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Swindon Town FC

SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Official Programme
including League Football



1973-'74

Middlesbrough

Price 7p



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Swindon Town Football Company Limited

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Les Allen's Column

Our visitors today are Middlesbrough, who under the guidance of Jack Charlton are now heading the Second Division. I recently saw Middlesbrough play, and on that occasion they were playing with a tremendous amount of zest and determination. They have a number of very experienced players in Hickton, Foggon, Mills, just to mention a few, and I think they are one of the stronger sides in the Division at this present time. It is nice to see that a side like Middlesbrough, who have had this success, have noticed a great increase in their gates, and I am sure this will apply to most teams in our Division, and I think certainly us, if we can get some results at the present time. It seems rather alarming that only three weeks ago we were playing in front of 14 thousand people here against Bristol City, and on last Tuesday's game against Nottingham Forest it had dropped to 6,300. It is very noticeable that our own players tend to notice that the crowd is rather small, and it does not give the game the same atmosphere as when we get the good crowds as in the past. I am sure with a team like Middlesbrough today that our gate will be that much better than last week.

Last Saturday's game away to Orient proved to be a very well earned point for us. Although under pressure for most of the game our defence played excellent, and on two occasions John Trollope came to our rescue to clear off the line. In the latter part

of the game we had a couple of good chances where we could have come away with two points. Although I must admit it would have been undeserved. It was a possibility on at least three occasions. The main problem at the moment is the fact that we are not scoring the goals which we should be. This is something we have got to work on as we cannot always rely on our defence to keep us in the game.

The Reserves are holding a good position in the Football Combination. The last League Table showed them as in fourth position, and this is due largely to a lot of young players who are making regular appearances in the side, and it proves that with continued experience they could be knocking on the door for first team places.

I am sorry that our game against Norwich City last Tuesday did not get the publicity, and few people knew there was actually a game on here, but I can assure you this will not happen in the future.

For the fans who arrived at Shrivensham Road on Tuesday, 2nd October, to see our Youth game against Aston Villa I must apologise, but this was no fault of ours that Aston Villa did not turn up. They were notified of the game and time, the Referee and Linesmen had turned up, everyone but Aston Villa. It was a mistake on their part, but I feel I must apologise to the people who turned up for the game.

Second Division Scene

by Tony Pullein



Robins Year-by-Year

Part 7 — Season 1926/27

Jimmy Platt, whom we hope to see in goal for Middlesbrough this afternoon, established the longest unbeaten run by any goalkeeper this season when he kept leaders Bristol City at bay last Saturday. When he walked off the Ayresome Park pitch at the end of the game, he looked back on a proud run of 464 minutes play without conceding a goal.

While Platt was establishing this record, a rival Second Division goalkeeper was enjoying anything but the best of luck. Paul Hammond, recalled by Crystal Palace for the injured John Jackson, had four goals poked past him by Sheffield Wednesday.

Wednesday striker Mike Prendergast hit his first hat-trick in League football and, coincidentally, this was the first three-goal hit by a Wednesday player since Brian Joicey grabbed three last season in the F.A. Cup — also against Palace.

Cardiff and Aston Villa both suffered their first defeats of the season last Saturday, Villa going down 0-2 at Notts County for whom Les Bradd netted for the fifth game in a row.

Billy Green, the centre-half signed by Carlisle from Hartlepool in the close-season, scored his first goal for his new club in the last minute at Millwall. Added to Barry Kitchener's own goal, this gave Carlisle their first away victory in the League since last November.

Sunderland are finding life hard in Division Two as the F.A. Cup holders. Everyone specially wants to beat them and they had only two wins to show from their opening seven League games.

Final Table DIVISION III (South)

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag.	Points
1. Bristol City	42	27	8	7	104	54	62
2. Plymouth Argyle	42	25	10	7	95	61	60
3. Millwall	42	23	10	9	89	51	56
4. Brighton	42	21	11	10	79	50	53
5. Swindon Town	42	21	9	12	100	85	51
6. Crystal Palace	42	18	9	15	84	81	45
7. Bournemouth	42	18	8	16	78	66	44
8. Luton Town	42	15	14	13	68	66	44
9. Newport County	42	19	6	17	57	71	44
10. Bristol Rovers	42	16	9	17	78	80	41
11. Brentford	42	13	14	15	70	61	40
12. Exeter City	42	15	10	17	76	73	40
13. Charlton Athletic	42	16	8	18	60	61	40
14. Queen's Park Rangers	42	15	9	18	65	71	39
15. Coventry City	42	15	7	20	71	86	37
16. Norwich City	42	12	11	19	59	71	35
17. Merthyr Tydfil	42	13	9	20	63	80	35
18. Northampton	42	15	5	22	59	87	35
19. Southend	42	14	6	22	64	77	34
20. Gillingham	42	11	10	21	54	72	32
21. Watford	42	12	9	22	57	87	32
22. Aberdare	42	9	7	26	62	101	25

Football League Division III (South)

	Home	Away
Aberdare	3-2	4-1
Bournemouth	2-0	2-1
Brentford	4-2	2-2
Brighton	2-2	3-9
Bristol City	2-2	0-2
Bristol Rovers	3-5	1-3
Charlton	2-0	2-2
Coventry	2-2	3-1
Crystal Palace	6-1	0-5
Exeter	4-2	1-3
Gillingham	1-0	4-4
Luton	2-0	1-1
Merthyr Tydfil	3-2	2-1
Millwall	3-0	1-4
Newport	3-1	3-5
Northampton	3-1	0-1
Norwich	3-2	1-2
Plymouth	1-2	1-3
Q.P.R.	6-2	1-0
Southend	5-1	2-2
Watford	4-2	2-2

F.A. Cup

Rd. 1 — Bournemouth (a)	1-1
(h)	3-4

Men Who Played

League appearances:

A. Archer, 36; Bailey, 7; D. C. Bew, 38; J. T. Bourne, 33; P. Brooke, 3; A. Brown, 13; R. Cooper, 17; C. H. Daniel, 4; A. S. Davies, 8; A. E. Denyer, 34; W. Dickinson, 25; J. Eddleston, 40; C. W. Flood, 5; S. Furniss, 11; L. A. Hicks, 1; C. E. Jefferies, 4; S. Johnson, 15; D. H. Morris, 41; E. M. Nash, 9; H. O'Neill, 8; C. Petrie, 16; A. Thom, 27; A. Wall, 20; A. M. Weston, 38; T. Wylie, 9.

League scorers:

Morris 47, Eddleston 11, Thom 8, Wall 7, Petrie 6, Denyer 5, Dickinson, Flood and Jefferies each 3, Archer, Weston, Bailey, Brown, Johnson, Daniel and Hughes (Bristol City) each 1.

Crowd Up

The 20,057 crowd for the visit of Bristol City was the highest for a Football League game at the County Ground at that time.

Middlesbrough Mean Business Now

by Tony Pullein



Back Row: Left to Right: W. Gates, M. Smith, P. Brine, J. Hickton, P. Creamer.
Middle Row: I. MacFarlane (Coach), G. Souness, A. Foggon, P. Cuff, J. Platt, J. Craggs, S. Boam, J. Charlton (Manager).
Front Row: J. Greenhalgh (Coach), N. Stiles (now with Preston), D. Armstrong, H. Charlton, E. McMordie, D. Mills, W. Maddren, J. Headrige (Trainer).

A fine 2-0 victory over the previous leaders Bristol City last Saturday took Middlesbrough into top place and had Ayresome Park fans believing that at long, long last, this *could* be their promotion year. So often in the past have Middlesbrough been on the brink of success, only to falter when within sight of their target, that no Borough fan will risk celebrating prematurely. But the club has shown that it really does mean business this season.

New manager Jackie Charlton inherited a fine squad from predecessor Stan Anderson and his own enthusiasm and dedication for

the game has now been infused into the players.

Mr. Charlton has succeeded in tightening up the defence and recently purchased one of the game's richest midfield talents to add more creativity in this department. Bobby Murdoch became something of a legend in eleven years with Celtic, winning a European Cup winners' medal in 1967, picking up eight Scottish championship medals, four Scottish Cup medals and five League Cup mementoes. He also won 12 Scottish caps.

Murdoch's experience in midfield now fills the void left by

Nobby Stiles' departure for Preston and he will probably line up in this department with Eric McMordie and Graeme Souness. David Mills and Brian Taylor are also likely to be looking for one of the midfield places and, if the Borough play 4-4-2, Mills will almost certainly be in the side.

McMordie, who now has 21 Northern Ireland caps, had an unhappy first attempt to make a success in English football. He travelled over to Old Trafford with George Best for a trial but both returned to Ireland. Best went back, but McMordie joined Dundella and it was from them that

he was transferred to Middlesbrough in 1964. He won his way into Middlesbrough's senior team in 1965/66 and the following season he was picked for the Northern Ireland under-23 team.

Middlesbrough paid Spurs £30,000 for Scottish youth international Graeme Souness last season. Souness was kept out of Spurs' first-team by their international stars and, at one stage of his White Hart Lane career, he became so frustrated that he walked out on the club and returned to his native Scotland. But he was persuaded to return and now, following his transfer, he is playing League football for the first time.

David Mills and Brian Taylor are both Middlesbrough discoveries, Mills getting his chance in the first-team in 1968/69. Taylor was elevated to senior duty last season.

Up front we shall see John Hickton and, depending upon the formation, Alan Foggon and David Armstrong with Malcolm Smith perhaps making another of his now familiar appearances on the substitute's bench.

Hickton has been Middlesbrough's top scorer for the past six seasons and has now scored some 150 goals since his transfer from Sheffield Wednesday in 1966.

Alan Foggon, a one-time England youth international, started his League career with neighbouring Newcastle but in 1971 he was transferred to Cardiff City. Middlesbrough signed him last season.

Armstrong and Smith, both products of the club's nursery scheme, made their initial appearances in the League eleven two seasons ago.

The defence, which conceded goals in only two of its first eight games, has usually been: John Craggs, Stuart Boam, Willie Maddren and Frank Spraggon.

Middlesbrough paid Newcastle a substantial fee for Craggs in August 1971. A former England youth international, he rose to Newcastle's League eleven in 1966/67 but was never able to hold a regular place with the Magpies. Boam, a 1971 summer signing from Mansfield, quickly settled down to Second Division football and played in all except two of Middlesbrough's games last season. It was in 1966/67 that he made his League debut for Mansfield.

Maddren is a very versatile player who has played in almost every position for Middlesbrough. A debutant five years ago, he has been a permanent member of the side for the past three seasons and last season he was picked for the England under-23 side.

Spraggon is another versatile player, operating mainly in midfield and defence over his six seasons as a member of the first-team.

Times have changed very much for goalkeeper Jimmy Platt who was almost released at one stage. Signed from Ballymena United in 1970, Platt made his League debut two seasons ago and was picked as reserve for Northern Ireland's World Cup team. But earlier, when things weren't going so well and he lost his place in the reserve team, he asked to play as a striker.

Middlesbrough opened the season with a 1-0 win at Portsmouth and, after a shock home defeat by Fulham (0-2), won away at Crystal Palace 3-2. Not since season 1946/47 had Middlesbrough won their first two away games.

Unless their run was ended by Orient in midweek, Middlesbrough haven't conceded a goal since the Palace game, results going: Carlisle (h) 1-0, Aston Villa (h) 0-0, Orient (a) 0-0, Blackpool (a) 0-0, Bristol City (h) 2-0.

When Jackie Charlton finally retired from the playing side this

summer, he had set up a Leeds' club record of 629 League appearances.

For one who started out so late in international football, Jack Charlton's experience bordered on the incredible. He didn't win his first full England cap until 1965 — 12 years after making his debut with Leeds United — but he went on to play 35 games for his country, including an ever-present record in the 1966 World Cup.

He won Second and First Division championship medals with Leeds, plus Fairs Cup and League Cup winners' medals. He also played in three F.A. Cup finals, picking up a winners' medal in 1972. Jackie was voted Footballer of the Year in 1967.

Middlesbrough are the only Football League club to have won the F.A. Amateur Cup, succeeding in 1895 and 1898. The club was formed in 1876 and initially turned professional in 1892. But they reverted to amateurism two years later until after winning the Amateur Cup for the second time. They were admitted to the Football League Division II in 1899 and three years later won promotion to the First Division for the first time.

Middlesbrough enjoyed a long spell of top grade football until a disastrous season in 1923/24, when they finished bottom, ten points behind the next club, sent them tumbling down. Three years later they won the Second Division Championship and, following relegation a year later, regained their place within a further 12 months.

Middlesbrough left Division I for the last time in 1954 and their greatest ambition is to win back a place in the highest sphere, particularly as they have a ground so worthy of the best the game has to offer. They were relegated to the Third Division in 1966 but regained their place at the first attempt.



Nick Collins comes close to scoring against Forest but keeper Barron blocks his shot.

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Have you purchased your

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SOMEONE TODAY WILL

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It could be you!

Your Golden Goal ticket seller will be in the usual place — make a date to buy your ticket every match.

Additional £10 prizes for last goal scored and Official Attendance.

Remember we pay £80 at every First Team match.

Forthcoming matches

Tuesday, October 9th
Schoolboys Cabot Cup
SWINDON BOYS v. CARDIFF BOYS
Kick-off 7.15 p.m.

Saturday, October 13th
Football Combination
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

Saturday, October 20th
Division II
OXFORD UNITED
Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP
Should a replay of our match v. Chesterfield be necessary then this will take place at the County Ground on Tuesday, 16th October, Kick-off 7.15 p.m.



Ray Treacy is beaten to this corner by two Forest defenders during Tuesday nights game against Forest.

Key of the board

- A Arsenal v. Birmingham
- B Coventry v. Everton
- C Derby v. Norwich
- D Ipswich v. Tottenham H.
- E Leeds v. Stoke
- F Liverpool v. Newcastle
- G Manchester City v.
Southampton
- H Q.P. Rangers v. Chelsea
- I West Ham Utd. v. Burnley
- J Wolverhampton v.
Manchester Utd.
- K Aston Villa v. Cardiff
- L Blackpool v. Notts. County
- M Bristol City v. West. Brom.
Albion
- N Carlisle v. Bolton
- O C. Palace v. Luton
- P Fulham v. Preston N.E.
- Q Hull City v. Orient
- R Nottm. Forest v. Millwall
- S Portsmouth v. Oxford Utd.
- T Sunderland v. Sheff. Wednesday

The man in the middle

BILL CASTLE

(Dudley). Started refereeing in Wolverhampton amateur football and progressed through the Staffs County League and Central League to the League line in 1961.

Appointed to the referees list in 1967. Refereed the 1968 Wales v. Scotland Youth International and was on the line for the 1968 Fairs Cup game, Hamburg v. Prague, and the 1969 League Cup Final (Arsenal v. Swindon Town). Married with a son and daughter he works as a sales representative.

GOLDEN GOAL WINNERS MILLWALL

- £60 First Goal — Mr. H. Cripps, 30 Rose-dean Gardens, Gants Hill, Essex.
- £10 Last Goal — Mr. C. Webb, Hazel Lane, Filkins, Lechlade.
- £10 Attendance — Mrs K. Davis, 78 Montague Street, Swindon.

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Saturday, October 6th, 1973 — Kick-off 3 p.m.

SWINDON TOWN v. MIDDLESBROUGH

Swindon Town

- 1 Allan
- 2 Thomas
- 3 Trollope
- 4 Butler
- 5 Burrows
- 6 Potter
- 7 Moss
- 8 Hubbard
- 9 Collins
- 10 Legg
- 11 Jenkins
- 12 Bunkell

Middlesbrough

- 1 Platt
- 2 Craggs
- 3 Spraggon
- 4 Souness
- 5 Boam
- 6 Maddren
- 7 Murdoch
- 8 Mills
- 9 Hickton
- 10 Foggon
- 11 Armstrong
- 12 Charlton

Referee:
Mr. W. S. Castle
(Worcester)

Linesmen:
Red Flag
Mr. B. A. Champion
(Bristol)

Yellow Flag
Mr. P. Green
(Birmingham)

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