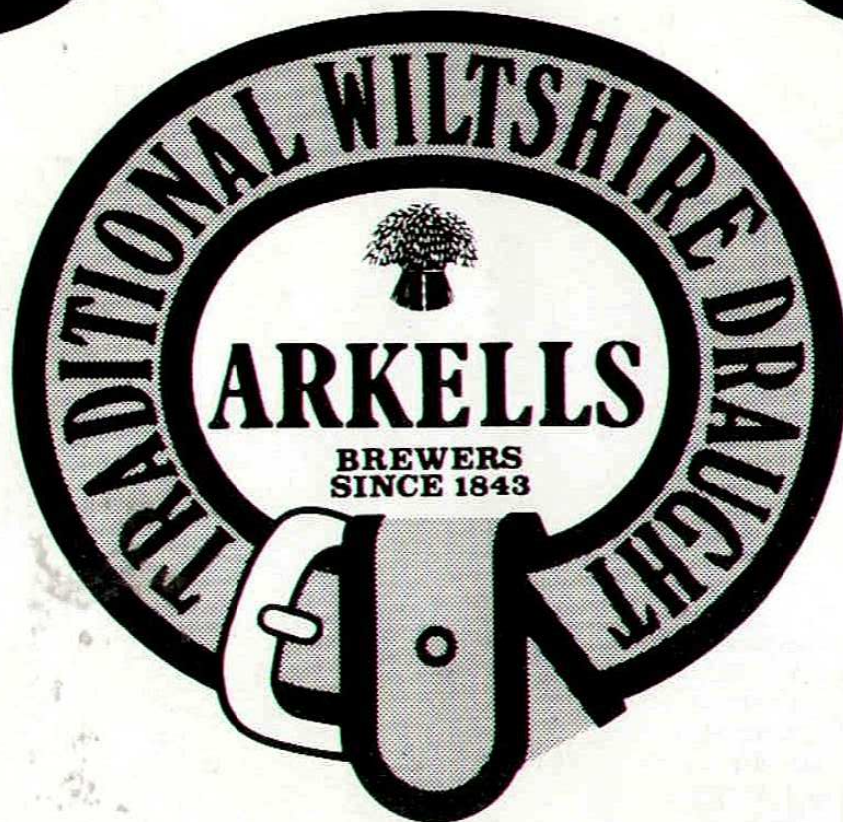
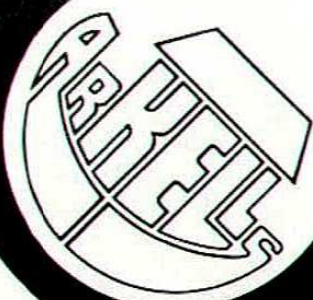


**SWINDON
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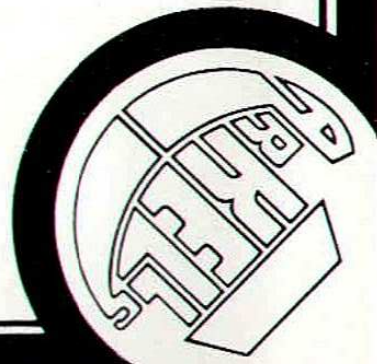
BRENTFORD

Official Match Day Magazine 20p



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Bob Smith says.....

Two League matches have produced but the one point and at the moment our play is in patches. In the game at Sheffield United, during the first half we dominated the first half but during the second period we fell away badly and deserved to lose. During the first half against Reading we were too apprehensive but during the second half we played more like ourselves, more relaxed and playing the type of football we are renown for. Although this did not produce a goal unfortunately. These are signs however that we are beginning to get our total game together and by total I mean every player playing to his maximum ability and work rate. Another encouraging thing was the crowd of just over 9,500 who came along to support us and we sincerely hope that this will continue and even improve in the matches to come.

I made an announcement last week that Brian Hamilton had agreed to become Reserve Team Manager, a decision which I am personally very pleased about and I now feel very confident for the future of Swindon Town with people like Brian and John Trollope dealing with younger lads through their informative years. I must add that Brian Hamilton is still a member of the first team squad and will be available for selection whenever I require him in the first team.

It was good to hear after the game last Tuesday that not one Swindon supporter was in trouble especially after I had appealed to the younger supporters in the Reading programme. It was nice to hear that they did not let the good name of Swindon Town down and I hope that their behaviour in the future will be equally as good.

Thanks for coming along this afternoon and don't forget to cheer the lads for the whole of the match.



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TOWN THROUGH TIME —

Goalkeepers

by Paul Plowman

part three

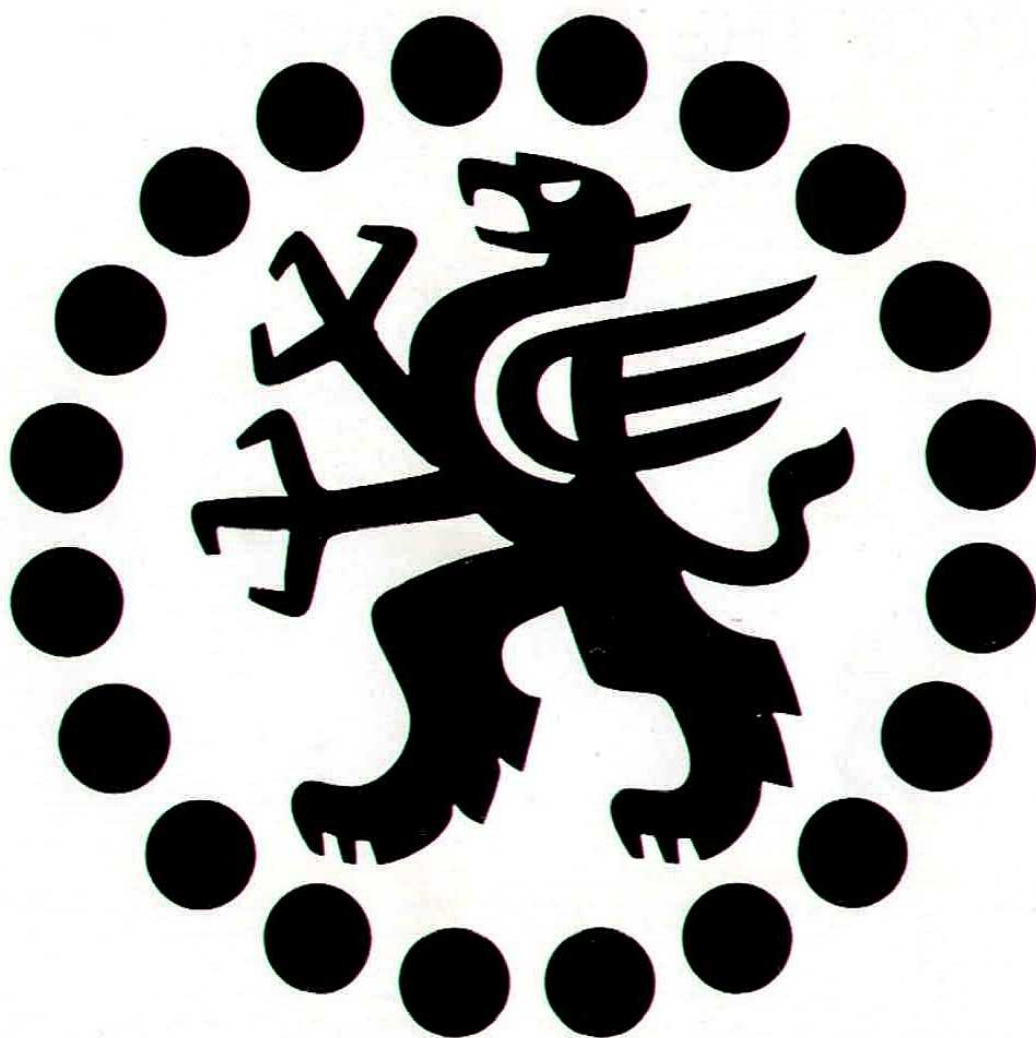
The man who came to take over the position vacated by Archie Ling was no stranger to Swindon. Born in the western extremity of Penzance, LEN SKILLER first made his name with Leyton (an amateur outfit, no connection with the present Orient club) and was then snapped up by Aston Villa. When he was made available for transfer by the Midlands club, the Town directors probably remembered his splendid performances whenever he came to Swindon - and they duly signed him. He took little or no time to settle down with his new colleagues at the County Ground for, despite numerous changes in the full-back pairing in front of him, Len rationed the Town's opponents to just seven goals in his first twelve games. The only side to defeat Swindon in that period was Skiller's old club Leyton - and just to add salt to the wound, the Londoners later completed the double over the Town. Nevertheless, Len Skiller's presence between the sticks was instrumental in the 'goals against' column registering just forty-six at the close of the 1909-10 season, a figure bettered only by champions Brighton. Twelve months later that honour came to Swindon when Skiller and company conceded even fewer, a paltry 31. Only once did any side put more than two in the Town net during a League game - yes, it was Leyton! But this time Len wasn't present, FRED HEMMINGS on one of his last appearances being the unfortunate victim. The Leyton voodoo was finally laid to rest in 1911-12, when Mr. Skiller must have gained considerable pleasure in seeing the Town forwards ram nine goals past his opposite number in the two games. Len helped Swindon take the Southern League title again in 1914, but it might not have happened had he not pulled off a remarkable save in the last game of the season. Needing a win over Cardiff at Ninian to make sure of the championship, there was no score with just a few minutes remaining. Then Skiller was brought into action - leaping spectacularly from one side of his goal to the other to deflect a piledriver wide of the post for a corner. It was still 0-0 at the final whistle but when the Town players returned to the railway station they heard that second-placed Palace had only drawn at Gillingham - so the League honours went to Swindon, thanks to Len Skiller.

When the Great War finally put paid to League football in 1915, Len was put on the Town retained list along with an incredible total of sixty-five others. This was obviously a safeguard adopted to ensure that in the confusion that the years of hostilities brought and the casualties incurred, players would not drift away from the club. When the League battle recommenced in August 1919, however, it was two local men who vied for the number one position. FRED HINTON had only a brief stay before signing for Bolton Wanderers for a hefty fee in the summer of 1920 and in March of that year young TEDDY NASH, who had signed for Swindon at the age of fifteen, made his League debut. It was he who donned the keeper's jersey for the first match in Division Three - that 9 - 1 romp at the expense of Luton. But when Teddy was unable to make the trip to Southampton two days later, Len Skiller returned to the fold and although the Town crashed 0 - 4 no blame could be attached to the veteran. Skiller's remarkable agility remained and Swindon, with his assistance, finished the season a most creditable fourth. He finally made his farewell after some 300 appearances on April 17 1922 when Southend were visitors here - and gave a faultless display, as ever, the Town cruising home 6 - 1. But before we leave Len Skiller, one amusing incident from his long career was later recalled by manager Sam Allen. It occurred at the Den one year when Mr. Allen was of the opinion that the game should be abandoned when a heavy fog descended. "It was so bad that all one could see from the stand was (the Swindon outside-right) Jefferson's bald head" he claimed. After the game the Town players were soaking themselves in the bath when someone noticed that Len Skiller was missing. Skipper Billy Tour then made a hasty retreat to the field only to discover the keeper still standing between the posts poised for the flood of oncoming forwards!

To be continued



LEN SKILLER



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TALK OF THE TOWN by the Chairman

Today we welcome the players and Officials from Brentford and if today's game is as exciting as our last encounter it will be worth seeing. Brentford have made a good start to the season by gaining a point at Reading in the opening game of the season. We made a bright start ourselves at Sheffield but it was not to be as we could not maintain the pressure and I am sure that Sheffield United were glad to get that game over which was their first game played in the Third Division.

Our Reserve Team also suffered defeat at the hands of Bristol City but the Youth Team beat Crystal Palace 2 - 0 in their first game in the South East Counties League which caters for 17 year olds and under.

Several young players made their debut in the Football League on Saturday and it was interesting to read of Clive Allen scoring for Queens Park Rangers. Clive is the son of Les Allen, our former manager, who was always confident that his boy could make a living from professional football and if he turns out to be as good as his father then Queens Park Rangers have a find. Considering the number of professional footballers in the League who have sons, it is surprising how few follow in their fathers footsteps. The tragedy of crowd misbehaviour, which we seem to have when our local derbies take place are proving very costly to football clubs financially. In consultation with the local police we are planning to improve our ground facilities to enable us to segregate visiting supporters when they arrive in large numbers in order to prevent movement from one part of the ground to another. This will mean erecting additional safety barriers etc., but we are determined to do everything in our power to protect the rights of our supporters from being disturbed by this unruly element.

As I mentioned in my previous notes we have formed a Travel Club Membership and the response so far is very encouraging and I am sure that the police will welcome any organisation that is well behaved to football matches.

After much adverse publicity regarding the trouble makers, including even an article on the front page of our local paper on the evening of our match against Reading it was a pleasure to witness a very well behaved crowd both from our own supporters as well as from the Reading contingent. The large number of extra police which, according to our local newspaper, was being drafted in, to deal with crowd troubles must have wondered why they were needed.

On Monday, 3rd September, we are holding an Open Forum when our supporters can meet the

manager and perhaps we can persuade a few of the players to appear. In the past these gatherings have been very successful. Last year we held it in the Supporters Club and this year we are holding it in the Rendezvous Club at 7.30 p.m.

The Annual General Meeting is being held in the Supporters Club on Monday, 10th September again at 7.30 p.m. You may have read that we have made a profit of just over four thousand pounds and this is very gratifying when one considers the high prices being asked for players and of course the tremendous rise in costs generally. When we talk of profits we, of course, include all of our revenues from competitions, lotteries, clubs and shops and I would like to pay a special tribute to everyone who organises and works for us in these ventures, not forgetting the sponsors who so generously help us each year, the catering around the ground, the advertising around the ground and last, but not least, you the supporter. The more income that comes into the ground the better chance we shall have of progressing and with the change in the football world regarding players freedom of contract etc. It is up to us to prepare for the future.

In a changing world of economies the B.B.C. have instructed their local radio stations to cut back on their output with the result that sport has suffered a major setback on Radio Oxford. This has caused a tremendous outburst from the local areas who have, over the past few years, come to rely on Radio Oxford for the local sport news. A meeting was called and held at Witney Football Club with a few of the local clubs in attendance and from this preliminary discussion it was agreed to call another meeting on Thursday, 30th August and invite all interested sports organisations to come along, the idea being that if we can get enough response we are hoping to persuade the powers that be that sport should be reinstated as much as possible.

John Trollope is being kept very busy with his Midland Youth Fixtures and his South East Counties League Fixtures and on Thursday, 30th August we are playing Leicester City in the Midland Youth League, kick-off 2.30 p.m. and on Saturday, 1st September we are playing Cambridge United in the South East Counties League, kick off 1.00 p.m. Both of these games are being played on the Shrivenham Road Ground. On Wednesday, the 22nd August we played West Bromwich Albion away in the Midland Youth League but at the time of writing these notes the result is not known..

I hope that you enjoy today's game and thank you for your support.



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Third ^{DIVISION} 3 Dimensions

While the Town were going down by the odd goal at Bramall Lane last week, there was a mass exodus from the steel city to Barnsley. Over twenty-two thousand packed Oakwell for the visit of Sheffield Wednesday. Terry Curran maintained his goal-a-game record for the Owls this season and their two new strikers, Ian Mellor from Chester and Andy McCulloch from Brentford, both got off the mark in a 3-0 win.

Barnsley went down again when Phil Walker of Chesterfield recorded his fourth goal of the season in his side's 2-0 home win in mid-week. His two at Mansfield on Saturday were not sufficient to gain a point for the Spireites, as the home side scored through Russ Allen, Kevin Bird and Bob Curtis.

Grimsby Town started their League programme with a fine 4-1 victory over Exeter. City were a goal down as early as the first minute, Bob Cumming netting. Then two in a three-minute spell by young Gary Liddell put the Mariners 4-0 up.

Colchester gained maximum points from their two opening games with a 2-0 win at Hull on Saturday and a single-goal victory over Sheffield United on Tuesday. Coloured striker Trevor Lee, who hit nine goals in thirteen games towards the end of last season, got the decider against the Blades just seven minutes from time.

Fred Binney, Plymouth's top scorer last year with 27, hit both goals in Argyle's 2-0 win over Bury. They came in the space of two minutes during the first half - the second from the penalty spot.

Reading keeper Steve Death's attempt at a thirteen-match unbeaten record was dashed when one of his own defenders, player-coach Stewart Henderson sent the ball past him in the 29th minute of the Royal's game with Brentford. He was beaten again in the second half by John Fraser.

FRED
BINNEY
(Plymouth)



Season 1979—80

DIVISION 3

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Date	Opponents	Ground	Date	Opponents	Ground
1979			1979		
Aug. 11	Portsmouth (L. Cup)	A	Aug. 18	Bristol City	H
Aug. 14	Portsmouth (L. Cup)	H	Aug. 20	Luton Town	A
Aug. 18	Sheffield United	A	Aug. 25	Oxford United	A
Aug. 21	Reading	H	Sept. 1	Norwich City	A
Aug. 25	Brentford	H	Sept. 8	Bristol Rovers	H
Aug. 29	League Cup 2 (1L)		Sept. 12	Reading	A
Aug. 31	Colchester United	A	Sept. 22	Chelsea	H
Sept. 5	League Cup 2 (2L)		Sept. 26	Cardiff City	A
Sept. 8	Rotherham United	A	Sept. 29	Hereford United	A
Sept. 15	Chesterfield	H	Oct. 6	Leicester City	A
Sept. 18	Chester	H	Oct. 9	Luton Town	H
Sept. 22	Sheffield Wednesday	A	Oct. 13	Orient	H
Sept. 26	League Cup 3		Oct. 20	Tottenham Hotspur	A
Sept. 29	Grimsby Town	H	Oct. 23	Crystal Palace	A
Oct. 3	Chester	A	Oct. 27	Southampton	H
Oct. 6	Hull City	H	Nov. 3	Bristol City	A
Oct. 10	Reading	A	Nov. 10	Plymouth Argyle	H
Oct. 13	Wimbledon	A	Nov. 17	Birmingham City	A
Oct. 20	Southend United	H	Nov. 24	West Ham United	H
Oct. 23	Plymouth Argyle	H	Dec. 1	Queens Park Rangers	A
Oct. 27	Blackpool	A	Dec. 4	Arsenal	H
Oct. 31	League Cup 4		Dec. 15	Fulham	A
Nov. 3	Sheffield United	H	Dec. 21	Ipswich Town	H
Nov. 6	Plymouth Argyle	A	Dec. 29	Oxford United	H
Nov. 10	Mansfield Town	A	1980		
Nov. 17	Blackburn Rovers	H	Jan. 12	Norwich City	H
Nov. 24	F. A. Cup 1		Jan. 15	Reading	H
Dec. 1	Gillingham	A	Jan. 19	Bristol Rovers	A
Dec. 5	League Cup 5		Feb. 2	Cardiff City	H
Dec. 8	Bury	H	Feb. 9	Chelsea	A
Dec. 15	F. A. Cup 2		Feb. 16	Hereford United	H
Dec. 21	Millwall	A	Feb. 23	Orient	A
Dec. 26	Exeter City	H	Mar. 1	Tottenham Hotspur	H
Dec. 29	Brentford	A	Mar. 8	Southampton	A
1980			Mar. 14	Leicester City	H
Jan. 1	Oxford United	A	Mar. 22	Plymouth Argyle	A
Jan. 5	Carlisle United (3)	H	Mar. 29	Birmingham City	H
Jan. 12	Barnsley	A	Apr. 5	Crystal Palace	H
Jan. 16	League Cup SF		Apr. 7	Ipswich Town	A
Jan. 19	Rotherham United	H	Apr. 12	Queens Park Rangers	H
Jan. 26	Colchester United	H	Apr. 19	West Ham United	A
Feb. 2	Chesterfield	A	Apr. 26	Fulham	H
Feb. 9	Sheffield Wednesday	H	May 3	Arsenal	A
Feb. 13	League Cup SF		<div> <p>Next Match</p> <p>Tuesday Next, 28th August</p> <p>League Cup Competition</p> <p>CHESTER</p> <p>K.O. 7.30 p.m.</p> </div>		
Feb. 16	Grimsby Town (5)	A			
Feb. 23	Wimbledon	H			
Feb. 29	Southend United	A			
Mar. 8	Blackpool	H			
Mar. 14	Hull City	A			
Mar. 15	League Cup Final				
Mar. 22	Mansfield Town	H			
Mar. 29	Blackburn Rovers	A			
Apr. 1	Millwall	H			
Apr. 5	Exeter City	A			
Apr. 7	Oxford United	H			
Apr. 12	Carlisle United (SF)	A			
Apr. 19	Gillingham	H			
Apr. 26	Bury	A			
May 3	Barnsley	H			
May 10	F. A. Cup Final				

IN TOWN TODAY: BRENTFORD



Back Row (L to R) Dave Carlton, Lee Holmes, Terry Benning, Bob Booker, Trevor Porter, Pat Kruse, Len Bond, Jim McNichol, Dean Smith, John Fraser, Allan Glover.

Front Row (L to R) Paul Walker, Dean Jones, Paul Shrubbs, Steve Phillips, Jackie Graham, Barry Tucker, Doug Alder, Dave O'Mahoney, Willie Graham, Bradley Walsh.

Same-again Bees look for repeat

Brentford made such a huge improvement during the latter part of last season, after surviving a tough opening period, that manager Bill Dodgin saw no need to strengthen this squad during the close-season.

When the Bees returned to the Third Division last season, following five years in Division Four, they found the going pretty tough. In November they were second from bottom, apparently heading for immediate relegation. But results began to improve, Steve Phillips found his old scoring touch again and Brentford finally finished in tenth position.

During the summer they sold striker Andy McCulloch to Sheffield Wednesday for £70,000 but the Bees could well have discovered his replacement without spending a penny! Lee Holmes, who made a few appearances as a non-contract player last season, was chosen at centre-forward for the opening game of the season and celebrated with his first goal against Southend in the League Cup.

We shall probably see Holmes lining up with Dean Smith and Steve Phillips in attack, though Doug Alder continues to challenge for a place.

Smith was signed from Leicester last season and scored nine goals. Phillips scored a remarkable 36 goals in 1977/78! Last season Steve hit a hat trick against Chester and finished top scorer with 14. He played his early football with Birmingham and, after a spell on loan to Torquay, he moved to Northampton in 1975. Brentford signed him three seasons ago.

Alder won England youth honours in his early days with Millwall and went on to play more than 200 games for the Lions. He moved to Orient in 1975 and joined Brentford two years later.

David Carlton, Alan Glover and Pat Kruse opened the season in midfield but Paul Walker, Willie Graham and Jackie Graham are all potential first-teamers.

Carlton served his apprenticeship with Fulham and made nine appearances in their League team before transferring to Northampton in 1973. Brentford signed him in 1976. Glover moved across London from Orient to sign for Brentford last season. His first club was Q.P.R. and he made a few First Division appearances for them before joining W.B.A. for £60,000 in 1969. While at the Hawthorns he spent loan periods with Southend

and Brentford and eventually signed for Orient in 1976.

Kruse made a couple of appearances for Leicester City and went to Mansfield on loan. It was after moving to Torquay in 1975 that he began to establish himself. He joined Brentford three seasons ago.

Wallser came through the junior teams to make his League debut in 1976/77. Willie Graham is a former Northampton apprentice who joined Brentford as a professional and who got his league chance in 1977.

Jackie Graham is now in his tenth season with the Bees. He began his career with Scottish League side Morton, joined Dundee United in 1966 and two years later entered English football with Guildford City. Brentford signed him in 1970.

Favourites for the back four positions are Paul Shrubb, Jim McNicholl, John Fraser and Denis Salman.

Shrubb left Fulham when he failed to get into their League team and signed for South African club Hellenic. When he returned to England in 1976 he was invited to sign for the Bees.

Brentford paid a club record £35,000 to sign McNicholl from Luton last season, and, since his transfer, he has been selected twice for the Scotland under-21 eleven. Jim began his career with Ipswich but he didn't get into their League team so he moved on to Luton in 1976.

Fraser served his apprenticeship with Fulham and made his League bow for them in 1971/72. He made 55 League appearances for the Cottagers before his transfer to Brentford in 1976. Salmon developed in the junior teams at Griffin Park and was given his first opportunities in the senior side during 1975/76.

Another possibility in defence is Barry Tucker who spent six seasons as a first-teamer with Northampton, making more than 200 League appearances, before transferring to Brentford for £10,000 two seasons ago.

Goalkeeper Len Bond spent several seasons with Bristol City and, while at Ashton Gate, was loaned out to Exeter, Torquay, Cardiff, Scunthorpe and Colchester. Apart from an absence last season through injury, he has been in the Bees' goal since his transfer from Bristol in 1977.



Reading 'keeper Steve Death pushes the ball out of the reach of Town forward Andy Rowland (third left) at the County Ground on Tuesday.



Reading goalkeeper Steve Death dives to stop an Andy Ford shot in the last few minutes of Tuesday's goalless draw.



Alan Mayes (No. 10) heads the ball into the Reading penalty area to try to break Tuesday's deadlock.

From the Commercial Office

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, welcome once again to the County Ground.

Having to write these notes before the match against Reading I can only hope that the team has been successful.

The second edition of the Swindon Town Soccer Special is now on sale around the County Ground Price 12p. I am sure there are some things of interest in it for all of you i.e Action Photo's, Puzzles, Views etc. If you haven't purchased one yet hurry because there is only a limited supply.

The Commercial Office require a Full-time Clerk to work in the Lottery Office. This would suit a young person between sixteen and twenty years old. No experience necessary but some typing ability needed. Must have good personality. An interest in "The Town" would be an advantage. Details from the Commercial Manager

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Good luck to Bob and the team this afternoon.

Doug Buswell
Commercial Manager.

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SOCCER SCENE by Tony Pullein

Bury manager Dave Hatton has decided to concentrate purely on the managerial side.

"Last season when I was out for a long while due to injuries I felt I was able to do more justice to the job as manager," explained Mr. Hatton. "I've had a good run and I feel the time is right for me to finish playing now".

Before taking his decision, Mr. Hatton signed his replacement in the team, centre-back Pat Howard, from Birmingham City. Howard previously played for Barnsley, Newcastle and Arsenal. Mr. Hatton's other close-season signing took Scottish midfielder Jimmy McIlwraith back to the club, just one year after he left Gigg Lane to sign for Portsmouth.

Reading's return to the Third Division last week took on a sour note when two of their star players threatened to walk out on the club. Skipper and centre-back Paul Bennett, whose contract had run out, had demanded what the club felt were unjustifiably enhanced terms and the player was still locked in discussions with manager Maurice Evans as the big kick-off approached.

Meanwhile, Fulham made an offer for Reading right-back Gary Peter whom the Cottagers saw as the ideal replacement for skipper Ray Evans, sold to Stoke for £100,000. Fulham's interest seemed to unsettle the player who stated: "I'm leaving it to Reading and Fulham to sort out but I want to join Fulham and, if the deal falls through, I shall never play for Reading again".

Plymouth Argyle's Neil Hards could hardly have wished for a more exciting entry into top-class soccer. In the second-leg of Argyle's first round League Cup tie, visiting Newport (they were losing 1-2) were awarded a penalty in the last minute.

The seventeen-year-old pulled off a fine save to Howard Goddard's spot-kick, though, to deny Newport extra-time. Had Newport made it 2-2 and held that score through the additional thirty minutes, they would have won on away goals.

It seems Argyle have found a worthy successor to Martin Hodge, who was sold to Everton for £190,000 in the summer, without laying out a penny.

Sheffield Wednesday open their fifth successive season in the Third Division with the knowledge that, if they don't soon start their upwards

climb, they will be in danger of accepting themselves as an average Third Division club. With neighbouring Sheffield United joining them in this section this season, it is indeed a critical time for this city of steel which gave the game to the word.

Both clubs have always been very active in transfer activity during the summer months. Wednesday manager Jack Charlton, who enjoyed so much success as a player with Leeds and England and as manager of Middlesbrough, realises that even his famous head could be on the block if Wednesday don't show a very big improvement this season.

Mr. Charlton raised something like £100,000 from the sale of his promising young goalkeeper Chris Turner to Sunderland but re-invested it all - and more - in the purchase of a forward and midfielder man, both experienced players. He paid Brentford £70,000 for striker Andy McCulloch, a player with a fine goal scoring record. Ian Mellor, who can play in midfield or attack, joined the Owls from Chester for £60,000 after two campaigns at Sealand Road. Ian played First Division football for Manchester City and Norwich and also played for Brighton.

Over the way at Bramhall Lane, United chief Harry Haslam spent the summer seeking the best bid for his Argentinian star Alejandro Sabella whom he signed from River Plate a year ago for only £76,000. Sunderland were one club reported to be prepared to pay £400,000 for him but Haslam was hoping to get more.

As one Argentinian was preparing to go, so another one arrived at Bramall Lane. Pedro Verde left Estudiantes in his home country to join Las Palmas and later moved on to Hercules Alicante in Spain. At the end of his contract this summer, he agreed to sign for Sheffield United for nothing --- provided the club paid for a course in English for him!

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luck whilst he is abroad.

Bon Voyage Ted



SWINDON

1. Jimmy Allan
2. John Templeman
3. Andy Ford
4. Ray McHale
5. Billy Tucker
6. Kenny Stroud
7. Ian Miller
8. Roy Carter
9. Andy Rowland
10. Alan Mayes
11. Chris Kamara
12. Paul Gilchrist

BRENTFORD

1. Len Bone
2. Paul Shreeve
3. Doug Alder
4. Jim McNichol
5. Pat Kruse
6. John Fraser
7. Dave Carlton
8. Allan Glover
9. Lee Holmes
10. Dean Smith
11. Steve Phillips

**ALAN SEVILL (Birmingham)**

Started refereeing in 1962 and progressed via the Birmingham and District Works A.F.A. and West Midland (Regional) League to the Football League List. Refereed the Birmingham County Senior Cup Final in 1976, F.A. Vase Semi-Final in 1978, F.A. Trophy Cup Semi-Finals in 1979 and lined a U.E.F.A. Cup match in 1978 and an F.A. Cup Semi-Final 1979.

He is a married man with two daughters, and works as a Toolmaker. His main interest - apart from football - is Crown Green Bowling.

Lincolnshire Mr. F. R. Martin - Cwibin, B. 1975

Mr. W. R. Williams - Cardiff

- A Barnsley v Reading
- B Carlisle v Bury
- C Chester v Sheffield Utd
- D Chester v Plymouth
- E Exeter v Mansfield
- F Gillingham v Millwall
- G Grimsby v Blackpool
- H Hull City x Oxford Utd
- I Rotherham v Colchester
- J Sheffield Wednesday v Blackburn
- K Wimbledon v Southend
- L Arsenal v Manchester Utd
- M Aston Villa v Bristol City
- N Bolton v Southampton
- O Derby v Everton
- P Liverpool v West Brom. Albion
- Q Manchester City v Brighton
- R Middlesbrough v Crystal Palace
- S Norwich v Leeds
- T Nottm. Forest v Coventry

SATURDAY AUGUST 25

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