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All contributed items published in this programme do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board and the Editor.

COLCHESTER UNITED F.C. WELCOME YOU TO LAYER ROAD



Antony Buck Q.C. M.P.





J.W. Rippingale

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R.T. Jeck

son M. Benne





A big welcome this afternoon to Swindon Town who have recently parted company with Manager Bobby Smith.

After their Cup success of last season, Swindon finished rather badly in the League and any promotion hopes they had disappointingly evaporated. However, most informed judges would have expected Swindon to be one of the front-runners in the promotion race this season. Rather surprisingly they got off to a bad start, although there have been signs that they are going to play their way out of trouble.

That most popular of men, Danny Williams, is currently doing the caretaker job for the Wiltshire club and if anyone can get them out of their current troubles then he is that man.

I was lucky enough to spend some time as a player under Danny at Mansfield and it was a revelation to work with the man and study his methods. When you remember that he guided Swindon to League Cup success at Wembley and in the same year got promotion from the Third Division to the Second Division, you realise that he is something special.

Back to our own patch, the Reserve side has been having a good run just lately and are beginning to find some sort of consistency to go with their undoubted ability. Ray Bunkell is setting a great example on and off the park to the young lads and I know that Ray has been working very hard at improving the attitude and application of our younger players.

WELCOME TO

Back row (left to right): Jimmy Allan, David Peach, John Templeman, Kenny Stroud, Roy Greenwood, Tom McAlister. Centre row (left to right): Andy Rollings, Roy Carter, Russell Lewis, Chris Kamara (Team Captain), Colin Barrett, Billy Tucker (Club Captain). Front row (left to right): Steve Abbley, Bryan Hamilton (now Manager of Tranmere), Ian Miller, Brian Williams, Andy Rowland, Alan Mayes, Glenn Cockerill.





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SWINDON

Jimmy Allan – goalkeeper – Born in Inverness, Jimmy will have been at Swindon for ten years this season, having been signed from Scottish non-league football. He made his debut against Queens Park Rangers in September 1971, and has been first choice keeper for most of the last four seasons.

David Peach — defender — David comes from Bedford and started his career with Gillingham. Moved to Southampton during the 1973-74 season. His debut for Swindon after signing in March 1980 was at Millwall, but an injury restricted him to ten games before the end of last season.

Chris Kamara — midfield — Chris is from Middlesbrough but served his apprenticeship at Portsmouth where he went on to make 56 League appearances. Signed for Swindon just before the start of the 1977–78 season. His debut was against Sheffield Wednesday in August 1977. An attacking midfield player, he began last season being put up for transfer and almost left but finished being voted "Player of the Year".

Russell Lewis – defender – Born in Blaengwynfi, he joined Swindon from Welsh League football in 1976 and made his League debut at York City in April 1977. His first team chances were limited until last season when he broke through to the first team, playing mostly at full-back.

Roy Carter — midfield — Roy comes from Torpoint, Cornwall, and played part-time Western League football for Falmouth before joining Hereford in the summer of 1975. Signed for Swindon in December, 1977, making his debut against Carlisle that month. His usual role is as an attacking midfield player, but he is a true utility player.

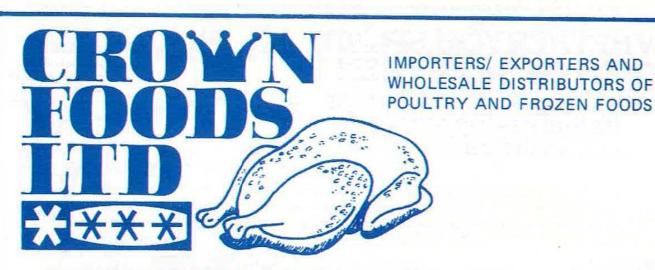
lan Miller — forward — Ian is from Perth and made his League debut with Bury before moving to Notts Forest. He did not make the first team there, but a move to Doncaster Rovers in August 1975 gave him regular first team football. Signed for Swindon during the 1978 close-season and made his debut against Bury in August 1978. An orthodox winger who uses pace to beat opponents.

Glenn Cockerill — midfield — Glenn is from Grimsby and made his League debut with Lincoln City in season 1976–77. He played well over 50 League games for Lincoln and Swindon began watching him in March 1979. He eventually signed in December 1979, but injury and other factors prevented his League debut until March 1980.

Andy Rowland — forward — Born in Derby he was apprenticed with his home town team until a transfer took him to Bury before the start of the 1974-75 season. He was three times leading scorer before his move to Swindon in September 1978 and his debut came that month against Blackpool.

Alan Mayes — forward — A Londoner whose first club was Queens Park Rangers. He signed for Swindon in February 1979, scored a hat-trick on his debut at Rotherham and had made 65 League appearances to the end of last season. A mobile striker, he was joint leading scorer last season with 28 in all competitions.

Brian Williams — midfield — A Mancunian, Brian is another player who was formerly with Bury. He made his League debut during season 1971-72. Transfered to Queens Park Rangers in July 1977. He spent one season in London making only nine full League appearances, and signed for Swindon in June 1978.



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FVIEWPOINT

No doubt about the manager of the month, Mike Bailey really has the. Valley singing and Charlton Athletic celebrated the award by winning so handsomely at Huddersfield.

It was Trevor Lee's old buddy of Milwall and Epsom days, Phil Walker, who was the match winner.

Leeds Road is a hard place to pick up points and the fact that Charlton are without young Paul Walsh, sidelined by injury, made it an even more impressive performance. It was Charlton's seventh successive win — and that's a club record.

Bailey is determined by the way to resist all tempting enquiries for Walsh, who, teaming up so effectively with Derek Hales, has been one of the success stories in the Griffin Park

Division so far.

Sheffield United's £80,000 fee for Exeter City's Steve Neville, paid quick dividends. He had a hand in all three goals that ended our hopes up at Bramall Lane. And where did Exeter get Neville? From Southampton, on a free transfer!

The transfer that didn't go through was that of Jimmy Greenhoff to Blackpool. There were late hitches and Blackpool crashed 4 - 2 to Newport County at Bloomfield Road. A shocker of a result for manager Alan Ball, reputed now to be on a new two-year contract worth £50,000.

The surprise result of the day though was surely lowly Hull City's 1 - 0 win over Plymouth Argyle at Boothferry. Nick Deacy was the match-winner and showing some of the fight displayed in the second half at Layer Road recently, the Tigers, under ex-Welsh boss Mike Smith, can surely start climbing the table.



By JOHN MYATT
Sports reporter for BBC Look East

Griffin Park fans, starved of joy while the Bees have chalked up no fewer than six away victories, at last had something to cheer about. They whipped Oxford United 3 - 0 to maintain a useful challenging position. The lad they are all raving about in West London, young Dave Crown, snapped up two of the goals.

Crown was a bargain buy from Isthmian League Walthamstow Avenue, testimony again to the talent to be picked up outside the League.

The results of late indicate the usual fierce competition for promotion again. Burnley have hit a good win vein, Rotherham have that unbeatable look at Millmoor, while the talented Barnsley, with Ron Glavin yet again a goal-man, keep right there with a 2 - 0 win over Chester.

Barnsley must be fancied for one of the top spots, and they won high acclaim for their sleek, well-organised football in giving West Ham such a fright in the League Cup at Upton Park. "They took all the glory", said Hammers boss John Lyall afterwards.



Football and the Community

I was only too happy to agree to the request by Hilary Matheson, your Sports Promoter, to write an article for this programme about your Club's involvement with the "Football and the Community" Scheme.

The principle underlying this scheme is that football clubs should integrate more into the life of the community around them by providing additional sport and recreation facilities which can be used by all. The scheme started in 1978 from an initiative by the Sports Council, and so far the Council has spent nearly £2 million in grants to assist in the costs of these facilities at a number of Football and Rugby League clubs. The financial assistance given by the Sports Council has now been supplemented by funds from the Football Ground Improvement

Trust.

It is with the help of this Trust that your club has now been able to provide a floodlit hard-playing area and a sports pavilion. You are also particularly fortunate in Colchester in being able to link in competitions with similarly well-established centres at the football grounds selection of people will therefore now be able to take is increasing. Improved opportunities for active recreaan active part in sporting recreation which they would tion of all kinds open to the widest section of our not otherwise be able to do.

areas where they are most needed. I sincerely hope that are intended to be. the new facilities will lead to greatly improved relations between football clubs, their supporters, and the people in the community at large. As clubs begin to play a larger part in community life, they will naturally hope that - even if only in the long-term - their gates will eventually increase. I certainly hope that one of the byproducts of this greater involvement with the community will be a reduction in some of the behavioural problems currently and so sadly connected with professional football.



Hilary Matheson Colchester United Sports Promoter

Our Society is becoming increasingly urban and of Luton, Norwich, Peterborough and Ipswich. A wide mechanised and, one way and another, our leisure time communities are of vital importance. The "Football The scale of these individual schemes, and the and the Community" Scheme has, I believe, a large part facilities they provide, vary considerably. But, however to play in this. Colchester United have now joined in. great or small, they all have the same aim and driving I urge you all, its supporters, to ensure that your new spirit. They help provide valuable recreation facilities in facilities will be the asset to the community which they

I wish you all, and your team, every success.

HECTOR MONRO, Minister for Sport

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RESERVE COMMENT

RAY BUNKELL - RESERVE TEAM COACH

On Saturday, 25th October, 1980, we were away to Ely, the final result 4 - 4. We did not produce the type of football we have been playing recently, but we continued to score goals, which is always pleasing, both for the players and, naturally, the spectators. We went two goals in front from fine individual goals from first, Kevin Baker, who evaded two defenders in the box and then took the ball past the advancing Ely keeper and then, Leo Cusenza finished off a fine run from left midfield to crash a twenty yard shot into the corner of the net.



Ely hit back with two goals when, defensively, we were very slack. Just before half-time however, we again went in front with a goal by Joey Peck following a free kick.

not over-please

The second half saw us again go two goals in front, Joey Peck scoring a great volley from the edge of the box. Ely, to their credit, again fought their way into the game with another two goals, their forwards giving our defence plenty of problems. The last half hour of the match was a real cliff-hanger with the result in the balance until the final whistle.

4 - 4 at the end of 90 minutes was about the result both sides deserved for their efforts on the day. I obviously was not over-pleased with the way we allowed Ely to get back into the game, twice being two goals behind, but to score four goals whilst not playing very well on the day, to a team that had previously only conceded six goals in 12 games, was very encouraging. This result gave us a good finish to last months matches; played 4, won 2, drawn 2 (both against Ely), and lost none, with 14 goals for and 5 against.

I hope the players get some encouragement from the way we are playing at the moment, I certainly have. Let us hope we can continue in this way.

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TABLE TALK

NEWS AND VIEWS IN AND AROUND DIVISION III

By Bruce Jackson SPORTS CORRESPONDENT-

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

Results in the Third Division continue to bewilder form experts, as week after week the top teams drop points as the lower teams pick up.

Chesterfield, ridiculously priced at 5-4 favourites to win the division, have slumped in recent games, only getting a point at Craven Cottage, where managerless Fulham are usually easy meat.

Bobby Campbell's departure there adds to the list of unemployed managers, and the troubled London club will do well to emulate their Rugby League compatriots and finish in a high league position. (Latest rumours suggest it is a straight fight between two former England internationals - Bobby Moore, manager of non-League Oxford City and ex-Arsenal striker Malcolm Mac-Donald.)

Swindon, another side without a manager, had no such luck, conceding three to Burnley at the County Ground to make sure they remain right at the wrong end of the table. Since Bobby Smith's sacking, things haven't got any better and a mid-table position is the

best the West Country side can hope for. Burnley, on the other hand, continue to thrive and with Martin Dobson scheming in midfield and Northern Ireland international Billy Hamilton rifling them home up front, they look a fair bet for promotion from their fourth position with 22 points from 17 games.

Before the mid-week games, Charlton took over the leadership with a battling 1 - 0 away win at Huddersfield and earned manager Mike Bailey the Third Division "Manager of the Month" award.

Barnsley continue to prove they are a team likely to be involved in promotion matters next year. Norman Hunter has built a fine footballing side, who have the ability to pick up away points as well as win well at home.



After an unpromising start, probably partly due to the uncertainty of Allan Clarke's position, they have clicked for Hunter and after winning 3 - 1 at Plymouth, registered another fine win over in-form Chester by 2 - 0 at Oakwell.

Reading's transfer-listed striker Williams continues to work the oracle. The 20-year-old sank Colchester recently and repeated the dose after coming on as substitute at Exeter to score and boost his chance of getting another club.

Despite that win, the injury-hit Berkshire club still stay mid-table alongside Walsall, where player-manager Alan Buckley believes his side is about to end a goal famine that has wrecked their early season hopes.

Buckley was delighted after a 3 - 3 draw with Gillingham, calling it one of their best-ever performances and after failing to score in eight games Buckley was hungry for goals against leaders Charlton.

FOR NEWS OF THE 'U's' AND MATCH REPORT **GET** East Anglian Daily Times



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picture G. to block this high-flying volley from Trevor Lee, gh. to the oldest Micky Cook is known as "Mr 100%", atted as he beats young Bremner to head just wide

Rotherham defender stretches to block this high-flying volley from Trevor Lee, ably supported by Bobby Gough.



From the youngest supporter to the oldest Micky Cook is known as "Mr 100%", which was again ably demonstrated as he beats young Bremner to head just wide of the Rotherham goal.







RE GALLERY

vor Lee,

r 100%", just wide



With the Rotherham keeper well off his line, but well protected by three defenders, Kevin Bremner can only watch in despair as the ball eludes him.



Battles between Trevor Lee and visiting goalkeepers are many for a high-cross-ball into the area. Here we see Trevor's amazing ability to out-climb not only the keeper, but his hands as well.

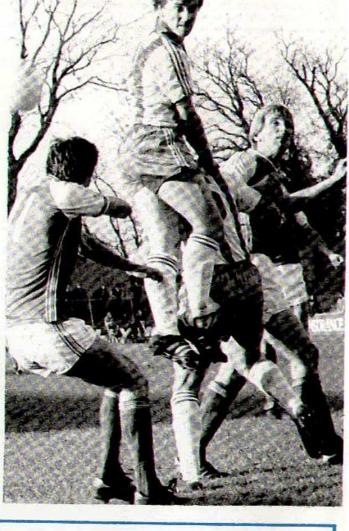








Russell Cotton, seen here receiving special attention from a Rotherham defender as he dives in to put in a powerful header during this attack on the Rotherham goal.



Very ably assisted by Mickey Packer, Kevin Bremner climbs high in an attempt to head home one of the many corners against Rotherham.

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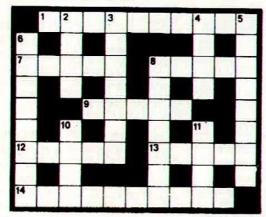
NO FARE INCREASE AFTER 12pm

Play The Game

Each week in "Play the Game" we will be providing a range of Puzzles and Quizzes to really test the knowledge and experience of our supporters and also provide some half-time entertainment. Whilst we are not offering any cash prizes, we hope that this page will provide an entertaining time-filler during half-time.

SOCCER NINETY-NINER No. 11

(Compiled by David Peck)



Across

- 1 Winger who succeeded Stanley Matthews at Stoke and followed 100 appearances for them with another 200 for Oldham before joining Rochdale (10).
- 7 Famous Uruguay midfielder who played in the 1962, 1966, 1970 and 1974 World Cup Finals (5).
- 8 Vanden Bergh (Lierse) was Europe's 1980 "Golden Boot" winner (5).
- 9 Last summer Arsenal signed (5).
- 12 . . . and then sold (5).
- 13 The number of full England caps won by 3 down (5).
- 14 Anfield ever-present in last season's League matches (3, 7).

Down

2 At a penalty, if "a player of team encroaches . . . the kick shall be retaken" (Law XIV) (4).

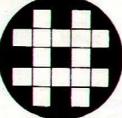
Gone West

- 3 England amateur winger of the 1950s who turned professional with Manchester United (7).
- Bridgend, Bridgnorth, Bridgwater or Bridlington (4).
 Between losing to Austria in 1965 and Scotland in 1967 (each time 2 3 at Wembley), England had an undefeated run of this many matches (8).
- 6 In an official match, if "the becomes displaced or broken play shall be stopped" (Law I) (5, 3).
- 8 In 1980 signed . . . (7).
- 10 Megson from Plymouth (4).
- 11 Binney, maybe (4).

ON THE BALL No. 11

Every answer has five letters and the first one fits into the top line, but you have to decide where the rest must go.

Godfrey's first name Rod-ney, Rodney! "Mighty" Keegan Di Stefano, "The Blond"



CLUB CLUE No. 11

Solve this cryptic clue to identify a soccer side:

Do they make an exhibition of themselves?

MIXED DOUBLES No. 11

Re-order the letters in each of the words

WEEPERS and BOILER to find two sorts of defender.

SOLUTIONS

NINETY-NINER No. 10 Across: 1. Colchester; 7. Elm (Park); 8. Raith; 9. Jimmy; 12. cross; 13. out; 14. Dennis Rofe. Down: 1. Clemence; 2. Lima (1959, 62); 3. Hopkinson; 4. Shrimpers; 5. Eric; 6. throstle (WBA); 10. Howe; 11. Boro.

ON THE BALL No. 10 Colin, Fluke, Cools, Dicks, CLUB CLUE No. 10 Blackpool.

MIXED DOUBLES No. 10 Dean, Drake.

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INSIDE NEWS

Winners of the Essex Leader free "Spot the Ball" competition are seen here having received their prizes from U's midfield player Bobby Hodge. Pictured left to right: Mrs A. Clark, Steven Dowdell, Charles Sainty, Bobby Hodge, Harry Strike and U's PR & Commercial Executive Eddie Keegan.



U's FABULOUS 1981 HOLIDAY TO MIAMI ONLY£230

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Once again we are pleased to announce the new Colchester United Holiday Package for 1981. Fifteen days and fourteen nights in Miami, together with a Cocktail Reception on arrival, and a Gala Dinner one special night during the holiday, including the coach from Layer Road to Gatwick and return, a holiday door-to-door, at the special U's price of £230 per person, children's prices on request.

For those of you who enjoyed our first American holiday here is an opportunity, using Miami as your base, to explore further into the United States, and with America/

England air fares nearly as cheap as our rail fares, touring the southern part of America could prove an exciting prospect. As we require a large party of people to take up this offer, we are offering the special deal to anyone who forwards £50 deposit per person, as a booking fee (make cheque payable to "Brentwood Travel", and crossed) forwarded to: U's Miami Holiday, c/o Commercial Department, Colchester United FC, Layer Rd., Colchester.

The price will include airport charges and medical insurance cover up to £7,500 per person per booking, the price of the coach fare and the Gala Dinner in Miami. Don't be late - book early.

Many people have been waiting since last year, and we only have a limited number of seats for this one off trip.

If you require further details ring Mrs D. Elwood in our Commercial Department on Colchester 72202, who will be only too pleased to give you the necessary help and

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HISTORY

HIGHLIGHTS

Imagine a football match that had almost every possible excitement — eight goals, end-to-end thrills, a penalty shoot-out ending with an eighteen-year-old converting the spot-kick that gives the Fourth Division underdogs the Cup on the ground of their famous First Division rivals! Unbelievable — the sort of thing that only happens in boys comics!

Yet this actually took place at the Hawthorns on August 7th, 1971, when Colchester United defeated West Bromwich Albion to become the first-ever winners of the Watney Cup.

United, who only a few months earlier had performed that minor miracle in defeating mighty Leeds United, went ahead after only eight minutes through Mick Mahon only to conceed two quick goals.

But United were in a fighting mood that afternoon and the 18,000-plus crowd didn't have long to wait before Dave Simmons put the U's level.

The Albion once again hit back immediately and with three goals having been scored in four minutes the crowd were still wondering if they had the score right at half time.

But it was 3 - 2 to the First Division side and things looked a little grim for the U's. Then the dashing Mahon took over. When he was on song the little winger was magic and that day was he on song! Soon after the break Mick weaved his way down the left wing leaving defenders bemused in his wake before crashing home an unstoppable shot from at least 25 yards out.

It was a fabulous goal by any standards and it looked to be the last one of the game — but no — four minutes from time Mahon zoomed into the penalty area and was brought crashing down.

Brian Lewis stepped up to smash the kick home to give the U's what appeared to be the winner. However, the U's large following had their hopes dashed when England international Jeff Astle equalised with the final whistle only seconds away.

So came perhaps the most dramatic period of the game — the penalty shoot-out,

Albion took the first penalty and it was saved — but had to be retaken as Graham Smith had moved. It was converted and Lewis also scored at the second attempt.

It grew more and more exciting as Brian Gibbs and Brian Owen converted theirs and then the fourth and fifth Albion takers missed leaving United to convert their last penalty to take the Cup.

Showing no nerves at all up stepped eighteen-yearold Phil Bloss, playing only his second full game for the U's to coolly slot the ball into the right-hand corner of the net and the Cup was on its way back to Layer Road.

It was an incredible match enjoyed by millions on Match of the Day that night and the following week the U's paraded the Watney Cup around the town in an open-top bus. A very proud moment indeed in the history of Colchester United.



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Rotherham 18	6	3	O								7
Burnley17	6	2	0			2	4	3		10	
Huddersfield 18	5	3	1			2	4	3		9	22
Sheffield Utd	7	i	1	10.7			2		11	8	21
Plymouth 18	5	1	3	19		2	1	6	13	14	20
December 45	5			16	11	2	5	2	10	9	20
Brentford 18	2	2	2	11	5	2	4	2	13	13	20
	7	0	4	12		6	1	2	13	8	20
Dandi	7	1	2	14	9	3	0	4	8	9	20
Waisali18		-	1	20		1	1	- 6	6	16	18
Exeter 17	4	2	3	18	17	3	2	4	8	11	18
Newport County 16	4		2	15	12	3	1	5	12	15	17
Blackpool		1	3	10	10	3	1	4	14	13	16
Gillingham18	2	3	4	11	16	3	3	3	12	13	16
Chester 16	4	5	0	12		0	3	6	8	21	16
Citester16	4	1	3	7	5	2	2	4	4	8	15
Colchester18	3	6	0	13	7	1	1	7	3	17	15
Oxford Uld18	0	4	5	5	13	4	2	3	9	7	14
Fulham18	2	3	4	6	12	3	1	5	12	13	14
Miliwell 18	5	2	2	12	7	0	1		4	23	13
Cartisle17	2	2	4	10	18	2	2	5	10	17	12
Swindon17	3	1	5	10	16	1	2	5	6	16	11
Hull City18	2	2	5	7	44	0		5		16	10

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Sudbury	12	11	1	0	29	8	23
Ely	11	9	2	0	33	4	20
Gorleston	10	7	1	2	22	9	15
Lowestoft	10	6	2	2	23	12	14
March*	10	6	2	2	20	12	14
Tiptree	10	6	2	2	22	15	14
Thetford	12	5	2	5	21	24	12
COLCHESTER	13	4	3	6	30	27	11
Newmarket	10	5	1	4	22	24	11
Stowmarket	10	3	4	3	16	19	10
Felixstowe	11	4	2	5	16	23	10
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Brantham	12	3	3	6	16	20	9
Braintree	11	3 3	3	5	10	18	9
Seffron Welden	11	3	2	6	16	18	8
Yarmouth	8	3	2	3	9	13	8
Soham	11	2	4	5	8	15	8
Haverhill	10	2	3	5	6	9	7
Clacton	10	3	1	6	14	21	7
Wisbech	10	2	2	6	15	29	6
Chatteris	11	2	1	7	17	29	5
Histon	11	1	2	8	12	31	4

SUPPORTERS' AWAY NEWS

Saturday, 15th November, 1980. Plymouth Argyle v Colchester United. Kick-off 3.00 p.m. Football League Division Three.

Home Park, Plymouth.

How to Get There:

Special city buses from the Plymouth bus station at Bretonside. Nearest railway station: Plymouth.

Match Tickets:

Grand Stand and Mayflower Stand tickets are available 2-3 weeks before each first team game.

Car Parking:

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Eight refreshment bars around the ground.

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Handbooks/Programmes:

Handbook published annually and sold by the Supporters Association. Programmes sent to all parts of the world.

Half-Time Scoreboard

A BIRMINGHAM CITY CRYSTAL PALACE	G	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR WOLVERHAMPTON	N	CARLISLE UNITED
BRIGHTON MIDDLESBROUGH	H	CAMBRIDGE UNITED NEWCASTLE UNITED	0	CHARLTON ATHLETIC ROTHERHAM UNITED
C LEEDS UNITED ARSENAL	J	CHELSEA OLDHAM ATHLETIC	P	EXETER CITY BARNSLEY
D LIVERPOOL NOTTINGHAM FOREST	K	QUEENS PARK RANGERS LUTON TOWN	Q	GILLINGHAM PORTSMOUTH
E NORWICH CITY	L	WATFORD BOLTON WANDERERS	R	MILLWALL HUDDERSFIELD
F SOUTHAMPTON IPSWICH TOWN	M	WEST HAM UNITED GRIMSBY TOWN	S	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE WALSALL



I sometimes - NO! often - wonder just exactly what U's fans do want. For a number of matches now, we have seen that attacking policy we so much wanted. Bobby Roberts has pushed those men forward and as a result we have seen exciting, and very often quite brilliant, play. Most of all, we have seen chances being created, and the fact that the ball has not always gone in, has very often been due to the sheer brilliance of the opposing defence. Who on earth, for instance, could have expected the Barnsley goalkeeper to pull off some of the saves that he did? When Mike Walker does the same, we all applaud a wonderful save, but when a visitor does it, some of the U's fans are only too anxious to blame our boys for "missing it"! How inconsistent can you get? I am glad to say this only applies to a few, most of you give most extraordinary vocal support. Even in the perhaps, below average, Nil-Nil against Rotherham, the roars from the Layer Road end in the second half was remarkable, coming from only around 2,000 or so from Colchester and District, the rest being from the visiting fans urging their blokes to "keep 'em out". Sooner or later, we are going to see a goal burst at Layer Road, and if we do, I predict that will be the start of a swift rise up the Table.

Given a few more matches to fit in, and to adjust to the pace of even Third Division football, I think we are going to see just what a shrewd signing Kevin Bremner was. His ball control, beautiful footwork and allout work-rate has delighted everybody — I only hope by now he may have broken his duck and gained that bit of encouragement he so much wants. If only that one against Barnsley had proved the winner! Incidentally, I've never heard why it wasn't, have you?

I know that most of the supporters (including me) don't know half the Rules — more to our shame, but can anybody tell me, seriously, whether there is a rule forbidding Linesmen to tap the ball to a player for a throw-in? I think there must be something of the sort, or else they are sometimes plain "bloody minded", as I have lost count of the number of times, a linesman will allow the ball to roll to his very feet, and stand there waiting for a player to come and get it, rather than roll it to him. It's only a silly little point, perhaps, but it can become very annoying, just as much as deliberate time-wasting, both by opponents here and,

probably, by our own boys when they are playing away! Is there a Linesman's Union that prevents it?

Well, let's have your usual encouragement today, it makes such a difference to everybody — not least to our League position, and a few favourable results may even see the gates creeping up once more. I've stuck my head on the block by saying that it would, and probably Bobby is waiting, with axe poised, ready to lop it off, if I'm proved wrong!

Cheers,

Larry

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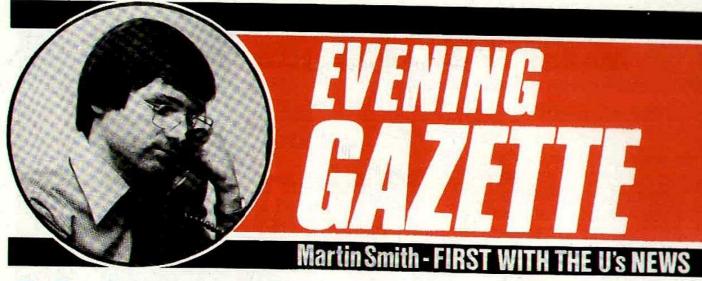
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