybody's eyes water. He required stitches after the game and spent the next two weeks walking like John Wayne but that was the kind of determination we like to see from the players.

This is one thing you can say throughout, despite the results you can't question the team's effort. Although we lost to Man City we also created some good chances and at 1-1 we looked the more likely winners.

At Bury we outplayed the home team for large periods of the game, had a goal from Robinson disallowed, but we just couldn't find the killer touch that we deserved.

Today might be the day where we find that missing ingredient, Portsmouth will want something out of the game to keep them moving away from the bottom of the league but for Swindon there is a lot of pride and league position at stake.

So lets get behind the team and help them bag the all important three points.

The reserves had a good win at home against Brighton & Hove Albion a fortnight ago, beating the away side 6-1. Our next reserve home reserve game takes place on Monday 16th March against Luton Town. Kick-Off at the County Ground will be 7.15pm and tickets can be purchased from the Advanced TIcket Office before making your way to the turnstiles.

With tough away games against Middlesbrough and QPR coming up we need all the support we can get. Middlesbrough have rearranged their fixture with us for Wednesday 11th Match, 7.45pm Kick-Off. For all the latest ticket information on this game and QPR, please see page 26.

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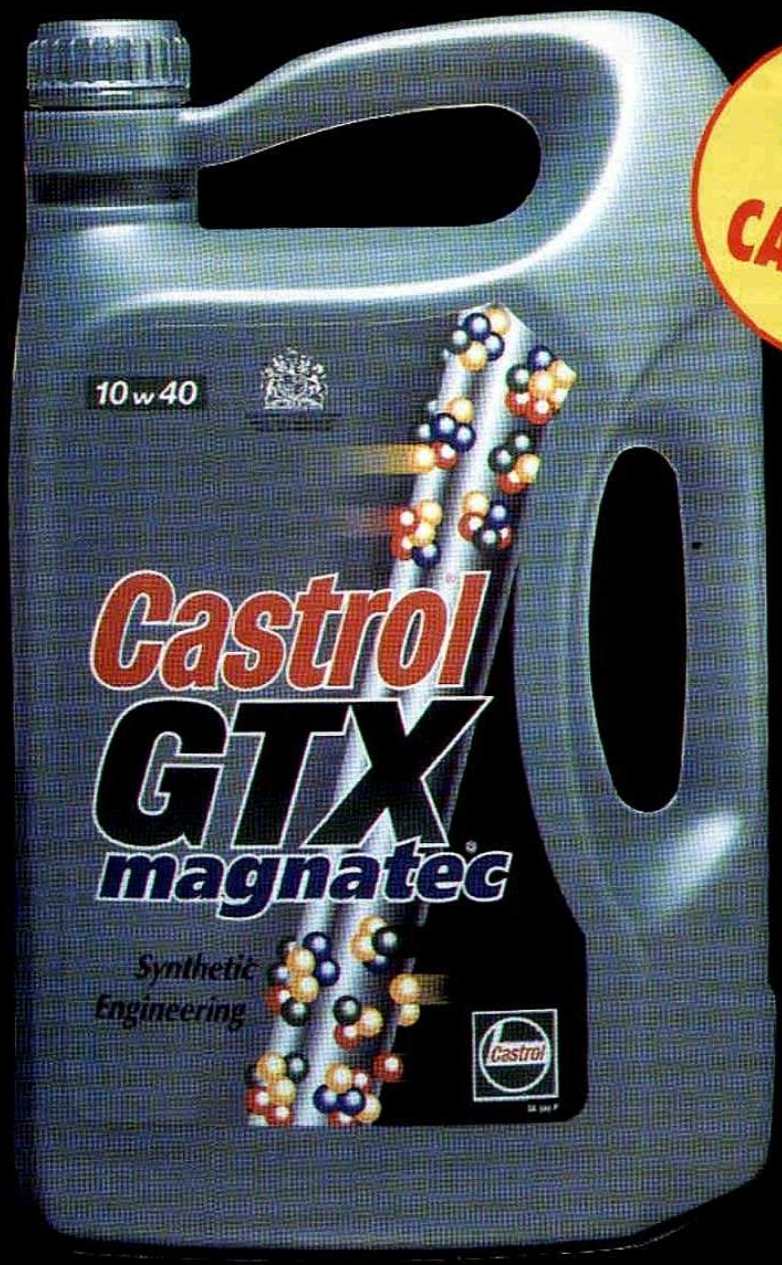

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Steve McMahon says

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NEXT MATCH Wednesday 11th March vs Middlesbrough

After today we travel to Middlesbrough and their magnificent Cellnet, Riverside Stadium. In many ways they are a model for clubs like us who aspire to the Premiership. With the new ground and influx of players 'Boro' are a class outfit. Their visit to the County Ground earlier this season was a tense affair with both sides playing well. Many have described it as the best game of the season, despite the result. This game has been rearranged for Wednesday March 11. For a tough fixture like this we could really do with some vocal support, why not make the trip? - see Ticket Office page for more details.

With so much happening on and off the field it is difficult to know what to talk about today, but I'm here to manage the football, and that is exactly what I'm going to do.

Our last two games have seen us concede four goals and only score one, this is a problem we've got to solve, we need some clinical finishing up front, the team must start taking their chances.

Disappointing

Chris Hay has been disappointing this last few weeks. We've stuck by him over a sticky period, but Bury was the right time to pull him out of the squad. If one player can't score we need to give others a chance.

Our last home game against Manchester City goes to show that football really is a game of two halves. In the first 45 minutes I thought Man City played some good football. With a new manager watching every move, it was obvious their team were out to impress.

I'm sure Joe Royle must have been happy with what he saw.

Kinkladze was whipping in cross after cross that caused our lads all sorts of problems. And this pressure told when Man City took the lead.

At half-time it was obvious we needed a change so I decided to bring on Steve Cowe and Mark Walters. I thought the two lads would offer us a bit more pace and invention in the final third of the pitch.

The change worked well for us with Wally getting round players and Cowe putting their defence under pressure. Now they were worrying about us as we started to knock the ball about.

This possession finally paid off when our two subs worked a good goal. A good cross bent in by Walters which found Cowe who finished off the move with a terrific header.

At 1-1 I felt we where now in the drivers seat and ready to move up a gear. But, all credit to Man City, they pulled their socks up as we sat back and punished us for some sloppy defending with two late goals.

Frustrating Day

After this we needed a good result away to Bury. Despite their league position Gigg Lane is a hard place to play to get a result. They are a strong team with big players who often take the "route one" option with a big kick down field.

But I tailored the squad accordingly with Alan McDonald being recalled to give us some extra height and strength in defence. And, I think I surprised everyone by recalling Frank Talia after months out with injury. I felt that we needed a bit more experience for a tough game like Bury.

On the balance of play we were the better team, putting over some good crosses and creating chances. But we lacked that all important cutting edge that Bury showed when they scored from a deflected save from Talia.

Overall, I was pleased with the performance but disappointed with the result, a frustrating afternoon.

Job to do!

Back to today's match and we face a Portsmouth side who have enjoyed a rich vein of form recently. The league position in no way suggests this will be an easy game, they'll be battling as they try to edge away from the relegation zone.

Earlier in the season we beat them 1-0 at Fratton Park with a tough, battling display. Today will be no different as we push for a home victory.

today's visitors Pompey

Portsmouth

This afternoon we welcome the players, supporters and staff of Portsmouth Football Club to the County Ground for this Nationwide League Division One match.

The last time our two sides met was down at Fratton Park on October 31st last year, when the Robins ran out 1-0 winners thanks to a goal from ***Chris Hay***, his 11th strike of the season at that time.

Since then ***Pompey*** have plunged to the foot of the table, dismissed manager Terry Fenwick, suffered a boardroom bust-up which culminated in the departure of Chairman Terry Venables and re-appointed former boss ***Alan Ball***.

Now it might be safe to say that Ball is not the most popular man in Manchester - well in the sky blue half anyway - but at Fratton Park he is almost a living legend, having taken ***Pompey*** to their last spell in the top flight back in 1987/88.

His return to the south coast has sparked a remarkable upsurge in ***Portsmouth's*** fortunes, with four straight wins up to last Saturday hauling the club out of the dreaded bottom three for the first time in some while.

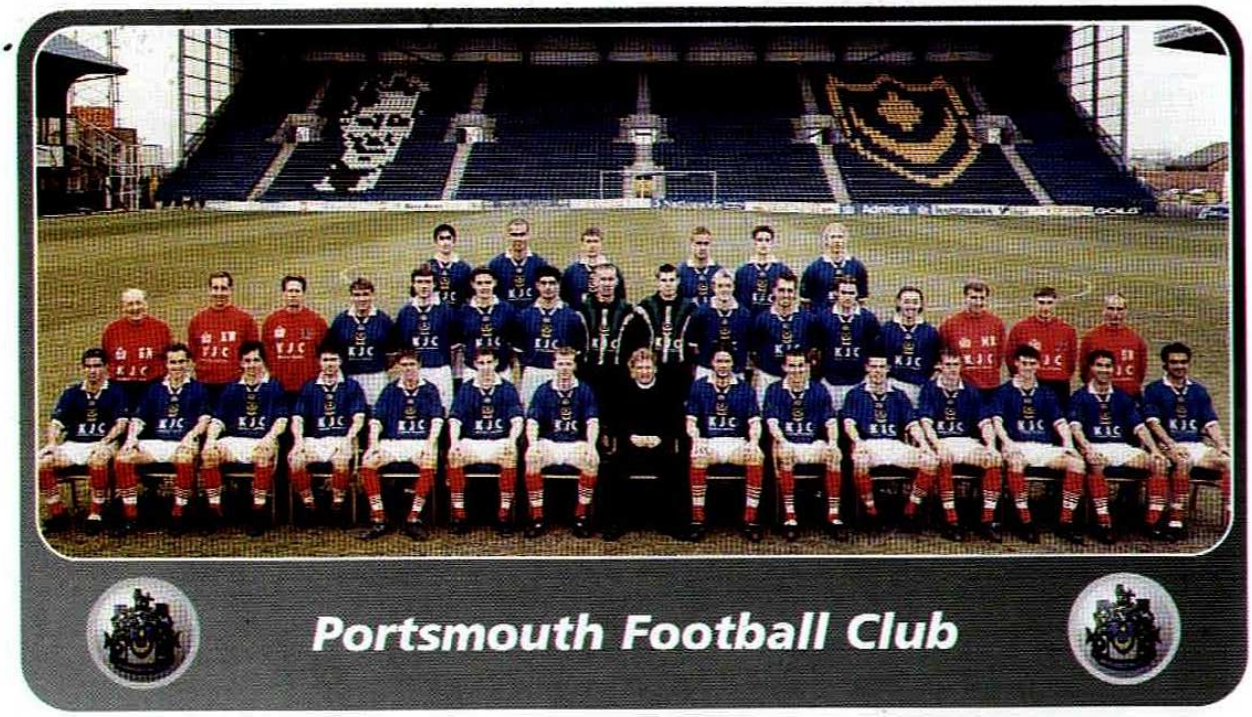
That string of results was just what the doctor ordered, having been preceded by just one point in seven matches which seemed to have the seaside club sinking quicker than the Titanic.

No fewer than four ***ex-Swindon*** players return to the County Ground this afternoon, and all are sure of a warm welcome . ***Andy Thomson, Alan McLoughlin, Adrian Whitbread and Fitzroy Simpson*** all served the Robins well, and are playing their part in ***Pompey's*** recent reversal of fortune.

During the summer, the south coast club lost the services of their prolific striker, Lee Bradbury, who was sold to ***Man City*** for a club record £3 million and they have also parted company with another forward in the shape of Jamaica World Cup hero ***Deon Burton***. They will still have a considerable presence at ***France 98,*** with striker ***Paul Hall*** and midfielder ***Fitzroy Simpson*** both integral members of the ***'Reggae Boyz'*** squad.

But the combined blow of losing Bradbury and Burton knocked the stuffing out of ***Portsmouth*** in the early part of this campaign, and having finished seventh in last year's First Division table - one place off the Play-Off zone - they struggled to emulate 1996/97's good form.

Alan Ball, though, has breathed new life into the Fratton Park outfit - and they are sure to be a dangerous proposition this afternoon.



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player profile Pompey

Portsmouth

Goalkeepers

Aaron Flahavan

Highly-rated young 'keeper who suffered a crisis of confidence midway through last season, but is now back on top form and has enjoyed a reasonable run in the side this season.

Born: Southampton, 15.12.75
Height: 6ft 1in
Weight: 11st 12lb
League record this season: 14/0
Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
96/97	Portsmouth	24

Alan Knight

Now sharing the goalkeeping duties with Aaron Flahavan, Alan holds the record for most League appearances by a goalkeeper for one club. After losing his place in the early part of 1996/97 he battled back to regain the number one shirt in the second half of the season. He is approaching the remarkable figure of 670 League appearances for Pompey, his only professional club.

Born: Balham, 03.07.61
Height: 6ft 1in
Weight: 13st 11lb
League record this season: 20/0
Honours: Div Three title 1983; England Youth, U21 caps

Era	Club	Games
77/78 - 96/97	Portsmouth	642

Defenders

Andy Awford

Still only 25, Andy was last season appointed captain of the Pompey side. Able to play in central defence or at sweeper, he underwent surgery for a hernia during the summer but has again been outstanding at the heart of the defence in what has been a difficult campaign.

Born: Worcester, 14.07.72
Height: 5ft 9in
Weight: 11st 9lb
League record this season: 27/0
Honours: England Schools, Youth, U21 caps

Era	Club	Games
88/89 - 96/97	Portsmouth	203

Russell Perrett

Formerly an apprentice at Fratton Park, Russell was released and went to play non-League football at nearby AFC Lymington, the same town where he had been to school. Former Pompey boss Terry Fenwick snapped him up after the player impressed during pre-season training in the summer of 1995.

Born: Barton-on-Sea, 18.06.73
Height: 6ft 2in
Weight: 13st
League record this season: 16/1
Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
95/96 - 96/97	Portsmouth	41

Robbie Pethick

Released by Plymouth as a youngster, Robbie is a right-sided wing-back who loves to push forward. Stepped in to replace Aaron Flåhavan when the goalkeeper was sent-off at Bradford last season. He has missed just two games in the League all season, at the time of writing.

Born: Tavistock, 10.10.71
Height: 5ft 10in
Weight: 11st 9lb
League record this season: 32/1
Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
93/94 - 96/97	Portsmouth	135

Andy Thomson

Quick, strong and powerful in the air, Andy was released by home-town club Swindon following a disagreement with boss Steve McMahon and was promptly snapped up by the Fratton Park outfit.

Born: Swindon, 28.03.74
Height: 6ft 3in
Weight: 14st
League record this season: 23/0
Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
92/93 - 95/96	Swindon	22
95/96 - 96/97	Portsmouth	44

Michalis Vlachos

Tough-tackling defender or midfielder who has won a Greek title and four cup winners' medals with AEK Athens in his home city. Previously with Olympiakos Pereaus, he is at Pompey on a six month loan period, with a view to a permanent move.

Born: Athens, Greece, 20.09.67
League record this season: 7/0
Honours: Greece Full caps

Adrian Whitbread

After a spell on loan at Fratton Park in November 1995, Adrian finally signed on 'full-time' in October 1996. A wholehearted central defender who likes to play the ball out from the back, he has previously spent two happy seasons here at the County Ground.

Born: Epping, 22.10.71
Height: 6ft 1in
Weight: 13st
League record this season: 27/1
Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
89/90 - 92/93	L.Orient	125
93/94 - 94/95	Swindon	36
94/95 - 95/96	West Ham	10
95/96	Portsmouth	13
96/97	West Ham	-
96/97	Portsmouth	24

Other Defenders include:
Lee Russell (ex-YTS); David Waterman (ex-YTS); Danny Hinshelwood (from Nottm For, Feb 1996, Free. England Youth caps); Jon Hawley (ex-YTS); Gavin Rees (ex-YTS).

Midfielders

Martin Allen

Tough-tackling midfielder who revels in his nickname of 'Mad Dog'. Out of the first-team for almost the whole of 1996/97 with a knee injury, he has appeared only fitfully in the current campaign.

Born: Reading, 14.08.65
Height: 5ft 11in
Weight: 12st 6lb
League record this season: 9/0
Honours: England Youth, U21 caps; Football League Rep XI

Era	Club	Games
83/84 - 89/90	QPR	136
89/90 - 95/96	West Ham	190
95/96 - 96/97	Portsmouth	31

John Durnin

Formerly a striker, John has been converted to more of an attacking midfield role at Fratton Park. A fierce tackler who competes for everything and belies his forward roots by still pushing up and taking a pop at goal at regular intervals.

Born: Bootle, 18.08.65
Height: 5ft 10in
Weight: 11st 10lb
League record this season: 23/4
Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
85/86 - 88/89	Liverpool	-
88/89	WBA	5
88/89 - 92/93	Oxford 161	44
93/94 - 96/97	Portsmouth	119

Craig Foster

One of Pompey's 'Aussie Connection', Craig was formerly with Glasgow Rangers, but was refused a work permit after six months at Ibrox in the mid-1980s. An integral member of Terry Venables' Australian national squad, he followed his national boss to Fratton Park last summer.

Born: New South Wales, Australia, 15.04.69
Height: 5ft 11in
Weight: 12st
League record this season: 16/2
Honours: Australia Youth, Full caps

David Hillier

His top-flight experience was vital as Portsmouth battled for promotion last season. A hard-working midfielder with good passing skills.

Born: Woolwich, 19.12.69
Height: 5ft 10in
Weight: 12st
League record this season: 20/2
Honours: FA Youth Cup 1988; League title 1991; England U21 cap

Era	Club	Games
87/88 - 96/97	Arsenal	104
96/97	Portsmouth	21

Sammy Igoe

Diminutive, but spirited, midfield man who has forced his way into the first-team on a regular basis in the last 18 months, having previously struggled to break into the side. Has already doubled his career goals total this season.

Born: Spelthorne, 30.09.75
Height: 5ft 6in
Weight: 9st 7lb
League record this season: 28/2
Honours: None

Era	Club	Games
93/94 - 96/97	Portsmouth	63

Alan McLoughlin

Excellent passing skills and the priceless ability to arrive late in the box and pick up goals make Alan a valuable player. He was voted the Rep of Ireland 'Player of the Year' for 1996 - ahead of bigger celebrities such as Roy Keane and Denis Irwin. Alan is one of a number of former Robins turning out for Pompey this season.

Born: Manchester, 20.04.67
Height: 5ft 8in
Weight: 10st 10lb
League record this season: 28/4
Honours: Rep of Ireland 'B', Full caps

Era	Club	Games
84/85 - 85/86	Man Utd	-
86/87	Swindon	9
86/87 - 87/88	Torquay	24
87/88 - 90/91	Swindon	97
90/91 - 91/92	Southampton	24
91/92	A.Villa	-
91/92 - 96/97	Portsmouth	212

Fitzroy Simpson

And here's another one. The tenacious Fitzroy was one of the so-called 'Reggae Boyz' who helped Jamaica qualify for the 1998 World Cup, Fitzroy is a hard-running midfield ball-

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winner who arrived at Pompey in August 1995 as part of the deal which took defender Kit Symons to Manchester City.

Born: Trowbridge, 26.02.70
Height: 5ft 8in
Weight: 12st
League record this season: 14/0
Honours: Jamaica Full caps

Era	Club	Games
88/89 - 91/92	Swindon	105
91/92 - 94/95	Man City	71
94/95	Bristol C.	4
95/96	Man City	-
96/97	Portsmouth	71

Other Midfielders include:
Nathan Jukes, Mark Thompson, Adam Williams, Robbie Enes.

Forwards

Steve Claridge

Well-travelled striker who scored the goal that won the Coca-Cola Cup for Leicester last season, but has been deemed surplus to the Premiership club's requirements this time around. His physical presence and great experience have already proved valuable to Portsmouth since his arrival on loan.

Born: Portsmouth, 10.04.66
Height: 6ft
Weight: 12st 10lb
League record this season: 24/2 (including 16/0 for Leicester City)
Honours: Div Three title 1991; Div Two title 1995; Auto Windscreen Shield 1995; League Cup 1997

Era	Club	Games
84/85 - 85/86	Bournemouth	7
88/89	C.Palace	-
88/89 - 89/90	Aldershot	62
89/90 - 91/92	Cambridge	79
92/93	Luton	16
92/93 - 93/94	Cambridge	53
93/94 - 95/96	Birmingham	88
95/96 - 97/98	Leicester	62

John Aloisi

Pompey's leading scorer, who suffered the heart-break of being part of Australia's squad which missed out on World Cup 1998 after conceding two goals in the last 13 minutes of their Play-Off decider against Iran. Brought to replace £3 million man Lee Bradbury, he has been a revelation in Division One.

Born: Adelaide, Australia, 05.02.76
Height: 6ft 1in
Weight: 12st 4lb
League record this season: 28/11
Honours: Australia Full caps

Other Forwards include:
Jimmy Carter, Paul Hall, Mathias Svensson, Andy Turner, Hamilton Thorp (from West Adelaide, Australia, July 1997, £75,000. Australia Youth cap), Robbie Simpson (from Tottenham, June 1996, Free), Scott Bundy (ex-YTS), Ashkan Karimzadeh (ex-YTS).

Alan Ball the manager

One of the most successful players of his generation, Alan Ball has endured a chequered managerial career, although he is now back at the scene of arguably his greatest triumph as a coach.

Famous as the indefatigable 'youngster' of England's 1966 World Cup-winning side, Ball eventually played more than 70 times for his country and also led Everton to the 1970 League Championship before being transferred to Arsenal for a record fee of £220,000 the following year.

A tenacious tackler and fine passer of the ball - even in his trademark white boots of the early 70s - midfielder Ball also turned out for Blackpool, Southampton (twice), Philadelphia Fury (USA), Vancouver Whitecaps (Canada), Blackpool (player-coach), Bulova (Hong Kong) and Bristol Rovers before retiring with a mammoth 743 League appearances under his belt.

He was originally appointed manager at Fratton Park back in May 1984, succeeding Bobby Campbell and with Pompey wallowing in the old Second Division. After several thrilling, but ultimately fruitless, near misses he finally led the club into the top flight at the end of the 1987/88 campaign.

However they were relegated 12 months later and, with Portsmouth struggling back in Division Two, Ball moved on in January 1989, joining Colchester United as assistant to Jock Wallace and later Stoke City in a similar role with former England colleague Mick Mills.

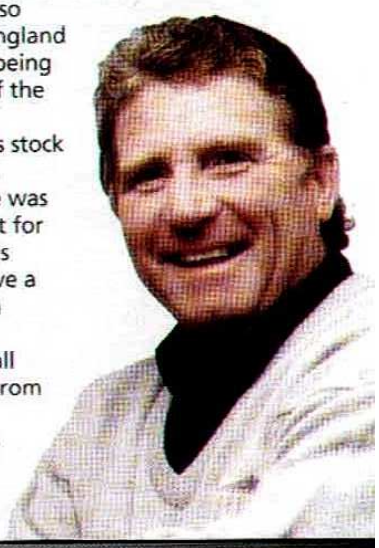
However, within a fortnight he had been made up to Caretaker-Manager at the Victoria Ground, when Mills was unceremoniously fired.

Despite spending heavily on new players, Stoke slumped and were relegated, slipping to 14th spot in the old Third Division the following season - their lowest-ever League position - before Ball moved on again, in February 1991.

He re-emerged at Exeter City, where he spent three years - a spell when he also enjoyed six months coaching England under Graham Taylor - before being handed the poisoned chalice of the top job at Manchester City.

After leaving City in 1996, Ball's stock was at a low ebb, but his drive, ambition and love of the game was never going to stay out of sight for long, and his re-appointment as Portsmouth boss could yet prove a masterstroke by new Chairman Martin Gregory.

Four straight victories under Ball have seen Pompey pull away from the Play-Off places - he'll be aiming to keep that impressive form going this afternoon.



STATS...STATS...STATS Swindon vs Portsmouth

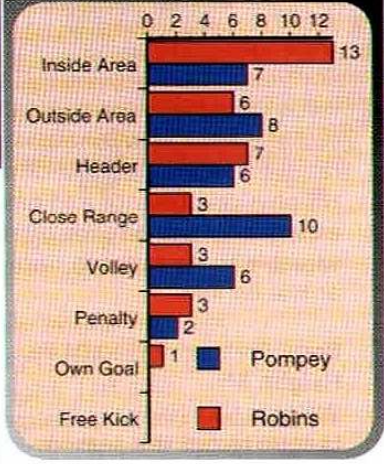
who's played for Portsmouth

	A	G	C	Previous Clubs
Robbie Pethick	32(1)	1	6	Weymouth
8/9/70	*3(1)*			
Adrian Whitbread	28	1	2(1)	West Ham Swindon
22/10/71	*3*			Orient
Alan McLoughlin	26(3)	4	*3*	Southampton Villa (L)
20/4/67 Eire	*4*			Swindon Torquay Man Utd
John Aloisi	25(4)	12	2	Cremonese Antwerp
5/2/76 Australia	*3*			Standard Liege Adelaide City
Andy Awford	25(3)		2	
14/7/72 Eng U21	*3*			
Andy Thomson	23(1)		5(2)	Swindon
28/3/74	*4*		*1*	
David Hillier	21	2	3	Arsenal
19/12/69 Eng U21	*2*	*1*		
Paul Hall	20(2)	3		Torquay
3/7/72	*3*			
Alan Knight	20			
3/7/61 Eng U21	*2*			
Sammy Igoe	18(10)	2	2	
30/9/75	*1(1)*			
John Durnin	16(8)	4	3	Oxford Liverpool West
18/8/65	*2*		*1*	Brom (L)
Russell Perrett	15(1)	1	2	AFC Lymington
18/6/73	*1*			
Aaron Flahavan	15			
15/12/75	*2*			
Mathias Svensson	14(5)	4	5	Elfsborg
24/9/74	*2(1)*	*1*	*2*	
Craig Foster	13(3)	2	2	Marconi Fairfield
15/4/69 Australia	*2*	*2*	*1*	Adelaide City Rangers
Andy Turner	12(4)	1		Tottenham Southend (L)
23/3/75 Eire U21	*1(1)*			Huddersfield (L) Doncaster (L) Wycombe (L)
Fitzroy Simpson	12(2)		1	Man City Bristol City (L)
26/2/70	*2*			Swindon
David Waterman	9(4)		1	
16/5/77	*2*		*(1)*	
Steve Claridge	9	2		on loan from Leicester
10/4/66				
Lee Russell	8		2	Bournemouth (L)
3/9/63	*1(1)*			
Michalis Vlachos	8		1	AEK Athens
age 30 Greece				
Jimmy Carter	6(3)			Arsenal Oxford (L)
9/11/65	*(1)*			Liverpool Millwall QPR Palace
Matthew Robinson	4			Southampton
23/12/74				
Martin Allen	3(6)		1(1)	West Ham QPR
14/8/65 Eng B				
Robbie Enes	1(4)			Sydney Utd Melbourne Zebras
22/8/75 Australia				
Hamilton Thorp	(7)			West Adelaide
21/8/73 Australia	*1(1)*	*1*	*1*	Rochdale
Paul Harries	(1)		1	NSW Federation
19/11/77				

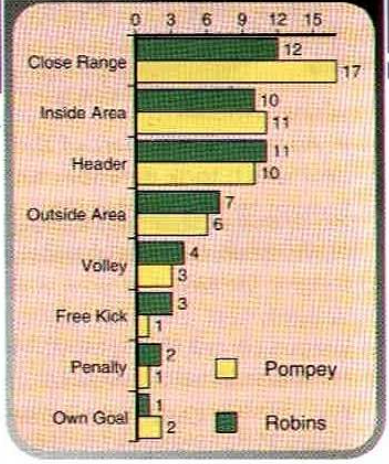
Key : A=Appearances (Sub) C=Cautions (Sent Off) G=Goals
Cup details, date of birth and international honours in italics

Compiled by Football Information Services
Tel : 0151-632-5679

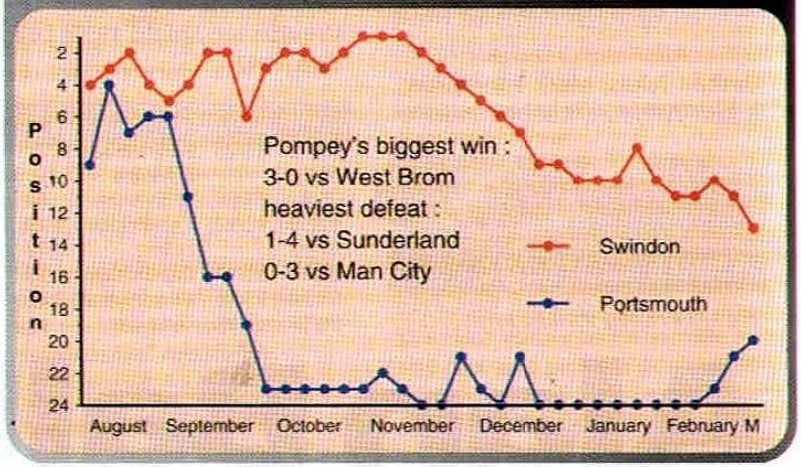
how goals went in



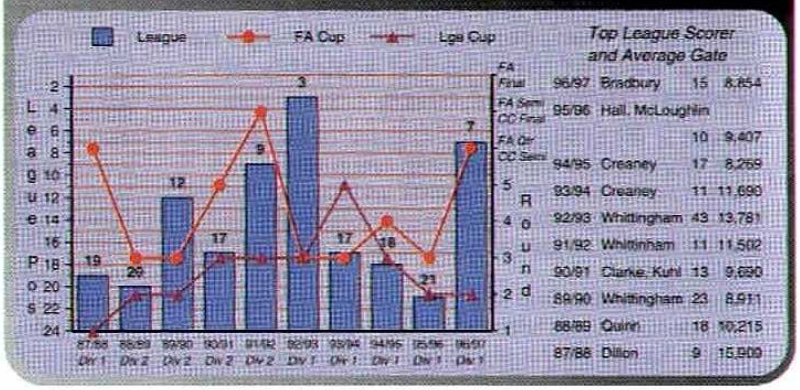
how goals conceded



league position so far this season



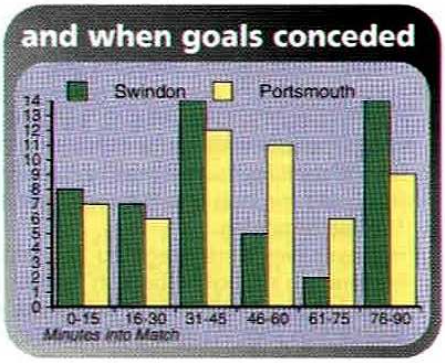
Portsmouth's 10 year League and Cup record



Portsmouth's results analysis

when goals were scored

and when goals conceded



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looking back...

Dick Mattick looks back

5 YEARS AGO

It could all have been such a different story at Vicarge Road had not Fraser Digby pulled off two fine saves in the first five minutes. After this, Town took over. Steve White had fired Swindon into a first minute lead but without those two saves when Paul Bodin set up Dave Mitchell for the second it could have been just an equaliser. As it was Steve White completed his hat-trick with goals in the 29th and 80th minutes. Coming a week after Glenn Hoddle picked up his first Manager of the Month award and, with Swindon looking good for a play off spot, things looked bright at the County Ground. Goals by Guy Whittingham and Warren Aspinall give Portsmouth a 2-1 home victory over Luton Town. At the end of the season they finish in third position in Division One and lose out narrowly 3-2 on aggregate to Leicester in the play off semi final.

10 YEARS AGO

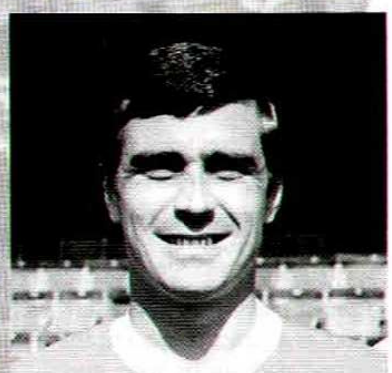
It was just Swindon's luck that on the first occasion they were called upon to play a first team match on an artificial surface the result would decide who went to Wembley. Luton Town took the lead in the 29th minute of the Simod Cup semi final when Brian Stein headed in a Tim Breacker cross. Swindon got an equaliser in the 67th minute when Les Sealey in the Luton goal failed to hold a fierce free kick by Jimmy Quinn and Kieran O'Regan swept in the loose ball. Dave Bamber should have given the Robins the lead two minutes later but he seemed to think he was offside and his half hit shot was turned away. It was a miss Swindon were to regret as in extra time Mark Stein headed the goal that took Luton to Wembley for a final with Reading. Portsmouth, who had gone out of the League Cup 6-2 on aggregate to Swindon, managed to reach the Sixth Round of the FA Cup before going down 3-1 at Luton"s Kenilworth Road ground with Mike Quinn getting Pompey's only goal.

15 YEARS AGO

Swindon's run of ill fortune continued when they went down 1-0 at Mansfield. Swindon's Mike Graham was unlucky to have a tackle on Dave Caldwell judged to be a foul and this gave John Dungworth the chance to net a penalty which proved to be the only goal of the game. Five minutes later Paul Rideout, who had found a leg to fall over, failed with his spot kick. In the closing minutes, debutante Martin Blackler had the heartbreaking experience of seeing a brilliant shot from thirty yards disallowed for offside. Steve Aizelwood, who also played for Swindon, is on the Portsmouth team that earns a point in a goal less draw at Preston.

FLASH-BACK

Portsmouth had been Football League Champions in the early fifties but had sunk to Division Two. Swindon, after fifty years of trying, had finally reached Division Two. This was the scenario when the clubs met at Fratton Park on 31st August 1963 on a sun drenched afternoon more suited to cricket than football. A diving header from 'Big' Bill Atkins in the 36th minute was the only score in the first half although Trollope was called on to clear off his own line just before the half ended. Mike Summerbee, who was made man of the match by Sam Bartram in his match report, struck a cracking 25 yard shot to put Town two up just minutes into the second half and it was Summerbee again who was mainly responsible for the Robins third goal when his cross was headed into his own net by Brian Snowden. Even Jimmy Dickinson, one of the survivors of the Pompey championship team, could not stop the rampant young Swindon forwards and in the 67th minute Roger Smart cracked in number four. It was left to Ron Saunders to score a consolation goal for Pompey which did nothing to take the shine off a wonderful Town win.



Roger Smart

Mike Walsh's diary of the week

Monday

23rd February

Players turned up for training today looking a bit shell-shocked after Saturday's defeat to Manchester City. We had some good spells of possession in the second half, and bringing on Walters and Cowe created some chances but we just were not consistent enough.

We got the lads out on the training pitch and worked them hard with some short sprints and small games of three against three to keep them sharp and on their toes.

Tuesday

24 February

Took the lads down to Supermarine and worked on set pieces. It was a good session and the lads felt great afterwards.

Wednesday

25th February

First team were in bright and early. Got the lads out for eleven against eleven, the first half we used as a practice match, the second half we stopped and started, re-running situations from the Man City match. This did the lads good, to have a look at what did work and what didn't.

In the evening myself and the gaffa watched a great reserve game as we beat Brighton 6-1. The team played well as a unit with pro's like Ceurvo and Walters running riot at their defence. It was also good to see some of the youth lads, like Meechan get on the score sheet with two.

Thursday

26th February

The emphasis today was on keeping the lads focussed on the job in hand. We know Bury are a physical team with a lot of height and strength so we worked on ways to combat this

Friday

27th February

Light session today, plenty of team races and games to keep the spirits up combined with some games of 5 aside. Then, after a shower and a change, it we all sat down for chicken, beans and pasta. As we boarded the coach the atmosphere was relaxed but focused.

Saturday

28th February

The hours before a match are never easy, the lads just want to get to the ground and get on with it. In the morning we took the team for a walk then it was back to the hotel for "feet up" and tea and toast.

We certainly raised a few eye brows with our selection, with Talia in goal. Myself and the Gaffa felt Frank was ready and did us proud with ninety minutes of excellent goalkeeping. Against a team with some big lads he dominated his box.

After the game I felt we were very unlucky not to get at least a point. We created some good chances and Robbo had a goal disallowed. What we lacked was some quality finishing, when the chances arose we didn't take them.

Sunday

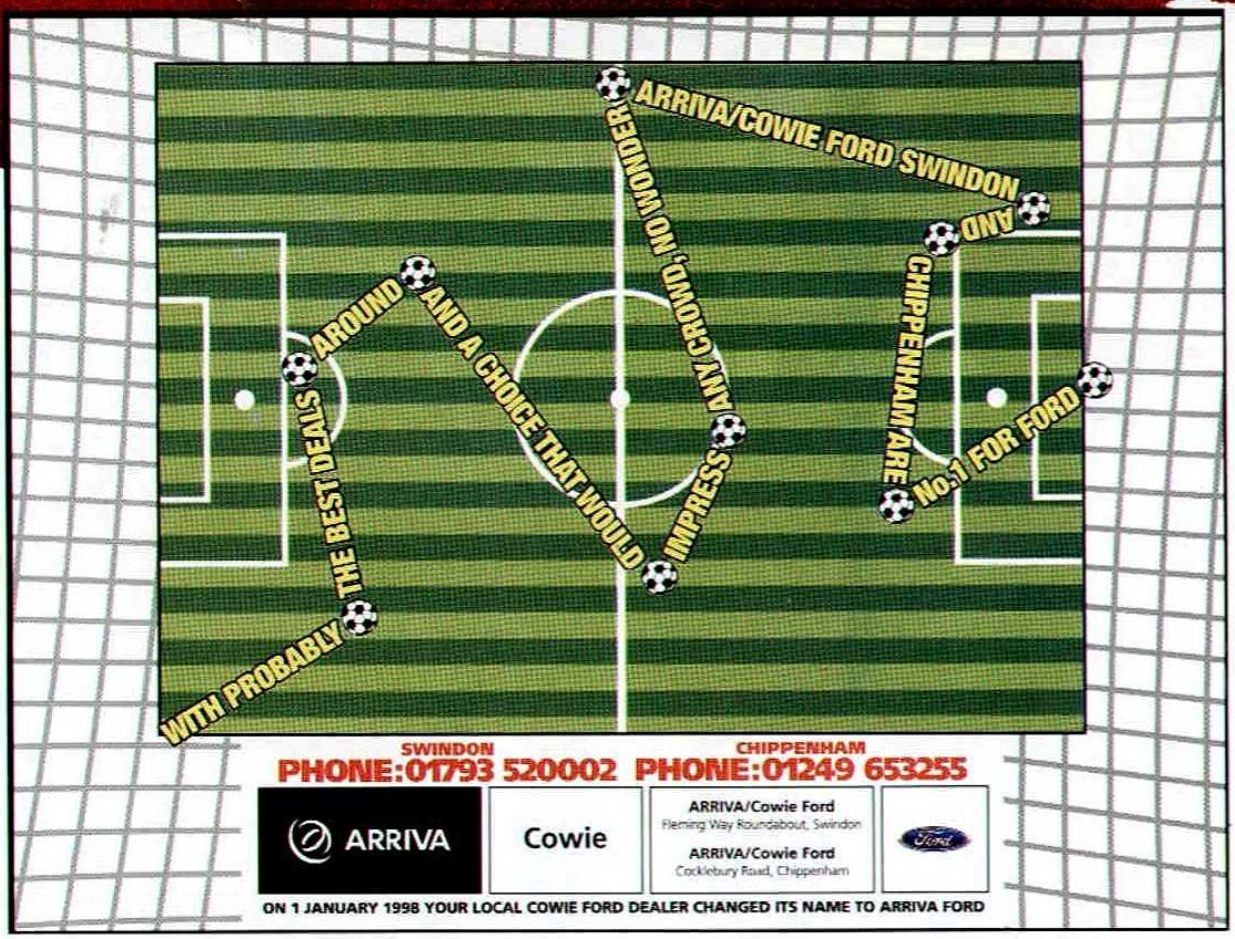
1st March

The first team had a rest day with the injured coming in for some treatment.

Monday

2nd March

Kept the session sharp and bright, short sprints, circuit training and some games of two touch. In the afternoon some of the coaching staff went to watch a few games.



SWINDON
PHONE:01793 520002

CHIPPENHAM
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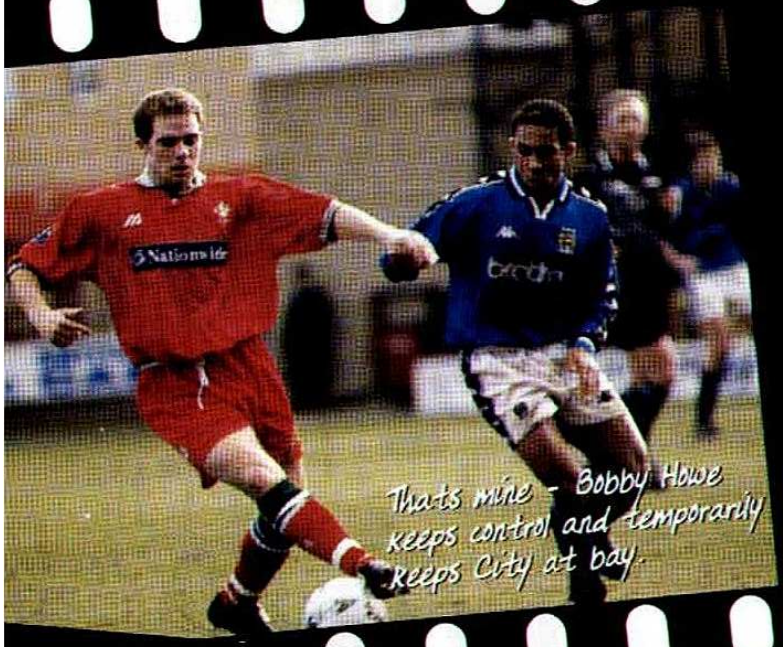
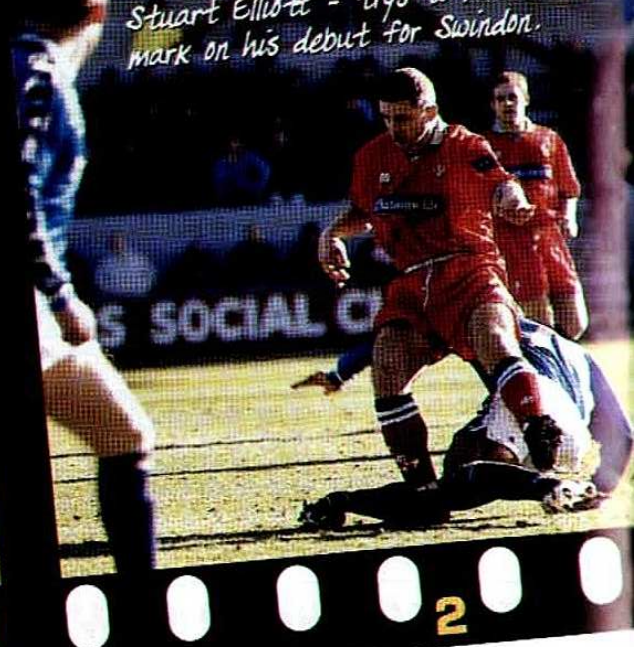
action replay

vs Man City

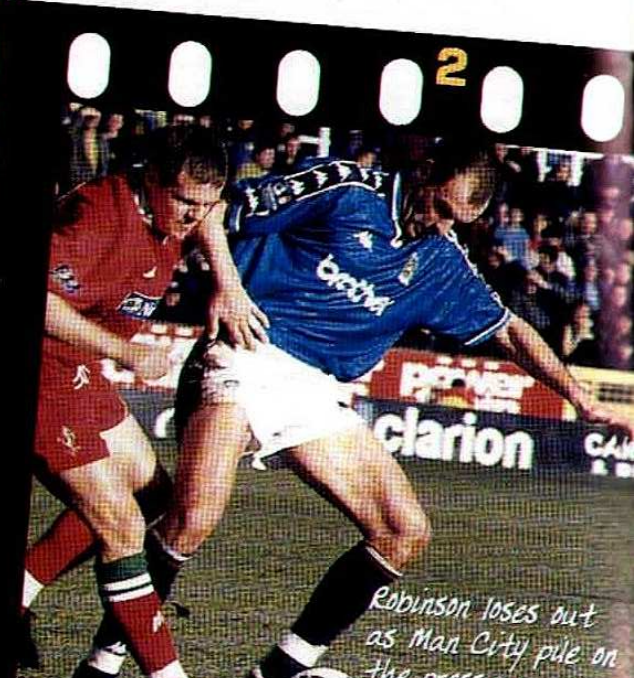


That's mine - Bobby Howe keeps control and temporarily keeps City at bay.



Stuart Elliott - tries to make his mark on his debut for Swindon.

Mark Robinson shows who's boss with a crunching tackle.



Robinson loses out as Man City pile on the pressure.

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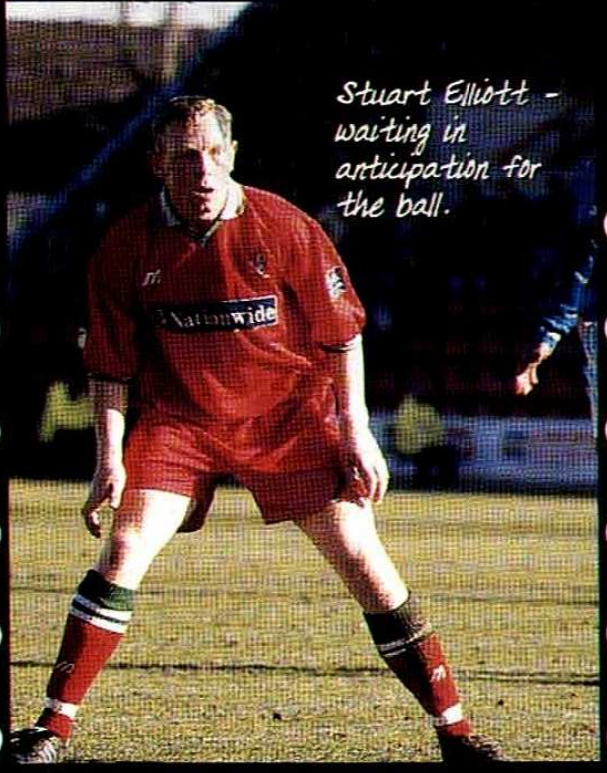
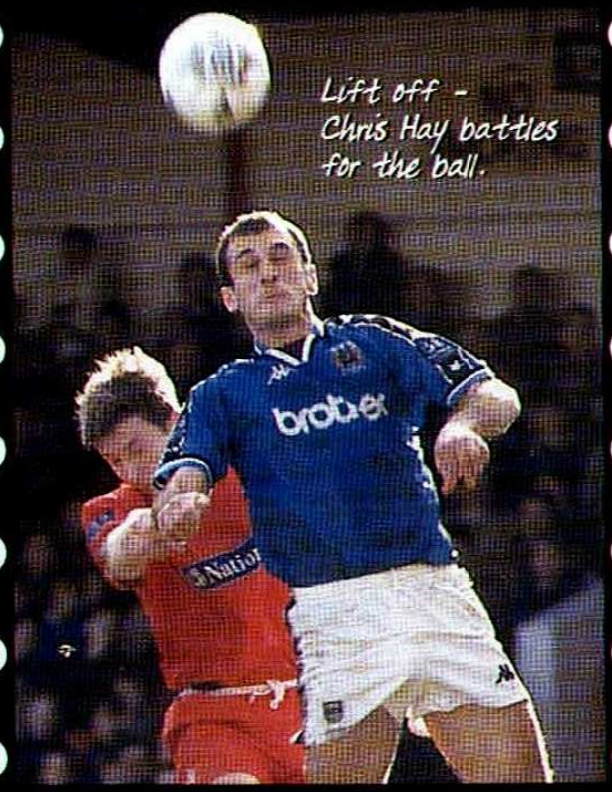


Stuart Elliott - waiting in anticipation for the ball.



Lift off - Chris Hay battles for the ball.

RESULT...

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21ST
NATIONWIDE DIVISION ONE

Swindon Town 1
Man City 3

ATTENDANCE: 12,280

SWINDON...

1. Steve Mildenhall
2. Mark Robinson
3. Brian Borrows
4. Scott Leitch
5. Craig Taylor
6. Lee Collins
7. Darren Bullock
8. Bobby Howe
9. Chris Hay (McDonald 86)
10. Steve Finney (Cowe 50)
11. Stuart Elliott (Walters 50)

MATCH REPORT

Manchester City looked more like a side fighting for promotion not relegation. It has been Swindon's bad luck this season that City have lived up to their full potential on both meetings with us, so Steve McMahon will be happy to see the back of his old club for this season. It was a tough afternoon for 19-year-old Steve Mildenhall who had not conceded a goal in his previous three league games. The first half of the match proved to be a real battle with non stop aerial bombardment on the Swindon goal. It was in the 22nd minute when Mildenhall failed to hold a cross from City's Jeff Whitley, which fell at the feet of Craig Russell who watched his 10yrd effort headed off the line by Swindon's man-of-the-match Darren Bullock. One minute later Mildenhall pulled off a great save only to see it rebound to Rosler who squeezed it home for City's first. Swindon managed to get back into the game in the second half when substitute Steve Cowe headed a 72nd minute equaliser. Things began to shape up for the Town as they battled for the lead, when 8 minutes later City retook the lead as sloppy defending allowed Rosler to slot home his 2nd goal.
The words 'pear shaped' sprang to mind when city got their third with Bradury heading into an empty net.
Joe Royle Left the County Ground with three points in his revival campaign, this leaving McMahon in despair who still struggles to find form in his squad.

reserve round-up

with Ross MacLaren

AVON INSURANCE Combination
A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN

Avon Insurance Combination Division One.

Swindon Town Reserves 6 Brighton & HA Reserves 1

It was nice to get back to winning ways with a solid all round performance from the squad against a good Brighton side.

We didn't get off to the best of starts, with two minutes gone they went 1-0 up. Sloppy defending costing us, and you begin to see an uphill strugle.

But, to be fair to the lads, they didn't let their heads drop and they came back well as they started to knock the ball about more.

We then decided to change the system from the usual back four to a 3-4-2 system, I thought the boys coped very well with that. It seemed to give Watson and Hulbert more time in midfield and they've actually run the show.

From this point on we had much more possession and started to create chances that we took. What was nice to see was players who haven't been playing well come back to form. Players such as Watson, Finlayson, Meechan and Ceurvo all turned in good performances.

In addition Phil King played a good ninety minutes, which he hasn't done in a while, and Alan McDonald played like a true professional, doing the usual job.

The best of the goals was Philipe Ceuvo's, he picked it up from the right hand side and came across the pitch, played a good one-two, cut in from the left and finished off the move with a great chip over the keeper.

Reserve Team Player Appearances 97/98

	League		Cup		Total	
Player Name:	Apps.	Gls.	Apps.	Gls.	Apps.	Gls.
STEPHEN BENNETT	1(2)	0	0	0	1(2)	0
ANTHONY BETTERTON	3	0	0	0	3	0
DARREN BULLOCK	11	0	0	0	11	0
PETER CAIRNS	1	0	0	0	1	0
NICKY BURKE	(2)	0	0	0	(2)	0
SAM CAMPAGNA	1(4)	1	0	0	1(4)	1
STEVE COWE	16	3	0	0	16	3
LEE COLLINS	10	0	0	0	10	0
PHILIPPE CUERVO	4	1	0	0	4	1
IAN CULVERHOUSE	12	0	0	0	12	0
FREDERIC DARRAS	4	0	0	0	4	0
SOL DAVIS	7(3)	1	0	0	7(3)	1
FRASER DIGBY	1	0	0	0	1	0
JASON DRYSDALE	3	0	0	0	3	0
STUART ELLIOTT (TRIALIST)	1	1	0	0	1	1
GARY ELKINS	18(1)	3	0	0	18(1)	3
ALEX FINLAYSON	3(3)	0	0	0	3(3)	0
STEVE FINNEY	8	5	0	0	8	5
CHRIS HAY	2	1	0	0	2	1
STUART HODSON	6(3)	3	0	0	6(3)	3
PETER HOLCROFT	10	1	0	0	10	1
ALUN HUGHES	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
ROBIN HULBERT	10(5)	0	0	0	10(5)	0
SCOTT LEITCH	2	0	0	0	2	0
PHIL KING	5	0	0	0	5	0
PHIL MACDIARMID	(3)	0	0	0	(3)	0
PAUL McAREAVEY	1(6)	1	0	0	1(6)	1
ALAN McDONALD	5	0	0	0	5	0
McHUGH	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
STEVE McMAHON	2	0	0	0	2	0
IAN McSHERRY	1(1)	0	0	0	1(1)	0
ALEX MEECHAN	9(5)	4	0	0	9(5)	4
STEVE MILDENHALL	12	0	0	0	12	0
JAMIE MILLS	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
MICHAEL PATTIMORE	5(2)	0	0	0	5(2)	0
BRADLEY PETERS	3	1	0	0	3	1
MARK QUAYLE (TRIALIST)	6	3	0	0	6	3
MARK ROBINSON	2	0	0	0	2	0
MARK SEAGRAVES	3	1	0	0	3	1
ALEX SMITH	15	2	0	0	15	2
FRANK TALIA	7	0	0	0	7	0
CRAIG TAYLOR	3	0	0	0	3	0
WAYNE THORNE	6(1)	0	0	0	6(1)	0
MARK WALTERS	8	3	0	0	8	3
KEVIN WATSON	13	0	0	0	13	0

NEXT HOME GAME

Monday 16th March 1998

vs Luton Town

Kick-Off 7.15pm

FIXTURES 97/98

Avon Insurance Combination Div 1

Tue	Aug	12	Crystal Palace	A 1-2
WED	AUG	20	TOTTENHAM	H 0-2
Thur	Aug	28	West Ham United	A 0-1
WED	SEP	10	CHALTON ATHLETIC	H 0-1
Mon	Sep	15	Brighton & H.A.	A 2-0
THU	SEP	25	NORWICH CITY	H 1-2
Wed	Oct	01	Portsmouth	A 2-0
Wed	Oct	08	Wimbledon	A 0-3
WED	OCT	15	IPSWICH TOWN	H 1-1
WED	OCT	29	ARSENAL	H 0-3
Mon	Nov	03	Chelsea	A 2-5
WED	NOV	12	OXFORD UNITED	H 5-1
Thur	Nov	20	QPR	A 2-3
MON	NOV	24	MILLWALL	H 1-1
WED	DEC	03	WEST HAM UNITED	H 3-1
Mon	Dec	08	Luton Town	A 0-6
Wed	Dec	10	Watford	A PP
Wed	Jan	07	Chalton Athletic	A PP
WED	JAN	14	PORTSMOUTH	H 4-1
Thur	Jan	22	Norwich City	A 1-2
THUR	JAN	29	WIMBLEDON	H 3-1
Wed	Feb	04	Ipswich Town	A 1-3
WED	FEB	11	SOUTHAMPTON	H 0-1
Wed	Feb	14	Oxford United	A 1-1
Wed	Feb	18	Millwall	A 1-4
WED	FEB	25	BRIGHTON & H.A.	H 6-1
WED	MAR	04	CHELSEA	H 7.15
Tue	Mar	10	Arsenal	A 2.00
MON	MAR	16	LUTON TOWN	H 7.15
WED	MAR	25	CRYSTAL PALACE	H 7.15
WED	APR	01	Q.P.R.	H 7.15
Wed	Apr	08	Southampton	A 7.30
Wed	Apr	15	Tottenham	A 7.30
WED	APR	22	WATFORD	H 7.15

All home fixtures are to be played at The County Ground and will kick-off at the time indicated above.
Kick-Off times are subject to change without prior warning.

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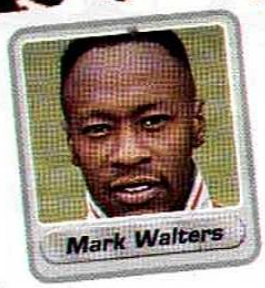
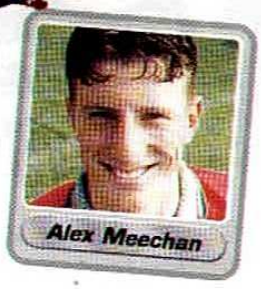




difficult angle, he chipped the keeper to send the ball in the top right hand corner.

Mark Walters got two, typical Wally: one-on-one with the keeper, he then drops the shoulder and finishes well.

Brighton were no walk over, we made it easy for ourselves by the way we played. When we show commitment, effort, skill and teamwork any side will find us difficult to beat. Overall, a sound ninety minutes that showed us what the players are capable of when they're on their game.

Team: Mildenhall, Walters, King (Thorne, 80), Watson, Elkins (Hodson, 70), McDonald, Culverhouse, Cuervo, Finlayson (McAreavey, 78), Meechan, Hulbert

NEXT AWAY GAME

Tuesday 10th March 1998

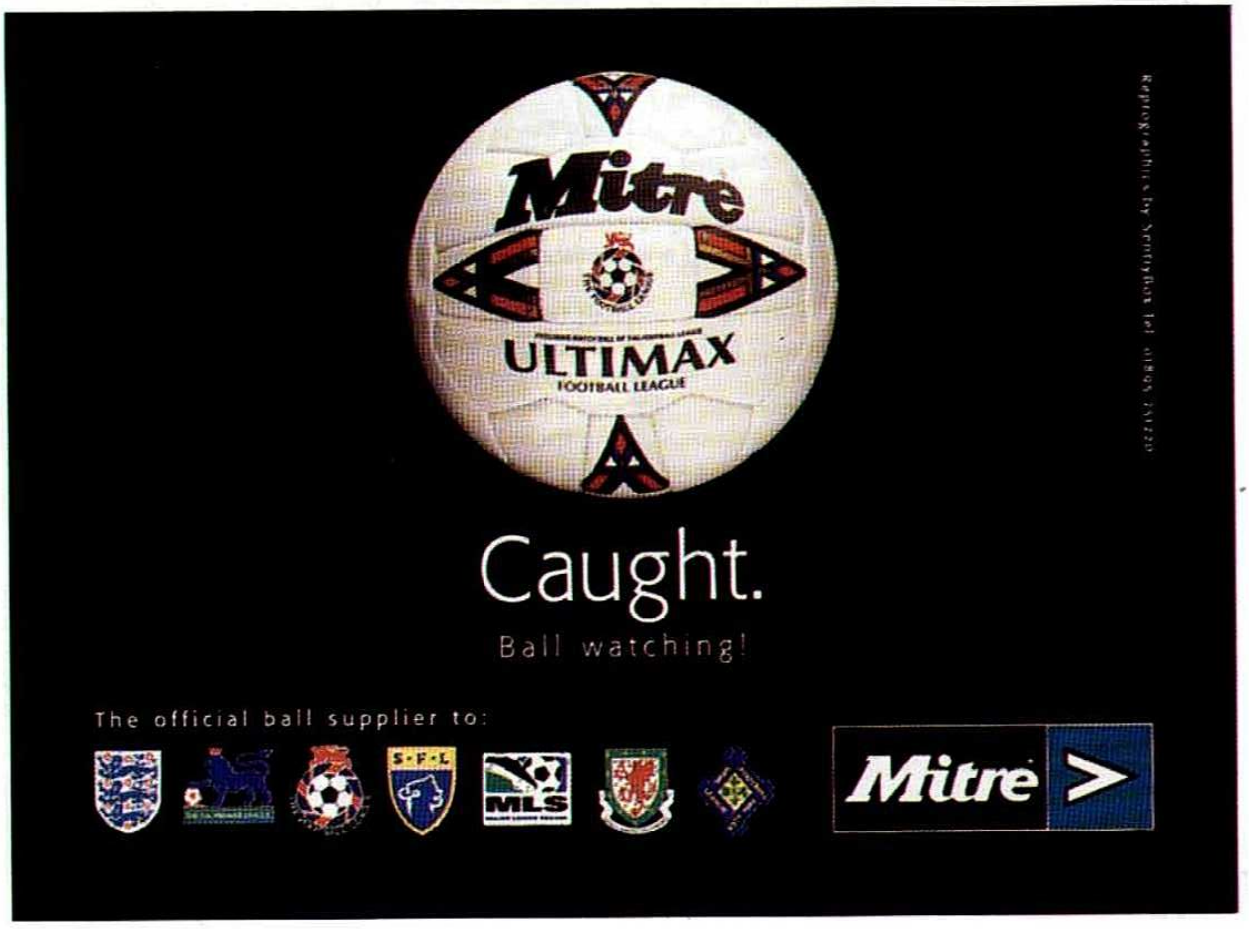
Arsenal

Kick-Off 2.00pm

THE LEAGUE

Avon Insurance Combination Div 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Arsenal	24	15	7	2	57	18	52	+39
Charlton Athletic	21	15	4	2	52	11	49	+41
Tottenham H.	22	14	5	3	45	20	47	+25
Norwich City	27	10	9	8	31	36	39	-05
Wimbledon	25	10	5	10	32	29	35	+03
Oxford United	25	9	8	8	37	48	35	-11
Crystal Palace	23	11	1	11	33	31	34	+02
Southampton	23	8	9	6	39	30	33	+09
Q.P.R.	25	8	8	9	36	31	32	+05
Millwall	24	9	5	10	25	34	32	-09
Portsmouth	24	8	6	10	30	34	30	-04
Ipswich Town	22	8	6	8	33	40	30	-07
Luton Town	23	7	6	10	30	33	27	-03
Chelsea	25	6	9	10	34	40	27	-06
SWINDON TOWN	24	7	3	14	37	46	24	-09
Watford	21	5	7	9	21	35	22	-14
West Ham United	22	5	4	13	23	42	19	-19
Brighton & H.A.	20	1	6	13	17	54	9	-37



youth team focus

with Tommy Wheeldon

FIXTURES 97/98

South East Counties League Division 2

south east

SAT	AUG 09	BRENTFORD	H 2-2
Sat	Aug 16	Southampton	A 1-2
SAT	AUG 23	LUTON TOWN	H 2-4
WED	AUG 27	CARDIFF CITY (JFC1)	H 3-3
Sat	Aug 30	Reading	A 3-1
Tue	Sep 9	Cardiff City (JFC1 Rep)	A 0-3
SAT	SEP 13	PORTSMOUTH (LC1)	H 1-0
WED	SEP 17	P'BORO UTD (MYC1)	H 1-1
Sat	Sep 20	Colchester United	A 2-1
SAT	SEP 27	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H 4-2
Tue	sep 30	P'boro Utd (MYC1 Rep)	A 2-1
Sat	Oct 04	Bristol Rovers	A 1-1
SAT	OCT 11	WYCOMBE W.	H 1-0
Tue	Oct 14	Notts Forest (MYC2)	A 1-2
SAT	OCT 18	BRISTOL ROVERS (LC2)	H 2-0
Sat	Oct 25	Wimbledon	A 2-4
Sat	Nov 01	Tottenham Hotspur	A 3-0
SAT	NOV 08	OXFORD UNITED	H 1-3
Sat	Nov 15	Barnet	A 0-1
MON	NOV 17	BRISTOL ROVERS (FAYC)	H 1-1
Sat	Nov 22	Luton Town (LC3)	A 2-4
Thur	Nov 27	Bristol Rovers (FAYC)Rep	A 0-0
		Swindon lost 10-9 on penalties	
SAT	NOV 29	BRIGHTON & H.A.	H PP
Sat	Dec 06	Bristol City	A 3-0
SAT	DEC 13	BRISTOL CITY	H PP
Sat	Dec 20	Brentford	A 2-3
SAT	JAN 03	SOUTHAMPTON	H PP
Sat	Jan 10	Luton Town	A 1-0
SAT	JAN 17	READING	H 2-0
SAT	JAN 31	COLCHESTER UNITED	H 0-2
Sat	Feb 07	AFC Bournemouth	A 1-3
SAT	FEB 14	BRISTOL ROVERS	H 0-4
Sat	Feb 21	Wycombe Wndrs.	A 0-1
SAT	FEB 28	WIMBLEDON	H 1-1
SAT	MAR 07	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	H
Sat	Mar 14	Oxford United	A
SAT	MAR 21	BARNET	H
Sat	Mar 28	Brighton & H.A.	A

Home fixtures kick-off at 11.00am at the Nationwide Pavilion, Pipers Way - Kick-Off times are subject to change without prior warning.

FIXTURES 97/98

West Country Television South West Counties Youth League

south west

Aug 23	Bristol Rovers	A 4-2
AUG 30	CARDIFF CITY	H 2-3
Sept 06	Cheltenham Town	A pp
SEPT 13	CIRENCESTER TOWN	H 1-2
Sept 20	Exeter City	A 1-2
OCT 09	SWANSEA CITY(LC R1)	H 2-1
Oct 11	Plymouth Argyle	A 1-5
OCT 18	SWANSEA CITY	H 0-3
OCT 25	YEOVIL TOWN	H 0-1
Nov 01	Torquay United	A 1-2
NOV 08	AFC NEWPORT	H 1-1
Nov 15	Bashley	A PP
Nov 22	AFC Newport (LCR2)	A 1-2
NOV 29	BRISTOL CITY	H PP
Dec 06	Bristol City	A 1-1
DEC 13	BRISTOL ROVERS	H 5-2
Jan 03	Cardiff City	A PP
JAN 10	CHELTENHAM TOWN	H 3-3
Jan 17	Cirencester Town	A 0-5
JAN 24	EXETER CITY	H 1-3
FEB 07	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H 0-2
Feb 14	Swansea City	A 0-2
Feb 21	Yeovil Town	A 0-1
FEB 28	TORQUAY UNITED	H PP
Mar 07	AFC Newport	A
MAR 14	BASHLEY	H

Home fixtures kick-off at 11.00am - and Wednesday fixtures kick-off at 2.00pm. At the Nationwide Pavilion, Pipers Way - Kick-Off times are subject to change without prior warning.

South East Counties League Division Two

Swindon Town Youth 0 Wycombe Town Youth 1

We made a good, brisk start against a strong side that are always difficult to beat because they press the ball, and put teams under pressure.

Alex Meechan

But I was pleased with the way we matched them for this for much of the first half.

Jamie Mills

But Wycombe took the lead after about half an hours play. Poor defending on our part let them in. A cross came in from out wide and one of their players was completely unmarked and punished us for the error.

In the second half the lads worked hard to force them into making mistakes which led to a succession of corners. Phil MacDiarmid swung them in which we attacked well, hitting the bar from a Hodson header and then forcing the keeper into making a good save.

Although we lost, I can't be disappointed with the work rate, it was just a shame that a piece of poor defending at a set piece cost us so dearly.

Team: Clark, Campello, Campagna, Hodson, Thorne (Peters, 83), MacDiarmid, Mills, Hulbert (McHugh, 80) Meechan, Burke (Donlon, 75), Culbertson

South East Counties League Division Two

Swindon Town Youth 1 Wimbledon Youth 1

The lads faced terrible conditions for this game with the wind blowing across the pitch, so I was delighted with their performance and the results.

It was a good first half, we played some nice football and created some chances. Alun Hughes and Meechan were making some good runs up front and looked dangerous throughout.

It was from one of these runs that Hughes was pulled down in the penalty box. It was a clear penalty that Alex Meechan converted to put us 1-0 up.

NEXT HOME GAME

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES

Saturday 21st March 1998

vs Barnet

Kick-Off 11am

NEXT HOME GAME

SOUTH WEST COUNTIES

Saturday 14th March 1998

vs Bashley

Kick-Off 11.00am

SWINDON TOWN CLUBCALL FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS CALL 0891 121640
CALLS ARE CHARGED 50P AT ALL TIMES

South West Counties League Division Two

Swindon Town Academy 0 Yeovil Youth 1

The opening exchanges of this match saw chances created by both teams but it was a penalty to Yeovil that decided the game.

From the start of the second half we could see the game was changing. Wimbledon came out fighting, as we lost control of the game.

We continued to battle well, with the young lad Bittner pulling off some good saves and with our backs against the wall we managed to hold on to a deserved victory.

After the game I said to the lads that they showed good spirit and effort to soak up so much pressure and worked some good attacking play in the first half.

Team: Bittner, Peters, Campagna, Hodson, Thorne, Culbertson, Mills, MacDiarmid, McAreavey (Donlon, 45), Hughes, Meechan. Subs not used: Cairns, Burke

The Academy lads were unlucky not be level before half time when Hughes scored from a good cross, but the ref disallowed it due to a push on the keeper.

In the second half the lads continued to push forward well and created some good chances. We decided to push one midfielder to support the strikers and to sustain this pressure.

With fifteen minutes to go the youngster Mackey showed some mercurial skills. He picked up the ball from a corner took on two players and rifled in a good low shot, only to have it cleared off the line.

Alun Hughes was a real livewire up front and got in a few shots before the final whistle, but it just wasn't their day.

Overall, you couldn't fault their application and effort but they just didn't take their chances.

Team: Purcell, Pottinger, Clayton, Evans, Cairns, Masson, Mackey, Little,Sperti (Cleverley,55), Hughes.

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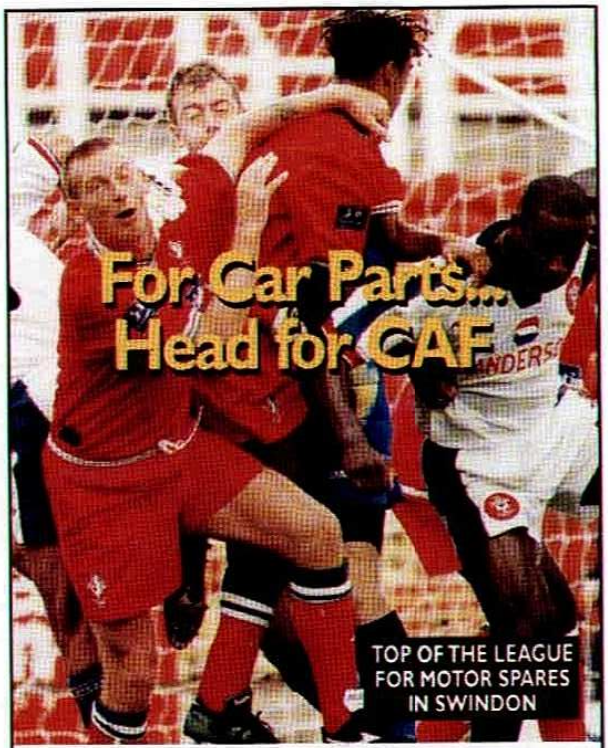

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community scheme news

with Clive & Jon

BREAD BASKET
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SPORTS £ £ MATCH

Clive Maguire

Jon Holloway

FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY
WAGON WHEELS

Good afternoon to you all for today's game against Portsmouth.

And an especially warm welcome to our Saturday Team Club Guests who are *Durrington Rangers* with *Mrs Potter* and *Whites Hill County Primary School, Stroud with Steve Almond*. The Saturday Team Club offers local football teams, youth clubs and scout groups the chance to enjoy the matchday atmosphere here at the County Ground.

For just ***£12 per person*** you can enjoy an action-packed day which begins at ***New College*** where you kick-off with a one and a half our coaching session. It's then time for lunch, which is provided by the Club, before you make your way to your seat in the Rover Family Stand to watch Steve McMahon's side show of their skills. Thrown into the package is a Matchday Magazine which has all the latest news from the Club. This day to remember is open to both children and their parents.

As well as the Saturday Team Club the Community Office also provides a scheme called ***Learning Through Football***. This programme gives children the opportunity to have lessons with a footballing theme at their favourite club. The scheme has been extended to run on Tuesday's and Thursday's when the Club's very own teachers ***Natasha Holt*** and ***Duncan Bamford*** hold informative lessons in the County Ground Classroom.

A typical day begins with an hour of coaching followed by the chance to see behind the scenes at the Club on a tour of the stadium and then the lesson. Away from school, we also run Football Funweeks during school holidays where boys and girls aged between 5 and 15 can take part in training sessions that are designed to help develop basic skills and technique for budding stars of all abilities.

The courses are usually staged over three days and include ground tours, expert coaching, special prizes and the chance to meet some of the first team players at Swindon Town.

No one leaves empty handed as ***goodie bags*** are distributed to all participants on the final day and it's great a opportunity to meet new friends as there are often well over 100 youngsters involved.

That's given you a taster of what we do in Community Office, if you would like to make an enquiry about any of the above please call us on ***01793 421303.***

SWINDON TOWN Soccer Centres
Swindon Borough Council

ANCHOR

The new courses start on Feb 23. Contact Tom Jones: ***01793 644777.***

VENUES - (FEB-MARCH)

LINK CENTRE		
Monday	5.30-6.30pm	5 - 6 & 9 - 11 years
Thursday	4.30-5.30pm	5 years
	5.30-6.30pm	7 - 8 years
OASIS		
Wednesday	5.00-6.00pm	8+ years
Saturday	9.00-10.00am	5 - 8 years
	10.00-11.00am	5 - 8 years
STRATTON		
Monday	3.30-4.30pm	5 - 6 years
	4.30-5.30pm	9 - 11 years
Wednesday	3.30-4.30pm	7 - 8 years
	4.30-5.30pm	7 - 8 years
MARLBOROUGH		
Wednesday	4.00-5.00pm	5 - 6 years
	5.00-6.00pm	11 - 16 years
HIGHWORTH		
Tuesday	4.00-5.00pm	5 - 6 years
	5.00-6.00pm	7 - 8 years
Thursday	5.00-6.00pm	9+ years

Swindon Town Football Club's Community Scheme is kindly supported by:

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CALLS ARE CHARGED 50P AT ALL TIMES

JUNIOR ROBINS

with Helen Mercer

Sponsored by ANCHOR

I can't hear you, - no it's not back to the panto season, I want to hear you shout and cheer for the lads this afternoon, louder then ever before!

They need to know you are behind them so get those vocal chords at the ready, *'Come on you Reds!'*

If you missed the boat (coach) on the QPR trip we still have places on the Birmingham trip 18.4.98. ***Give me a call on 01793 532121*** to secure your place. Unfortunately I have had to cancel the Junior Robin trip for Middlesbrough as it is now a midweek fixture.

Ross MacLaren's Reserves are having a good run, with the 6-1 win over Brighton under our belts. We face The Chelsea Reserves on Wednesday 4th March, Free to you Junior Robins, kick off is at 7.15pm, I will see you there.

Matchday Mascots vs Man City

mascots...mascots...

Today's mascot

Stuart & Matthew Underwood

Stuart is no stranger to the art if being a Swindon Town Mascot, back in April 1990 he was the Swindon Town Mascot against West Brom. Aged just 2 1/2 Stuart was carried on to the pitch by Alan McLoughlin for Swindon. Alan now plays for Portsmouth, I wonder if he remembers. Stuart is now 10 years old and attends Fairford Primary School. He likes Football, Rugby and Drawing and his favourite player is Mark Walters. (Back then it was Colin Calderwood). ***Matthew*** is aged 7 and also attends Fairford Primary with his brother, he likes football, Rugby, Reading and Cycling and Matthew's favourite player is Chris Hay.

Wayne Didcote

Wayne is 10 years old and attends the Bourton County Primary School. As well as the obvious football, Wayne also likes Roller Blading and his favourite player is George Ndah.

Elliot Shoesmoth

Elliot attends The Kings Lodge School in Chippenham and likes Football and Street Hockey. He is 8 years old and has a burning ambition to meet David Seaman, but here at the County Ground his favourite player is our very own Fraser Digby.

Janet Tudgay

Happy 40th Janet! Janet was 40 last weekend and has been a devoted Swindon Town fan since the mid sixties, supporting the club through thick and thin. Janet is an accounts manager for The General Telephone Company in Bath and enjoys Football and Netball. That 'Fraser' following is ever increasing as Janet is another devoted fan!

Welcome to the Pompey Mascots

Andrew Welsh

Andrew is the 1st Mascot for Pompey, he is 11 years old and attends Priory School in Portsmouth. Alan's favourite players are Alan Knight, Adrian Whitbread and John Aloisi.

Shane Knight

Shane is also 11 years old the attends Wheelers Lane Boys School in Birmingham/ Shane's favourite player is Alan Knight. Welcome to the County Ground boys, all the Team and staff at Swindon Town wish all our mascots a wonderful afternoon.

Rockin' Robin SUPERHERO

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" We tried Swindon Town for our sales meeting and were very impressed with the friendly and professional service. It offers great value for money and now we won't use anywhere else"

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Why not have your next meeting at the County Ground?

For further details please contact:

Swindon Town Football Club

Tel: (01793) 532121 Fax: (01793) 423771

centre of excellence

with Phil Cannon

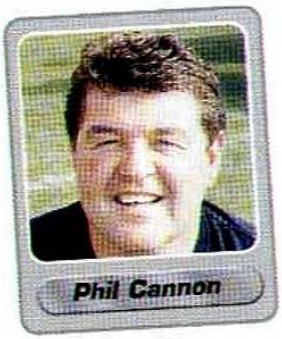
At the last home game against Manchester City we played an under 11's exhibition match on the pitch.

The teams were made up of local boy's from the Soccer Centres and the School of Excellence. It is great to see the lads coming through, hopefully one day they will get taken on full-time.

I don't think people realise how much work goes into getting local boys to join Swindon Town. We have scouts all over the area and close links with schools. If you think your child has outstanding ability if you supply us with details of the lad's achievements we will have him watched and if good enough, have him assessed at the Centre of Excellence.

Last week was half term so it was a chance to get teams together and hold some trials. Myself and Tom Jones watched 13 games from Sunday to Friday. A busy but informative week with trialists from all over the county coming down to hopeful get a place at Swindon Town.

Last weekend our under 9's, under 10's and under 11's travelled over to Gloucester to play some small sided games against the Gloucester representative league sides. Trying to watch three games at once isn't easy but I did manage to see an outstanding hat-trick from Ben Wells in our under 10's game. Well done son, keep it up.



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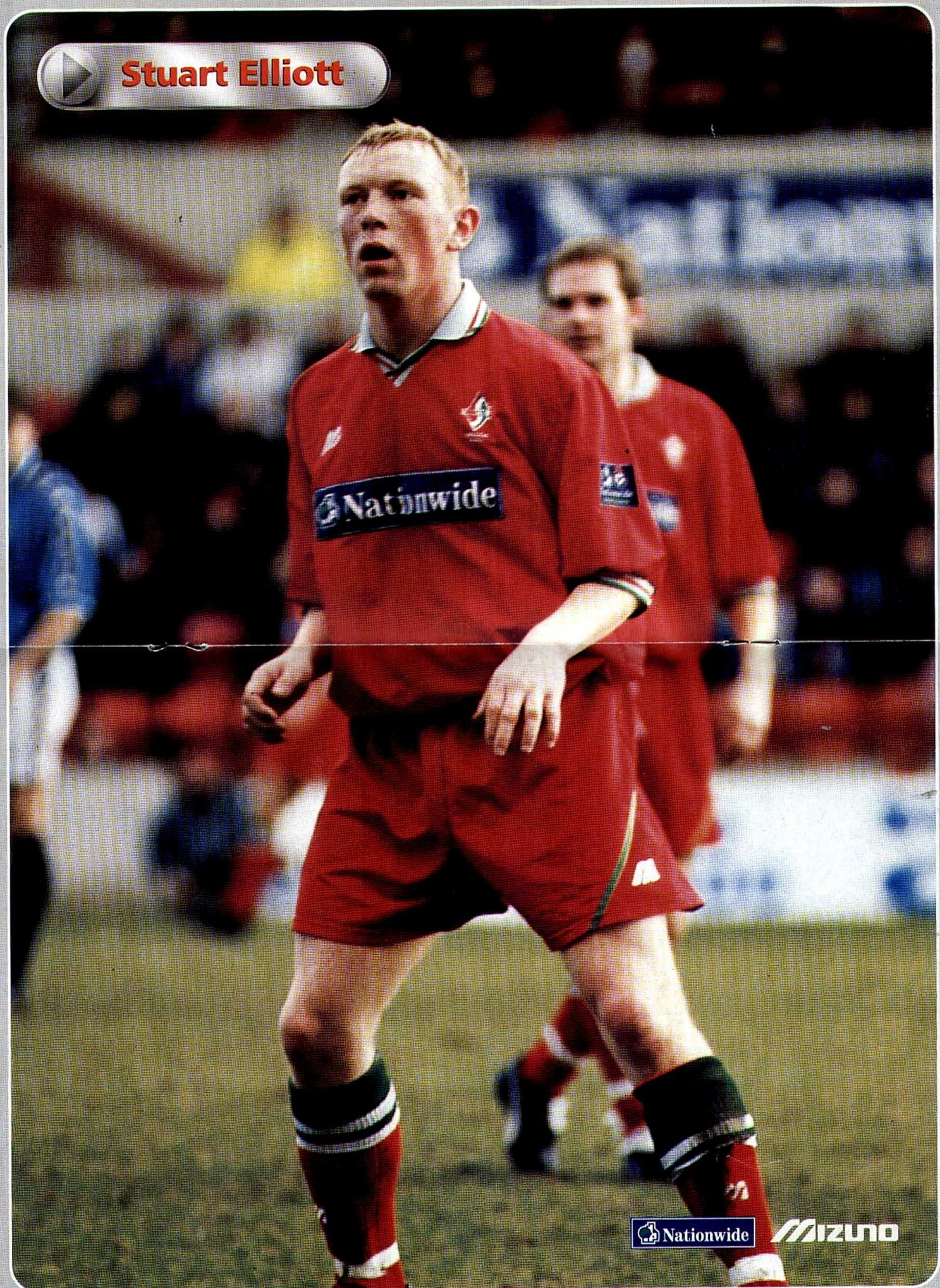
National Power and Swindon Town Football Club working in partnership to improve the skills of young footballers and searching for the stars of tomorrow


Stuart Elliott
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the ticket office @swindon town tickets

Q.P.R.

Q.P.R. Away Saturday 14th March.

646 seats available in advance priced at £13.00 adults £7.00 Juniors/Cons. Q.P.R. have made this match all ticket for Swindon Fans. A further 500 tickets will be made available if needed.

Wolverhampton Wanderers

This Match has been rearranged to Wednesday 18th March 7.45pm Kick-off, due to Wolves involvement in the F.A.Cup. Tickets aready purchased for the match will be valid for the new date.

Middlesbrough Away

11th March Kick Off 7.45pm – all ticket game, prices: £17 Adults £10 Concessions. 748 Tickets Available, all seated.

Home to Sunderland

The last game of the season against Sunderland on Sunday May 3rd 3.00pm Kick-Off is an *all ticket match*. So all supporters wishing to attend this game will need to get their tickets in advance from the Advanced Ticket Office.

Don't forget

Tickets for Reserve team games are on sale at the advance box office up until 7.30pm on matchdays.

Tickets cost £4 for adults and £1 concessions with free admission for season ticket holders and Junior Robins.

On Monday 16th March the Reserves take on Luton here at the County Ground Kick-Off (7.15pm).

DON'T MISS OUT

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

As from today match day tickets for the Arkell's Stand will be on sale from the match day ticket office situated at the back of the Rover Family Stand. All home tickets available on a matchday will be on sale from this office.

BOX OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.45pm
Saturday (non matchday) 10am - 4pm
Wednesday (matchday) 8.30am - kick-off
Saturday (matchday) 9am - kick-off

For further details on ticket availability contact the Ticket Office on:

(01793) 529000

To order by fax:

(01793) 431887

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Park & Ride

Parking is free at Nationwide House and a return ticket for the bus journey is only 50p (kids under 5 and Junior Robins travel free) . The first buses depart Nationwide House at 12.30pm then every 20 minutes thereafter through to the final bus at 2.30pm. After the game the first buses depart the County Ground at 4.45pm then every 20 minutes thereafter through to the final bus at 6.00pm. The Bus Stop is located at the Magic Roundabout, towards Shrivenham Road. Why not give it a try at the next home game against Stockport on Saturday March 21st.

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CALLS ARE CHARGED 50P AT ALL TIMES

on the road... travel...

Q.P.R
Saturday March 14th
Kick-Off 3.00pm

Following Q.P.R's Wednesday nights 5-0 demolition of title chasers Middlesbrough, the Londoners will be on a high and looking for another three points. So it will be our job to get behind the lads at Loftus Road!

Going to Middlesbrough...
Wednesday March 11th
Kick-Off 7.45pm

After suffering two major defeats in their chase for promotion, Bryan Robson's side will be looking to bounce back - an exciting game is in prospect.

Travelling by Road...

Q.P.R. - From the West use the M4 to Chiswick, then take the A315 and the A402 to Shepherds Bush, then join the A4020 signposted Acton. In one third of a mile turn right into Loftus Road.

Did You Know?

The most goals scored by a player in any one season for Q.P.R. was 44 by Rodney Marsh in the 1966 - 67 season.

TRAVEL CLUB

QUEENS PARK RANGERS
Fare £7.00 Adults, £5.00 Juniors
Depart County Ground: 11.30am

MIDDLESBROUGH
Fare £19.00 Adults, £17.00 Juniors
Depart County Ground: 12.30pm

Our coaches start at Aldbourne and we offer pick ups at Ashington Way plus other destinations en route. Please ask for these options and times when booking. Our coaches are either Executive or Luxury standard and we enforce our Non Smoking policy. Our Stewards are pleased to provide a selection of drinks and snacks throughout your journey, as well as the other on board entertainment we offer as well. Up to 25% reduction off our already excellent match day travel prices with our unbeatable Travel Club season ticket offer. Please ask for details. Special offers for our members - just £1.00 fee each season.

Make Sure You Book Now At:
Travel Club Office (Arkell's Stand, Supporters Club entrance) Open Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 7:00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. Also Open Every Matchday until 20 minutes before kick off Plus 24-hour Travel information answerphone service: Telephone (01793) 611499
Or book through Barnes Coaches Ltd Information Centre or telephone any day on (01672) 540330

S.A.S TRAVEL

QUEENS PARK RANGERS Fare £7.00
Depart COUNTY GROUND (Superstore) 11.15am
also picking up at WOOTTON BASSETT 10.45am
WEST SWINDON 11.00am ERMIN STREET 11.30am

MIDDLESBROUGH Fare £18.00
Depart COUNTY GROUND (Superstore) 12.15pm
also picking up at WOOTTON BASSETT 11.45am
WEST SWINDON 12 noon ERMIN STREET 12.30pm

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- ***All coaches are NON SMOKING***
- ***Reductions for accompanied under 15's***
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MATCHDAY SATURDAYS

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- Lunch Boxes
- Drinks Bottles
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- New Club Ties
- New Mascot Merchandise

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In & around the County Ground

Finetime Club launches German night

To launch the new Finetime Club that will be providing evenings out with a difference in Swindon, we are holding a German Night on April 11th at the County Ground.

The evening starts at 7.00pm in the Supporters Club with each person receiving a free Bavarian Glass which is filled up with "bier" once at the bar for free! The fun filled evening will see entertainment provided by an Ompah Band along with Party games such as "musical towels on chairs", with a disco to finish off the night. Food will be provided "German Style" and tickets are available at £20.00 each via Richard Mackey in the Marketing Office on *Tel: 01793 532121*

The Chairman's Challenge

In June of this year our very own Chairman Rikki Hunt embarks on his next polar challenge accompanied by Geoffrey McGonigle who is attempting to become the first disabled person to walk to the Magnetic North Pole and fly the flag for disabled worldwide and "Swindon for City Status".

The Sealegs- Mitchemp Expedition 1998 is the first attempt on the Magnetic North Pole by a disabled person and sponsors are currently being sought for this worthy cause.

All donations are welcome in any form and anyone that would like further information should contact Rikki Hunt on *01793 422742.*

Rikki Hunt on expedition to the Magnetic North Pole in June 1996.

Programme Fair

There will be a Programme Fair taking place at Evesham United's social club on Friday 20th March 1998, 7pm-10pm.

It is the first Programme Fair to be held at their Common Road headquaters and they are hoping to make it a successful evening.

The Pictorial History of Swindon Town F.C.

The above book by Alyn Smith due to be published by Sporting & Leisure Press has been delayed and all those who placed advanced orders will be notified very soon about the new and better version of this book which will be published in the near future

Kiosk Raffle Winners

The Kiosk Raffle winner for the Manchester City game was Mr D, Chatwin of Grange Drive.

He has won the chance to sample some VIP treatment with two Executive Tickets for today's game against Portsmouth. Watch out for future promotions.

Town Launches Kick it Out Campaign

Swindon Town, Swindon Racial Equality Council and Swindon Borough Council launched their campaign to get racism out of football earlier this week at the County Ground.

The campaign is a nationwide initiative involving all football clubs and Swindon have been quick to join the cause. Posters have been produced to support the campaign and these are being distributed to local community centres by Swindon Borough Council and to local schools via STFC's Community Office.

winning ways

by Dave Hollister

WIN 1

Whichford Hyundai

Kennedy Drive, Eldene, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 3SB 01793 614855

HYUNDAI

WHEN ALL YOU WANT IS EVERYTHING

The half-time Nest-Egg Draw at the Manchester City game produced a payout of £704 and was won by ticket no. 21362.

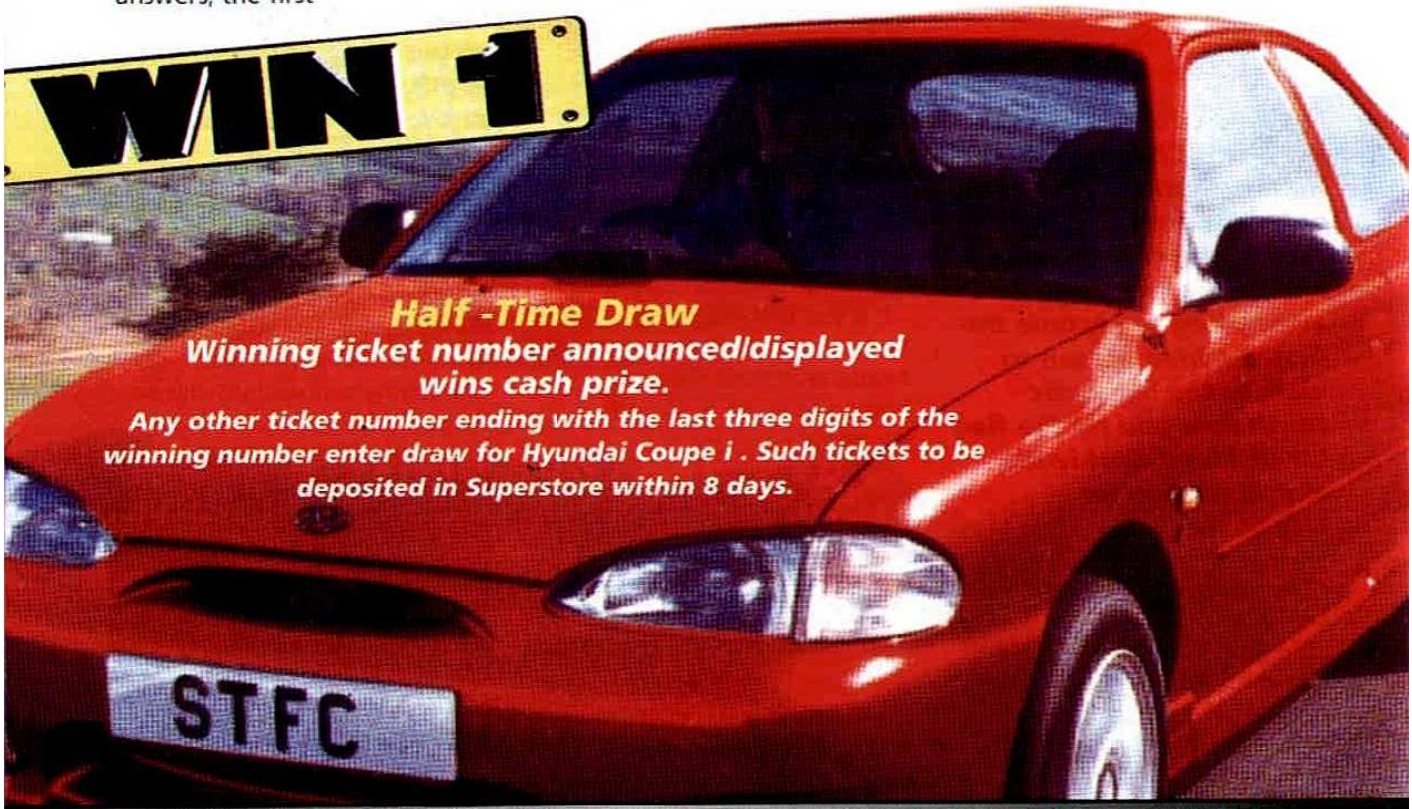
This ticket was purchased from our high-flying seller Ralph Whiting who operates by the promotions office. ***Iris Wedge*** of Shaw acquired it and willingly exchanged it for a cheque!

Competition Results.

No-One submitted an accurate answer to our poser in the WBA programme concerning Jeff Astle departing from the plane at Mexico 1970 World Cup. The answer we wanted was that Jeff was intoxicated for the purpose of overcoming his fear of flying. The correct response to the ***"Who am I!"*** brain twister in the last programme was Brian Clough. My postbag was protuberant with unerring answers, the first one drawn being sent in by Derek Hand of Calne. An autographed football awaits Derek in the promotions office.

This weeks ***"Who am I?"*** requires answers to be sent in before Friday 13th March to arrive no later than that date, Here it is...***"I was born in August 1925 and made my Football League debut in 1946. My career lasted fourteen years and I spent its entirety with the one club. Now aged 72, I am still involved with the club for whom I made 452 appearances and scored 255 goals. I scored 30 goals in the 33 games I played for England and would have walked to Wembley from up North for the honour of wearing the England shirt. Playing in the Stan Matthews F.A. Cup Final of 1953 is amongst my most moving experiences!"*** There's another autographed ball for the first correct entry drawn!

Like our mystery guest above, I am sure that we have cherished moments of bygone football occurrences that tome cannot erase from the walls of our mind. The League Cup Final of 1969 will surely linger forever for those of us who were there but how many more have we? I can still see the luxury of Ferenc Puskas at Wembley in 1953; the splendour of Tom Finney and the wizardry of Stan Matthews in the same era and Don Rogers destroying Liverpool at the County Ground. But what are your golden memories and why are they so embedded in the memory? Please send them in and share them. I am sure they will be worthy of putting into print in a publication from which a local charity could benefit!



Half -Time Draw

Winning ticket number announced/displayed wins cash prize.

Any other ticket number ending with the last three digits of the winning number enter draw for Hyundai Coupe i . Such tickets to be deposited in Superstore within 8 days.

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chairman's viewpoint

Rikki Hunt

Chairman Rikki Hunt explains why he's backing Steve McMahon. The true fan is frustrated, believe me I take some stick from them, but I am a football fan and I undertstand the passion that goes with it.

If everyone agrees about the game then its just not football. Whether everyone agrees or not, they are thankful that I talk to them.

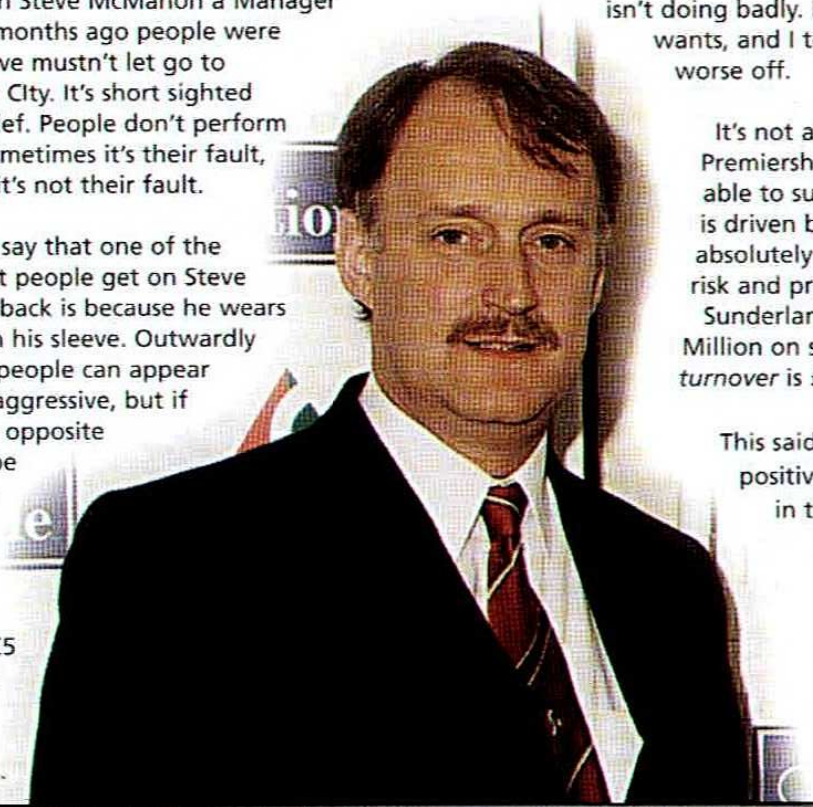
The fact that someone disagrees with you doesn't mean you have to get aggressive. Fans write to me and I respond to all of the letters. I am fighting the same passionate fight. The more we are battling each other the less we are battling the opposition. We need help when we are down.

What I would like to see is the letter that says not only "you should sack Steve McMahon," but what should happen then. Here is how I would put the money in, here is how I would attract money in to give Steve McMahon the tools to do the job.

We have in Steve McMahon a Manager who three months ago people were telling me we mustn't let go to Manchester City. It's short sighted beyond belief. People don't perform at times. Sometimes it's their fault, sometimes it's not their fault.

It's fair to say that one of the reasons that people get on Steve McMahons back is because he wears his heart on his sleeve. Outwardly passionate people can appear outwardly aggressive, but if we had the opposite we would be doing a lot worse.

If Steve McMahon had spent £5 Million and we were where we are today, I wouldn't get the chance to sack him 'cos he'd walk. Thats the man. I don't think people know how lucky they are to have a battler.



And the future.....

As much as I can say, based on current performance, that there is no chance that we will reach the Play Off's, I have to look at the Maths and be positive about the business I'm running.

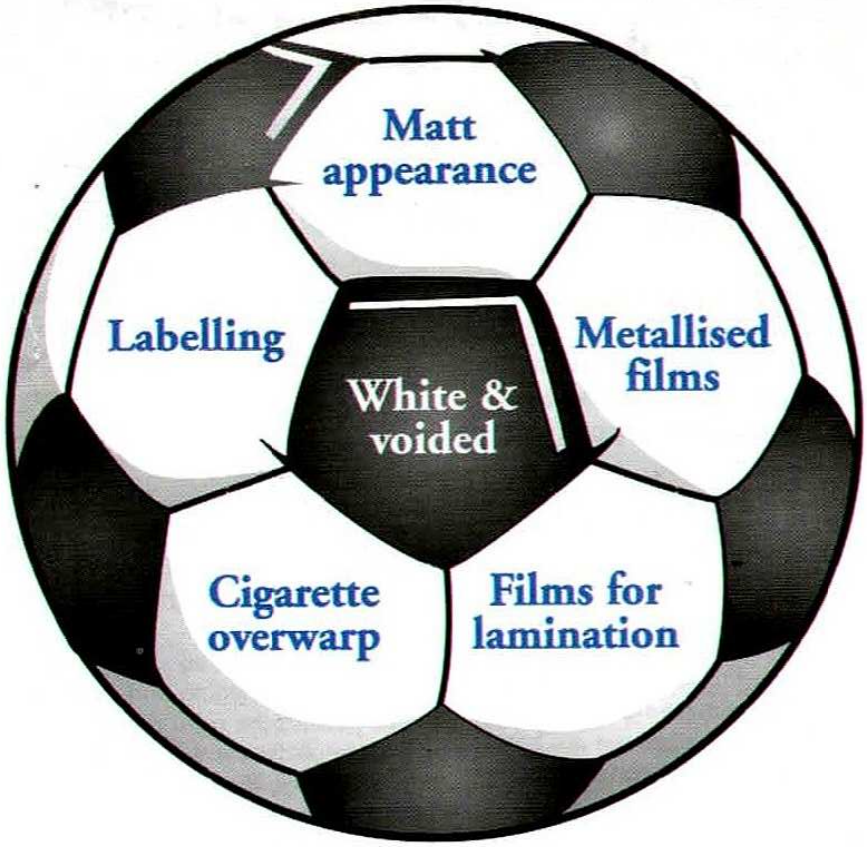
Steve and I talk about how clear we are about where we are going and even that we are maybe not getting the right message across. It is vital that people understand that within five years some clubs will go bust. Now, if they want their club to be one of them, then the minority can carry on the way they are. I talk to a lot of fans and most people understand the way the game is going. Our goal is to make sure we are still there in five years.

A Club with anything between 5,000 and 10,000 fans, sat in the top half of the First Division, isn't doing badly. It isn't doing what it wants, and I tell you there are a lot worse off.

It's not about getting to the Premiership, it's about being able to sustain it. Sustainability is driven by money. It's absolutely not driven by taking a risk and praying.

Sunderland are spending £5.4 Million on salaries, but our *total turnover* is £4.7 Million.

This said I am desperately positive about Swindon Town in the long term.



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CALLS ARE CHARGED 50P AT ALL TIMES

with Julian Wetherall

marketing news

This afternoon I would like to welcome all our sponsors to Swindon Town Football Club for what promises to be a great game of football against Portsmouth.

Matchday Sponsors

Matchday sponsors today are ***HOECHST TRESPAPHAN***, a young dynamic and innovative company developing, producing and marketing polypropylene oriented films under the brand names of ***Trespaphan*** and ***Eticourt***. These films are mainly used to package food stuffs.

The company has undergone some major changes just recently. It has a new logo, which can be seen in the advertisement on the left, and a new business system linking the three sites in Swindon, Neunkirchen (Germany) and Mantes (France) went ***"live"*** on February 1st.

The company has also recently scored two notable successes in its programme of Food Safety and Hygiene. In October it became the first polypropylene film manufacturer to achieve ADAS Hygiene accreditation. To achieve this, ADAS has to be satisfied that a company can demonstrate that it has the necessary environment, controls, procedures and working practices to ensure a hygienic product. The second achievement was an ***"excellent"*** classification following an AIB (American Institute of Bakers) audit.

Matchball Sponsors

Today we have four Matchball Sponsors and we hope the officials and guests of ***TRENCHERWOOD HOMES, CAMBERLEY AUTO FACTORS, PETROL EXPRESS*** and ***MIZUNO*** have a thoroughly entertaining day.

Trencherwood Homes are recognised as West Berkshire's leading new homes developer. The company is rapidly expanding, bringing its distinctive brand of housing to developments across Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and Dorset in 1998. These sites will be display its continued commitment to respecting and complimenting local architectural styles. ***For details please ring 01632 521200.***

Camberley Auto Factors are one of the largest independent car parts distributors in the country, with a network of twenty branches covering most of Southern England. C.A.F. came to Swindon with the acquisition of a local business in 1989, and moved to purpose built new premises at Cheney Manor in 1994. The company offers an unrivalled range of parts for all makes of car- and special discounts are available to Swindon Town season ticket holders on production of season ticket wallets.

Petrol Express was formed in late September 1997 by Swindon Town's Chairman Rikki Hunt. The national company has a turnover of £150million which continues to grow. With sites in England, Scotland and Wales. ***Petrol Express*** trades in the independent sector of the oil industry and is mainly run by people who worked with Rikki at Burmah. The goal of Petrol Express is to be the largest independent company in the oil industry in five years

Mizuno is a leading manufacturer of general sports equipment. Since its foundation in 1906, ***Mizuno*** has striven to develop and manufacture the high quality sports equipment and sportswear that competitors of all levels demand. Today, top ranked athletes and amateurs alike praise ***Mizuno*** quality. The quest for quality has brought the name ***Mizuno*** to the forefront of international sport. The company has sponsored and has been official supplier to dozens of major sporting events around the world. Ever since the 1924 Paris Olympics, the name ***Mizuno*** has meant international friendship and competition.

Presentation Time

PHH were Matchday Sponsors for our recent home game against Manchester City. Pictured here is ***PHH's*** Managing Director Godfrey Larque being presented with a signed, framed shirt by Club Director Willie Carson.

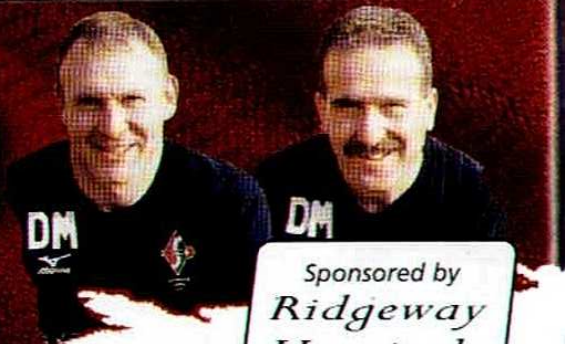
Lanbase, Thames Water, Arriva Ford, Chapman Warren and ***Profile Shop Fitters*** were Matchball Sponsors for the Manchester City game. Pictured below are representatives and guests of four of the organisations being presented with signed footballs by Man of the Match Darren Bullock.

OUR CORPORATE SUITE SPONSORS

Nationwide · CARLING · ARKELL'S BREWERY · Castrol The Liquid Engineers · Network

treatment room

Dave Moore and Dick Mackey



Sponsored by Ridgeway Hospital

After months out with injury Frank Talia made a miracle recovery, stepping into the breech at Bury and despite losing 1-0 he played very well.

This has been a good week for the treatment room because we've cleared out almost all the injured. ***Talia*** and ***Phil King*** are back training, ***Ty Gooden*** has made a swift recovery and played at Bury. In addition, as we write this page ***Fraser Digby*** is resuming training and improves day by day after his nasty fall and concussion against Port Vale.

The only two left are ***Mark Seagraves*** and ***Jason Drysdale*** who both have calf strains. They started the programme with swimming and upper body work and have now moved on to distance running.

George Ndah is on the road to recovery. He has been able to keep up his fitness level without aggravating his patella tendonitus by working in a swimming pool. Now the next stage is for George to resume training before seeing a specialist again.

New Approaches: One of the first things we looked at when we joined the club was Nutrition. Straight after the games we provide the players with high carbohydrate snacks, like Jaffa Cakes, bananas, raisins and fig rolls. After the exertion of a match it is important that you ***"load"*** up the carbohydrate levels that have dropped, thus aiding recovery.

the shadow board

The next Shadow Board Open Forum has been arranged, it will take place in Calne on Wednesday 15th April 1998.

Watch this space for full details and ticketing arrangements.

As another season draws to a close the Open Forum will come at a perfect time for supporters to put their questions and views to Steve McMahon and the Club Board.

Many questions will come to mind with the forum just a few weeks away. Is the club really exceeding realistic expectations for a ***"small town club"*** or is the board lacking in ambition? Wimbledon fans please speak out!! Will a player have to be sold to finance the season ticket rebate for not reaching the play-offs?

How well does our Chairman and Board support our team on its travels?

These are some of the issues put to the Shadow Board over the last weeks and surely there are many more points of view to be heard. Be sure to be there when the Open Forum Roadshow rolls into Calne.

We look forward to a lively evening!

Write to us at the Swindon Town Shadow Board at: P.O. Box 663, Swindon SN1 2NX.

THE SWINDON TOWN SHADOW BOARD

Chairman

Sheila Maslin

Members

David Waldron
David Taylor
John Lodge
Dave Wiltshire
Derek Hand
Nigel Bennett
Neil Seamark
Alexander Deacon
Susan Tyrrell
Kevin Hall

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from the sidelines

Colin Benson

The name of Alan Ball is etched into English football history.

As a member of Alf Ramsey's World Cup winning side in 1996 he shares the glory of creating our game's greatest hour.

What a team that was: Banks; Cohen and Wilson; Styles, Jack Charlton, Moore (captain); Ball, Bobby Charlton; Hurst, Hunt and Peters. Yes I know it is indelibly stamped on all English hearts but it is so nice to read those names out. Great players, great characters, it's a shame that only Ball is still involved in the game on a full time basis to impart his experience and above all enthusiasm to the current generation.

When ***Pompey*** plucked him out of the shadows towards the end of January they were on their knees and heading for Division Two. The Venables/ Fenwick partnership had brought them nothing but woe and in turning to the little Ball of fire who had inspired this famous club's last great success, the American consortium led by ex-Bad Company rock singer Brian Howe, was attempting to turn the clock back.

Alan Ball has football in his veins. He is a proud and dedicated man who wears his heart on his sleeve and cannot understand those who do not commit themselves in the same passionate way.

Introduced to the old First Division by ***Blackpool*** as a teenager he went on to collect 72 caps for ***England*** over ten years. One might expect that famous win over ***West Germany*** to be the highlight of his career, but he says the greatest accolade of all was when he was appointed captain of ***England.*** He says: ***"I can' t describe the elation I felt".***

Alan made a further 63 First Division appearances for the ***Saints*** before leaving for Hong Kong based ***Eastern Athletic*** midway through the 1982 - 83 season. Again he was brought back to the Football League, this time wearing the shirt of ***Bristol Rovers,*** before arriving at Fratton Park in the summer of 1983.

His brief was to develop young players but a year later manager Bobby Campbell was sacked and Alan was elevated to the Bosses chair. He almost took ***Pompey*** into Division One in his first season, but just missed out on goal difference.

A year later ***Portsmouth*** were three points short of promotion. Then in May 1987 the ***Pompey*** chimes rang out in celebration as Alan Ball led his team back to the old First Division after 28 years in the wilderness.

Unfortunately the club did not have sufficient funds to sustain a team in the top flight and success turned sower. In January 1989 the little dynamo parted company but was soon back in the game as coach to the late Jock Wallace. Together they kept ***Colchester United*** in the League.

An appointment as coach by ***Stoke City*** ended up with ***"Bally"*** as manager (1989-91) and further managerial stints with ***Exeter*** (91-94), ***Southampton*** (94-95) and ***Manchester City*** (05-96) followed. His time at Maine Road was particularly traumatic and he announced he was finished with football when the inevitable axe fell. But a year out of the game has proved a real refresher and ***"Bally"*** is back on the managerial trail once more.

This pint-sized hero has enjoyed an incredible career. Hailed as the best since Stanley Mathews when he wore the famous number seven tangerine shirt of ***Blackpool*** as a 17-year-old his style was in fact far removed from that of the famous Knight. ***"Bally",*** skilful on the ball alright never had quite the same silky grace. He was more of a grafter, who hustled and ran opponents into the ground rather than beating them with a shrug of the shoulder and a shimmy the other way.

A well established ***England*** star by 21 he was courted by Everton in the summer of 1966. They paid £110,000 a princely sum then but really a snip. For ***"Bally"*** orchestrated them to the championship and an ***FA Cup Final*** before departing from Highbury in 1971 for a then British record fee of £220,000.

You could always pick him out, the ginger mop and famous white boots.

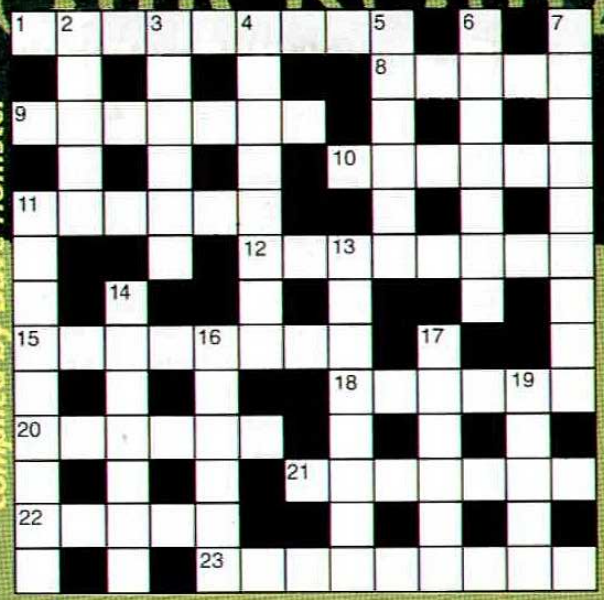
After five years with ***Arsenal*** he signed up with ***Southampton*** and became a key in the ***Saints*** greatest chapter.

In the 1970's it seemed his life at the top was over when he drifted to North America to team up with ***Vancouver Whitecaps***. But his sojourn in the NASH was interrupted by his appointment as a player manager of his old club Blackpool. Alan described it at the time as ***"the beginning of the rest of my life"***

Alas, it lasted but ten months and culminated with the axe. But Ball's greatest admirer was Lawrie McMenemy who did not hesitate to welcome the little wizard back to the Dell, as a player.

quickquizquickquiz

compiled by Dave Hollister



duesacross...

1. Motor cycle event in goalmouth? (1-8)
8. Scottish goalkeeper (5)
9. Stan Matthews was a wizard of this (7)
10. Lincoln City use this bank (6)
11. This David was naturally fast (6)
12. Brighton and Hove Albion (8)
15. The fill the San Siro stadium (8)
18. Always flowing at Craven Cottage (6)
20. Scored for England in the 1966 World Cup Final (6)
21. Aston Villa (7)
22. England manager of the 1970;s (5)
23. Female Millwall supporters? (9)

duesdown...

2. Players take it off to have shower (5)
3. "We wuz..." losing fans claim (6)
4. England have only played them once (8)
5. Encouragement that bring players out of their shells (6)
6. How fans leave ground before the end of the game? (7)
7. The cost of future stars, maybe (5-4)
11. Home of Stanraer (5-4)
13. Hugo Meisl produced this "wunderteam" in 1932 (8)
14. World Cup TV audience? (7)
16. England have played them twice (6)
17. Crystal Palace (6)
19. Swindons local hero who was hunted and caught by Coventry (5)

answers across...
1 A SCRAMBLE, 8 GORAM, 9 DRIBBLE, 10 SINCIL,
11 SPEEDY, 12 SEAGULLS, 15 ITALIANS, 18 THAMES, 20 PETERS,
21 VILLANS, 22 REVIE, 23 LIONESSES

answers down...
2 STRIP, 3 ROBBED, 4 MALAYSIA, 5 EGGING, 6 TRICKLE,
7 SMALL SUMS, 11 STAIR PARK, 13 AUSTRIAN, 14 CAPTIVE,
16 ISRAEL, 17 EAGLES, 19 ERNIE

MYSTIC nut-meg PREDICT THE SCORE

See if you can predict today's results....

Birmingham City			Q.P.R.
Bury			Norwich City
Crewe Alexandra			Nottingham Forest
Ipswich Town			Charlton Athletic
Manchester City			Oxford United
Middlesbrough			Wolves
Reading			Port Vale
Stoke City			Huddersfield Town
Sunderland			Stockport County
Swindon Town			Portsmouth
Tranmere Rovers			Sheffield United
West Bromwich Albion			Bradford City

wordsearch

A	B	O	D	I	N	Z	X	H
I	L	I	G	I	G	G	S	T
N	E	L	S	I	E	U	E	O
O	S	T	C	O	R	A	L	S
J	U	L	J	H	O	A	R	H
B	L	O	O	M	U	J	A	A
A	D	I	N	G	O	R	H	C
M	A	C	E	R	V	I	C	K
H	O	R	S	E	H	G	U	H

8 Welsh Internationals

answers
ALLCHURCH, CHARLES, GIGGS, HUGHES, IOWA,
ROBIN, RUSH, TOSHACK

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WHO AM I ?

1. I was born in Cardiff on the 29.11.73, I am a left-winger who won the PFA ***"Young Player of the Year"*** in 1992 & 1993?
2. I was born in South Africa on the 6.10.57, I have had International Honours with Zimbabwe and have enjoyed spells at Liverpool & Southampton?
3. I was born in Altrincham on the 26.8.71, I am the son of a former Man City star and I have enjoyed a spell here at Swindon, before joining Man City in 94/95 season?
4. I was born in Chester on the 14.12.79, I am a young striker, I scored for liverpool on my debut against Wimbledon and have since been Caped for England?
5. I was born in Norway on the 10.1.67, since moving to England in 93 I have played for Swindon, Middlesbrough, Sheffield United and Barnsley.
6. I was born in Portsmouth on the 10.4.66, I am a right-footed Leicester striker and I have currently been enjoying a loan spell at pompey?

ANSWERS...

1. RYAN GIGGS 2. BRUCE GROBBELAAR 3. NICKY SUMMERBEE 4. MICHAEL OWEN 5. JAN-AASE FJORTOFT 6. STEVE CLARIDGE

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PICK ANY	OUR RETURNS	UK LOTTERY
ONE NUMBER	£6.50	NIL
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THREE NUMBERS	£512	£10
FOUR NUMBERS	£6,561	typically £65
FIVE NUMBERS	£100,000	typically £1250

Stanley Leisure

LEADING BOOKMAKERS IN U.K. & IRELAND

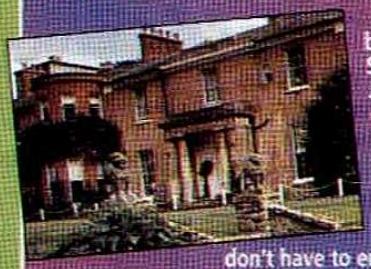
WHO'S THIS?

Last game: Philippe Cuervo

WHO'S KIT?

Last game: West Brom

WIN A WEEKEND BREAK DURING TODAY'S HALF-TIME BREAK WITH SWINDON TOWN & JARVIS



During the half time break at today's game Swindon Town and Jarvis Hotels will be giving away a superb weekend break free of charge, to someone in the crowd. It will be completely at random, and you don't have to enter any competition. We're just going to give it away there and then.

The weekend break is for two people for two nights and can be taken at any of Jarvis' 63 fine hotels across the UK.

All you need to do to win a Jarvis weekend break is hold onto your ticket stub until half-time. Straight after the half time scores are announced, we'll call out a seat number, which one of the Swindon Town players will randomly pick for us at half-time.

If it's your seat, come along with your ticket, to the Reception and pick up your free Jarvis Weekend Break voucher. It's as simple as that.

So listen out at the half-time break and you could be going on a superb weekend break with JARVIS HOTELS.

Jarvis HOTELS

FACE in the crowd

Are you the lucky winner of our 'Face in the Crowd' competition?

If your face is circled, you are the winner of a special prize. All you have to do is ring the Club on 01793 532121 to claim a pair of tickets for our next home game and a signed photo. Look out for another face in the crowd picture in Tuesday's Swindon Evening Advertiser.

swindon town ladies

by Roger Reeves

Sponsored by Nationwide

The Town have had a disappointing couple of weeks with a defeat at Cheltenham and the game at Southampton postponed.

The game at Cheltenham was a scrappy affair on a prefect afternoon for football. Cheltenham took a two nil lead before the interval and although the Town hit back they had to be content with a consolation goal from Pam Laker. The Town had much of the possession in the second half but credit must go to the home side who closed down quickly and gave few opportunities away.

The following week the game at Southampton was postponed. We are approaching a difficult time of the season with clubs having to catch up on their missed games which often mean that you play one week and then have a couple of weeks with no match, This, of course, makes it difficult to get any continuity.

The Town Ladies are organising a Race Night on Friday 13th March in the Executive Club. The evening will start at 7-30pm with Dave Hollister in charge of proceedings. Tickets at £3 can be obtained from Dave or any of the girls. Tomorrow we entertain Oxford United in the Southern Region League Premier Division. The "U"'s were relegated last season from the National League Division One and have not found life too easy in the Regional League as they are currently mid table. The Town won the game at Oxford, just before Christmas, by two goals to one. The match will be played on the County Ground Extension and Kick Off at 2-00pm.

Southern Region League Premier Division.

Cheltenham 2
Swindon Town 1

Team: Jo Sharpe : Vikki McCann, Clare Wheeler, Netti Wyness, Sharon Black, Ashley Wiseman, Kim Reeves, Pam Laker, Kerie Garwood, Nadine Lloyd, Leanne Taylor.

Not Used - Tracy Mackeddie, Clare Tyson & Sara Privett

Scorer: Pam Laker

APPEARANCES

	APPS	GOALS
SHARON BLACK	15(2)	1
KERIE GARWOOD	9(6)	6
PAM LAKER	17	7
NADINE LLOYD	17	18
TRACEY MACKEDDIE	15(1)	5
VIKKI McCANN	3(2)	-
KIM REEVES	17	14
SARAH RICHARDSON	(5)	-
JO SHARPE	18	-
ADELLE TAYLOR	9(4)	-
LEANNE TAYLOR	18	18
CLARE TYSON	15(1)	1
CLARE WHEELER	12(3)	-
CLAIRE WHITE	(1)	-
ASHLEY WISEMAN	17	4
NETTI WYNESS	16	2

FIXTURES 97/98

Southern Region League Premier Division

SUN 31ST AUG	HAVANT TOWN	5-1
Sun 7th Sept	Southampton Saints	6-4
Sun 14th Sept	Launton	5-0
Sun 28th Sept	Freeway (FA Cup R1)	6-0
SUN 5TH OCT	BINFIELD	4-1
Sun 12th Oct	Reading Royals	2-5
SUN 19TH OCT	PORTSMOUTH	1-2
SUN 26TH OCT	CHELTENHAM	5-2
SUN 2ND NOV	CARDIFF C. (FA CUP R2)	0-2 aet
SUN 9TH NOV	SOUTHAMPTON	3-1
Sun 16th Nov	Havant Town	10-1
SUN 23RD NOV	SOTON SAINTS	5-2
SUN 30TH NOV	LAUNTON	9-0
SUN 7TH DEC	SALISBURY CITY (League Cup)	11-0
Sun 14th Dec	Oxford United	2-1
Sun 25th Jan	BRACKNELL TOWN (LC 2nd)	walk over
SUN 1ST FEB	READING ROYALS	1-2
Sun 8th Feb	Portsmouth	2-1
Sun 22nd Feb	Cheltenham	1-2
SUN 8TH MAR	OXFORD UNITED	H
TBA	Swindon Spitfires	A
	SWINDON SPITFIRES	H
	Binfield	A
	Southampton	A

THE LEAGUE

Southern Region League Premier Division 1997-98

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading Royals	13	12	1	0	59	9	37
Swindon Town	15	11	0	4	61	25	33
Cheltenham	17	10	3	4	44	22	33
Southampton	14	8	1	5	39	30	25
Oxford United	16	6	3	7	26	28	21
Portsmouth	13	6	2	5	23	19	20
Swindon Spitfires	12	5	4	3	24	27	19
Southampton Saints	18	5	2	11	28	46	17
Binfield	13	4	2	7	15	30	14
Launton	16	3	3	10	23	56	12
Havant Town	15	0	1	14	10	61	1

NEXT HOME GAME

Sunday 8th March 1998

Premier League

Oxford United

vs

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Trust us to help the game

The Football Trust has been providing support for the game at every level throughout the UK for over 22 years. Its present priority task is to help League clubs to complete the implementation of the Taylor Report recommendations.

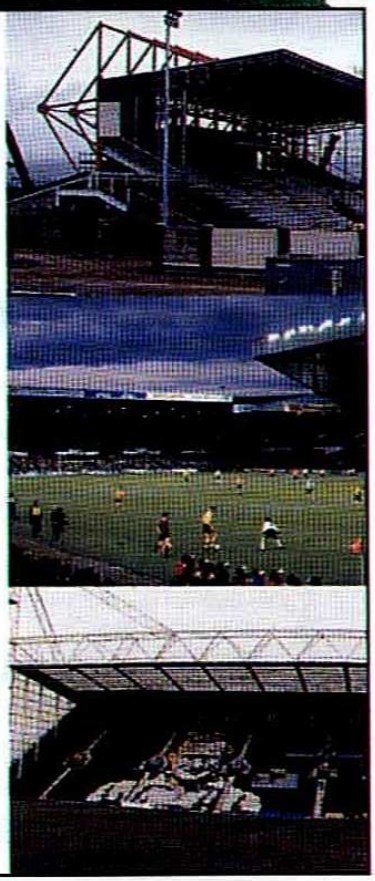
Thanks to the Government and to the Football Association, the FA Premier League and the English Sports Council, a major new funding package to secure the future of the Trust has been put in place.

These funds will be in addition to income derived from the football pools companies Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters, and will enable the Trust to complete its Taylor task, carry on its essential safety work and continue to grant aid football at every level. The Government's commitment to the Trust has the support of everyone who cares about our national game.

THE FOOTBALL TRUST

Helping the game

THE FOOTBALL TRUST, WALKDEN HOUSE, 10 MELTON STREET, LONDON NW1 2EB



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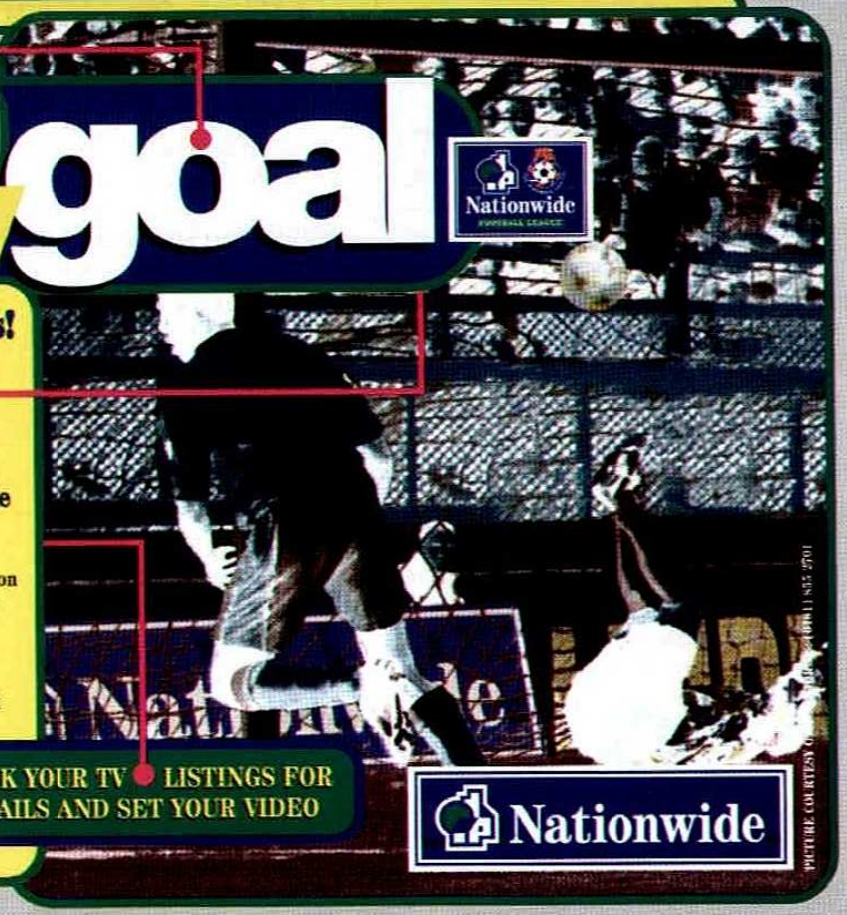

Goals, goals, goals!
See every goal from the weekend with **ITV's NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXTRA**, in association with Nationwide Building Society.

We'll be on air just after midnight on Mondays and repeated later in the week in many regions.
The programme is introduced by Gabriel Clarke and includes interviews, competitions, the latest news and talking points, and all the goals scored at the weekend from the Nationwide Football League.

CHECK YOUR TV LISTINGS FOR DETAILS AND SET YOUR VIDEO

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SERIOUS PERFORMANCE

Swindon Town FC

Swindon Town Football Club will be looking just as good this season. Thanks to their exclusive Mizuno strip.

Middlesbrough were shoved off their lofty perch last Sunday when Nottingham Forest sent them crashing 4-0 to land back on the top rung of the Nationwide First Division ladder...Funny old game eh?

On the previous Tuesday I was returning from covering an FA Youth Cup quarter-final between ***Arsenal*** and ***Leeds United*** and tuning into Radio 5 caught the last half half of the commentary on ***Tranmere*** v ***Forest***. Jan Mobly was providing the expert analysis and he said that the BBC need not invite him again if they could not find a better game. In his words it was dreadful.

Certainly no one could have forecast such a resounding scoreline against ***Middlesbrough*** who have looked the most consistent side in the Division and of course eliminated Liverpool to reach the ***Cola Cola Cup Final*** for a second successive year.

The positions could well be reversed again by now as ***Nottingham Forest*** played ***Sunderland*** and ***Boro*** were away to ***QPR*** on Wednesday but at least it indicates that the First Division race will go right to the wire.

It was the perfect celebration for Dave Bassett to mark a year in charge at the City Ground. There have been moans that under his guidance ***Forest*** do not play with the fluency of old but he will see promotion as the yardstick by which he should be judged. In this respect his team will be expected to get a result at ***Crewe*** this afternoon though Dario Gardi's boys are on a bit of a run, They beat ***Reading*** 1-0 to move into the top half of the table for the first time. ***Boro*** are without a game as ***Wolves,*** their scheduled opponents, are in the sixth round of the ***FA Cup*** so the chasing pack, led by ***Sunderland,*** will want to cash in. ***Sunderland*** have played fewer home games than the two above them and should capitalise this afternoon by inflicting a 13th away defeat on visiting ***Stockport County*** who went down 3-0 at ***Oxford.***

By Colin Benson

Whose going down? Well ***Port Vale*** and ***Stoke*** occupied the bottom spots on Monday after a dreary goalless draw before 13,853 - the lowest Potteries derby gate ever. The two clubs had jointly mustered just three wins out of 40 games which hardly gives wither optimism for the immediate future.

Stoke City have eased their wage bill. Out have gone strikers Marco Gabbiadini (to ***York City***) and Gerald McMahon (to ***St Johnstone*** £85,000) as well as midfielder David Xausa (also to ***St Johnstone***), but Chris Kamara desperately needs a win against fellow strugglers ***Huddersfield Town*** today.***The Terriers'*** hopes of avoiding relegation have been dealt a massive blow with the loss of influential skipper Barry Horne who will be out for a month with a torn hamstring. They had lost their previous two games prior to this week's home game with ***Man City***.

And what of ***City***? Will Joe Royle save them? He has ordered his players to toughen up and has been chasing ***Everton*** hard-man Dave Watson all week. Watson's grit added to Peter Beardsley's spirit and endeavour might be just enough but they are running out of time.

There has been talk of selling Kinkladze to finance the rebuilding efforts and that might be a good thing. The little Georgian is a cult figure at Maine Road but seldom performs away from home. Nothing short of victory over ***Oxford*** this afternoon will do.There is a truly intriguing clash at Portman Road where ***Ipswich Town*** take on ***Charlton Athletic.*** Resurgent ***Ipswich*** extended their unbeaten run to 11 games with a 2-2 draw at ***Sunderland*** last week boosting their 'goals for' column by 19 in the last five. ***Charlton,*** who are a little off-key, no longer boast the best away record and will be mindful that Town have hit five goals in each of their last three home games. Town to win but not by so many.You know, I was at Molineux on the night that the local scribes were gleefully gloating as the news came through that ***Birmingham City*** had been beaten at home 3-1 by ***Bury***. The Blues next appointment was at Molineux last Saturday, where they thrashed ***Wolves*** 3-1! Trevor Francis's team are now serious play-off contenders and will expect maximum reward from the visit of ***QPR*** today.

Wolves of course will lose further ground as they are still in the ***FA Cup*** which gives ***West Brom*** a chance to catch up.

But I fancy the ***Baggies*** will do well to get more than a point from ***Bradford City***.

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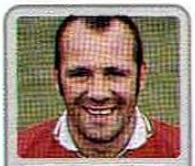

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the captains comment

with Mark Seagraves

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Although making the play-offs is becoming more of an uphill task there is still a lot to play for as we face Portsmouth today.

We need to win for our own pride, for the fans and for the club. Nobody wants to see us languishing in the bottom half of the table when earlier in the season we were flying high at the top of the league. Also, despite what people may think, there is still a chance we could make it. If we can fall away from the top so could any other team.

Looking back to last weeks trip to Bury it was a real blow not to come away from that game with something. We kept them pinned back for much of the first half as the lads fired in some quality crosses only to see the chances go begging.

Again, it was a bit of bad luck that cost us. Frank Talia made a great save from a header that rebounded off the post and dropped to a Bury player who scrambled it home.

We've seen that happen too many times in the last few games and it gets very frustrating.

On the positive side it was great to see Frank Talia on fine form after being out so long with injury.

He takes some stick from the lads who say he spends more time in the Treatment Room than between the sticks but he proved he hasn't lost his ability, pulling off save after save.

After the game the Gaffa said we fared quite well against one of the most physical teams in the league, but what we lacked was some clinical finishing in the final third.

Hopefully we can set that problem straight today against Portsmouth. Despite their league position they are the form team at the moment, recently winning a string of games. We're in no doubt that this will be a tough fixture, Pompey need the points but the lads are determined to turn things round.

swindon town's matchday magazine

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Steve Cowe

FACT FILE...

Name: Steve Cowe
Date of birth: 29/9/74.
Place of birth: Gloucester.

School years

Secondary school attended: Beaufort School.
Best subject at school: PE.
Worst subject at school: Science.
Football team supported at school: Liverpool.
Football hero as a schoolboy: Glenn Hoddle.
Favourite football position at school: Centre Forward.
Career probably taken up if not football: "I don't know".
First match ever seen: Aston Villa vs Man United.
At what age did you first attend matches: 12 years of age.

Now

Favourite other sports: Golf.
Biggest influence on career: My Dad.
Best match ever seen (Live or TV): Aston Villa vs Inter Milan
Favourite football expert: Alan Hansen.
Favourite country to watch: Brazil.
Highlight of career so far: Making my league debut.
Biggest disappointment: None as yet.
Choice Opponents in a cup tie: Liverpool.

He may only be 5'8", but with a blistering turn of pace and an instinct for being in the right place at the right time, Steve Cowe will always cause opposing teams problems.

And with a goal against Man City in our last home game he has put himself back in the frame for a first team place.

Looking back to the last home game, bringing on Walters and Cowe seemed to change the direction of the game. Walters was getting round players and Cowe did well to chase the ball down and put their defence under pressure. This resulted in a bullet header goal from Cowe who reacted first to Walter's cross.

Cowe admits this goal was quite a rarity ***"I'm not the biggest player on the pitch, so it was nice to get a headed goal from Wally's cross."***

Unlike many players who spend time at lots of different clubs, Steve Cowe's route to Swindon is simple: he played for Aston Villa at schoolboy level, signed pro for three years then came to the County Ground.

"I signed schoolboy forms when I was fifteen, then after two years as an apprentice I was lucky enough to be signed as a pro. It was very different to Swindon because Villa had such a huge squad of young players. This meant they had an under 21 team which I played in, as well as the reserves."

With his speed and skill Cowe was always going to be marked down as a centre forward, but he sees his position a little differently: ***"I'm not an out and out striker, I often come deeper to pick up the ball and run at defenses, this is why I have also played in midfield."***

With centre forward being his preferred position, Steve Cowe was always going to struggle getting into the first team at Villa. At that time Dwight Yorke, Savo Milosovich and Julian Jochim were competing for places (as they still are at Villa), a formidable line up in anyone's book.

No player is ever satisfied with reserve football, which was one of the main reasons Cowe was keen to move away from Villa Park.

"I knew I had a lot to offer a team, so when the chance came up to go to Swindon I took it with both hands."

Steve was originally drafted in on loan to cover for an injured Finney and quickly impressed the management so much that a permanent move was swiftly arranged. Steve signed for Swindon in March 1996 for £100,000.

He made his league debut in a 2-0 win over Peterborough United in the 95/96 season, and registered his first league goal one month later in a victory over Chesterfield.

For Cowe this was the dream start. He said ***"Although I was moving away from the***

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le

Premiership, it was great for me because I stepped straight into the first team when Swindon were doing well at the top of Division Two."

Last season Cowe made 32 appearances, netting 7 goals, but since then has failed to find a regular slot in the first team.

"I've had a niggling injury that has kept me out, and with quality players like Hay, Finney and Ndah it means it will be hard to regain a position back in the team. But competition for places can only be good for the club, it keeps players on their toes.

"Of course it can get frustrating in the reserves, but you can't argue with Chris Hay's goal scoring record and George Ndah is frighteningly quick."

His 45 minutes against Man City certainly suggest a return to form for Cowe.

"I feel quite good at the moment, I've been playing well in the reserves and in training to put myself in contention. At the end of the day picking the team is the job of the Gaffa, a job I don't envy him, all I can do is keep turning in the performances when I get the chance".

Steve Cowe - finding his form

GENERAL...

Favourite food: Chinese.
Favourite drink: Blackcurrant and Lemonade.
Favourite comedy: Roy Chubby Brown.
Favourite TV programme: Only Fools and Horses.
Favourite film: Dumb and Dumber.
Favourite film star: Demi Moore.
Favourite holiday location: Mexico.
Favourite item of clothing: Tracksuit.
Smartest dresser at STFC: Ian Culverhouse.
Worst Dresser at STFC: Mike Walsh.

statistics 1997/98 season

Portsmouth

All home Saturday fixtures will kick-off at 3.00pm.
Home Sunday and Bank Holiday fixtures will kick-off as advertised.
Home midweek fixtures will kick-off at 7.45pm.
All dates and times of kick-off's are subject to change.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 1
TABLE 1997/98 AS AT 05.03.98

	P	W	D	L	W	D	L	F	A	PTS.
NOTTINGHAM FOREST	35	13	2	3	7	6	4	56	32	68
MIDDLESBROUGH	35	12	3	2	8	5	5	55	31	68
SUNDERLAND	34	9	5	2	10	3	5	62	36	65
CHARLTON ATHLETIC	35	12	4	1	6	4	8	62	43	62
SHEFFIELD UNITED	34	12	4	1	3	9	5	50	37	58
IPSWICH TOWN	35	8	4	4	6	9	4	56	37	55
BIRMINGHAM CITY	35	7	6	4	7	6	5	48	30	54
STOCKPORT COUNTY	36	12	5	1	4	1	13	59	49	54
WOLVES	34	10	5	3	5	2	9	44	36	52
WEST BROMWICH ALBION	36	8	4	6	6	4	8	35	41	50
BRADFORD CITY	36	9	7	2	3	5	10	37	38	48
CREWE ALEXANDRA	36	7	2	9	7	3	8	44	49	47
SWINDON TOWN	35	9	3	5	4	4	10	36	50	46
NORWICH CITY	36	7	7	5	4	4	9	36	55	44
QUEENS PARK RANGERS	36	8	7	4	2	6	9	42	50	43
OXFORD UNITED	35	8	5	4	3	3	12	43	50	41
TRANMERE ROVERS	35	6	6	5	4	4	10	37	42	40
MANCHESTER CITY	36	5	4	9	5	5	8	41	42	39
READING	35	7	4	7	3	5	9	36	56	39
BURY	36	4	9	5	3	9	6	34	43	39
PORTSMOUTH	35	7	4	8	3	3	10	39	51	37
STOKE CITY	36	5	5	7	3	3	8	34	50	37
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	36	6	4	8	3	5	10	37	56	36
PORT VALE	36	5	6	8	4	2	11	39	53	35

First Team Player Appearances 97/98

Player Name:	League Apps.	League Gls.	Cup Apps.	Cup Gls.	Total Apps.	Total Gls.
WAYNE ALLISON	16	3	2	0	18	3
BRIAN BORROWS	29	0	0	0	29	0
DARREN BULLOCK	17(5)	0	0	0	17(5)	0
CHRIS CASPER	8(1)	1	0	0	8(1)	1
LEE COLLINS	14(4)	1	1	0	15(4)	1
STEVE COWE	5(7)	2	(1)	0	5(8)	2
PHILIPPE CUERVO	11(5)	0	2	0	13(5)	0
IAN CULVERHOUSE	9(2)	0	1	0	10(2)	0
FREDERIC DARRAS	12(2)	0	2	0	14(2)	0
SOL DAVIS	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
FRASER DIGBY	28	0	2	0	30	0
JASON DRYSDALE	11(3)	0	2(1)	0	13(4)	0
STUART ELLIOTT	1	0	0	0	1	0
STEVE FINNEY	15(6)	4	1(1)	0	16(7)	4
TY GOODEN	30	2	3	0	33	2
CHRIS HAY	26(3)	14	2	0	28(3)	14
BOBBY HOWE	9	0	0	0	9	0
ROBIN HULBERT	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
SCOTT LEITCH	20(1)	1	2	1	22(1)	2
STEVE MILDENHALL	4	0	0	0	4	0
ALAN McDONALD	24(3)	1	3	0	27(3)	1
STEVE McMAHON	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
ALEX MEECHAN	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0
GEORGE NDAH	8	1	1	0	9	1
MICHAEL PATTIMORE	(2)	0	0	0	(2)	0
MARK ROBINSON	19(1)	1	2	0	21(1)	1
MARK SEAGRAVES	5	0	2	0	7	0
ALEX SMITH	2(3)	0	0	0	2(3)	0
FRANK TALIA	1	0	1	0	2	0
CRAIG TAYLOR	23(3)	2	1	0	24(3)	2
DAVID THOMPSON	10	0	0	0	10	0
MARK WALTERS	15(9)	3	2(1)	1	17(10)	4
TONY WARNER	2	0	0	0	2	0
KEVIN WATSON	11(4)	0	1	0	12(4)	0

Date	Opponents		Res	Att.
SAT AUG 9	CREWE ALEXANDRA	H	2-0	8,334
WED AUG 13	WATFORD CCC 1 (1)	H	0-2	6,271
Sat Aug 16	Reading	A	1-0	9,338
SAT AUG 23	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H	1-1	7,683
Tues Aug 26	Watford CCC 1 (2)	A	1-1	7,712
Sat Aug 30	Stoke City	A	2-1	23,000
Tues Sep 2	Ipswich Town	A	1-2	11,246
SUN SEP 7	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	H	0-0	13,051
SAT SEP 13	TRANMERE ROVERS	H	2-1	6,811
Sat Sep 20	West Bromwich Albion	A	0-0	16,237
Sat Sep 27	Manchester City	A	0-6	26,646
SAT OCT 4	PORT VALE	H	4-2	8,076
SAT OCT 11	BURY	H	3-1	7,998
Sat Oct 18	Wolverhampton W.	A	1-3	21,794
Tue Oct 21	Sunderland	A	0-0	27,553
SAT OCT 25	NORWICH CITY	H	1-0	9,842
Fri Oct 31	Portsmouth	A	1-0	8,707
WED NOV 5	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	H	3-1	10,132
SAT NOV 8	BRADFORD CITY	H	1-0	10,030
Sat Nov 15	Stockport County (F.A. CUP 1)	A	2-4	7,694
SAT NOV 22	MIDDLESBROUGH	H	1-2	15,228
Fri Nov 28	Charlton Athletic	A	0-3	15,481
SAT DEC 6	OXFORD UNITED (F.A. Cup 2)	H	4-1	10,902
Sat Dec 13	Sheffield United	A	1-2	18,115
SAT DEC 20	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H	1-1	10,334
Fri Dec 26	Nottinghan Forest	A	0-3	26,500
SUN DEC 28	IPSWICH TOWN	H	0-2	10,609
SAT JAN 3	STEVENAGE BOROUGH (F.A. Cup 3)	H	1-2	9,422
Sun Jan 11	Crewe Alexandra (1pm)	A	0-2	4,176
SAT JAN 17	READING	H	0-2	9,500
Sat Jan 24	Bradford City (F.A. CUP 4)	A	1-1	15,130
WED JAN 28	STOKE CITY	H	1-0	6,683
Sat Jan 31	Huddersfield Town	A	0-0	10,028
SAT FEB 7	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	H	0-2	9,861
Tue Feb 10	Tranmere Rovers	A	3-0	5,288
Sat Feb 14	(F.A. Cup 5)			
Tue Feb 17	Port Vale	A	1-0	5,925
SAT FEB 21	MANCHESTER CITY	H	1-3	12,280
Sat Feb 28	Bury	A	0-1	5,002
SAT MAR 7	PORTSMOUTH (F.A. CUP 6)	H		
Sat Mar 14	Queens Park Rangers	A		
WED MAR 18	WOLVERHAMPTON W.	H		
SAT MAR 21	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H		
Sat Mar 28	Middlesbrough	A		
SAT APR 4	CHARLTON ATHLETIC (F.A. Cup SF)	H		
Sat Apr 11	Oxford United	A		
MON APR 13	SHEFFIELD UNITED	H		
Sat Apr 18	Birmingham City	A		
Sat Apr 25	Norwich City	A		
SUN MAY 3	SUNDERLAND	H		
Sat May 16	F.A. Cup Final			

Stats table key

FAC = F.A. Cup
C.C.C = Coca-Cola Cup
* After Extra Time
^ Indicates own goal

Substitutes Used

number in brackets indicates player replaced ( )

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DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	McDONALD	ROBINSON	CUERVO	FINNEY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE(9)	WATSON	WALTERS(5)
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	McDONALD	ROBINSON	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	FINNEY(9)	BULLOCK(8)	WALTERS(12)
DIGBY	DARRAS	BULLOCK	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	McDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE(9)	WATSON	McMAHON(3)
TALIA	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	McDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	ELKINS	BULLOCK
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	McDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	SMITH(4)	BULLOCK(3)
DIGBY	DARRAS	DRYSDALE	LEITCH	SEAGRAVES	McDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	SMITH(5)	BULLOCK(4)
DIGBY	DARRAS	BORROWS	BULLOCK	CASPER	McDONALD	WALTERS	CUERVO	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	DRYSDALE	WATSON	McAREAVEY
DIGBY	DARRAS	BORROWS	BULLOCK	CASPER	McDONALD	WALTERS	DRYSDALE	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	FINNEY(9)	WATSON(7)	SMITH
DIGBY	DARRAS	BORROWS	BULLOCK	CASPER	McDONALD	SMITH	DRYSDALE	COWE	ALLISON	GOODEN	FINNEY	COLLINS	SEAGRAVES
DIGBY	DARRAS	BORROWS	BULLOCK	CASPER	McDONALD	SMITH	LEITCH	COWE	ALLISON	GOODEN	HAY(9)	DRYSDALE(2)	WALTERS(7)
DIGBY	DRYSDALE	BORROWS	LEITCH	TAYLOR	McDONALD	WALTERS	WATSON	HAY 3	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	COLLINS(8)	DARRAS(2)
DIGBY	BORROWS	COLLINS	LEITCH	TAYLOR	McDONALD	WALTERS	WATSON	HAY 2	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	DRYSDALE(7)	CASPER(6)
DIGBY	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	LEITCH	TAYLOR	CASPER	WALTERS	COLLINS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	HULBERT(4)	MEECHAN(7)
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DIGBY	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	CASPER	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	SMITH(8)	ELKINS
MILDENHALL	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	CASPER	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	COWE	HULBERT	ELKINS
DIGBY	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	McDONALD	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	ALLISON	GOODEN	MEECHAN	DAVIS(3)	PATTIMORE(8)
WARNER	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	LEITCH	TAYLOR	McDONALD	WATSON	DRYSDALE	HAY	COWE	GOODEN	MEECHAN	DAVIS	PATTIMORE(4)
WARNER	BORROWS	CULVERHOUSE	LEITCH	TAYLOR	McDONALD	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	COWE	GOODEN	FINNEY(9)	DRYSDALE	ROBINSON(3)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	LEITCH	TAYLOR	McDONALD	THOMPSON	WATSON	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	CULVERHOUSE	WARNER	WALTERS(10)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	LEITCH	TAYLOR	McDONALD	THOMPSON	WATSON	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	COWE(9)	BULLOCK(7)	CULVERHOUSE(4)
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DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	BULLOCK	DARRAS	McDONALD	THOMPSON	COLLINS	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	COWE	TAYLOR(5)	WALTERS
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DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	LEITCH	TAYLOR	McDONALD	THOMPSON	COLLINS	FINNEY	NDAH	GOODEN	HAY(9)	DRYSDALE(2)	WALTERS
DIGBY	CULVERHOUSE	ROBINSON	LEITCH	DARRAS	McDONALD	THOMPSON	WALTERS	HAY	NDAH	GOODEN	FINNEY(8)	COLLINS(4)	TAYLOR(5)
DIGBY	CULVERHOUSE	ROBINSON	COLLINS	TAYLOR	McDONALD	WATSON	WALTERS	HAY	NDAH	GOODEN	FINNEY(7)	MILDENHALL	DRYSDALE(8)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	WATSON	TAYLOR	McDONALD	BULLOCK	COLLINS	HAY	NDAH	GOODEN	FINNEY(6)	CULVERHOUSE	CUERVO(7)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	BULLOCK	TAYLOR	McDONALD	CUERVO	HOWE	HAY	FINNEY	GOODEN	COLLINS(6)	CULVERHOUSE	WATSON(4)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	THOMPSON	TAYLOR	COLLINS	CUERVO	HOWE	HAY	FINNEY	GOODEN	COWE(7)	McDONALD(6)	LEITCH
MILDENHALL	BORROWS	ROBINSON	THOMPSON	TAYLOR	COLLINS	CUERVO	HOWE	HAY	FINNEY	DRYSDALE	COWE	McDONALD	LEITCH(11)
MILDENHALL	BORROWS	ROBINSON	LEITCH	TAYLOR	COLLINS	THOMPSON	HOWE	HAY	FINNEY	DRYSDALE	COWE	McDONALD(11)	CUERVO(10)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	LEITCH	TAYLOR	COLLINS	CUERVO	HOWE	HAY	FINNEY	GOODEN	COWE(9)	WATSON(7)	CULVERHOUSE(11)
DIGBY	BORROWS	ROBINSON	LEITCH	TAYLOR	COLLINS	CULVERHOUSE	HOWE	HAY	FINNEY	CUERVO	COWE(9)	WATSON(7)	WALTERS(11)
DIGBY	ROBINSON	BORROWS	LEITCH	TAYLOR	COLLINS	BULLOCK	HOWE	HAY	FINNEY	DRYSDALE	COWE(9)	CUERVO(11)	WALTERS(1)
MILDENHALL	ROBINSON	BORROWS	LEITCH	TAYLOR	COLLINS	BULLOCK	HOWE	HAY	FINNEY	ELLIOTT	COWE(10)	McDONALD(9)	WALTERS(11)
TALIA	ROBINSON	BORROWS	McDONALD	TAYLOR	COLLINS	BULLOCK	HOWE	COWE	FINNEY	GOODEN	WALTERS(10)	KING	CUERVO(8)

Next Home Match

Wednesday 18th March 98

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

vs Wolves

Kick-Off 7.45pm

CLUBCALL

SWINDON TOWN FC

ClubCall

0891 121 640

news updates, match commentaries and all the latest ticket information.

* Calls charged at 50p at all times

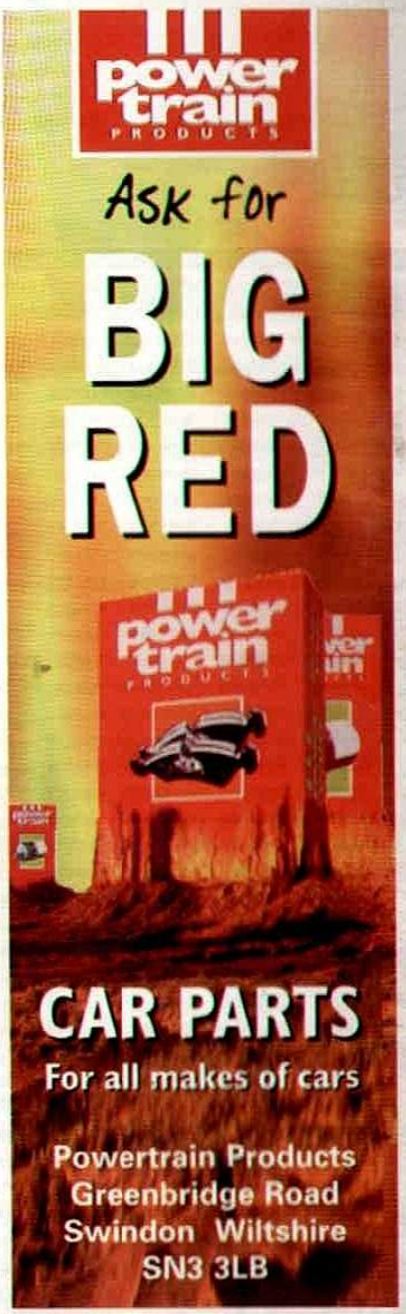
Information

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Important safety announcements by the Club Management over the public address system will be preceded by a loud signal to catch the attention of spectators.

team check

Swindon Town		Portsmouth
FRANK TALIA	1	AARON FLAHAVAN
MARK ROBINSON	2	ROBBIE PETHICK
BRIAN BORROWS	3	ANDY THOMPSON
ALAN McDONALD	4	ALAN McLOUGHLIN
CRAIG TAYLOR	5	ADRIAN WHITBREAD
LEE COLLINS	6	MATTHEW ROBINSON
DARREN BULLOCK	7	PAUL HALL
BOBBY HOWE	8	DAVID HILLIER
STEVE COWE	9	MICHALIS VLACHOS
STEVE FINNEY	10	JOHN ALOISI
TY GOODEN	11	STEVE CLARIDGE
	12	
	13	
	14	
TEAM MANAGER STEVE McMAHON		TEAM MANAGER ALAN BALL



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Today's Result and Attendance

Swindon v Portsmouth

Attendance

Referee:
K. A. Leach

Assisted by:
K. R. Ingram
A. J. Perlejewski

Reserve Official:

Kenneth Leach

Kenneth is a 45 year old Police Officer who is married with twin boys aged 12.
He began Refereeing in 1969 with the Warley Alliance followed by Wolverhampton Works & the Sunday Festival League.
In 1992, following other appointments, he was promoted to the Football League list and has been refereeing at this level for 5 years. During Kenneths refereeing career he has refereed Cup ties at Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

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Matchday Magazine

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RICHARD MACKEY: (01793) 532121
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