

BRENTFORD

Season 1979-80

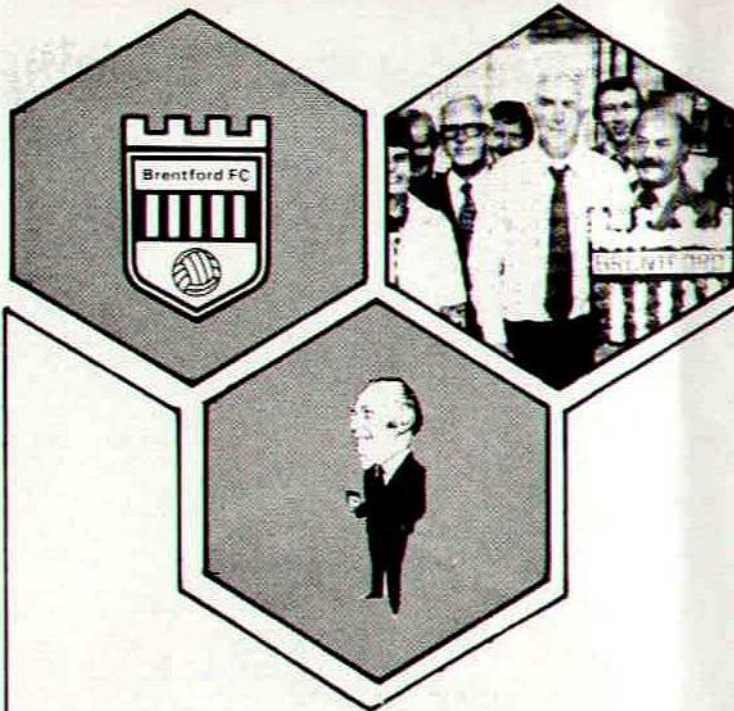
V SWINDON TOWN

Football League
Division 3



Saturday 29 December 1979 Kick off 3.00 pm

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE 30p



AROUND

As this is our last Match Day Magazine of the 1970's, it was felt appropriate to do a minor review of the last decade. When 1969 came off the calendar we were, of course, in the Fourth Division with a newly-appointed Manager in Frank Blunstone and still with a substantial loan as a millstone around the Club's neck. However, so much progress has been made in the 1970's that the loan was eventually paid off on 16th November, 1971 and, indeed, Debentures which were originally raised in the 30's and then re-issued in 1960 were systematically 'chipped away' and have now completely disappeared as a Club debt.

On the playing front, it is interesting to note the team which first took the field in the 1970's. This was for a match at Lincoln on 3rd January and we lost 0-1 with the following line-up: Brodie, Hawley, Jones, Higginson, Gelson, Nelses, Neilson, Fenton, Baker, Ross, Mansley. Blunstone had inherited a team from Jimmy Sirrel with an extremely strong defence and a more than fair chance of winning promotion to the Third Division. However, it did not quite work out that way as with changing management in mid-stream, certain new ideas were brought in. Nevertheless, the defence was still so tight that season that only 39 goals were conceded, which was a club record, but, alas, we were in fifth place, three points adrift from fourth placed Port Vale. It is interesting to note that in the Fourth Division that year were Bradford and Workington and in the Third Division Barrow and Southport, all of whom have since left the Football League. Below us in the Fourth Division chart was Notts County, now in the Second Division.

The following season, 1970/71, was Frank Blunstone's first year in charge and saw a disastrous start but a magnificent Cup run raised hopes for the future. Who will ever forget the trip to Cardiff and the glorious 2-0 victory in the mud, followed by a desperately unfortunate 1-2 defeat at Hull City in the Fifth Round? A Bobby Ross goal to the good, who knows what the outcome for the Club might have been had Brian Turner's shot, which hit the post, gone in. A 2-0 lead at that stage would surely

have left Hull for dead and a place in the Sixth Round for us for the first time since 1949, which would have given the club more much-needed revenue.

PROMOTION AT LAST

The following season, 1971/72, saw promotion at last come to Griffin Park and with a basic squad of 14, Frank Blunstone received credit for taking the Club to higher status and there were two 18,000 plus gates at Christmas and Easter to help us on our way. The main goalscorer was big John O'Mara, who netted 27 times — most of them with his head. But the success was not to continue the following season after a bright start with home victories over former First Division rivals Bolton and Blackburn in one week-end taking us briefly to the top of the Third Division. A slump followed and the inevitable relegation clouds which blew up could not be swept away. During the close season, Frank Blunstone left and was replaced by Mike Everitt and season 1973/74 was a mediocre one for the Club. In January 1975, Everitt departed to be replaced by John Docherty in his first managerial appointment. It was the fourth time wee 'Doc' had come to Griffin Park and he started introducing a policy of attacking football, which brought some good results and saw the emergence of Gordon Sweetzer as a marksman. Doc also brought Danis Salman to the Club and blooded him as a 15-year old, making him Brentford's youngest-ever player. However, in September 1976, Doc resigned and the present incumbent, Bill Dodgin, took over. In his first season, he changed the team to such an extent that it was almost unrecognisable and he snapped up bargain buys like Dave Carlton and Steve Phillips. His reward was forthcoming in 1977/78 when, after a long battle, fourth place was obtained and promotion back to the Third Division. Last season was one of consolidation with the signings of Jim McNichol and Dean Smith paving the way for a change in the Club's fortunes. This season is too fresh in our minds to need any form of review so now we march into the 1980's confident that the Club is financially viable and has as strong a playing staff as at any time in the last decade. Bill Dodgin contends that the staff will continue to get better and, with your support, further progress in the 80's should be achieved.

This afternoon, we welcome Swindon Town for our last game in 1979 and congratulate them on their success in the League Cup, particularly on their 4-3 defeat of Arsenal. We are sure an exciting game can be anticipated and we hope to reverse the recent trend in results against the Wiltshire club.

On behalf of the Board, Management, Players and Staff, may we take this opportunity of wishing you a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year.

ND THE FIVE

BEES IN FLIGHT

MATCH	(21) ROTHERHAM UNITED		(22) SWINDON TOWN	
GROUND	MILLMOOR		COUNTY GROUND	
ATTENDANCE	4,709		9,472	
FIXTURE DETAILS	FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE		F.A. CUP, 1ST ROUND	
TEAMS	ROTHERHAM Mountford, Tiler, Breckin, Rhodes, Stancliffe, Green, Finney, Fern, Gwyther, McEwan, Nix	BRENTFORD Bond, Salman, Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Fraser, Alder, J. Graham, L. Holmes. (Fear) Smith, Phillips	SWINDON Allan, Lewis, Ford, McHale, Carter, Stroud, Miller, Kamara, Rowland, Mayes, Williams	BRENTFORD Bond, Salman, Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Fraser, Carlton, J. Graham, (Shrubbs), Smith, Alder, Phillips
RESULT	(2) 4 (1) 2		(4) 4 (0) 1	
GOALSCORERS	GREEN, FINNEY, McEWAN (2)	McNICHOL (2) 1 PEN	MILLER (2) KAMARA CARTER	SMITH
STAR PLAYER	McNICHOL		BOND	
PRESS REPORT	<p>Brentford came back twice in this thriller and were in with a chance right to the end. Early goals by John Green and John Finney set up Rotherham's victory. But skilful Brentford slammed back with a Jim McNichol penalty for hands just before the interval. Rotherham struck again through Billy McEwan. Still the battling Bees surged forward with McNichol lashing in their second goal from a Jack Graham free kick. Brentford's hopes of forcing an equaliser were killed in injury time when McEwan caught everyone off guard and headed in a Finney cross. — <i>Sunday Mirror</i>.</p>		<p>Brentford were left beaten and bewildered by the magical skills of pint-sized Ian Miller. The tiny Swindon winger gave Barry Tucker a nightmare afternoon, scoring twice to double his tally for the season and laying on a third goal as the Bees were booted out of the Cup. Brentford looked to be in for a real hiding when Swindon swept in four goals in the first 38 minutes. Miller opened the scoring after five minutes. Kamara got the second with a cool lob and Carter nodded No. 3 before Miller came up with a carbon-copy of his first. Brentford kept plugging away and were rewarded when Dean Smith pulled one back. — <i>Sunday Mirror</i></p>	

VISITORS



*Back Row (left to right): Wilf Tranter (Coach), Brian Williams, Kenny Stroud, Russell Lewis, John Templeman, Jimmy Allan, Kevin Roberts, Chris Ogden, Andy Ford, Billy Tucker, Chris Kamara, Roy Carter, Bob Smith (Team Manager).
Front Row (left to right): Brian Hamilton, Paul Gilchrist, Chic Bates, Ray McHale (Captain), Ian Miller, Alan Mayes, Andy Rowland.*

League Cup Semi-finalists, still in the FA Cup and challenging hard for promotion, this afternoon's visitors Swindon are certainly having a great season! It is mainly through their exploits in the League Cup that Swindon have made people sit up and take notice. After disposing of Portsmouth 3-2 and Chester 2-1, both on aggregate, they beat Stoke City 2-1 after a 2-2 draw at the Victoria Ground, and Wimbledon 2-1 before dominating Arsenal at Highbury although just scraping a replay thanks to an 85th equaliser by Bill Tucker. Town then threw away a 2-0 lead in the replay before coming back to win 4-3 in extra time. Although their home record rates as the best in the Third Division — nine wins and two draws from eleven matches and a goal average of 28-5 — Swindon have not travelled nearly so well. To date they have taken both points at Colchester (3-2) and Blackpool (1-0) but have been beaten by, amongst others, tail end Charlies, Plymouth (0-2) and Wimbledon (0-2).

Swindon's storming finish last season, when they came back from the dead to within three points of a promotion place, helped push their average attendance to 7,974.

During the run in they had three gates above 15,000 for the visits of Swansea (16,971), Watford (16,397) and Gillingham (15,117) but with promotion in their grasp they blew it by crashing 2-1 at Sheffield Wednesday and 5-2 at Blackpool in their final games.

The County Ground average so far is 7,480, the only five-figure League attendance watching the 3-2 defeat of Sheffield United (11,835) in November.

Swindon have won all four games against us in the last two years. In December 1977 they knocked us out of the F.A. Cup 2-1 (Phillips) and last season took all four points at stake by winning 2-0 at the County Ground and 2-1 (Smith) at Griffin Park in front of our Second highest crowd of the season, 13,320.

Four weeks ago they again put paid to our FA Cup dreams with a crushing 4-1 (Smith) victory — all four goals coming in the opening 35 minutes. Swindon is the third club with whom BOBBY SMITH has held the reins in the last two years. Bob's first managerial appointment ended in November 1977 when Bury sacked him less than

REVIEW

three years after leading them out of the Fourth Division. Within 24 hours he moved to Port Vale and in May 1978 took over at the County Ground. Bob started his playing career with Manchester United, where he gained England Youth caps but failed to break into the First Team, before joining Scunthorpe. Subsequently he played for Grimsby, Brighton, Chester and Hartlepool and arrived at Bury in 1973.

Two men connected with Swindon's 1969 League Cup success are still in the club's employment — former Manager DANNY WILLIAMS, who is now general manager, and left back JOHN TROLLOPE, who finally retired at the end of last season with a staggering 756 League appearances to his credit and is now Youth Team coach.

Goalkeeper JIMMY ALLAN was signed from Scottish side Brova Rangers, but it was not until 1976 that he established a regular first team place. Jim now has more than 200 League appearances to his credit. In reserve is KEVIN ROBERTS, who was a part-time player with Western League Welton Rovers until signing for Swindon in March 1977. Winger IAN MILLER, BRIAN WILLIAMS, ANDY ROWLAND and defender BILLY TUCKER were with Manager BOB SMITH at Bury. IAN, who arrived from Doncaster in part exchange for our former striker Micky French and £25,000 the summer before last, holds the unique achievement of being voted into the P.F.A.'s Fourth Division "All Stars" team for three successive years whilst on Doncaster's books.

COST £50,000

BRIAN cost £50,000 from Q.P.R. in June 1978, having signed for Rangers from Bury for £70,000 twelve months earlier.

BILLY played for Hereford in their Southern League days and was still there when they reached the Second Division. He moved to Bury in December 1976 and Swindon in June 1979.

The only other major signing during the close season was defender JOHN TEMPLEMAN from Exeter. John made almost 250 League appearances for Brighton before joining Exeter as part of the deal that took striker Fred Binney to the Goldstone Ground. Subsequently, he played 151 League games for City before moving to the County Ground.

Swindon paid Bury £80,000 for ANDY ROWLAND in September 1978 and this season he has formed a deadly goalscoring partnership with

former Watford striker ALAN MAYES.

It took an £80,000 fee to entice Alan from Vicarage Road last February, and he straight away set about repaying it by scoring a hat-trick at Rotherham on his debut. Since they joined forces the pair have averaged a goal for every match. In 51 appearances they have scored 55 goals, including 32 in their first 31 outings this season. Their joint four-goal contribution to the club's record 8-0 post-war League win against Bury on December 8th ended an unusual run of six matches without either scoring.

Last season's leading marksman was CHIC BATES with 16 League and Cup goals. Chic was signed from Shrewsbury, for whom he scored 45 times in 160 appearances, in January 1978.

Long serving KENNY STROUD signed pro-forms in 1970 and has played most of his 200 games in midfield, although more recently he has settled into his favourite position in the middle of the defence alongside RUSSELL LEWIS.

Left back ANDY FORD, a bargain buy from Southend in September, 1977, was ever-present last term, as were midfielders RAY McHALE and ROY CARTER. RAY, who started his career with Chesterfield and later played for Halifax, was voted into the P.F.A. awards team last season, whilst ROY, played part time football for Falmouth in the Western League before joining Hereford United in 1975 where he was a member of their Third Division promotion team. He signed for Swindon in December 1977 and was their 'Player of the Year' last season.

Player-coach BRYAN HAMILTON, a former Linfield, Ipswich and Everton midfielder cost £20,000 from Millwall twelve months ago and has been capped 46 times by Northern Ireland since making his debut against Turkey in 1968. He made 17 League appearances for Swindon last season and besides his usual attacking midfield role has also played full-back for both club and country.

Bryan skippered the National team in the 1978 British Championship.

The squad is completed by former Portsmouth players CHRIS KAMARA and PAUL GILCHRIST. CHRIS cost £20,000 in the summer of 1977, whilst PAUL arrived on a free-transfer twelve months later. He formerly played for Charlton, Doncaster and Southampton, where he won an F.A. Cup Winners medal in 1976) and GLEN COCKERILL, a recent signing for whom a club record fee of £110,000 was paid.

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BEES IN ACTION

Above: Bob Booker scoring his first goal against Hull City.

Right: Jim McNichol receives the Ealing Gazette 'Player of the Month' award for November.

Below: A tribute to you the supporter shown here reacting to one of our seven goals against Hull.

Photos: Ealing Gazette



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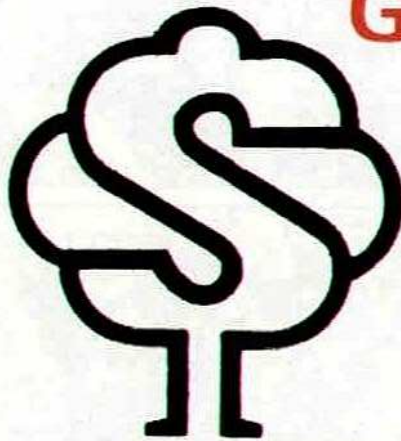


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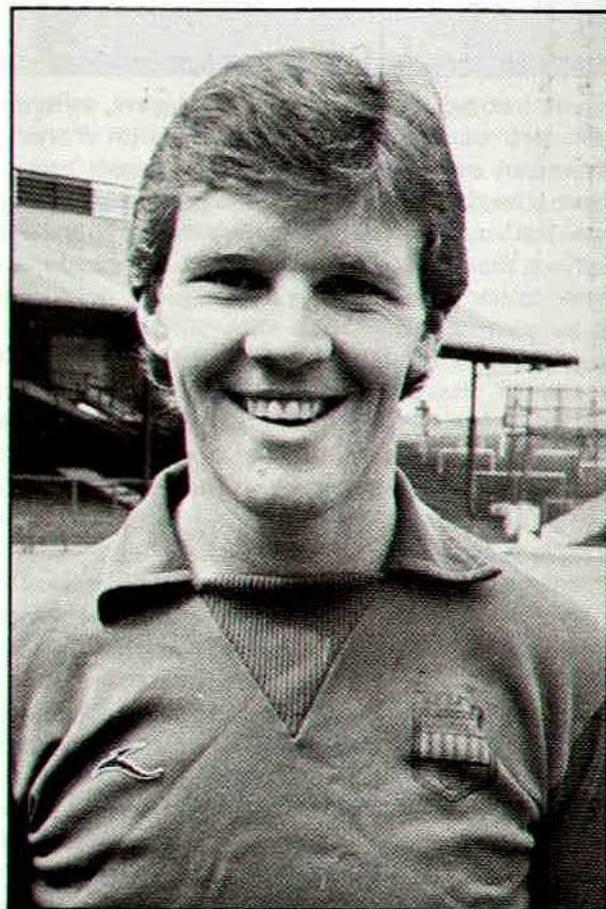
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FAVOURITE TEAM:
ALL THE TEAMS ABOVE

FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND:
(VILLA PARK)

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:
PELE AND GEORGIO CHINAGLIA

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:
DEBUT - AGAINST BLACKBURN ROVERS

BIGGEST THRILL:
GETTING PROMOTION WITH BRENTFORD

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:
*GETTING INJURED AFTER MAKING MY
FIRST DIVISION DEBUT AGAINST VILLA*

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:
MY FATHER

PLAYED ABROAD:
SPAIN, HOLLAND, USA, BELGIUM

FAVOURITE FOOD:
STEAK AND PIZZA

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES:
ALL SPORTS, HAVING A PINT ON SUNDAYS

MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES:
TRAVELLING AND LOSING

FAVOURITE ARTISTS:
ROD STEWART, WILLIAM SHATNER

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE:**
MANAGER OF A PUBLIC HOUSE

**WHICH PERSON WOULD YOU MOST
LIKE TO MEET:**
JACQUELINE BISSET

ANY AMBITIONS LEFT IN FOOTBALL:
SCORE A PENALTY - IN THE F.L.

PERSONAL AMBITION:
TO MEET JACQUELINE BISSET

HAPPIEST DAYS AT GRIFFIN PARK:
WHEN WE GOT PROMOTION

GOALSCORING RECORD FOR BRENTFORD:
-

APPEARANCES FOR BRENTFORD:
108

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CENTRE CIRCLE

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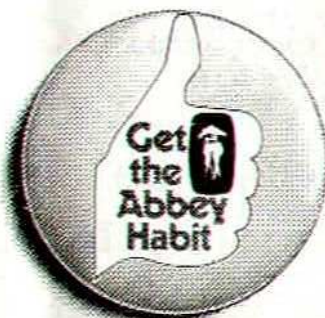
SUPPORTI

This afternoon, we welcome the players, officials and supporters of Swindon Town to Griffin Park. After their recent success in the Football League Cup, we can expect a hard, but we hope, enjoyable and entertaining game. Both teams will be anxious to win this match, no more so than our lads who have had mostly reverses against today's visitors in recent seasons, including one this season, so let's hope that with plenty of vocal encouragement, we may be able to put that right by the end of the afternoon. Unfortunately, these notes went to print before the Bury, Oxford and Chester games and were played, so one hopes we continued in the Hull form for these games; mention of the results of these matches will appear in my next notes, i.e. Gillingham game.

Our **membership** continues to rise. Application forms are available at the club huts around the ground — **Adults £1.50, Juniors O.A.P's 50p with Life-Membership £15.** Please remember that we require two passport photos with each application form and that postal applications should be sent to Mr. S. Wilson of 5, Burden Close, Boston Manor Road, Brentford.

As this is the last home match in 1979, may I take this opportunity to wish all our players, officials and supporters of Brentford Football Club a very happy and prosperous New Year with, we hope, a continuing successful season.

This New Year's Day, Tuesday 1st January, we make our journey to Mansfield. Coaches have been ordered so that we can leave Albany Road, situated behind Brentford Police Station, at 9.30 a.m., fare being **Adults £4.50 with Juniors/O.A.P's £4.** Please book for this trip immediately after today's game as this is your last chance to get your coach ticket. As usual, they will be available from one of the kiosks situated on either side of the entrance to 'Centre Circle'. Please remember to carry your membership cards on all our away trips for insurance purposes.



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ERS NEWS

From time to time, we will mention how the 'Centre Circle' darts team is performing. Just recently they beat the Fox and Hounds by four to three. Then two weeks ago, on Tuesday 11th December, they convincingly beat Princess Royal 'A' away by five to two. Amongst those representing us were the Secretary of the Section, Dawn Hamilton, Brian Danby, John Danby, Brian Allen and John Williams. Their next home match is to be played in 'Centre Circle' on Tuesday 15th January, so why not come along and support the team.

It was mentioned in a recent programme that one of our Junior Bees members, Nigel Brooks, who lives in Yatley, near Camberley, wanted someone to give him a lift to home matches, saying that he would be willing to contribute towards the petrol costs. Also a relative of a former manager Jackie Gibbons — J.H. Gibbons — wanted cuttings, photographs etc. of his uncle. Should anyone be able to help these two gentlemen please see me at the Braemar Road Hut this afternoon or by writing to me at my usual address.

On the sales side, we hope that new supplies of sweaters will have arrived. It should be mentioned at this point that we have just received a new supply of different shaped Brentford lapel badges, playing cards and flags, which are going well — so buy yours today as there are only limited amounts available. Should anyone wish to obtain some sales item not within our range at the moment or any article of another club, we will do our best to obtain them.

Lastly, although it has been mentioned before, don't forget to put the following two dates in your diary. At 'Centre Circle' on Thursday 3rd January and Sunday 6th January, our Quiz team is playing the Junior Bees team (friendly) and Sunderland (London based) in the National Federation Quiz, respectively. Both contests start at 7 p.m. so why not come along and enjoy the knowledge of the teams.

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JUNIOR BEES

We welcome to Griffin Park today, for our last match of 1979, our very good friends, and close rivals, the players, officials and supporters, especially the younger supporters, of Swindon Town.

BIRTHDAY CLUB

We take this opportunity to welcome, also, the following members who have birthdays which fall in the close season. They are watching today's game as guests of the football club in celebration of birthdays which fall next summer.

PHILIP WAREHAM of Tudor Close, Ashford.

A. GORHAM of Weybridge Mead, Yately.

K.J. CURRY of Caroline Court, Ashford.

RICHARD HOLLAND of Clitherow Avenue, Hanwell.

T. DALY of Fisher Close, Greenford.

MARTIN HOLLAND of Clitherow Avenue, Hanwell.

F. BYRNE of Thurleston Court, Southall.

JUNIOR BEES QUIZ TEAM

The Junior Bees quiz team enter their first competition match in the Centre Circle at 7.30 p.m. (sharp) on Thursday, 3rd January. Melvyn Collins and the members of the Supporters' Association quiz team provide the opposition and an interesting evening is in store. All we need is the support that the occasion merits.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 13th January 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Plans are already under way to make another enjoyable morning for members and their friends. Keep the date free.

Sunday 20th January 6.30 p.m.

Our visit to Wembley Arena to see the new spectacular "Holiday on Ice". Tickets at £2.10 each (representing only half the normal price of each ticket) can be obtained from John Warren at 70, St. Albans Avenue, London W.4. (stamped addressed envelopes please), from the Supporters' Association Sales Hut at Braemar Road, or from Peter Gilham. You are advised to buy your tickets now to be sure that your requirements are met in full.

Wednesday 6th February.

Our proposed visit to Wembley Stadium for the European Nations Cup tie England v Eire. A de-

posit of £2 will guarantee a ticket. Details of total cost will be advised as soon as they are known. Please apply by post to John Lonnen at 1, Cleveland Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7EY (stamped addressed envelope please) or to the Supporters' Association Sales Hut at Braemar Road.

COMPETITION

Design a car sticker. The design and/or slogan should be your own unaided work. The quality of the artwork is not important. The winning entry will be the design or slogan which, in the opinion of the judges, shows the greatest sales potential. The decision of the judges shall be final and no correspondence can be entered into regarding the competition.

We will again be giving three prizes — the major prize to the overall winner, and prizes to the best design or slogan in each of two age groups.

All designs and slogans shall become the property of Brentford Supporters' Association in the following age groups:-

- (a) up to age 13 (those born on or after 14th January, 1967)
- (b) aged 13 and above (those born up to and including 13th January, 1967)

Please submit your entries to John Lonnen at 1, Cleveland Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7EY, stating on the reverse of your entry — your name and address, your 'phone number (if any), your date of birth and your membership number. You should ensure that there is no clue to your identity on the side of the paper on which you have prepared your entry. All entries must be received no later than 13th January, 1980.

Very best wishes for your success in the competition. Enjoy today's match. See you again next Saturday.

John Lonnen, 1, Cleveland Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7EY.

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EVERY FRIDAY

HISTORY OF THE BRENTFORD FOOTBALL CLUB

By *GRAHAM HAYNES*

Part 84 - 1934-35 Div. 2 (continued)

Brentford confirmed the good impression they made against Bolton when seven days later they trounced Oldham Athletic 3-1 at Boundary Park, and then routed Burnley 6-1, with Jack Holliday showing a welcome return to form by netting three times. Robson, Scott and Hopkins completed the scoring.

It was a memorable week for Dai as the following Wednesday he became the first full International Griffin Park had produced since Tommy Shanks in 1905 when taking his place on the right wing in Wales' 3-2 defeat by Scotland at Aberdeen. A 4-2 victory at Swansea, and 3-1 beating dished out to promotion rivals Manchester United made it five wins in a row and lifted Brentford into second place.

It took a late equaliser from the spot by Robson to retain that unbeaten run at Port Vale but Bees then sunk Barnsley without trace in a sea of mud with a crushing 8-1 victory.

It was a red letter day for Billy Scott who found the net five times, and set the seal on a great display by scoring the eighth goal two minutes from time which gave Brentford the leadership of the Division on goal average.

Continuous rain had turned the Griffin Park pitch into a sticky morass, and it was touch and go whether the game would go ahead.

But Brentford's team of 'Ball playing midgets' made light of the conditions and Scott fired home the opener in under a minute. Twenty minutes later he ran on to pass from Holliday to score number two and after completing his hat-trick in the 35th minute Bees really went to town and within the space of two minutes were 5-0 up. George Robson netted the first from the penalty spot and straight from the restart Holliday raced down the wing and flashed home an unstoppable drive. Five minutes into the second half Scott again broke clear to drive the ball past a mud splattered Ellis in the Barnsley goal. Then as darkness fell Robson emerged from a scrum in the goalmouth, survived a trip by a Barnsley defender and blasted home.

Finally, in the ever gathering gloom Scott scored his fifth and Brentford's eighth which pushed them into top spot above Bolton by the margin of one goal — Brentford's goal average was 51-25, Bolton's 50-25 and both had 28 points from nineteen games. There wasn't a weak link in the side and for long serving Brentford fans brought up on a diet of mediocrity it must have appeared that the club had found the key to Pandora's box.

The Bees were fast becoming the most talked about team in the land, rivalling Arsenal, who were on the way to their third successive League Championship, in the publicity stakes.

The rags-to-riches story at Griffin Park was epitomised by George Robson, who after eighteen months of reserve team football and almost joining Hearts earlier in the season, had returned to the spot-light as the sides dictator-in-chief.

ONE OF THE BEST

Harry Curtis always rated George as the best of his many outstanding sorties into the transfer market, and there can be little doubt that he was the guiding light behind Brentford's team of all talents. Few players at Griffin Park have been imbued with his vision and skills — to coin a phrase, he could make a ball talk — and none benefited more than his wing partner Dai Hopkins and inside-left Billy Scott. Both blossomed still further under his subtle promptings and Billy, who had always been looked upon as a straightforward strategist now brought a new dimension to his play as a sharpshooter with nine goals in the seven games.

The players certainly had cause to remember Christmas week 1934, as the four games against Sheffield United, Plymouth (twice) and Norwich entailed a round trip of well over 1,000 miles.

Their travels started at a fog bound Bramall Lane on the Saturday before Christmas when a crowd of little more than 5,000 turned up in the murk to watch the League leaders win 2-1.

On Christmas morning Plymouth became the first side since April 1933 to prevent Brentford scoring at Griffin Park, and after both sides had travelled overnight to Home Park, the Boxing Day game also ended all square 1-1, before a crowd of 33,000.

Bees wound up their Christmas fixtures by going down 2-1 at Norwich, losing the leadership to Bolton in the process.

The King's Jubilee Year started with a 'bang', when the team gave one of its finest performances of the season to repulse the promotion challenge of Newcastle by three clear goals.

Brentford then extended their poor record in the FA Cup in recent years when bogey side Plymouth smashed Bees unbeaten home record 1-0, and with Burns away captaining England Amateurs against Wales they slid down to third place in the table when going down 2-0 to West Ham at Upton Park. Bees leapfrogged back into second place by beating Blackpool 2-1, but slipped back again when crashing 4-1 at Bury.

Six points from seven games was not promotion form. Almost incredibly it was the sixth successive season that Brentford had started the New Year chasing the promotion prize, a fact that seemed lost on certain sections of support.

The natives were getting restless, and the call went out from the terraces for the management to sign new players.

The doubting Thomas's in the Brentford camp were given short shift by Harry Curtis, who stuck by his guns and refused to be panicked.

Few championship teams go through a season without hitting a sticky patch, and the man with the Midas touch was quick to recognise the fact.

— (To be continued).

GRAHAM'S GAS

by
GRAHAM HAYNES

News that Jackie Graham is to receive a well earned testimonial next year set me thinking about the many other Brentford personalities who over the years have been rewarded for their long service to the club in this time honoured fashion.

Before the War players who were awarded a benefit game included Patsy Hendren and Jack Lane.

Pat, in fact, had two during his long stay at Griffin Park, whilst Jack pocketed the gate receipts from the London Combination game against Southampton in September 1931.

The first testimonial at Griffin Park after the War was for Harry Curtis in April 1949 when Brentford beat a team of former players 4-2. For Mr. Curtis, undoubtedly one of the great managers of his day, the fickle finger of fate had already pointed to the door, and two months earlier he had relinquished his title of team manager in favour of Jackie Gibbons. A crowd of 11,300 turned up to pay homage to the man who had lifted Brentford Football Club from the lower reaches of the Third Division to the heady heights of the First Division within three years in the 1930's. After taking his bow Harry left the Griffin Park stage for Southern League Tonbridge.

Five years later a Tommy Lawton XI beat Brentford 5-2 in aid of goalkeeper Ted Gaskell and Tom Manley.

Ted spent an incredible 15 years at Griffin Park during which he appeared in the League team only 34 times, whilst Tom was one of four players the club signed in the summer of 1939, with the War only months away, which broke the bank as far as Brentford were concerned and left the club's finances in a perilous state.

If I told you the name of the man who spent the longest period of time in the club's employ was Jack Cartmell, your first reaction, I'm sure, would be to ask 'Jack who?'

Jack first arrived at Griffin Park in 1919, and during the next two seasons made 60 appearances on Brentford's left wing before being appointed assistant trainer, a position he held for more than 30 years. He was awarded a testimonial in April 1955 when a crowd of 2,000 saw Bees draw 2-2 with Hayes.

Two years later Brentford played an International Managers XI in aid of George Bristow, Ken Horne, Reg Newton and Bill Sperrin, and in October 1956 Bees drew 1-1 with an All Star XI in a game staged for Jimmy Bain. Jim was signed from Manchester United in 1928 when the club's playing fortunes were at a low ebb, and proved one of the best captains the club has ever possessed.

MR. RELIABLE

When Jim retired in 1934, 'Mr. Reliable' as he became known, was appointed assistant manager, a position he held for the next two decades. After Jackie Gibbons resigned in 1952, Jim took over the reins for a few months until Tommy Lawton's appointment as player manager in January 1953. Ken Coote and Johnny Rainford's benefit game in May 1961 was not blessed with the best of weather, and less than 2,000 people turned out on a really miserable evening to watch Brentford beat an All Star XI 1-0.

Ken had a second bite at the cherry in September 1965 when former team mate Ron Greenwood brought West Ham to Griffin Park. A crowd of 7,400 saw Bees beat the European Cup Winners Cup holders 2-0 and Ken — who made a record 559 first team appearances for the club — benefited by more than £1,000.

Next in line was that battler supreme Tommy Higginson, O.P.R. providing the opposition in April 1969 when 6,630 handed over £1,300 towards Higgy's fund. It is worth noting that three more members of the Brentford line-up for that match — Gordon Phillips, Alan Nelmes and Peter Gelson — were to receive a testimonial in the years that followed.

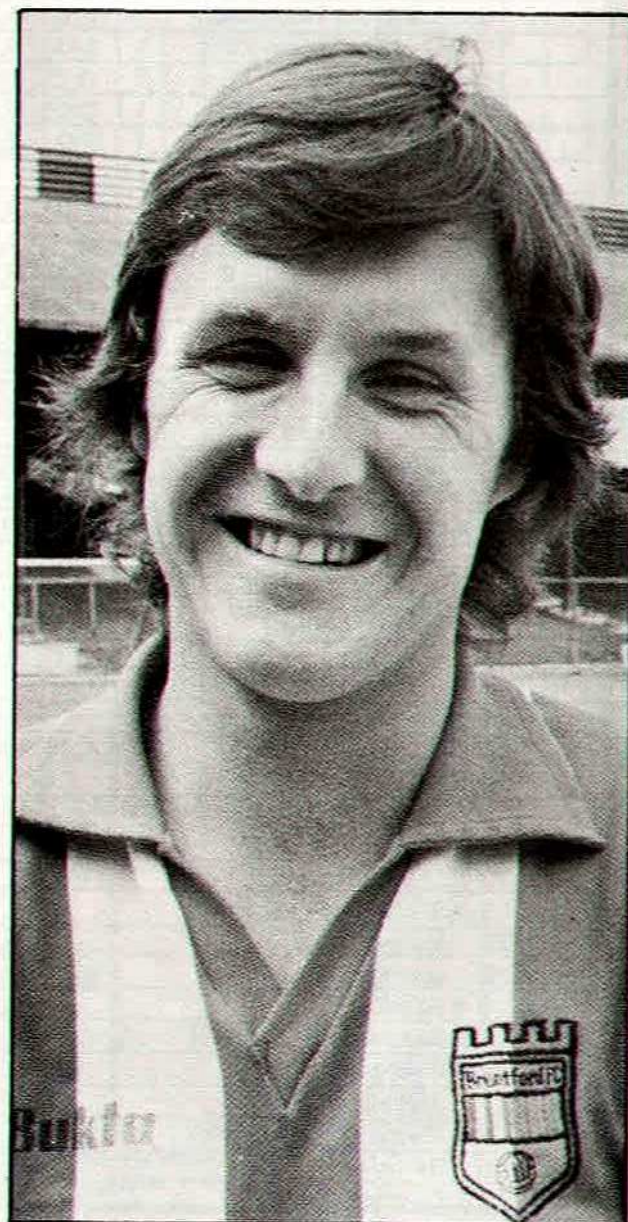
Peter Gelson's bank balance benefited by £1,670 from his first big night in November 1970 when Ron Greenwood's West Ham again provided the opposition. A crowd of 5,950 saw them win 3-0. Dennis Piggott took home more than £1,500 from his well earned testimonial against Everton on the eve of the 1973 F.A. Cup Final when 3,750 fans saw Bees win 3-0. Not so lucky was Gordon Phillips, Brentford's slide to the bottom of the Fourth Division playing a big part in reducing the crowd for his game against an ex-Brentford XI to a mere 1,461. Gordon has since received a benefit game with Hillingdon Borough. Alan Hawley bade farewell to Griffin Park in May 1974 when a crowd of 2,550 saw Bees draw with Orient 2-2, and twelve months later Millwall did the honours for Peter Gelson in front of 2,262 spectators.

Latest recipient was Allan Nelmes who received a club record £7,000, most of which was paid by the 7,400 spectators who saw Chelsea thrash us 8-2 here at Griffin Park in May 1978.

Allan, scorer of a number of wonderful goals (unfortunately most were for the opposition!) during his career at Brentford, kept up his record in that game by scoring an own goal which had his hallmark stamped all over it. Somehow Nelmo contrived to head a centre past his own goalkeeper when under no pressure whatsoever — a goal that will surely go down in Brentford folklore.

by
ERIC WHITE

PERSONALITY INTERVIEW



I met Doug Alder at the training ground and posed him a topical question.

E.W. "How did you feel about being one of the first 'dope test' guinea pigs?"

D.A. "It was a bit of a joke really. As we trooped off the field not feeling very happy following our defeat at Swindon, Dean Smith and I were approached by two F.A. officials and told that our names had come out of the hat as the

Brentford players to be "dope tested". We were taken into a room and asked to 'spend a penny' but couldn't oblige. We were then given some orange juice and were still not very successful. Yet the strange thing was that having had a drink afterwards, I had to stop the coach on the way back for an urgent call!!"

E.W. "This season you have been in and out of the team. How disappointed have you been?"

D.A. "Naturally, I have been disappointed. It all started last season when I had a back injury and didn't get straight into the side again. But the atmosphere here is tremendous and I just have to keep working away to regain my place."

E.W. "I suppose you are particularly looking forward to the Millwall games?"

D.A. "Yes, they will be a bit special to me and even if I am not in the team, I shall still be rooting for the lads to win. Even our reserve victory at Millwall meant a lot to me. George Petchey, their Manager, had me on his staff at Orient so I know him quite well but although it is not too long since I left Millwall, I think they have only two players now who were with me then, so in that respect it will be a bit strange."

E.W. "You have made some 300 appearances and yet you are still only 27. It seems you have been around a long time."

D.A. "Well, I was in the Millwall first team at 17, so that is ten years ago. I may well have had more games under my belt but I had a two-year period when I lost a bit of interest. It all started with my daughter having a hole-in-the-heart operation, from which, thankfully, she has now fully recovered. Then my father, to whom I was very close, died and that also upset me."

E.W. "Have you any regrets?"

D.A. "I suppose it is back to my father again, in that he never saw me winning anything other than a Youth International Cap. He would have loved to have seen Brentford winning promotion with me in the side but he didn't live to see that."

E.W. "Any interesting hobbies?"

D.A. "Well, I like most sports but I am a bit of a Do-It-Yourself addict. When I was transferred to Brentford, I moved up from Kent to Walton and have got a house on which I am doing a lot of work — and that is something I thoroughly enjoy in my spare time."

MATCH FACTS & FIGURES

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE (up to and including 15th December, 1979)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff. Utd.	22	8	0	3	23	11	5	2	4	18	18	28
Colchester	22	5	5	1	20	10	6	1	4	13	16	28
Brentford	22	7	2	2	23	11	4	3	4	16	18	27
Swindon	21	9	2	0	28	5	2	2	6	9	18	26
Millwall	22	8	2	1	24	11	2	4	5	10	17	26
Grimsby	22	8	1	2	20	11	3	2	6	6	14	25
Rotherham	22	8	0	3	24	12	3	2	6	13	21	24
Sheff. Wed.	22	4	3	4	12	12	4	5	2	21	17	24
Chesterfield	22	7	4	0	25	8	1	3	7	9	18	23
Chester	21	5	4	1	14	9	3	3	5	13	19	23
Gillingham	21	5	4	2	14	8	3	2	5	11	15	22
Reading	21	7	3	1	20	10	1	3	6	8	25	22
Carlisle	22	6	4	1	21	10	2	1	8	9	20	21
Blackburn	22	5	3	3	12	9	2	4	5	9	12	21
Barnsley	22	5	3	3	14	12	3	2	6	10	15	21
Oxford Utd.	22	5	2	4	17	10	1	6	4	12	18	20
Blackpool	22	6	2	3	26	19	1	4	6	11	21	20
Exeter	22	5	3	3	12	10	2	3	6	13	25	20
Hull	22	3	6	2	14	13	1	5	5	10	20	19
Mansfield	22	6	3	2	20	12	0	3	8	7	16	18
Southend	21	5	1	4	15	10	2	3	6	8	18	18
Plymouth	22	6	3	2	19	11	0	1	10	10	25	16
Bury	22	5	3	3	18	10	1	0	10	6	25	15
Wimbledon	21	2	4	4	14	15	2	3	6	7	18	15

Forthcoming fixtures at Griffin Park

Saturday, 5th January, 1980

GILLINGHAM

Football League Division III

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Tuesday, 8th January, 1980

PORTSMOUTH

The Mid-Week Football League

Kick-off 2.00 p.m.

Saturday, 19th January, 1980

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Football League Division III

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

BRENTFORD F.C. LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

• Matches at Griffin Park

			RESULT	ATT	BOND
Aug.	15	Southend United (FLC1)	1-2	4,780	1
	18	Reading	2-2	8,800	1
	21	• Southend United (FLC1)	1-4	7,818	1
	25	Swindon Town	0-4	7,204	1
	29	League Cup 2 (1st Leg)			
Sept.	1	• Chesterfield	3-1	5,762	1
	5	League Cup 2 (2nd Leg)			
	8	Sheffield Wednesday	2-0	11,778	1
	15	• Grimsby Town	1-0	7,121	1
	17	• Exeter City	0-2	7,809	1
	22	Wimbledon	0-0	5,524	1
	29	• Southend United	2-0	6,928	1
Oct.	3	Exeter City	0-0	3,297	1
	6	• Barnsley	3-1	7,292	1
	10	Oxford United	2-0	6,362	1
	13	Blackpool	4-5	5,386	1
	20	• Blackburn Rovers	2-0	7,970	1
	22	• Sheffield United	1-2	13,764	1
	27	Plymouth Argyle	1-0	5,203	1
	31	League Cup 4			
Nov.	3	• Reading	2-2	10,011	1
	6	Sheffield United	2-0	14,808	1
	10	• Colchester United	1-0	9,070	1
	17	Rotherham United	2-4	4,709	1
	24	F.A. Cup 1 Swindon Town	1-4	9,472	1
Dec.	1	Carlisle United	1-3	4,275	1
	8	• Hull City	7-2	6,793	
	15	• Oxford Utd.	1-1		
	21	Bury			
	26	• Chester			
	29	• Swindon Town			
Jan.	1	Mansfield Town			
	5	• Gillingham (3)			
	12	Chesterfield			
	19	• Sheffield Wednesday			
	26	Millwall (4)			
Feb.	2	Grimsby Town			
	9	• Wimbledon			
	16	Southend United (5)			
	23	• Blackpool			
Mar.	1	Blackburn Rovers			
	8	• Plymouth Argyle (6)			
	15	Barnsley			
	22	Colchester United			
	29	• Rotherham United			
Apr.	5	Chester			
	7	• Mansfield Town			
	8	• Bury			
	12	Gillingham (SF)			
	19	• Carlisle United			
	26	Hull City			
May	3	• Millwall			
	10	F.A. Cup Final			

[illegible]

BRENTFORD TEAMCHECK

Shirts: Red & White Stripes
Shorts: Black

CHANGES

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1 Len Bond | |
| 2 Paul Shrubb | |
| 3 Barry Tucker | |
| 4 Jim McNichol | |
| 5 Pat Kruse | |
| 6 John Fraser | |
| 7 Dave Carlton | |
| 8 Keith Fear | |
| 9 Bob Booker | |
| 10 Allan Glover | |
| 11 Steve Phillips | |
| 12 | |

SWINDON TEAMCHECK

Shirts: Blue
Shorts: Blue

CHANGES

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

OFFICIALS

Referee
GILBERT J. NAPTHINE
(Loughborough)

Linesmen: **L A BARTELS** (Red Flag)
D H NEVIN (Yellow Flag)



BRENTFORD FOOTBALL & SPORTS CLUB LTD.

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(Hon. Con. Surgeon)

Chief Administrator/Secretary/Registrar
D R PIGGOTT

Manager **BILL DODGIN**

Coach **TOMMY BALDWIN**

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