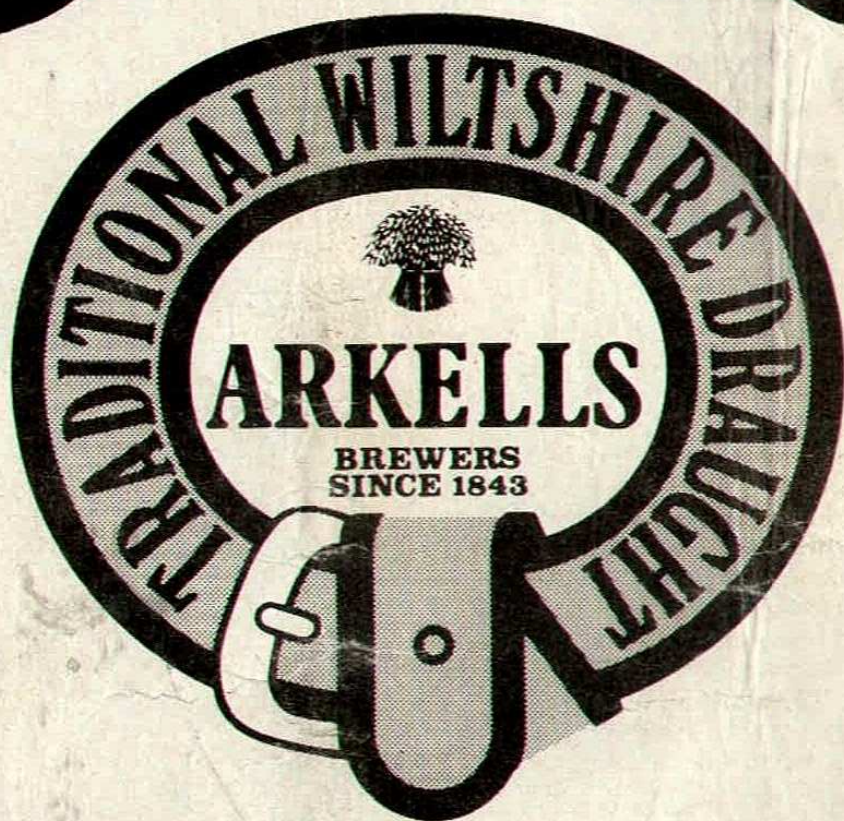
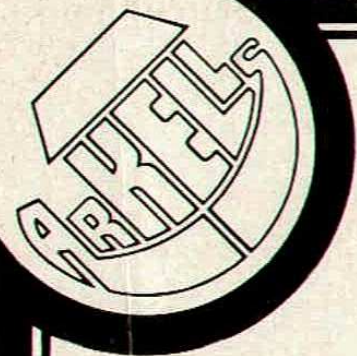


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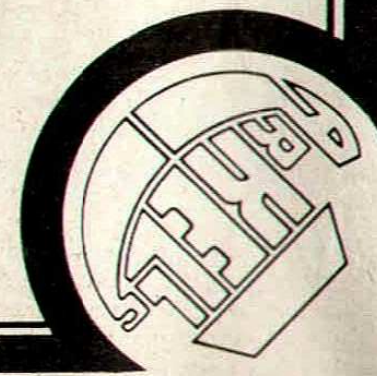
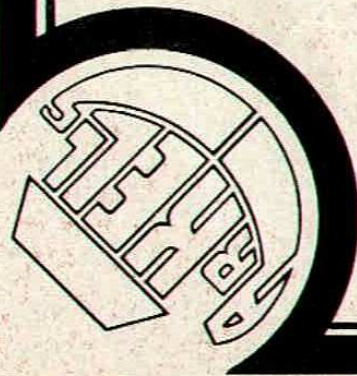
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Bob Smith says.....

Because of the Bank Holiday the printers require this copy before the match against Brentford has been played and there is therefore little I can say about the players performance that wasn't said in the Brentford programme.

This is probably a good time to say a few words about our scouting system and youth policy. Unfortunately there is not a wealth of talent in this area and we are having to spread our net wider if we are to rely upon our future players springing from the youth policy. As a result of setting our sights wider we have, during the close season, signed apprentice professionals David Cock from Shepton Mallett, Michael Rustell of Beckington, near Bath and Liam Twigger from Duncraig, Western Australia, you can't spread the net much wider than that. These in addition to local lad Martin Blackler of Covingham. At the present moment in time we have two trialists here for the next month, George Beattie from Belfast and Michael Ellery from Swansea.

Our representative in Northern Ireland, Mervyn Brown, is flying the Swindon Town flag high in Belfast and recently arranged a trial match between a mixed team of Irish youth team players and the youth team of Distillery and John Trollope and Danny Williams went over to see the game and judge the potential of the players. This week we had a lad from Yorkshire and one from Somerset, both promising young players, visit the ground to look at our set up and on Wednesday last John Trollope had a young boy from Dudley, near Birmingham, play in the Midland Youth League at West Bromwich Albion and this lad is being considered for an apprenticeship should he continue to progress. All in all I think you will agree that we are taking our youth policy very seriously indeed.

We now have a change in the Chief Administrator of the Football League. Graham Kelly takes over as Secretary from the indomitable Alan Hardaker who has been at the league helm

for 22 years. Mr. Hardaker is not leaving the scene however, and stays in an advisor capacity as Director/General in order that his experience is on tap during the transitional period and also



to enable him to undertake specific tasks given by the league's management committee.

Today we welcome Chester in the League Cup competition. Chester are enjoying a very good season to date having beaten Walsall in the first round of the League Cup and Wimbledon and Grimsby in the League. Alan Oakes, who came from Manchester City, and is now player/manager of the 'Seals' seems to have put a useful squad together and we must really work hard to get into the next round of the competition.

Thank you for coming along this evening and I would ask you to travel to Chester on Wednesday next for the next leg as I am sure we shall need all the vocal encouragement you can muster.

League Cup flashback -

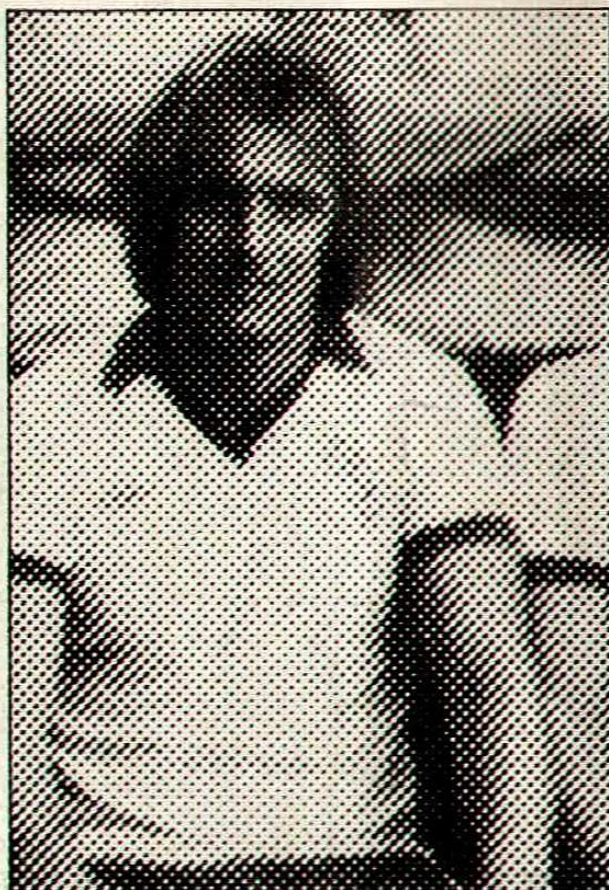
Slow progress for Chester

If Chester defeated the Town to reach the Third Round this season, it would be only the fifth time that the Sealand Road side has reached that stage in the twenty-year history of the League Cup. Chester has been removed from the competition in the First Round a total of eleven times in that period and once went six years without winning a single tie. Chester's first excursion past the initial stage ended in Third Round disaster in East London in November 1962, with a 2 - 9 thrashing at the hands of Leyton Orient.

Two years later the Seals scored eleven goals in again reaching the Third Round. After disposing of neighbours Wrexham 3 - 0, Derby were put out by the odd goal in nine. A trip to East Anglia proved too much when Norwich City went through in another goal feast, by 5 - 3. Nine of Chester's League Cup goals that year came from Mike Metcalf and Gary Talbot - who hit an incredible 72 between them that season.

Then came that barren spell with no further victory in the competition until Shrewsbury Town were beaten 2 - 1 in August 1970. Chester's best performance was saved until 1974/75 when Walsall, Blackpool and Preston were all defeated in straight wins. In the Fourth Round, nineteen thousand packed the Sealand Road enclosure for the visit of Leeds United. John James hit two goals and Trevor Storton a third as Chester glided to a 3 - 0 win. Drawn away from home for the first time in the Fifth Round, Chester travelled to Newcastle and held out for a goalless draw before edging through 1 - 0 in the replay. Aston Villa, who were to go on to lift the Cup at Wembley, proved the stumbling block for Chester in the semi-final. Goals by top scorer Terry Owen and 6' 2" Gary Moore in Chester's home leg were cancelled out by Bobby McDonald and Ray Graydon - and a week later, in front of 47,632 at Villa Park, the Seals lost the return 2 - 3. John James and Stuart Mason scored.

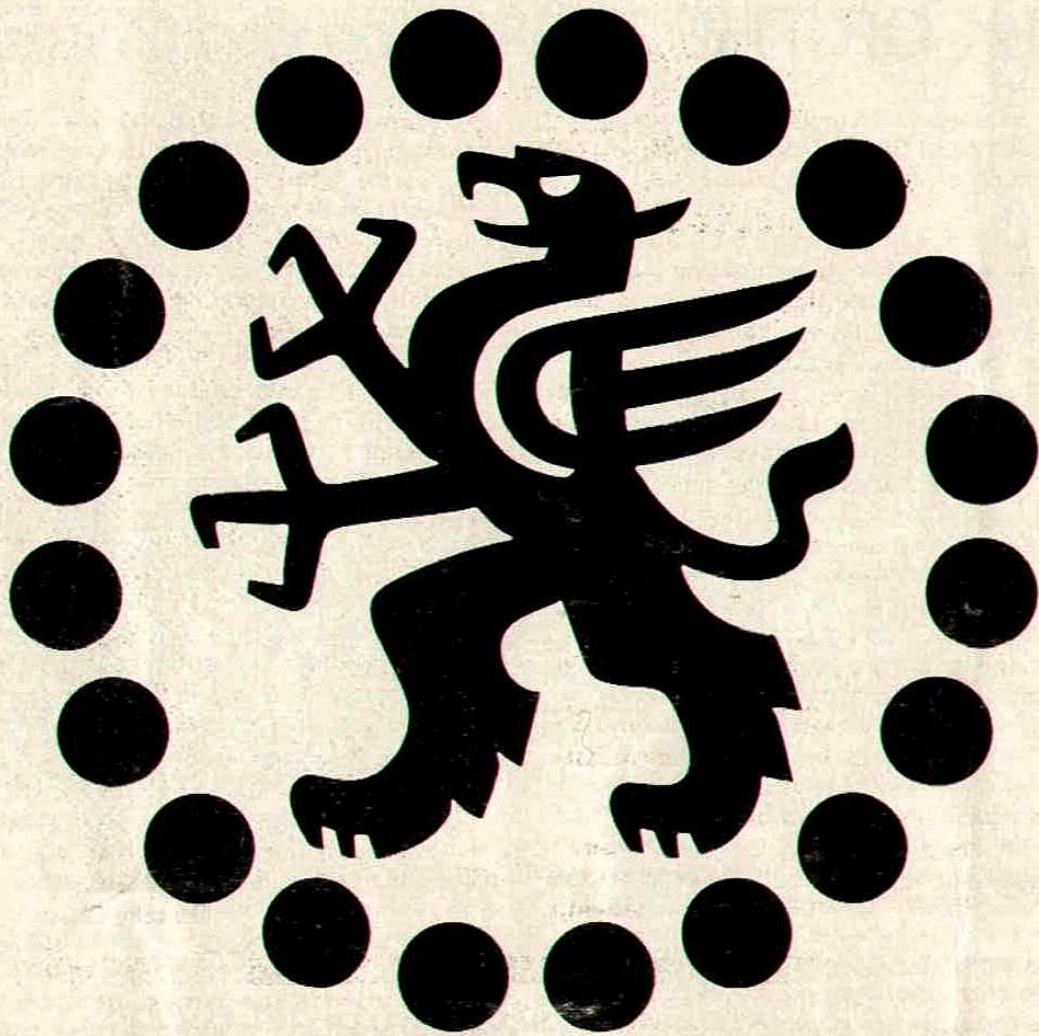
Last year brought Chester momentary success when, after an aggregate win over Port Vale, Coventry City were beaten 2 - 1. But Norwich were not so obliging in the Third Round, coming away with a 2 - 0 victory. Surprisingly, neither match against the First Division clubs attracted over nine thousand to Sealand Road.



John James - who helped take Chester to the Semi-Final in 1974/75.



Bryan Hamilton who has been appointed Reserve Team Manager



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TALK OF THE TOWN by the Chairman

Tonight we are pleased to welcome the players and officials from Chester in the first leg of the second round of the football league cup.

Cup ties seem to add that extra bit of excitement because of the necessity to win, if one is to survive, but this year the Football League have decided to make the first two rounds a home and away fixture.

Chester have made a very good start to this season and we know from past experience, how difficult they are to beat.

Owing to the bank holiday, giving our programme printers very little time to produce tonights edition, we have all had to write our notes before the result from our home game versus Brentford is known and so I can only comment on our game against Reading. We had several football celebrities at this game including Danny Blanchflower and after seeing our game I can just imagine how he would write his Sunday column and as he and so many others remarked, how can a team have the last forty five minutes domination as we did, with pressure all the time, corner after corner and yet come off the field with no goals. Bob Smith of course, hopes that we can dominate most of our games like this, but of course we know that the opposition in our League is too strong to allow this, but credit must be given to the lads for their persistent efforts. Credit must also be given to the lads from Reading who fought to keep us out, to the last kick. We know that they made many positional changes, but everyone fought to the latter end and it is this kind of team spirit that makes a successful side.

John Trollope started the season in fine style, winning his first competitive game in the South East Counties League with a 2 - 0 win over Crystal Palace and in a mid week fixture took his Midland Youth Team to West Bromwich Albion winning 1 - 0. John played a couple of trialists in his side and says that they both did well. David Round from the Midlands and Paul Batty from Doncaster. Micky Page, Charlie Henry, Ken Norman, Bryan Hughes, David Wood and Neville Willoughby are the only boys playing their second season for us and they only left school last year, so you will see that we have a lot of young players on our books.

With the appointment of Bryan Hamilton as Reserve Team Manager, John will be able to concentrate on the development of his young players. This of course does not mean that the reserve team will not have our youngsters play-

ing, but we are hoping that the coaching off the field and help on the field through the addition of Bryan will show us results, but practice is the secret of all team building. These changes do mean that John has 'hung' up his boots, far from it and I was told on very reliable information that John was outstanding in the Reserve Team at Luton last week.

The decision to take charge of our London Combination Team must have been a very difficult one to make for Bryan because I know how much Bryan enjoys being involved and must be anxious to play at least twice more for his country, making fifty International appearances in spite of representing Northern Ireland for over eleven seasons, this last season was one of his brightest, which makes it very hard to even think of missing out, but Bryan is keen to pass his knowledge on and Bob Smith was quick to engage Bryan when the opportunity arose.

The top clubs in the country have the best scouting systems, hence their strength in depth. This of course costs a lot of money, but at our level we have to rely on contacts which is a totally different thing from fully paid scouts.

We are fortunate to have Danny as our Chief Scout but he really needs a team to help him. The top teams have a network of scouts all over the country and in fact even in other countries. The influx of foreign players into our teams seems to be the present trend with an exchange of some of our good players. Will it be sustained interest from the public? Will it be the shot in the arm that the game needs to bring back the crowds? It is early days yet to give an opinion about this.

The start of the season has seen to date a marked improvement in the attendances at the County Ground and I do hope that people will sustain this interest even if we have our set backs occasionally which all teams have because attendances can mean so much to a club if it is to progress.

For people who did not read my last set of notes I wish to repeat that we are holding an Open Forum in the Rendezvous Club on Monday 3rd September at 7.30 p.m. The manager will be in attendance to answer your questions and quite likely a few of the players so come along and enjoy a friendly club evening.

I hope you will enjoy tonights game.



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from the third division to wembley

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The last club or clubs from this Division to be knocked out of the competition are shown in the table below.

1960/61	Semi-Final	: Shrewsbury
1961/62*	4th Round	: Bournemouth
1962/63	4th Round	: Bristol Rovers, Notts County
1963/64	5th Round	: Notts County
1964/65	5th Round	: Workington
1965/66	Semi-Final	: Peterborough
1966/67	WINNERS	: Q.P.R
1967/68†	3rd Round	: Barrow, Bury, Northampton, Oxford, Reading, Torquay
1968/69	WINNERS	: SWINDON TOWN
1969/70	4th Round	: Bradford City
1970/71	Final	: Aston Villa
1971/72	5th Round	: Bristol Rovers
1972/73	5th Round	: Notts County
1973/74	Semi-Final	: Plymouth
1974/75	Semi-Final	: Chester
1975/76	5th Round	: Mansfield
1976/77	4th Round	: Brighton, Sheffield, Wednesday, Wrexham
1977/78	5th Round	: Bury, Wrexham
1978/79	Semi-Final	: Watford

* Fourth Division Rochdale reached the Final

† Fourth Division Darlington reached the Fifth Round

it's a fact.....

Only two Town players have ever scored hat-tricks in the League Cup - Jack Smith in a 5 - 0 Second Round win over Darlington on September 25 1962 and Peter Noble at Swansea in a 3 - 1 win on September 2 1969.

Roy Carter's volley against Portsmouth was Swindon's 108th goal in the competition. twenty-three of them came in 1968/69 when the Town lifted the trophy. Don Rogers, who was top scorer with seven that year, accounted for 17 goals between 1963 and 1970.

QPR players celebrate after pulling back a two-goal deficit to snatch the League Cup from West Bromwich Albion - Wembley 1967.



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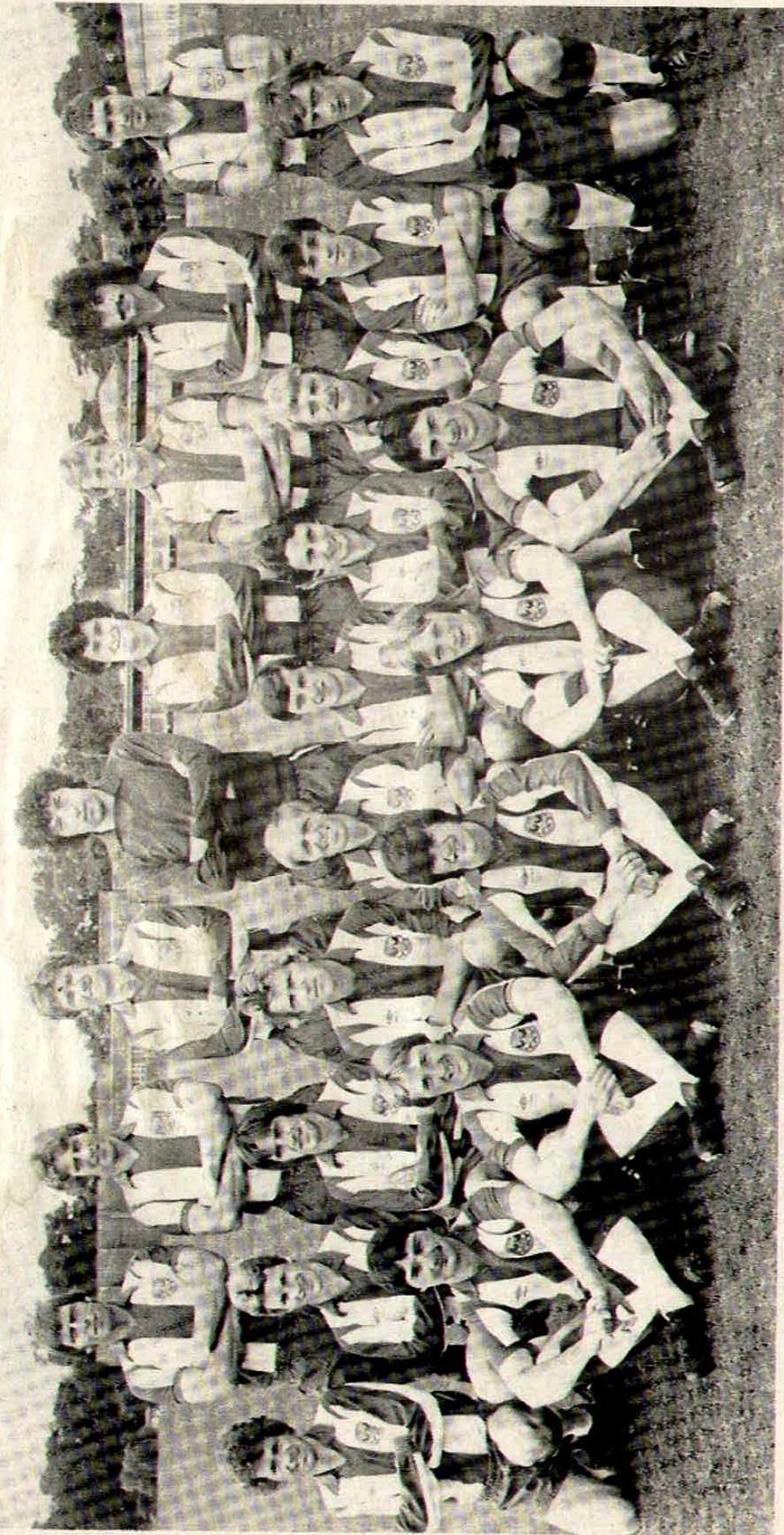
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Doug Buswell
Commercial Manager



During pre-season training the players were divided into teams of seven and points were awarded for all aspects of training. Above the winning team receive their British Home Stores sponsored trophies.

IN TOWN TONIGHT: CHESTER



Back Row (L to R) Alan Oakes, John Cottan, Trevor Storton, Brian Lloyd, Paul Raynor, Jim Walker, John Ruggierd, Derek Jefferies.

Middle Row (L to R) Paul Needham, Paul Lewis, Peter Henderson, Ian Edwards, Ron Phillips, Brynley Jones, Peter Sutcliffe, Ian Howat, David Burns, Richie Gendall

Front Row: Apprentices

League Cup brings best out of Chester

By Tony Pullein

Anyone meeting Chester in a League Cup tie appreciates that they have a mighty big fight on their hands! Last season they included First Division Coventry City among their victims providing a gentle reminder that Chester have one of the finest League Cup records, among the smaller clubs, in recent years.

In 1974/75, when they were in the Fourth Division, Chester battled their way all the way to the semi-finals and were desperately unfortunate not to reach Wembley. On the way they knocked out Blackpool, Preston, Leeds United (by a massive 3 - 0 margin!) and Newcastle United. They even held Aston Villa to 2 - 2 in the first leg of the semi-final and were only narrowly beaten (2-3) in the return.

Though they relaxed at the end, and lost their last two games, Chester went into that closing phase on a run of nine unbeaten matches. So it's not surprising that player-manager Alan Oakes did not feel inclined to make too many major alterations to his staff during the close season.

Three first-team players left Sealand - - - Ian Mellor and Doug Livermore, midfield men, and defender Mark Nickeas - - - and Mr Oakes made two incoming signings. Central defender John Cottam was signed from Chesterfield while midfielder John Ruggiero came from Brighton.

Cottam could well line up with Derek Jefferies in the middle of the defence, depending upon whether Mr Oakes continues to play himself in defence or midfield. Cottam played about 100 senior games for Nottingham Forest before moving to Chesterfield in 1976 and he also spent loan periods with Mansfield and Lincoln.

Jefferies won England under-23 honours in his Manchester City days and was valued at £115,000 when he moved on to Crystal Palace in 1973. Following loan spells with Peterborough and Millwall, he signed for Chester in 1977.

Alan Oakes distinguished himself both in defence and midfield for Manchester City, setting up the existing club record of 565 League appearances for the Maine Road side. While with City, he was selected for the Football League XI and he was in the original 40 for Sir Alf Ramsey's 1970 World Cup selection, though he didn't get into the final party. Chester signed him as a player for £15,000 in 1976 but, within a few weeks, he was appointed player-manager.

The flank defenders will probably be Paul Raynor and Jim Walker, but Ian Rush and David Burns could well make the team. Raynor made

his bow for Chester three seasons back and has played on both sides of the defence. Walker spent several years with Derby and signed for Brighton in 1974. He moved on to Peterborough in 1976 and, after only a matter of months, signed for Chester.

Rush and Burns are both Chester discoveries. Rush came into the side when still an apprentice last season while Burns, originally a forward, made his bow in 1976/77.

Goalkeeper Brian Lloyd has played for Wales at full and under-23 levels. He started his career with Stockport County, joined Southend in 1969 and was transferred to Wrexham in 1971. Chester signed him two years ago.

New midfield man John Ruggiero scored after only three minutes of his first League game for his new club, setting them on the way to their 3-2 win at Wimbledon. John opened his professional career with Stoke City but actually made his League debut while on loan to Workington in 1975/76. He returned to make a few senior appearances for the Potters before joining Brighton in 1977.

Other midfield players include Trevor Storton, Ron Phillips and, of course, manager Oakes. Storton emerged with Tranmere Rovers and crossed the Mersey to sign for Liverpool in 1972. Two years later Chester signed him for a then club record fee of £18,000.

Phillips made well over 100 League appearances for Bolton, had a loan spell at Chesterfield and was transferred to Bury in 1975. Chester signed him two years ago and he hit 13 goals for them last season.

Ian Edwards and Peter Henderson are likely to spearhead the attack with Brynley Jones on the wing.

Edwards is now a Welsh international and he hit four goals for his country in last season's European Championship tie against Malta. He was Chester's leading scorer last season with 23 goals and he, too, got off the mark with a goal at Wimbledon on the opening day of the League season.

Henderson, who joined the club from Witton Albion and scored seven goals last season, scored the two goals which put Walsall out in the last round and grabbed another at Wimbledon. Jones came through from the junior sides to make his bow in the League team in 1977.



Swindon defender Bill Tucker (right) heads go wards over two Reading defenders at the County Ground last Tuesday. Town striker Andy Rowland (dark shirt) beaten to a high cross by two Reading defenders.



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LEAGUE CUP SCENE by Tony Pullein

FOREST GO FOR A HAT-TRICK

Nottingham Forest this week commence their quest to add yet another fabulous achievement to the unprecedented honours cornered over the past three years when they go for the League Cup hat-trick. Forest have already gone into the competition's history books as the only club to win it twice in succession. They defeated Southampton 3 - 2 at Wembley last season, following a 1-0 victory over Liverpool in a replay of the previous year's final.

Ironically, Forest being their task against the last club to lift the F.A. Cup three times on the trot - Blackburn Rovers. This week's first-leg is at Ewood Park where, back in 1886, they were delirious scenes as they celebrated three consecutive F.A. Cup Final victories.

Such a hat-trick has been considered an impossibility in modern football but Forest have disproved so many theories since Brian Clough took command that only a fool would bet against Forest coming up good with this one too.

Blackburn had a comfortable victory in the first round when they beat Bury 6 - 2 on aggregate, with Duncan McKenzie scoring three of the goals. But Rovers, now under the player-managership of Howard Kendall, hardly seem to have the depth of talent to withstand Forest's challenge over two legs.

When Everton fans heard the draw for the second round they began to pray that history would repeat itself. The last time Cardiff visited Goddison Park they were thrashed 8 - 3. Furthermore, when Everton appeared in this corresponding round last season, they whipped Wimbledon 8 - 0. Can it be a hat-trick of eights for the Toffees?

Watford, who created a club record with their run to the semi-final last season, took a disappointingly early exit this year. The Hornets needed a penalty goal to beat Colchester 2 - 1 in the first-leg at Watford and then lost the return by 0 - 2. So there will be no League Cup glory for the side that last season won at Old Trafford and also ousted Newcastle and Stoke before Nottingham Forest killed their Wembley dreams.

Southampton, who reached the League Cup final for the first time last season, kick-off with a difficult looking tie against Wrexham, one of Britain's most experienced Cup battlers. Wrexham won the Welsh Cup for the 22nd time last season and shortly embark upon their fourth attempt to win the European Cup-Winners' Cup.

Two seasons ago Wrexham appeared in the quarter-finals of both the League and the F.A. Cups. In the previous round of this season's League Cup they beat Carlisle 3 - 2 on aggregate and they kicked-off their Second Division programme with an impressive 1 - 0 victory over West Ham.

One pointer to this tie is that Wrexham have only once previously clashed with the Saints in a cup-tie. Five years ago the Welsh side went to The Dell in the fifth round of the F.A. Cup and won 1 - 0.

West Ham have become one of the most vulnerable of the leading clubs in recent times when facing clubs from lower divisions, so there was some consternation in manager John Lyall's office when told the Hammers would face Barnsley.

In 1974 the Hammers were put out of the F.A. Cup by Hereford United whilst last season they were beaten at the first stage of both competitions by Third Division Swindon in the League Cup and Fourth Division Newport County in the F.A. Cup.

There is every prospect of another famous defeat for West Ham now as they face a star-studded Barnsley side that could include former Leeds and England men Allan Clarke and Norman Hunter, plus goalkeeper Gary Pierce who was in the Wolves team that beat Manchester City at Wembley in the 1974 League Cup final.

Wimbledon, who have never progressed beyond the second round, must stand a reasonable chance of breaking new ground as they meet London rivals Orient. Wimbledon were beaten 4 - 0 at Spurs in their first season in the competition (1977/78) and then crashed 8 - 0 at Everton last year.

In this year's first round they won 4 - 1 at home to Aldershot and then came out 2 - 1 in the return to go through by 6 - 2 on aggregate.

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11. Brian Williams

CHESTER

1. Brian Lloyd
2. Paul Raynor
3. Jim Walker
4. Trevor Storton
5. John Cottom
6. Alan Oakes
7. Brynley Jones
8. John Ruggiero
9. Ian Edwards
10. Ron Phillips
11. Peter Henderson



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 and F. A. Cup Semi-Final Arsenal v Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1979.

Works as a Landscape Gardener. His hobbies are horticulture and sport generally.

Linesmen: Mr. K. Cooper (Swindon)

Mr. J. Roost (Norton St. Philip, Bath)

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Division III

CHESTERFIELD

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