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SEASON 1974/75

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ROY SPROSON

comments

● AFTER the splendid performance at Wrexham on the opening day of the season, it was most disappointing to lose our way once again in the League Cup tie at Northampton, even though this particular competition has been something of a non-event for Port Vale ever since its inception.

● When I was a player we never did anything in the League Cup, but this does not excuse our defeat. I want to win every game regardless of the occasion, but we failed to adjust ourselves to the demands of the cup match.

● At Wrexham we were given room and time in which to play, which is more befitting Third Division football. At Northampton on a tight pitch there was little room and even less time and the home side's policy of no frills earned them victory.

● It might not be good to watch but it achieves results and when we gained promotion from the Fourth Division four years ago we played exactly the same way.

● Basically, Northampton hit long balls from the back and proceeded to chase, kick and harry which unsettled our lads, who complained that they could not play against such a system.

● Yet we should have won the game. We outplayed them in spells when it came to football but missed three good chances and paid the penalty. The goal itself was rather unfortunate with Frank Sharp miss-hitting an intended volley to clear with the result that the ball curled back into the box where it was headed home.

● Today, it is back to the League and a welcome to Swindon Town in our opening home fixture. They have some players worthy of a higher class than the Third Division and we can expect that two home defeats already suffered will make them all the more determined this afternoon.

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SCENE III

A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH, whose reputation of recent seasons has been one of big spenders have been raking in the cash.

Centre-half David Jones joined Nottingham Forest for £80,000; striker Micky Cave went to newly-promoted York for £18,000; winger Harry Redknapp became the sixth Bournemouth man to join former boss John Bond at Norwich for around £10,000; and last term's top scorer, John Sainty, moved to Aldershot.

But new boss Trevor Hartley needed reinforcements and spent £15,000 apiece on Plymouth pair Neil Hague and Derek Rickard; used £5,000 on Exeter's John Wingate and £4,000 on Kevin Charlton, from Wolves. Newboy Wingate made a good start, too, scoring the only goal in Saturday's win at Tranmere.

Gordon Lee, accustomed to basement bargains at Port Vale, must have felt like a millionaire at Blackburn in splashing over £60,000 in fresh signings.

Ken Beamish cost £25,000 from Brighton, defender Graham Hawkins signed at £20,000 from Preston, Graham Oates was a £10,000 buy from Bradford City and both Jimmy Mullen (Rotherham) and Pat Hilton (Brighton) cost around £7,000 apiece. Now Blackburn are being rated the best team the club have had for seasons and opened with a 2-1 win at Grimsby.

Brighton continued to be reshaped after the departure of Brian Clough to Leeds. New boss Peter Taylor took goalkeeper Derek Forster from Charlton, striker Ricky Marlowe from Shrewsbury

and paid Plymouth £30,000 for midfielder man Ernie Machin, who was immediately named club captain.

Brighton also made a good start with Ian Mellor, ex-Norwich and Manchester City, scoring the goal which beat Crystal Palace before a gate of over 26,000 at the Goldstone Ground.

Portsmouth full-back John Collins joined Halifax for £6,000 while newly-promoted Bury sacked winger John Murray following alleged misconduct. There was a flare up between Murray and manager Bob Smith and one of them had to go. It was not going to be the boss.

A Gibraltar XI had everything but a rock like defence in their friendly match at Hereford where the home side with several newcomers, cracked in 15 goals without reply! On the scoresheet was Terry Paine, who moved from Southampton in the close season.

Good start for the promoted clubs last Saturday. Peterborough took both points from their visit to Huddersfield; Bury won at Swindon, who have just come down. Colchester had to be content with a point at home against Watford as did Gillingham against Walsall.

Bobby Charlton's comeback with Preston drew over 11,000 to Deepdale for the match against Plymouth, but there was little of the Charlton magic evident. Still Preston managed to notch the winner, although boss Bob admitted "I cannot say I enjoyed it".

CHRIS HARPER,
Evening Sentinel.



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Introducing Swindon . . .

AFTER finishing bottom of the Second Division last season, Swindon Town find themselves back in the Third in which they have spent most of their Football League career.

The club entered the League as a Third Division team in 1920 and remained so for 43 years until they gained promotion as runners-up in 1963. They started well in the Second, being undefeated in their first nine games, but eventually finished the season well down the table.

A season later, Swindon found Second Division life too tough and returned to the Third until another revival in 1968/69 when unprecedented heights reached the West Country.

Not only did Swindon regain Second Division status as runners-up to Watford, but on 6th March, 1969 they also won the League Cup at Wembley, beating Arsenal 3-1 in extra time.

Don Rogers, later transferred to Crystal Palace, scored two of the goals and the Swindon team that day was: Downsborough; Thomas, Trollope; Butler, Burrows, Harland; Heath, Smart, Smith, Noble, Rogers. Substitute: Penman.

In the season after promotion, Swindon attained their highest placing in League football when finishing fifth in Division Two and thereafter were 12th, 11th, and 16th before hitting rock-bottom last term, when their manager, Les Allen, was dismissed on account of poor results.

Mr. Allen, the former Spurs' player, was Swindon's seventh post-war manager and succeeded Louis Page, Maurice Lindley, Bert Head, Fred Ford, Dave Mackay and Danny Williams, the latter now being back in office having returned to the club on leaving Mansfield.

The Swindon club was formed by a clergyman in 1881 and they became the top amateur side in Wiltshire. Swindon turned professional in 1894 and entered the Southern League.

They reached the F.A. Cup semi-finals in both 1909/10 and 1911/12 and in their time have produced a string of fine players. Harry Morris scored most League goals with 216 between 1926 and 1933 while Maurice Owen totalled the highest number of League appearances of 554 (1946/63).

Swindon banked £150,000 when they sold home-grown Don Rogers to Crystal Palace in October 1972 and also received a hefty fee when Welshman Rod Thomas,

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. . . and their players

their most capped player, moved to Derby last term. Other profitable sales include Mike Summerbee, to Manchester City, and Ernie Hunt, to Wolves.

Newcomer between the sticks for Swindon this season is **JIM BARRON**, who joined the club for a reported £15,000 fee from Nottingham Forest. An experienced goalkeeper, Barron began his career with Wolves and then had a spell at Chelsea. His regular League football was gained at Oxford and Forest.

Defender **JOHN McLAUGHLIN** moved to Swindon from Colchester in December last year and made 16 appearances in stark contrast to long-serving **JOHN TROLLOPE**, a member of Swindon's League Cup winning team at Wembley in 1969. He has now totalled over 550 senior appearances.

Sheffield-born **DAVID MUNKS** gave good service to first Sheffield United and then Portsmouth before linking up with Swindon, while central defender **RON POTTER**, born in Wolverhampton, made the occasional appearance for W.B.A. before moving to the West Country club.

Midfield player **TERRY HUBBARD** last season added 20 games to the previous 29 he had played in the first team and is now set to establish himself as a regular, as is **DAVID MOSS**, who was a regular last term when he made 39 appearances.

Another new signing for Swindon this season is **HUGH MACLEAN**, from West Bromwich. A Scot, from Larkhill, Maclean made only the occasional first-team appearance at the Hawthorns. Local boy **DAVID SYRETT** is a forward Swindon have high hopes of making the grade. He created an impression in his 20 games last season when he also scored five goals.

Former Wolves player **PETER EASTOE** was an expensive buy when he moved permanently to Swindon after a spell on loan. He was joint top scorer with Moss last season with eight goals. Winger **TOMMY JENKINS** has the talent to play in a higher grade as he did with Orient and Southampton. He also had a spell with Reading and, at his best, is a tricky customer to handle.

Defender **BILL DIXON** joined Swindon from Reading, where he played over 150 games. A Londoner, his career began with Arsenal. Another long serving member of the staff is **JOE BUTLER**, whose appearances now total over 300 while **FRANK BURROWS**, ex-Raith Rovers and Scunthorpe, has clocked up over 200.

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REG. BERKS

Club Coach



THIS is a season that means so much to Port Vale. It is important in many ways, for we have made changes in the style of play which we hope will be more attractive to watch.

No matter what managers or coaches may think, it is the supporters themselves who dictate whether you are successful or not and football must be entertaining.

At the same time, of course, we must not hide the fact that results also have to be obtained, and it is our hope to achieve both. To entertain and win.

It may take time. Both Roy Sproson and myself feel that we have to be positive in the way Port Vale play. Attendances in the past have been disappointingly small but we must be honest. The fans who have stayed away cannot all be wrong.

I believe it is up to everyone in the club to work in an endeavour to put the matter right. It is not an easy job by any means, but a job that can and must be done.

Public relations, for example, must be drastically improved. The club programme should be attractive for people to buy and in this day and age of sponsorship, all efforts must also be made towards this aim, too.

All can help to make Port Vale a successful club. A few years ago Ipswich, Carlisle and Coventry were in the lower divisions. What they have achieved then so can Port Vale.

Everything depends on hard work and a willingness to work hard both on and off the field. Let us all hope that we can be successful in giving Valeites something to cheer about.

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**KEITH
TUNNICLIFFE**

**Commercial
Manager**

TODAY marks the start of a new League season here at Vale Park and I am hopeful that we can rely on your support in the months ahead. The commercial side of any football club is assuming more and more importance and is vital to the success of the parent body.

Throughout the close season, the building formerly occupied by the Supporters Club has been converted into new offices for the pools and development fund. It will also house the new Vale shop and generally deal with any enquiries.

Though not quite ready at present, I am expecting to "move house" next week, so will all agents please note our new headquarters. It is adjacent to the Railway Paddock entrance to the ground and a large sign will soon go up so that nobody can miss us.

A fund-raising scheme we have launched is aimed at your waste paper. We want to collect as much of this paper and card etc. as possible and convert it into cash per ton. So don't throw away your "Sentinels" and Sunday papers, bundle them up and let us have them.

The collection on behalf of Ladsandads at the pre-season match with Sheffield Wednesday realised £46. Thanks to all those who made donations.

**QUIZ
TIME**

1. Who were the first winners of the World Cup in 1930.
2. How many F.A. Cup trophies have there been.
3. Who won the European Cup in the first five years of its existence.
4. In what year did Port Vale reach the F.A. Cup semi-finals.
5. What in soccer terms is 'catenaccio'.
6. Name the other three countries in Scotland's 1974 World Cup group in Germany.
7. Name the previous League club of Port Vale goalkeeper John Connaughton.
8. Who was named Manager of the Year last season.
9. Who was transferred from Manchester United to Arsenal for £100,000 recently.
10. Who scored West Germany's winning goal in their World Cup final against Holland in Munich.

ANSWERS:—

1—Uruguay; 2—Three; 3—Real Madrid; 4—1954; 5—The term means walking pace; 6—Brazil, Zaire, Yugoslavia; 7—Sheffield United; 8—Jack Charlton (Middlesbrough); 9—Brian Kidd; 10—Gerd Muller.

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TRAVELLING VALIANTS

Commercial Manager Keith Tunnicliffe is again organising coach trips for Vale supporters to all away games this season. Already the response has been tremendous, with five coach loads of fans travelling to Wrexham and two coaches making the journey to Northampton last Tuesday for the League Cup match.

Those who travel regularly to the away games are familiar with the drill, but to those newcomers who may wish to travel in comfort this season, seats may be booked in advance and secured by a small deposit.

Because the number of coaches have to be booked by the Thursday preceeding a Saturday match, the deadline for bookings is 1 p.m. on Thursdays. This has to be emphasised because it seems that no matter how many times this information is repeated, supporters still turn up on the Saturdays hoping to get on the coach.

Already this season we have had to turn away disappointed fans, SO PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO MAKE SURE OF A SEAT.

Furthermore, a high standard of behaviour among the travelling Valiants has been established and is expected of everyone. Anyone violating the rules will be banned from travelling to any further games on the official supporters coaches.

Fares and departure times arranged for forthcoming games are :— Saturday, 31st August, GRIMSBY (fare £1.50; depart 9.30 a.m.); Friday, 13th September, TRANMERE (fare 80p; depart 5.30 p.m.); Wednesday, 18th September, BRIGHTON (fare £3.10; depart 9.45 a.m.); Saturday, 28th September, HALIFAX TOWN (fare 85p; depart 11.30 a.m.); Saturday, 5th October, ALDERSHOT (fare £1.55; depart 9 a.m.).

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● Welcome to the new signings. Goalkeeper John Connaughton (right), Terry Bailey (centre) and Frank Sharp pose for the camera in front of the more familiar figures of John Brodie, Neil Griffiths, Ray Williams, Keith Chadwick, Tommy McLaren and Bob Mountford. New apprentice Brian Thompson is also in the picture, next to Brodie.

Picture : *Evening Sentinel*



- Flashback to the end of last season. David Harris is chaired aloft by Vale supporters after receiving his Player of the Year trophy from Jackie Mudie (extreme left).
Picture : *Evening Sentinel*

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MIDLAND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE
League Championship

1974/75		F. A.	
Aug. 17	ASTON VILLA	...	H 0 3
24	BIRMINGHAM	...	A
31	MANSFIELD	...	H
Sept. 7	HEREFORD	...	A
14	COVENTRY	...	H
21	DERBY C.	...	A
28	BRISTOL C.	...	H
Oct. 5	STOKE CITY	...	H
12	ASTON VILLA	...	A
19	BIRMINGHAM	...	H
26	MANSFIELD	...	A
Nov. 2	HEREFORD	...	H
9	COVENTRY	...	A
16	DERBY C.	...	H
23	WOLVES	...	H
30	SHREWSBURY	...	H
Dec. 7	LEICESTER	...	A
14	WALSALL	...	H
21	WALSALL	...	A
28	WOLVES	...	A
Jan. 4	WEST BROM.	...	A
11	LEICESTER	...	H
18	SHREWSBURY	...	A
25		...	
Feb. 1	STOKE CITY	...	A
8	BRISTOL CITY	...	A
15	WEST BROM.	...	H

NORTHERN FLOODLIT LEAGUE

1974/75		F. A.	
Nov. 5	HEREFORD	...	H
13	CHESTER	...	A
19	CREWE ALEX.	...	H
25	TELFORD U.	...	A
Dec. 3	STOCKPORT C.	...	H
11	TRANMERE	...	A
Jan. 7	SHREWSBURY	...	H
13	WREXHAM	...	A
21	WREXHAM	...	H
29	HEREFORD	...	A
Feb. 4	CHESTER	...	H
10	CREWE ALEX.	...	A
25	TELFORD U.	...	H
Mar. 5	STOCKPORT C.	...	A
11	TRANMERE	...	H
April 9	SHREWSBURY	...	A

NORTHERN FLOODLIT LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP

Aug. 27	STOCKPORT C.	...	H
Sept. 4	TRANMERE	...	A
17	CHESTER	...	H
23	CREWE ALEX.	...	A
Oct. 2	STOCKPORT C.	...	A
8	TRANMERE	...	H
16	CHESTER	...	A
29	CREWE ALEX.	...	H

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Third Division Table

Final League placings in Division Three last season, with average home attendances and top scorer(s) for each club were as follows :—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.	Avg. Att.	Top Scorer
Oldham ...	46	25	12	9	83	47	62	10,184	Garwood (17)
Bristol R....	46	22	17	7	65	33	61	13,058	Warboys (24)
York City...	46	21	19	6	67	38	61	6,233	Jones (21)
Wrexham ...	46	22	12	12	63	43	56	5,905	Smallman, Tinnion (14)
Chesterfield ...	46	21	14	11	55	42	56	5,790	Moss (19)
Grimsby ...	46	18	15	13	67	50	51	7,240	Lewis (12)
Watford ...	46	19	12	15	64	56	50	6,695	Jennings (29)
Aldershot ...	46	19	11	16	65	52	49	5,220	Howarth (26)
Halifax ...	46	14	21	11	48	51	49	2,825	Gwyther (13)
Huddersfield ...	46	17	13	16	56	55	47	5,696	Gowling (24)
Bournemouth ...	46	16	15	15	54	58	47	8,978	Sainty (15)
Southend ...	46	16	14	16	62	62	46	6,249	Brace (17)
Blackburn ...	46	18	10	18	62	64	46	7,431	Endean (11)
Charlton ...	46	19	8	19	66	73	46	5,269	Horsfield (19)
Walsall ...	46	16	13	17	57	48	45	4,875	Buckley (24)
Tranmere ...	46	15	15	16	50	44	45	4,248	Crossley (10)
Plymouth ...	46	17	10	19	59	54	44	7,739	Davey (19)
Hereford ...	46	14	15	17	53	57	43	8,040	Hinch, Evans (9)
Brighton ...	46	16	11	19	52	58	43	11,277	Beamish (12)
PORT VALE ...	46	14	14	18	52	58	42	3,958	WOODWARD (17)
Cambridge ...	46	13	9	24	48	81	35	4,391	Lennard (7)
Shrewsbury ...	46	10	11	25	41	62	31	2,497	Durban (9)
Southport ...	46	6	16	24	35	82	28	2,500	Provan (7)
Rochdale ...	62	2	17	27	38	94	21	1,885	Skeete (10)

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Venue Result Attendance Points Total League Position Connaughton Brodie Griffiths Harris Summerscales Horton McLaren Mountford Williams Bailey Sharp Ridley Woodward Lacey Chadwick Carr Tart Cross Edwards SCORERS

Dec. 4	League Cup (5)	H
7	Bury	
14	F.A. Cup (2)	A
21	Preston North End	
26	Tranmere Rovers	H
28	Southend United	A
Jan. 4	Brighton & Hove A. (3)	H
11	Bury	A
15	League Cup (SF)	
18	Peterborough United	H
22	League Cup (SF)	
25	Charlton Athletic (4)	H
Feb. 1	Chesterfield	A
8	AFC Bournemouth	H
15	Charlton Athletic (5)	A
22	Watford	H
Mar. 1	Grimsby Town (LCF)	H
8	Huddersfield Town (6)	A
15	Halifax Town	H
17	Wrexham	H
22	Gillingham	A
28		
29	Preston North End	H
31	Hereford United	A
April 1	Southend United	H
5	Crystal Palace (SF)	A
12	Aldershot	H
19	Plymouth Argyle	A
22	Swindon Town	A
26	Blackburn Rovers	H
May 3	F.A. Cup Final	

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PORT VALE SUPPORTERS CLUB

IT is nearly time for our annual Quizball competition again and we anticipate it being as successful as the past two years when first A.E.I. and then Lion were the winners

Entries are limited to 16 teams this time and an extra incentive for the champions will be to represent Vale in the National Federation of Supporters Clubs' quiz with prize money of over £800.

All games will be played in the Vale Social Club, so come along either to test your knowledge or simply to watch and listen.

Members who attended the pre-season "Meet the Staff Evening" will have enjoyed the chance to question Messrs. Sproson, Berks, Hamlett and Dawson and we thank all concerned for making the event such a success.

Our membership has now reached nearly 300, so we are confident of topping 500 for the first time. The benefits to be gained can be seen on this page; all advertisers offer members discount on producing their card. Can you afford not to join?

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LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Saturday, 24th August, 1974

Kick-off — 3 p.m.

Port Vale

versus

Swindon Town



PORT VALE

(Black & White)

- 1 JOHN CONNAUGHTON
- 2 JOHN BRODIE
- 3 NEIL GRIFFITHS
- 4 COLIN TARTT
- 5 BILL SUMMERSCALES
- 6 BRIAN HORTON
- 7 TOMMY McLAREN
- 8 JOHN RIDLEY
- 9 RAY WILLIAMS
- 10 TERRY BAILEY
- 11 FRANK SHARP
- 12

Manager : ROY SPROSON

SWINDON TOWN

(Red & White)

- 1 JIM BARRON
- 2 JOHN McLAUGHLIN
- 3 JOHN TROLLOPE
- 4 TERRY HUBBARD
- 5 RON POTTER
- 6 DAVID MUNKS
- 7 DAVID MOSS
- 8 WILL DIXON
- 9 PETER EASTOE
- 10 HUGH McLEAN
- 11 TOM JENKINS
- 12

Manager : DANNY WILLIAMS



Referee —

Mr. D. W. LLOYD, Worcester

Linesmen —

Mr. D. I. BUCKLEY, Codsall (Red Flag)

Mr. B. LANGFORD, Coventry (Orange Flag)

Half - Time

Scoreboard

A	ALDERSHOT HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	.....
B	BLACKBURN ROVERS COLCHESTER UNITED	.....
C	BOURNEMOUTH GILLINGHAM	.....
D	BURY SOUTHEND UNITED	.....
E	CHARLTON ATHLETIC HEREFORD UNITED	.....
F	CHESTERFIELD WREXHAM	.....
G	CRYSTAL PALACE TRANMERE ROVERS	.....
H	PETERBOROUGH UNITED BRIGHTON & H. A.	.....
K	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE GRIMSBY TOWN	.....
L	WALSALL HALIFAX TOWN	.....
M	WATFORD PRESTON NORTH END	.....
N	QUEENS PARK RANGERS STOKE CITY	.....
O	ARSENAL MANCHESTER CITY	.....
P	CARLISLE UNITED TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	.....
Q	IPSWICH TOWN BURNLEY	.....
R	LEEDS UNITED BIRMINGHAM CITY	.....
S	LIVERPOOL LEICESTER CITY	.....
T	MIDDLESBROUGH LUTON TOWN

THE BALL

for this afternoon's game has
been kindly donated by

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DICK MALONE
of Burslem Police

to whom the
Football Club Directors
express their sincere appreciation