



OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE 15p

SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

SWINDON TOWN
v

COLCHESTER UNITED

Swindon Town Football Co Limited

Registered Office County Ground
Swindon

Telephone No. 22118
President Mr. W. J. Castle
Directors

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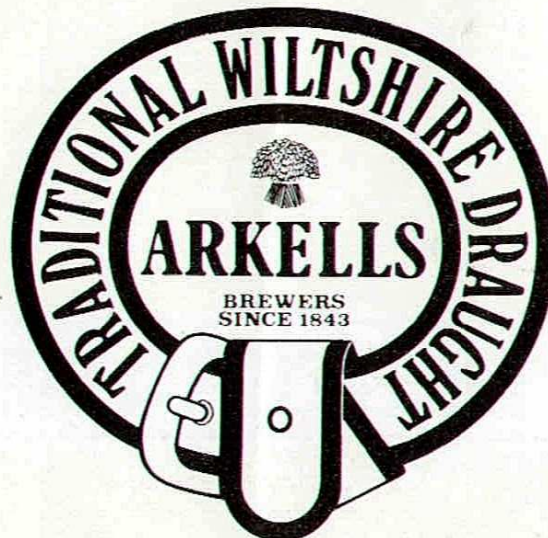
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WOULDN'T A PINT GO DOWN WELL TONIGHT?



Bits and Pieces

The Colchester United Club dates from 1937, succeeding an amateur side known as Colchester Town.

United played in the Southern League which included, at that time, Ipswich Town. Over thirty-six thousand people saw the two games between these local clubs, before Ipswich joined the Third Division in 1938.

Colchester won the Southern League championship in the last pre-war season.

United's achievement in reaching the F.A. Cup Fifth Round as a non-league club in 1948 was instrumental in attaining Football League status for Colchester two years later. In that Cup run home ties saw victories over Banbury Spencer, Wrexham, Huddersfield Town (then in the First Division) and Bradford Park Avenue of the Second Division. United eventually fell to finalists Blackpool by five goals to nil.

The following season, Colchester received Reading in the First Round draw and a record gate of 19,072 turned up to see if United could reverse the 5 - 0 defeat handed out at Elm Park two years previously. However, Reading triumphed again, 4 - 2, and the Southern League banner was carried again to the Fifth Round, but this time by a club which still awaits a Football League place - Yeovil Town.

In 1950 the League was extended from 88 to the present 92 clubs by the addition of two each to the regional Third Divisions. Scunthorpe United and Shrewsbury Town went into the northern section and Gillingham (previously in the League until 1938) and Colchester United joined the southern.

United struggled in the lower reaches of the Third Division but finished in third position in 1957, just one point

behind champions Ipswich Town and second-placed Torquay United.

When the split of the regional Third Divisions was made in 1958, Colchester just managed to stay in the top half of the table, thus qualifying for the new Third. Early in the season United had suffered a 0 - 7 defeat against old enemies Reading.

Ron Meades was manager of Colchester United for the shortest period ever recorded. His term of office lasted exactly one day! He was replaced by the former England centre-half Neil Franklin.

Colchester slipped into the Fourth Division for the first time in 1961, but stayed only one season. A tally of 104 League goals was scored, which included those in a club record 9 - 1 victory over Bradford City. Bobby Hunt topped the Fourth Division scorers that season with 37. Martyn King, who scored more goals for Colchester than anyone, was close behind with 31. United finished as runners-up to Millwall.

In 1965, Colchester tumbled back into the Fourth but again it required only the minimal time to climb out. United squeezed into fourth place by virtue of a better goal average than Tranmere Rovers and Luton Town.

Colchester embarked on another long F. A. Cup run in 1971, scoring seventeen goals in disposing of Ringmer, Cambridge United, Barnet, Rochdale and Leeds United before going out to Everton at Goodison Park 0-5.

During 1973 two players came to Swindon from Colchester and one is still with us. John McLaughlin made his Town debut in 2 - 2 home draw with Orient on December 22. Will Dixon, who was only at Colchester

for a brief spell and did not play a League game for United, first turned out for Swindon at Bristol City on October 23, 1973. Although having considerable League experience at Reading, it was not until Will arrived here that he began to score goals. He hit ten in his 140 League appearances before joining Aldershot.



Ray Bunkell, with Colchester this season, made 56 League appearances for the Town and last wore the red shirt here against Middlesbrough on October 6, 1973.

Fact finder

CURRENT FORM - LAST FIVE SEASONS:

	DIV	P	W	D	L	F - A	Pts	Pos	Colchester		Lge Gate	TOP LEAGUE GOALSCORER
									Round Reached	Avg Home		
76-77	: 4	46	25	9	12	77 - 43	59	3rd	4th	1st	4,650	Bobby Gough 17
75-76	: 3	46	12	14	20	41 - 65	38	22nd	1st	1st	3,348	Steve Leslie 6
74-75	: 3	46	17	13	16	70 - 63	47	11th	2nd	5th	5,129	Bobby Svarc 24
73-74	: 4	46	24	12	10	73 - 36	60	3rd	1st	1st	5,427	Bobby Svarc 24
72-73	: 4	46	10	11	25	48 - 76	31	22nd	2nd	1st	3,232	Mick Mahon 12

COMPLETE FOOTBALL LEAGUE RECORD:

DIV	PLD	W	D	L	F - A	PTS
Three	: 460	145	124	191	652 - 780	414
Three South	: 368	119	99	150	518 - 614	337
Four	: 412	182	99	131	633 - 512	463
TOTAL	1240	446	322	472	1803 - 1906	1214 (to end of last season)

Talk of the Town

By the Chairman

Today we welcome the Players and Officials from Colchester United and we shall be hoping to get back on to our good scoring habits which our home supporters have grown to expect.

Our last few games at home with the exception of Oxford, when we did get three, has resulted in having long periods of the game without the end product of goals and this has been largely due to a bad run of the ball. Having played the top two teams in the League, Wrexham and Cambridge and in spite of having the majority of the play we have ended up with one point from the possible four, but this is what football is all about and I know that our lads have not given up hope of promotion even though we have been written off by many. There are many Clubs who would like to be in our position and not struggling for survival and we have known what this means. There is no divine right for any Club to play in any division of the League and such Clubs as Newcastle and Portsmouth both famous Clubs have this worry this season. It was sad reading that Mr. McClintock has resigned from the Managership of Leicester City after ten months of struggling to obtain a reasonable place

in the First Division. To be a Manager of a struggling Club must be one of the most worrying jobs one could have, because football teams are not built overnight and even buying the most expensive players is no guarantee that they will slot into a position. It is also difficult to convince your supporters that time will be the remedy, because after a couple of seasons waiting patiently and nothing happens many lose heart and stop away, but we have like many other Clubs a very loyal band of supporters and I am sure that they can see the light ahead which says that if it isn't to be this season that it should be the next.

Our youngsters have had a very busy week playing Leicester City Youth Team on the Shrivenham Road Ground, winning two goals to one and losing to Norwich two goals to nil away at Norwich. At Norwich we had the help of Kenny Stroud, Chic Bates and Micky French, but the remaining nine players were from our Youth team squad.

John Trollope was in charge of these teams and reported at the County Ground before eight in the morning to set off on the long journey to Norwich after playing against Cambridge the

night before. He really is putting some hours in now that he is doing two jobs. John I know was proud of the performance of his young side although losing 2 - 0 because Norwich fielded five first team players including players like Martin Peters and Jimmy Neighbour the former Spurs player and I must say our reserve side looked every bit as good as their first division opponents.

We are at home again on Tuesday evening next against Walsall, but our remaining six games are made up of five away and one at home.

Have you made sure of buying your lottery tickets yet, because there are a lot of our supporters I am sure would buy one if it was made easy for them to collect.

Enquire at our office the next time you are near the ground, we are waiting to give away thousands of pounds, so why not to you.

Hoping that you will enjoy today's game and thank you for your support.



Cambridge United goalkeeper Webster is challenged by Swindon's Chris Kamara (No. 8) as he punches clear a Town corner kick, with other Town players Colin Prophet (No. 6) and Chris Guthrie (right) waiting for a scoring chance during the County Ground draw.

From the COMMERCIAL OFFICE

Monday April 10th sees the fifth Lottery Draw at Whitley, Near Corsham, Wilts. We will be visiting various places each draw so if possible why not come along the venues are published on each Lottery Ticket.

With next season in mind we are looking for eight responsible people over 16 years old to sell our new tickets on match days only. Commission on all sales is payable. Apply to the Commercial Office if you are interested.

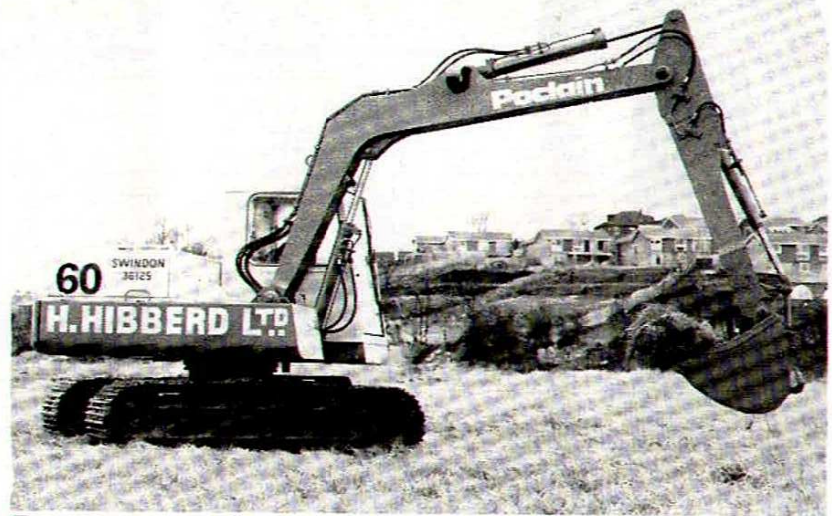
Our new Lottery Office opens next week. It is situated almost next door to the present Pools Office. We are having a new telephone installed plus a 24 Hour Answering Service. All agents will be notified of the new number as soon as it is available.

Good luck to Danny, Jack and the team today.

Our next five Lotteries will be held at:

Monday April 10th The Peartree, Whitley, Corsham
Monday April 24th The George, Fairford
Monday May 8th The Royal Arthur, Corsham
Monday May 15th Wroughton W. M. C.
Monday May 22nd R.B.L. Havelock Street

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DIVISION THREE LEAGUE TABLE up to and including Tuesday April 4, 1978

	Home				Away				Pts	High Low Lge Posns.	Lge. Avege.	Goals Best	Top Goalscorers	
	P	W	D	L	F-A	W	D	L						F-A
Wrexham	38	13	6	1	41-18	9	4	5	26-20	54	1st 18th	10446	19125	*Dixie McNeil 28(16)
Cambridge U.	41	16	3	1	44-10	4	8	9	22-36	51	1st 24th	5319	10998	Alan Biley 23(20)
Preston N.E.	40	15	4	2	42-17	3	10	6	12-16	50	1st 19th	8337	11920	Alex Bruce 25(23)
Gillingham	40	10	9	2	34-20	4	9	6	26-29	46	1st 15th	7247	10978	Ken Price 19(18)
Peterborough U.	38	11	7	1	26-11	5	7	7	9-14	46	2nd22nd	5639	10156	*Trevor Anderson 13(8), Tommy Robson 11(10)
Tranmere R.	40	12	5	3	35-16	3	8	9	15-25	43	1st 6th	4198	7280	Ronnie Moore 15(15)
Chester	40	10	8	1	31-20	1	13	7	16-31	43	7th 18th	4119	9514	Paul Crossley 13(9)
SWINDON TOWN	38	11	6	3	37-19	3	8	7	20-28	42	2nd17th	7592	11054	DAVE MOSS 21(15)
Walsall	39	9	7	3	27-14	4	9	7	19-26	42	5th 17th	5407	8341	Alan Buckley 27(22)
Bury	40	7	10	3	30-18	6	5	9	25-28	41	2nd14th	5218	9783	Andy Rowland 14(13)
Colchester U.	40	10	8	2	34-14	4	5	11	16-28	41	1st 13th	4639	6447	Bobby Gough 17(13)
Chesterfield	38	11	6	2	27-10	3	6	10	17-28	40	1st 19th	5048	12395	Rod Fern 11(10)
Carlisle U.	40	8	8	4	27-24	3	9	8	22-28	39	11th 23rd	5502	11309	*Dave Lemp 23(18)
Shrewsbury T.	40	7	7	5	30-18	5	7	9	19-31	38	1st 15th	3621	6116	Ian Atkins 8(8), Sam Irvine 8(8)
Sheffield W.	39	10	6	3	23-12	2	7	11	19-34	37	13th 24th	11180	18803	Tommy Tynan 18(13)
Lincoln C.	40	7	8	5	26-22	5	5	10	17-30	37	13th 24th	4995	8811	Peter Graham 8(8)
Oxford U.	40	10	8	2	32-17	2	4	14	24-40	36	2nd18th	4769	8746	Peter Foley 20(18)
Exeter C.	40	9	6	4	24-15	3	6	12	16-38	36	2nd20th	5134	8334	Tony Kellow 15(12)
Port Vale	40	7	9	3	27-18	1	9	11	15-39	34	12th 23rd	3822	5136	Ken Beamish 13(10)
Rotherham U.	37	9	5	5	22-14	2	6	10	22-37	33	2nd23rd	5083	12630	Richard Finney 15(12)
Plymouth A	39	4	7	8	22-25	4	8	8	25-32	31	8th 23rd	6712	12635	Terry Austin 11(11)
Bradford C.	40	10	6	4	35-23	1	3	16	12-46	31	11th 24th	5183	12857	Bernie Wright 10(10)
Hereford U.	38	9	7	4	26-18	0	4	14	5-31	29	14th 24th	4727	6392	*Billy Holmes 9(7)
Portsmouth	41	4	10	7	28-33	1	6	13	7-35	26	13th 24th	9995	13152	*Colin Garwood 13(8)

*Dixie McNeil 4(3) goals for Hereford Utd. Trevor Anderson 9(4) goals for Swinton T. Dave Kemp 21(16) goals for Portsmouth
Billy Holmes 7(5) goals for Wimbledon Colin Garwood 12(7) goals for Colchester Utd. No. of League goals scored in brackets.

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	PLAYING STRIP £9.50	FOOTBALL BOOTS £16.00	TRACK SUIT £15.00	TRAINING BOOTS £13.00	
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Ray McHale 	Mr. Ron Clark, Barclays Bank, Old Town, Swindon				
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Chris Kamara 	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, Liddiards Green Ogbourne St. George Marlborough		
	Andy, Crook, Steven Crook. Rob Bell, Tim Taylor & Barry Lucas of Calne				 Andy Ford
Micky French 					
	Mr. S. Mahoney, 130, Lennox Drive, Walcot, Swindon.	Mr. & Mrs. E. Spearey 6, Wyvern Avenue, Calne, Wilts.		Miss. H. Deverill, 13, Longford Grove, Swindon	 Dave Cunningham
Kevin Roberts 					
	Stuart Bell, Steven Robins & Andrew Hughes of Calne.				 Chic Bates
Roy Carter 					

This form of sponsorship is of great value to the Club and we hope many more of you will offer to sponsor and join the players at a social evening next season.

Thank you

IN TOWN TODAY

MIKE WALKER (Goalkeeper) Mike was a one-time Reading reserve who commenced his League career with Shrewsbury but didn't get a regular game until transferring to York in 1966.

League record: Reading nil aps.; Shrewsbury 7 aps.; Yorks 60 aps.; Watford 137 aps.; Charlton (loan) 1 ap.; Colchester 218 aps.

MICHAEL COOK (Defender) Mike is one of Colchester's most successful discoveries in recent years. He has been a regular first-teamer since his debut in 1969/70 and was ever-present last season.

League record: Colchester 345 (4) aps., 13 gls.

STEVE LESLIE (Defender) Steve has been a member of the Colchester side since his debut in 1971 and two seasons ago he ended up by topping their scoring list — even though he only scored seven. Steve won England youth caps in his early days at Layer Road.

League record: Colchester 231 (13) aps., 34 gls.

MICKY PACKER (Defender) Micky arrived from Watford in 1973. He made his League debut for the Hornets in 1968/69 but, when he lost his place for a while, he went on loan to Crewe Alexandra.

League record: Watford 57(11) aps., 2 gls; Crewe (loan) 12 aps.; Colchester 178(5) aps., 11 gls.

JOHN WILLIAMS (Defender) John arrived at Layer Road in 1975 following a very long and successful run with Watford. He first won his way into the Hornets' League team in 1964/65 and in 1969 he won a Third Division championship medal with them.

League record: Watford 371(4) aps., 2 gls; Colchester 100 (1) aps., 1 gl.

PAUL DYER (Defender/Midfield) Paul was signed from Notts County in 1975. He didn't get many opportunities in Notts' League team. Indeed, all but one of his games were as substitute.

League record: Notts. Co. 1(6) aps.; Colchester 77(15) aps., 2 gls.

COLCHESTER UNITED



Back Row (L to R) : Mick Packer, Steve Foley, John Williams, Mike Walker, Steve Dowman, Bobby Hamilton, Steve Wright, John Froggatt, Colin Garwood.

Front Row (L to R) : Paul Dyer, Ian Allinson, Micky Cook, Bobby Gough, Steve Leslie, Ray Bunkell.

STEVE DOWMAN (Midfield) Steve enjoyed a very successful first campaign in League soccer when he contributed 12 goals to Colchester's promotion effort last term. He has been on target this season, with 6 goals so far.

League record: Colchester 69(3) aps., 16 gls.

STEVE FOLEY (Midfield) Steve served his apprenticeship with Colchester and made his first League appearance in 1971/72.

League record: Colchester 159(7) aps., 32 gls.

IAN ALLINSON (Midfield) Ian is another player to develop in Colchester's junior teams. He made his League debut three seasons ago and last season he really settled in and scored eight goals.

League record: Colchester 72(11) aps., 12 gls.

BOB GOUGH (Forward) Bob has never played better than he is at the moment! He is currently one of the Third Division's top scorers with 16 goals. Last season he came second in Colchester's list with 18.

League record: Walsall 1 ap.; Port Vale 188(21) aps., 33 gls.; Stockport (loan) 6 aps.; Southport 61 aps., 16 gls.; Colchester 100 aps., 34 gls.

TONY EVANS (Forward) Tony was still an apprentice when introduced to League football as substitute against Hereford last month. He has since signed full-time forms.

League record: Colchester 4(1) aps.

RAY BUNKELL (Midfield) Ray didn't get into the League team at Tottenham but he soon established himself after moving to Swindon in 1971. Colchester signed him in 1974. He is a former England youth cap.

League record: Tottenham nil aps., Swindon 52(4) aps., 3 gls.; Colchester 106(10) aps., 8 gls.

IN OPPOSITION

A STATISTICAL RECORD OF PAST MEETINGS BETWEEN SWINDON TOWN and COLCHESTER UNITED

Town's score shown first with every Swindon goalscorer and gate figures

At Swindon

Aug. 23	1950	1-1	Millar
Sep. 1	1951	2-1	Owen, Onslow
Jan. 17	1953	0-1	
Sep. 19	1953	3-0	Betteridge 2, own goal
Dec. 18	1954	1-1	McClelland
Oct. 22	1955	3-1	Micklewright 2, Owen
Apr. 27	1957	4-1	Micklewright 2, O'Mahoney 2
Nov. 2	1957	4-0	Micklewright, Edwards, Skull, Richards
Mar. 28	1959	2-0	Marshall, Darcy
Apr. 9	1960	4-3	Morgan, Summerbee, Gauld 2
Nov. 12	1960	0-2	
Apr. 13	1963	6-1	Summerbee, Stevens 3, Hunt 2
Sep. 6	1966	1-1	Rogers
Mar. 16	1968	1-1	Rogers
Nov. 30	1974	4-1	Moss 3 (2 pens), Eastoe
Sep. 27	1975	0-1	

At Colchester

15,690	Aug. 31	1950	1-4	Hudson	12,579
10,667	Dec. 29	1951	0-2		7,407
8,545	Sep. 6	1952	1-3	Betteridge	9,062
12,284	Feb. 6	1954	2-2	Owen, Sampson	6,824
5,254	Aug. 21	1954	0-0		9,767
6,373	Mar. 3	1956	0-5		6,836
9,600	Mar. 30	1957	1-1	Richards	9,275
14,198	Mar. 15	1958	3-1	Edwards, Richards, Kelly	9,241
9,987	Nov. 8	1958	0-1		8,001
7,342	Nov. 21	1959	0-0		6,537
11,782	Apr. 1	1961	1-3	Woodruff	3,182
12,159	May 6	1963	2-0	Smart 2	6,952
11,600	Sep. 26	1966	1-2	Penman	7,874
13,515	Oct. 21	1967	1-2	Penman	4,907
10,072	Mar. 4	1975	0-2		4,041
5,750	Apr. 6	1976	2-1	Anderson (pen.), Syrett	2,694

Summary of League Games:

	W	D	L	F-A
At County Ground	9	4	3	36-16
At Layer Road	3	4	9	15-29
TOTAL	12	8	12	51-45

(Not including this season)

Football League Cup

Sep. 8	1971	1-4	Horsfield	7,437
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Fourth International Programme Fair & Exhibition

Saturday 3rd June 1978

The Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London W.C.2.
(three mins walk from Holborn Underground Station)

10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Admission at door 40p

Advance tickets 25p available from 66 Southend Road, Wickford, Essex (encl SAE)

Thousands of programmes for sale from a fewpence to many pounds as well as a display of rare programmes and football curios.



Swindon's Chris Guthrie (No. 9) leaps to head goalwards during the Town's search for a goal against Cambridge United at the County Ground.

The Wantage Silver Band

Before today's match and at half-time, we are to be entertained by the Wantage Silver Band.

The Wantage Silver Band was formed about five years ago as a children's band. Since then it has grown into an organisation with well over a hundred playing members, including over twenty adults, and together they form three basic bands, a training band and a beginner's group. The players also regroup to form additional bands, such as the Youth Band, Show Band etc., for specific occasions. All the members, except the very beginners, take part in engagements and concerts to raise money for the Band, or to aid other local organisations or charities. Another important part of band life are contests. The 'A' Band has been particularly successful in the six contests that they entered this year, winning some and gaining high marks in the others.

Instruments (even second hand ones) are very expensive and the Band has to hire halls for nine rehearsals every week. These expenses are met by subscriptions from members, fees from playing at fetes etc., profits from dances and other social events, concerts, Christmas carolling etc.

The Band has now started a building fund in order to build a rehearsal hall in Wantage. Today's collection will go towards this fund.

The band, volunteers from the 'A', 'B' and 'C' Bands, hope that you will enjoy their playing today.

THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION

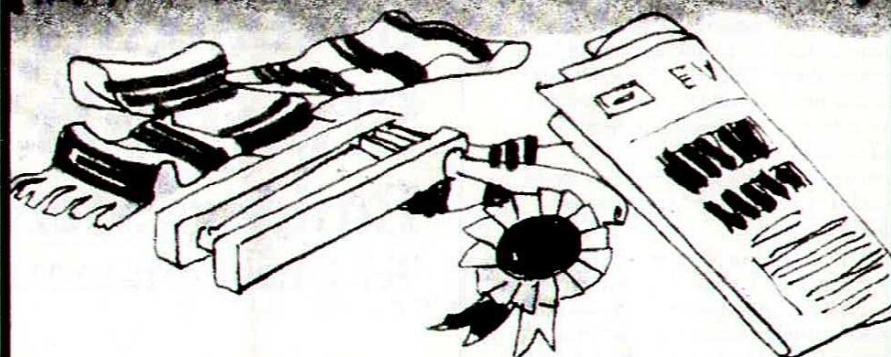
Table of Results to Monday, 3rd April, 1978
(Not inclusive)

	Pld	Won	Dwn	Lost	Goals		Pts.
					For	Agst	
Norwich City	35	18	11	6	51	32	47
Tottenham H.	34	17	12	5	68	40	46
Ipswich T.	34	20	5	9	65	30	45
Chelsea	36	17	10	9	62	30	44
West Ham U.	33	17	10	6	59	32	44
Southampton	33	20	3	10	62	30	43
Leicester City	35	18	5	12	55	44	41
Q.P.R.	34	14	12	8	59	36	40
Plymouth A.	32	15	6	11	44	36	36
Arsenal	35	12	10	13	43	36	34
Bristol R.	32	14	6	12	45	47	34
Hereford U.	32	15	4	13	51	55	34
Crystal Pal.	33	12	8	13	42	43	32
Oxford Utd.	35	10	9	16	40	50	29
Fulham	31	9	10	12	34	40	28
Bristol City	32	8	11	13	44	58	27
Luton Town	34	9	8	17	48	72	26
Birmingham C.	31	6	12	13	28	37	24
Swindon T.	32	7	7	18	38	72	21
Cardiff C.	31	6	8	17	29	57	20
Orient	33	4	10	19	22	58	18
Reading	33	6	5	22	26	79	17

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The Evening Advertiser

Spotlight on Division 3

WREXHAM LOSE McNEIL

By Tony Pullein

Wrexham's top scorer Dixie McNeil seems certain to miss the remainder of the season through injury. Dixie had scored 24 goals since his £60,000 transfer from Hereford at the beginning of this season and it is believed he has aggravated an old injury which threatened to keep him out of action for the exciting run-in for promotion. Though Bobby Shinton and Graham Whittle have both been scoring well during McNeil's absence, the Welsh side did miss their goals hero at Gillingham last Saturday where they dropped their first point in eight games in a goalless draw. Indeed, they might have lost had not Gillingham striker Ken Price been so over-enthusiastic in the early minutes of the game.

John Crabbe "scored" for Gillingham in the seventh minute but his effort was ruled out because Price had fouled the Wrexham goalkeeper in a goal-mouth tussle as the ball was netted. Wrexham manager Arfon Griffiths, while not in any way publicly pronouncing that he thinks promotion is now a certainty, is already planning to strengthen his side for its Second Division debut next season. One of his first signings is likely to be his former colleague in the Welsh national team, Malcolm Page, the Birmingham defender or midfield player.

Wrexham's visit drew Gillingham's best crowd of the season (10,978) and created a little piece of history in that, for the first time, a club director commented for his own team on television. Brian Moore, ITV's top commentator, has been a director of Gillingham for three years and, for the first time, he was asked to cover his own club in this vital promotion battle.

Another of the Third Division leaders was also featured on television last weekend --- Preston North End. When it was known, a couple of weeks ago, that the BBC would be taking in their cameras for this match a club spokesman told me: "I don't know whether we should be pleased or not. We like the publicity of seeing our team on the screen, of course, but the TV cameras do seem to place a jinx on us. Our last two televised games were goalless draws."

Well, Preston would have been pleased with just such a result last weekend. It would have been better than the 1 - 0 defeat inflicted upon them at Peterborough --- who still have an outside chance of promotion.

It was Preston's first home defeat since last September while Peterborough extended their unbeaten run to eight matches.

Bradford City's Don Hutchins has done Portsmouth two bad turns over the past few weeks. Firstly, he refused to sign for them shortly before the transfer deadline; then, last Saturday, he fired home the only goal of the game for Bradford against Pompey some 20 minutes from the end. Bradford City were one of the teams Pompey really needed to beat to have any chance of escaping relegation. Now their cause looks hopelessly lost.

Meanwhile, another once famous First Division club Sheffield Wednesday, seems to have pulled safely away from the relegation zone. Their 1 - 0 win at Hereford was their fourth in succession.

Carlisle United conceded three goals in the last half-hour of their home match with Bury and lost 0 - 3. Peter Farrell, playing only his second game of the season for Bury, has scored in both of them. Carlisle have now lost three games in a row --- not a happy send-off for secretary David Dent who, after 17 years at Brunton Park, has landed the plum job as secretary to First Division Coventry City.

Largely due to Mr. Dent's expert handling of their affairs, Carlisle have consistently shown a profit over the years --- a rare event for club living on the modest gates they get at Brunton Park.

Chester now need to draw just one of their remaining seven League games to equal the Football League record of 22 drawn games in a season.

Shrewsbury, who have not won a home game this year, chalked up their second away victory during the same period with their shock 2 - 1 win at Colchester.

COLCHESTER UTD

By Tony Pullein

Colchester established themselves as serious challengers for promotion until the half-way stage of the season. Then, for some inexplicable reason, they seemed to blow up and, if they had not already done so, they finally said farewell to their last faint hope when they were beaten at home by Shrewsbury last Saturday.

It was after their promotion hopes had begun to wane that manager Bobby Roberts agreed to sell two of his regular forwards. John Froggatt moved on to Port Vale for £10,000 and Colin Garwood --- top scorer with 24 goals last season and second-highest with 12 this term --- was sold to Portsmouth for £25,000.

Mr. Roberts then invested a club record £15,000 fee in Darlington forward Eddie Rowles who settled in nicely with some valuable goals. But, in only his ninth match for his new club, Rowles had the misfortune to break an ankle and will, of course, be out for the remainder of the season.

With the transfer deadline then having passed, there was no chance of going outside for a replacement so the manager gave an unexpectedly early chance to apprentice Tony Evans who has been playing regularly in the attack for the past few weeks.

Colchester's top scorer is Bobby Gough who has scored 16 times this season. But like all strikers at some time or another, Gough has been going through one of those frustratingly barren spells. Unless he ended the sequence in mid-week, Gough has not scored since mid-January.

Colchester have won four away League games this season --- at Gillingham (3 - 3 - 1), Carlisle (3 - 1), Sheffield Wednesday (2 - 1) and Bradford City (2 - 1).

They drew at Portsmouth (0 - 0),

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Chesterfield (0 - 0), Bury (1 - 1), Plymouth 1 - 1 and Lincoln (0 - 0). They were beaten at Tranmere (0 - 1), Rotherham (0 - 1), Cambridge (0 - 2), Walsall (2 - 4), Wrexham (1 - 2), Shrewsbury (0 - 1), Chester (1 - 2), Preston (0 - 4), Hereford (0 - 1), Oxford (0 - 3) and Peterborough (0 - 1).

Colchester United still rank among the younger members of the Football League. The club was not formed until 1937 when they went straight into the Southern League.

Thanks largely to a sensational F.A. Cup run in 1947/48 - - - when they beat First Division Huddersfield and Second Division Bradford P. A. - - - their name registered and, when the League was extended in 1950, Colchester were elected to one of the vacancies in the Third Division (South)

They struggled a bit at first and in 1954 and 1955 they were forced to apply for re-election. Then, quite suddenly, their fortunes looked up. They seemed assured of promotion to the Second Division in 1957 when, with only a month to go, they led the table by four points. Alas, they couldn't quite last the pace and they eventually missed by one point.

Colchester scraped into the newly formed national Third Division in 1958 but it was only three years before they dropped down into Division Four.

They battled their way back at the first attempt, only to suffer relegation again in 1965. History repeated itself for Colchester again won immediate promotion.

But when they were relegated again in 1968 it took them six years to get back. Yet, when relegation overtook them again in 1976, they once more bounced back at the first attempt.

Last season turned out to be tremendously exciting after a dismal start. They climbed into the top four places by November and were rarely out of the promotion bracket after that.

Even so it wasn't until after their final game that they were assured of promotion. Swansea could still have overtaken them by winning their final game.

And there was nail-biting right up to the whistle. For though Colchester led Bradford City, who were already assured of promotion, by 2 - 1 at half-time, news filtered through that Swansea were leading 3 - 0 at Cambridge.

Colchester held on to keep the score at 2 - 1 to earn back their Third Division status.

They also enjoyed a good run to the fourth round of the F.A. Cup when they held Derby to a 1 - 1 at Layer Road and only lost the replay narrowly (0 - 1) at Derby.



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8th

APRIL

1978

SWINDON

1. Allan J
2. McLaughlin J
3. Ford A
4. Stroud K
5. Carter R
6. Prohett C
7. Moss D
8. Kamara C
9. Bates C
10. McHale R
11. Cunningham D
12. To be named

at 3.00 p.m.



COLCHESTER

1. Walker M
2. Cook M
3. Williams J
4. Leslie S
5. Packer M
6. Dowman S
7. Foley S
8. Gough B
9. Dyer P
10. Allinson I
11. Evans T
12. To be named

REFEREE:

MR. CLIVE B. WHITE (Harrow).

Commenced refereeing in 1962 and progressed via the South Eastern Counties, Metropolitan and Isthmian Leagues to the Football League full list. Has recently been appointed to the F.I.F.A. panel of referees.

His outside interests include cricket and tennis.

Linesmen: Red Flag: MR. A.G. BAILEY - HEREFORD Yellow Flag: MR. M.J. HOLLAND - EPSOM

NEXT MATCH

Tuesday next, April 11th 1978

Division III

WALSALL

K.O. 7.30 p.m.

KEY OF THE BOARD

- A Exeter v Gillingham
- B Lincoln v Cambridge Utd
- C Peterborough v Rotherham
- D Portsmouth v Carlisle
- E Port Vale v Chester
- F Sheffield Wed. v Oxford Utd
- G Shrewsbury v Tranmere
- H Walsall v Hereford
- I Wrexham v Preston N.E.
- J Orient v Arsenal (at Chelsea)
- K Birmingham v Norwich
- L Coventry v Everton
- M Derby v Wolverhampton
- N Leeds v West Ham United
- O Liverpool v Leicester
- P Manchester Utd v Q. P. Rangers
- Q Middlesbrough v Bristol City
- R Newcastle v Aston Villa
- S Blackburn v Brighton

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