

Swindon Town Football Company Limited

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Danny Williams says....



Butler was impressed with them and said that they should have won by three goals, and praised the performances of David Peach and Brian Hughes.

I am pleased at the reception given to John Trollope last Saturday, showing that the supporters really appreciate what he has done for the Club over the years, and I am sure that no other player will ever exceed John's record. To complete John's day, his South East Counties team beat Orient 2 - 1 on the Training Ground on Saturday morning. When John and I left that ground to take up our first team duties, we were losing 1 - 0, but the team did extremely well to come back the victors.

Many thanks for your attendance this evening, and I hope that you will continue to support the team throughout this difficult period in which we find ourselves.

To say the least I was not pleased with last Saturday's performance on the field, in fact I thought we had mastered the opposition in the second half. Nevertheless all the play that we had produced less chances than we could count on one hand, but the pressure did result in one goal. Unfortunately I find that as soon as we score a goal, everyone seems to become defensive minded and on Saturday we stopped doing what we are best at doing and that is putting on the pressure and going forward. So many players stopped marking their man tight and I could just not believe how the team could let Carlisle get back into the game so easily. After watching this performance, I can understand why you the supporters become so frustrated because in the last ten minutes we could easily have lost the match. I still believe we need a couple of players for certain positions.

The Reserves, by all accounts, should have won comfortably at Plymouth - coach Dennis

NEXT MATCH
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1st
BURNLEY
K.O. 3.00 p.m.

Talk of the Town by the Chairman

Our visitors this evening are no strangers to the County Ground and our connections with Charlton Athletic reach back many years. A former Swindon boy, the late Stan Prior, played centre forward for Charlton during their successful run when they won promotion through from the Third Division to the First Division in consecutive seasons. Stan was a very popular player with the Swindon Corinthians, and I know that these few lines will bring back happy memories to those people who were proud members of this local club, and Harry Beattie, who reports for our local games, will, I know have special memories of those days.

Several Swindon boys have played for Charlton including Ken Titcombe, who played for England Schoolboys as well as, of course, for Swindon boys. Charlie Jefferies was another local lad to play for Charlton Athletic, Charlie Jefferies was also a former Swindon Corinthian player, Buck Ryan, a former RAF lad from Lyneham, who played for Bradenstoke, had quite a period of time with Charlton Athletic, and Don Townsend a former Even Swindon club player spent many years as a regular player for Charlton. Our former manager and coach, Fred Ford, who I am pleased to report is well on the way to full recovery from his recent illness, was another former Charlton Athletic player.

Charlton Athletic will obviously be keen to win their way back into the Second Division again quickly and tonight's game will be keenly contested.

Last Saturday's football history was made when John completed his record seven hundred and sixty-five league games for us, and I know that it was a great thrill for him to receive a silver salver from The Town End Supporters which they suitably inscribed. Everyone in the ground was rooting for John and he turned in one of his usual superb efforts. That we did not win was, of course, a disappointment but over John's long career he has become used to football ups and downs and I know that John will always enjoy his football connections whatever job he does. Our players also presented John with a silver tray which will always be treasured.

John's young side, being looked after by Terry Wollen, beat the Orient by 2 goals to 1 in the South East Counties League, keeping them on top of this league. Eddie Buckley is another member of our Youth Staff who contributes to the success of our Youth Team. Our mid-week game against West Bromwich was cancelled due to the wet weather.

I have been asked by our Players to thank
Mr John Higgins of the Harris Furniture Store,
for supplying the Player's Rest Room with a very
nice carpet free of charge. I am sure that
Mr Higgins will be a welcome guest when he is
around in the near future.

In last Saturday's programme notes, Jack Taylor who is now with Hereford United, wrote about Refereeing, past and present days. Jack Taylor was one of the game's great Referees and, to be a great, one has to be human and to be human, one has to have their off days. Jack questions whether referees have to control the game for the benefit of the league assessor, and I am the first to feel that the assessor should not sit in judgement, but at least I feel that it is better for an independent individual to assess the performance then for the clubs concerned who are naturally biased. Jack wonders what has happened to the old fashioned quiet word instead of the coloured cards pouring out like confetti. I am sure that we all agree. Jack, in my opinion, would have been one of the organisers in the set up of the Professional Referee if it had been in being during his days, and one wonders whether it will ever come.

The Football League are holding a seminar in Solihull, the first of its kind to be held in the history of the League. The seminar is opening at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday, 26 October and the sessions continue through the day and even at the Dinner on Sunday evening the Speaker will be a representative from U.E.F.A. On Monday the sessions of discussion continue and we are all hoping that something helpful for the future of Football will result from these meetings.

Wiltshire Youth have been honoured by the selection of three lads, Diaper, Williams and Murdoch, to play for an F.A. Youth team against Somerset in Bridgewater, and this, of course, is an honour for our County Selectors, and Mick Parry and his Committee must be very pleased.

Hoping that you enjoy tonight's game and thank you for your loyal support in these troubled times.



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John Ward talks to John Trollope

I talked to John Trollope at the beginning of the season before his dramatic recall to First Team Football. He was then concentrating on colsolidating the advances made by Swindon's juniors since he had taken over control. I asked whether the First Team's success in the previous season had increased the number of boys interested in joining Swindon Town. "A good cup run brings national publicity," he replied, "which in turn means that more people, parents, teachers and youth club leaders recommend lads for trials." Nevertheless, I suggested, it must still be very difficult for Swindon to compete with the Manchester Uniteds and Liverpools. "At least nobody can sign a boy at all until he is 14," said John. "At that age they can join a club on schoolboy forms. They can train with the apprentices and we have special coaching sessions for them. Its 14 and 15 year olds who I'm really on the look-out for. When they are 16 we ask the good ones to become apprentices. If we are selling Swindon we show the parents the facilities at the ground, introduce them to the staff and take them round the hostel. I make a point of being honest with parents. I explain that one advantage of coming here instead of Liverpool is that if you start lower down you can always go up rather than the other way round. And if there are any border line cases I warn them of the uncertain future. I want Swindon to have a reputation for honesty in its dealings with youngsters." Nobody can remain an apprentice after his 18th birthday so depending on when their birthday falls in relation to leaving school boys can get as much as 2 full years or as little as 13 to 14 months before the day arrives when the club decides whether to give them a professional contract.

Last season for the first time Swindon entered a team in the South Eastern Counties League. There are two divisions, Division 1 for under 18 year olds and Division 2 for under 17's with no promotion or relegation in between. Swindon played in - and indeed won - Division 2. "Winning was a bonus," John insisted. "The purpose was to try out the better school boys, to see which to take on as apprentices the following year, together with the apprentices who could not get a regular game in the reserves. It worked very well because playing against good opposition like West Ham and Spurs enabled us to see the boys' strengths and weaknesses and watch how they progressed during the season. We run this team in association with the local youth side, St. Joseph's, which is under Terry Wollen. They have some of the best local lads

and it means that we can have about 20 to 22 boys registered on South Eastern Counties forms."

The next step up is the Midland Youth League for under 19 year olds. This is open to all the apprentices, whether in their first or second year, and any full time professional provided he is under 19 at the start of the season. John does not like pitching in 15 year olds in this league because they can feel out of their depth playing against people 3 years older and stronger.

Most other clubs keep their boys an extra year but Swindon let players go earlier if there are doubts about their making the grade. "If a boy is not up to playing in reserve football at the end of his apprenticeship there is no way that we will keep him," said John. Thus whereas other clubs have only about half new faces in their under 19 team each season with Swindon it is between 6 and 8 new players and as a result Swindon normally finish only half way up the Midland Youth League. One of John's problems is that if there are injuries in the first team squad he may himself find it difficult to play a settled side with his juniors; the Club policy of trying to have the same style in each team helps get over this hurdle however.

John has continued the Swindon tradition of concern for the boys' development off the field. Previously apprentices were compelled to spend one day a week at College with a view to obtaining a qualification against the possibility of not making the grade in football. A drawback was that most day-release courses were spread over 4 years whereas an apprentice had only 2 years available. This season while they can continue to attend college if they so desire John has arranged with local firms to take an apprentice for 1 day a week to give him practical experience, for example as a bricklayer, carpenter or motor mechanic. He has the impression that not only do the apprentices find this more useful but the response from the firms suggests that they are good ambassadors for Swindon Town Football Club in the local community.

Eventually I insisted that John talk about himself rather than his youth team. "I had dedicated my playing life to Swindon Town," John said. "I wanted to stay on in some capacity, if not on the playing side then commercially or in the office. I jumped at the idea of being youth team coach.

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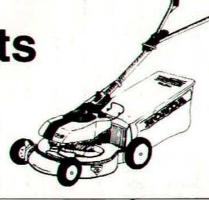
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IN NORTH WILTSHIRE

John Trollope's

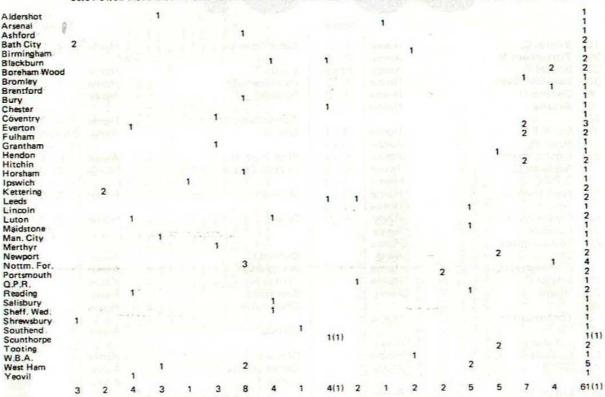
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great record

F.A. Cup

60/61 61/62 62/63 63/64 64/65 65/66 66/67 67/68 68/69 69/70 70/71 71/72 72/73 73/74 74/75 75/76 76/77 77/78 TOTAL



LEAGUE CUP

60/61 61/62 62/63 63/64 64/65 65/66 66/67 67/68 68/69 69/70 70/71 71/72 72/73 73/74 74/75 75/76 76/77 77/78 78/79 80/81 TOTAL

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When John Trollope turned out for us at Millwall just over a week ago he made his 764th League appearance for the club, equalling the all-time record for any player with a single club. Portsmouth's Jimmy Dickinson is the only other man to have built up such a great record.

Last Saturday he was due to smash the record and go into soccer's history books, possibly for all time. As a tribute to a wonderful achievement, we chart his complete record. John's goals are shown in brackets with "s" indicating he played as substitute.

Including cup-ties John had played 872 competitive games for Swindon.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

80-81

SOUTH-EAST **COUNTIES DIV 2**

				Score	I .		Score
Aug.	16	Bristol C.	Away	1-3	Cambridge U	Home	4-3
ALL INC.	20	Tottenham H	Away	0 - 6			100
	23	Bristol R	Away	Postp.	Luton T	Home	4-1
	30	Ipswich Town	Home	1 - 2	Peterborough	Home	1-0
Sep.	6	Oxford U	Home	1 - 2	Reading	Away	3-1
COP.	9	Arsenal	Home	0 - 1	rreading	Away	3-1
	13	Arsenar	rionie	0-1	Tottenham H	Uama	
	20	Cardiff C	Home	3 - 1	Orient	Home	4-1
	24	Reading	12 (12 miles) - 12 miles		Orient	Away	Postponed
	27	Bristol Rovers	Away	3 - 1	161		
o			Away	0 - 2	West Ham U	Away	0 - 1
Oct.	4	Norwich C	Away	0 - 2	Crystal Palace	Home	2 - 0
	. 7	Q.P.R.	Home	1 - 3	U.S		
	11	West Ham U	Home	0 - 7	Millwall	Away	3-0
	14	Orient	Home	2 - 0			
	18	Plymouth A	Away	0 - 0	Orient	Home	2 - 1
	22	Leicester	Away			A CONTRACTOR	in this
	25	Southampton	Home				11.25
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	8	Birmingham C	Home		Wimbledon	Away	1
	15	Bristol C	Home		Bristol R	and the second second second	201
	22	Orient	100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100			Home	
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0		T			Charlton A	Home	42
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	11	Hereford U	Away				
	14	West Ham U	Away		Brentford	Home	
	21	Plymouth A	Home		Charlton A	Away	
	28	Southampton	Away			Avoy	
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MIDLAND YOUTH FIXTURES

Season	1980/81		

Com	

ition		Score	
Luton Town	Away	1-2	
Bristol City	Home	3 - 2	
West Bromwich Albion	Away	1 - 1	
Leicester City	Home	6-0	
Luton Town	Home	3 - 3	
Bristol City	Away	0 - 1	
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League				
Nov	6	Luton Town	Home	
2	6	West Bromwich Albion	Home	
WE.Dec	6	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Away	
		Birmingham City	Home	
	5	Northampton Town	Away	
WE.Jan 1	0	Bristol City	Away	
1	4	Coventry City	Home	
2	1	Leicester City	Away	
2	9	Leicester City		
WE.Feb	7	Luton Town		
WE. 1	4	Northampton Town	Home	
WE. 2	8	West Bromwich Albion	Away	
WE.Mar	7	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Home	
WE. 1	4	Birmingham City	Away	
WE. 2	1	Bristol City	Home	
2	5	Coventry City	Away	
	WE.Dec WE 1 WE.Jan 1 1 2 WE.Feb WE. 1 WE. 2 WE.Mar WE. 1 WE. 2	Nov 6 26 WE.Dec 6 WE 13 15 WE.Jan 10 14 21 29 WE.Feb 7 WE. 14 WE. 28 WE.Mar 7 WE. 14	Nov 6 Luton Town 26 West Bromwich Albion WE.Dec 6 Wolverhampton Wanderers WE 13 Birmingham City 15 Northampton Town WE.Jan 10 Bristol City 14 Coventry City 21 Leicester City 29 Leicester City WE.Feb 7 Luton Town WE. 14 Northampton Town WE. 28 West Bromwich Albion WE.Mar 7 Wolverhampton Wandere rs WE. 14 Birmingham City WE. 21 Bristol City	Nov 6 Luton Town 26 West Bromwich Albion WE.Dec 6 Wolverhampton Wanderers WE 13 Birmingham City 15 Northampton Town WE.Jan 10 Bristol City 14 Coventry City 21 Leicester City 29 Leicester City WE.Feb 7 Luton Town WE. 14 Northampton Town WE. 14 Northampton Town WE. 28 West Bromwich Albion WE. 28 West Bromwich Albion WE.Mar 7 Wolverhampton Wanderers WE. 14 Birmingham City WE. 21 Bristol City Home Away WE. 21 Bristol City Home

t = Own goal P = penalty

Statistics 80-8

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CHARLTON ATHLETIC	I												The state of		

MIDLAND YOUTH LEAGUE CUP

(Postponed)

(FAC1)

HULLCITY

Brentford

Dag

Colchester United

GILLINGHAM

Chesterfield

BURNLEY

Nov

Exeter City

PORTSMOUTH

Blackpool

(FAC2)

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

CHESTEFIELD

READING

Fulham

Feb

HUII CITY

Carlisle United

S

Newport County

WALSALL

SHEFFIELD UNITED

Huddersfield Town Rotherham United

Twigger, Baverstock Bailie, Batty, Round, Blackler, Rustell, Bristow, Rideout*, Short, 9 Bristol City 1 Swindon Town 0 Westlake, Buckley.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES

4 Swindon Town 2 (Batty, Short) Crystal Palace O Pullen, Baverstock, Bailie, Miles, Shaw, Westlake, Batty, Jefferies, Furley, Short, Coleman. Oct.

Batty, Short) Oct. 11 Millwall O Swindon Town 3 (Baverstock,

Pullen, Baverstock, Bailie, Batty, Byrne, Westlake, Bristow, Jefferies, Furley, Short,

COLCHESTR UNITED

Charlton Athletic

MILLWALL BARNSLEY

Chaster

Mar

EXETER CITY

Burnley

Apr

NEWPORT COUNTY

Plymouth Argyle

(F.A. CUP FINAL)

BRENTFORD

May

Walsall

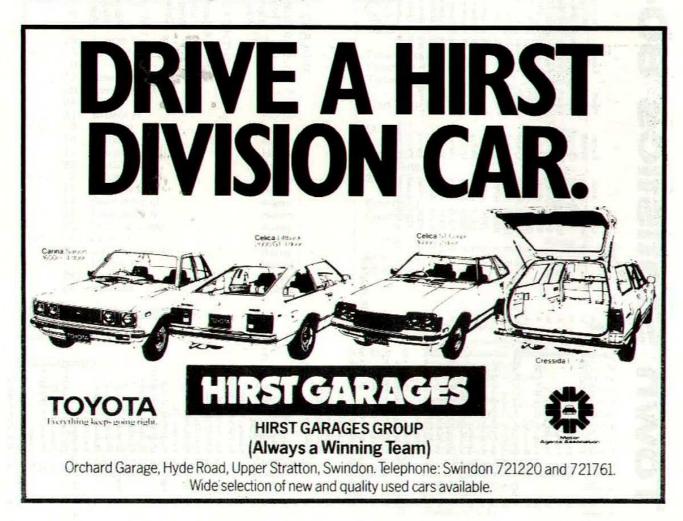
John Ward Continued from page 6

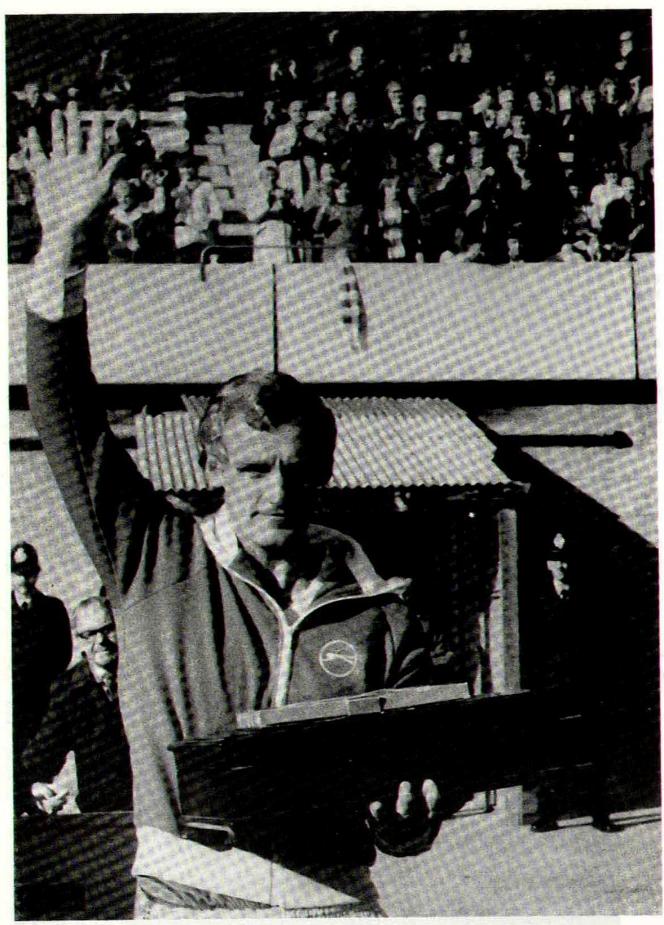
I could have continued playing for 1 or 2 years more but I found that I was trying to do three to four jobs at once so I decided at the end of the 1978/79 season to finish playing and concentrate on this." I asked whether he had ambitions for greater things. "I'm quite happy doing the youth job for the moment," was his reply. "I realise that to be the top man is the number one job but that can only come with experience. I am gaining that through the youth team job but even then I realise that there is a tremendous difference between young lads and senior players."

I commented on the transformation in John Trollope since I interviewed him four years ago and had to fight through his shyness to extract the occasional, grudging monosyllable. He laughed: "In those days I kept myself to myself. You never saw me out and about; I used to hide away. This job has really brought me out. To be honest I've surprised myself: I had to make myself but I just went out and did it. It is remarkable how much more confidence I have myself."

This has all been achieved however at a price and John is the first to acknowledge that the people most affected are his family. After years as a player with plenty of free time he is now away from home for long hours with evening training sessions as well as his day-time work. "I don't realise the change so much but the family do," he admitted. "They have been marvellous about it though: they are all interested in football and my wife realises it is the job which I want to do."

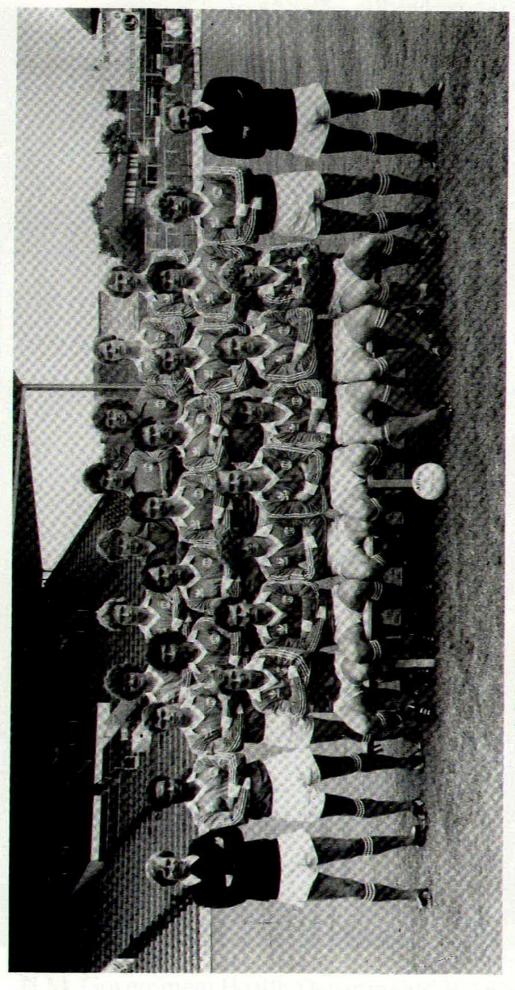
All this was, as I have already mentioned, before John's return to the First Team, I shudder to think how little his family can have seen of him in the last few weeks! Meanwhile John's youth teams play on: their home games are usually announed in the First Team programme and are generally: for the under 17's in the South Eastern Counties League at 11 o'clock on Saturday mornings at the Shrivenham Road training ground; and for the Midland Youth Team on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons. John strongly urges all Swindon supporters to go along: "You will see young lads enjoying themselves," he says. Not a bad description of how the old warrior himself has been spending his Saturday afternoons during the last few weeks.





The Record Breaker acknowledges the appreciation of the supporters

Charlton Athletic



Left to right:

Back Row:

w: Robinson, Churchouse, Taylor, Johns, Wood, Clark, Gritt

Middle Row: I. Salter (Coach), Walker, Lazarus, Hales, Madden, Berry, Shaw, Powell, Hazell, Ostergaard, M.A. Bailey (Manager)

Walsh, Wilson, Smith, Tydeman, Jacobsen, Warman, Dickenson

Front Row: Walsh, I

Charlton Athletic Pen-Pictures

JEFF WOOD (Goalkeeper) Jeff had trials with Chelsea and Southend, and played for Cambridge's youth team, before being offered professional terms by Charlton in November 1975. When Graham Tutt was seriously injured, Jeff was thrown in at the deep end three months later and he has been the club's number one 'keeper most of the time since.

MICKEY JOHNS (Goalkeeper) Giant Nicky returned after his spell in the U.S.A. with Tampa Bay to sign for Charlton for £100,000 last season, following a loan spell. Millwall spotted him playing for Minehead and they signed him for £2,000 in 1976 when he was 19. Nicky made 50 League appearances for the Lions before joining Tampa Bay for £150,000 in 1978.

STEVE GRITT (Defender) Steve was a striker in his Bournemouth days and he scored three goals in only six league appearances for the Cherries during 1976/77. He joined Charlton at the end of that season and has since been converted into a defender.

LES BERRY (Defender) Les developed in the junior side at The Valley and came through for his League debut in 1975/76. He has been a fixture in the middle of their defence for the past five years.

PETER SHAW (Defender) Another Charlton discovery, Peter was drafted into the club's League eleven three seasons ago.

PHIL WARMAN (Defender) Phil joined Charlton as a schoolboy and earned England youth honours during his early days at The Valley. He made his League debut in 1970 and has now played more than 300 first-team games for the club.

DICK TYDEMAN (Midfield) Dick served his apprenticeship with Gillingham and went on to make 295 appearances in the Gills' League eleven before transferring to Charlton in 1976 for what was then a club record £65,000 fee.

COLIN POWELL (Midfield) Colin, who is now in his second spell with the club, scored in their opening two league matches of this season. He originally joined them from Barnet for £10,000 in 1973 and went straight into the first-team. He

was transferred to New England Teamen for £90,000 in 1978 but returned to Charlton a year later.

KEVIN SMITH (Midfield) Kevin completed his apprenticeship with Charlton this summer and is now on the professional staff. Included in the side for the opening matches of this season, Kevin now looks set to win a regular place.

PAUL WALSH (Forward) Paul made a dream start to the season with six goals in the first two rounds of the League Cup. He had never before scored in top-class football. An England youth international, Paul made his League debut at Watford in September 1979.

MARTIN ROBINSON (Forward) Paul, top scorer with 19 goals in 1978/79, looked sharp in the opening weeks of the current campaign and he had netted eight times prior to the weekend. A former Tottenham apprentice, he got only two opportunities in Tottenham's first-team and was transferred by Charlton for £15,000 in 1978.

DEREK HALES (Forward) Derek started as a Luton amateur, later turning professional for the hatters and making his league debut during 1972/73. Charlton originally signed him for £10,000 in 1973 and he quickly earned his reputation as a sharp-shooter. He scored 21 goals in 1974/75 and 31 the following season. Derby then signed him for £280,000 but he failed to find his form at the Baseball ground. West Ham paid £110,000 for him in 1977 and he returned to Charlton, for £60,000, a year later. Last season he was the club's top scorer with 10 goals.

JOHNNY OSTERGAARD (Forward) Johnny joined Charlton from Ikast in November 1979 after scoring 20 goals in the Danish League the previous season. He is also a top ice hockey player and has been capped by Denmark at this sport.

PHIL WALKER (Forward) Phil went to Millwall from Epsom and Ewell in 1975 and won an immediate place in their first-team. Phil completed 146 League appearances for the Lions and, when Charlton signed him in the 1979 close-season, they invested a club record £120,000 fee in him.

Town through time by paul plowman The Team Manager

As the 1972/73 term got under way DAVE MACKAY expressed the hope that the forthcoming term would not 'turn out to be as futile as the previous two'. But by the November his concern was no longer centred on the activities of Swindon Town. As October had drawn to a close Donald Rogers left the County Ground to seek his fortune in the First Division with Crystal Palace and, without him, the Town had won their first game 1 - 0 at Luton. On the following Tuesday Dave Mackay tendered his resignation and so, within a few days, Swindon has seen the departure of a key player and a manager - soon to be followed by his assistant Des Anderson. Forest, who had come close to suffering a twogoal home defeat by the Town weeks earlier, offered Mr. Mackay the chance to become their fifth team manager since the war and his place at Swindon went to a former playing colleague of his at Tottenham, LES ALLEN.

Dagenham born Allen, like Mackay, was a vital cog in the Spurs machine that destroyed all in its path to the League and Cup double of 1960/61. Les went to White Hart Lane from Chelsea towards the end of 1959 in a transfer exchange involving Johnny Brooks. He had then just completed five years at Stamford Bridge having previously been an amateur with Briggs Sports. In 1965, Les moved back to West London to join Queen's Park Rangers and hit thirty-two goals in his first season there. Another sixteen during 1966/67 helped to lift Rangers out of the Third Division - and they also took the League Cup at Wembley, a feat soon to be emulated by the Town. Mr. Allen took the manager's job at Loftus Road following Tommy Dochety's initial twenty-eight day stay there, but Les in turn gave way to Gordon Jago. Les Allen's first few days at Swindon proved to be quite eventful. Before he had time to settle comfortably into his new chair, goalkeeper Peter Downsborough decided to withdraw his services - so the new boss withdrew his goodwill and left him out of the side for three months. As Les watched his lads perform for the first time, seven players went into the referee's notebook and the opposing keeper Gary Pierce of Huddersfield was sent off! Mr. Allen's former club Rangers provided him with two players to add to his firstteam pool - Mick McGovern (who had an unfortunate debut for the Town at Loftus Road in a 0 - 5 drubbing) and later keeper Alan Sprately, to replace the departed Downsborough.

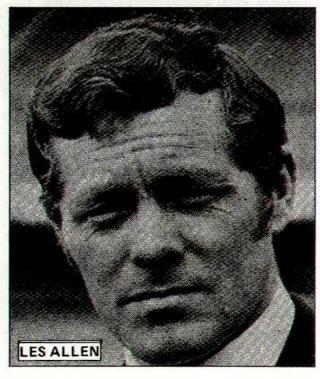
The 1973/74 season started brightly enough, with the first League table showing Swindon

sitting in second place with five point out of six but following the taking of just two from the
next eight games, things went sadly awry and the
Town nose-dived straight into relegation. Mr.
Allen used some twenty-six men in a bid to
rectify the situation but many of his young
players lacked the essential experience to pull the
side through. One bright hope for the future
however, was the loan of Peter Eastoe from
Wolves - a transfer which was completed after
Danny Williams had returned to the fold in
March 1974.

Swindon's ninth and last post-war manager arrived in 1978, allowing Danny to become the club's first 'football executive'. BOB SMITH, the former Bury and Port Vale boss, soon voiced his disapproval of the Town's club badge which he likened to a 'traffic sign' and installed a new second strip of white and red, which posed many a problem for referees and on one occasion led to Swindon wearing two kits during the course of one match! In his second year, 1979/80, Bob Smith took his side through to the semi-final stage of the League Cup and caused a few headheadaches for Tottenham in the F. A. Cup. But. barely nine months later, the Town were desperately trying to recover from the worst start ever to a league programme - and Mr. Smith was shown the door. The margin between success and failure is indeed a narrow one.

Next in TOWN THROUGH TIME

THE CENTRE FORWARD'



There are headaches & there are headaches

CHARLTON ATHLETIC blasted a promotion warning last week, with a convincing 2-0 victory over highly fancied Sheffield United at the Valley.

The win put Charlton just four points behind the leaders, Chesterfield and Plymouth, and with a game in hand on all those above them, success at Hull last Saturday and here tonight, could put them in a very strong position.

It is certainly a refreshing change for the South London club who have not enjoyed the best of fortunes over the past few seasons. In fact is has been one persistent struggle after another in a desperate attempt to maintain their presence in the Second Division. The fight was eventually lost last April, when relegation became a fact, and Charlton finished bottom of the table.

The statistics show it as an emphatic defeat, with Charlton wallowing a clear five points behind Burnley and seven adrift of Fulham, the clubs demoted with them.

And yet I saw Charlton outplay Leicester City, promoted to Division One, at Filbert Street, towards the end of last season. The Londoners lost 2-1 in the end but the scoreline was a grave injustice to the visitors.

The normal pattern for clubs in such a predicament is to lose complete faith in their own ability, and yet this was not the case with Charlton. Despite hovering on the brink of comparative disaster they played with assurance, and no mean skill, so it is no surprise that they have been able to pick themselves up and make a show this season.

Indeed before last Saturday's fixture at Hull, the 'Robins' had already equalled the six victories they took all season to achieve last term.

How is it then, that a team that has sunk lower than a snakes hips, can suddenly find its feet and play with authority, using basically the same players?

Team manager Mike Bailey explains it like this: "I would think that the main thing in our revival has been the fact that the lads are now playing with confidence."

"When I first came to the Valley as a manager twelve months ago we picked up nine out of ten By Colin Benson points at home but could not do anything away at all."

"And it was not because we weren't playing well away from home, we were. It was just that we were not getting anything from the situations we created."

"Now I believe that as long as you continue to do the right things and continue to play well eventually things will turn in your favour. That I think is how you can account for the transformation this season. We have played well and also begun to pick up the little bits and pieces and secure results."

Bailey a former player with Charlton who moved onto Wolves where he enjoyed considerable success as a wing-half, endured a somewhat hectic baptism as boss of his former club. After a period of indifferent results he was demoted to the position of coach while Andy Nelson regained control. The position of the club worsened and Nelson was sacked, leaving Mike Bailey back in the driving seat for the last eight games of the season.

Now he hopes to lead them back to the promised land at the first attempt and says: "I am very hopeful of getting back to Division Two next summer."

With ace scorer Derek Hales - he volleyed in his seventh goal of the season against Sheffield United last week - back on form and the two youngsters Bailey has introduced, striker Paul Walsh and midfielder Kevin Smith, blending in well, the team have once more found their appetite for the game.

They have obviously found life in the Third Division a little easier to cope with and Mike Bailey says that the main difference is "technical." He explains: "I would think that the main difference we have found between the two divisions is the technical application in front of goal. The higher the grade of football the more you get punished for making errors."

Like most clubs these days Charlton are suffering from the financial pinch. Possessing as they do one of the biggest grounds in the country - which incidently they purchased for the enormous sum of £2,000 - it is sad to see attendances dwindle to the 7,175 average that they attracted last season.

Picture



Andy Rowland is sandwiched between two Carlisle defenders during a Town attack on Saturday.



Town striker Alan Mayes (right) scores Swindon's only goal in Saturday's drawn game against Carlisle.

Parade



Swindon's Chris Kamara heads towards the Carlisle goal on Saturday.



Swindon striker Andy Rowland slides into action against Carlisle on Saturday.

From the Secretary

Next weekend the Chairmen of Football League Clubs meet in Solihull in Seminar seeking an answer to soccer's problems against a background of plummeting gates. Newspapers are full of the words of 'experts' who decry the game, regularly tell us of faults in detail but none of them have any sensible suggestions as how to rectify these problems. The Chairmen now have the opportunity to inject new ideas into the game to make it more interesting to the spectator, and I hope they do not waste the opportunity or even defer it because action is of prime importance. At no time in the history of the League has the administration of the Football League been more cooperative to Clubs than at the present moment under the secretaryship of Graham Kelly. It is now twelve months since the Football League Management Committee bestowed the appointment upon him in succession to the indomitable figure of Alan Hardaker. At the time it was considered a radical move to engage someone so young at such a critical period in the League's history but then football is always facing some crisis or other. The forecast of doom and destruction have been shouted throughout the game's history and indeed if the game's top brass were to have waited for a period of stability to introduce their new officials, they would have been kicking their heels for evermore.

When Graham Kelly was appointed, Alan Hardaker was still by his side to give guidance when and if required, but his sudden death in March threw Graham in at the deep end. Since that time the relationship between clubs and the Football League has improved remarkably. Four times a year Graham attends all Group Meetings throughout the country meeting and talking to Chairmen and Secretaries, discussing the problems face to face, and he is sensible enough to realize the validity of those problems and to do all in his power to help clubs.

My reason for referring to Graham Kelly is to point out that the Chairmen have an ally in him, an ally with authority and whose judgement is respected by the Management Committee, and I would hope that such things as a new point system, amendments to the offside law, discipline on the field and the appointment of a Marketing Manager will be discussed with a view to immediate moves towards the adoption of these alterations next weekend.

Whilst discussing the position of the Secretary of the Football League it may be of interest to you to know that, including Graham Kelly, there have been only five secretaries of the League since its inception.

From 1888 to 1902 - Harry Lockett 1902 to 1933 - Tom Charnley 1933 to 1957 - Fred Howarth 1957 to 1979 - Alan Hardaker 1979 - Graham Kelly

Harry Lockett who was appointed secretary in 1888 was granted an annual salary of £20. and this was increased to 30 guineas a year in 1891.

In the early years of the League, the bulk of its income was derived from fines imposed upon Clubs for breaches of regulations. At the close of the second season for instance, the League's total receipts amounted to no more than £141/11s. of which £71/1s. was accrued from fines. There was a certain romance around in those days as at that time all games were friendlies and sometimes the opposition would forget to turn up so they tried to assemble some order out of the chaos and organize a group of clubs into a league with set fixtures. It was all done in a spirit of fairness and equality but from the very outset of the organization was firm as it has remained to this very day.

In conclusion, following John Trollope's record breaking appearance on Saturday last, the Post Office have informed us that according to their unofficial record in the Telegram Office, the number of telegrams sent to John on Saturday was a record for telegrams sent to any one person in one day. John really is a record breaker.

From the Commercial Office!!!

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

SWINDON SHOPPING SPREE WEEK 25th October - 1st November 1980

With the kind permission of Normans Furnishing we shall be having a small stand inside there store during the Shopping Spree. There will be a couple or more of our players there during the afternoons to talk to any of you and sign autographs. If you so desire. You will be able to purchase if you require a Lottery ticket or Souvenir. Come along and meet the players.

MATCH DAY TICKETS SELLERS

We still require more match day ticket sellers. A commission is paid on all sales plus other benefits. If your interested then ring 42984 for details.

SWINDON TOWN HANDBOOKS 1980/81

There are still some available from the Commercial Office or Club Shops. Cost 50 p each. If you would like one sent by post send a cheque or P/O to the Commerical Office, County Ground, Swindon Town F.C. Wilts. Please mark your envelope H/B.

GROUP BOOKING FIRST TEAM MATCHES

Why not take advantage of our Discount Scheme for you Club or organisation to visit one of our Division III Matches

The visit would include. A tour of all the facilities at the County Ground, Lunch in the Supporters Club (egg, sausage, beans, chips etc) A seat in the North Stand for the match plus a Match Day programme. Also autographs of players if possible. The cost per person would be £3.50 per head. Parties are limited to 40 in number. If you are interested in visiting us then ring me Doug Buswell on SWINDON 42984 for further details.



Soccer Scene

It's not yet clear whether or not Rotherham chairman Anton Johnson had his tongue in his cheek when he issued his ultimatum to the local public: "If you don't support the club much better I'll move it to another part of the country!"

Johnson, an Essex businessman who took the club over last season, has shown determination in his other ventures so the Rotherham fans are taking him seriously. Mr Johnson has expressed his feeling of depression when he has been at Millmoor in company of only about 5,500 other supporters.

Mr. Johnson reckons he has kept his side of the bargain so far. He promised to take the club into the First Division and has set aside sufficient money for manager Ian Porterfield to buy what would be "the most expensive team in Rotherham's history."

Old fans who recall the spendthrift days of postwar Sunderland, and modern followers of Manchester City, would no doubt remind Mr Johnson that expensive teams don't necessarily win anything. But at least he has put his money where his mouth is.

It would not be the simplest of matters for the chairman to uproot the club, however. Such a plan would be unlikely to receive the sanction of the Football League unless there were exceedingly sound reasons.

It is most rare for a league club to move home, anyway. Some, like Port Vale and Southend United, have switched to new grounds in the same borough since the last war. And Hull City moved from Alanby Road to Boothferry Park shortly before the start of organised football in 1946.

Immediately after the end of the first war, when Huddersfield Town were facing liquidation, one of the proposals put forward was that the club should move across to Leeds and take over the Elland Road ground that had previously been occupied by Leeds City. That club had been disbanded by the Football Association for alleged illegal practices.

Happily, Huddersfield overcame those particular problems and they remain at their Leeds Road ground to this day.

Just over ten years ago, when Brentford were in trouble, there were various proposals for the club to amalgamate with Q.P.R. and, a little earlier, Orient contemplated a move out to somewhere like Romford where they might expect better support. Again, the club found less drastic means for sorting out the problems.

All these moves, though, are to new headquarters only a short distance away. Mr Johnson intimates that he would like to take his club to a completely different environment.

As Romford has now lost its Southern League club, and Mr Johnson comes from Essex, it may be he has some thoughts of taking the club there. He has not said as much but it's an intriguing possibility.

Most League clubs are so much a part of the local environment that it is difficult to see them maintaining their identity in another town. But, if every club facing financial difficulties, decided to up home we could find clubs like Rochdale trying their luck in, say, Dover. Or Halifax moving to an area like Cornwall that does not at the moment have any representative in the Football League.

After the initial novelty had worn off, though, it is doubtful if a move of home would have any long-term effect. Rochdale may only possess about 1,500 supporters today but they are the real ones. They still turn up week after week, in all kinds of weather, and in spite of adverse results.

All those would be lost forever. And would the public in a new town be likely to be persuaded to go in their hordes to support a club of Rochdale's standing?

Another club that would like to change its home, but for a very different reason to Rotherham's, is Southampton. Manager Lawrie McMenemy has been using his endeavours to try and build a new stadium for about four years.

At one point it seemed the city might back him by building an all-purpose stadium on a disused site by the docks. But the cash couldn't be raised. Another plan was for Portsmouth and Southampton to join forces and share a new stadium sited between the two cities.

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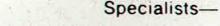
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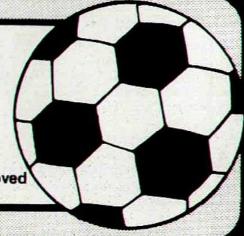
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Tuesday October 21 1980

SWINDON TOWN		CHARLTON ATHLETIC
1 Jimmy 1 ALLAN		Nicky JOHNS 1
2 John TROLLOPE		Steve 2
3 David PEACH		WARMAN 3
4 Chris KAMARA		Peter SHAW 4
5 Russell LEWIS	ROLEX	BERRY 5
6 Rey CARTER	DEACONS	TYDEMAN 6
7 MILLER	SWINDON EST 1848	Colin 7
8 Brian HUGHES		WALSH 8
9 Andy ROWLAND		Derek 9
10 MAYES		WALKER 10
11 Glenn COCKERILL		Martin 11 ROBINSON 11
12 Chris TURNER		12

REFEREE: MORRIS R. BAKER (Wolverhampton)

Commenced refereing in Wolverhampton Amateur League, then through West Midland (Region) to Football League. Has officiated in an England v. Scotland (Amateur) International, also a Hungary v. Austria match.

A married man with two sons, he is a Director of a tool-making concern, and his hobbies are Tennis, Swimming and Walking. Serves on a committee to raise money for the welfare of Senior Citizens.

Linesmen;

Red Flag: MR. R.C. BANHAM, Weymouth, Dorset

Yellow Flag: MR. R.M. PITMAN, Christchurch, Dorset