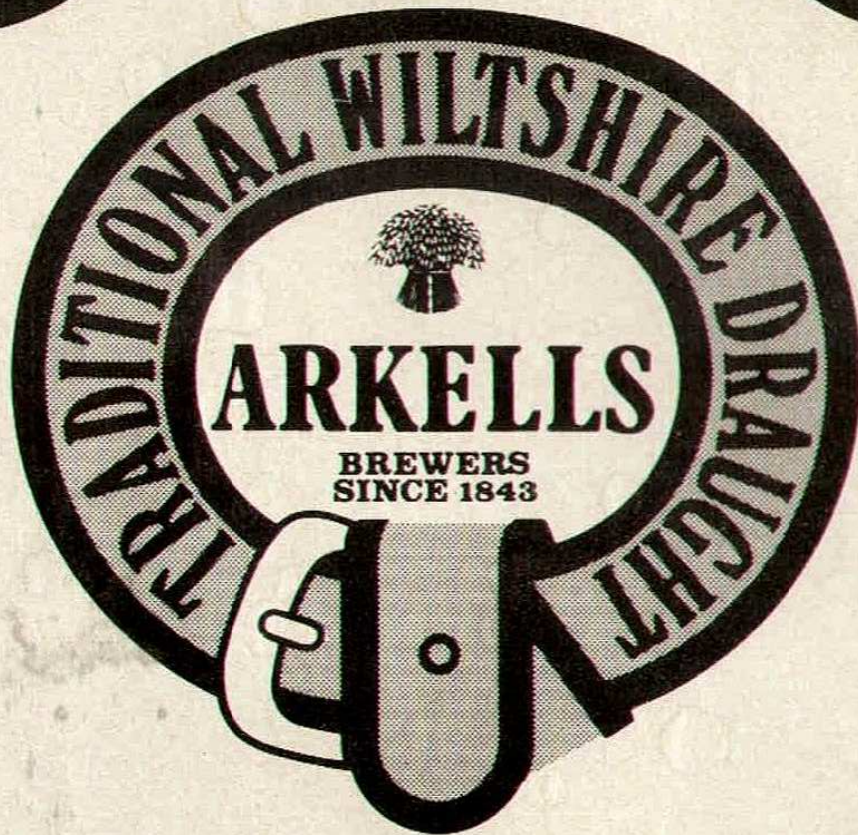
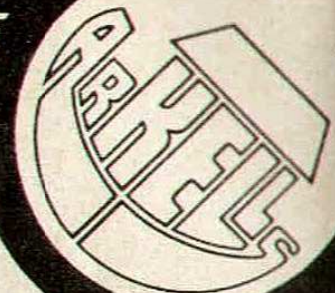


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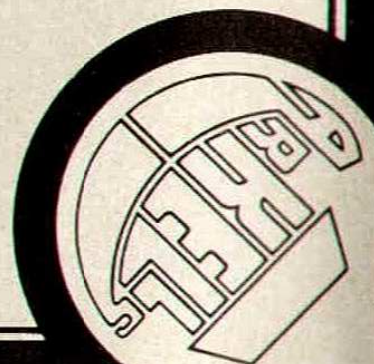
STOKE CITY

Official Match Day Magazine 20p



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Bob Smith says.....

Again may I say that these notes have been written before last Saturdays game against Grimsby Town, the programme for which I was unavoidably unable to write any notes, due to my involvement with the first team at Stoke. My thoughts then are on the last two games that we have played since my last notes, that is the games against Sheffield Wednesday and Stoke City. The Sheffield Wednesday game was one of frustration with the officials. I very rarely mention the match officials because one, I could be in trouble with the Football Association and two, because people tend to think that you are using referees as an excuse for a defeat, but after this match I have every sympathy with the players for the way, time and time again, the officials decisions went unfairly against us.

Then followed the obviously hard game at Stoke and what can one say about a display like that which was full of discipline, skill and character and the people who played as big a part as anyone were those supporters who travelled up the motorway to support us. They were a great example of the perfect supporter in the way that they encouraged the players and behaved and they must have been as thrilled as I at the teams performance. We took the opportunity at this game to put on an extra coach for players wives and children, plus all the apprentices with John Trollope and Eddie Buckley in charge and I am positive that these young players seeing their first team play as they did, were given a great incentive to do well at the Club. They themselves have made a good start to the season and are getting results for all the hard work they are putting in.

In conclusion, once again my thanks for joining us this evening and I hope that the vocal support given to the team at Stoke will be exceeded here tonight.



Next Match

Saturday October 6th

Division III

HULL CITY

K.O. 3.00 p.m.

League Cup facts and figures—Stoke City

Stoke had to wait three years for the draw to give the club its first home tie in the competition. After two replays with Scunthorpe United, City were given Bolton Wanderers as visitors in the Third Round in 1963/64. Stoke won 3-0 and went on to reach the two-legged final against Leicester City. The first leg at the Victoria took place on April 15 1964:

STOKE CITY 1 (Bebbington)
LEICESTER CITY 1 (Gibson)
Attendance: 22,309

The return was at Filbert Street seven days later

LEICESTER CITY 3 (Stringfellow, Gibson, Riley)
STOKE CITY 2 (Viollet, Kinnell)

Stoke City (Both legs): Leslie, Asprey, Allen, Palmer, Kinnell, Skeels, Dobing, Viollet, Ritchie, McIlroy, Bebbington.

John Ritchie was the country's top scorer in the League Cup that season with ten goals. Only one side has ever put more than three goals past City in a League Cup tie. Charlton Athletic had the honour, beating Stoke 4-1 at the Valley in a Second Round Match in 1961/62. This was the only season in which the Potteries side has appeared in the First Round of the competition. It was a 1-0 win at Southend. City's largest victory came in the Third Round Second Replay against Chelsea in October 1974. Own goals by Droy and Harris helped Stoke to a 6-2 win.

After winning by the odd goal in three in a Fourth Round replay against Sheffield Wednesday in 1967/68, Stoke went six League Cup matches without recording a win. When the sequence was finally broken at Southport in September 1971, it signalled the start of a run which took the club right through to a Wembley victory over Chelsea. Stoke played in twelve games including the Final, registering nineteen goals - almost half the number they had managed in 42 League matches that season! City lost the first leg of the semi-final at the Victoria Ground,

where 36,400 saw the homesters go down 1-2 to West Ham. But Stoke levelled the scores at Upton Park in the return with a single John Ritchie goal, taking the tie into extra-time. No further scoring took place, neither was there any in the replay at Hillsborough. A second replay at Old Trafford at last proved decisive, Stoke edging through by three goals to two to win 5-4 on aggregate.

CHELSEA 1 (Osgood) STOKE CITY 2 (Conroy, Eastham)
Attendance: 99,998

Stoke City: Banks, Marsh, Pejic, Bernard, Smith, Bloor, Conroy, Greenhoff (Mahoney), Ritchie, Dobing, Eastham.

Stoke City's full record in the League Cup to date is:

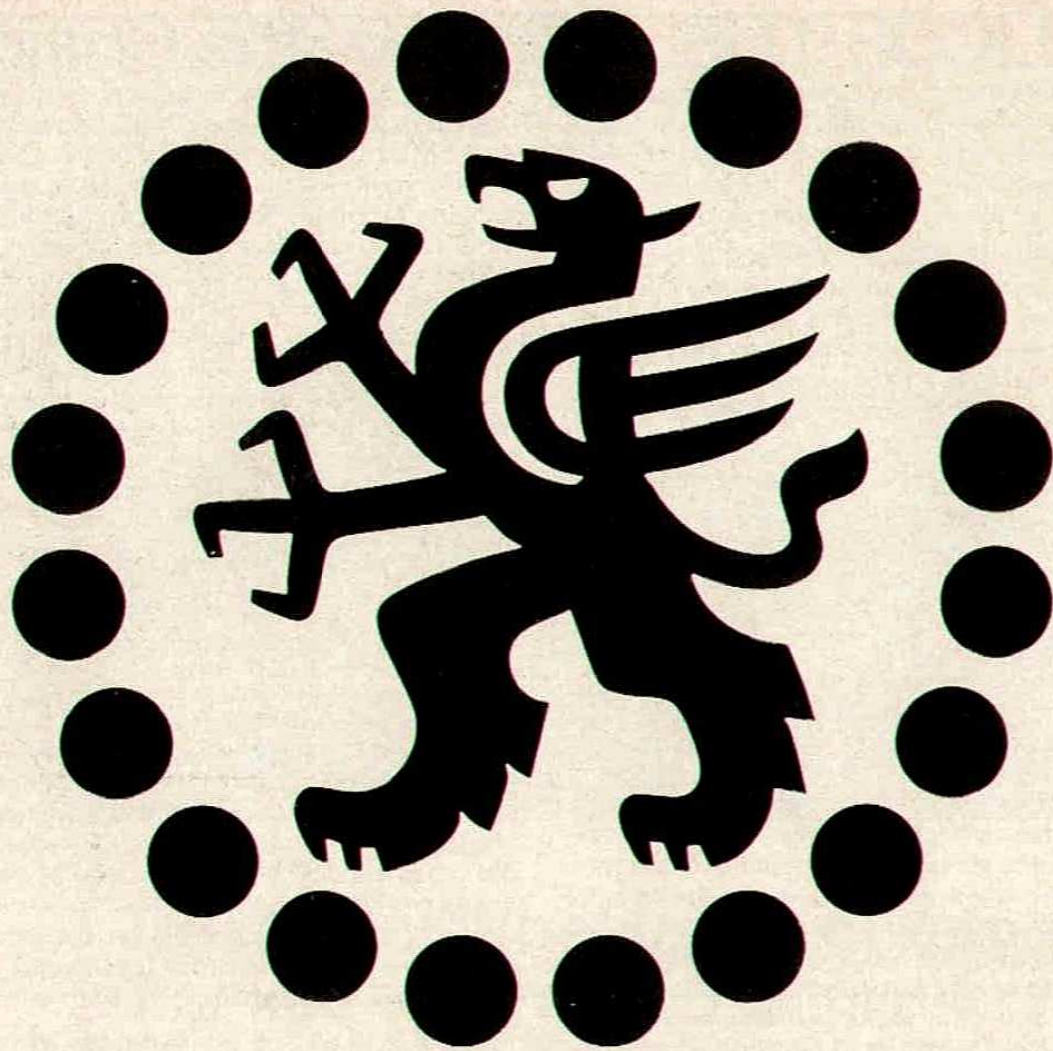
P	W	D	L	F	A
72	32	20	20	109	91

TERRY CONROY and
(below) GEORGE EASTHAM
Their Wembley goals in 1972 took
the League Cup back to the
Potteries



LEAGUE CUP FOURTH ROUND DRAW

Peterborough Utd or Bristol City v Nottingham Forest
Stoke City or Swindon Town v Wimbledon or Plymouth Argyle
Brighton & Hove Albion v Arsenal
Manchester City or Sunderland v West Ham Utd or Southend Utd
Liverpool v Exeter City
Grimsby Town v Aston Villa or Everton
Queens Park Rangers v Wolverhampton Wanderers
West Bromwich Albion v Norwich City



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TALK OF THE TOWN by the Chairman

We are delighted to welcome Alan Durban and his team and of course the officials from Stoke City this evening. There is nothing like the excitement of a cup-tie to get the adrenalin running, whether you are playing or watching.

We congratulated our manager and his team on their magnificent efforts at Stoke and even the critics were enthusiastic. We also congratulate our supporters for their magnificent support and of course their impeccable behaviour which drew compliments from the local police.

I am sure that our supporters, who had booked to travel with our official travel club, will wish to thank Mick Conely and Mick Lewis and their committee for their efforts, after the let down by British Rail, to re-organise and the response by their coach company was magnificent.

Whatever the outcome of tonight's game, we can look back on this year's League Cup ties with more than satisfaction and after our performance at Stoke against a talented first division side, we must feel confident of doing well in the future. The Players Union and the Football League, have been busy recently re-drafting the wording of a player's contract, which is a legal document, which gives a player the opportunity to include in this document anything which is agreed between the player and the club. Once this agreement has been signed it cannot be changed during the season, unless a new agreement is signed which would include a further period of another season.

The Players Union have been very keen to bring these agreements in line with industrial agreements, but the football chiefs see many difficulties in the proposed new wording and one such objection will be the allowing of radio, television and journalistic interviews without the permission of the clubs.

The Managers and Secretaries Association met in Coventry on Sunday last and I am sure that they had many lively discussions on the proposed revision of these contracts. In the Stoke programme, was an article referring to wingers, which of course referred to the great favourites of Ian Finney, Stanley Matthews, Peter Barnes, etc., and we at Swindon can talk of Don Rogers, Michael Summerbee, David Moss and now Ian Miller and I am sure that everybody will agree that there is more excitement created in any game from wing runs than in any other department of the game and I think that most people were sorry to see the use of wingers fading from the pattern of things. Perhaps one day the pattern of our game will swing again to two wingers. I am sure that many enthusiasts will get as much excitement from watching centre forwards as wingers. In the days of the Tony Lewton and Dixie Dean

era, they had more room to work in than they have today and also referees allowed centre forwards and centre halves as we knew them then, to fight for the ball in the air without looking for bodily contact to produce a blast on their whistle. We directors of football clubs have been given a directive not to bring the game into disrepute by criticising referees and without doing this, I think that we could help them by simplifying the rules of the game. When we stopped allowing the shoulder charge which is still in the rules, when we got confused as to whether the centre half used his hands or arms when jumping and who has ever seen a player able to leap into the air without moving his arms or confused as to the possibility of the centre forward arching his back in the process of going for a ball we produced problems for the players and everybody involved.

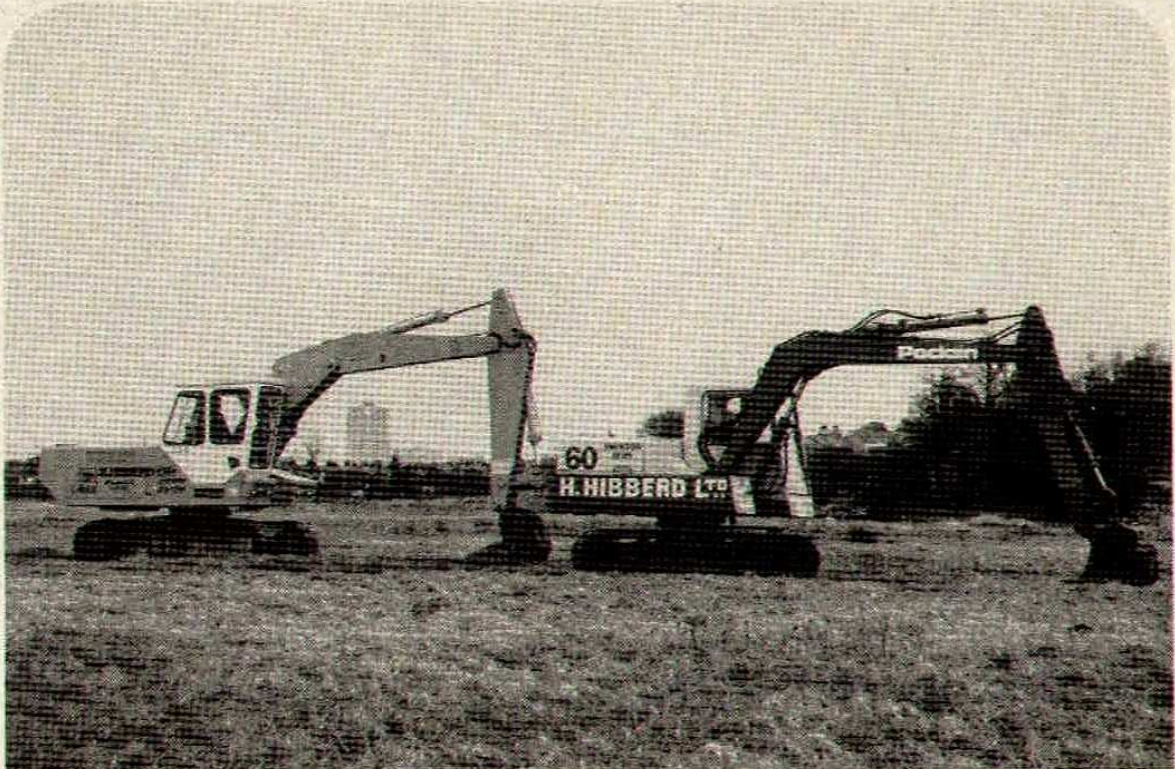
Has the system of the yellow card improved behaviour or the game? Has it not perhaps irritated both players and spectators. Football is a simple game but there are so many theories put forward today added to which we have changed the terminology enough to make an old timer wonder if it is the same game that he once knew and yet in spite of all these things, the game still grips us and the excitement of the last ten minutes at Stoke for us was tremendous and it is happening all the time.

You will have read in our local paper of possible signings and possible departures, which always make news and interest. This happens because managers are always either seeking to strengthen their squad and being forced through injuries to sign new players in an effort to maintain the strength of the side.

A settled winning side is obviously every manager's dream, but very few clubs are able to reach this goal in any one season.

A journey on a player's coach is never without incidents and I have always found that players have a high sense of humour. The choice of music from our cassette player is often debatable and Lionel Barnes, our driver, comes in for a lot of good humoured banter which he handles very well indeed. It is a great responsibility on any coach driver these days of traffic holds ups etc., and Lionel is a great favourite with the lads. Needless to say when we come across a coach equipped with its own kitchen and meals served on the journey a few questions were asked and woe betide Lionel if we are overtaken too often.

Hoping that you will all enjoy tonight's game and that it will be as interesting as the game at Stoke and if we have any newcomers at the Ground tonight to support us, please - come again.



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Haven't we met somewhere before?

we turn the clock back to look at previous battles between

Swindon Town and Stoke City

F.A. CUP THIRD ROUND - January 8 1949

SWINDON TOWN 1 STOKE CITY 3

The Town had received a passport straight to the Third Round by virtue of a fine run to the Fifth Round during the previous season. The match brought together two old playing colleagues in managers Louis Page and Bob McGrory.

Swindon Town: Burton, White, Young, Cowie, Ithell, Foxton, Lunn, Dawson, Owen, Jones, Bain.

Stoke City: Herod, Meakin, McCue, Mountford (F), Franklin, Sellars, Mountford (G), Bowyer, Steele, Peppitt, Ormston.

Jones and Owen both went close for Swindon early on, but two goals in five minutes put the Town on the rack. City's first came in the 33rd minute when a header from Bowyer found **GEORGE MOUNTFORD** on the right. He cut inside to beat Sam Burton with a hard low shot. Then good work by Ormston and Bowyer created a chance for **STEELE** to lob the ball over the advancing Town keeper. In the opening minute of the second half Herod pushed a fine Jimmy Bain volley round a post and a few minutes later Bain crossed hard and low from the left, Herod got to the ball but could not hold it. This presented Town skipper Tommy Dawson with an open goal - but he somehow screwed it wide of the post. Fifteen minutes from time, from a breakaway, **FRANK MOUNTFORD** put the issue beyond doubt when he made it 3-0. Just eight minutes were remaining when the Stoke defence froze awaiting an offside flag which never came. **MAURICE OWEN** darted in to head the ball out of Herod's reach for the Town's consolation goal.

Attendance: 26,335 Receipts : £2,046

F.A.Cup FOURTH ROUND - February 1952

SWINDON TOWN 1 STOKE CITY 1

REPLAY - February 4 1952

STOKE CITY 1 SWINDON TOWN 1

Swindon has already played six matches to reach this stage, having disposed of non-league Bedford, Torquay United (at the third attempt) and Second Division Cardiff in a replay.

Swindon Town: Uprichard, Hunt, May, Kaye, Hudson, Gray, Lunn, Onslow, (Millar in replay) Owen, Betteridge, Bain.

Stoke City: Herod, Mould, McCue, Martin, Mountford (F), Kirton, Malkin, Bowyer, Sellars, Smyth, Oscroft.

The Town stunned City after only six minutes when **JIMMY BAIN** pivoted to send a cross from

Mick Betteridge crashing into the net. Swindon forwards continued to pepper the visitors goal but could not add to their lead. City got back into the game at a crucial moment - immediately after the break. There was a suspicion of offside when McCue broke forward on the right. His pass inside to Bowyer was fed on to give **SMYTH** an easy tap-in chance from a couple of yards out. The Town backs defended extremely well, sometimes with the luck that any extended Cup run needs. A piledriver from Bowyer hit George Hunt's head and went out of play with the assistance of the crossbar. Then a crisp header from Sellars hit Norman Uprichard on the chest and rebounded to safety. With no support for Maurice Owen up front, Swindon's attacks became less frequent and in the closing stages both sides tired visibly on a mud-heap of a pitch. Attendance: 28, 140 Receipts: £2,657

The Town party left overnight on Sunday and on arrival at the Victoria Ground were faced with another difficult surface to negotiate - icy patches were beginning to thaw in the wintry sunshine. Swindon made just one change, Willie Millar replacing Roy Onslow at inside-right. City were unchanged. Bain's left-wing crosses were causing many problems to the Stoke defence early on. Two chances fell to Harry Lunn in as many minutes. A header from a Jimmy Bain corner went inches wide and a free-kick from the edge of the area went narrowly over the bar. **WILLIE MILLAR** provided the killer blow when he latched onto a loose ball twenty yards from goal. With keeper Herod stranded out of position, he delicately placed the ball wide of Martin, who was covering on the goal-line. In the final fifteen minutes, Stoke bombarded the Town defence in a desperate attempt to force an equaliser. It nearly proved fatal, however, when twice Maurice Own threatened from long clearances by keeper Uprichard. Once, he beat Herod but the ball became entrenched in mud on the line.

Attendance: 29,332 Receipts: £3,200



JIMMY BAIN



WILLIE MILLAR

From the Commercial Office

First and foremost I would like to congratulate all the supporters who travelled to Stoke last Wednesday. Your vocal support and behaviour was tremendous long may it continue.

From now on this is the Wanted Column.

1. One Full Time Sales Promotor wanted. Male/female. Must be car owner. Salary + Commission. Good personality essential. Preferably a Swindon area resident. Apply in WRITING ONLY to the Commercial Manager, Swindon Town F.C. County Ground, Swindon, Wilts.
2. Four good looking ladies to help sell our Match Day competition tickets at all home matches. Commission paid on all sales. Interests in the Club would be an advantage. Ring Swindon 42984 or 31510 or call at the Pools Office.

3. Four persons to help on the Swindon Town Stand in the Brunel Plaza during the Swindon Shopping Week Spectacular from Friday, October 19th to Saturday, October 27th inclusive.

Must be of a smart appearance. Interested. Phone 42984 or 31510 and ask for Mr. D. Buswell.

We still need a few more agents to help increase our weekly competition ticket sales. If you would like to become an Agent ring 42984 or 31510 for details.

Good luck to the team tonight and I hope we all witness a cracking game.

Doug Buswell,
Commercial Manager,
S.T.F.C.



Swindon winger Ian Miller (left) is beaten by a sliding tackle from Stoke's Adrian Heath during a Town attack watched by Alan Mayes (right), scorer of the first Swindon Goal last Wednesday.

IN TOWN TONIGHT: STOKES CITY



Back Row (L to R) Michael Doyle, W. Gould (Coach) Alan Durban (Manager) M. Allen (Physiotherapist) T. Lacey (Coach) Paul Randall.

Middle Row (L to R) Adrian Heath, Alan Dodd, Roger Jones, Loek Ursem, Viv Busby, Paul Richardson

Front Row (L to R) Sammy Irvine, Garth Crooks, Denis Smith, Brendan O'Callaghan, Geoff Scott.

TOUGH GOING FOR STOKE

By Tony Pullein

Life hasn't been too easy for Stoke City these past few weeks. They have been struggling to find their feet again in the First Division, following a two-year spell in Division Two, and after taking a two-goal lead against us last week at the Victoria Ground, they allowed us to fight back to earn tonight's replay.

Manager Alan Durban, who led the club's promotion campaign, decided initially to rely to a large degree on last season's successful side, making only two major close-season signings - - - Dutch midfield player Loek Ursem, from AZ 67, and right-back Ray Evans from Fulham for £120,000.

Evans, who has taken over the right-back spot held for so many years by John Marsh, has plenty of top-class experience behind him. He made his League debut for Tottenham in 1968/69 and made about 150 senior appearances for the White Hart Lane club before joining Millwall for £37,000 in 1975. Two years later he moved on to Fulham who paid a mere £20,000 for his signature.

Stoke's left-back is Geoff Scott, one of several home-produced players who have established themselves in the senior side. He came in two seasons ago and has since held his place.

Stoke possess two of the most experienced central defenders in the business in Denis Smith and Mike Doyle. Smith is a one-club player who has been in the side from his debut day in 1969. He has now made well over 350 League appearances for the club.

Doyle was a one-club man until joining Stoke for £50,000 during the 1978 close-season. He distinguished himself both in defence and midfield for Manchester City, making a total of 449 League appearances for them. Mike won Second and First Division championship medals and was in the City side that won the F.A. Cup, the League Cup and the European Cup-Winners' Cup. After being capped at under-23 level, Mike won five full caps for England.

When goalkeeper Roger Jones dropped out through injury his place was taken by Peter Fox. Jones was one of the players discarded when Portsmouth abandoned their youth scheme in 1965 but, after joining Bournemouth, he was capped by the England under-23 side. Blackburn paid £30,000 for him in 1970 and sold him to Newcastle for £50,000 six years later. He was used mainly as cover at St. James Park, though, but he returned to regular League soccer after signing for Stoke in 1977.

Fox was still an apprentice when he played his first League game for Sheffield Wednesday in 1973 and he had to wait almost two years for another chance. In all, he made 49 League appearances for the Owls and, after spending loan periods with West Ham and Barnsley, he moved on to Stoke for £15,000 in 1977.

Stoke normally favour a 4-4-2 formation and the midfield players have been chosen from Sam Irvine, Viv Busby, Paul Richardson, Lock Ursem and Adrian Heath.

Irvine was with manager Alan Durban at Shrewsbury, making just over 200 League appearances for the Gay Meadow side. In latter years he began to average about ten goals per season and Mr. Durban took him to the Victoria Ground with a brief to move forward in search of goals.

Busby opened his career with Luton and had a short spell on loan with Newcastle in 1971/72. Disappointed at not being signed on a permanent basis, Viv settled down to Second Division football. Fulham paid £35,000 for him in 1973 and he was the Cottagers' top scorer for his first two seasons. He also played for them in the 1975 F.A. Cup final but in 1976 he was on the move to Norwich, who paid £50,000 for him. Viv was the Canaries best marksman in his first season and Stoke invested £50,000 in his transfer two seasons ago.

Paul Richardson, a former England youth international, was for many years a Nottingham Forest player, making some 250 first-team appearances for the club. He moved on to Chester in 1976 but stayed for only a year before stepping back up the ladder with Stoke.

Adrian Heath is one of the latest recruits from the youth scheme. He made a couple of appearances last season and has been playing fairly regularly this term.

Garth Crooks and Bren O'Callaghan have been Stoke's two most dangerous forwards this season. Crooks exploded into the team in 1975/76 and he has been the Potters' top scorer for two of the past three seasons. He is currently one of the First Division's leading scorers, the goal he scored against us last week being his seventh of the season.

O'Callaghan earned his goalscoring reputation with Doncaster, never failing to get into double figures for them. In 1975/76 he was top scorer with 28 goals and Stoke paid £35,000 for him in 1978. Last season he was the Potters' leading scorer with 17 goals and his one against us last week was his third of the current campaign.

John Ward talks to Bill Tucker

One of the first games of football which Bill Tucker played after leaving school was against Chic Bates. Bill was with Kidderminster Harriers and Chic, still a schoolboy as far as Bill remembers, was playing for Stourbridge Reserves. Much water has flowed under the bridge since then to the day when they are re-united in the Swindon Town first team squad. At first Bill combined playing football with working for Midland Bank. He stuck at this for three years and was halfway through his Institute of Bankers examinations when he decided that the prospects of a career in banking were too limited. "I didn't fancy being a bank clerk for life," he said. So he turned to accountancy. Meanwhile he had moved from Kidderminster to Evesham United and one day played in a cup match against Hereford United, then a non-league side managed by John Charles. He must have made a good impression because after the game John Charles signed him on for Hereford.

When Hereford were elected to the Football league Bill decided to take the plunge and become a full professional. He realised however that he was doing this comparatively late in a footballer's life and he was determined to have another means of making a living to fall back on if he failed to make the grade as a professional footballer. He therefore decided to continue studying for his accountancy exams in his spare time and after seven years' hard slog he qualified last May. "It was agony sometimes on a sunny afternoon watching the boys go off to play golf while I had to get the books out. I failed the final part twice but the third time I passed." Quite rightly Bill is very proud of this achievement and he is grateful to various people at the colleges which he has attended for their help. "They often made a special effort for me because I was a footballer." A further difficulty was that he had little practical experience. While playing for Bury he had managed to work part-time with an accountancy firm in Manchester but to be entitled to put the letters after his name he still needs, in addition to the exams which he has passed, a further spell in an accountant's office. Bill is open to offers from any accountant who is a Swindon Town supporter and has a vacancy in his office afternoons only!

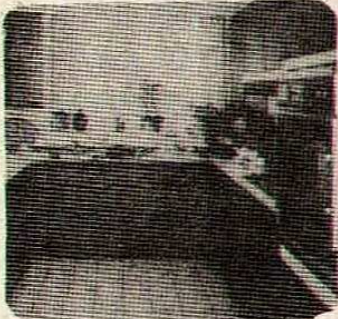
Bill looks back on his spell with Hereford with mixed feelings. Under John Charles and Colin Addison there were very many happy times. Although he did not himself play in the famous cup games against Newcastle and West Ham which put Hereford on the map he shared in the exciting atmosphere of the successful cup run. Then after being elected to the league

Hereford won promotion in their first season. Despite this the club sacked Colin Addison. Unfortunately relations between several of the players and the new manager became strained and Bill felt that it would be in everyone's interests if he moved on. He was duly put on the transfer list but there were no enquiries: it seemed that prospective buyers were deterred by the size of the fee. Disillusioned he was on the point of quitting football when Bob Smith, then manager of Bury, signed him, initially on a month's loan. After his unhappy experience under the new manager at Hereford Bill was delighted to be appreciated and made to feel wanted and Bury had a good season, finishing sixth in the Third Division table. He was disappointed when Bob Smith left the club during the following season and when his own contract ended this summer under the new freedom of contract provisions he rang up one or two clubs, including Swindon, to say that he was available. In no time he was reunited with his former manager.

How does he feel now that he is here? "I only wish it could have been five or six years earlier for myself. I am sure the club can do a Brighton: it simply must take off. I've been in a team which has won promotion to the Second Division before but Roy Carter will bear me out that there is no comparison between Swindon and that Hereford side. There is such strength in depth here. For example with the way Russell Lewis is playing none of the back four can take his place for granted, least of all me!"

Bill is on a two year contract. When he first arrived he shared digs with Chris Ogden but now that his wife, Linda, has started work with a company engaged in scientific research they have rented a house in Swindon. They have managed to sell their house in Bury so they soon hope to buy one in the Swindon area. Bill can already see the advantages of settling here. Swindon is still a developing town: not only does it provide a good catchment area for the football club but there could well be an opening in due course for a budding cost and management accountant with ambitions to become involved in corporate planning for an industrial concern! There is no danger of Bill Tucker getting his priorities confused however: "Everything else takes second place to football at the moment," he said firmly. "It's no good remaining a club in the Third Division with enormous potential. We've got to go up and ultimately it all depends on the players." If Swindon are not promoted this season it certainly will not be for lack of effort or determination on Bill Tucker's part.

£££'s OFF KITCHENS **£££'s OFF KITCHENS** **£££'s OFF KITCHENS**

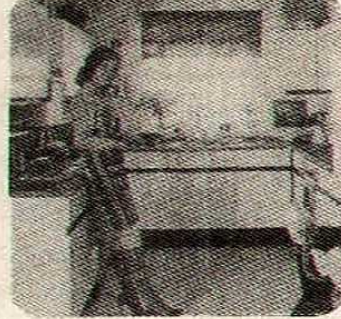


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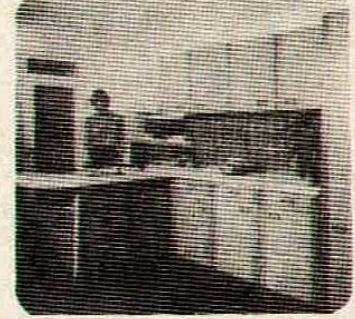


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LEAGUE CUP SCENE by Tony Pullein

Our great come-back at Stoke, from being two behind to draw 2-2, was the best recovery by any side in the third round of the League Cup. It earned us tonight's replay and the chance to become only the second club from a lower division to knock a First Division side out of the League Cup this season.

So far hapless Bolton are the only major club to fall to giant-killers. The Trotters were surprisingly beaten 2-1 at home by Southend in the first-leg of the second round and the Third Division side then held on for a goalless draw to take them into the next round.

Southend United pulled off another splendid performance last week then they drew their Third round tie 1-1 away to West Ham. The Hammers has a dismal record against smaller clubs in knockout competitions. We beat them at Upton Park in the second round of the League Cup last season when they later went out in round three of the F.A. Cup at Newport.

West Ham appeared to have got over their quivers when they defeated Barnsley 5-1 on aggregate in the last round. But last week Southend scored first in the first-ever meeting of these two clubs.

Though Bolton are the only First Division club to fall, several other notable clubs have been the victims of giant-killers. Last week Exeter City drove another nail in Birmingham's coffin by beating them 2-1 at St. Andrews.

Exeter won the game with two simple goals in the second half, both scored by Steve Neville after appalling errors in the home defence. Though Alan Ainscow pulled one back for the Blues, they could not get the equaliser.

Keith Bowker, one of the League Cup's leading scorers, did not get his name on the score sheet this time. In the previous round, Bowker was only substitute but he was called on against Doncaster and hit two goals. In the opening round, Bowker hit all the goals in Exeter's 3-1 first-leg win at Hereford.

Bowker can still add to his tally of five League Cup goals, of course. The same cannot be said for Reading's Pat Earles who is the only other player with five in this competition. His side was beaten by Mansfield in the second round.

Several players have scored four goals in the League Cup --- Tony Woodcock (Nottingham Forest), David Cross (West Ham), Tony Ford and Bob Cumming (Grimsby), who all remain in the tournament, and Mike Flanagan (Crystal Palace), Alan Birch and Ernie Moss (Chesterfield).

The decision to play the first two rounds of the League Cup on a home-and-away basis --- instead of just the first round, as in previous years ---

did not, as had been suggested, deter the giant-killers.

It was said there would be less chance for smaller clubs producing an above-average performance in two games. In fact, there were 13 cases of clubs defeating sides from higher divisions.

One of the strangest League Cup stores of all concerned Northampton Town who failed to win any of their opening seven Fourth Division games but, at the same time, dismissed Third Division Millwall and Second Division Oldham --- by 4-3 on aggregate on each occasion --- from the League Cup.

The only other club to dismiss "superior" clubs in each of the first two rounds was Peterborough, who outsted Charlton (Div 2) and Blackpool (Div 3). They may be adding to their tally for the Posh held First Division Bristol City to a 1-1 draw last week.

Two of the best performances of the early rounds came from Doncaster Rovers and Plymouth Argyle. Rovers dismissed Sheffield United on aggregate but then went out to Exeter City. Argyle could only draw 2-2 at home to Chelsea but then proceeded to beat their Second Division rivals 2-1 at Stamford Bridge.

Rotherham United scored a spectacular 5-1 aggregate victory over Leicester City while Gillingham, Colchester, Chesterfield and Wimbledon all defeated clubs from higher divisions.

It was significant, however, that Bolton should be the only First Division club to suffer over two legs. For a while it seemed there might just be a sensation in the Tranmere-Liverpool Merseyside derby. Tranmere played a 0-0 draw at home and kept things scoreless until half-time at Anfield in the second game. Then Liverpool started to play and scored four times in the closing 45 minutes.

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REFEREE: BRIAN HILL (Wellingborough)

Commenced refereeing in 1965 with local leagues, progressed to United Counties League before moving on to the Southern League and finally the Football League List in 1975. A County Youth Final referee and also refereed a non-League Champions match in 1975, a Schoolboys International at Wembley in 1977 and a non-League Anglo-Italian competition in 1977. In 1979 lined an Egyptian League match in Cairo.

Enjoys watching all sports and listening to music, and hobbies include reading and gardening. A wages/cost clerk for a building firm, is a married man with two children.

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