



**SWINDON  
TOWN  
FOOTBALL  
CLUB**

**TORQUAY UNITED**

Official Match Day Magazine 15p

# Swindon Town Football Company Limited

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## Bob Smith says.....



This is the first opportunity since we have beaten Arsenal to thank all of you who were at that Match for your tremendous support. I had said in my notes before the match how important this would be to the players and you responded magnificently.

Secondly, and I feel probably more important, would be for me, as Manager of Swindon Town Football Club, to congratulate every player for the efforts they have made on behalf of the Club this season. Players nowadays are wrongly, in my opinion, labelled as money grabbers, but I feel a sense of pride to be associated with the players we have at the Club at this time. The attitude of every player has been exemplary in the manner in which they have fought to the last whistle to

achieve a result. We have a replay tonight because of this self same attitude when we came from behind three times at Torquay to bring the Devonshire side back here. Your support again is much needed and appreciated by us all and we hope that with this support we shall get the result we all want tonight.

In conclusion, on behalf of everyone at the Club, may I wish you all A Very Happy Christmas, and may the New Year give us all a higher grade of football at the County Ground. I would also, together with Secretary, Bob Jefferies, like to thank all those persons who have worked so hard in past weeks to enable us to stage the games. Thank you one and all.

# TALK OF THE TOWN by the Chairman

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Tonight we welcome our friends from Torquay after our exciting encounter at Torquay on Tuesday last. This game was another exciting cup tie with the play first one end and then switching to the other, and, as you now know, goals kept going into the net.

In this game we never took the lead, but each time that Torquay scored, we came straight back and equalized. This result left us all with a problem as to when we could play this replay as both Torquay and ourselves had league fixtures to fulfil last night. We are at Milwall, and, of course, by now you all will know the result, but, once again, I have been asked to write these notes before this fixture.

Torquay had a difficult journey to play Stockport last night and then back to us. We have had to re-arrange the Reserve fixture with Ipswich Town from Friday to Thursday at the County Ground to enable Bryan Hamilton not to get too far behind with his fixtures.

John Trollope's young team were playing against Bristol Rovers this morning in Bristol in the South East Counties under seventeen league.

We have made our decision to make the match against the Wolves in the first leg of the Semi-Final, "all ticket". We shall be selling ground tickets on Sunday, 30th December.

We shall be selling these tickets through the turnstiles, starting at 3.00 p.m. and people will pay in the normal way and make their exit through the exit gates. There should be plenty of tickets to enable everybody to purchase as we

shall have approximately 15,000 to sell after we have given the remaining tickets to Wolves for sale. Tickets will be restricted to two per person.

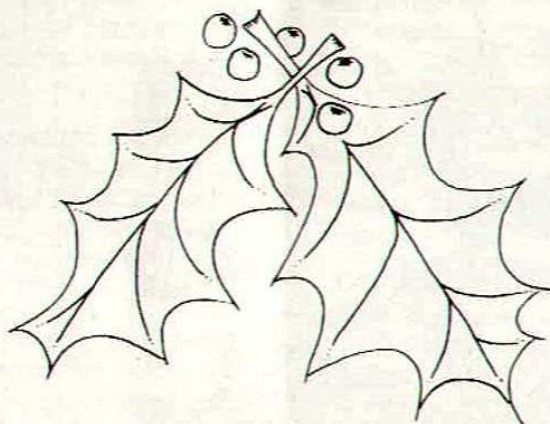
As this match is a semi-final and the Football League are allowing it to be played on both Club's grounds instead of playing the game on a neutral pitch, we feel that in fairness to the Wolves, who share equally in both gate takings, that we should raise our prices to compensate for this very important tie. Our prices of admission for this game will be Ground: £2.00/Juniors and OAP £1.50; South Stand: £3.00/Juniors and OAP £2.50; North Stand: £3.50/Juniors and OAP £2.50; Rendezvous Box £5.00/Juniors and OAP £3.50.

Ground season tickets holders will be able to buy their tickets for this match at the Ticket Office during the week instead of queueing at the turnstiles on Sunday, 30th December.

Our Christmas Programme is Exeter at home, kick off 3.00 p.m. on Boxing Day; Brentford away on 29th December, and Oxford away on 1st January, kick off at 7.30 p.m. These, of course, are all league games and I hope will be as enjoyable as our recent cup games.

The winner of tonight's game meet Luton on 5th January, and I know that David Moss will be watching tonight's result with great interest.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your attendance this evening and to wish you all A Very Happy Christmas with the hope that we will see you all here, together with your friends, on Boxing Day.



# IN TOWN TONIGHT: TORQUAY UNITED



Photo by courtesy of COLIN BRATCHER

## TORQUAY LOOK FORWARD TO A HAPPY NEW YEAR By Tony Pullein

Victory for Torquay United today could make it one of their happiest New Years for a long while. Apart from putting them through to a third round F.A. Cup tie against Luton -- and the possibility of further progress -- they also have a great chance of gaining promotion back to the Third Division.

Our 3-3 draw at Plainmoor was a most meritorious performance when viewed in the context of Torquay's fine home record. Of their first 11 home League games, Torquay had won nine and drawn two. Away form, however, is a different matter and prior to the weekend they had managed only one away League victory -- at Wigan (3-0).

They drew at Crewe (2-2), Hartlepool (2-2), Hereford (0-0), Walsall (1-1), Scunthorpe (1-1) and Port Vale (1-1). Torquay were beaten at Portsmouth (0-3), Doncaster (3-5), Peterborough (1-2) and Tranmere (0-2).

In the last round of the F.A. Cup, Torquay won 1-0 away to non-League Gravesend.

Last season Torquay finished 11th in the Fourth Division so player-manager Mike Green faced important decisions. One was to give up playing himself, to concentrate upon the managerial side. The man he signed to take over his place in the middle of the defence was Richard Bourne, a Bath City player who had had no previous League experience. But Richard has risen splendidly to the challenge and has been holding his place all season.

With Les Lawrence and Steve Cooper scoring so profusely last season -- and repeating the process now -- Mr Green concentrated most of his close-season transfer activity to defence and midfield. Flank full-back Freddy Pethard and central defender Albert Larmour were signed from Cardiff while midfield men Tom Sermanni and Dave Smith came from Blackpool and Notts County respectively.

Lawrence and Cooper both scored against us at Plainmoor. Lawrence, top scorer with 19 goals last season, took his total to 12 this term when he scored against us. He began his career with Shrewsbury but got only a few first-team games before his 1977 transfer to Torquay.

Cooper began his career with Brighton, then went non-League with Stourbridge before joining Torquay in 1977. His goal against us kept him on top of his club's scoring list with 13.

Pethard turned professional with Cardiff in 1969 and, from 1971 onwards, he was a fairly regular member of the senior squad. Larmour left his Belfast home in 1972 when he was transferr-

ed from Linfield to Cardiff and he enjoyed four of his seven seasons at Ninian Park as a first-teamer.

Sermanni established himself as a goalscoring midfield player with Albion Rovers and joined Blackpool in 1978. Tom scored his sixth goal of the season against us at Plainmoor.

Smith emerged as a League player with Notts County in 1975/76.

Goalkeeper John Turner began with Derby and, whilst at the Baseball Ground, he was loaned out to Doncaster, Brighton, Peterborough and Huddersfield. He eventually left for Reading in 1975 and Torquay signed him in 1978.

The back four against us last week was Ian Twitchin, Pethard, Bourne and Steve Ritchie.

Twitchin is a former England youth international who has been a Torquay professional since 1970. He celebrated his 350th League appearance this season.

Ritchie enjoyed a brief stay with Bristol City, then in 1973 returned to Scotland to sign for Morton. Hereford brought him south again two years later but he signed for Aberdeen in 1978 and a few weeks later scored their goal against Rangers (1-3) in the Scottish Cup final. Torquay signed him last season.

Torquay's four midfield players in the first game were Roy Davies, Smith, Sermanni and Donal Murphy.

Reading signed Davies from Slough for £5,000 in 1977 but picked up a far more handsome cheque when he moved on to Torquay during the early weeks of last season.

Murphy had an unhappy first spell with Coventry City and returned home in 1973 to play for Shamrock Rovers. In 1975 Coventry persuaded him to have another go and this time he won a first-team place. Following a loan spell with Millwall, Donal joined Torquay in 1978.

Other possibilities for inclusion in the team tonight include Peter Coffill, Tony Levy and Brian Wilson.

Coffill served his apprenticeship with Watford, making his League debut in 1975. Torquay signed him two years later and he has played several games in midfield this season. Levy's only chance at Plymouth was one appearance as substitute last season. After signing for Torquay, he scored on his first full League appearance this season. Wilson is on loan from Blackpool so it is unlikely that Torquay will "cup-tie" him.

# F.A. Cup Scene by Tony Pullein

## ALTRINCHAM CAN CLINCH LEAGUE PLACE

Altrincham Town, who have been leading the Football Alliance table for almost the entire season, now have the chance to virtually guarantee their acceptance into the Football League this year. They have already knocked out Crewe and Rotherham and, if they should manage to defeat Second Division Orient in the third round, they will equal the all-time record for a non-League club of three League scalps.

Last season Altrincham also reached the third round and held Spurs to a 1-1 draw at White Hart Lane. Indeed, it was only a penalty that gave Spurs their replay chance. And, only a few years ago, Altrincham held Everton to 1-1 at Goodison Park when Everton also had the advantage of a penalty.

Providing Altrincham win the Alliance championship this season, their name will automatically go forward for election to the Fourth Division. And, with their recent track record, they seem unlikely to be refused entry.

Yeovil Town are even more famous than Altrincham as Cup giant-killers but they are not really candidates for League status at the moment. They entertain First Division Norwich City in round three on their famous sloping pitch and could well pull off another surprise.

Being situated in the wilds of Somerset, Yeovil are not really very strong candidates for League status.

While many of the smaller clubs still survive, some of the third round ties evoke memories of famous past deeds. Be sure that much of the pre-match discussion at Ninian Park will concern the famous Wembley final between Cardiff and Arsenal in 1927 when Arsenal's Welsh international goalkeeper Dan Lewis allowed the ball to slip through his legs for the only goal of the game.

Many stories have since been told about that incident but the one to which Lewis himself clung so vehemently was that his wife had knitted his jersey specially for the match and that the wool was so shiny that the ball skidded off it, and through his fingers and legs into the net. Thus did the FA Cup go out of England for the only time.

Arsenal have already received one major blow to their pride this season, with their quarter-final

League Cup defeat here at Swindon, so they will be specially on their guard at Cardiff.

Manchester United start off with a difficult away tie at Tottenham as they attempt to set up a new record by reaching their fourth Wembley F.A. Cup final in five years. The Reds, shocked by Southampton in 1976, returned to beat Liverpool a year later. Last season they were beaten by Arsenal in the final.

Psychologically, United have the advantage for they have knocked Spurs out of two Cup competitions within the past year. In the sixth round of last season's F.A. Cup, United drew 1-1 at White Hart Lane and won the replay 2-0.

This season they met in the two-legged second round of the League Cup. Though United lost the first-leg 1-2 at White Hart Lane, they won the return 3-1 to win 4-3.

Liverpool have been blessed with quite extraordinary luck in the draws for both competitions this season. In five draws they have been paired against four clubs from the Third or Fourth Divisions!

Liverpool beat Tranmere 4-0 on aggregate in the second round of the League Cup and then ousted Chesterfield (3-1) and Exeter (2-0) at Anfield. Now they are home to Grimsby Town in the FA Cup.

Nottingham Forest have won pretty well everything played for over the past three seasons --- except the F.A. Cup. They haven't appeared in this final since beating Luton in 1959 and they have a tough task on hand as they visit the rejuvenated Leeds United side.

Southampton must be a good outside bet to win the trophy this season, particularly as they have been drawn away to Birmingham. It was at St. Andrews last season that they played their first tie in the League Cup. The Saints won 5-2 and went on to Wembley where they were beaten by Nottingham Forest.

The Saints won the F.A. Cup in 1976 as a Second Division club and they seem to have all the attributes of a "Cup" team. With the League Championship beyond their grasp, Southampton will obviously make a big effort to succeed in this tournament.



One that didn't go in - Striker Andy Rowland shoots for goal but Torquay goalkeeper Turner saves the shot.

Swindon's Billy Tucker (arms raised) receives the cheers from his colleagues after scoring Swindon's second goal at Torquay .



**Swindon**

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

**Torquay**

1. John Turner
2. Ian Twitchin
3. Steve Ritchie
4. Fred Pathard
5. Richard Bourne
6. Tommy Sermanni
7. Roy Davies
8. Les Lawrence
9. Steve Cooper
10. Dave Smith
11. Donal Murphy
12. Tony Levy



**REFEREE:**

**ERIC A. READ, (Bristol).**

Commenced refereeing in 1962 in Chippenham, Wiltshire local leagues and progressed via the County and Western Leagues to the Football League list. Was linesman for U.E.F.A. Cup Third Round match in West Germany (1974) and has refereed three County Professional Cup Finals.

A married man, with one daughter, he is an Associate Director. His interests include travelling, photography, keen electric and church organist, keep fit addict, watching all sports and country and western music. General Secretary Bristol and District Sunday League.

**Linesmen:**

Red Flag - Mr. B.E. Charles, Windsor  
Yellow Flag - Mr. G.W. Short, Stourbridge

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 22**

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