



OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE 15p

SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

SWINDON TOWN
v

CHESTER

Swindon Town Football Co Limited

Registered Office County Ground
Swindon

Telephone No. 22118

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WOULDN'T A PINT GO DOWN WELL TONIGHT?



Bits and Pieces

The Old Showground was the venue for early friendly games played by Chester F.C. after its formation in 1884 from two local clubs - Chester Rovers and King's School Old Boys.

The club became a founder member of the original Football Combination set up in 1890, the same year that the name Chester first appeared in the F. A. Cup competition proper. Although falling at the first hurdle at Lincoln 0 - 2, Chester gained revenge twelve months later with a single goal victory. It took the Cup holders Blackburn Rovers to remove Chester from the competition which they achieved by a 7 - 0 margin.

In 1904 Chester moved to Whipcord Lane but stayed there only two years until settling at Sealand Road. The first of three Welsh Cup wins came in 1908 when Chester defeated Connah's Quay 3 - 1. The club was admitted to the Lancashire Combination in 1910 and also played in the Cheshire County League before being elected to the Football League in 1931.

Chester had first applied to join the League ranks in 1928, but polled only two votes. In the following summer no votes at all were received and so the club withheld its application until 1931. The two re-election places in Division Three North that spring were occupied by Rochdale and Nelson. The two outsiders wishing to be considered were Chester and Manchester Central. The last named club received just four votes, Rochdale topped the poll with 47 and Chester tied with Nelson on 27. In a second ballot Chester came through by 28 votes to 20.

On gaining League membership the club colours were changed from black and white to blue and white stripes, but for some years Chester appeared

in an all sky-blue strip. Chester's first home League game, watched by a near thirteen thousand crowd, was a 4 - 0 victory over Wigan Borough - a club which resigned before that season was over.

Chester's early League career showed a consistently high placing in the old Northern section and, in fact, it was not until 1948 that the club failed to finish in the top half of the table. In that period Chester also reached the Fourth Round of the F.A. Cup on five occasions. Not until last season did the club manage to get beyond that stage. The nearest Chester came to Second Division football was in 1935 when just three points separated Doncaster Rovers, the champions, and Chester in third place. A year later second place was attained but this time the gap was five points. Chester hit 100 goals, twelve coming in one match against York City.

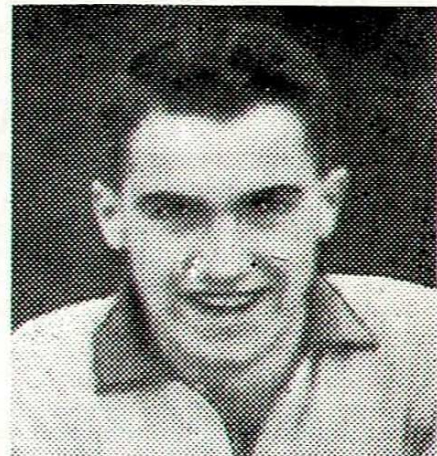
Chester finished at the very bottom of the League in 1954 and again in 1955 and was unable to hoist itself above even half way before dropping into the newly formed Fourth Division in 1958.

Despite a final placing of eighth at the end of 1964/65 season, Chester rapped in 119 goals plus 22 in the F.A. Cup and League Cup. Five players recorded personal tallies of twenty or more goals. Mike Metcalf claimed 37, Gary Talbot 35, Elfed Morrisse 26 and Jimmy Humes and Hugh Ryden each 20.

In reaching the semi-finals of the League Cup in 1974/75, Chester disposed of Walsall, Blackpool, Preston and Leeds Utd in consecutive home ties, the last being an emphatic 3 - 0 victory. The Fifth Round draw gave Chester a trip to Newcastle where a goalless game resulted. John James, who had scored twice against Leeds,

got the decisive goal in the Sealand Road replay. Aston Villa, winners of the trophy edged through to the Final on a 5 - 4 aggregate score.

Two Swindon players to have been signed by Chester both left the Town in 1953 when the late Louis Page became manager of that club. Ken Brandon made just five League appearances for Swindon, his first team chances being restricted by the consistency of the former Chelsea outside-left Jimmy Bain.



KEN BRANDON

During the season 1953-54 Chester signed Mick Betteridge, the school teacher, who had scored 23 goals in 108 League appearances for the Town. Also on the books of the Cheshire club at that time was Johnnie Thomas who appeared seventeen times in Swindon's League eleven during 1950 and 1951.

Fact finder

CHESTER

CURRENT FORM FOR LAST FIVE SEASONS:

	Div	P	W	D	L	F-A	Pts	Pos	Round Reached		Avg Home League		Top League Scorer
									FAC	FLC	Gate		
76/77	: 3	46	18	8	20	48-58	44	13th	5th	2nd	4,792	Paul Crossley 14	
75/76	: 3	46	15	12	19	43-62	42	17th	2nd	1st	5,102	Terry Owen 11	
74/75	: 4	46	23	11	12	64-38	57	4th	1st	S-F	4,744	Terry Owen 14	
73/74	: 4	46	17	15	14	54-55	49	7th	3rd	1st	2,682	John James 21	
72/73	: 4	46	14	15	17	61-52	43	15th	1st	2nd	2,963	Derek Draper 13	

COMPLETE FOOTBALL LEAGUE RECORD:

Div	P	W	D	L	F - A	PTS
THIRD	92	33	20	39	91 - 120	86
THIRD NORTH	870	328	203	339	1460 - 1392	859
FOURTH	780	276	189	315	1100 - 1182	741
TOTAL	1742	637	412	693	2651 - 2594	1686

(to end of last season)

Talk of the Town By the Chairman

Tonight we welcome the Players & Officials of Chester and we all hope that we shall get back on to a winning run again after losing our last three games, with two of them having been played at home, where we usually do so well.

Our game against Wrexham on Tuesday night was disappointing to say the least, after we had had so much of the game, but as we all know these results make the competition what it is, so unpredictable. We can only hope that our support will not drop too low after these recent disappointments.

Another blow to our prestige on Tuesday last was the result of a few hooligans throwing objects at the visiting goalkeeper and although the Police moved quickly in, to put an end to it, the damage was done and the sad result could mean a heavy fine for the club as the Football Association have to take action against any such offending league club.

The only way we can prevent such happenings is to appeal to all our sport loving supporters to try and help us prevent this madness by banding together and reporting the offenders.

Bristol City have a loyal band of volunteer stewards who are on the look out for such behaviour and with a badge of office easily recognisable, they seem to be doing a very good job.

I appreciate that we do not expect to have to take this kind of action, but if anyone feels strongly enough about it, then please come to the office and contact our Secretary and we will discuss with you ways and means to combat this evil.

The news on the injury list is a little better with Steve Aizlewood improving. I would like to take this opportunity to point out that it was the prompt attention of Kevin Morris our Physio who finished his days work on Saturday nearer midnight looking after Steve and as the hospital said, it was luck that we had such medical knowledge on the spot at the time or else it could have been very serious.

Our very young fullback apprentice Gerry Kelly is now out of hospital after undergoing a cartilage operation and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Our Youth Team played in mid week and beat Northampton Town 2 - 0 in our Midland Youth Competition. This was John Trollope's second game in charge of the Youth. He has had a busy week because he also played at Cardiff on Wednesday with our Reserve Team

which comprises most of his Youth Team.

Our Third Lottery draw was held at Devizes on Monday last and the lucky prize winner of £1,000 came from the Devizes area and the agent from Devizes. Our next Lottery draw is being made in the Rendezvous Club on Easter Monday after our home fixture against Oxford.

Doug Buswell is going to organise the Lottery on a weekly basis as it is proving so popular. The only draw back to this is that our agents will be selling on the first week that it happens, two weeks, tickets, but it will soon sort itself out.

Our Club dinner and dance evening is Wednesday 12th April at the Blunsdon House Hotel and if you would like to come don't leave it too late, but get in touch now with Bob Jefferies at the County Ground. We have a limited number for this occasion so don't be disappointed.

There have been many comments on the good condition of our playing surface this year and the ground staff must be congratulated and with normal weather until the end of the present season, it will give us a real chance to improve the growth area even more for next year.

The sponsor a player for his kit is proving very popular with our supporters and as you will see from the chart in tonight's programme, some players have already been kitted out and others well on the way. This is a tremendous help to the club as are all our fund raising schemes. This is our fourth year of sponsored kit and the response is really appreciated.

Hoping you will enjoy tonight's game and that you will be supporting us on Easter Monday against Oxford United. We have two games away in Devon before this on Wednesday next and Easter Saturday the 25th at Plymouth.



Swindon's Ray McHale beats Wrexham goalkeeper Eddie Niedzwiechi to cross the ball into the visitors' goalmouth during Tuesday's defeat at the County Ground.

From the POOLS OFFICE!

Congratulations to the following people who have won the major prizes in our first three Lotteries:

LOTTERY 1 held in the Rendevous Club 13 - 2 - 78.

- £1,000 Mr Onions, 4 Canney Close Chiseldon.
- £250 Mr. Britnell, Warborough Ave, Wantage.
- £100 N. G. Dicken, 30 Merton Ave, Swindon.

LOTTERY 2 held at the New Century Club, Swindon 27 - 2 - 78

- £1,000 Mr. Alexander, 3 Pinehurst Road, Swindon
- £250 Mr. Allen, 85 Gloucester Road, Newbury.
- £100 C. Berry, 20 Bute Close, High-worth.

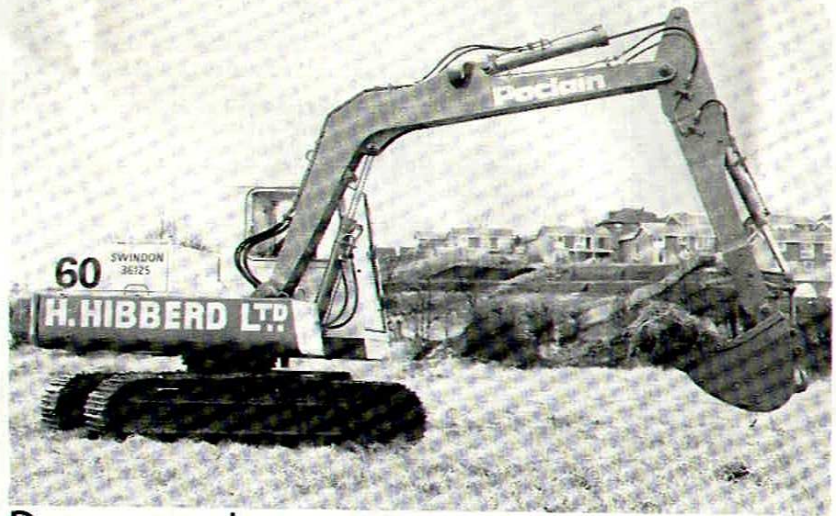
LOTTERY 3 held at The Black Swan, Devizes 13 - 3- 78

- £1,000 Mrs. Jones, 12 Foreleshow Rd, Devizes.
- £250 W. Gubbins 21 Exmouth Street, Swindon
- £100 Mr. Edgington, 10 Derwent Drive, Swindon.

A comprehensive list of all other winners can be seen at the Lottery Office on request.

We still need a few agents to sell our Lottery Tickets. So why not ring us on SWINDON 31510 and ask for details.

Doug Buswell, Commercial Manager



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DIVISION THREE LEAGUE TABLE up to and including Tuesday March 14, 1978

	Home					Away					Pts.	Lge. Posns. This Season		Home Lge. Gates		Top Goalscorers
	P	W	D	L	F-A	W	D	L	F-A	High		Low	Avg.	Best		
Wrexham	32	11	6	0	37-16	7	3	5	19-17	45	1st	18th	9593	16281	*Dixie McNeil 28(16)	
Cambridge U.	36	14	3	1	41- 9	4	6	8	20-33	45	1st	24th	5258	10998	Alan Biley 22(19)	
Preston N E	34	14	2	1	41-16	2	9	6	9-14	43	1st	19th	7884	11920	Alex Bruce 24(22)	
Gillingham	35	10	6	2	33-19	4	8	5	25-27	42	1st	15th	6958	10541	Ken Price 18(17), Danny Westwood 18(16)	
Walsall	34	9	6	3	27-14	4	8	4	17-21	40	5th	17th	5379	8341	Alan Buckley 26(21)	
Tranmere R.	35	11	3	3	31-14	3	8	7	15-22	39	1st	6th	4454	7250	Ronnie Moore 14(14)	
Peterborough U.	33	9	6	1	18- 9	4	6	7	8-14	38	2nd	22nd	5719	10156	†Trevor Anderson 12(7)	
Bury	34	7	9	2	27-14	5	4	7	21-25	37	2nd	14th	4742	6769	Andy Rowland 12(11)	
Chester	34	9	7	0	27-16	0	11	7	13-29	36	7th	18th	3983	9514	Paul Crossley 11(7)	
Swindon Town	32	10	4	3	33-16	2	6	7	17-27	34	2nd	17th	7722	11054	Dave Moss 18(11)	
Colchester U	35	7	8	1	28-11	4	4	11	16-28	34	1st	13th	4852	6447	Bobby Gough 16(12)	
Shrewsbury T.	35	7	6	5	30-18	4	6	7	17-26	34	1st	13th	3678	6116	Ian Atkins 8(8), Brian Hornsby 8(7), Sam Irvine 8(8)	
Carlisle U.	34	6	8	2	23-17	3	8	7	21-26	34	13th	23rd	5533	11309	Mick Tait 10(9)	
Chesterfield	32	9	5	2	23- 8	3	4	9	16-25	33	1st	19th	5049	12395	Rod Fern 9(8)	
Exeter C.	34	9	4	4	24-15	3	5	9	15-30	33	2nd	20th	4986	6722	Tony Kellow 15(12)	
Lincoln C	36	6	6	5	20-18	5	5	9	16-27	33	15th	24th	4741	6463	Peter Graham 8(8)	
Oxford U	35	10	6	2	30-15	1	4	12	19-35	32	2nd	17th	4900	8746	Peter Foley 18(16)	
Sheffield W.	33	8	6	3	20-12	0	6	10	14-29	28	13th	24th	11008	18803	Tommy Tynan 16(11)	
Port Vale	34	6	8	3	25-17	1	6	10	12-34	28	12th	23rd	3833	5136	Ken Beamish 12(9)	
Bradford C.	34	8	6	4	32-23	1	3	12	11-35	27	11th	24th	5270	12857	Bernie Wright 10(10)	
Rotherham U.	31	7	4	4	17-12	2	4	10	19-34	26	2nd	23rd	4821	6599	Richard Finney 12(9)	
Plymouth A	34	3	6	7	19-21	3	7	8	20-31	25	8th	23rd	6543	12399	Terry Austin 11(11)	
Hereford U.	33	7	7	3	20-16	0	4	12	4-28	25	14th	24th	4748	6392	**Billy Holmes 9(7)	
Portsmouth	35	3	9	5	24-25	1	6	11	7-33	23	13th	24th	10376	13152	Dave Kemp 21(16)	

*Dixie McNeil 4(3) goals for Hereford Utd.
†Trevor Anderson 9(4) goals for Swindon T.
**Billy Holmes 7(5) goals for Wimbledon

No. of League goals scored in brackets

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Kevin Roberts 	Mr. B. F. & Miss T. M Goddard, 2, Surrey Road, Swindon	Mr. R. C. E. Rivett, 45, Bevisland, Buredrop View, Swindon	Miss. K. Bush 21, Liddjards Green Ogbourne St. George Marlborough		 Dave Cunningham
Roy Carter 	Mr. S. Mahoney, 130, Lennox Drive, Walcot, Swindon.	Mr. & Mrs. E. Spearey 6, Wyvern Avenue, Calne, Wilts.		Miss. H. Deverill, 13, Longford Grove, Swindon	 Chic Bates
	Stuart Bell, Steven Robins & Andrew Hughes of Calne.				

IN TOWN TODAY

BRIAN LLOYD (Goalkeeper)

Brian has three full Welsh international caps and has also played for his country at under-23 level. He first entered the game with Stockport County but moved on to Southend in 1970. It was after joining Wrexham in 1971 that he enjoyed his most successful years. League record: Stockport 32., Southend 46 aps., Wrexham 266 aps., Chester 18 aps.

NIGEL EDWARDS (Defender)

Nigel has only recently regained the right-back spot. He came through the juniors a Sealord Road to take his place in the first-team in 1968/69. It took him a couple of years to earn a regular place.

League record: Chester 279 (9) aps., 15 gls., Rotherham (loan) nil aps.

TREVOR STORTON (Defender)

Trevor can also play in the forward line but, even as a defender, he still likes to score goals - he has four to his credit this season. Discovered by Tranmere Rovers, Trevor moved on to Liverpool for £25,000 in 1972. League record: Tranmere 112(6) aps., 8 gls; Liverpool 5 aps., Chester 160 aps., 10 gls.

BOB DELGADO (Defender)

Bob began at Luton but did not get into their first-team. Bob then spent just over two-years at Carlisle and, after a loan period with Workington, he moved on to Rotherham United where he won a firm place.

League record: Luton nil aps; Carlisle 23 (10) aps, 3 gls; Workington (loan) 7 aps., Rotherham 69 (1) aps., 5 gls; Chester 102 (3) aps., 7 gls.

JIM WALKER (Defender)

Jim is now holding down the left-back position but he can also play in midfield. His varied career started with Derby where he made his League debut in their Second Division days of 1967/68.

League record: Derby 35 (6) aps., 3 gls; Brighton 24 (4) aps., 4 gls; Peterborough 20 (11) aps., 1 gl; Chester 62 aps., 1 gl.

PAUL RAYNOR (Defender)

Paul developed in the club's junior team and made his League debut at Crystal Palace in September 1976. In recent weeks he has filled both full-back positions.

League record: Chester 38 aps.

CHESTER F.C. — BRIEF HISTORY

Like so many other Clubs Chester F.C. came into being as a result of the uniting of two local Clubs. After a successful start on the Roodee (Home of the Chester Race Meeting to this day) Chester Rovers moved to a field in a Chester suburb known as the Bishop's Field. Playing on an adjacent pitch was another club of repute known as Kings School Old Boys and at the end of season 1884/5 these two Clubs decided to join forces to form Chester Football Club. The newly formed Club commencing playing 'Friendlies' though some of the games apparently warranted this description. The First known professional of the Club was a gentleman named Arthur Turner who was bought out of the Army for £25 at the turn of the century. Chester F.C. were one of the founders of the Football Combination consisting mainly of Lancashire clubs and won the championship of this League in 1908/9. The previous season we had carried off both the Welsh and Cheshire Cups. In 1910 we joined the Lancashire combination and remained members of this League until the outbreak of war in 1914.

Following the cessation of hostilities we joined the Cheshire League but it was not until season 1929/30 when the late Mr. Charles Hewitt joined the club as Manager that the Club became really professional. He got together a team of All Stars including Scottish and Irish Internationals and Frankie Cresswell, brother of 'Warney' who was probably the best inside forward to wear Chester colours. His career unfortunately was cut short through a serious injury. Though the team did not win the Cheshire League championship interest had been stimulated and in 1931 we applied for membership of the Division III North of the Football League. We were admitted on a second ballot defeating Nelson for membership. We remained members of Division III North, finishing runners up in 1935/36, until the formation of the Third and Fourth Divisions in 1958/59 when we found ourselves in the Fourth Division. 1964/5 proved an exciting season when we registered our highest League goals tally notching 119 goals but could only finish in eighth position.

Season 1974/5 however proved a most exciting campaign. We had a magnificent run in the Football League Cup beating Walsall, Blackpool, Preston,

Leeds and Newcastle but in the two leg Semi Final, following a 2-2 draw at Chester, we lost by the odd goal in five at Aston Villa who went on to win the Cup. Compensation for that defeat was the winning of promotion to the Third Division pipping Lincoln City on goal average for fourth position.

Last season a Cup was presented by the National Stores Firm Debenhams for those Third and Fourth Division and Non League Clubs participating in the F.A. Cup and the two teams making most progress in the competition qualified for the Final of the Debenhams Cup played on a two leg basis. Port Vale and ourselves progressed to the fifth round of the F.A. Cup and in the first leg at Port Vale we lost 2-0 but made up the deficit in the second leg at Chester winning 4-1 and the 4-3 aggregate in our favour ensured our name on the trophy as the first winners of this competition.

Record attendance at the 'Stadium' is 20500 against Chelsea in the F.A. Cup in January 1952 but record receipts were recorded in the League Cup Semi Final against Aston Villa in January 1975 when 19000 spectators paid £15854 to watch the tie.

MARK NICKEAS (Defender)

Mark grew up with Plymouth Argyle but he didn't make the League team at Home Park. He moved to Chester in 1975 and has made quite a few appearances in their senior team. A few weeks ago he was filling in at right-back and centre-back.

League record: Plymouth nil aps., Chester 12 (1) aps.

ALAN OAKES (Player/Manager)

Alan spent 17 seasons as a Manchester City first-teamer, participating in all their great successes from the time they rose out of the Second Division to win some of the game's top honours, the League Championship, the European Cup-Winners' Cup, the F.A. Cup and the League Cup. League record: Manchester City 562 (3) aps., 26 gls, Chester 77 aps.

RON PHILLIPS (Midfield/Forward)

Chester signed Ron from Bury at the beginning of this season and he has scored four goals for his new club. Ron was for several years a prominent member of the Bolton team until he moved on to Bury in 1975. League record: Bolton 135 (9) aps., 17 gls; Chesterfield (loan) 5 aps., Bury 68(4) aps., 5 gls; Chester 29 aps., 4 gls.

DOUG LIVERMORE (Midfield)

Doug arrived only a few weeks ago from Cardiff City and has taken over one of the midfield positions. He developed in the electrifying atmosphere at Liverpool and made his League debut in 1967/68.

League record: Liverpool 13 (2) aps Norwich 113(1) aps., 4 gls; Bournemouth (loan) 10 aps; Cardiff 84 (4) aps., 5 gls; Chester 18 aps., 3 gls.

IAN MELLOR (Forward)

Ian joined several other Manchester City "old boys" when his transfer from Brighton was completed last month. He made his bow in Manchester's League team in 1970/71 but was transferred to Norwich. League record: Manchester City 36 (4) aps., 7 gls; Norwich 28 (1) aps., 2 gls; Brighton 116 (6) aps, 31 gls., Chester 4 aps., 1 gl.

PAUL CROSSLEY (Forward)

Rochdale gave Paul his chance in League football in 1965/66 but the following season saw him move on to Preston. Next came a spell with Southport, then a full transfer to Tranmere Rovers in 1969. League record: Rochdale 17 aps., 2 gls; Preston 3 aps; Southport (loan) 10 aps, 2 gls, Tranmere 186 (17) aps., 37 gls; Chester 89 aps 24 gls

John Ward talks to Danny Williams

When I arrived Danny Williams was studying a list of penalty points clocked up by Swindon players for being booked or sent off. He began to complain about the bookings of Chris Kamara the previous Saturday for what had certainly only seemed a clumsy tackle. Did he take any steps to try and stop the points mounting up? "If it's dissent they're fined straight away. They all know it. I won't stand rabbiting back. "Danny doesn't mince words. They come tumbling out rough hewn like coal from the Yorkshire coalface where he worked before he became a footballer. And he leaves no doubt as to who is in charge: on the telephone to a scout in Kent he was disparaging about the situation at Millwall earlier in the season when a three man players' committee had been selecting the team. "Soon they'll be trying to run the clubs like the unions. A manager has got to show who's master from the word go". He can't keep up this tough, serious line for long though. He is soon joking away and reminiscing with a marvellous knack of making one feel that in spite of the hundred and one more important things he ought to be doing he really enjoys being asked a whole lot of questions about his "life history" as he calls it.

When Danny left school near Rotherham at the age of fourteen a number of famous clubs in the south were keen to sign him; Arsenal for example wanted him to go to their nursery club, Margate, but his father unable to work because of a mining illness and a family of eight to support it was necessary for the young Danny Williams to find work on the doorstep. The choice was between the pit and the steelworks "but you only got in the steelworks if you knew someone so I went down the pit."

There was no organised football for the next two years although Danny kept in practice on the pit top. Nobody then seemed interested in arranging matches for boys aged 14 - 16 in marked contrast with today but when Danny started playing for the pit at sixteen back came the scouts and at seventeen he signed for Rotherham. For ten years he combined football with being a miner; the War was on so it was down the pit at five thirty a.m. On Saturdays he finished at twelve noon ready for the match at three. He was allowed two Saturdays a month off for away games but it was down the pit again on Sunday morning.

In his mid-thirties towards the end of his playing career he helped with the coaching and at thirty seven became manager at Rotherham. He built up a good team but as fast as he produced outstanding players the Board sold them. There were other differences of opinion over players, over Ken Wagstaff for example, whom some may remember as Hull City's fair-haired and portly but prolific goalscorer: "We had him on the groundstaff at fifteen but the Chairman found him drunk in the hedge-row so he had to go", said Danny sadly. Eventually Danny Williams left too, rejecting an offer to become chief scout for Hull City, where several of his best players had gone, for a premature retirement in Bournemouth in the hope that the southern air would be kinder to his wife's indifferent health. "In the south the birds sing; in the north they cough," he once remarked.

In 1964 a friend telephoned him in Bournemouth to say that Swindon were looking for a manager to succeed Bert Head. Danny wavered: he was not even sure where Swindon was in relation to Bournemouth. Eventually he applied and began the partnership that led to Wembley and the Second Division. Why then did he leave for Sheffield Wednesday? "Security for the family," was the reply. "I was on a year to year contract with Swindon. I've never been a money grabber but Wednesday offered me a very good contract and Eric Taylor, the secretary, had been a pal all my life." But again he had difficulties in getting a free hand with the playing side. "I made £500,000 by selling players but could spend £180,000. I could have had Derek Dougan but the Board wouldn't let me because he had the reputation of being a rebel and was the union man." There followed a short interlude as manager of Mansfield before he was invited back to Swindon in 1974.

I asked what were the main changes he had seen come over the game during his time as a manager. "Set pieces," he said. "So many goals nowadays come from set pieces. And running to create spaces. It's inevitable, like the tractor's taken over from the horse and cart. "Would he be prepared to name the best player he had ever had at Swindon? I sat back to wait for the inevitable Don Rogers. But I was wrong: at least his was only the third name to spring to mind. The first was a surprise but on

reflection has told me a lot about Danny Williams's priorities. "Stan Harland was a great captain." Another pause. "John Smith was a good player." An even longer pause and only then "and of course Don Rogers. No, but there have been so many good in their different ways. It depends on what you are looking for."

I said that he obviously considered that the captain's job was important if he singled out Stan Harland. "Vital," said Danny. "You see he has to make the same points as the manager to the players but he can put it over in a nicer way." Had his methods changed since the first time he was at Swindon? "Before I used to do the lot. I had no coach, only a scout and a very good one too, Jack Conley. Now I've got Jack Smith maybe I don't do so much coaching. I concentrate on planning but we share everything out. On Wednesdays I may take the stamina training; or sometimes I take the kids. You have to be ready to do anything, buying and selling players, meeting parents, listening to players' moans. 'Dealing and squealing'. that's a manager's job."

If proof of this were needed the three phone calls Danny took during the interview bore this out: he agreed that two players should attend a local presentation ceremony. He agreed to help find digs for a player his scout in Kent was sending for a trial and Swindon Viewpoint rang to say that they were ready for his weekly television interview. "Eight times what I paid for him. That's what I've been offered for one player," he said proudly. "Squealing and dealing, that's what it's all about."

I had been saving up for what turned out to be my stupidest question: is there anyone in the game to whom you go for advice if things are going wrong? Danny started. Just for a moment I thought I was in for the sort of verbal lashing reserved for shirkers, cowards and players who don't do what they are told. Then a great big grin spread over his face.

"Nay, lad but there's plenty of the young ones get on to me, like Arthur Cox of Chesterfield, Arfon Griffiths of Wrexham and John Benson of Bournemouth." The man from Viewpoint arrived and Danny went off chuckling for another episode in the daily round of squealing and dealing.

Wrexham goalkeeper Eddie Nieczwiecki dives at the feet of Swindon's Chris Kamara to stop a dangerous Town attack at the County Ground on Tuesday.



FOR THE RECORD

11th March v Port Vale (Div III)

Allan, McLaughlin, Ford, Carter, Aiz lewood, Prophet, Moss, Kamara, Guthrie, McHale, Bates.

1st March v Wrexham (Div III)

Allan, McLaughlin, Ford, Stroud, Carter, Prophet, Moss, Kamara, Guthrie, McHale, Bates.

11th March v Tottenham Hotspur (Football Combination)

Roberts, Norman, Trollope, Collicutt, Hatter, Walker, Barry, Gilligan, Brinkworth, French, Cox.

15th March v Cardiff City (Football Combination) Lost 1 - 2

Roberts, Norman, Trollope, Collicutt, Lewis, (Cox), Walker, Gilligan, Brinkworth, French, Cunningham, Barry (Scorer Gilligan)

13th March - Northampton Town (Midland Youth) Won 2 - 0

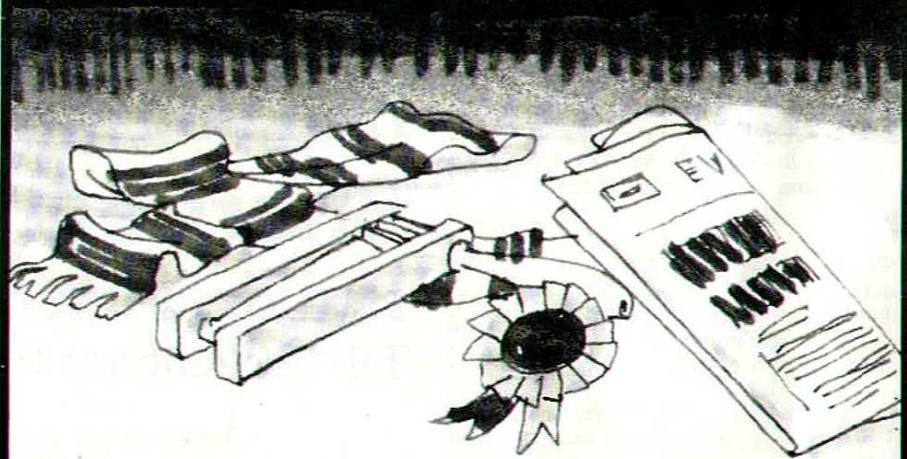
Lymer, Norman, Walker, Henry, Barr, (Barry), Collicutt, Gilligan, Walters, Allan, Forsyth, Cox. (Scorers Gilligan, Walters)

THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Table of Results to Tuesday, 14th March 1978
(Not inclusive)

	Pld	Won	Dwn	Lost	Goals		Pts.
					For	Agst	
Tottenham Hotspur	31	16	11	4	61	30	43
Norwich City	32	16	10	6	43	30	42
West Ham Utd.	30	16	8	6	56	30	40
Ipswich Town	29	17	5	7	56	26	39
Southampton	29	18	2	9	57	27	38
O.P.Rangers	30	13	11	6	52	30	37
Leicester City	32	16	5	11	47	40	37
Chelsea	30	13	9	8	51	28	35
Hereford Utd.	30	14	4	12	49	52	32
Plymouth Argyle	29	13	5	11	42	36	31
Crystal Palace	30	12	7	11	41	38	31
Bristol Rovers	27	12	6	9	39	41	30
Arsenal	30	10	8	12	36	34	28
Fulham	30	8	10	12	33	40	26
Oxford Utd.	32	9	7	16	35	50	25
Bristol City	27	7	10	10	38	47	24
Birmingham City	29	6	11	12	27	33	23
Luton Town	29	8	5	16	42	62	21
Swindon Town	27	7	5	15	34	62	19
Cardiff City	29	5	8	16	26	53	18
Orient	30	4	8	18	21	52	16
Reading	28	5	5	18	22	64	15

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The Evening Advertiser

Spotlight on Division 3

By Tony Pullein

NOW WREXHAM GO FOR THE BIG ONE!

Wrexham's Wembley dreams may have been shattered by Arsenal last Saturday but, now they are out of the F.A. Cup, they are determined to go for an even bigger prize in their eyes... promotion to the Second Division. And the good news for player-manager Arfon Griffiths this weekend is that they are almost certain now to achieve that objective!

All Wrexham have to do is continue to obtain similar results until the end of the season and they will end up handsome champions of the Third Division. After their tragic miss last season, they will fully deserve their success.

The following tables indicates how the leading clubs have been faring in their most recent three home and away League games.

	Home			Away			Pts				
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts					
Preston	3	0	0	10	3	1	1	4	3	9	
Wrexham	2	1	0	4	2	1	2	0	4	3	9
Walsall	2	1	0	9	3	2	0	1	3	2	9
Cambridge	2	1	0	5	1	1	1	1	3	4	8
Bury	1	2	0	3	0	1	0	2	7	6	6
Swindon	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	3	6
Chester	1	2	0	4	3	0	2	1	3	4	6
Peterb'r'gh	2	0	1	4	3	0	2	1	0	1	6
Tranmere	1	1	1	3	3	0	2	1	1	1	6
Gillingham	1	1	1	4	6	0	1	2	2	5	4

If the leaders continue to pick up points at a similar rate for the remainder of the season, Wrexham will finish runaway leaders with 65 points. Their promotion companions will be Cambridge and Preston who will both achieve 61 points.

There will then be a gap of four points between Walsall, the fourth club.

There is still time, of course, for the other challengers to change the situation by improving their own results. And the big worry for Wrexham must be if they will collapse again as they did last year.

With five games to play they were second, five points ahead of the fourth club Crystal Palace. Yet Wrexham gained only two more points and were beaten by Palace by one point.

Wrexham went out of the Cup so bravely, they had one goal disallowed and the home fans were justifiably chanting "Lucky Arsenal" at the end of the game.

But Dixie McNeil maintained his extraordinary record of scoring in each of Wrexham's nine F.A. Cup ties this season when he equalised in the 65th minute. McNeil now seems certain to finish top F.A. Cup scorer with 11 goals.

At the moment he is also the overall leader in the Third Division:

McNeil (Wrexham) (includes 4 for Hereford)	16	1	11	28
Buckley (Walsall)	21	1	4	26
Bruce (Preston)	22	1	1	24
Biley (Cambridge)	19	1	2	22
Kemp (Carlisle) (all for Portsmouth)	16	3	2	21
Shinton (Walsall)	13	2	4	19
Price (Gillingham)	17	1	-	18
Westwood (Gillingham)	16	1	1	18
Foley (Oxford)	16	2	-	18

Portsmouth's chances of avoiding the drop into Division Four appear to be diminishing each week as they fail to halt their bleak spell. Their 0-0 draw at Bury was a fine performance but Pompey desperately need to win some matches. But they haven't picked up two points from any game since January 2 when they beat Bradford City 3-1. Since then they've played 11 league games without a win.

CHESTER

By Tony Pullein

Chester now seem assured of a safe position in the table, thanks to a large degree to their capacity for playing drawn games. Their 1-1 draw at Sheffield Wednesday last week was their fourth successive draw and their 18th in League games this season - just four short of the all-time record.

Though Chester have yet to win away from home this season, they have drawn 11 of their 18 away League games - at Bradford City (2-2), Carlisle (0-0), Portsmouth (0-0), Rotherham (1-1), Bury (1-1), Peterborough (0-0), Exeter (1-1), Hereford (2-2), Cambridge (0-0), Plymouth (2-2) and Sheffield Wednesday (1-1).

Chester were beaten at Colchester (0-2), Oxford (1-4), Tranmere (0-5), Preston (1-2), Lincoln (1-2), Walsall (0-3) and Gillingham (0-1).

Player-manager Alan Oakes, who took over at the beginning of last season, has made many changes in the side and has gathered around him one or two of his old Manchester City colleagues.

His latest ex-City recruit is forward Ian Mellor, whose transfer from Brighton was completed last month. He joins Mr. Oakes and Derek Jeffries, his former Maine Road colleagues.

The manager has made many other significant signings. At the beginning of the season he signed Wrexham's Welsh international goalkeeper Brian Lloyd and former Derby full-back Jim Walker.

Other experienced newcomers this season are midfield players Ron Phillips, a one-time Bolton player, and Doug Livermore, who gained much First Division experience with Liverpool and Norwich.

Last season he signed forward Ian Edwards from West Bromwich and this season Edwards won his first Welsh cap.

Chester became the last of the Fourth Division's founder members to gain

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promotion when they took fourth place in 1975, scraping through on goal-average, thus ending a 17-year spell in the lowest division.

The man who guided the club to that success - their first-ever promotion campaign - was manager Ken Roberts. Yet, soon after taking their place in Division Three, Mr. Roberts was dismissed and his work was taken over by Alan Oakes, who continues to fill the dual capacity of player and manager. Last season Mr. Oakes aimed for consolidation and achieved his objective by finishing 13th in the table. The club seems likely to finish in a similar position this term though, judging upon the quality of players now in the side, it is likely that next season Chester could be challenging strongly for promotion.

They have never played in the Second Division. The club was formed in 1884 and played in the Cheshire League before gaining election to the Football League Division Three (North) in 1931. Their first League season was one of their best on record - they finished third.

In 1935 promotion eluded them by a mere three points and a year later they finished runners-up to Chesterfield in the days when only one club went up. For most of the while in those early days Chester maintained a position in the top half of the table without ever being able to pull out that little extra to win promotion.

Indeed, the club had to wait until 1975 before celebrating its first promotion.

After one good post-war season the club went into decline and 1954 found them in bottom place, applying for re-election for the first time. Bottom again the following season, they were again retained.

Further applications for re-admission in 1957 and 1958 put the club's future in the Football League in some doubt. This was around the time when clubs like Peterborough United were making such a strong bid for admission so no one could go to the League's AGM with any degree of confidence of being re-elected.

By finishing bottom in 1958 Chester automatically became founder members of the Fourth Division. And this precipitated another major crisis. Three further consecutive applications for re-election in the early 'sixties were accompanied by acute financial problems.

So the club faced elimination on two counts.

Chester were more than a little fortunate to hold their place in 1962 when, but for the disbandment of Accrington Stanley, it might have been Chester who would have made way for Oxford United.

Another re-election campaign was survived in 1968 but by 1971 they had recovered sufficiently to make a fine promotion drive, missing out by only one point to York.

Chester finally succeeded in gaining promotion for the first time in 1975.



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- 9 GUTHRIE C.
- 10 McHALE R.
- 11 BATES C.

at 7.30p.m.

**REFEREE:**

MR. ROGER KIRKPATRICK (Leicester)
Started refereeing in 1949 in Leicester local leagues and via the Southern League was included in the Football League referees list in 1966. Refereed the 1972/73 F.A. Youth Cup Final and the National Association of Youth Clubs Cup Final last year.

A married man, with two sons, he is a Franchise Consultant. Is keen on all aspects of physical fitness, playing golf, squash and five-a-side soccer. Gives a lot of his spare time to youth soccer. Is President of the Leicestershire Saturday Teens League.

CHESTER

- 1 LLOYD B.
- 2 LOYNOR P.
- 3 WALKER J.
- 4 NICKEAS M.
- 5 DELGADO B.
- 6 OAKES A.
- 7 CROSSLEY G.
- 8 LIVERMORE D.
- 9 EDWARDS I.
- 10 MELLOR I.
- 11 PHILLIPS R.

Linesmen: Red Flag: MR. D. G. MITCHAM - HIGH WYCOMBE Yellow Flag: MR. B. N. PIKE - YEOVIL

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Tuesday 21st March - 7.30 p.m.

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