



OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE 15p

# SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

SWINDON TOWN

v

HEREFORD UNITED

# Swindon Town Football Co Limited

Registered Office County Ground  
Swindon

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

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Vice-Chairman C. Cowley

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# WOULDN'T A PINT GO DOWN WELL TONIGHT?



# Bits and Pieces

HEREFORD UNITED F.C. was formed in 1924 and played originally in the Birmingham Combination. The club was elected to the Southern League just before the last war.

Between 1948 and 1972, when Hereford gained a Football League place, the non-League side reached the F.A. Cup First Round every season with the exception of 1954-55. The Second Round was reached on thirteen occasions and the Third twice. United's best effort came in 1971-72, when victories over Northampton Town and First Division Newcastle United took the club to the Fourth Round for the first time ever. West Ham United finally put the part-timers out - but then only in a replay. One of the mid-field stars in that Hereford cup run was former Town player Tony Gough, who made 25 League appearances for Swindon during 1970-71. Another was Dudley Tyler who had played in junior soccer in Swindon and who was later snapped up by West Ham.



TONY GOUGH

Other League clubs to fall to Hereford during that twenty-four year period were Millwall in 1966, Aldershot (1956), Exeter City (1953) and Q.P.R. The Second Round defeat of Q.P.R.

in 1957 - 6-1 - equalled the record for a non-League win over a League side. In the next round a record 18,114 packed Edgar Street for the visit of First Division Sheffield Wednesday. The Owls won 3-0.

As a Southern League club Hereford's average home gate for season 1970-71, 5224, was higher than those of twenty-three Football League clubs.

Hereford replaced Barrow in the Fourth Division in 1972. Both clubs had polled twenty-six votes at the election but in a second ballot United came through by 29 to 20.

United gained promotion from the Fourth at the first attempt despite winning only two of the first fourteen games of the season. Hereford did not move into the top four until the last week of January. In April 14, 849 saw the local derby with Newport County.

Terry Paine brought his League career to an end at Hereford, retiring with a total of 815 appearances plus nine as substitute. Roy Carter made his debut for Hereford at the Shay, Halifax on April 26 1975. His first League goal earned United a 1-1 draw at Rotherham in the second game of the following season.

As another season comes to a close and the promotion and relegation issues become settled it is time, perhaps, to look at the 'new' faces that are likely to be appearing at the County Ground next season - and the once familiar ones who could be making a return.

The Town's journey to Valley Parade next Wednesday - the first since October 1960 - looks like being the last for a while as Bradford City attempt

to bridge a four-point gap with just four games left. At the other end of the table, it will be a close decision between the United's - Cambridge and Peterborough - for the vital third promotion place. After today Trevor Anderson's side faces three games - all away - whilst Cambridge play one less but have the advantage of performing at home on both occasions.

At the foot of the Second Division Mansfield Town, with former Swindon striker Dave Syrett look set to make a re-appearance here next season. If Hull City and Millwall suffer the drop, it will be five and two years respectively since these clubs faced the Town last. But an eleventh hour revival by any one of those sides could spell trouble for Orient, Cardiff City (for whom the former Town defender Rod Thomas now plays) or Bristol Rovers. The last visit of the Rovers to Swindon was in the spring of 1969.

Two of the Fourth Division's likely promotion sides, Brentford and Swansea, have appeared at the County Ground this season in one of the Cup competitions. However, neither has played in a League fixture here since 1966. The new Division 4 champions, Watford, hold the distinction of having visited Swindon more times in League matches than any other club.

It now looks as though Aldershot's former Town trio, Joe Butler, Will Dixon and Wyn Hooper, will miss out on a quick return to Third Division football. Another side riding high earlier in the season, Newport County, has also faded from the promotion scene. With Howard Goddard scoring consistently, only one game has been lost at Somerton this season but County's away record of sixteen defeats has been overshadowed only by bottom club Rochdale.

## Fact finder

..... HEREFORD UNITED

### COMPLETE FOOTBALL LEAGUE RECORD :

	Div.	P	W	D	L	F-A	Pts	Posn.	Round Reached	Avg. Home Lge. Gate	Top League Scorer	
76-77	: 2	42	8	15	19	57-78	31	22nd	4th 1st	7,239	Dixie McNeil 16	
75-76	: 3	46	26	11	9	86-55	63	1st	3rd 2nd	8,273	Dixie McNeil 34	
74-75	: 3	46	16	14	16	64-66	46	12th	2nd 3rd	7,230	Dixie McNeil 30	
73-74	: 3	46	14	15	17	53-57	43	18th	4th 1st	8,040	Brian Evans 8	
72-73	: 4	46	23	12	11	56-38	58	2nd	1st 1st	8,917	Brian Owen 11	
TOTAL	:	226	87	67	72	316-294	241	(to end of last season)				

(Supplement to Factfinder)

### HEREFORD UNITED v. SWINDON TOWN

Football League :

Dec. 7	1974	UNITED 2 (McNeil, Redrobe)	TOWN 1 (Eastoe)	Att: 8,625
Jan. 11	1975	TOWN 1 (Butler)	UNITED 0	Att: 11,781
Sep. 24	1975	UNITED 1 (Emery)	TOWN 0	Att: 6,423
Feb. 24	1976	TOWN 0	UNITED 1 (Davey)	Att: 10,691
Dec. 3	1977	UNITED 1 (Holmes)	TOWN 1 (McHale pen.)	Att: 4,541

F.A. Cup :

Nov. 19	1955	TOWN 4 (Micklewright 2, Gibson, Owen)	UNITED 0	Att: 13,364
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# Talk of the Town

By the Chairman

Today we play our last home fixture for this season and we hope that we can finish with pleasant memories.

Hereford have had a frustrating season, especially after their rise to the Second Division and disappointment to come back to the Third Division so quickly. We have had our disappointments in missing promotion, but it is a real worry when relegation is the problem.

Our retain list is very simple this season because Ray McHale is the only senior player whose contract comes up for renewal with one or two of our former apprentices. There is usually an air of expectancy with clubs issuing lists at this time of year.

The decision of the League Clubs to accept the fact that players after completing their contracts can move to any club that is prepared to pay a compensating fee, agreeable to the club which he last played for, means that there will be a lot of negotiations between interested clubs during the next few months. All Clubs have to submit their lists to the Football League by the first Saturday in May and through the new changes in regu-

lations, clubs can be kept waiting until the last day of July before they are notified by their players as to their decisions.

Our win away at Rotherham on Saturday last, was well merited and it was a pity that our exhibition should have only been witnessed by our regular supporters who travelled as they do to every away game.

They certainly deserved to see this win. What a pity that their loyalty to our club through good and bad times, are not shared by the majority of our followers. Liverpool were complaining in the daily newspapers this week that their style of play which is possession of the ball, does not please sections of the crowd and they are one of the best clubs in our Leagues and have been for several seasons now.

We shall start to plan for our coming season before this one has finished. Football is full of surprises and of course there are always people that have the answers, after events, but I can assure you that our Board of Directors are prepared to support every effort necessary to give us a chance to gain promotion. We have

been faced with the problem of keeping our best players and we have come out and said that we are not prepared to sell, but for how long can anyone keep a player who is ambitious and wishes to move, unless we can progress ourselves. On a note of happier circumstances we are pleased to be able to say that at last we have been able to fix up with West Bromwich Albion to bring a side to play for Don Rogers Benefit on Friday, 5th May, kick off at 7.30 p.m. We hope everybody will make an effort in appreciation of all the pleasure Don has given to us in the past.

As this is the last game of the season I would like to offer that thanks of all at the Club for their support throughout the season to the gatemen and stewards, catering staff, the souvenir shop staff, programme sellers, police, ballboys, St. John Ambulance Brigade and, in case I have forgotten anyone, all those without whose help the games would not be possible.

But most of all thanks to you, our loyal supporters for following us through an enjoyable but finally disappointing season and let us all look forward to a more successful season in 1978/79.



Swindon winger Dave Cunningham (dark shirt) just fails to cross the ball against Walsall on a snow covered County Ground pitch.

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# From the COMMERCIAL OFFICE

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This being the last home game of the season I would like to thank all of you who have purchased our tickets at the matches and to all our agents who do a great job for us.

We shall still continue to run our various Fund Raising Schemes throughout the summer so watch out in the local papers for the winning numbers etc. Once again if you sell our tickets or buy one each week. Thank you because without your support the club would be in dire trouble.

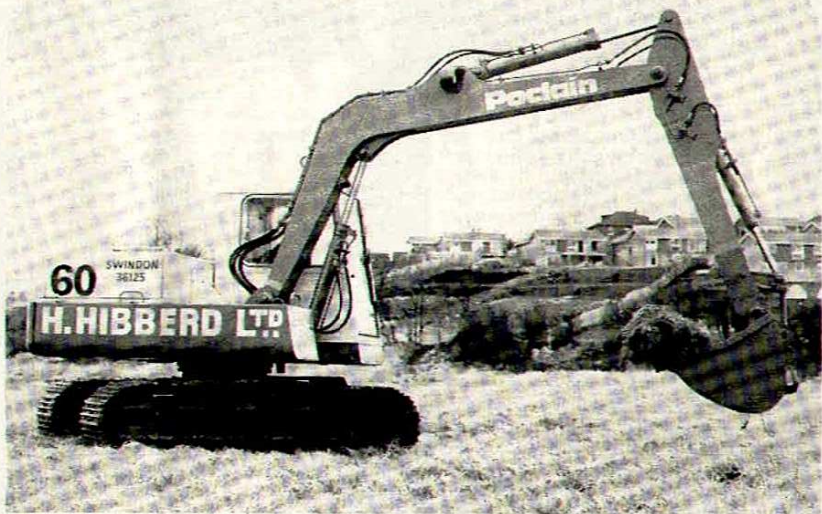
DOUG BUSWELL  
Commercial Manager.

## THE SWINDON TOWN SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION

The new Moonraker Lottery.

We are pleased to announce the opening of our new Moonraker Lottery Office. It is situated next door to the Pools Office at the rear of the Town end stand. The new Lottery telephone No. is SWINDON 42984 or 22118 Ext 9. There will be installed in the near future a 24 hour answering service. So that you will be able to contact us at anytime. Prizes each week £3,000. Each ticket costs 20p only.

Our fifth £1,000 Lottery winner Mr. Chapman of Home Farm, High-worth. Being presented with his cheque for £1,000 by Eric Moore our Lottery Supervisor. Looking on is Mr. Alan Bye who sold the winning ticket and received £100 for being the selling agent.



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# DIVISION 3 1977/78

# FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Date	Opponents	Ground	Score	Scorers	Attendance
<b>1977</b>					
Aug. 13	League Cup (1) Swansea City	A	3 - 1	11 - 3 - 9	5878
Aug. 16	League Cup (2) Swansea City	H	2 - 1	7 - 11	5415
Aug. 20	Sheffield Wednesday	A	1 - 1	8	12095
Aug. 23	Peterborough United	H	2 - 0	9 - 10	7117
Aug. 27	Portsmouth	H	3 - 1	8 - 10 - 7	9396
Aug. 31	League Cup 2 Cardiff City	H	5 - 1	9 11(2) 7 10	8919
Sept. 3	Walsall	A	0 - 2		4717
Sept. 10	Chesterfield	H	2 - 1	9 - 12	6847
Sept. 13	Preston North End	A	1 - 1	11	6014
Sept. 16	Bury	H	1 - 1	9	8139
Sept. 24	Wrexham	A	1 - 2	7	8002
Sept. 27	Cambridge United	A	2 - 5	7 - 10	4423
Sept. 30	Shrewsbury Town	H	5 - 0	8-5-7-9-3	6809
Oct. 4	Bradford City	H	0 - 1		7569
Oct. 8	Lincoln City	A	1 - 3	9	4852
Oct. 15	Port Vale	H	1 - 1	5	6132
Oct. 22	Chester	A	0 - 1		3539
Oct. 25	League Cup 3 Portsmouth	A	1 - 1	7	14955
Oct. 29	Exeter City	H	4 - 0	7 - 10 - 11(2)	7021
Nov. 1	League Cup 3 Portsmouth	H	4 - 3	8 - 11 - 7 - 10	9378
Nov. 5	Gillingham	H	3 - 2	5 - 7 - 11	7080
Nov. 11	Colchester United	A	0 - 2		4788
Nov. 19	Rotherham United	H	2 - 0	10 - 9	6008
Nov. 26	F.A. C. 1 Boreham Wood	A	0 - 0		2242
Nov. 29	Replay Boreham Wood	H	2 - 0	7 - 10	7016
Dec. 3	Hereford United	A	1 - 1	10	4547
Dec. 7	League Cup 4 Wrexham	A	0 - 2		10015
Dec. 10	Carlisle United	H	2 - 2	7 - 4	5889
Dec. 17	F.A. Cup 2 Brentford	H	2 - 1	6 - 10	8447
Dec. 26	Oxford United	A	3 - 3	8(2) - 9	8746
Dec. 27	Plymouth Argyle	H	3 - 1	7 - 9 - 8	9732
Dec. 31	Gillingham	A	2 - 2	7 - 8	7477
<b>1978</b>					
Jan. 2	Tranmere Rovers	H	1 - 0	10	11054
Jan. 7	Nottingham Forest	A	1 - 4	7	28953
Jan. 14	Sheffield Wednesday	H	2 - 2	10(2)	7609
Jan. 20	Portsmouth	A	2 - 1	7 - 8	11451
Feb. 25	Shrewsbury Town	A	3 - 2	4 - 7 - 8	3112
Feb. 28	Bury	A	0 - 0		4423
Mar. 4	Lincoln City	H	1 - 0	19	6945
Mar. 7	Preston North End	H	0 - 2		10211
Mar. 11	Port Vale (6)	A	0 - 1		3723
Mar. 14	Wrexham	H	1 - 2	7	7697
Mar. 17	Chester (LCF)	H	1 - 1	8	4275
Mar. 22	Exeter City	A	0 - 0		4449
Mar. 25	Plymouth Argyle	A	2 - 0	13 - 9	9174
Mar. 27	Oxford United	H	3 - 2	7 (3)	9517
Mar. 28					
Mar. 31	Tranmere Rovers	A	1 - 1	9	2812
April 4	Cambridge Utd.	H	0 - 0		6774
April 8	Colchester United (SF)	H	0 - 0		4596
April 11	Walsall	H	2 - 3	4 - 7	3925
April 15	Rotherham United	A	3 - 1	7 - 13 - 9	3824
April 18	Peterborough	A	0 - 2		6843
April 22	Hereford United	H			
April 26	Bradford City	A			
April 29	Carlisle United				
May 3	Chesterfield	A			
May 6	F.A. Cup Final				

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### FOR THE RECORD

11th April v Walsall (Div. III)

Allan, McLaughlin, Ford, Trollope, Stroud, Prophet, Moss, Kamara, Bates, McHale, Cunningham.

15th April v Rotherham United (Div. III)

Allan, McLaughlin, Ford, Trollope, Stroud, Prophet, Moss, Carter, Guthrie, McHale, Cunningham.

1st April v Bristol City (Football Combination)

Roberts, Norman, Walker, Reilly, Collicutt, Hatter, Barry, Gilligan, French, Brinkworth, Taylor (Scorer Gilligan)

5th April v Norwich City (Football Combination)

Roberts, Norman, Walker, Reilly, Collicutt, Stroud, Barry, (Cox), Gilligan, French, Bates, Brinkworth.

Date	Opponents	Ground	Score
<b>1977</b>			
Aug. 20	Birmingham	H	1 - 1
Aug. 31	Reading	A	1 - 2
Sept. 3	Ipswich Town	H	0 - 3
Sept. 10	Luton Town	A	2 - 1
Sept. 13	Crystal Palace	H	1 - 0
Sept. 20	Orient	H	0 - 0
Sept. 24	Oxford United	H	0 - 1
Oct. 4	Queens Park Rangers	A	1 - 8
Oct. 8	Bristol Rovers	H	4 - 3
Oct. 15	Tottenham Hotspur	A	1 - 3
Oct. 22	Cardiff City	H	2 - 1
Oct. 26	Chelsea	A	0 - 2
Nov. 12	Norwich City	H	2 - 2
Nov. 16	Crystal Palace	A	1 - 4
Nov. 19	West Ham United	A	0 - 3
Nov. 26	Leicester City	H	0 - 5
Dec. 3	Plymouth Argyle	H	1 - 1
Dec. 13	Bristol City	A	3 - 1
Dec. 17	Southampton	A	0 - 4
<b>1978</b>			
Jan. 21	Ipswich Town	A	0 - 3
Feb. 7	Arsenal	H	2 - 0
Feb. 11	Orient	A	6 - 3
Feb. 14	Birmingham City	A	P
Feb. 18	Oxford United	A	1 - 3
Feb. 25	Chelsea	H	3 - 3
Feb. 28	Fulham	A	1 - 2
Mar. 7	Bristol Rovers	A	1 - 2
Mar. 11	Tottenham Hotspur	H	0 - 2
Mar. 15	Cardiff City	A	1 - 2
Mar. 21	Luton	H	1 - 1
Mar. 25	Southampton	H	1 - 2
Mar. 27	Arsenal	A	0 - 4
April 1	Bristol City	H	1 - 1
April 5	Norwich City	A	0 - 2
April 8	Leicester City	A	0 - 3
April 12	Hereford	A	0 - 1
April 15	West Ham United	H	1 - 1
April 18	Fulham	H	
April 22	Plymouth Argyle	A	
April 25	Queens Park Rangers	H	
April 29	Hereford United	H	
May 2	Reading	H	

### First Team Appearances and Goals 1977-78

Totals include subs (Goals in parentheses)

	Total	League	F.L.C.	F.A.C.
1. Allan	50	41	5	4
2. McLaughlin	50	41	5	4
3. Trollope	49(2)	39(1)	6(1)	4
4. Stroud	45(3)	35(3)	6	4
5. Aizlewood	34(3)	25(3)	6	3
6. Prophet	51(1)	42	5	4(1)
7. Moss	51(23)	41(17)	6(4)	4(2)
8. Kamara	48(11)	38(10)	6(1)	4
9. Guthrie	43(13)	35(11)	4(2)	4
10. McHale	51(13)	41(9)	6(2)	4(2)
11. Anderson	27(9)	19(4)	6(5)	2
12. Ford	37(1)	31(1)	4	2
13. Cunningham	17(2)	16(2)	1	
15. Gilligan	3	3		
16. Roberts	2	1	1	
17. Lewis	4	2	1	1
18. Carter	20	20		
19. Bates	12(1)	12(1)		

# IN TOWN TODAY

## **TOMMY HUGHES (Goalkeeper)**

Tommy has recently regained the goalkeeping spot from Peter Mellor. While with Chelsea, Tommy gained Scottish under-23 honours. Aston Villa paid £12,500 for him in 1971 and when he joined Hereford in 1973 they paid a then club record fee of £12,000.

League record: Chelsea 11 aps., A.Villa 16 aps., Brighton (loan) 3 aps.

## **JOHN LAYTON (Defender)**

John was with Hereford in their Southern League days but he left for spells with Kidderminster and Gloucester before returning to Edgar Street in 1974. John's father was also a full-back with the club and still holds the club record for most appearances.

League record: Hereford 121 aps., 12 gls.

## **PHIL BURROWS (Defender)**

Phil opened his career with Manchester City though he didn't get into their League eleven. He went straight into York's team upon his transfer in 1966 and remained with them for eight years.

League record: Manchester City nil aps., York 333(2) aps., 14 gls., Plymouth 81 aps., Hereford 31 aps., Gillingham (loan) 5 aps.

## **BRYAN BOUSTON (Defender)**

Bryan is still an apprentice but he was introduced to the team as substitute against Carlisle a couple of weeks ago and last week he played at right-back against Portsmouth.

League record: Hereford 1(1) aps.

## **KEVIN SHEEDY (Midfield)**

Kevin is an Irish youth international who got his chance in Hereford's League eleven in the final match of 1975/76 against Preston. He has been holding a regular place in midfield this season.

League record: Hereford 46(3) aps., 4 gls.

## **STEVE EMERY (Midfield)**

Steve was Hereford's first apprentice when they joined the Football League in 1972. He made his League debut in 1973/74 and he is now a fixture in the side. Normally a full-back, he has moved into midfield for some recent games.

League record: Hereford 152 aps., 4 gls.

## HEREFORD UTD



Back Row (L to R) Derek Jefferson, Steve Crompton, Tommy Hughes, Roy Carter, Julian Marshall, Kevin Charlton, John Layton, Steve Ritchie.

Middle Row (L to R) Tony Ford (Coach), Peter Spring, Jim Lindsay, John Sillett (Manager), Dixie McNeil, Steve Davey, Steve Emery, Peter Isaac (Trainer)

Front Row (L to R) Andy Proudlove, Les Briley, Kevin Sheedy, Colin Sinclair, Phil Burrows.

## **FRANK BARTON (Midfield)**

Frank started with Scunthorpe and moved on to Carlisle in 1968. Blackpool paid £20,000 for his transfer in 1972.

League record: Scunthorpe 93 aps., 26 gls; Carlisle 162(4) aps., 22 gls; Blackpool 18 aps., 1 gl; Grimsby 123 aps., 15 gls; Bournemouth 66 aps., 13 gls; Hereford 17 aps., 1 gl.

## **STEVE CROMPTON (Forward)**

Steve signed professional for Hereford in February 1977 and made one League appearance for them last season. He has been recalled this season and has been scoring some valuable goals in the club's fight against relegation. In one spell he hit four goals in five games.

League record: Hereford 19(2) aps., 4 gls.

## **BILLY HOLMES (Forward)**

Hereford signed Billy from Wimbledon earlier this season and in recent weeks he has often been wearing the substitute's shirt. His first League club was Millwall but he moved to Luton in 1973.

League record: Millwall -(1) aps., Luton -(1) aps.; Wimbledon 15 aps., 5 gls; Hereford 8(3) aps., 2 gls.

## **STEVE DAVEY (Forward)**

Steve won England youth honours in his Plymouth days and he made his League debut for Argyle in 1966/67. Hereford completed his transfer in 1975.

League record: Plymouth 214(12) aps., 48 gls; Hereford 100(3) aps., 22 gls;

## **ANDY PROUDLOVE (Forward)**

Andy was recalled to the side last Saturday. He began his career with Reading and moved onto Sheffield Wednesday in 1975. Another move took him to Norwich where he remained until signing for Hereford this season.
















League record: Reading 4(1) aps., Sheff. Wed. 10(5) aps.; Norwich -(1) aps.; Hereford 6(4) aps.

## **STUART CORNES (Defender)**

Stuart is another young member of the staff to be given the chance to establish himself this season. He made his debut at Tranmere in January and has been filling one of the central defensive positions for much of the while since.

League record: Hereford 13 aps.

# SPONSOR A PLAYER

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Ray McHale 	Mr. Ron Clark, Barclays Bank, Old Town, Swindon				
	Miss Denise Axford and Miss Sarah Hill of Devizes				 Chris Guthrie
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 					
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Kevin Roberts 	Mr. Chris Hook 213, Cirencester Rd, Charlton Kings.				
	Stuart Bell, Steven Robins & Andrew Hughes of Calne.				 Chic Bates
Roy Carter 	Lorna, Richard & Ian Jones, 1 Commercial St, Cheltenham.				

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



# Sponsor a Goal

We would ask all of those generous people who so kindly agreed to sponsor our League goals to please send to us their sponsorship money after the last game at Chesterfield on Wednesday, 3rd May. At the moment and prior to today's games the goals tally stands at 62 so if you will just add those goals scored from today and up to and including 3rd May, multiply that total by the amount sponsored and kindly post the amount to us we shall be very grateful as this will save us the mammoth task of sending out invoices.

Once again a very big thank you.

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## DIVISION THREE LEAGUE TABLE ..... up to and including April 18.

	HOME				AWAY				Pts.	Lge Posns. This Season		Lge. Avge.	Gate Best	Top Goalscorer	
	P	W	D	L	F-A	W	D	L		F-A	High				Low
Wrexham	41	13	7	1	41-18	9	6	5	28-22	57	1st	18th	10853	19125	Dixie McNeil 28(16)
Preston N.E.	43	16	4	2	46-17	3	11	7	12-17	53	1st	19th	8467	11920	Alex Bruce 26(24)
Cambridge U.	43	17	3	1	46-10	4	8	10	23-40	53	1st	24th	5341	10998	Alan Biley 24(21)
Peterborough U.	42	14	7	1	31-11	5	7	8	9-15	52	2nd	22nd	5836	10156	Trevor Anderson 14(9), Tommy Robson 13(12)
Gillingham	43	11	9	2	36-21	4	10	7	28-32	49	1st	15th	7246	10978	Ken Price 20(19)
Chester	43	12	8	1	35-21	1	14	7	16-31	48	6th	18th	3999	9514	Paul Crossley 13(9)
Tranmere R.	43	13	6	3	38-18	3	8	10	16-28	46	1st	9th	4023	7280	Ronnie Moore 16(16)
Walsall	42	10	7	3	29-14	5	9	8	23-31	46	5th	17th	5394	8341	Alan Buckley 28(23)
<b>SWINDON TOWN</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>39-22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23-31</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>17th</b>	<b>7289</b>	<b>11054</b>	<b>DAVE MOSS 23(17)</b>
Carlisle U.	43	10	8	4	30-24	3	10	8	25-31	44	10th	23rd	5374	11309	Dave Kemp 24(19)
Colchester U.	42	10	9	2	35-15	4	6	11	16-28	43	1st	13th	4674	6447	Bobby Gough 17(13)
Chesterfield	42	12	6	2	31-11	3	7	12	17-32	43	1st	19th	4995	12395	Rod Fern 13(12)
Bury	43	7	11	3	32-20	6	5	11	28-34	42	2nd	14th	5177	9783	Andy Rowland 14(13)
Shrewsbury T.	43	9	7	5	38-22	5	7	10	19-32	42	1st	15th	3471	6116	Paul Maguire 10(8), Sam Irvine 9(9)
Sheffield W.	42	12	6	3	26-13	2	7	12	20-36	41	13th	24th	11215	18803	Tommy Tynan 19(14)
Exeter C.	43	10	7	4	26-16	4	6	12	18-39	41	2nd	20th	5010	8334	Tony Kellow 17(14)
Lincoln C.	43	8	8	5	30-23	5	6	11	18-35	40	13th	24th	4985	8811	Peter Graham 9(9)
Oxford U.	43	11	8	2	35-18	2	4	16	26-45	38	2nd	18th	4762	8746	Peter Foley 21(19)
Rotherham U.	41	10	5	6	24-17	2	7	11	23-39	36	2nd	23rd	4935	12630	Richard Finney 16(13)
Port Vale	43	7	11	3	28-19	1	9	12	16-41	36	12th	23rd	3959	6912	Ken Beamish 15(12)
Plymouth A	42	5	8	8	24-26	4	8	9	26-36	34	8th	23rd	6582	12635	Fred Binney 6(6), Brian Johnson 6(5), Brian Taylor 6(4)
Bradford C.	42	10	6	5	36-25	1	4	16	14-48	32	11th	24th	5171	12857	Bernie Wright 10(10)
Hereford U.	43	9	8	5	27-21	0	4	17	5-36	30	14th	24th	4655	6392	Billy Holmes 9(7)
Portsmouth	43	4	11	7	31-36	2	6	13	9-35	29	13th	24th	9811	13152	Colin Garwood 14(9)

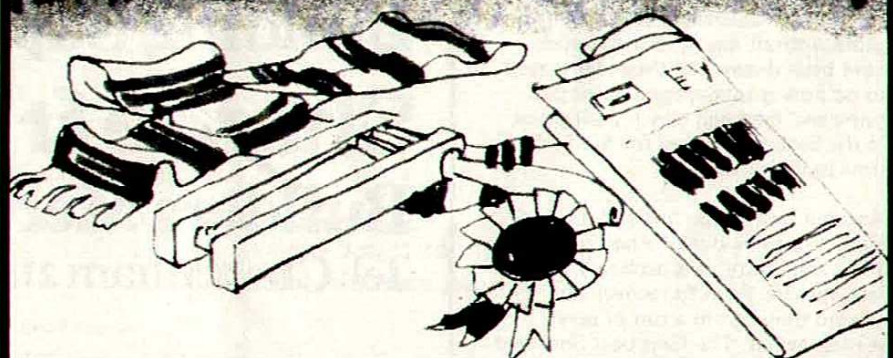
No. of League goals scored in brackets.

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## The Evening Advertiser

# Spotlight on Division 3

LEADERS ALL SUFFER JITTERS

by Tony Pullein

All three top clubs have been suffering from a severe attack of nerves as they seek to make sure of promotion. Cambridge and Preston both ended dismal runs by winning last Saturday and all three may feel a little easier now that Peterborough's remarkable run has ended.

The Posh were surprisingly beaten by relegation-haunted Plymouth down in Devon but, prior that, they won five games in a row and were unbeaten in 11. That performance lifted them from mid-table to a strong promotion-challenging position and, with Cambridge slipping badly, it looked as if Peterborough might just snatch one of those elusive three places at the top.

It remains to be seen if that defeat at Home Park has affected Peterborough's momentum but there was certainly one place where a huge cheer went up when they heard the result - - - Cambridge. They had won only once in five matches and they had crashed 1-4 at Lincoln the previous week. But they got back to winning ways with a 2-0 victory over Chesterfield.

One of Cambridge's goals was scored by Gordon Sweetzer, the striker they signed for a club record £30,000 from Brentford on the eve of the transfer deadline. Sweetzer made a bad start for his new club and, in fact, was relegated to substitute for a while but now he seems to have found his old form again. He also scored in Cambridge's previous match.

Preston, too, had won only once in five attempts before they struck form to beat Lincoln 4-0. That should have done something to restore their confidence as they prepare for the final lap of the race they hope will culminate in their return to Division Two after an absence of four years.

Even Wrexham, the runaway leaders, have been having the jitters. Their 1-1 draw at Colchester was their fifth game without a win, four of which have been drawn. All they really need to do now is to average a point per game and they will clinch their place in the Second Division for the first time in their history.

Another promotion hopeful, Gillingham, also came out of a bad run with a win but, sadly, it is probably too late now for them to recover the ground they lost in a run of seven winless games. The Gills beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 but even if they win all their games they can only achieve 55 points - - - two more than Preston and Cambridge had in the bag last weekend.

Two famous naval ports face the prospect of Fourth Division football for the first time. We can assume that Portsmouth are definitely down but there is still a faint hope for Plymouth being guided through these final weeks by Malcolm Allison. Argyle's 1-0 win over Peterborough ended a run of five games without a victory but their problem is that they have played more games than most of the clubs above them.

Rotherham United had two games in hand last Saturday but the Millers appear to be too good a side to go down. The club who could suffer if Plymouth do escape is Port Vale who are into a run of seven games without a win.

The extraordinary thing about Plymouth's position is that, though this is undoubtedly the worst season in their long and distinguished history, they are one of the best supported sides in the division! Leading positions (League games only) after last Saturday were:

	Average
Sheffield Wednesday	11,155
Wrexham	10,854
Portsmouth	9,490
Preston	8,468
Swindon	7,290
Gillingham	7,248

Leading scorers were:

	L	L Cup	FAC	Tot.
Buckley (Walsall)	23	1	4	28
McNeil (Wrexham)	16	1	11	28
(includes four for Hereford)				
Bruce (Preston)	24	1	1	26
Biley (Cambridge)	21	1	2	24
Kemp (Carlisle)	19	3	2	24
(includes 21 for Portsmouth)				
Moss (Swindon)	16	4	2	22
Foley (Oxford)	19	2	-	21
Shinton (Wrexham)	15	2	4	21
Price (Gillingham)	19	1	-	20

HEREFORD UTD by Tony Pullein

It now looks almost certain that Hereford will return to the Fourth Division next season. Last Saturday's 2-0 home defeat by bottom club Portsmouth was their third successive defeat and their sixth match without a win. That left them four points behind the 19th club with only four games to play and it is going to require something very special indeed to pull clear now.

If Hereford do go down it will be back to square one for them. Elected to the Fourth Division in 1972 they smashed all records by gaining two promotions and reaching the Second Division in only four years. They spent last season in Division Two but found the going rather tough and eventually ended up making a quick return to Division Three. Now it seems certain they will suffer relegation for the second season on the trot.

Former manager John Sillett has now been succeeded by Tony Ford but, before he left, Mr. Sillett was active in the transfer market when signing goalkeeper Peter Mellor, midfielder Frank Barton and forwards Billy Holmes and Ken Stephens.

Mellor took over in goal from Tommy Hughes, though the latter is now back in the side, he is normally protected by a back four of Chris Price, Stuart Cornes, John Layton and Phil Burrows. But apprentice Byran Bouston was in at right-back last week.

Newcomers Barton, Peter Spiring, Les Briley, Kevin Sheedy and Steve Emery have all been appearing in midfield while the attack has been comprising of Ken Stephens and Steve Crompton.

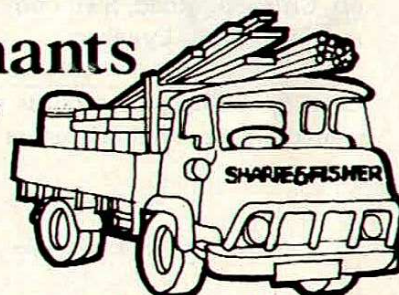
Hereford are the only Third Division club without an away win to their credit this season. Their four away points came from games drawn at Preston, Lincoln, Colchester and Bradford City - - - all were goalless and they were achieved in successive games in September and October. They have lost their last 13 away games.

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They went down at Chester (1 - 4), Plymouth (0 - 2), Chesterfield (1 - 2), Shrewsbury (0-3), Portsmouth (0-2), Wrexham (1-2), Exeter (0-1), Sheffield Wednesday (0-1), Gillingham (0-4), Tranmere (1-2), Oxford (0-3), Cambridge (0-2), Port Vale (0-1), Peterborough (1-2), Walsall (0-2) and Carlisle (0-2).

Hereford, who earned their place in the Football League on account of some astonishing F.A. Cup giant-killing performances, experienced the other side of the Cup coin this season when they were ousted in the first round by Southern League Wealdstone. After drawing 0-0 at Wealdstone, Hereford were beaten 3-2 at home in the replay.

They also dipped out of the League Cup in the first round. They drew 4-4 on aggregate with Bournemouth, won the toss for choice of ground for the play-off but finally lost 1-2.

Hereford's progress from junior football to League status was quite remarkable. The club was founded in 1924 but played in the Birmingham League until gaining admission to the Southern League in 1939. It wasn't until after the war that they could properly take their place in that competition and they finished runners-up in their first post-war campaign.

They never won the championship of the Southern League but they were runners-up again in 1951 and 1972. Their build up to League Status began in the mid-'sixties when they knocked Millwall out of the F.A. Cup. Northampton fell to Hereford in 1970 and then came their amazing games with First Division Newcastle and West Ham in 1971/72.

On the way to a third round tie with Newcastle they again put Northampton out. They shook everyone by holding Newcastle to a 2-2 draw at St. James Park and then tore up the form book to beat Newcastle 2-1 after extra-time in the replay.

They then held West Ham to a 0-0 draw in round four before finally going out 1-3 in the replay at Upton Park where Geoff Hurst killed them with a hat-trick.

Those stirring performances earned Hereford a place in the Fourth Division at Barrow's expense. They proved far too good for Division Four and gained promotion at the first attempt.

The man who guided the club to those successes was manager Colin Addison but he was surprisingly dismissed during 1973/74 following a run of poor results. He was succeeded by John Sillett and in 1976 he charted their progress to the championship of the Third Division.

Maybe Hereford had made the rise too quickly? They struggled throughout last season in the Second Division and finished last. This season they sold striker Dixie McNeil to Wrexham for £60,000 but they have not yet been able to find anyone to score goals as he did. Consequently,, they now face the immediate future in Division Four.



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**HEREFORD**

1. Allan J.
2. McLaughlin J.
3. Ford A.
4. Stroud K.
5. Aizlewood S.
6. Prophett C.
7. Moss D.
8. Carter R.
9. Guthrie C.
10. McHale R.
11. Cunningham D.
12. Bates C.



1. Hughes T.
2. Bouston B.
3. Burrows P.
4. Jefferson D.
5. Layton J.
6. Barton F.
7. Holmes W.
8. Sheedy K.
9. Crompton S.
10. Davey S.
11. Amery S.
12. Proudlove A.

**REFEREE:**

**MR. STEPHEN G. BATES** (Bristol).  
Commenced refereeing in 1965, and has progressed through various Bristol Leagues to Gloucester County League, Southern League and Football League. Linesman Wales Centenary International against West Germany in 1976.  
Works as a Landscape Gardener. His hobbies are horticulture and sport generally.

Linesmen: Red Flag: MR. C. W. COTTAM - Cosham Yellow Flag: MR. J. ROOST - Norton St. Philip, Bath

**NEXT MATCH**

Tuesday next, 25th April 1978  
Football Combination  
Queens Park Rangers - 7.30pm

Thursday next, 27th April, 1978  
Swindon Borough League  
Boys Realm Cup Final  
St. Josephs v Newtown - 6.30 pm  
Adults 20p Children 10p

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- D Portsmouth v Preston N.E.
- E Port Vale v Carlisle
- F Sheffield Wed. v Cambridge Utd.
- G Shrewsbury v Oxford Utd.
- H Walsall v Gillingham
- I Wrexham v Rotherham
- J Birmingham v Manchester City
- K Chelsea v Wolverhampton
- L Coventry v Nottm. Forest
- M Derby v Leicester
- N Ipswich v Bristol City
- O Leeds v Arsenal
- P Liverpool v Norwich
- Q Manchester Utd. v West Ham Utd.
- R Middlesbrough v Everton
- S Newcastle v Q.P. Rangers
- T West Brom. Albion v Aston Villa