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GRIMSBY TOWN V SWINDON TOWN

Football League Division 111. Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

HARRY WAINMAN JONES G

2 THOMAS JIMMY BLOOMER

GRAHAM TAYLOR TROLLOPE 3

DAVE WORTHINGTON 4 DESMEULES

CLICK GRAHAM RATHBONE 5

> KEITH JOBLING GILES 6

STUART HOUSLEY HEATH 7

> 8 SMART **BOBBY ROSS**

HARLAND DAVE WILSON

NOBLE 10 DOUGIE COLLINS

11 ROGERS GEOFF MARTIN

12 DAWSON BOBBY SMITH

REFEREE: F. M. NICHOLSON, Manchester

LINESMEN: (Red Flag) W. J. FAWDON, Leeds

(Yellow Flag) D. H. MURRAY, York

YOUR SPORTS PAPER IS THE SATURDAY TELEGRAPH



As a result of two splendid and deserved victories over Tranmere Rovers and South-port we find ourselves in the dramatic position of still being able to retain our place in the 3rd Division. This, makes this Saturday so exciting and the result of the Bournemouth v. Mansfield match as well of our own will finally settle the matter. We actually lost our position in the 2nd Division by .06 of a goal.

After the disappointing loss of two points against Watford our fate seemed sealed. The game itself was not too interesting, the hard dry ground and the light ball made control difficult. The visitors seemed to be better equipped in the trying circumstances: Chances were few and far between, and when the only goal was scored it was a very lucky one. Nothing went our way and Dave Boylen and Gary Moore were missed, although Dave Wilson and Dougle Collins were dangerous on the few occasions when the visitors defence was overrun. The news of the victory over Tranmere was a real thrill. A slight rearrangement of the team which placed Dave Worthington at right half, and Jimmy Bloomer at full back, worked with great success, and Dave was responsible for both goals, in addition to inspiring those in front of him. A real team effort. The return game with Southport was played under poor weather conditions on a heavy ground which was quite a change from the very hard ones on which we had seen matches for the whole of the Easter programme. The football served up by both sides was on the desperate lines, and following the necessity of Graham Taylor having to retire with slight concussion, Bobby Smith was brought on. He was soon in the picture both in attack and defence, and was on the spot to score the vital goal which meant so much to us.

And so to the last match on which so much depends. A greatly increased and fervent attendance would be a fitting occasion to show appreciation of a great revival. The season on the whole has been a great struggle, and any fair minded onlooker both at home and away must admit that fortune has not favoured our team on few occasions. The narrow defeats have come too often, and not always by the super play of our opponents.

Perhaps we are really due for a turn in the

The Reserves too have had a mixed season, but one thing at least has been noticeable and that is no team has had an easy game against them. The last match we shall see in the Midland League was played against Heanor Town in difficult conditions. The match was in doubt for some time owing to torrential rain, which soon made pools all over. However eventually the referee declared the ground fit. What a thrill the match turned out to be. The visitors who had to win to become League Champions were naturally all eager to get cracking. Our young side was ready and willing for the challenge. Both goals were visited in turn, and desperate struggles in the area were stoutly defended. Both goal-keepers did well under pressure. The visitors piled on the pressure and eventually scored from a free-kick. This for a time looked to be the winner, but prompted by an excellent display of solid defence and good passes sprayed about by Bobby Smith, Stuart Housley got his wing opponent well beaten, and a well taken goal by Barry Welch earned a point.

contined on page 30

THE VISITING TEAM

SWINDON TOWN

Sometimes a club has a hoodoo team — a team they seldom do well against. That could apply to today's visitors, Swindon Town, whom Grimsby Town have beaten only twice, home or away, in 13 Second and Third Division matches since 1959.

Throw in for good measure a 2-1 defeat in an F.A. Cup third-round replay way back in 1938 when Town were in the First Division and Swindon in the Third (South) and it strengthens Grimsby claims to the Wiltshire club being a bogy team.

Last season, Swindon looked like being relegated. A long run in the Cup led to a slide down the league table, for when they visited Blundell Park on April 5th, they were near the danger zone.

In an exciting game, Swindon turned a 3-1 defeat into a 4-3 win with three goals in the last nine minutes! That started them on the way to recovery and they swept from fourth from bottom before that inspiring win to end the season eighth from top.

For their visit to Bristol Rovers last Saturday, Swindon had a youthful middle line on duty in Rodney Desmeules and Jimmy Giles at wing half while Mike Blick, aged 19, made his crst team debut. All were developed through the club's junior ranks.

Two more recruits from the area are the experienced full back, Rod Thomas and Norman Trollope while the attack, rated one of the most attractive in the Third Division, contains the dangerous Don Rogers on the left wing, a match winner on his own.

HALF - TIME SCORES

A

DIVISION ONE

1—Arsenal		West Brom.	
2—Burnley		Leeds United	
3-Leicester C.	v	Stoke City	-
4—Liverpool	V	Nott'm. Forest	
5-Man. United		Sunderland	
6-Newcastle	v	Manchester City	
7-Sheffield Utd.		Chelsea	
8-Southampton		Coventry City	1
9-West Ham		Everton	YHILL.
10—Wolves	V	Tottenham H.	Year

DIVISION TWO

11—Aston Villa	v Q.P.R.
12—Cardiff City	v Charlton
13—Derby Co.	v Norwich City
14—Huddersfield	v Blackpool
15—Hull City	v Birmingham
16—Ipswich	v Blackburn Rov.
17-Middlesbro'	v Bristol City
18-Millwall	v Bolton Wand.
19-Plymouth A.	v Crystal Palace.
20—Preston	v Portsmouth
21—Rotherham	v Carlisle

B

DIVISION THREE

1—Barrow	V	Scunthorpe Uto	1.
2-Bour'mouth.		Mansfield	-automati
3—Bury	v	Watford	
4—Colchester	v	Peterborough	
5—Gillingham		Shrewsbury	2-210-171-27-
6-Oldham Ath.	v	Bristol Rovers	Manuan
7—The Orient		Tranmere Rov.	- California
8—Oxford Utd.		Southport	-
9—Reading		Torquay	
10—Walsall		Brighton	*********

DIVISION FOUR

11—Barnsley	v Newport	
12—Exeter	v Darlington	
13—Halifax	v Notts County	Calle
14—Hartlepools	v Swansea	THEOREM !
15-Lincoln City	v Port Vale	SALMAN EL
16—Luton	v Brentford	20000000
17—Workington	v Chester	2011111111
18—Wreyham	y York City	

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MEMORIES IN A PIECE OF HISTORY

by VERY ANCIENT MARINER

How many soccer fans in Grimsby can still remember the side that won promotion to Division 1, 67 years ago? Not many, I'll be bound.

This week Grimsby's Ticket Salesman, Jimmy Bloomer, arrived with a picture of the Division 1 side that was relegated in season 1902-3 after only two seasons in the senior division.

The team shown on a picture postcard is

as follows: Whittaker, Nelmes, Gray, Peterson, Ben Hall, Gardner, Brumley, Blyth, Bellingham, Spendiff, Dunn, Glen, Hemmingfield, Donaldson, Long, Atherton, Harper, Singleton, Mountain, Appleyard and Fletcher.

This was, of course, nothing like the side winning promotion from Division 2 which was largely: MacFarlane, Mountain and Leiper; Hemmingfield, Gray and Nelmes; Fletcher, Hall, Leigh, Mellor and Watkins.

GRIMSBY NOT WANTED IN THE UPPER TEN

This spell in Division 1 was an unhappy one for the Mariners and it was soon obvious that they were not fashionable enough to be welcome in the First Division.

Their first game on promotion was against Derby County, for whom Steve Bloomer played, and the result—a goalless draw—did little justice to Grimsby.

Referees began to give decisions that could only be described by contemporary writers as "peculiar" and at Christmas Grimsby languished at the bottom of the

table with only 10 points having won four drawn two and lost the rest. More points might have been gathered had it not been for these "peculiar decisions" which were described at length by contemporary sportswriters

Grimsby were slow to wake up to what was happening but during the following two years it became apparent that the Mariners were relegated through one of the most deplorable conspiracies in the history of the game.

PLAY UP THE MARINERS

After Christmas the results improved beyond all measure and on April 22, with 32 points, they were 13th in the division and apparently safe.

At this point an organisation known as "The Lancashire Ring" really began to show itself and Grimsby ended fighting for their First Division lives. They took a point at Liverpool on the last day of the season and made things safe but some of the results in games vitally affecting the Mariners were extraordinary.

For example, Manchester City were allowed to beat Blackburn Rovers by 4-1 at Maine Road, Stoke won 4-0 against Bolton and Notts County beat Villa then at the height of their form.

CONTEMPTIBLE FOOTBALL

At least two of these games showed "contemptible football" according to the *Grimsby News* sportswriter and a "miserable spirit of arrangement".

Grimsby, however, rubbed it into Villa to the tune of 4-1 at Blundell Park which did a lot to keep up their spirits in spite of what was apparently going on. Manchester City did their best to drag the Mariners down with them into Division 2 and made no serious effort against Stoke.

What were strong suspicions at the end of the season became racing certainties the following year and it ended with the unpleasant memory of the Mariners being pelted with stones at Stoke's Victoria Ground. This game was investigated and the inquiry found "no fault with Grimsby Town's players."

LANCASHIRE RING TRIUMPHS

The Mariners were robbed of their place in Division 1 by this "Lancashire Ring" to the annoyance of fair-minded supporters all over the country.

They mustered only 25 points but their fate was not decided until the last day when Villa

won 2-0 at Blundell Park.

This game caused the closest thing to a real blow-up when the referee allowed a Villa 'goal' to stand which was seen to be offside by everyone including the visiting players who stood open-mouthed.

When Grimsby were refused an obvious penalty the crowd hooted and jeered but (unlike present day ones) they did not invade

the pitch.

This was not all. Evidence came in (and was subsequently given at an inquiry) of a game at Goodison Park when the Toffees took a tumble to Blackburn Rovers, in danger themselves of relegation.

It was apparently so plain for all to see that the Everton side were booed by their own supporters and the game was a sensation in tough days when bribery was not unknown.

Grimsby themselves, were even accused of trying to bribe the Villa players before the game at Blundell Park, which was hotly denied by both clubs and was perhaps an accusation designed to take attention off other things.

Blackburn were then given a couple of points by Bury, a side that had won the Cup

Final 6-0.

Local Press writers howled for an inquiry by the Football League and everyone but the clubs immediately concerned must have realised that it was necessary.

Grimsby's "degredation" — an unfortunate choice of word in my opinion — was brought about, according to the Grimsby News, "by

the evil machinations of others".

YOU ARE SOLD

One letter published by the paper said: "You are sold. They say Grimsby is a bad place to get to. Everton are doing all they can for the Rovers". And this was from a Lancashire fan.

And another one from an Everton supporter read: "I have never seen anything so glaring and detrimental to your club as Everton's play against Blackburn Rovers".

The duly promised inquiry took place, in

private, of course, and it must have been some consolation when an official of Black-burn Rovers was banned from football management for life, yet a number of directors escaped unscathed.

Grimsby, however, were back in Division 2 and doomed to stay there for 26 years, while Blackburn Rovers stayed in.

Those are the sort of memories brought back by an old picture postcard.

ABOVE REPROACH

Now the game is above reproach, as it has been for these many years, it is difficult to imagine what things were like so long ago.

I often heard of "the old pals' act" in my early days but I have never seen any club hand out favours to another however close the ties. So — looking back on 1903 — let us be thankful that the game's development has brought us the structure we know today when our ruling bodies, strict though they have to be, are scrupulously fair to everyone in our great winter game.

SOCCER — SURVIVAL MIRACLE?

by JOHN NEWTON

Grimsby Town take the field against Swindon Town knowing that a soccer-survival miracle could happen and the day end with them still in Division 3.

Thanks to two great away wins at Tranmere and Southport and Mansfield's 0-3 home defeat last Saturday at the hands of Walsall it is still just mathematically possible for the Mariners to stave off disaster.

But it WILL need a miracle, the one Manager Bill Harvey has been praying for since he came to the Mariners in January.

If Mansfield lose at Bournemouth and we beat Swindon Grimsby can stay in. True, this is a 1,000 to one shot because a point will make Mansfield unassailable.

To work the "miracle" Grimsby MUST win by 3-0, AND MANSFIELD LOSE BY THE SAME FIGURE. But, I suppose, if Grimsby win 4-0 and Mansfield lose only 2-0, the same mathematical goal average will have been attained.

Or if Mansfield lost 1-0 and WE won 5-0 . . . You could go on indefinitely.

HARVEY'S PHILOSOPHY

However, the situation justifies Bill Harvey's philosophy that there is always hope and that is not a bad one in anybody's book.

Grimsby's two away wins show that even a point against Watford would have been of

terrific value last home game.

Grimsby beat Tranmere much more easily than the score suggests because they were 2-0 up and Rovers got one just on the final whistle.

Versatile, always trying Dave Worthington did the trick here with a pair of good goals.

Glowing reports in the National Press—notably the Mirror, Sun, Mail and Express—said in so many words that a team capable of such good football should not be in dire peril of being relegated to Division 4, indeed, almost mathematically certain to go down.

At Southport, a great goal by Bobby Smith pepped up the game and, again, according to the National papers, Grimsby were much the

better team.

NO APOLOGY

I make no apology for repeating what I

have already written before.

Had it not been for atrocious refereeing in three games late in the season, Grimsby would have had enough points to save themselves for certain.

This is the plain truth and not sour grapes. It has seemed to me for a long time that the standard of refereeing in the lower reaches

leaves much to be desired.

There are SOME men of outstanding achievement — Ken Styles and Norman Fussey to name two — but often the performance of the man-in-the-middle is bad enough to irritate players and spectators alike.

After the Good Friday game against Oldham that club's Directors commiserated with Grimsby about a game in which the Mariners should have had two out of three penalties

for which they appealed.

This season I have seen officials who ignored their linesmen completely (for what purpose, we wonder, does the League provide these touchline men?), at least one reversed decision and an official shoved around by a player. Last season I saw a referee actually struck.

NEW SYSTEM

I know that referees are in short supply but surely in the name of common sense the Football League should adopt a new system and forget this rather nebulous idea that "the man-in-the-middle is boss and we should not complain if we don't like what he does."

Referees are just as much part of the game as players and they are, in fact, more important, because on them depends the whole

structure of the game.

Not that I would like to see the referee's discipline in any way undermined. It is true that we should abide by his decisions but that does not mean we have to like them.

Is there no possibility of stronger examination of prospective referees?

WE WILL DO OUR BEST - MR. HARVEY

Grimsby will do their best no matter what Division they may find themselves next season. That promise was made this week by manager Bill Harvey.

But, like any football team, the Mariners need support and Mr. Harvey and all officials connected with the club are more than a

little disappointed with the "gates".

Despite Grimsby's tremendous fight-back after being given up for Division 4 certainties a few weeks ago, only two to three thousand loyal supporters have made the effort to support the side in recent games.

STILL POSSIBLE TO AVOID DROP

As we have said elsewhere in this programme, it is still possible for Grimsby to avoid the drop, although no-one, not even Mr. Harvey, will deny it is an outside chance. Let us hope that several more thousand people are genuinely interested in how Town get on today and have come along to shout them on.

A word of special praise for the players was made by Mr. Harvey this week.

He said: "No manager could have wished for more co-operation from their players than

I have had since the time I have been here.

"Everyone has given their best, and with it has come the good results."

Indeed, the facts are there to support Mr. Harvey's words.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

He took charge just a day or so before Town's away game at Scunthorpe on January 20th, and by my calculations the League results since then have been:

Played 20; Won 8; Drawn 4; Lost 8.

That shows the Mariners have taken 20 points from their last 20 games which, if it had been done all through the season, would have meant them being at least in the middle of the table.

Compare those results with Grimsby's previous 20 League games:

Played 20; Won 3; Drawn 4; Lost 13.

And there is one further point of interest. In Grimsby's last eight wins, four have been away from home. They did not win one away match before Mr. Harvey came.

Surely this shows Grimsby's keenness to avoid relegation. How about a few more people showing some keenness to help them.



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THE TOWN CLUB, BLUNDELL PARK, CLEETHORPES

GRIMSBY TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Club headquarters - Imperial Avenue Cleethorpes

President: S. Harmston Secretary: P. F. Smith J. A. Sutherland
Treasurer:
C. Royall

This being the last match of the season, I would like to thank all the members for supporting our various activities and to point out to the new members the benefits of joining the Supporters Club.

For an annual fee of 1/- you are entitled to:

- Free insurance against accident on any League ground in Britain.
- Participation in any allocation of tickets for International games, etc.
- Priority in any allocation of possible all ticket matches at Blundell Park.
- Priority in the purchase of tickets for any of Town's away games (when a supply is obtained by the Supporters' Club).
- For Old Age Pensioners, reduced admission charges to all First and Reserve team home games at Blundell Park.
- Two £1 prizes drawn at ever First team home match.
- Attend Bingo Sessions at the Club Headquarters every Friday, 7.30 p.m.

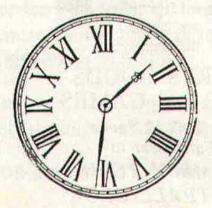
Tonight, 11th May, a Grand Dance is being held at the Memorial Hall, Cleethorpes. Dancing to the Illusions and Ron Winters Quartet. Midland Area Football Queen Competition. Come and support Miss Grimsby Town.

CLUB NOTES-continued

It was a great disappointment for Heanor who were set on being Champions this year. They took their rebuff in a very sporting manner.

Next season our Reserves will be playing against Reserve sides of League Clubs in the Mid-Week Floodlit League.

R.W.



"Beat the Clock"

G.T.F.C. Junior Club are holding a "Beat the Clock" competition at all first team home games.

1/- tickets will be sold by the members each ticket containing a different time.

The winner will be the one whose ticket contains or is

nearest to the time that the first goal is scored.

Mr. Jack Swain (Hospital Broadcaster and ex-Town player) has kindly consented to be the official time-keeper.

WINNERS FOR WATFORD MATCH £15—Mr. J. Beardall, 20 Suggitts Lane, Cleethorpes Time 73 mins. 05 secs.

£5-Not claimed

Time 00 mins, 08 secs.

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02246, 02553, 09381, 00026, 09670 05211, 13745, 13677, 12100, 06229 08300, 04406, 10128, 10383 £5

£5 £10

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