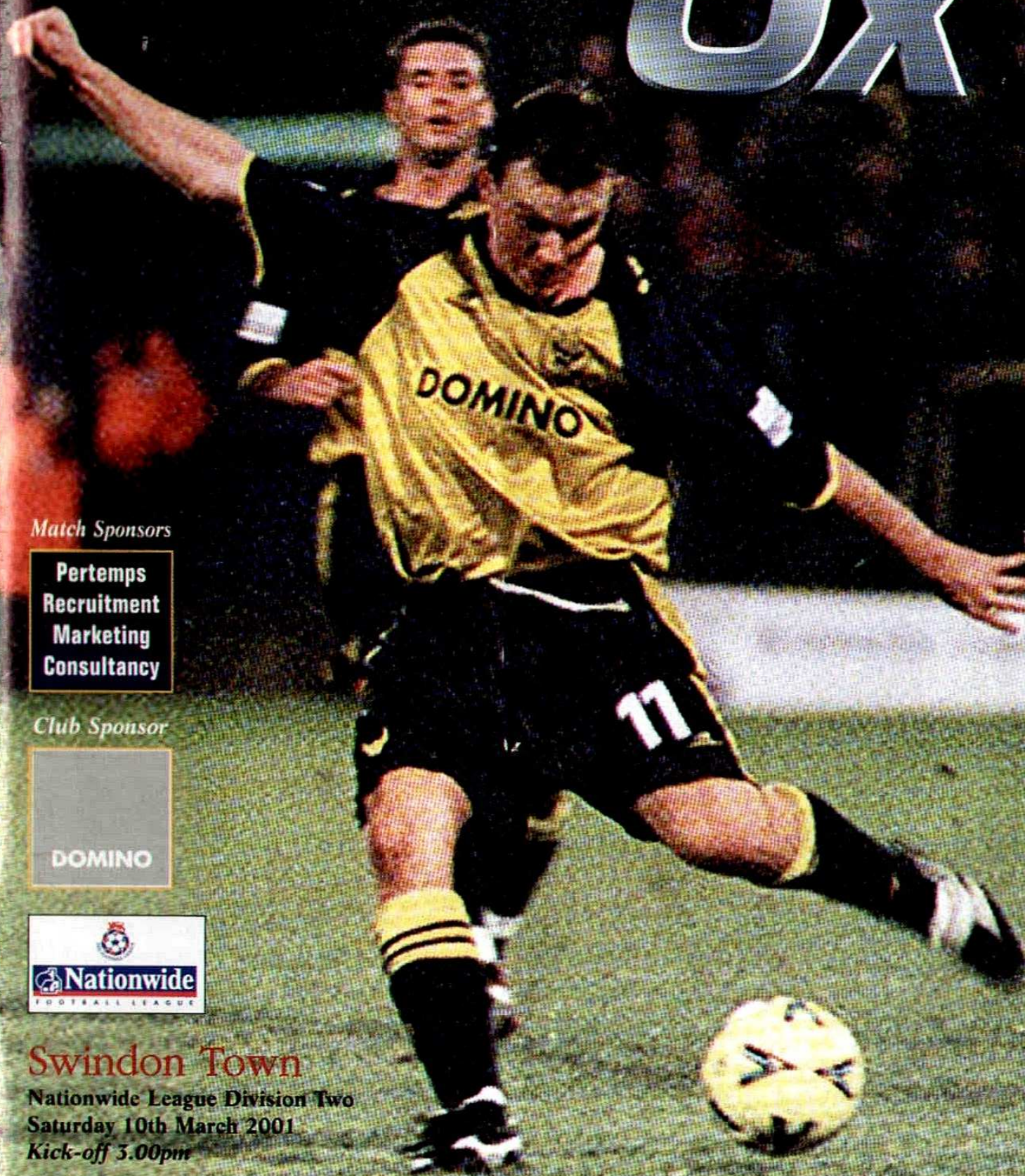


Vol.52 No.22

# The OX



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## Swindon Town

Nationwide League Division Two

Saturday 10th March 2001

Kick-off 3.00pm

Official Matchday Magazine  
of Oxford United F.C. £2.00

# Inside Left *With Firoz Kassam...*



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**T**HE news we are all obviously still waiting for is the outcome to the right of way hearing at the High Court. The judgement was expected this week, but for reasons inexplicable to me barristers are not allowed to disclose the verdict to their clients for two days afterwards! So it is very possible that today we will still not know the result.

I have mixed feelings about what the outcome will be. I am getting different stories from each side and do not know who to believe. Fingers crossed, I hope it will be favourable for us, enabling us to move forward with confidence and peace of mind.

The match today is a derby and therefore very important to all of us, but with the way things are going for us at the moment it is anyone's guess as to how things will turn out. Along with you I was very disappointed with the result from Wrexham on Tuesday night. To be ahead and then lose in the final minutes was agonising.

However, we will be using the game today to celebrate the success of the youngsters at our club, with a display from the Centre of Excellence before the game, and a half time presentation to the Under 19s squad.

I am hoping we can build from the children upwards. We have a lot of people here working with the youngsters so that we can bring them through the system.

I am very proud of what they have achieved, and the sooner all the uncertainties over the legalities at the new ground are sorted out, the better

we can concentrate our energies on the future of our club.

I visit the new ground regularly and am pleased to see the progress with the playing area. The drainage should start to be put in place next week and then the contractors will start laying the pitch. So things are going very well on site.

It is very exciting and I am well aware of, and appreciate, the enthusiasm everyone is showing. It is very encouraging, but the only slight drawback is this legal issue, which not many people are party to, but which I have to spend a lot of my time on. And that does makes it very difficult for me to get excited about everything else which is going on around me at times.

I know, from the comments we have received at the club, that many of you saw the article in The Daily Mail last week which implied that our new ground is not moving ahead. I was very disappointed with the piece and we have written a letter of complaint to the paper, requesting an apology. It will be interesting to see how they react. If we don't get a proper response we will have to take advice on what to do because I don't really want to let them get away with it.

In the meantime, as I write this, we must try to be positive. Spring is around the corner and today we are playing an important game. Join me in cheering the lads on, and let's hope we can go home happy.

*Firoz Kassam - Chairman*

**Oxford United Official  
Matchday Magazine**

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



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**T**ODAY we welcome Swindon, for a derby, which I know is very important to everyone at Oxford United Football Club. We welcome the players, officials, supporters and manager Andy King but we will be endeavouring to get the three points and restore some pride to our club today.

#### Good football

Our last home performance was against Millwall when we performed poorly and rightly received criticism for it. But since then we have bounced back with an excellent performance at Bristol City where we took a point and played terrific football, showing plenty of commitment but also some resilience, a quality

which has been all too often missing in our performances.

#### Tuesday night

At Wrexham on Tuesday night we again played some great football, showing plenty of spirit in the performance but unfortunately our defensive frailties let us down. Our ability to concede goals out of nothing has cost us all season, we need to become more consistently resilient and dependable - qualities that we do not show on too many occasions.

We have been involved in far too many exciting games end to end and lost most of them. We must realise at the club that it is a talent to be able to keep clean sheets, there is glory in being able to defend properly and stop other teams from scoring. We should be building for the future now and adding these qualities to our team, so that wherever we go and play we are confident we can get a result rather than playing on a wing and a prayer as we are at the moment.

The ability to go into someone's back yard and get results is something that is learnt over a period of time. You must have players who are mentally strong to be able to do that.

#### Soft touch

We have to build a team here at Oxford United that is not thought of as a soft touch. At the moment it doesn't matter how well we play, we are always giving the opposition a chance

*‘ we need to become more consistently resilient and dependable ’*

and we are unable to kill teams off, even when we have the upper hand. We should not only be able to win when we are playing well but be able to grind out results when we are off our game as well. At the moment we have to be right on top of our game to get a result.

#### A thin team

We have Chris Hackett and Robert Quinn out on suspension today but they are both injured anyway and the squad is looking very thin at the moment. But whatever team we send out today we will be making every effort to get three points, because at the moment the one thing I cannot fault is the players' commitment.

With best wishes,

*David Kemp*



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# From The Dugout

## THE PLAYERS

### Goalkeepers

#### BART GRIEMINK

Dutchman Bart spent a two-month loan period from Peterborough United with Town last season and impressed in difficult circumstances. His signing plus the appointment of former Aston Villa hero Nigel Spink as goalkeeping coach should go a long way to ease Town's goalkeeping problems after Frank Talia, Jimmy Glass and Alan Flanagan left the club.

#### STEVE MILDENHALL

A home-grown talent, Steve made two first team appearances in 1995/96, came off the bench to play as an outfield player in 1996/97 and made his full league debut between the posts for Swindon in October 1997. 'Mildy' made six (two as substitute) appearances for Town last season. He spent most of the season in the reserves earning praise for his resolute performances, however, he was rarely relied upon to make the step up to the first team. Has recently come into the first team and has impressed against Millwall, Bury and Pot Vale.

### Defenders

#### MARK ROBINSON

Mark is now the Town's longest serving player



Bart Griemink

Today's  
Visitors  
to The  
Manor

since Swindon paid a Club record £600,000 for his services in July 1994. He has been a consistent and versatile performer ever since, however, he could face competition from new signing Juan Cobain for the right-back slot this season. Town's captain up until October last year.

#### GARETH DAVIES

Was signed on a free transfer in March 1999, Gareth made the short trip down the M4 from Reading and despite being a firm favourite with the Royals' fans, did not figure in Tommy Burns' plans. Gareth is an infectious character but is well known for his commitment and aggressive style. However, Town fans only caught glimpses of him in action due to several injuries, mainly a problematic knee injury, wrecking his last campaign only making 16 starts in all. Has made a full recovery but as yet, has not played in the first team this season.

#### ADAM WILLIS

Former Coventry City player Adam was called into action from the reserves towards the end of last season to cover for injuries and suspensions. Adam worked very hard in the gym after training to improve his physical presence and it paid off. His confident displays earned him a place in the starting line-up on merit and he was rewarded with a new contract under Colin Todd after being previously told that he could leave the club. Is now battling for a first team place with the arrival of Matt Heywood.

#### ALAN REEVES

Quit Wimbledon's "Crazy Gang" in search of first team football with Swindon. Tall central defender, who cost the Dons £300,000 from Rochdale. Excellent header of the ball, 32-year-old Reeves can be an asset in attack on set pieces, scoring two goals in 24 appearances last season. Despite being linked with several clubs in the summer, Reeves is worked hard to command a first team place under manager Colin Todd. Began this season as top scorer (with four) and has become a firm favourite of Andy Kings. Current club captain.

#### SOL DAVIS

Made his league debut as a substitute at home to QPR, shortly after his 18th birthday. First start in a Swindon shirt came six months later in the heat of a local derby clash away at



Alan Reeves

Oxford United. Last season Sol made over 25 appearances for Town in both the fullback and wingback positions and his commitment was exemplified by some very tough tackling which has been continued this term. Has struggled with suspension this season but has been one of the most consistent performers. Is a great prospect for the club.

#### JAMES WILLIAMS

James, still only 18, burst onto the scene towards the end of the 1998/99 season. He was duly rewarded with the number 32 shirt at the start of last season and the young defender/midfielder became a very useful asset to the dwindling squad. James can be called upon to play in a variety of positions and although he made an impact on the first team his form dropped. He will be hoping for more consistent performances in the new campaign. Was given his chance in the LDV Trophy against Wycombe and impressed with his tough tackling and endless running.

#### JUAN COBAIN

A rampaging right-sided defender, made a promising start to 1998-99 with the Sheffield Wednesday having joined the club for a nominal fee during the 1998 close season. This summer he moved, again on a free transfer, to the County Ground despite offers from a number of clubs. His attacking style will be very much in demand in Andy King's new-look side.

# Swindon Town

## Football Club

### **ANTOINE VAN DER LINDEN**

Central defender whose composure on the ball will make him a vital asset to Todd's team. Looks to set up attacks from the back with his sweet left foot. Agile and solid. Has impressed in recent games and his attitude and desire to win is second to none. Has also had a spell up front, Andy King using his strength and pace in the final third.

### **MATTHEW HEYWOOD**

Heywood failed to break through at Turf Moor and, after being alerted as to his availability by Shaun Reid, Andy King snapped him up on a free transfer. Has signed until the end of next season and has shown in the few games that he's played, just how good in the air he can be. Strong in the tackle and good with the ball. Heywood could prove to be a great asset.

### *Midfielders*

#### **IAN WOAN**

Has been the club's most consistent performer since joining the club from Barnsley, orchestrating the proceedings in midfield. Seems to have an eternity on the ball and can thread balls damaging balls through to the forwards. Contains a venomous shot. Town supporters will hope that he signs a more permanent deal.

#### **ANDY WILLIAMS**

Andy is an extremely versatile player and has taken on a variety of defensive and midfield duties. Formerly a regular Welsh Under-21 international he became a strong candidate for Player of the Season last term which showed how well he settled into the side. Has struggled with injury this season but is looking to return having visited Lilleshall.

#### **BOBBY HOWE**

Stephen, who likes to be known as Bobby, is an attacking midfielder who signed for Swindon in January 1998 from Nottingham Forest, where his first team opportunities had dried up. Bobby's confidence suffered last season and fell out of favour in the first team. However, after being told he could leave the club he has worked hard to re-establish himself in the side.

#### **KEITH O'HALLORAN**

Previously with Middlesbrough and St Johnstone. Despite being offered a new contract north of the border, he chose to join Swindon's new era. The Town fans will be delighted to see a natural right-sided midfielder at the club after it became a huge problem position last campaign. Can play in the centre if called upon and has pitched in with five goals this season. Has played every game so far this season.

#### **DANIEL INVINCIBLE**

Previous manager Colin Todd moved swiftly to tie up a deal for Australian Invincible after spotting the 20-year-old playing for West Ham in a trial match. The former Marconi Stallions star scored on his Town debut in a 1-1 draw against West Brom at the Hawthorns. Invincible, a former Australian under-20's star, plays predominantly on the right hand



**Ian Woan**

side of midfield, possess blistering pace and already become a crowd favourite with his ability to run at defences. Town's top scorer with nine.

### *Forwards*

#### **GIULIANO GRAZIOLI**

Signed in June 1999 on a free transfer from his former club Peterborough Utd. Giuliano's previous visit to the County Ground was in 1997 with Stevenage Borough in the FA Cup 3rd round. Missed most of last season through injury, but when he did play he was the shining light in a very dull season for Swindon. Following the departures of fellow strikers Chris Hay and Uffy Onuora, 'Graz' established himself as the Town's main threat. Hasn't had the opportunity to impress this year suffering from numerous injuries.

#### **STEVE COWE**

Steve is a nippy, darting forward with good vision and very quick feet. Rarely called upon under former manager Jim Quinn, Steve tried to find another club after he was told he had no future with the Robins. However, Steve was another player that came in from the football wilderness to finish the season strongly and do well enough to warrant a new contract with Andy King. Two goals in the FA Cup against Gateshead were enough to establish a good run in the side and has played extremely well.

#### **GARY ALEXANDER**

Highly-rated 21-year-old who joined the Robins in early August from West Ham United in a £300,000 deal. Gary spent most of last season on loan at Exeter City where he made a big impression - scoring 16 goals in 20 appearances and keeping The Grecians out of relegation trouble in the process. A powerful and hard-working forward, Alexander has struggled to find the net but two goals against Wycombe in the LDV Trophy could be enough to kick-start his campaign.

# *The Gaffer*

## **ANDY KING**

*Andy King was appointed Manager in October 2000, having been assistant to Colin Todd, when Todd moved to Derby County. Luton born King played for Luton Town, Everton, QPR, West Bromwich Albion, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Aldershot scoring some 92 goals in a playing career spanning 12 years.*



# An 'A to Z' of United

*Voluntary contributor Andy Howland who (with his brother Roger) is our club Historian continues the series. The Howland brothers' next club history, 'Oxford United, the Headington Years' is due out within four months following the club's last ever match at the Manor (details at the end).*

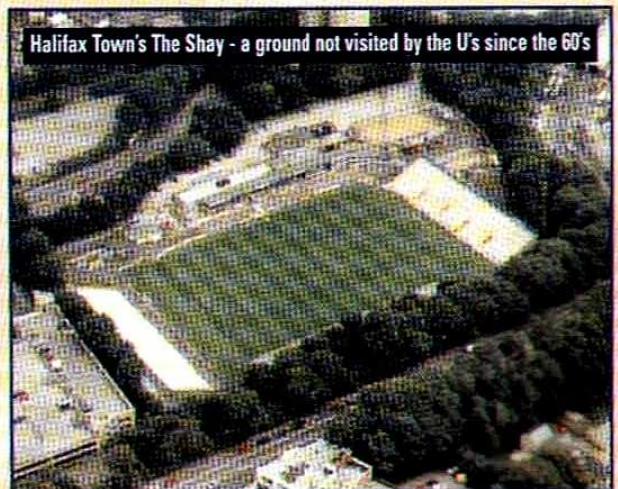
## **KEN HALE**

Ken joined Third Division Oxford at the age of twenty six from Coventry City in March 1966. The inside right had joined his local club Newcastle and scored fifteen goals in thirty League games prior to his move to Highfield Road. From his U's debut, he was ever present for forty five matches. The first game he missed was our inglorious FA Cup second round replay defeat at Bedford (amazingly, the match attracted 11913 spectators to the Non Leaguers' ground). Ken played in just one of our next fifteen League games but returned for the last six matches of the campaign (which ended with our four one defeat to Third Division runners up Middlesbrough before at Teeside crowd of 39683). He started 1967-68 as captain of the reserves. In the absence of Ron Atkinson, Hale skippered the first team for twelve games in autumn 1967. Following another demotion in January 1968, Ken played no part in United's late surge to win the championship and moved to Darlington in May 1968. In all he played 72 first team games and netted thirteen goals.

## **HALIFAX TOWN**

Halifax are a member of that group of nine current League clubs which we have not met in a League fixture in the post sixties period. Rochdale, Darlington, Hartlepool, Torquay and former Southern League opponents Cheltenham and Kidderminster are the other current League clubs which have not met us in a League game for over thirty years. We have

never met Barnet or Macclesfield in League fixtures but, like Torquay, they have played us in Cup matches since 1969. We have met the Shaymen on four occasions, the first coming on October 12th 1963 in a two all draw at the Manor (our scorers being wingers Colin Harrington and Peter Knight). This was in our second League season as Halifax had been in the old Division Three in 1962-63. The return match came a week after we had beaten Blackburn, the second highest placed team in the land to reach the FA Cup Quarter Finals for the only time in our history. The previous week we had played before a then Manor record crowd of 21,700 and would entertain Preston before 22750 (the all time record) the following Saturday. Just 2828 attended the Shay and the lack of crowd atmosphere and a possible unwillingness to risk injury may have contributed to our 3-1 defeat (Billy Calder netting our goal). The following season, we completed a double over the Yorkshire club. Ron Atkinson netting the only goal in a Manor fixture which saw future legendary Swindon keeper Peter Downsborough thwart United time and time again. Later in the season as

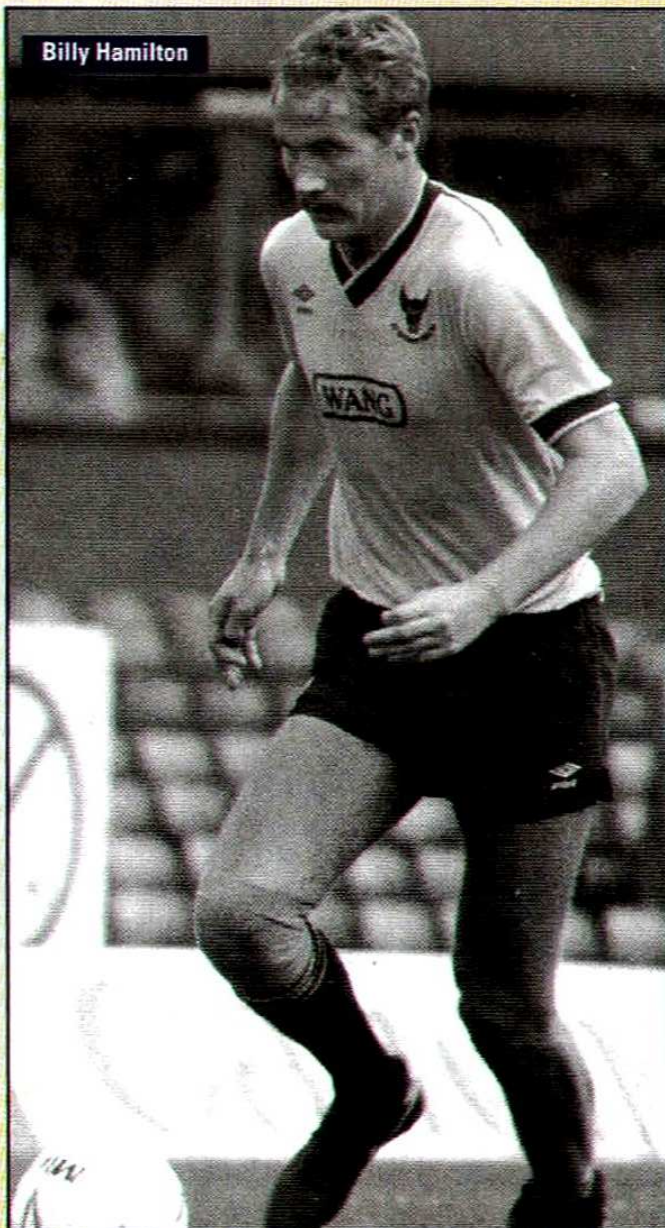


Halifax Town's The Shay - a ground not visited by the U's since the 60's

we began our successful run for promotion, we triumphed at the Shay Ground by three goals to one. Our goals coming from Colin Booth and Graham Atkinson (two).

## **BILLY HAMILTON**

It is hard to imagine any other player who started as few as forty-one Oxford matches making such an impact as did the big Ulsterman. Born in Belfast on May 9th 1957, the central striker played in Linfield's double winners of 1977-78 and for Northern Ireland at Under 21 level against Eire in March 1978. He moved to Queens Park Rangers in April 1978 and was capped at full level the following month. He made his League debut in December 1978 but, with Clive Allen in prolific form, moved to Burnley for £55,000. He was a regular member of the side which qualified under the management of Billy Bingham for the 1982 World Cup Finals, his nation's first major finals since 1958. He won a Third Division Championship medal in 1982 soon after he troubled Gary Briggs and Malcolm Shotton in a late season draw before a Manor crowd of 10,171. He starred in the World Cup Finals in Spain as the Ulstermen shocked the world of football by winning its first stage group. Millions of viewers will remember his powerful run down the wing to send over the cross from which Gerry Armstrong scored the sensational winner against the host nation. In the second stage, Billy scored both goals against Austria but France reached the semi finals at Northern Ireland's expense. At the end of the following season Burnley were relegated. The following term Billy registered 21 League goals and played well in Burnley's FA Cup Third Round defeat before a midweek Manor crowd of 10,497. At the end of the season Jim Smith signed Billy as a much-needed replacement for Steve Biggins. The fee was a bargain £95,000 and United were soon rewarded as the side netted a staggering sixty five goals in twenty six games prior to the turn of the year. Billy had netted seventeen of those whilst John Aldridge had weighed in with twenty one. Thirty eight goals between them in just twenty six matches was absolutely phenomenal. Among the many highlights were our five two League demolition of Leeds (after trailing two nil) and our three two home victory over League leaders Arsenal in the League Cup. Billy weighed in with a goal in each of these matches and netted eight goals in our first five League Cup ties. We started the new year with victories at Middlesbrough and at Shrewsbury and looked set for our first ever live televised FA Cup tie at the Manor (against Manchester United) when we entertained Blackburn in our first game after a twenty six day spell which had involved many postponements for the club. We had already beaten Rovers at home that season in both League and League Cup. Billy had netted both goals in the League fixture including a last minute winner which was highly praised by a near hysterical Radio Five commentator, his fellow Ulsterman Alan Green. Hamilton had earlier netted a hat trick in our three one triumph in the League Cup. How Burnley fans must have celebrated the work of their former hero! The feat was not to be repeated in the FA Cup as Billy was quite bizarrely injured in the warm up and took no part in the game. United lost one nil and took only four points from the next five League games, all of which were missed by Billy. Sadly, he played only four times in the second half of the season but with Jeremy Charles featuring United held on to top spot to become the only side ever (still) to reach the top flight as a result of two consecutive Divisional championships. Billy played in four of our first five games in the top flight before injury struck again. He missed our run to the League Cup Final but returned to the first team eleven days before the Wembley triumph. He was unfit for the Final and missed our defeat in the vital relegation clash with Ipswich in our next match. We had three matches remaining all being at home. The first brought the visit of League Champions and title favourites Everton. An inspirational Hamilton's deft touch set up Les Phillips for the 88th minute winner which would rob Everton of an eventual three consecutive League titles. Billy



**Billy Hamilton**

missed the next game (a defeat to Forest) but netted our final goal in the three nil victory over Arsenal in the match which we had to win to stay up. Billy would play in just two more first team matches, the last being at the age of 29 in our League victory over Coventry of October 1986. Of his nine top flight League games for us, four were won and just two lost (if only he hadn't been injured so much!). His haul of twenty goals in forty one first team games tells only part of the story.

## **OUR NEW BOOK**

Reduced cost subscriber copies of our coming book, "Oxford United, the Headington Years" are obtainable and will be delivered to subscribers. Each copy will be individually numbered. If a purchaser wishes it, their name will be printed among the subscribers names at the back of each book. All of this is at a cost which is less than the published price. The book is expected to be published within four months following our last ever first team match at the Manor. Subscriber copies will be posted to any address in the U.K. and may be obtained from Andy at 10, Redshots Close, Marlow, Bucks SL73LW (phone 01628 477164 or email address [andy@howland49.freemove.co.uk](mailto:andy@howland49.freemove.co.uk)). To order them, for each book please send a cheque payable to A. Howland for £12.50. Subscribers' books will be mailed so that they are obtained on or before the date when the book appears on general sale.

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Welcome to this afternoon's Match Sponsor, Pertemps Recruitment marketing Consultancy. We hope they thoroughly enjoy their involvement with Oxford United this afternoon.

Pertemps, Britain's leading independent recruitment agency will be cheering for Oxford United as they play for three valuable points. Pertemps always take an active involvement in the community and local manager, Jamie Brown has decided to sponsor Oxford United in an attempt to promote the club's sporting season.

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Welcome also to this afternoon's Matchball Sponsor, Dynamo Promotional Marketing Consultancy. We hope they enjoy their afternoon with us. Dynamo Marketing was set up in 1990 and is now one of the top fifteen Promotional Marketing Agencies. They work for blue chip companies such as Coca-Cola, Budweiser, Tesco, Mattel and BT Cellnet among others. Dynamo can cater for any promotional

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Welcome to Studio Health & Fitness Gym, Wayne Hatswell's sponsor.

## Ox Golden Key

The winning ticket at the Millwall match for the consolation prize of £50 was number 4100 held by Anne, Rita and Caroline.

The prize fund today is £900 with 9 keys left so it's well worth investing £1, who knows you could be the lucky winner going on to the pitch to try to open the box! Visit one of our ticket sellers today. If the key (kindly sponsored by Executive Security) doesn't fit the box you still get the consolation prize of £50.

So buy a ticket now!

## Stadium Opportunities - why miss out?

Now that work has really started in earnest at Minchery Farm, it is time to start thinking about the new opportunities available to supporters and companies alike at the new stadium. So why miss out on this exciting new chapter for the club?

The price structure of corporate and executive facilities, including the executive boxes, is not

yet finalised. We are, however, compiling a list of those who have expressed an interest. If you would like to be added to this list and be contacted as soon as details have been agreed, please contact the Commercial Manager, Gary Hooper on 01865 744551.

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Darren Patterson presents the ball to Stoke City match sponsor Frank Claridge of the Lantern Restaurant

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# Football in the Community

With Peter Rhoades-Brown...

## Welcome

Good afternoon and welcome to all of you loyal Oxford United fans.



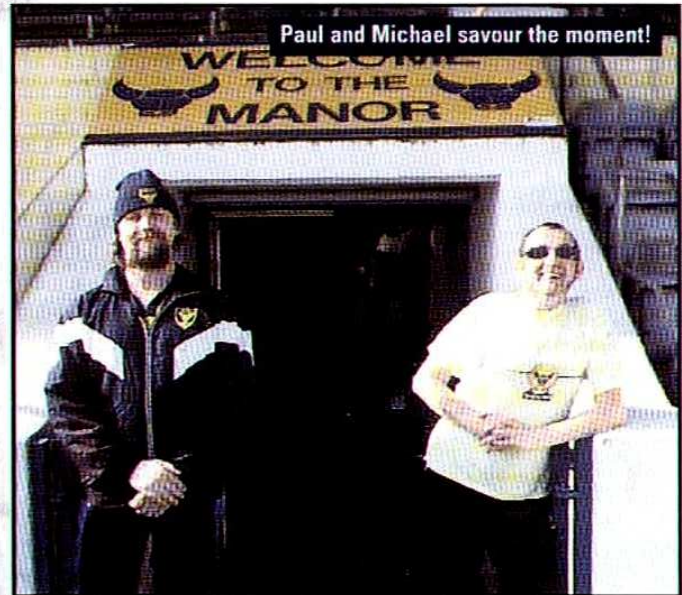
I said at half-time at the Millwall game that we all appreciate your support-players and staff alike. Cheer us on through to the end of the season and let's hope next August we can start again and enjoy the season.

## Library Visit

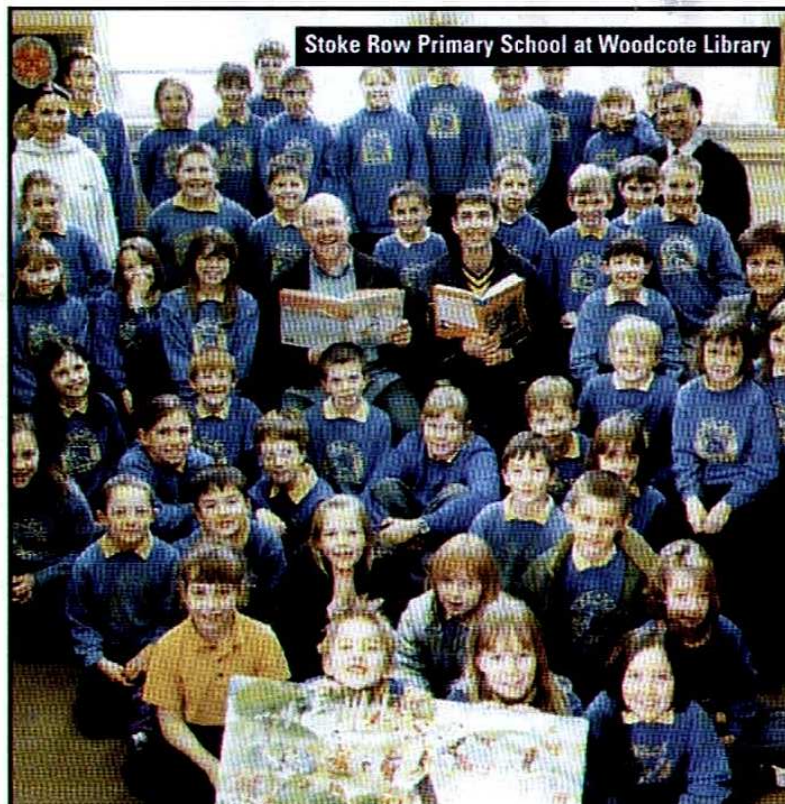
Since the 9th of February, we have set up with Oxford County Libraries and Southern Arts, 'kick into reading'.

A professional story teller, Patrick Ryan, an Irish American, and I went all around the county visiting hundreds of children to try to encourage them all, especially boys, to read more. We visited Chinnor, Woodcote, Wychwood, Bampton, Grove, Fynsham, Neathrop (Banbury), Deddington and Sonning Common libraries. Altogether we read stories and told stories to over 600 children. It was a great success and we will be doing this again in the future. It was a pleasure to work with Patrick who got all the children (and me) jumping with a few scary stories.

**Peter Rhoades-Brown**  
is sponsored by  
**The Oxford Mail**



Paul and Michael savour the moment!



Stoke Row Primary School at Woodcote Library

## Headway

Two very loyal supporters visited us last Tuesday. Pictured in the tunnel are Paul Fisk and Michael Bedford. They both came from the Headway Organisation who helps and advises the sufferers of the devastating effect of head injuries. The group gives support to the injured and their families. If you would like any more information about Headway, they are based at the Rivermead Rehabilitation Centre on the Abingdon Road (01865 790500). They are currently looking for a volunteer to help out on Tuesdays, particularly someone interested in sport. Please contact Sue on the number shown.

Michael was brilliant, he actually got down and kissed the hallowed turf (how passionate?).

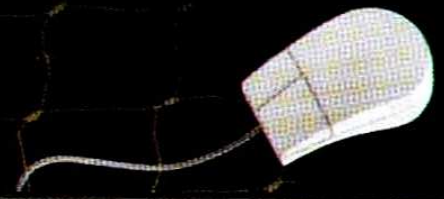
## Watch this space

On Thursday I took Headington Middle School to Bristol to play in the south west area final in the Railtrack 'Stay Safe, Play Safe' six-a-side tournament.

## Hello to.....

Carol Hopgood is here today with her friends, a first time for a while, so why not buy a season ticket.

# In the 'net



## Swindon Town

Ever since I started writing these reviews of the visiting team's websites, I've been slightly dreading looking at the Swindon ones! I figured out very early that there were going to be some pages which were going to mock Oxford, and that I was unlikely to find them all that amusing. Not only that, but if said I didn't like a site it was going to look like bias.

Therefore I decided to play safe at first and go for the official site ([www.swindonfc.co.uk](http://www.swindonfc.co.uk)) figuring that it would be one of the corporate, rather bland, affairs which are starting to predominate. Actually, the site is pretty good. It has lots of interviews with the players, which are always interesting, and lots of news and reports.

If there is a criticism it's that the black background makes everything a bit gloomy, and gives the photographs a rather dark tint. There's also no sign of a forum or chat page, so it is very much the club's own site rather than something the fans can become involved in.

If it's a fans' forum page you want, then you could do worse than look at [www.swindonfc.co.uk](http://www.swindonfc.co.uk) which points only to a chat board. Sadly, the board was rather full of "Farewell Division Two" messages when I looked, so perhaps I shouldn't mention it?

Of the other sites I looked at there was distinct lack of an unofficial site which contained news and opinion. The best

was probably <http://members.aol.com/garel0584/index.htm> which apparently won runners up prize in a national AOL web design competition. I would imagine that was for the design rather than the content, and the site is very smooth and fast. At times it lacks variety, but is a good effort.

Another site which was OK was [www.stfc-progs.co.uk](http://www.stfc-progs.co.uk) where you can look at all the Swindon programmes you could ever wish to look at. Nothing else mind, but that's clearly enough for some people!

Having run out of patience after, oh, thirty seconds, I moved on to [www.swindon-town-fc.co.uk](http://www.swindon-town-fc.co.uk) which had some decent pen pics of the players, although the news page wasn't terribly up to date. I risked a look at the "humour" page, and found the Jim Davidson joke book had been adhered to. I did smile (slightly) at the Organ Donor Card which you can print out, which says "I wish to donate my organs to help somebody after my death. Unless they are an Oxford fan". Charming!

Finally, I took a look at two further sites, [www.norris-family.freemove.co.uk](http://www.norris-family.freemove.co.uk) and [www.hounswell.swinternet.co.uk/stfc/](http://www.hounswell.swinternet.co.uk/stfc/) both of which were fairly basic but had excellent match report sections.

Overall, it wasn't quite as bad as I thought, looking at Swindon sites, and I look forward to doing the same in the programme next year.

*Chris Williams is the Oxford journalist at [www.fromtheterrace.co.uk](http://www.fromtheterrace.co.uk)*



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# Oxford Action



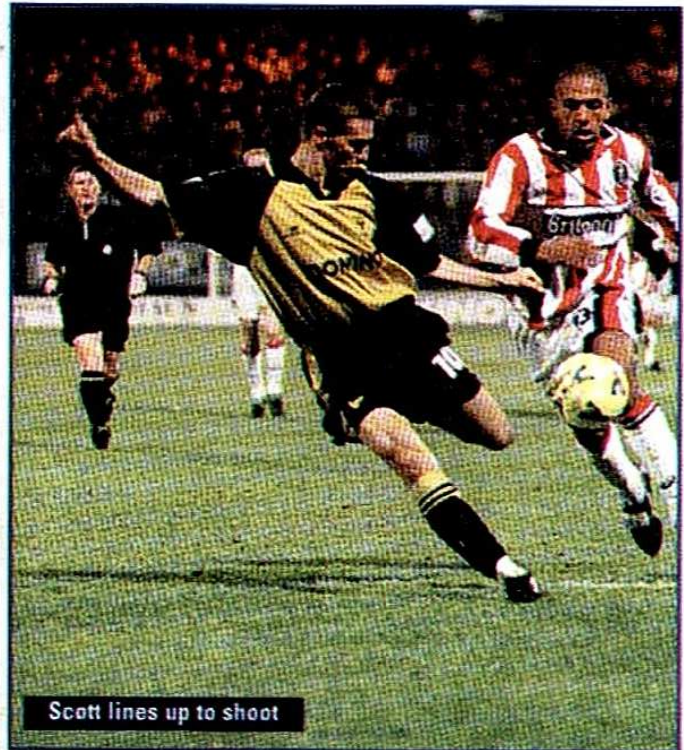
Oxford United 1 Stoke City 1 ■ Attendance: 4,856 ■ Report by Dave Nash

Stoke City arrived at the Manor on a 14 match unbeaten run which has taken them to fourth spot in the division. Oxford lost 4-0 at the Britannia Stadium in September, whilst more recently Stoke won 4-0 at Peterborough a week after our 4-2 defeat there. These facts must have filled most fans with a greater sense of foreboding than usual. Darren Patterson made his home debut and with Monk being recalled by Southampton, Robertson was recalled with Richardson switching back to a central defensive role.

The home side made a promising start and after only seven minutes took the lead. Stoke conceded a free kick in a dangerous position on the Oxford right. Beauchamp's viciously inswinging kick was flicked on by Gray for Patterson to head home at the far post. It was pleasing to score the sort of goal that we have been so regularly conceding this season! Gray and Scott worked tirelessly up front, as did Beauchamp on the left, and all three had speculative efforts either saved or deflected for corners. Stoke's confidence gained during the long unbeaten run slowly came back and they worked their way back into the game as United nervously sat deeper and too easily conceded midfield possession. However, Oxford's defence looked fairly solid with Patterson leading by example. One crunching tackle despite being second favourite set the tone. Stoke had one headed "goal" disallowed for pushing by Premiership referee Durkin whilst another goalbound header was deflected narrowly over by an Oxford defender.

The second half followed a similar pattern but as the game opened up, Oxford created more half-chances despite Stoke's greater share of possession. In fact, the more solid Oxford defence restricted goal-scoring opportunities to a minimum. For the home side, Scott volleyed powerfully across the face of goal from 20 yards.

Scott also shot high and wide when presented with another shooting opportunity, but an important moment had come in the early minutes of the second half. Scott raced onto a ball played through the inside right channel and he seemed to be clear on goal, though still some 30 yards out, when Mohan hauled him



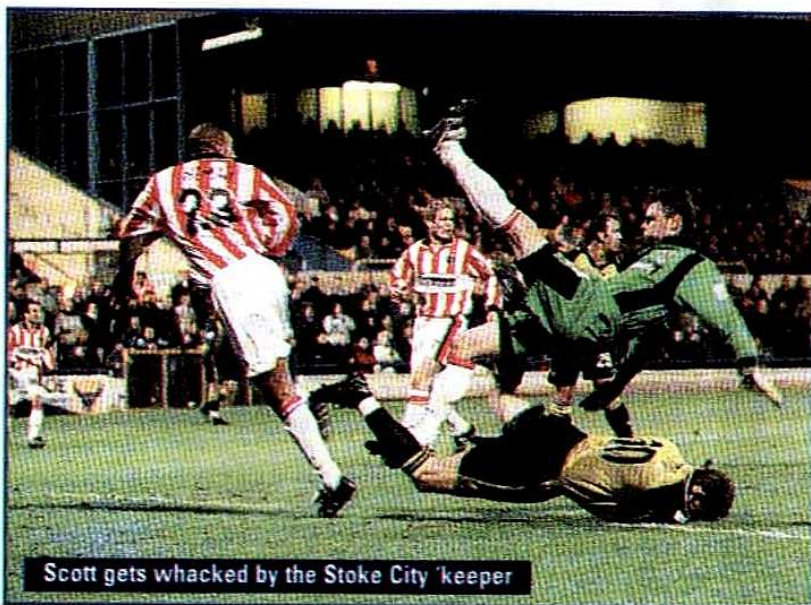
Scott lines up to shoot

back. It was clearly a 'professional foul' but another Stoke defender was trying desperately to cover. Durkin deemed that it only warranted a yellow card, when many may have issued red, but the general consensus was that he probably got it right, though Chris Hackett could have been forgiven a passing sense of injustice. Just when home fans may have been thinking that Oxford's defence was coping relatively comfortably with the visitor's neat but unpenetrative attacks, disaster struck. Murphy's short midfield pass was easily intercepted, allowing Kavanagh to

make progress before shooting from 22 yards. The low shot struck Richardson's heel and ricocheted to the unmarked Cooke, who was able to slot home easily from 10 yards. Oxford seemed to panic for a while, and Cutler made two good saves, once redeeming himself after one of several poor kicks. Nevertheless, the home side continued to work very hard, and near the end the redoubtable Patterson glanced another inswinging Beauchamp corner towards the top corner, but with the keeper stranded, Kippe headed away from under the bar. Tait had replaced Hackett on 77 minutes, the winger having found the impressive Dorigo difficult to get past. Quinn was booked for an innocuous looking foul.

A draw was probably a fair result, as Oxford competed well, though Stoke showed greater polish. This was United's first draw since October 17th, and if the team continues to battle many fans will continue to be supportive, relegation or not.

■ Report sponsored by Mirabai Restaurant, telephone 01865 768850



Scott gets whacked by the Stoke City keeper

# CentreForward



## Good afternoon to all our Centre of Excellence players and their families.

Good afternoon and welcome to all our Centre of Excellence players and their families.

Today's first team game against arch rivals Swindon Town gives the Centre of Excellence players and coaching staff the ideal stage for our prestigious pre-match entertainment skills sessions. At 1 p.m. this afternoon, we held our group photo session which included all Centre of Excellence players, coaching staff, scouting representatives, Club Physio Neal Reynolds, David Kemp (manager), Chairman Firoz Kassam, Nick Wright representing the Youth Development Trustees, and Suzanne Chappell, Graham Clifford and Brendon Cross from Centre of Excellence sponsor Spire STL Network.

Just before kick-off, over 150 Centre of Excellence players between the ages of 9-16, together with their respective age group coaches, will be going through a well rehearsed routine, hopefully without any slip ups. Having fallen foul of the weather for the last two seasons we will be keeping our fingers crossed for a drier day today.

All the Centre of Excellence players' families will be

watching, with pride and each hoping that their son will not be the one who falls over.

Everyone of the players will receive a complimentary Centre of Excellence photograph and also one of the footballs used for the skills session will be theirs to keep, kindly donated by Spire.

February half-term holidays gave us the opportunity to organise fixtures for our younger age groups, 9, 10 and 11 and Luton Town hosted all three games.

The under 9s squad showed a vast improvement in team play and understanding with good performances coming from Luke Carnell, Chris Aubrey and trialist Ryan Smith. The under 10s had a poor start but ended up playing the better football with fine displays from Tom Barrett, Mark Burton, Dwain Jacks and Brian Bowles.

The under 11s dominated their game at times with good individual performances from Alex Fisher, Aaron Andrews, Billy Young and Matthew Steele in what was a fine team display.

I hope you all enjoy the skills session; all our Centre of Excellence have the potential to become players for Oxford United.

Get behind the first team.

*Les Taylor.*

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# united profile

## A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OUR YOUNGSTERS

*As the Centre of Excellence is celebrated today, Heather Jan Brunt speaks to Brendon Cross, owner of the centre sponsor SPIRE STL Telecommunications.*

IF THE future is in the hands of youngsters then we have a lot to look forward to here at Oxford United.

Our Centre of Excellence has produced numerous players to be proud of - amongst them Joey Beauchamp, Chris Hackett and Dean Whitehead - and we have many more coming up through the ranks.

Today, prior to kick off, we are celebrating the achievements of our Centre of Excellence players - weather permitting - as they entertain us with a stunning display of their skills.

The day is a very special one for the boys, who will savour the atmosphere of playing on a superb pitch before a large crowd, after having their photograph taken with chairman Firoz Kassam and representatives from the Centre of Excellence sponsors, SPIRE Telecommunications.

SPIRE boss Brendon Cross, who took on the annual sponsorship of the Centre this season after many years as an Oxford supporter, says: "We have more than 150 good prospects coming through the various age groups under the guidance of Les Taylor who we think does an excellent job, and who should take a lot of the credit for the players who have already come through.

"My father Paul is our liaison with the club and he meets Les and education officer Dave Nash regularly to organise skills displays and other bits and pieces. He also goes to watch games and reports back to me with pictures and verbal reports on what they are up to. The feedback is that we have some very very exciting prospects and there is a lot to look forward to."

SPIRE is based at Witney and a lot of the employees are lifelong supporters of Oxford. Mr Cross, who recently joined the board here as an associate director, says: "A lot of us grew up with the club and I think it is important to support your local team. I was involved with the club a few years ago

when the plan to move to the new stadium was first set up. As the local telecommunications company we were invited to discuss the cabling regime, then of course it all came to a halt.

"When it picked up again about a year ago, this coincided with UNIPART reducing their sponsorship at the club and with the Centre of Excellence. We were involved in making an introduction to Domino, the new club sponsor, and we were in a position to support the Centre of Excellence and give something back to the club."

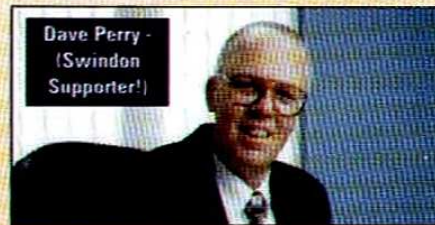
SPIRE has provided the 200 footballs in use by the youngsters out on the pitch today, and Mr Cross is bringing along his wife Kay and their eldest child, son Jordan, six, to enjoy the experience.

"One of the things I am particularly looking forward to today is the presentation to the Under 19s at half time," admits Mr Cross. "They have done so well under Mike Ford this season and we want to celebrate their success. Their season obviously isn't over yet, but they have got to the top of the South Western Youth Alliance and that needs to be recognised."

Mr Cross says he was delighted to see the return of goalkeeper Richard Knight at Ashton Gate last Saturday. "He was, without doubt, our Man of the Match. I thought he was superb. He was bound to be a bit nervous at first after being out for so long, and he took about 10 minutes to settle, but then he was tremendous. He made a couple of defenders tackles outside the goal and saved a brilliant penalty.

"Dean Whitehead, too, was outstanding. He is a product of the Centre of Excellence and he is testimony to what is being achieved there, he and Chris Hackett. They get the ball down and play football.

"But actually I think the whole team played well. We battled and disturbed Bristol City and we could have won the game. The arrival of Darren Patterson as captain has been a great success. There is no doubt he is a leader and the guys look up to him."



# ACTION ON

*Machines remove tonnes of earth from the field of play. By Heather Jan Brunt...*

**H**OPEFULLY giving us a forerunner of the exciting things to come, there is plenty of action on the pitch at the new stadium this week.

Earthmoving machines and enormous lorries are shifting 2000 cubic metres of earth from the centre of the site to clear the pitch area for the arrival of the pitch contractors next week.

Already the area is looking flat and clear and you can almost imagine the players out there smashing the ball into the net to the ecstatic cheers of the crowd.

Today the sun is shining and the skies are clear and there is a feeling of optimism and renewal as the workmen, dressed in their fluorescent safety jackets, snug fleeces, hard hats and boots, are active in almost every area of the stadium.

The terracing is almost completed, with just a few more rows to be fitted on the North stand; the smart blue glass is in the restaurant building; and the roof netting is all in place on the South and East stands.

Keyclad Ltd, the roofing contractors, are on site as the liner panels have started being fitted to the restaurant roof. The site manager for Keyclad, Brian Robson, says

work will also begin this week on the South stand, but refuses to confirm whether he will be bringing in his mate Terry to help him with the job.....

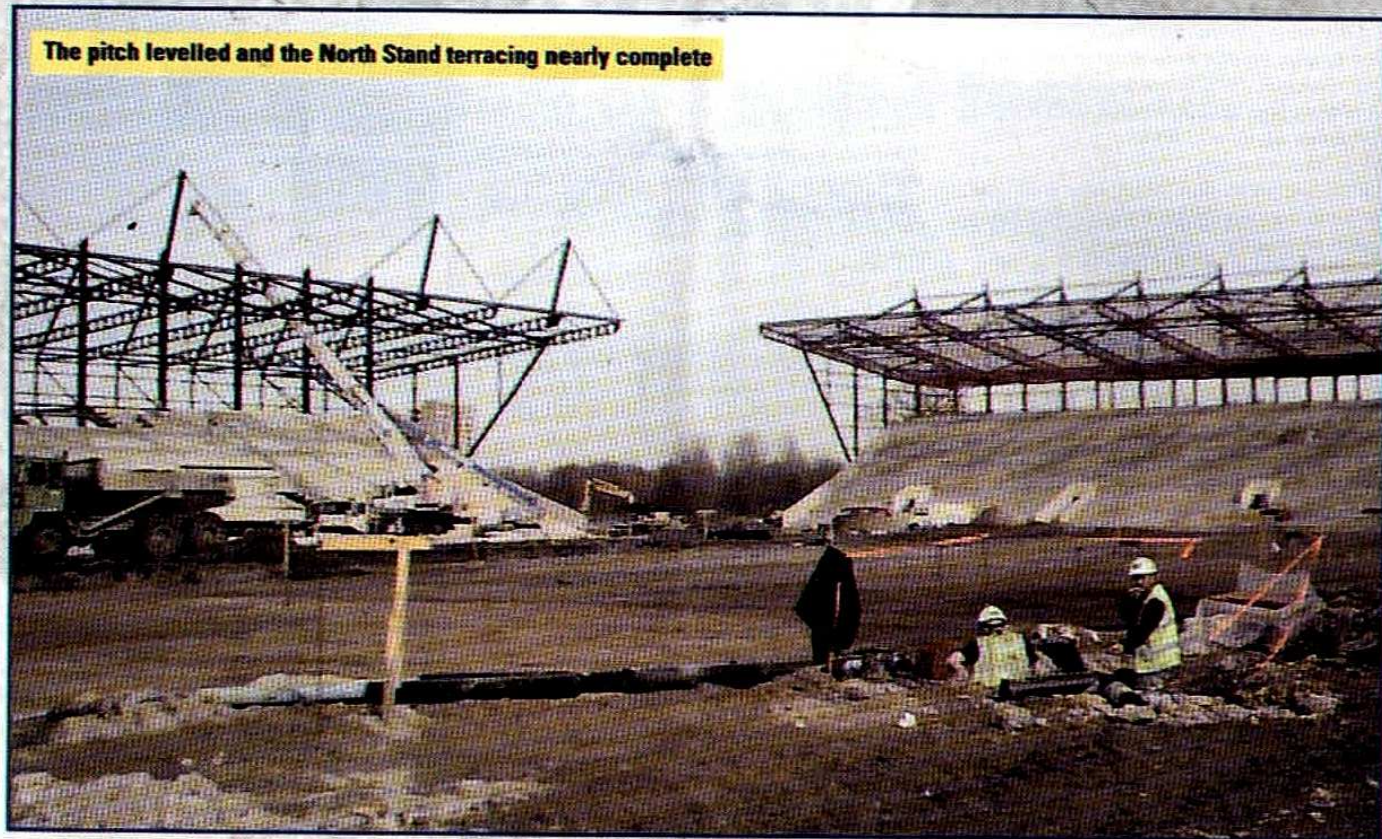
Les Magill, Birse Construction site manager, says: "Everything is looking wonderful and everybody is very happy. Things are moving along as we would have hoped. The block and brickwork have restarted with the milder weather this week, and the electrical and mechanical work continues. And for as long as it remains dry we can continue with the joint sealing in the South stand."

The three sided stadium is due to be handed over on 27 July, at which time it will seat approximately 12,500 spectators at a cost to the club of £15 million.

It will also provide 29 executive boxes between the upper and lower seating areas of the South stand.

Supporters and companies interested in obtaining information on the boxes and other commercial opportunities at the new stadium can register their interest by contacting Commercial Manager Gary Hooper. Email the club ([admin@oufc.co.uk](mailto:admin@oufc.co.uk)) or phone him during office hours on 01865 744551.

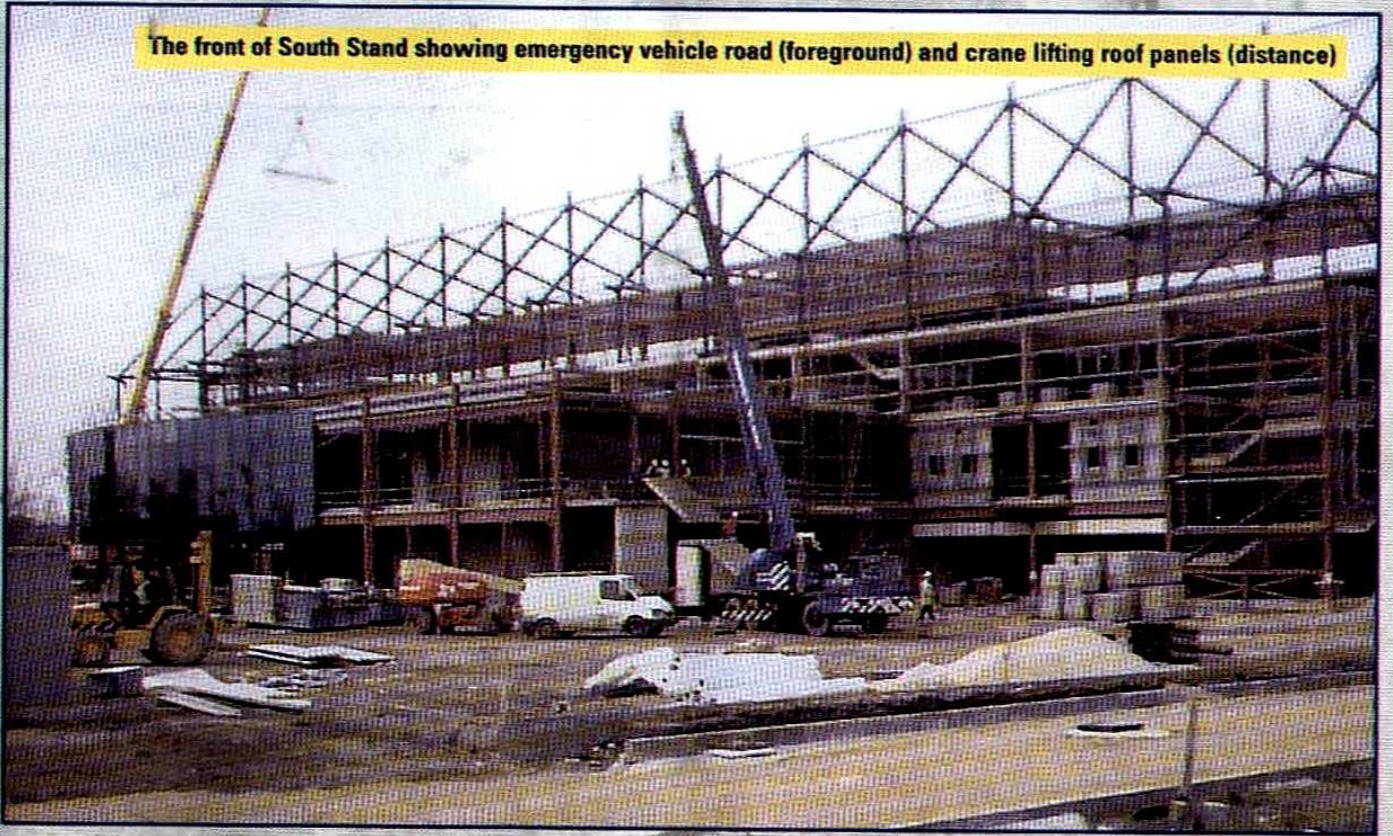
**The pitch levelled and the North Stand terracing nearly complete**



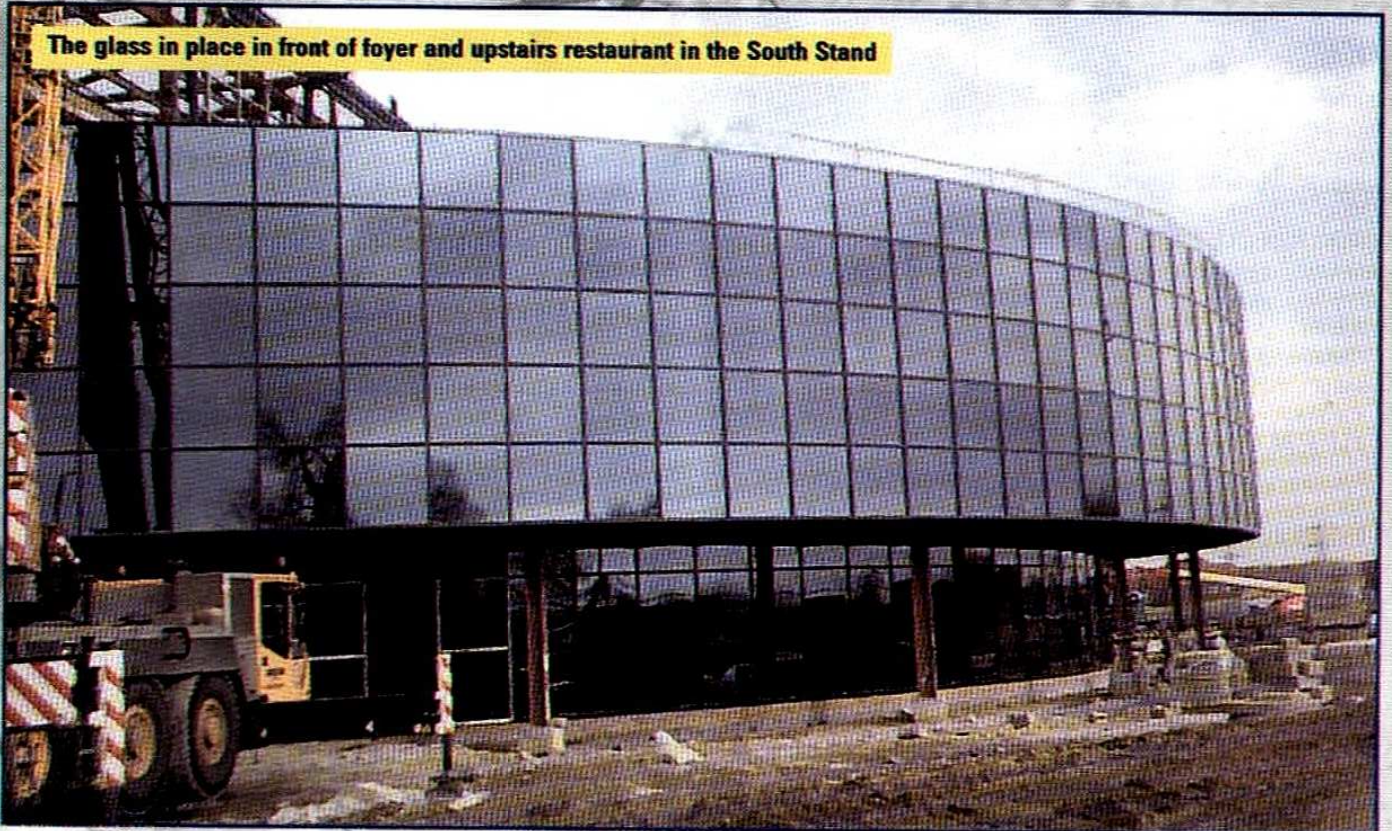


# THE PITCH

The front of South Stand showing emergency vehicle road (foreground) and crane lifting roof panels (distance)



The glass in place in front of foyer and upstairs restaurant in the South Stand



# The Ox Files

## JIM BARRON

Popular goalkeeper Jim Barron was a key figure in Oxford United's 1967/68 Third Division title triumph.

The son of the former Darlington keeper of the same name, he impressed with Newcastle West End prior to joining Wolverhampton Wanderers in November 1961. He gained top-flight experience before moving to Chelsea in April 1965 but had limited chances behind Peter Bonetti and Arthur Turner signed him in March 1966. Initially contesting a first-team slot with Brian Sherratt, he was ever-present in 1968/69 and made 150 appearances before being sold to Nottingham Forest for £35,000 in July 1970.

He was ever-present in 1970/71 and moved to Swindon Town in August 1974, featuring in their 1974/75 FA Cup run. Playing 79 Third Division games for today's visitors, he had a loan spell with Connecticut Bicentennials prior to joining Peterborough United in August 1977. He subsequently joined their coaching staff, then coached at Mansfield Town and Wolverhampton Wanderers before becoming Cheltenham Town's manager for a year in November 1989. After coaching at Everton, he was assistant-manager at Aston Villa and Sheffield United and has been Birmingham City's reserve team coach since November 1998.

### Appearances for (goals)

#### OXFORD UNITED

Season	League	FA Cup	League Cup	Total
1965/66	12	-	-	12
1966/67	24	1	1	26
1967/68	35	-	-	35
1968/69	42	2	1	45
1969/70	39	2	6	47
Total	152	5	8	165

#### SWINDON TOWN

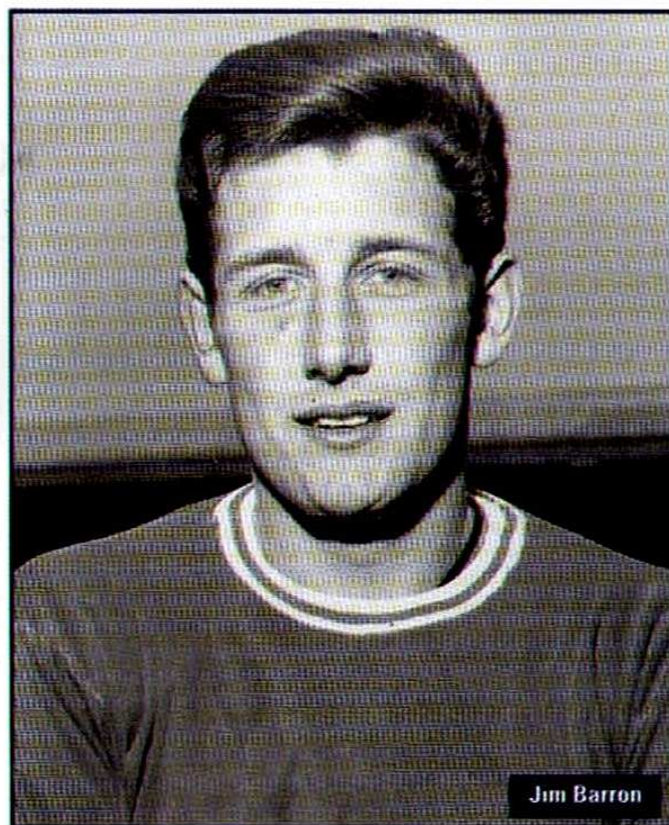
Season	League	FA Cup	League Cup	Total
1974/75	40	5	1	46
1975/76	36	5	3	44
1976/77	3	-	-	3
Total	79	10	4	93

## OWEN MEDLOCK

Popular goalkeeper Owen Medlock starred as Oxford United won the Southern League title in two consecutive seasons.

One of Ted Drake's Ducklings at Chelsea, he signed professional for the League Champions in May 1955 but failed to a secure first-team slot behind the likes of Bill Robertson and Reg Matthews and moved to Swindon Town on a free transfer in February 1959. He made his league debut in their 3-0 defeat at Shrewsbury Town eight months later and played three consecutive Third division games as cover for long-serving Sam Burton...

Arthur Turner signed him in December 1959 and he starred as Oxford reached the FA Cup third round in 1960/61, also featuring in United's first-ever Football League game at Barrow



Jim Barron

in August 1962. He played against Arsenal in the 1962/63 FA Cup Third round and made 117 Southern League/Fourth Division appearances while at the Manor Ground before moving to Chelmsford City in July 1963, helping them to win the Southern League title in 1967/68. Now living in Peterborough, he spent 32 years in quality control department at Perkins Engines Ltd until retiring earlier this week.

#### SWINDON TOWN

Season	League	FA Cup	League Cup	Total
1959/60	3	-	-	3
Total	3	-	-	3

#### OXFORD UNITED

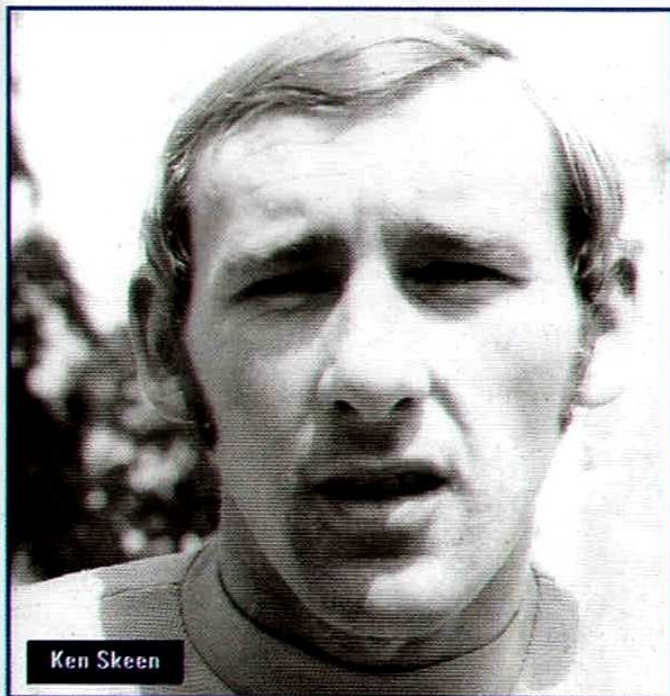
Season	League	FA Cup	League Cup	Total
1959/60	23	-	1	24
1960/61	42	5	2	49
1961/62	33	2	1	36
1962/63	19	3	1	23
Total	117	10	5	132

## MARK JONES

Young midfielder Mark Jones was a versatile member of Jim Smith's successful squad at Oxford United.

Born locally, he progressed through the ranks at the Manor Ground and signed professional in September 1979. He made

# Football historian **Leigh Edwards** traces former favourites



Ken Skeen

his League debut as substitute in Oxford's 2-0 win at home to Exeter City six months later and secured a regular first-team slot during the 1980/81 campaign. An influential figure as United, reached the FA Cup fifth round in 1981/82, he also helped to win the Third Division and Second Division titles in consecutive seasons and scored seven times in 129 League outings prior to joining Swindon Town in September 1986.

He featured prominently as they won promotion for the second year running in 1986/87 but was then sidelined by a serious knee injury and netted nine goals in 40 Third Division games for today's opponents before resurrecting his career with Cardiff City in August 1990. Subsequently with Farnborough Town and Marlow Town, he coached the likes of Simon Weatherstone and Rob Folland at Oxford United's Centre of Excellence and has been the Club's Soccer Course Director for the past six years.

## OXFORD UNITED

Season	League	FA Cup	League Cup	Total
1979/80	2	-	-	2
1980/81	36(1)	-	2	38(1)
1981/82	21(3)	5	5	31(3)
1982/83	26(1)	1	1	28(1)
1983/84	20(2)	1	1	28(1)
1984/85	18	1	1	20
1985/86	6	-	2	8
Total	129(7)	7	14	150(7)

## SWINDON TOWN

Season	League	FA Cup	League Cup	Total
1986/87	40(9)	4(1)	2	46(10)
Total	40(9)	4(1)	2	46(10)

## KEN SKEEN

Versatile inside-forward Ken Skeen was ever-present for Oxford United in 1969/70.

He was a Swindon Town amateur before manager Bert Head recommended him to his son Davis who was in charge of Trowbridge Town, returning to Swindon in September 1964. Given his Second Division debut alongside the likes of Summerbee, Ernie Hunt and Don Rogers in that month's 3-1 defeat at Crystal Palace, he featured in Swindon's 1966/67 FA Cup run netted four goals in 14 League outings before being sold to Oxford for £3,500 in July 1967.

Starring in the 1967/68 Third Division title triumph, he helped United take Leicester City to an FA Cup fifth round replay in 1970/71 and deputised in goal for the injured Roy Burton at home to Bristol City in December 1971. He switched to a midfield role and scored 27 times in 234 League games while at the Manor Ground before moving to Cheltenham Town in July 1974. Still living in home-town Cheltenham, he ran Alu-Fab Ltd in partnership with his older brother Cyril and then spent 12 years as secretary of Lilley Brook Golf Club until December 1999. He is now a painter and decorator and Chairman of Cheltenham St. Marks.

## SWINDON TOWN

Season	League	FA Cup	League Cup	Total
1964/65	10(3)	-	1(1)	11(4)
1965/66	1(1)	-	-	1(1)
1966/67	3	6(1)	-	9(1)
Total	14(4)	6(1)	1(1)	21(6)

## OXFORD UNITED

Season	League	FA Cup	League Cup	Total
1967/68	39(4)	3(1)	3(3)	45(8)
1968/69	25(3)	2	-	27(3)
1969/70	42(9)	2(1)	6(3)	50(13)
1970/71	40(6)	5(3)	2	47(9)
1971/72	31(2)	1	3(1)	35(3)
1972/73	29(2)	2	3(1)	34(3)
1973/74	28(1)	1	2	31(1)
Total	234(27)	16(5)	19(8)	269(40)



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# To The Manor Born

*With the move to a new home now imminent, Chris Williams looks at the Manor Ground as it stands today.*

## Part Ten: the Press Box

*When I'm not penning these articles for the programme I am often to be found trekking around the country reporting on United's games from the splendour of assorted press boxes throughout the Second Division.*

The facilities on offer vary immensely. At Wigan or Stoke, say, the press are straining to see the tiny players several hundred feet below their press box in the sky, while at Luton you are given the prime seats in the best stand. At Bournemouth they take the phrase "press box" all too literally and actually gave me a wooden box to lean on!

Therefore I wasn't really sure what to expect when I approached the press box at The Manor for the first time for the game with Millwall. I knew where it was, of course; the glass fronted box at the back of the Beech Road Stand, but had often wondered what actually went on inside.

After establishing that there isn't a press room as such for the journalists to congregate in before the match, I soon found that the hardened journo's get there very early. Obviously, with Millwall being top of the league, the writers were out in force, and I found myself squeezing in to the only available bench seat as kick off approached.

The box is divided in to three sections. On the left, as you look up from the pitch, is the radio box. It's not particularly spacious, as you might expect, but Jerome, Rosie and the others were already hard at work as I merrily weaved my way past them. I shall treasure the look Rosie shot me as I slammed the door when heading for the loo half way through the first half!

Next to the radio broadcasters is the press box itself. I counted 24 places available in here split in to just two rows of seats, and the seating arrangements were obviously well established.

To the right of this room is the small cubicle which match day announcer Nathan Cooper uses to speak to The Manor faithful. Nathan very kindly gave me a full tour of this inner sanctum, pointing out the one tape player, lack of CD equipment and a turntable which last worked when 78s were all the rage. Hi-tech it isn't!

Communication to the pitch is by hand signals, and the volume ranges from ear splitting in some areas of the ground to deathly hush in others.

Nathan assured me that when we get to the new ground things will be much improved!

Outside the press box the TV crews are forced to climb a precarious looking ladder to get to their gantry which hangs from the roof of the stand. I didn't like the look of the planks which held the whole thing up much!

Finally, one area of the media which is often overlooked is hospital radio, and our local radio, Radio Chervell, inhabit the small box which you can see in the extreme right corner of the stand.

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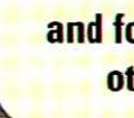
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other players.



# united profile

## FROM MINSTER TO THE DREAMING SPIRES

*Our new captain has played at International level for Northern Ireland and is full of enthusiasm for Oxford United. He spoke to Heather Jan Brunt.*

IF WE could stay in Division Two on enthusiasm alone we would have no problem.

Our new captain Darren Patterson is Mr Optimism himself. Full of smiles, full of confidence, he has already secured a place in the heart of his team mates with his infectious desire to win at all costs.

In the changing room before games, and out on the pitch in front of the supporters, he shouts and yells his encouragement.

He won't entertain any thought of relegation. "Until it is a mathematical certainty I'm not thinking about it. We want to stay up and there is a chance we can," he insists. "The key is confidence and I think the work rate amongst the lads is superb."

In his home debut against Stoke City Darren impressed everyone with his never say die attitude. After scoring a goal in the seventh minute he then got a terrible knock to the head which required stitches, but he didn't stop playing. Neal Reynolds bandaged him up and then he continued on with the game.

"These things happen all the time," he says dismissively, "it doesn't stop you playing. I was delighted with my goal and so disappointed that three points were snatched away from us when Stoke equalised in the second half, I think we deserved to win."

Darren arrived at The Manor Ground a few weeks ago from a short term spell at York and was immediately handed the captain's armband.

"I was a bit taken aback," he admits, "being made captain as soon as I arrived. I didn't want to ruffle any feathers, but everyone has been brilliant. It is a great honour to be captain of Oxford United, which is a good club with a great tradition."

"Coming to a new club is always a bit awkward, a bit like starting a new school, so it was nice to see some familiar faces. I know Phil Gray from playing for Northern Ireland, and of course I know David Kemp from when we were both at Crystal Palace. But to be fair everyone has welcomed me from the lads in the squad to the chairman, the supporters and the backroom staff."

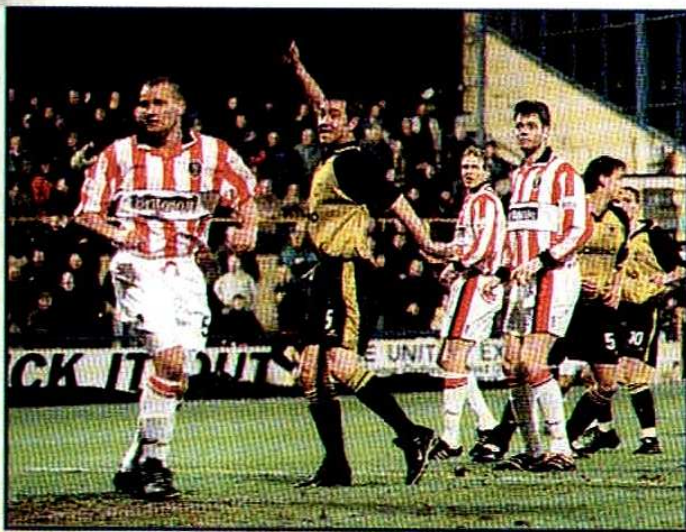
Darren was born and brought up in Belfast until the age of 15 when he moved to Bromsgrove in the West Midlands with his mother, brother and stepfather. "I wasn't very happy about it," he admits. "It was a nightmare, I hated it. Fifteen is an awkward age and I missed all my friends and relations from back home. It was difficult but I'm settled now and still live there. I married a local girl, Samantha, so that helped."

Until he moved to England Darren had played only school football, but on arrival here he played for the district and county and was spotted by a West Bromwich Albion scout. He did his apprenticeship there and was signed as a professional by Ron Atkinson. From there he spent time at Wigan, Crystal Palace and Luton before moving to Dundee United.

However, during pre-season, in a practice match, he got a dead leg which turned serious, developing into a blood clot in his thigh, which kept him out of the game for some months. He then received a call from York to take up a short term position and it was while he was there that David Kemp was alerted to his possible availability.

"I had worked with David at Crystal Palace when he was assistant manager and I got on very well with him," recalls Darren. "He is a winner and drives you on and wants the best always. He sets very high standards for everyone so I know we will work well together."

Although Darren has played in a number of positions he is currently at centre half and says that is where he believes he is most affective. His skill has brought him to the attention of the Northern Ireland squad on numerous occasions and he still clearly remembers his first appearance in America against Columbia.



"We hadn't qualified, but we were over there for a tournament and I came on for 20 minutes, which was brilliant. But my first full debut was against the Republic of Ireland and we got a draw. That was quite a match!

"It's the biggest buzz playing for your country. When you start out in football that is always the goal. Northern Ireland is a small country but we have done pretty well so it's a great thrill. I have 20 full caps and they are shared around the family. I have some of them myself, but they are not hung up, I'll wait until the end of my playing career before I start displaying things!"

Fortunately for us the end is a long way away. "I have no idea what the future holds," says Darren. "I want to play for as long as possible. I feel greatly privileged to work at something I enjoy so much. I have travelled all over the world through my work and I feel honoured to do it."

In his spare time Darren likes to spend as much time as possible with his wife and their two football-mad children, Joe, nine, and Will, five. "We just chill out together," he says. "I love being a family man and the lads are great. It's great to go home and have a release from the pressure."

In the meantime Darren says he wants to stay at Oxford for as long as he can, and bring us the success we desire. And with him at the helm, there's more than a fighting chance that we will achieve it.

# Ticket Office



All the latest news on ticket availability, how to get them and details on our trips to Luton Town, Cambridge United and Northampton Town

## PURCHASING TICKETS

- The ticket office is open 9.30 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. On Tuesday first team home matchdays, the office re-opens at 5.30 p.m. for personal callers only and remains open until kick off.
- The office IS NOT OPEN on Saturdays when the first team is playing away from home.
- On Saturday home matchdays the office opens at 9.30 a.m. and accepts telephone bookings until 12 noon while remaining open to personal callers until kick-off.
- The office re-opens after the final whistle at first team home matches for approximately 15 minutes.
- Telephone bookings can be made by calling (01865) 761505, ext. 207. We are able to accept Mastercard, Visa and Switch. This facility is subject to a flat booking fee of £1.00 per order.
- Bookings made up to three working days before a match will be sent out by first class post. Bookings made after this time will be held for collection. The debit/credit card must be shown and the booking reference number quoted when collecting tickets.

## TICKET AVAILABILITY

Seat and terrace tickets are currently on sale to season ticket/priority pass holders and members for the following home matches.

**Rotherham United**  
**Saturday 24th March**  
(Please note - 1.00pm Kick-off)

**Oldham Athletic**  
**Saturday 7th April**

**Reading**  
**Tuesday 17th April**

Seat tickets become available to non-members 14 days in advance of the match.

## HOME MATCHES - ALL TICKET NEWS

**Reading**  
**Nationwide Football League**  
**Division Two**  
**Tuesday 17th April 2001**  
**Kick Off 5.00 pm**  
**'ALL TICKET'**

Our derby with Reading is ALL TICKET. Tickets are on sale for Manor Priority Pass holders, members and holders of Millwall match ticket stubs. Open sale will commence from 9.30 am on Monday 12th March.

**Port Vale**  
**Nationwide Football League**  
**Division Two**  
**Tuesday 1st May 2001**  
**Kick Off 7.45 pm**  
**'ALL TICKET'**

This Tuesday's match against Port Vale has been postponed due to their golden goal success over Stoke City in the LDV last Monday. They will now play Lincoln City next week in the 1st leg of the Northern area Final. This success, coupled with fixture congestion exacerbated by the bad weather this winter, has resulted in the fixture scheduled for this Tuesday being re-arranged on Football League advice for Tuesday 1st May, kick off 7.45 p.m. This will therefore be our final home league match of the season, and our last ever at the Manor. It will be an ALL TICKET game.

The demand for tickets is expected to exceed supply, and unfortunately some

people may be disappointed. Season ticket holders will need to use their cards in the normal manner for this fixture. Please note that season ticket holders who do not bring their cards will not be able to gain entry under any circumstances. Manor Priority Pass holders will be guaranteed the opportunity to obtain their ticket (subject to a time limit to be announced).

The club will issue a voucher to all supporters paying cash at the turnstiles at the Oldham Athletic match on April 7th. These, along with match ticket stubs from this match will act as one voucher, while ticket stubs from our ALL TICKET derby with Reading will act as a second voucher. Tickets will go on sale to holders of both vouchers at a time to be decided, after the Reading match, before going on sale - SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY- to holders of one voucher, members without either voucher and finally open sale.

The timetable for ticket sales will be published in the Rotherham United programme and on the ticket office section of our website, [www.oufc.co.uk](http://www.oufc.co.uk) week commencing 19th March.

Tickets for the original Port Vale match scheduled for 30th December or the rearranged date of 13th March will still be valid for this match. Anyone unable to attend the new date can obtain a refund as long as their ticket is returned to the ticket office not later than 3.00 p.m. on Saturday 28th April

## AWAY MATCHES

**Luton Town**  
**Nationwide Football League**  
**Division Two**  
**Saturday 17th March 2001**  
**2 March, 2001**  
**Kick-off 5.00 p.m.**

Supporters travelling to Luton need to pay cash at the turnstiles for the covered Oak Road Stand which is all seating. The seats are priced at £14 adults, £8 concessions. Wheelchair bound supporters are admitted free with helpers charged at £5 and must be booked in advance by calling Luton Town direct on 01582 416976. It is street parking for all but honoured guests but nearby roads have few restrictions. The local police, however, warn about car crime and advise fans to park in the Town Centre which is covered by CCTV.



#### How to get to Kenilworth Road:

The most direct route from Oxford is to travel via Thame (A418) and Aylesbury to Dunstable. Take the A41 (signed London) Tring Road out of Aylesbury and at the Crownsnest roundabout after Aston Clinton take the first exit (B488) to Dunstable. At Crossroads (mini-roundabout) in Dunstable follow signs to M1/Luton(A505) to Tesco roundabout. Go straight over roundabout(don't follow Luton A505 sign), under M1 following signs to Luton Town Centre (A505). The ground is approximately 2 miles.

#### Cambridge United

##### Nationwide Football League

##### Division Two

**Tuesday 27th March 2001**

**Kick-off 7.45 p.m.**

This is another cash at the turnstiles match. The uncovered South Terrace is adults £10, concessions £7. Seats are available in the Habbin Stand (322 only), adults £11 and concessions £7. Wheelchair bound supporters are admitted free with the helpers paying £10 and must be booked in advance by phoning Lisa Wade on 01223 566500. Car parking costs £2 on Goldham's Common which is a five minute walk to the away turnstiles. The alternative is street parking.

#### How to get to the Abbey Stadium:

Exit A14 at s/p Cambridge A1303, Burwell

B1102', and at roundabout turn left (s/p Cambridge A1303, Airport) onto the A1303. Keep straight on, remaining on the A1303 and following Cambridge and City Centre signs, for 2.5 miles to roundabout by Racehorse Pub. Here, go straight on (s/p Ring Road, City Centre) into Newmarket Road. The ground is on the LHS after 0.3 miles.

#### Northampton Town

##### Nationwide Football League

##### Division Two

**Saturday 31st March 2001**

**Kick Off 3.00 p.m.**

**'ALL TICKET'**

Our trip to Northampton is another ALL TICKET fixture. We have been allocated 850 unreserved seat tickets in the South stand, behind the goal. Seats are priced at £12 adults and £8.50 under 16's/over 60's. Wheelchair supporters need to book through Northampton by calling 01604-588338.

Tickets will go on open sale from 9.30 am on Monday 12th March. Match day programmes cost £2. There is FREE car parking near the South Stand which is signposted on you approach to the ground. SUPPORTERS SHOULD NOTE THAT THE LOCAL DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS WILL NOT ADMIT VISITING SUPPORTERS. To get to the Sixfields Stadium, take the A43 from the M40, towards Northampton. As soon as you reach the outskirts the ground is clearly signposted.

## LondonRoadClub

### Luton Town

**Saturday 17th March**

**Fare: £8 adults £7 juniors**

**Departs:**

**St. Giles: 12.30 noon,**

**Manor: 12.45pm**

### Cambridge United

**Tuesday 27th March**

**Fare: £10 adults £9 juniors**

**Departs:**

**St. Giles: 4.15pm,**

**Manor: 4.30pm**

### Northampton Town

**Saturday 31st March**

**Fare: £8 adults £7 juniors**

**Departs:**

**St. Giles: 12.30 noon,**

**Manor: 12.45pm**

**Coach tickets for the postponed Bournemouth match will NOT be valid for the rearranged date of 3rd April. Please obtain a refund or exchange as soon as possible.**

## BANKING



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# united profile

## THE COMMUNITY LOOKS ROSIE

*Community Officer Peter Rhoades-Brown speaks to Heather Jan Brunt about his long career with the U's.*

ONE of the jewels in our crown here at Oxford United must surely be former player Peter Rhoades-Brown.

Known to all and sundry as Rosie, his cheerful smile and friendly manner are as familiar to supporters as they are to the staff.

Rosie visits over 100 schools each year in his role as community officer, and his past experience as a top level professional player ensures that his infectious enthusiasm for the game transfers successfully to the children.

This, in turn, encourages the little ones to come along to United games and begin their lifelong journey as devoted U's supporters.

"We visit children of every age group," says Rosie, "but mainly in primary schools. We coach soccer during and after school hours. The aim is to generate interest in Oxford United but every now and again a lad with talent will jump out at us and we know we might have a chance with him.

"We have had instances of local youngsters coming through into the Youth Team. Chris Hackett, Simon King, Dean Whitehead and Sam Ricketts have all made the grade. We look for attitude, ability and a willingness to learn."

Rosie himself was spotted as a schoolboy and invited by both Chelsea and Tottenham to a training session. At that time Rosie's dad wouldn't allow him to go, believing he was too young, but a year later he relented and Rosie made the journey to Chelsea.

At the age of 17 he got his First Team debut coming on as a sub in a game against Wrexham. "I had travelled to the game as kit boy," he laughs, "but one of the subs got food poisoning on the Friday night and I ended up on the bench. It was



Rosie in action against Forest

on Match of the Day as well. It was brilliant, I just loved it, it was such a special time."

After six years with Chelsea, who were in Division Two, Rosie moved to Oxford. We were top of the Third Division at the time and Rosie spent the rest of his playing career here, enjoying the delight of winning Division Three and Division Two and moving into the top flight of football at that time - the First Division.

"They were great occasions," he says. "I am pleased I have played at only two clubs throughout my career because I'm a loyal man and that's why I am still here now. I did feel strange when I first left Chelsea but I was happy as soon as I walked into The Manor Ground.

"I had a wonderful time playing here, lot of fun and success. We played all the big clubs, Manchester, Liverpool, Tottenham, Chelsea. I suppose my most memorable moment was when the final whistle blew in the semi final of the Milk Cup. We had just beaten Aston Villa and knew we were off to Wembley. But I got injured and ended up not being able to play, which was a terrible disappointment, the worst day of my life, although Robert Maxwell, the chairman at that time, still gave me a medal.

Rosie spent six years playing here before

he finally retired due to injury. After having seven operations on his knee he decided he couldn't take daily training anymore and moved into the semi professional game where training was just twice a week.

In 1991 he was offered the job of community officer here at The Manor Ground and didn't have to think twice.

"I was thrilled to bits to be back working in football," he admits.

In addition to going out to visit schools Rosie also works with pupils who come to the ground to study with Dave Nash in the morning. Following a classroom session they are then instructed in football techniques, health and fitness by Rosie, using footballers as role models.

He also talks about his own career in football and takes questions and answers.

In addition to all this Rosie is still busy on Saturday's, working with Jerome Sale from BBC Radio Oxford to provide match commentary. He also organises the pre-match and half time entertainment with five a side games, relays and goal scoring by children from his schools.

In what little spare time he has left Rosie enjoys family life with his partner Nicolette and children Joanna, 12, and Thomas, 10.

"All in all, everything in my life is rosey!"



*The sweet smell of success for the Youth squad. Mike Ford speaks to Heather Jan Brunt.*

TODAY, at half time, the players from our Under 19s squad will receive recognition of their achievement in reaching the top of the South West Conference.

Under the management of Mike Ford the boys have enjoyed enormous success for our club and associate director Bill Smith says: "It is only right that we should celebrate that success."

Chairman Firoz Kassam is expected to present each player with an individual shield to retain as a lasting memento of their achievement.

Manager Mike Ford says: "It is lovely for the boys to have something they can keep, and to look back on, but I hope it doesn't prove to be a distraction for the rest of the season."

"Having won the South West Conference we are now playing in the southern section Premier Division of the Youth Alliance Merit Division, and still have work to do."

"We have seven games to play, and have already played our first, which we sadly lost 2-0 to Cambridge. I got the impression that one or two of them had lost it mentally, basking in what they have achieved and forgetting what is still to be done."

"In football you are only as good as your last game and we don't want to drop our standards now and switch off."

In this second leg of their season the

# Under 19's Awards

boys will face some teams they have not faced before and Fordy is keen for them to show their best ability.

"Team wise I want people to come and watch us and say we are decent," he explains. "Individually, I want each player to improve. In the squads we are facing now we have already played Bristol Rovers and Exeter, but the others are new to us. Opposition coaches will see us play only once and if the players let themselves down the opposition will go away with the wrong impression of them."

Fordy's scholars play their Home games at Iffley Road, at the stadium where Roger Bannister broke the four minute mile - surely an inspiration to any sportsman.

Fordy says he encourages the boys to watch as much football as possible. "They come to watch the First Team on Saturdays after we have played," he says. "And I tell them to watch games on the television as well, to watch the best players and observe their technical quality, mental attitude and ability. Watch, learn and improve are the watchwords."

The boys' final game in the Merit Division is on 21st April after which time they will continue training until the end of the season at the beginning of May. From there they will get a summer break until training resumes on 1st July.

## Southern Section Premier Division Fixtures:

Saturday 17th March  
 Bristol Rovers v Oxford United  
 Saturday 24 March  
 Oxford United v Brighton & Hove Albion  
 Saturday 31st March  
 Exeter City v Oxford United  
 Saturday 14 April  
 Oxford United v Leyton Orient  
 Saturday 21st April  
 Colchester United v Oxford United



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# GIVE A ROAR FOR THE

# LIONS



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Now for the first time ever, The 3 Lions have come to life!

These exciting new characters will be helping The F.A. to develop and promote the game to both boys and girls - covering all aspects of football from Fair Play to skills training.

They will also be leading the teams out at forthcoming international matches. So when they appear, put your hands together and give a roar for... The 3 Lions.



THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# Jonah's Jottings



with Mark Jones

## Motorworld Hyundai Mascot

Leading out Oxford United this afternoon is 11 year old Ben Taylor (below left) who attends All Saints Church of England Primary School, Sutton Courtney. Ben plays football for his school and for the Vale of Whit Horse. He enjoys all sports and his favourite players are Joey Beauchamp and Matt Murphy. He's a lovely lad and his dad is home from the States just in time to see his big day with mum Debbie and sister Hannah.



**Mark Jones**  
sponsored by  
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Stoke City match mascot Edmund Clarke proudly lines up

Swindon Town will be led out by 12 year old Jonathan Cowley (below right). Jonathan plays football for Stratton Juniors and his hobbies include playing football, watching football and talking

football! His favourite players are Danny Invincible and Steve Mildenhall. Happy birthday to you Jonathan.



'Let's make Football Fun'

**JONAH**

## CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE DAY

Today sees all our Centre of Excellence boys on the pitch doing their skill display.

It's great to see so many boys who have progressed from the Soccer Courses. Les Taylor, Youth Development Officer and I believe that this is only the start and before long the majority of the Centre of Excellence will be boys recommended from our courses.

This is a testament to the quality of coaching that my coaches provide at this early age, most of whom coach at Centre of Excellence level as well.

## EASTER HOLIDAYS

The Easter Holiday programme sees eight venues dotted around the county. They are all four day courses running from 10.00am to 2.30pm each day and are for anyone between the ages of 6 to 13 years old. For an application form please ring me now on 01865 761503. The venues are as follows: -

### Week 1

#### Monday 9th - Thursday 12th April

John Mason School - Abingdon  
Temple Cowley Middle School - Oxford  
Banbury School - Banbury  
King Alfred's School - Wantage

### Week 2

#### Tuesday 17th - Friday 20th April

St Birinus School - Didcot  
Henry Box School - Witney  
Bicester Community College  
Cherwell School - Oxford

Action from Temple Cowley during February Half-Term. Great to see the girls enjoying their football with us





# Squad Check



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RED/YELLOW FLAG

**K.A. Woolmer**

YELLOW FLAG

**FOURTH OFFICIAL**

**I.G. Williamson**

**NEXT AT THE MANOR**

**ROTHERHAM UNITED**

Saturday 24th March 2001  
 Nationwide League  
 Division Two  
 Kick-off 1.00pm



## Oxford United

■ tick if playing ● tick if substitute

Manager: Dave Kemp ■ Colours: Yellow shirts, Navy shorts

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Richard KNIGHT  | <input type="checkbox"/> 22. Wayne HATSWELL   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. John ROBERTSON  | <input type="checkbox"/> 25. Phil GRAY        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Paul POWELL     | <input type="checkbox"/> 26. Simon KING       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Peter FEAR      | <input type="checkbox"/> 27. Dean WHITEHEAD   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Jon RICHARDSON  | <input type="checkbox"/> 28. Sam RICKETTS     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Ian McGUCKIN    | <input type="checkbox"/> 30. Mike FORD        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Matt MURPHY     | <input type="checkbox"/> 31. Jamie BROOKS     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Paul TAIT       | <input type="checkbox"/> 33. Andy LINIGHAN    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Steve ANTHROBUS | <input type="checkbox"/> 34. Robert QUINN     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Andy SCOTT     | <input type="checkbox"/> 35. Darren PATTERSON |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Joey BEAUCHAMP |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Manny OMOYINMI |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Rob FOLLAND    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Jon SHEPHEARD  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Chris HACKETT  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Lee JARMAN     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Phil WILSON    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21. Neil McGOWAN   |   |

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Our Web site awaits you ● For 'latest news' at least once a day ● Visit the 'New stadium' for update and recent photo's ● Speak with other United fans on the 'Forum' ● Enter 'The Quiz match' free and win prizes ● Buy online at the 'Shop' ● all this and more at [www.oufc.co.uk](http://www.oufc.co.uk)

## Swindon Town

■ tick if playing ● tick if substitute

Manager: Andy King ■ Colours: Red & White

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Bart GRIEMINK          | <input type="checkbox"/> 21. Gareth DAVIES    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Mark ROBINSON          | <input type="checkbox"/> 22. Alan REEVES      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Sol DAVIS              | <input type="checkbox"/> 23. Steve MILDENHALL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Matthew HEWLETT        | <input type="checkbox"/> 25. Steve ROBINSON   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Adam WILLIS            | <input type="checkbox"/> 26. Alan YOUNG       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Antoine VAN DER LINDEN | <input type="checkbox"/> 27. Paul McAREAVEY   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Keith O'HALLORAN       | <input type="checkbox"/> 28. Jamie MILLS      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Bobby HOWE             | <input type="checkbox"/> 29. James WILLIAMS   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Giuliano GRAZIOLI     | <input type="checkbox"/> 30. Gareth HALL      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. David DUKE            | <input type="checkbox"/> 31. Ian WOAN         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Juan COBAIN           | <input type="checkbox"/> 32. Sam CAMPAGNA     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Steve COWE            |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Andy WILLIAMS         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Michael REDDY         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Daniel INVINCIBLE     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Gary ALEXANDER        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Matthew HEYWOOD       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Frazer McHUGH         |   |