

READING

FOOTBALL CLUB - OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 9^D
(INCORPORATING FOOTBALL LEAGUE REVIEW)

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIV. III

WEDNESDAY, 9th OCTOBER, 1968

SWINDON TOWN



SEASON 1968/69



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Elm Park Viewpoint

TONIGHT'S the night—the night Reading and Swindon supporters have been looking forward to for weeks. Certainly from our club's point of view no league game is so eagerly anticipated as this one, and there is little doubt that, weather permitting, we shall draw our largest league gate of the season.

The match has added incentive this year, for both clubs are well concerned in the promotion race—in fact a win would put us joint second in the table, a handy position to be in at this stage.

Both clubs are in a successful streak. We have lost only once in the last eight games, and Swindon have been showing the sort of ability which makes them one of the most respected sides in the division.

When it comes to pre-match planning then both camps should have everything worked out in intricate detail. Our manager and several officials have been to many matches at Swindon this season, and Town manager Danny Williams has seen plenty of us at our Friday night matches.

Danny, in fact, was here to see us beat Gillingham on Friday, and although we won, he must have gathered some satisfaction from what he saw, for Gillingham caught us napping in the first half to score a couple of excellent goals.

Fortunately our attack was equal to the task of covering these defensive errors, but clearly there are faults which must be eradicated.

The sort of defensive efficiency we should like is similar to that we displayed at Swindon earlier in the season. We drew 0—0 and limited Swindon to a minimum of chances. In fact had we taken our own chances at the other end we might well have come away winning.

But a point at the County Ground is quite satisfactory for Swindon do not allow many teams such a luxury.

We mentioned earlier that we expected a large crowd tonight. It is unfortunate, but true, that large crowds, especially "mixed" ones, go hand in hand with disturbances these days. To our own supporters, and our friends from Swindon we say: "Cheer, shout and sing all you want to—but please keep it clean, and please, no physical violence". Thank-you in anticipation of your good sense.

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IT WILL be a tense, exciting and hard-fought game. That much we can always say when Reading and Swindon meet. There have been many fine encounters between the clubs over the years, and the big crowd which always turns out for these local derbys usually gets value for money.

Earlier in the season we took a point away from the County Ground after a hard-fought game which saw us on the defensive for long periods. Tonight we intend to go one better.

The man responsible for keeping our forwards at bay is Swindon goalkeeper **Peter Downsborough**, signed from Halifax in 1965.

Swindon's long-serving full-back partnership of **Owen Dawson** and **John Trollope** was first broken up by **Rod Thomas**, who stepped in when Dawson was injured, and kept his place on merit.

Then Trollope had the misfortune to break his arm after completing well over 300 consecutive league appearances.

Keith Morgan was at one stage club captain, but lost his first-team place through injury.

Roger Smart was a reserve-team regular at the age of 17, joining the club direct from the Swindon schoolboys team.

Centre-half **Frank Burrows** joined Swindon from Scunthorpe, and has filled the vacancy left by the departure of Mel Nurse.

John Smith and **Don Rogers** are both former England Under-23 internationals. Rogers joined Swindon when he was 15, but Smith has seen service with Orient (then Leyton Orient), West Ham, Spurs and Coventry.

Willie Penam cost a big fee when he joined Swindon from Newcastle, the club who also transferred **Peter Noble** to the County Ground.

Liverpool-born **Stan Harland** signed from Carlisle, winger **Don Heath** from Norwich.

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- 4 Rod Thornhill
- 5 Colin Meldrum
- 6 Ernie Yard
- 7 John Chapman
- 8 John Collins
- 9 John Sainty
- 10 Peter Silvester
- 11 George Harris
- 12

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● NEXT HOME MATCH
SATURDAY, 12th OCTOBER, 1968

Reading v. O
Kick-off



THE COUNTIES
WINNING TEAM

ROUGHOUT BERKSHIRE

SWINDON

Colours: Red and White

- 1 Pete Downsborough
- 2 Owen Dawson
- 3 Rod Thomas
- 4 Joe Butler
- 5 Frank Burrows
- 6 Stan Harland
- 7 Don Heath
- 8 Roger Smart
- 9 John Smith
- 10 Peter Noble
- 11 Don Rogers
- 12 Chris Jones

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FLAG:
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Football Combination Fixtures 1968-9

Combination League Cup

Aug. 10—Arsenal	A	0	5
„ 14—Bournemouth	H	1	4
„ 20—Swindon	A	1	1
„ 28—Arsenal	H	2	1
Sept. 4—Swindon	H	1	0
„ 11—Southampton	A	0	3
„ 18—Southampton	H	0	4
„ 23—Bournemouth	A	1	1
„ 25—Oxford	H	1	0
„ 28—Oxford	A	1	4

Combination League Fixtures

Oct. 2—Bournemouth	H	3	0
„ 12—West Ham	A		
„ 16—Peterborough	H		
„ 26—Walsall	A		
„ 30—Plymouth	H		
Nov. 9—Chelsea	A		
„ 16—Queens Park Rangers	A		
„ 23—Norwich	A		
„ 27—Bristol Rovers	H		
Dec. 4—Ipswich	H		
„ 11—Northampton	H		
„ 21—Tottenham	A		
Jan. 1—Leicester	H		
„ 15—Oxford	A		
„ 22—Crystal Palace	H		
„ 25—Fulham	A		
Feb. 1—Birmingham	A		
„ 12—Swindon	H		
„ 26—Swansea	H		
Mar. 8—Gillingham	A		
„ 19—Southampton	A		
„ 26—Luton	H		
April 9—Arsenal	H		
„ 16—Cardiff	A		
TBA —Bristol City	H		

GOALSCORERS TO DATE

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Collins 7; Silvester 6; Harris 5; Sainty 4; Allen 1.

COMBINATION LEAGUE CUP

Silvester 3; Docherty 2; Yard 1; Hitchcock 1; Maciak 1.

COMBINATION LEAGUE

Yard 2; Docherty 1.

How they stand . . .

FOOTBALL LEAGUE, DIVISION III

Up to and including Monday, 7th October.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Bournemouth	12	8	1	3	20	7	17
Luton	11	7	2	2	23	8	16
Barrow	12	7	2	3	20	14	16
Torquay	12	7	1	4	21	13	15
READING	11	5	4	2	23	15	14
Rotherham	11	5	4	2	16	11	14
Stockport	12	5	4	3	19	15	14
Tranmere	12	6	2	4	17	16	14
Swindon	10	5	3	2	10	4	13
Watford	11	5	3	3	10	8	13
Plymouth	11	5	2	4	14	13	12
Northampton	11	4	4	3	11	10	12
Mansfield	12	4	3	5	18	18	11
Bristol Rovers	11	4	3	4	17	22	11
Orient	11	2	6	3	14	16	10
Walsall	12	2	5	5	13	15	9
Brighton	10	3	3	4	15	19	9
Barnsley	12	2	5	5	14	19	9
Southport	12	4	1	7	16	24	9
Crewe	12	2	4	6	19	23	8
Hartlepool	10	1	6	3	5	13	8
Shrewsbury	11	2	4	5	10	17	8
Gillingham	11	2	2	7	15	20	6
Oldham	12	1	2	9	6	26	4

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Supporters Club Notes

Chairman: Mr. L. F. Lewendon
Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. H. Brooks
Hon. Secretary: Mr. H. C. Challice

Good Evening All,

Tonight we welcome our rivals from Swindon. This local derby should produce all the thrills expected. Swindon are sure to have plenty of vocal support, so don't forget "Blue Streaks" keep the enthusiasm going for our lads. Last Friday was not one of the best, but again the boys got the necessary two points.

Our Year Book should arrive by the next home match, this will be good reading. Old programmes are on sale at the Tilehurst Road office, badges and pens at both offices.

Membership to our licensed Social Club is still available. Agents and members are urgently required for our Giant Jackpot scheme, Fruit machine and Bingo schemes.

Our Supporters' Club welcomes suggestions and enquiries. If you have not already enrolled, why not now? Minimum subscription one shilling.

Back to the match and keep the cheering going.

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League Fixtures 1968-69

				Gate
Aug.	10—Stockport	A	2 2	7,381
"	14—Colchester (LC 1)	A	0 2	3,824
"	16—Northampton	H	1 0	7,347
"	24—Plymouth	A	1 3	8,725
"	27—Swindon	A	0 0	16,765
"	30—Hartlepoons	H	7 0	8,793
Sept.	7—Walsall	A	2 2	6,945
"	13—Watford	H	0 1	11,926
"	18—Crewe	A	2 1	6,509
"	21—Shrewsbury	A	3 3	5,769
"	27—Bristol Rovers	H	2 1	10,218
Oct.	4—Gillingham	H	3 2	10,477
"	9—Swindon	H		
"	11—Tranmere	A		
"	18—Brighton	H		
"	26—Barnsley	A		
Nov.	2—Mansfield	H		
"	6—Orient	H		
"	8—Southport	A		
"	16—FAC 1			
"	23—Torquay	A		
"	30—Oldham	H		
Dec.	7—FAC 2			
"	14—Tranmere	H		
"	20—Brighton	A		
"	26—Gillingham	A		
"	28—Barnsley	H		
Jan.	4—(FAC 3) Rotherham	H		
"	11—Mansfield	A		
"	18—Southport	H		
"	25—(FAC 4) Orient	A		
Feb.	1—Luton	A		
"	8—(FAC 5) Torquay	H		
"	15—Oldham	A		
"	22—Barrow	H		
"	28—Stockport	H		
Mar.	4—Rotherham	A		
"	8—Northampton	A		
"	12—Luton	H		
"	14—Plymouth	H		
"	17—Barrow	A		
"	22—Hartlepoons	A		
"	28—Walsall	H		
April	4—Bournemouth	A		
"	5—Bristol Rovers	A		
"	7—Crewe	H		
"	11—Shrewsbury	H		
"	16—Bournemouth	H		
"	19—Watford	A		
"	26—F.A. Cup Final			

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