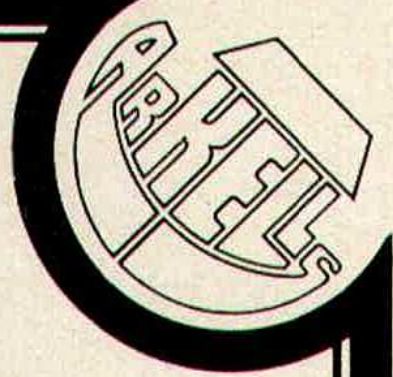
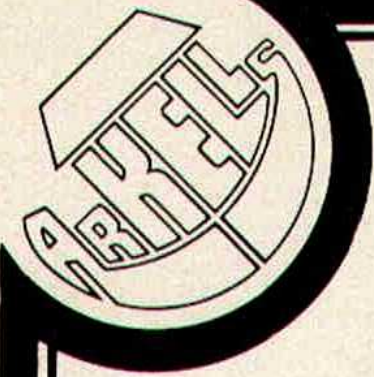




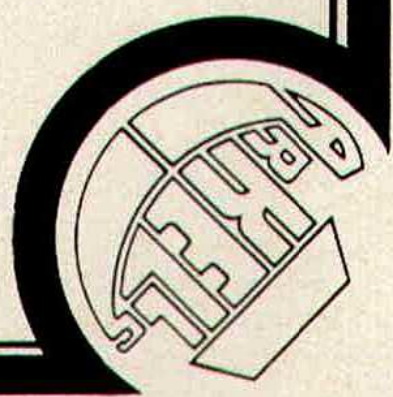
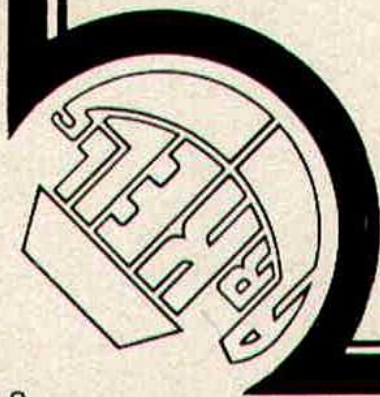
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v

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Administrative Manager/Secretary R. J. Jefferies

Bob Smith says.....

Again I am faced with the difficulty of writing notes before the result of an intermediate match is known, in this case away at Hull City, but even so including tonight's game, we still have five games to play - a possible ten points.

Our task at the moment is a hard one because four of the last six games are away from home, but I am confident that with the form we are showing we have every chance of accumulating the necessary points required for promotion. I felt the players, especially in the second half, played really well against Peterborough United and deserved at least a point. As it was Peterborough scored the winner in the last five minutes and we came away a bitterly disappointed team, but the thing that the players have now got is character and that disappointment will not spill over into the remaining games.

Local derbys, as tonight's game is, are always exciting and I am sure that the match this evening will be no exception, more especially as Oxford will be out for revenge for their defeat at Manor Ground.

One of my problems over the last few weeks has been, with all the injuries we have suffered, to find the necessary players for our reserve side and I think it speaks volumes for the young lads in all the games that they have had to play both in the Football Combination and the Midland Youth League, that they



have gone about the job with the right attitude and necessary character and I think a pat on the back is due here to John Trollope whose job it is to install those qualities in the young players at the Club.

In conclusion once again sincere thanks for coming along this evening and I hope you will give the lads the same kind of encouragement that you gave throughout the 90 minutes of our game against Watford. Well done!

Bits and Pieces

The Town's victory at the Manor on Easter Monday was the first there since January 1966. Two points today would give Swindon a 'double' over Oxford for the first time. This is the 22nd meeting of the two clubs, of which no less than seven have been goalless draws - two being in front of the largest gates ever to watch this 'derby', 21903 here in September 1969 and 20409 four years earlier.

Eight games have produced wins for the Town and just two have ended in victories for United - both in 1972-73. In those eight wins, Swindon have chalked up a total of nineteen goals and conceded just two - when Oxford came here last season and Dave Moss recorded a hat-trick. That was the second hat-trick by a Town player against United, the first being that by ARTHUR HORSFIELD in a 4-0 victory on February 26 1972.

Last season's game at the Manor produced the most goals ever for a Swindon-Oxford encounter, when the Town fought back from a 0-3 deficit at half-time to snatch a point. The clubs have met just once in Cup competitions - at Oxford on September 24 1969. The Town went there as holders of the League Cup, but a solitary David Sloan goal gave the home side victory. United's reward was a Fourth Round

tie away to Nottingham Forest, which also ended in a 1-0 win for Oxford.

Peter Dornan's brief appearance at London Road last week made him the 22nd player to be used by the Town this season. Swindon used exactly the same number to achieve promotion in 1962-63 - and after forty games had been played during that season, 48 points had been gained - two fewer than at the same stage this season.

Including two substitute appearances this season, marks John Trollope's 750th League appearance against Hull City on Saturday, since he first stepped out against Halifax on August 20 1960.

Revised Football Combination Fixtures

Thursday	3	May	Arsenal	Away
Saturday	5	May	Chelsea	Away
Monday	7	May	Orient	Home
Wednesday	16	May	West Ham	Home
Thursday	17	May	Bristol Rovers	Home
Saturday	19	May	Arsenal	Home

Revised Midland Youth League Fixtures

Thursday	10	May	Luton Town	Home
Monday	14	May	Birmingham City	Away

ARTHUR HORSFIELD



John Ward talks to

BRYAN HAMILTON

It is a fair bet that nearly everyone who reads this programme will agree that Bryan Hamilton is currently Swindon Town's most famous player. Joining the club from Millwall part of the way through this season he had the unusual experience of captaining Northern Ireland whilst in the Swindon Reserves! Before that he had played with distinction for Everton and Ipswich. Probably not so much is known however about the beginning of his football career. Any ideas of turning professional when he left school in Northern Ireland were soon banished by his father who insisted on him completing his studies. "He was bigger than me!" said Bryan, so he became qualified to work in electronics with computers. Meanwhile he played football part-time first for Distillery, then managed by George Eastham senior, and then Linfield. After three or four years with Linfield he had an outstanding home international series in 1969. The challenge of an offer to become a fulltime professional with Ipswich was too great to resist and Bryan took a decision which he says he has never regretted.

I asked Bryan what were the major differences between Ipswich and Everton to whom he was subsequently transferred. "Ipswich was homelier," he said. "It had the family atmosphere of a small town club. There was more pressure on everyone at Everton. It was no good being second to Liverpool even if you beat all the other clubs. I feel that I didn't do myself justice at Everton even though in one way I packed more into those two years, including an FA Cup semi final and League Cup final, than in my whole time at Ipswich. I wasn't playing really well except in short spells but all the same I enjoyed it."

How had the move to Swindon come about? "I had been at Millwall about 18 months. I was looking for something more than merely playing but I wasn't sure what. Bob Smith gave me the chance. I've come here as a player but I have a position on the coaching staff as well. I have a coaching badge but I don't think the qualification is as important as learning by doing the thing itself. I have always talked a lot during games and been involved as a player. I went to Millwall as a senior player but I found it hard to do any coaching when I only had the status of a player. It should be easier here since I have actually been given a coaching position. There has been a difficulty in that when I made the first team I had to concentrate so hard on keeping my place there was little time for anything else! Even if I am out of the team I enjoy helping John Trollope with the reserves. My aim is to stay in the game and to carry on playing as long as possible. The older I get the more I appreciate playing. Of course I think I'm good enough for the first team but as long as I'm still playing that is the main thing. When

I have had a spell in the reserves it's helped having good players there and there's been the feeling running through the whole club that everyone wants promotion."

Bryan was now in full flow but it was lunch time and he was due back home in Shrivenham to collect his wife Colette for a shopping expedition to Swindon. He offered to come back in the afternoon to finish the interview and then he brought with him his enchanting four year old daughter, Danielle. While Bryan had to deal with some important club business on the telephone Danielle drew me a picture of their house in Shrivenham with a big garden full of trees, her two year old brother Gareth and sausage dog, Mac. The upheavals in Danielle's short life are an illustration of the problems facing a professional footballer's family: six homes, in Ipswich, Southport and Chester, while Bryan was at Everton, Sevenoaks (Millwall), Wootton Bassett and now Shrivenham, all in four and a half years. "I owe it to my family to settle down now," said Bryan, which can only be good news for Swindon supporters. In addition to keeping up the fine garden which the Hamiltons inherited with the house Bryan in his spare time is taking a sales and marketing course. But he is clearly still deeply in love with football and ready to talk about it just as long as there is a fellow addict ready to listen; or - as on this occasion - until he remembers that his wife will be waiting for him to collect her from Sainsbury's.

Bryan talked about personalities and influences on his own career, about the start of English football and Swindon Town. "I've always been a good listener as well as a talker so I have been helped by almost everyone I've come across in football, Billy Bingham, Bobby Robson, Danny Blanchflower - he is a very honest man - George Petchey and Theo Foley at Millwall; but I could go on and on because good things come out of everybody. And of course there has been my wife. I have always been a busy player, an honest to goodness hard worker; I've scored goals and I can fill in at fullback, a utility player. I look on football as a job in that I am a professional but I still so enjoy playing. I have been lucky to avoid injury and there are not too many competitors for places in the Northern Ireland side. English football seems to be levelling out. There are no longer any Bests or Charltons or Laws but the lower Divisions have improved. When I came to Swindon I had this stomach feeling that I was doing the right thing. I was reminded of Ipswich. When I played in my first practice game here I was amazed at the number of skilful players. Think of what a small town club like Ipswich or Middlesbrough has achieved. There's no reason why we shouldn't do it at Swindon."

Talk of the Town by the Chairman

Once again we do battle against our near neighbours Oxford United. At Oxford it was a close affair before we obtained that vital goal and this was by a penalty award.

Penalty decisions cause more upsets in the game than anything else and we are always told that over the season the results even themselves out, but this is hard to believe at this stage of the season.

The excitement and interest caused in and outside of our town, after our win over Watford last week is good for everybody and I only hope that our future results will keep this interest alive.

Our result at Peterborough was disappointing to say the least, but the effort given by our team was magnificent and if this kind of display is given in all of our remaining matches we have some excitement in store for our supporters.

Our Youth team played two games in mid-week losing to the Wolves on Monday and drawing with Derby County on Thursday. John again used these games to give trials to some promising boys and I am sure that by next season, John will be very pleased with all the ground work that has been put in this season. It would amaze some people I am sure, if they knew of the activities that go on behind the scenes at the County Ground. This is why John's League career has to come to an end soon, because it is not possible to do two jobs at the same time. John has stepped into the breach caused by John McLaughlin's injury in a manner which our Manager knew he was capable of and in fact on this form, some people must be asking why give up at all, but of course we all know how important it is to the Club that our Youth Policy is brought up on the right lines and I know that we have made the right decision over John's future.

It is of course very important that the Manager of the Club has an interest in his Youth scheme and this he definitely has, as does his coaching staff. The senior playing staff can always be found watching these games.

The reserve team game against Cardiff on Wednesday evening which we won 2-1 was really entertaining and it was a pity that so few were there to witness the game. Unfortunately this game was not given any publicity although an announcement was made at the County Ground on Saturday last, but people seem to rely very often for such details on our local press.

Next week we meet the Orient in the Combination on Bank Holiday Monday 7th May, on

the County Ground, kick off at 3.00 p.m. and we are playing Luton on the Shrivenham Road Ground on Thursday in the Midland Youth League which kicks off at 2.15 p.m.

In my last notes, I referred to the new contract which the Television Companies are hoping the Football League will accept and I said that the clubs were against accepting a four year contract which did not include a clause to protect inflation. Mr. Alan Hart the Head of Sport for the B.B.C. Television who was in attendance at our game with Watford must have read my programme notes and went out of his way to discuss my comments and surprised me with his explanation which said that the combined offer from the two Television Companies did include originally an inflationary clause in each years offer, but it seems that a comprehensive sum was offered for the four years and not explained to our Clubs as they would have done. The B.B.C. have also pointed out that clubs will receive their share at the beginning of each season and not in two payments as previously paid and in this way clubs will have the use of this financial help when it is really needed. He did admit that if the present offer could now be made, that the past payments to clubs were far and away too low, and we the League clubs feel that we have been "sold down the river" in the past.

The Commercial value of football clubs, especially successful ones, is tremendous in today's market and it is up to clubs to make use of this advantage and with support decreasing other means of income will become a necessity.

The Americans are only beginners in the Professional world of soccer, but they are past masters in the field of presentation and we in this country have much to learn from them.

Gradually we are making use of advertising, sponsorship, lotteries, television fees etc., to pay for a system of exchanging players from club to club, known as the transfer system. Where will it end and when or will it ever end?

The clubs that are content to stand still will obviously be left behind, we do not intend to be one of these, and if the end of the season does not bring the rewards we are all looking for, I can assure everyone of our supporters that we shall be planning even harder for the future.

Hoping that today's game will be as exciting as our last home fixture and thank you for your support.



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IN TOWN TONIGHT



OXFORD UNITED

Back Row (L to R): M. Briggs, J. Sweetzer, A. Kingston, J. Doyle, A. White, F. Ford (Chief Scout)
Middle Row (L to R): K. Fish (Trainer), M. McIntosh, P. Emsden, J. Milkins, R. Burton, P. Berry,
J. Seacole, W. Asprey (Coach)
Front Row (L to R): H. McGrogan, W. Jeffrey, L. Taylor, M. Brown (Manager), P. Foley,
D. Fogg, A. Bodel, C. Duncan.

IN TOWN TONIGHT

Oxford United, who found themselves in serious relegation danger after a poor start to the season, have now pulled well clear of trouble. They have been showing a particular improvement in away form in recent weeks and come to the County Ground today unbeaten in their last five away games.

Considering the appalling run of injuries from which they have been suffering, Oxford have done remarkably well to hold their own. Tonight they might still be without one of their top scorers Peter Foley, goalkeeper Roy Burton, that experienced midfield man Gordon Hodgson and young striker Jimmy Sweetzer.

During Foley's absence, Paul Berry has been playing at centre-forward with Ray Graydon and Jason Seacole supporting him in attack.

Foley, who served his apprenticeship with the club and came into the senior side initially in 1974/75, is poised to top the club's scoring list for the third season in succession. After hitting 13 goals in 1976/77, he claimed 21 last season and had netted ten times this season when he was injured.

Berry, who had been given occasional opportunities over the past couple of seasons, scored his first League goal at Plymouth in February and had scored four times before last Saturday's game against Lincoln.

Oxford paid £40,000 to sign Graydon from Washington Diplomats earlier this season. Ray began with Bristol Rovers and won England youth honours during his Eastville days. Aston Villa signed him in 1971 and four years later he hit their winning goal in the League Cup final. Coventry signed him for £35,000 in 1977 and it seemed we had seen the last of him in League soccer when he went to the U.S. at the end of last season --- until Oxford went in with their bid.

Seacole was still serving his apprenticeship when he was called up for his League debut two seasons ago. He has become a persistent goal-scorer this season and, with Foley out of the side, he has now taken over as leading scorer with 11 goals prior to the weekend.

Another forward, Archie White, is often included as the substitute. Though he has not yet been able to command a regular place, he has made several appearances over the past couple of years and he hit his first League goal when he came on to equalise in the 1-1 draw against Sheffield Wednesday a week ago.

Sweetzer is another player to come through the club's apprenticeship scheme. He was introduced to the League eleven this season and scored his first goal against Carlisle at the end of March. He is the brother of Cambridge United's Gordon Sweetzer.

OXFORD PULL BACK AFTER POOR START

While Gordon Hodgson has been on the injured list, the versatile Les Taylor has switched yet again from full-back to play in midfield. He will probably be partnered tonight by Gary Briggs and Colin Duncan.

Hodgson, who was signed from Mansfield for £30,000 this season, began his League career in the First Division with Newcastle in 1971/72. In 1974 he moved on to Mansfield where he maintained an ever-present record over the past two seasons. He is a former England youth international.

Taylor developed in the junior sides and made his first-team break-through four seasons ago. Briggs was mainly a reserve-team player at Middlesbrough and it wasn't until he joined Oxford on loan last season that he made his bow in League soccer. He returned to Ayresome Park until completing the transfer last summer.

Duncan, yet another Oxford discovery, was introduced to the League eleven in 1974/75.

The back four will probably comprise of Malcolm McIntosh, Andy Bodel, Billy Jeffrey and David Fogg. All, apart from Fogg, are products of the Oxford nursery. McIntosh is in the side for the first time this season, Jeffrey came in during 1973/74 while Bodel followed two years later.

Fogg began his career with Wrexham, joining them initially as an amateur. He made his League bow in 1970/71 and took part in their run to the quarter-finals of the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1975/76. He was transferred to Oxford at the end of that season.

Roy Burton has made more than 250 appearances in goal since his debut in 1971/72 and his absence has given another chance for the veteran John Milkins to play League soccer. John made his League bow for Portsmouth in 1960/61 and made almost 400 senior appearances for the Fratton Park club until transferring to Oxford for £10,000 in 1974.

Since losing 1-2 at Gillingham in early March, Oxford have remained unbeaten in subsequent away games at Bury (1-1), Shrewsbury (0-0), Rotherham (0-0), Colchester (1-1) and Walsall (1-0).

Earlier on they won at Hull (1-0) and Plymouth (1-0) and picked up points from Chesterfield (1-1), Peterborough (1-1), Sheffield Wednesday (1-1), Swansea (1-1) and Lincoln (2-2). They were beaten at Blackpool (0-1), Southend (0-2), Watford (2-4), Brentford (0-3), Exeter (0-2), Tranmere (0-1), and Chester (1-4).

From our tame Statistician

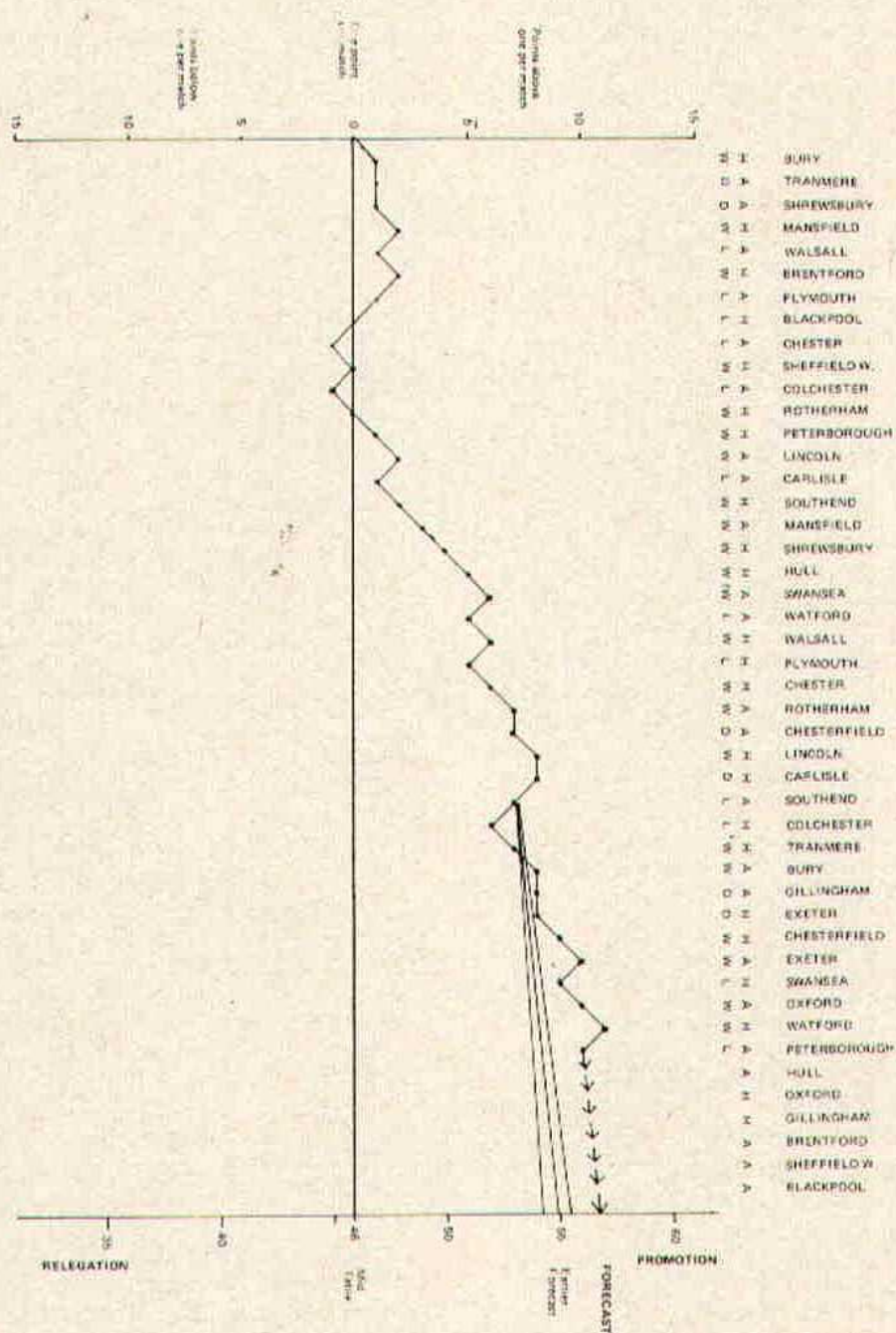
In the programme to the Lincoln City match on March 3rd I gave my latest forecast of 55 points at the end of the season. I have repeated the usual performance diagram here showing the forecast I made then. After an initial hiccup you can see that the team has been consistently above that forecast. Revising the forecast for the last six matches gives a forecast of 57 at the end of the season.

Last season 57 points secured promotion. This

season it looks as though more will be necessary with 5 contenders battling for 3 places. It may well depend on goal difference too. Thus each goal scored or conceded will be important.

During my several seasons writing in our programme I have noted that when I produce a forecast the team nearly always does slightly better than the forecast. If they do the same this time we will be playing in division 2 next season.

Dr. B. E. Cooper



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ACTION REPLAY



Former Watford player Alan Mayes (right) and Roy Carter in an airborne battle with Watford's Joslyn during the Town's impressive victory at the County Ground



Swindon's Andy Rowland (right) nods the ball goalwards following a Town corner kick resulting in Ross Jenkins putting the ball into his own net for Swindon's first goal in their great win at the County Ground.

From the **COMMERCIAL OFFICE**

Welcome to all from Oxford.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Arrangements for our "PROGRAMME FAIR" are nearing completion. Don't forget this on Sunday May 6th in the North Stand Gallery, 10.30 to 2.30. I am sure that all programme enthusiasts will not want to miss this event.

The Commercial Department is still looking for a suitable person to join them to promote the Fund Raising Activities of the Club. If you are smart with a pleasant personalty and are a car owner why not contact the Commercial Manager on Swindon 42984 or 31510. Salary negotiable, holiday arrangements honoured. An interest in the Club would be an asset.

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Doug Buswell,
Commercial Manager.

Sunderland's caretaker-manager Billy Elliott should be feeling pleased with himself after almost certainly leading the club back into the First Division -- but he isn't. His big niggle is the continual talk that Ipswich boss Bobby Robson will be taking over at Roker next season.

"We have been beaten only twice in 21 games since I took over in December," he said. "I think my track record compares with anyone else's," he added after Sunderland had stepped closer to their goal when winning 2-0 at Cambridge.

Two wins in three days -- over Bradford City and Stockport County --- have more or less erased Bournemouth's fears of having to seek re-election for what would have been the first time since 1933. They have never been remotely concerned with re-election since that time and it was sad to see them dip into such a grave position, particularly after the grand start they made when new manager Alec Stock took over earlier this season.

Mr Stock is expected to make several new signings during the summer and aims to take the club back into the Third Division by the end of the next season.

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NATION WIDE

By Tony Pullein

Nottingham Forest's splendid victory over FC Cologne in the semi-final of the European Cup makes them the first English club ever to reach Europe's number one final at their first attempt. Manchester United were beaten in three semi-finals before they made the final in 1968 and Liverpool also suffered three failures before winning the trophy for the first time in 1977.

Leeds United, who were beaten in the 1975 final, got there at the second attempt.

Forest now meet Swedish side Malmo FF in the final in Munich on May 30.

Malmo's success heralds a breakthrough for Swedish soccer, too, for they have never before had a team in the final of any of the three European competitions.

But Forest manager Brian Clough is one man who will certainly not be counting any chickens for Malmo have powered their way to the final playing some pretty determined defensive football, having conceded goals in only two of their six ties so far.

Malmo drew their first round first-leg 0-0 at home to French champions Monaco and then won 1-0 away from home in the return. They then visited the Russian champions Dinamo Kiev, again holding on for a goalless draw before winning the home leg 2-0.

But Malmo proved they can attack, too, when they are in trouble. They went down 1-2 away to the Polish title-holders Wisla Krakow and, when they were forced to come out of their shell in the return, they crashed home four goals to win 4-1 on the night and 5-3 on aggregate.

Came the semi-final against Austria Vienna and it was back to the old pattern --- a 0-0 drawn in Vienna, following by a 1-0 win at home.

So Forest clearly have a great deal of planning and hard work ahead of them if they are to pull off the greatest triumph in their history.

Back home the promotion races are reaching critical points in all divisions and West Ham manager John Lyall has been looking back sadly at the effect upon his team's chances on the loss of England midfield star Trevor Brooking.

Mr. Lyall was reflecting upon the enormity of his task after the Hammers had dropped another point in a 0-0 draw at Charlton where they were also without top scorer Bryan Robson. "Our only real hope now is if we can win all the rest of our games," he shrugged. As West Ham had picked up only eight points from seven games as he spoke, it seemed most unlikely that they could achieve that objective.

At Charlton, West Ham suffered the sort of frustrating luck that can really tear at the hearts of any club fighting so desperately for promotion. Alan Devonshire had a goal disallowed because colleague Billy Jennings was offside. Yet Jennings, who had gone down with a painful injury moments early, was struggling vigorously to try and hobble back into an onside position when the ball went into the net!

Everyone seems to be getting the jitters at the top of the Second Division. Poor Crystal Palace goalkeeper John Burridge made an awful blunder at Leicester to give away a goal after only 11 minutes. "It was totally my fault," admitted Burridge, a £50,000 signing from Aston Villa last season.

"I went out to a high ball, intending to punch it up and away. But I mis-hit it and it dropped straight at the feet of Bobby Smith. He had the simplest of tasks to put it into the net and as the game went on I thought my error had cost us the game."

It was defender Paul Hinshelwood, with his first goal of the season, that saved the day for Palace with an equaliser in the last minute.

Palace manager Terry Venables refused to condemn Burridge for his costly mistake, though. "John has done a truly magnificent job for us all season and even he is entitled to a mistake now and again. And don't forget that it was John who kept us in the game with two great saves later on."

One of the happiest managers in the Second Division was Stoke City's Alan Durban, following his side's 1-0 victory at Wrexham. "Our win owed much to the courage and loyalty of the players," he maintained. "An example of this was there to see when former England defender Mike Doyle was ruled unfit to play. Dennis Smith, whom we had expected to be out for the rest of the season, insisted upon playing even though he had a horrible gash, and ten stitches, on his shin."

Smith played a fearless game at the heart of the defence and a goal by Brendan O'Callaghan, his 17th of the season, was sufficient to give his side the points.

Mr. Durban then had time to reflect upon the nerves being shown by the top clubs. "It's understandable at this stage of the season," he said. "Look at our experience at the end of March -- we were beaten at home in successive games by Sunderland and Blackburn. I was worried then, but we have since been back to form and I hope we have got that bad spell out of our system now."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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1, Hackleton Rise,
Stratton St. Margaret.



TUESDAY 1st MAY 1979

SWINDON

1. J. ALLAN
2. J. TROLLOPE
3. A. FORD
4. R. METCALFE
5. S. AIZLEWOOD
6. K. STROUD
7. I. MILLER
8. R. CARTER
9. A. ROWLAND
10. A. MAYES
11. C. BATES

at 7.30pm



NEXT MATCH

Saturday, 5th May, 1979

Division III
GILLINGHAM
K.O. 3.0 p.m.

OXFORD

1. J. MILKINS
2. H. McINTOSH
3. B. FOGG
4. G. BRIGGS
5. A. BODEL
6. L. TAYLOR
7. R. GRAYDON
8. B. JEFFREY
9. P. FOLEY
10. J. SEACOLE
11. C. DUNCAN
12. A. WHITE

Linesmen:

Red Flag: Mr. A.E. GARLAND, Downend, Bristol Yellow Flag: Mr. J.E. WATHEN, Newport, Gwent

REFEREE

BILL H. BOMBROFF - Bristol

Commenced refereeing in Birmingham before moving to Bristol in 1963. Graduated via Western League to Football League Linesmen's List in 1970. Refereed Junior County Cup Final in 1974.

Married with two sons, and is a freight sales representative. Vice Chairman Bristol Referees Association. Keen on development of new Referees and also enjoys cricket.

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Here's how the Automobile Association suggest you travel to Brentford Football Club.

SWINDON

Follow signs Marlborough A345

In 0.7 miles at roundabout take 1st exit signs London to join Motorway M4

12.5 MEMBURY SERVICE AREA

57 HESTON SERVICE AREA

In 4.5 miles branch left & leave Motorway

5 CHISWICK ROUNDABOUT (Flyover)

Follow signs South Circular Road A205

In 0.3 miles turn right into Kew Bridge Road A315

0.4 miles turn right into Easing Road A3001

1.2 BRENTFORD FOOTBALL CLUB (on left)