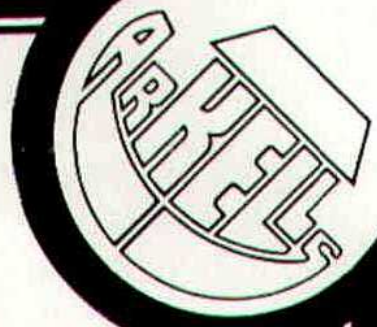




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Team Manager **R. W. Smith**

Commercial Consultant **D. Buswell**

Club Medical Officer **Dr. J. Nicholas**

Wilf Tranter says.....

It has been necessary, for personal reasons, that the Team Manager spend a few days in the north and it has therefore befallen my lot to write these programme notes. I am sure that last week's win against Shrewsbury gave you, as it certainly gave us, a great deal of pleasure. I have not been at the club too long but nevertheless a number of folk have recognised me in the town during the past few days to say a few words of compliment about last Saturday's performance. I hope that we see a similarly entertaining game this afternoon.

Today we welcome March Town United to the County Ground and they had quite an epic game themselves last Saturday when they came from 0-3 down to win 4-3 against Soham. Danny Williams went along to see this game and, as a result of his report, I can assure you that we shall not treat today's opponents lightly. As a result of that game they must be feeling full of confidence and will have come here with nothing to lose and we must therefore adopt the same attitude to the game as we did against Shrewsbury Town.

Bob Smith's absence means that the responsibility for the team today is down to me and I must say that, being a 'stand-in' Manager is, for me, an interesting experience and one that will give me good experience for the future should it be necessary for the Manager to look at another player on a match day or even take a 'Clough' type mid-season break he will be able to do so knowing that the job is being done whilst he is away.

Everyone at the club enjoyed the experience of the open day last Sunday and we were very pleased at the turn out considering the terrible weather conditions. The players fully realise the need for them to integrate with their supporters if we are to fully develop the 'TEAM' spirit and they certainly helped to this end on Sunday.



May we count upon your vocal support today and I hope you enjoy the game.

F.A. CUP FLASHBACK

Looking Back at some First Round ties of Yesteryear

40
Years Ago

Nov. 26 1938 — SWINDON TOWN 6 LOWESTOFT TOWN 0

The Town were strengthened by the return of centre-half and captain George Morrall for the visit of the East Anglians, Swindon pierced the Lowestoft defence after just three minutes when EDDIE JONES seized on a loose ball. His shot beat keeper W.W. Vout before crashing into the net via the underside of the bar. On the half-hour BILLY LUCAS hit a low hard drive from all of forty yards that flew past the helpless Vout. After 36 minutes, BEN MORTON outwitted centre-half Brown to fire in a low shot which the keeper failed to hold and as the ball ran loose, the number nine steered into an empty net. Minutes later Morton shot from an acute angle, the keeper cleared but the ball went to BILLY LUCAS just outside the area and he drove it past Vout — 4-0. A minute before half-time BEN MORTON again beat the keeper, this time with a curling shot which entered the net just beneath the bar. Town completed the demolition of the part-timers five minutes into the second half when BEN MORTON claimed his hat-trick when he again beat Brown and gave the keeper no chance.

Swindon Town: Wildman; Tonner, Butcher; Cousins, Morrall, Wilcockson; Jones, Emery, Morton, Lucas, Francis.

Attendance : 10,816

Gate Receipts : £570

25
Years Ago

Nov. 21 1953 — SWINDON TOWN 2 NEWPORT (Isle of Wight) 1

The Islanders were drawn at Swindon for the successive season and were anxious to wipe out the 5-0 defeat suffered in the last encounter. Town were without the services of centre-forward Maurice Owen and his place went to defender Ted Batchelor, who had had just one previous outing in an attacking role. The Hampshire League champions took a shock seventh-minute lead when GILFILLAN sent in a low shot which crept under keeper Burton's body and went inside the post. The Town struggled to get on terms throughout the first period and it was not until the fifty-fourth minute that Swindon levelled matters when TED BATCHELOR found the net after shrugging off the attentions of two defenders. The game had almost run its course when the Newport centre-half Taulbut appeared to unsight keeper Grist and a header from TED BATCHELOR rolled over the line.

Swindon Town : Burton; Hunt, Elwell; Cross, Hudson, Johnston; Lunn, Lambert, Batchelor, Betteridge, Bull.

Attendance : 12,176

Gate Receipts : £1,231

10
Years Ago

Nov. 16 1968 — SWINDON TOWN 1 CANTERBURY CITY 0

Canterbury actually came out of the hat first for this tie, but elected to play at the County Ground. Swindon pressed but were denied by the heroics of City keeper Brian Gambrell. He saved well from a Heath shot on the run after 13 minutes then tipped the ball over the bar one-handed from Thomas. After 22 minutes he threw himself full length to save a header from Noble and just before the break the keeper parried a tremendous drive from Rogers, smothered the rebound; then collected a Heath centre one-handed and cleared. It was much the same story after the interval, when the City man narrowed the angle to block a Harland shot then saved from Smart's shot on the turn. Ten minutes from the end he got down well to a long range drive by Butler, but was finally beaten by a DON ROGERS penalty in the 89th minute.

Swindon Town : Downsborough; Dawson, Thomas; Butler, Burrows, Harland; Heath, Smart, Smith, Noble, Rogers.

Attendance : 14,367

Gate Receipts : £3,717

Don Rogers slots the ball home from the penalty spot to give the Town victory over Canterbury



John Ward at Swindon Town's Open Day

Swindon Town threw open their doors last Sunday and supporters of all ages queued in their hundreds in the rain to look round. They stood in a bedraggled line along the outside of the main stand edging forward patiently but once inside the club entrance the weather was forgotten in the warmth in the welcome they received. At the door visitors were given a Who's Who of the club. Not only did this contain information about the first team squad - useful to have it collected together here instead of having to rely on the programme from one of Swindon's away games - but about the Directors and administrative staff too. Did you know for instance that the board consists of four builders, two farmers, three company directors and a retired personnel officer? Two have previously been Directors of Bristol City and another Chairman, no less, of Oxford United.

We split into groups of about twenty and were shepherded efficiently but without any rush round various parts of the interior of the County Ground. The tour began with a welcome from the Chairman in the Rendezvous Club. Although we must have been about the tenth group that Mr. Green had had to greet he managed to give the impression that it was a great privilege for the club that we had come along to look round. Friendly and relaxed he combined an explanation of how the playing, social and commercial sides of the football club intermix with a plug for the Rendezvous Club, entertainment every evening in luxurious surroundings and membership only costs £1.50 a year. He spoke with quiet confidence about the team's future in the hands of Bob Smith before passing us on to fellow Director Mr. Arthur Done in the boardroom.

On Sunday's showing Mr Done would do well in a competition for the best dressed man in Wiltshire. Joining the board in 1964 he is the second longest serving Director after Mr Green and in showing us the various trophies displayed in the boardroom told some stories about his exploits in charge of the administrative arrangements during the team's three week stay in Italy when they won the Anglo-Italian Cup, including having to buy a briefcase in order to transport the gate money, millions of Italian lire, back to England.

Bob Jefferies, the club secretary, filled us with information about players' contracts: all payments that will be made by the club have to be listed on each player's contract and anyone who pays something that is not recorded, faces a hefty fine. The League's auditors carry out spot checks and will ring up late one afternoon to announce their arrival first thing next morning. The last time they visited Swindon they were proud to be told that this was the first club where they had been unable to find a single fault.

Drama awaited in the medical room: for a moment it looked as though we were going to see a practical demonstration of physiotherapist Kevin Morris's skills because one of the previous party had fainted. Kevin's assistant for the day, his daughter, rolled up her sleeves in eager anticipation but the patient recovered sufficiently not to need emergency treatment. Every injury from a minor cut to a major break is recorded in a book under the name of each player. There are five different machines and an operating table up to the most modern hospital standards for the treatment of players' injuries.

Next we saw the dressing rooms, which contains six individual baths instead of the traditional footballers' communal plunge bath so if the players are very muddy they can easily run some fresh water. The referee's room has three baths and a rather spartan bench, a bell to sound when it is time for the teams to go out and a full length mirror by the door, where you can imagine some of the more self-conscious match officials preening themselves before they take the field. John Trollope, our guide for this section of the tour, explained how the apprentices are responsible for keeping the changing rooms clean, not to mention the several pairs of boots which each first team player uses. John may have lost the naval look which his early season beard gave him but he left us in no doubt that if the boys didn't swab the decks properly they would be in trouble.

On then to the climax of the day and to the home team dressing room where the players were waiting. This was where I was especially glad to have borrowed three children for the occasion. Alison was young enough to thrust forward for the players to sign the various photographs, programmes and autograph books we had brought along. Jenny with wisps of red hair straying from underneath the hood of her duffle coat was beautiful and old enough to command the players' attention and Nicola was brave enough to overcome any natural shyness and talk to Chic Bates. The players were friendly and sat around quietly pleased with their efforts the previous afternoon against Shrewsbury as they coped with the succession of tiny tots and admiring adults who passed before them.

The tour should have ended with a demonstration of circuit training by youth team players out on the pitch. The weather was so bad that they had to improvise on a smaller scale upon the landing of the main stand. There was nothing half hearted however about the way they attacked the exercises, spurred on by first team coach Wilf Tranter. Wilf had a lot to tell us about the training schedules and a footballer's diet: "after a hard morning's training you don't feel like eating a big lunch but when you've

Continued on Page 13

Talk of the Town by the Chairman

Today we are pleased to welcome the Players and Officials from March Town Football Club, in our First Round of the F.A. Cup.

March Town will be newcomers to the County Ground and must be congratulated on reaching this stage. We have been drawn against non-League clubs in the F.A. Cup for the last five seasons. In 1974 we drew Maidstone United, 1975 Hendon and Tooting and Mitcham, 1976 Bromley and Hitchin and 1977 Boreham Wood, and so we obviously know what these games mean to us and we have had to fight very hard in all these encounters and in fact were beaten in a replay at Tooting and Mitcham in Season 1975/1976.

Everybody seemed delighted with our performance against Shrewsbury and this is bound to attract some more support for the future. There is a long way to go before the end of the season, but things certainly look promising for the goal we all are looking for.

Much has been written on the subject of the television contract with the Football League and I have read about the possible implications that this issue has raised. I would like to point out that our Football League Clubs have never been interested in whom finally obtained the contract, but very interested obviously in getting the best deal. In fact, League Clubs felt that in the past the very fact that the commercial bodies combined with the B.B.C. over this contract had not helped us, in our bargaining powers and this seemed to be the only time that these two bodies have joined together. If this deal had not been concluded our club would have been prepared to exclude football from the screen altogether and of course this would be a bad thing for people who can no longer attend our grounds for various reasons.

The very fact that this latest offer is so far removed from previous contracts, only emphasises the point that our game has been sold too cheaply in the past to the television companies.

On Sunday last we held our 'Open Day' and in spite of the bad weather had tremendous interest shown and people queued around the ground from 11.00 a.m. constantly until well past 2.00p.m. and in fact our staff were kept busy until 4.00 p.m. I would like to pay a special tribute to our staff who willingly gave up their Sunday to make this day so special and this of course included both playing staff and administrative staff.

This exercise was such a success that I am sure it will be repeated, but perhaps it will be wiser to hold it when the weather should be more settled.

One face missing on Sunday, who normally is never absent from such activities was Eddie Buckley and he had the misfortune to injure his back muscles while on duty with our Reserve Team at Tottenham on Saturday and had to be taken to hospital on returning to Swindon.

Eddie was chasing across the pitch to treat one of our injured players and ended up seriously injured himself. I am sure that everybody will wish to send their condolences and wish him a speedy recovery to normal health.

We played Plymouth Reserves on Tuesday evening at the County Ground and the first appearance at home of Bryan Hamilton along with one or two of our senior players attracted a larger following than usual, but must have been disappointed in the result as we lost by three goals to one.

We did gain our first Midland Youth League victory last week, over Northampton Town and this will be encouraging for John's young team.

Hoping that we shall see some goals scored today and that this game will be as enjoyable as last week.



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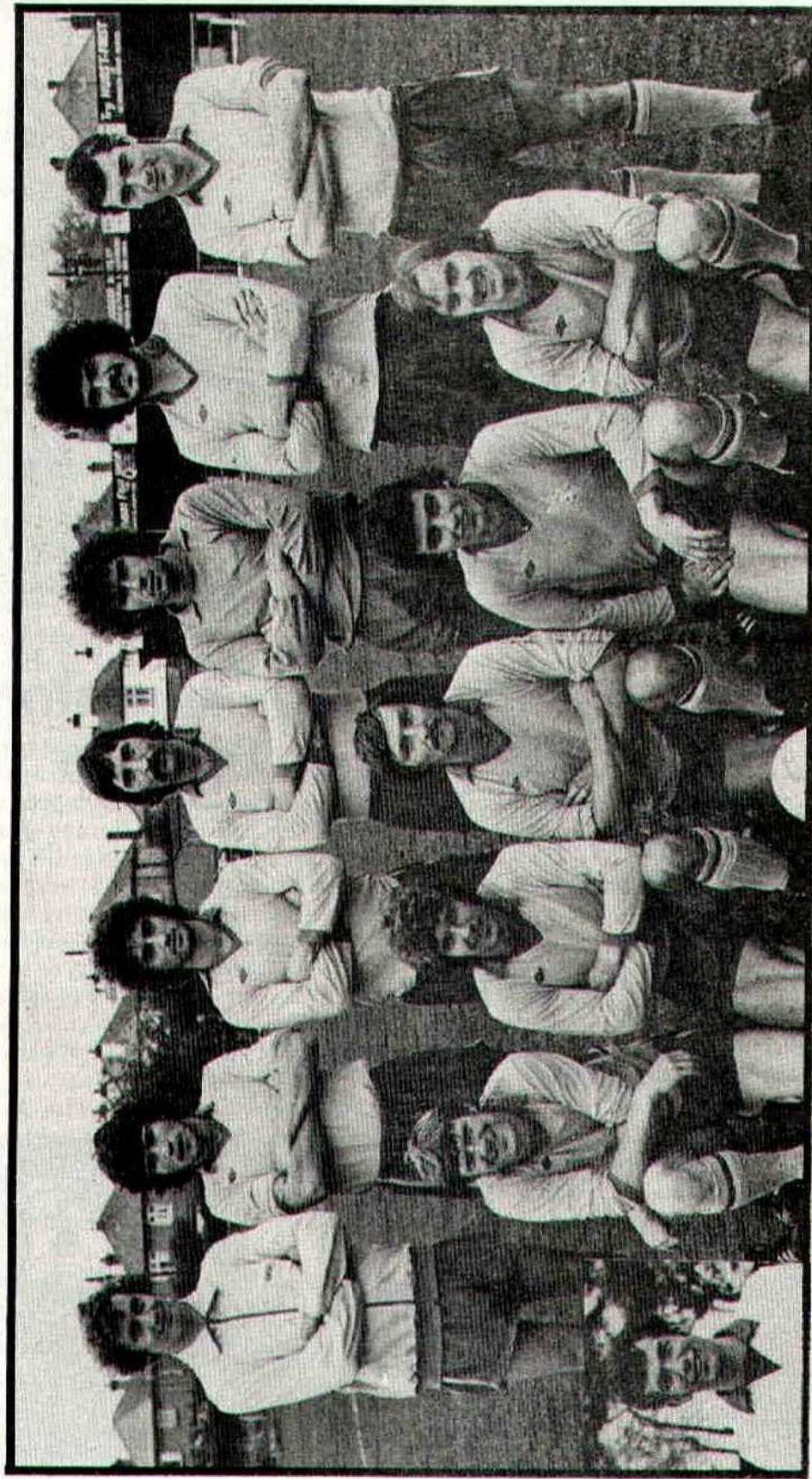
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IN TOWN TODAY



MARCH TOWN

Back Row: S. Snell, P. Hutchinson, C. Rowley, L. Kent, D. Dobrowolski,
A. Thomas, M. Simmons
Front Row: Dave Beaver, Dave Snart, Steve Kent, Steve Roos, Dave Eldred.
Insert: Norman Eighteen.

IN TOWN TODAY MEMORABLE DAY FOR MARCH HARES

Today is probably to most important in the 70-year history of March Town for they are through to the first round of the F.A. Cup for only the second time. Though they are looking upon the occasion as a wonderful day out, player-manager Dave Eldred has not lost sight of the fact that strange things have been known to happen in the Cup and we shall certainly be taking them every bit as seriously as any other visitors.

The last time March enjoyed such a day was back in November 1955 when they were drawn away to Brentford in the first round. On that occasion they were beaten 0-4.

One man, in whom March place a great deal of faith, is forward Steve Snell, joint top scorer with seven goals. Steve has earned the title of "super-sub" after coming on late to score many vital goals for the club. Though he is now a scorer of important goals, he began his footballing career as a goalkeeper. Steve is now employed as a golf professional but I don't suppose he'll look upon that as any handicap this afternoon.

The Hares' squad of 13 players includes four forwards, the others being Andy Thomas, Steve Roos and Chris Rowley. Thomas, in fact, was once an outstanding central defender but he has now switched to the role of target man. As he takes the field today, Andy will undoubtedly recall his last big match on a League ground in 1976. Then he was a member of the March Youth Club that won the final of the National Association of Youth Clubs' Cup on Leicester City's ground.

Roos was manager Dave Eldred's first signing this season and he scored on his debut against Chatteris Town. He has netted twice in the club's F.A. Cup run so far.

Rowley is something of a temperamental character but he is always liable to pop up with critical goals. In the last round of the F.A. Cup, Chris scored the winner against Southall & Ealing Borough. Chris was recently suspended for five weeks and, upon his return to the side, he was immediately sent off! He is now awaiting news of a further "rest" period!!

The midfield seems likely to comprise of Dave Snart, Steve Kent and Paul Hutchinson. Snart has only recently joined the club from junior football. Kent, whose brother Lester plays in defence, is a rugged, hard-tackling midfield player who revels in hard work. In private life, he works in a bank.

Hutchinson plays as a deep-lying winger and he looks upon today's big match as something of a bonus. Paul was recently involved in a car accident and he wasn't expecting to play. In fact, he was passed fit just over a week ago and returned to the side last Saturday.

The back four seems likely to comprise of Mick Simmons, Dave Beaver, Lester Kent and Dave Eldred.

Simmons was formerly the club skipper but he left the club and returned last year. He is one of three schoolteachers in the side. Beaver is another player who was once captain and who is now in his second spell with the club.

Kent is now club skipper and for a spell when they were without a manager earlier this season he was placed in charge of the side. He won representative honours for the British Universities XI and Cambridgeshire County.

Dave Eldred, who was appointed player-manager ten weeks ago, is the club's longest-serving player and he plays as sweeper. Dave joined Peterborough as an apprentice in 1970 and later turned professional but he decided in the end to go for an outside career and treat football as a part-time occupation.

Another possibility in defence is Norman Eighteen, though it seemed earlier in the week he might be the odd player out in the 13-strong squad. Norman, a local government official, joined the club from junior football as a mid-field player but later converted to defence.

The goalkeeper is David Dobrowolski who proved the answer to March's long search for a goalkeeper when they signed him last season. David is in the data processing office of the British Sugar Corporation.

The Hares set out on their F.A. Cup run in the first qualifying round when they received Chatteris Town at their Great Eastern Railway Ground and beat them 4-1. They then defeated Harwick and Parkston 2-1 after a 1-1 draw. Their next victims were St Neots Town who were beaten 3-2 away from home and, in the fourth qualifying round, they overcame Southall & Ealing Borough by 2-1.

The club participates in the "Town & Country" Football League, formerly known as the Eastern Counties League.

March Town was formed some 70 years ago and, after winning almost everything in local football, they rose to the United Counties League in 1948. After winning the championship of that competition in 1954 they were elected to the Eastern Counties League.

March were expecting to have been involved in a different sort of cup-tie this afternoon. They were drawn against Histon in the second round of the F.A. Vase which was due to be settled today. But their success in the big competition has given them far more important things to think about.

DIVISION 3 - 1978-79

Date	Opponents	Ground	Score	Scorers	Attendance
Aug. 12	Portsmouth	FLC1	A	0 - 0	9261
15	Portsmouth	FLC1	H	4 - 2 Aizlewood, Miller, Williams, Guthrie	7165
19	Bury		H	2 - 1 Bates, Miller	5428
21	Tranmere Rovers	A		1 - 1 Carter	2150
26	Shrewsbury Town	A		0 - 0	2672
30	West Ham	FLC2	A	2 - 1 Miller, Guthrie.	19672
Sep. 2	Mansfield Town	H		1 - 0 Bates	6195
9	Walsall	A		1 - 4 Williams	5024
12	Brentford	H		2 - 0 McHale, Bates	6685
16	Plymouth Argyle	A		0 - 2	6099
23	Blackpool	H		0 - 1	6609
27	Chester	A		0 - 2	3556
30	Sheffield Wednesday	H		3 - 0 Bates, Rowland, Gilchrist	5857
Oct 3	Peterborough	FLC3	A	1 - 1 Aizlewood	6132
6	Colchester United	A		2 - 3 Gilchrist, Bates	3324
10	Peterborough	FLC3R	H	0 - 2	7674
14	Rotherham United	H		1 - 0 Bates	4476
17	Peterborough United	H		3 - 1 Bates 2, Carter	4352
21	Lincoln City	A		3 - 0 McLaughlin, Williams, McHale	2982
28	Carlisle United	A		0 - 2	5141
Nov 4	Southend United	H		1 - 0 Gilchrist	5647
8	League Cup 4				
11	Mansfield Town	A		1 - 0 Bates	
18	Shrewsbury Town	H		2 - 1 Gilchrist, Aizlewood	
25	F.A. Cup 1 March Town	H			
Dec. 2	Chesterfield	A			
9	Hull City	H			
13	League Cup 5				
16	F.A. Cup 2				
23	Exeter City	H			
26	Swansea City	A			
30	Watford	A			
1979					
Jan. 1	Oxford United	H			
6	Brentford (3)	A			
13	Walsall	H			
17	League Cup SF				
20	Plymouth Argyle	H			
24	League Cup SF				
27	Blackpool (4)	A			
Feb. 3	Chester	H			
10	Sheffield Wednesday	A			
17	Colchester United (5)	H			
24	Rotherham United	A			
Mar. 3	Lincoln City	H			
10	Carlisle United (6)	H			
16	Southend United(LCF)	A			
24	Tranmere Rovers	H			
27	Bury	A			
31	Gillingham (SF)	A			
Apr. 7	Chesterfield	H			
11	Exeter City	A			
14	Swansea City	H			
16	Oxford United	A			
21	Watford	H			
24	Peterborough Untd.	A			
28	Hull City	A			
May 5	Gillingham	H			
10	12 F.A. Cup Final				

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

(TOTALS INCLUDE APPEARANCES AS SUB)

Goals in parentheses	Lge.	FLC	FAC	TOTAL
Kevin Roberts		1		1
John McLaughlin	15(1)	3		18(1)
Andy Ford	18	5		23
Ray McHale	18(2)	5		23(2)
Steve Aizlewood	16(1)	5(2)		21(3)
Kenny Stroud	18	5		23
Ian Miller	16(1)	4(2)		20(3)
Chris Kamara	16	5		21
Chic Bates	18(9)	5		23(9)
Brian Williams	11(2)	3(1)		14(3)
Roy Carter	18(2)	4		22(2)
Chris Ogden	17	4		21
Russell Lewis	5	2		7
Paul Gilchrist	10(4)			10(4)
Andy Rowland	5(1)			5(1)
John Trollope	3	2		5
Dave Cunningham	2	2		4
Jimmy Allan	1			1

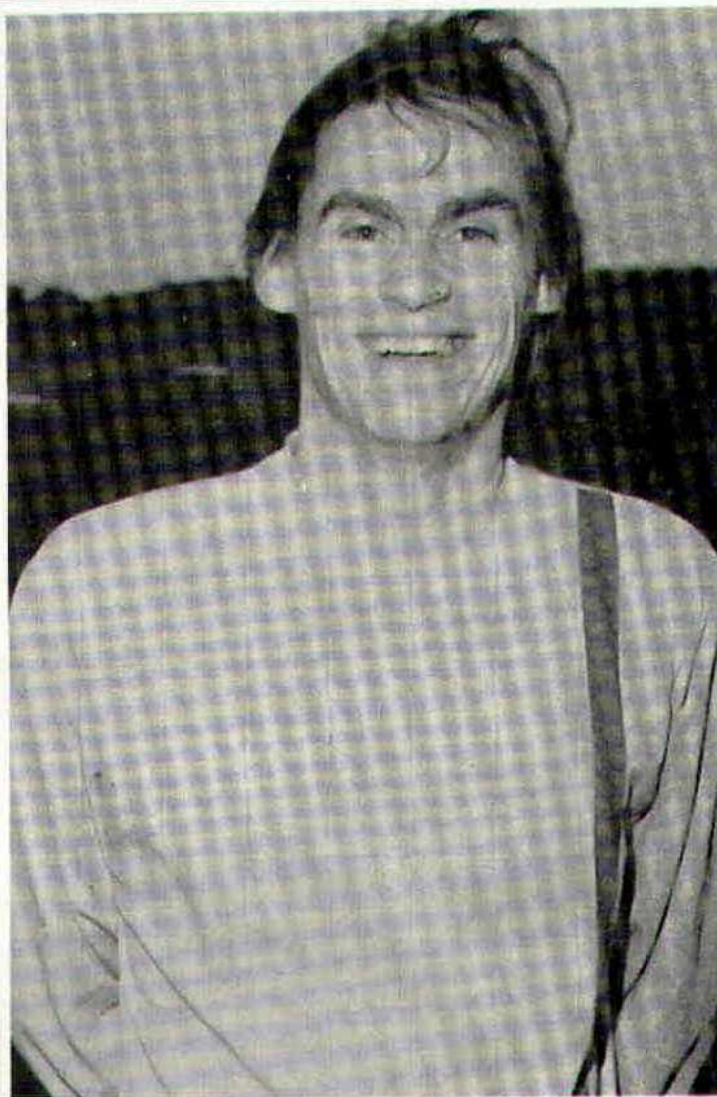
Also appeared: Chris Guthrie (transferred to Fulham) - 9 apps. 2 goals.



**Bob Smith with his coaching staff
Wilf Tranter, Bryan Hamilton and John Trollope**

**THIRD DIVISION GOALSCORERS
(League and League Cup)**

- 18- Ross Jenkins (Watford)
- 16- Ian Edwards (Chester)
- 15- Fred Binney (Plymouth)
- 13- Luther Blissett (Watford)
- 12- Robbie James (Swansea)
- 10- Keith Bowker (Exeter)
- Jeremy Charles (Swansea)
- Keith Edwards (Hull)
- Richard Finney (Rotherham)
- 9- CHIC BATES (SWINDON)
- Tony Kellow (Blackpool)
- 8- Bruce Bannister (Hull)
- Ken Beamish (Bury)
- Rod Fern (Chesterfield)
- Alan Waddle (Swansea)
- 7- Terry Austin (Walsall)
- Alan Curtis (Swansea)
- Gerry Fell (Southend)
- Bobby Gough (Colchester)
- Dave Gregory (Bury)
- Dave Gwyther (Rotherham)
- Brian Hornsby (Sheff. Wed)
- Dave Kemp (Carlisle)
- Ronnie Moore (Tranmere)
- 6- Ian Atkins (Shrewsbury)
- Vic Davidson (Blackpool)
- Paul Maguire (Shrewsbury)
- Ian Mellor (Chester)
- Ken Price (Gillingham)
- Jason Seacole (Oxford)
- Alan Slough (Peterborough)
- Derek Spence (Blackpool)



**David Eldred
Player Manager of March Town United**

ACTION REPLAY



Swindon forward Paul Gilchrist (right), scorer of the Town's equaliser against Shrewsbury last week, fails in this attempt at goal. Other Swindon players on the left are Chris Kamara and Roy Carter.



Shrewsbury goalkeeper Wardle collects the ball from the head of Swindon skipper Ray McHale to halt a Town attack during their victory at the County Ground last week.

From the **COMMERCIAL OFFICE**

Welcome to everyone again. If today's match is as good as the Shrewsbury game the County Ground will really start to buzz again.

On Sunday last we held an Open Day and unfortunately the weather was atrocious. Even so nearly 1000 fans turned up to see the facilities that we have. Due to the weather we had to cancel the training demonstrations and one or two other ideas. Our thanks to everyone of you who turned up and we hope that under the circumstances your visit was an enjoyable one.

At last Saturday's game we had the pleasure of entertaining for the day a party of sixty-one boys and fourteen parents of the Fairford Boys under Twelves Teams. Their day comprised of touring the ground in the morning, lunch in the Supporters Club where Jack Conley and his staff had done wonders with seventy-five lunches to provide, then a seat in the stand to watch the match. We think they were well satisfied and their chanting was very much appreciated as was their good behaviour.

If any other group would like to make a similar visit Ring us on Swindon 31510 for details.

We still need a few more agents to help sell our Lottery and Bingo Tickets. So why not earn some extra money for Christmas. Commission is paid on all sales and a bonus on all winners sold over the value of £5.

**WATCH OUT FOR SOMETHING EXCITING
IN THE NEW YEAR.**

DOUG BUSWELL
Commercial Consultant.

Continued from Page 5

burned up so much energy during the day you can put it back with a big evening meal without any ill effects." Afterwards while they got their breath back ready for another punishing session for the benefit of the next group the apprentices enjoyed a moment of minor glory signing autographs and Wilf Tranter found the time to talk about the problems of making substitutions and trying to keep happy fifteen fit and ambitious first team players with only eleven places to fill. Like everyone else at the club he was giving up his one normal rest day so that we outsiders could feel that bit more part of Swindon Town and like everyone else the fact that he actually seemed to be enjoying having us there was the main reason why this was such a pleasant and memorable outing.

Eventually it was time to leave the friendly, family atmosphere of the County Ground for the wind and rain of the outside world. "Swindon we love you" proclaimed the words scrawled on the hoarding opposite where we came out. After Sunday Jenny, Nicola, Alison and I certainly do.

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NATION WIDE

By Tony Pullein

Sixteen years ago he was cheered by 100,000 Wembley fans when he scored after only three minutes in the F.A. Cup final. He later became England's greatest goalscorer. Today he still plays on, though this afternoon he will be watched by no more than a few hundred spectators as he takes the field for Barnet in their home F.A. Cup tie against Woking. But at least Jimmy Greaves is still around, participating in the only thing that has really mattered to him --- playing football.

It's very likely that Jimmy Greaves will get his name on the scoring sheet again today and, hopefully, he may earn his side a tie against a bigger club in the next round.

Greaves made his first appearance in top class football more than 21 years ago, scoring on his League debut for Chelsea against Spurs in August 1957. He later joined AC Milan but quickly returned home to sign for Spurs. He ended his career in the top flight with West Ham in 1971.

Jimmy played 57 times for England and was his country's top scorer with 44 goals until Bobby Charlton surpassed his total. It was in 1962 that he scored that snap Cup final goal for Spurs to set them on the road to a 3-1 victory over Burnley.

When he left West Ham, Greaves gave up football altogether. But he was later persuaded to return as a part-timer with Chelmsford City in the Southern League. Later he was transferred to Barnet.

The first round of the F.A. Cup is, in many respects, the most interesting. Dozens of other former League players will be re-appearing in the big-time with non-League outfits and a mere look at the draw brings the memories floating back.

Playing in the first round for the first time in their history today are Blackpool, one of the F.A. Cup giants of the immediate post-war days. The Tangerines played in three Wembley finals in five years and, after losing to Manchester United and Newcastle, they finally lifted the trophy in the sensational "Stanley Matthews final" of 1953 when they came back from the dead to beat Bolton 4-3.

Those heady days of Matthews, Mortensen, Johnston, Taylor and Perry have long since passed and today Blackpool meet struggling Lincoln City, the Third Division's bottom club who haven't won a game of any sort since the opening day of the season. And that's the Imps only victory in 20 League and Cup games this term.

Blackpool are by no means the only past winners participating in today's first round. Sheffield Wednesday took the F.A. Cup back to Hillsborough on three occasions and have appeared in five finals, the most recent being in 1966. The Owls are steeped in Cup tradition for they regularly stage semi-finals when a capacity crowd of 55,000 packs the stadium.

Today Wednesday travel for a tricky tie at Scunthorpe where they could well come a cropper. In any event, they will probably be happy with a draw and a replay on the ground which has been the scene of so many Cup sensations down the years.

Huddersfield Town also appeared in five finals though they managed to win the trophy only once --- in 1922. Today they are struggling in the Fourth Division though they are assured of a good crowd when they make the short journey for a local derby at Doncaster.

Portsmouth created one of the greatest Cup final sensations of all time when they crushed favourites Wolves 4-1 in the 1939 final. Though promotion from the Fourth Division is their major objective this season, they will be hoping for no upsets today as they take the field as strong favourites for their home tie with Northampton Town.

Pompey manager Jimmy Dickinson achieved most things in his long career --- including 48 England caps --- but he never played in an F.A. Cup final. "It would have been nice to have savoured the Cup final atmosphere at Wembley", sighed Mr Dickinson. "But I can't complain really."

"I won two League Championship medals with Pompey and, of course, I played at Wembley many times for England."

Maybe one day Mr Dickinson will have the chance to manage an F.A. Cup final team, though it will not be this season.

Barnsley, Bradford City and Bury are the other first-rounders who have experienced the joy of winning the F.A. Cup, though in all their cases it was a very long while ago.

It's strange to think that none of the 80 clubs in today's first round stands any chance of winning the Cup! No Third or Fourth Division side has ever reached the final while the last non-League club to get there was Tottenham in 1901. Spurs were a Southern League club at the time and they beat Sheffield United 3-1 in a replay.

That was a magnificent achievement for, in those days, the Southern League was what we might equate with the Third Division today. There were only two divisions of the Football League and their opponents were a First Division side.



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SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER 1978

SWINDON TOWN

1. C. OGDEN
2. J. McLAUGHLIN
3. A. FORD
4. R. McHALE
5. S. AIZLEWOOD
6. K. STROUD
7. I. MILLER
8. R. CARTER
9. P. GILCHRIST
10. C. BATES
11. C. KAMARA
12. B. WILLIAMS

at 3.00pm



MARCH TOWN

1. D. DOBROWOLSKI
2. M. SIMMONS
3. D. BEAVER
4. D. SNART
5. L. KENT
6. D. ELDRED
7. S. ROOS
8. S. KENT
9. A. THOMAS
10. C. ROWLEY
11. P. HUTCHINSON
12. S. SNELL

NEXT MATCH

Saturday 2nd December

Football Combination

CRYSTAL PALACE

K.O. 3.0 p.m.

LINESMEN: Red Flag: Mr. R.L. Hamer, Bristol. Yellow Flag: Mr. J.L. Connock, Bristol.

REFEREE:

MORRIS R. BAKER, (Wolverhampton)

Commenced refereeing in Wolverhampton Amateur League, then through West Midland (Regional) to Football League. Has officiated in an England v. Scotland (Amateur) International, also a Hungary v. Austria match.

A married man with two sons, he is a Director of a tool-making concern, and his hobbies are Tennis, Swimming and Walking. Serves on a committee to raise money for the welfare of Senior Citizens.

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KEY OF THE BOARD

- A Aldershot v Weymouth
- B Altrincham v Southport
- C Barnsley v Worksop
- D Blackpool v Lincoln
- E Bournemouth v Hitchin Town
- F Bradford City v Port Vale
- G Carlisle v Halifax
- H Chester v Runcorn
- I Colchester v Oxford Utd.
- J Doncaster v Huddersfield
- K Exeter v Brentford
- L Hartlepool v Grimsby
- M Hereford v Newport
- N Hull City v Stafford Rangers
- O Mansfield v Shrewsbury
- P Portsmouth v Northampton
- Q Reading v Gillingham
- R Southend v Peterborough
- S Swansea v Hillingdon
- T Watford v Dagenham