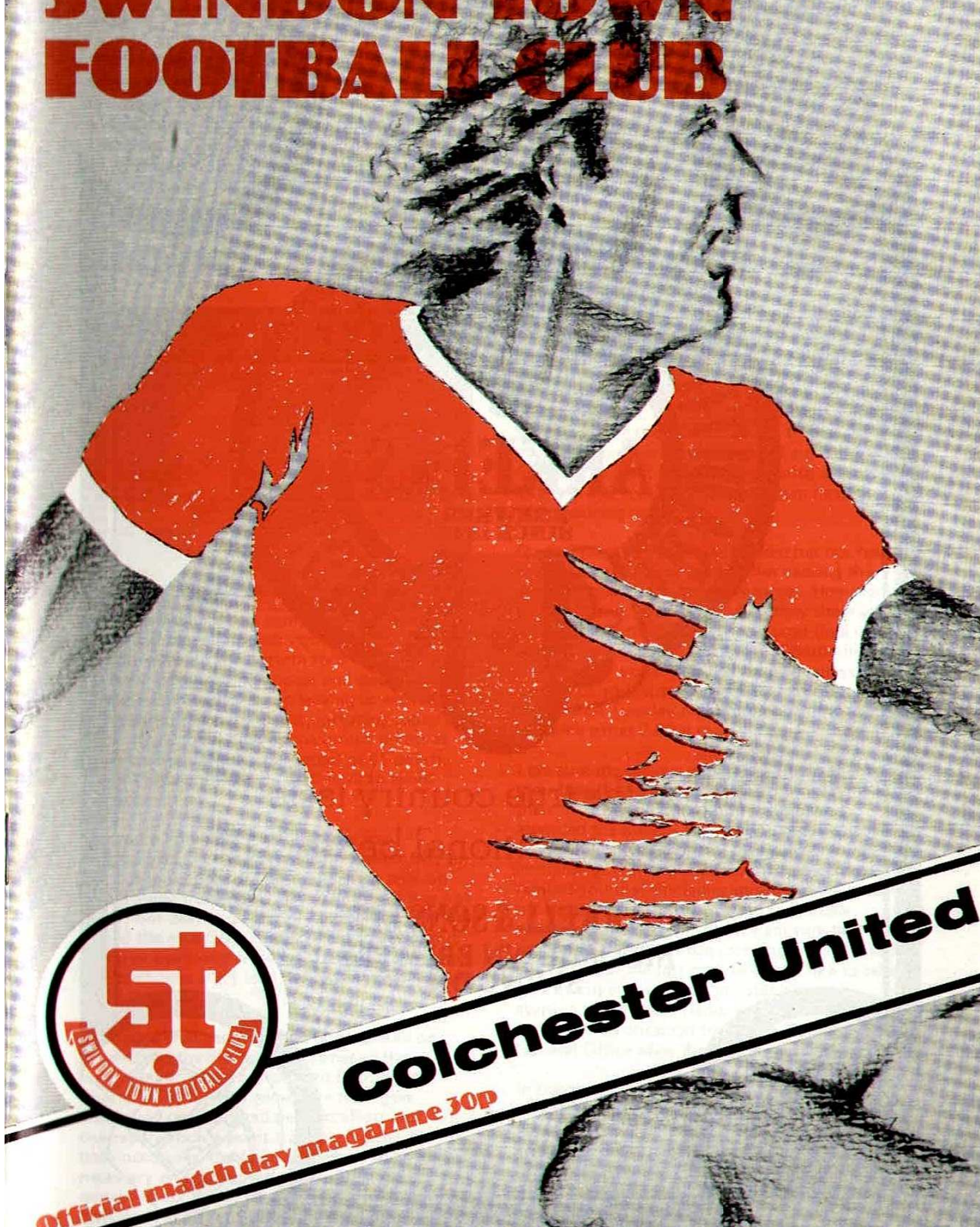
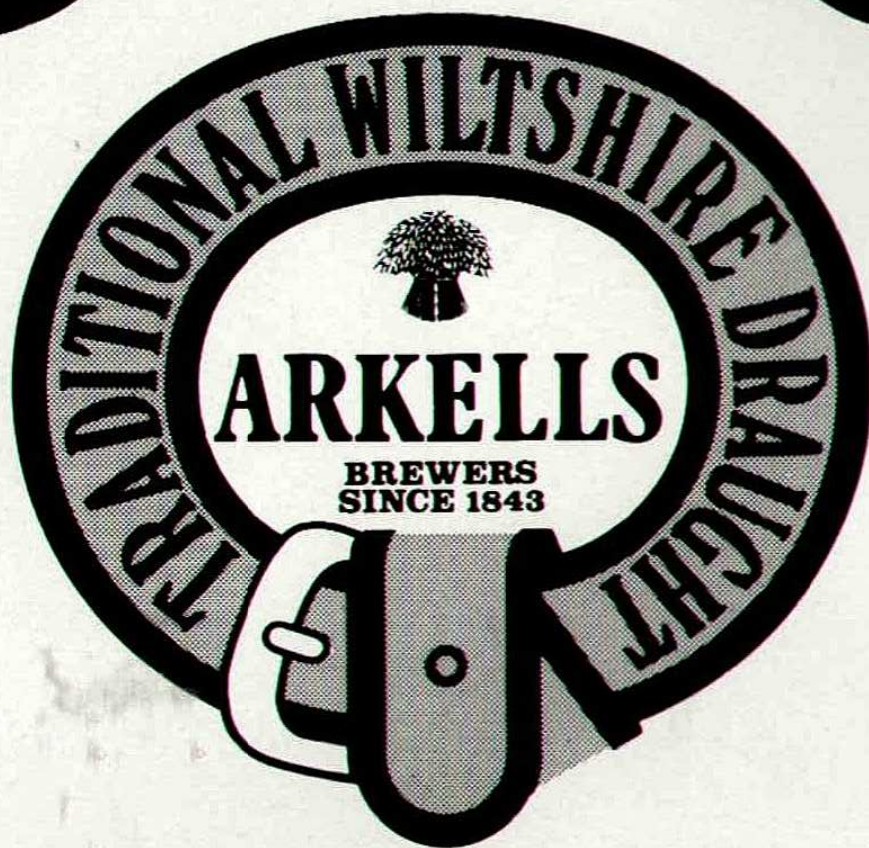


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John Trollope says



Although we have just completed two hard away games and picked up two valuable points, we still find ourselves in the bottom four of the table, but now, of course, the home and away fixtures have evened themselves up leaving us with three home and three away games, including today's game. If we could pick up maximum points at home we shall achieve our target of 41 points which I now consider we shall need to avoid relegation.

To drop a home point at this stage was disappointing in the game against Exeter City as this put more pressure on the team to pick up points away from home. The game itself was not one of our best and certainly in the first half we lacked the necessary commitment to get us out of the bottom of the league. Having fought our way back into a 2-1 lead, we gave the game away in the final minute.

Following that game we had what looked on paper to be the hardest two games of the remaining programme, away to Burnley and Chesterfield. In both games the team gave absolutely one hundred percent effort and deservedly took a point from each game. On both occasions, the team as a whole showed the necessary endeavour we shall need in our remaining six games to ensure that we keep third division football at Swindon next season.

Although the results have not been too good in the Reserve Side being beaten 3-0 away to Southampton and 4-1 at home to Chelsea, it should be remembered that Bill Tucker has had to rely on very young players because of injuries and suspensions, necessitating my calling upon the services of the senior players. It was very pleasing therefore to see them get a good result 1-0 away to West Ham on Wednesday afternoon last, and this result should give them heart for the remaining games.

On the Youth front, Terry Wollen has not had much luck regarding the weather causing the postponement of most of his games. However a great result at Tottenham when they drew with the Spurs Youth side 1-1 in the semi-final of the South East Counties Youth Cup Competition. If you enjoy youth football then the players will be glad of your support here at the County Ground on Tuesday night next when the replay will kick off at 7.00 p.m.

I am sure the players would like me to thank, on their behalf, the Jockeys' Eleven for playing in their fund raising game and to those who attended the match. It was not exactly serious football but I am sure that everyone enjoyed this immensely. Whilst we are on this subject, may I remind you that the ladies sponsored walk kicks off here at the County Ground tomorrow morning at 11.00 a.m. Again I am sure that this is going to be a great fun morning and if there are any ladies, at the last minute would like to take part in this event - well, you still have this evening to get your friends to sponsor you - forms can be obtained from Pam Turner in the General Office after the match.

In conclusion, we welcome the players and officials of Colchester United and I would ask you to give our players the encouragement I know you are capable of, right from the kick off. Thank you for your continued support which is valued greatly by all at the County Ground.

Talk of the Town by the Chairman

Today we welcome the Players and Officials from Colchester United who, like ourselves, are struggling to avoid the last four places in our league. Colchester are one of the fixtures that we can play without an overnight stay and would be one of the trips that would call for sandwiches if you read the notes of Clive King regularly. I received several calls from some of our senior followers who expressed their disgust at this kind of treatment of our Players and felt that we deserved our position today if that is how we treat our Players. They will now have read in the Advertiser that this comment was supposed to be funny, although untruthful. To put the matter straight the only times that sandwiches are taken on the coach are when they are requested by the Players, to enable them to get home quicker instead of taking a meal at an hotel. I hope that these few words will convince some of our supporters that we are not a penny pinching Board.

Since our last home fixture, the Players arranged a game against a team of jockeys from the surrounding area. Although the weather was far from kind, this game was well supported for such an event and although the jockeys' side numbered up to fourteen playing, they would be the first to admit that they really needed this number of players to get a kick at the ball. The evening was a fun night which everybody seemed to enjoy, with Colin Barrett being the centre of a lot of fun.

I attended a social gathering in the Rendezvous Club last week which featured a talk and demonstration from Kevin Morris on team injuries and followed by a talk from Tony Glasson the Football League referee. Several interesting points were discussed, not least being the off-side rule which causes spectators and officials alike so much controversy. It was agreed that the only way to overcome the present problem and confusion on this rule would be to change the rule to read any player in an off-side position when the ball is last played, would be ruled to be interfering with play.

The Football League have tried to clarify the present rule by instructing all referees and linesmen that linesmen should not flag when a player is in an off-side position unless he is, in his opinion, interfering with play. The one thing

which prevents any changes in our official rules is the fact that we have to abide with the same rules as operate with F.I.F.A. and E.U.E.F.A. I understand that the Americans are bringing their rules in line too.

Our result at Burnley was well earned and again brought six or seven clubs within the danger zone. This was our first visit to Burnley since the days when we both were in the second division, and since then they have built a new stand with very up to date facilities. The small crowds today look lost in this very nice stadium.

In my previous notes I mentioned the intention of Queens' Park Rangers to play on the new artificial turf next season. This new forward approach to the game should get the support it deserves from other league clubs. There is nothing in the Football League Rules to prevent a club playing on surfaces other than natural grass but obviously other clubs, who will be affected by this change, will be asked for their support or otherwise and if a sufficient number of clubs objected, rules could be amended. It would be more difficult for the club concerned to have to play on different surfaces from week to week, than for the one fixture that other clubs in this league would be called upon to play.

There are many interesting aspects to playing on artificial turf that could change the game as a spectacle as we know it today. I would imagine that ball control would come into its own on such a true surface and the gamble as to the bounce of the ball, as it is seen under present circumstances, would be eliminated. I wonder how many years it will be before the game is controlled by electronic devices, where possibly the game would be controlled by judges sitting high up in the Stand and flashing lights for off-side positions, etc. No, this is not an April Fool's comment, but could be looking into the future a long way ahead.

Our point gained at Chesterfield was well deserved and our three remaining Away fixtures can give us optimism and confidence for further points.

We hope that you enjoy today's game and that it will help us to remain in our Division and thank you for your support.



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John Ward talks to Steve Abbley

Steve Abbley was born in Liverpool and grew up there. His father worked in the building trade and when Steve was 10 work was hard to find on Merseyside. "It was bad enough then," said Steve; "Goodness knows what it must be like now." The family moved South to Swindon in the mid-sixties where there was plenty of work building the new estates which were springing up at the time. "At first my mother was homesick," Steve said. "She found the people standoffish compared with the North."

Now she has got used to it and would never move back. Most of her family have come down as well. I don't go back myself: I hate big cities."

Steve has been living with his parents but has found it too cramped for his studies and is now buying his own house. As well as playing as a full-time professional for Swindon Town he is sitting his final exams for the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants in May. He left school at 17 with seven 'O' Levels and acquired two more at college. His first job was with British Rail where he stayed for three years before moving on to the civil engineers, Mears Construction, as their credit controller.

Meanwhile ever since he was 15 Steve had been playing football for Park. He had turned out on a few occasions for Frank Burrows in the Swindon Town Reserves and early in Bob Smith's first season with the Club he agreed to play for Swindon as a part-timer. In November 1978 Bob Smith asked Steve to turn full-time professional. Initially Steve refused: he was enjoying combining football with his job with Mears and the pay he was being offered did not match his current salary. Six weeks later the Manager was back with a better offer: Steve weighed things up. On the one hand he had a good job with excellent prospects; and there was no guarantee that he would succeed at football. Then he realised that he would never forgive himself if he turned down the chance so he decided to take the plunge.

One of the first things to strike him was the enormous amount of time footballers have on their hands. When he arrived he found that he needed extra training to match the fitness of those who had been playing full-time since leaving school; but in due course his body caught up. After three months he decided to continue with his exams. Instead of having to make do with a day release course, as he had when he was working in an office, he could now attend College every afternoon; in fact he realised that

he would never have a better opportunity to pass his exams.

Injuries have dogged Steve since he arrived. "At first I thought it was because I was overdoing it. I was determined to get completely fit and my body was only used to part-time football and objected. But even after I had adjusted to full-time it seems as if I have had an injury jinx." Two days before this season began Steve asked to play in a friendly against Moreton. "It's always a risk playing against part-timers," he said. "They think they have something to prove and really go in extra hard. One bloke came at me in a tackle with everything he had got and the result was badly torn knee ligaments." Steve was in plaster for a time and out of football for two and a half months. He was getting back to being on the verge of first team football when he pulled a ham string.

At times he has felt very depressed by these injuries but the management has persevered and shown a lot of faith in him, a fact which he very much appreciates. He considers right wing to be his best position. "Indirectly I am responsible for Ian Miller playing so well," he said with a wry smile. His contract runs until the end of next season. "I never came here for reserve team football," he said. "If I thought I was not good enough for the first team I would not stay. My self-respect wouldn't allow it. I couldn't take their money under false pretences. Mind you I can afford to think like that: I don't have any family commitments to weigh me down."

Steve has clearly thought a lot about football as a career and the role of the players' union. "It's an extraordinary life," he said. "From 16 to 35 everything is done for a player off the field as well as on. You hardly ever have to take a decision yourself. Then all of a sudden you are cut right off: there is no winding down. The PFA does not do enough for players at either end of their career."

Off the field Steve and his girl friend, Julie, who works at the House of Fraser's computer centre in Swindon, go horse racing whenever possible, not for the betting but simply to relax. Steve enjoys coaching children, especially younger ones: "The 11 and 12 year olds really want to learn," he explained. "When they are 15 or 16 they sometimes think they know it all." If and when he passes his accountancy exams Steve may well look for an afternoon job to gain practical experience.

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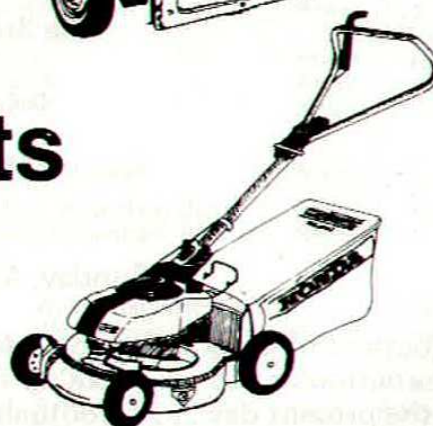
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DIVISION THREE LEAGUE TABLES up to and including Tuesday, April 7, 1981

	Home				Away				Pts. G/D	Avg Home Lge Gate	Top Goalscorers (incl. League Cup & F.A. cup)		
P	W	D	L	F-A	W	D	L	F-A					
Rotherham Utd.	40	15	5	0	37- 6	6	7	7	17-21	54	+27	7,352	Ronnie Moore 21, Rod Fern 8
Charlton Ath.	40	13	5	2	33-14	10	3	7	25-22	54	+22	6,977	Derek Hales 23, Paul Walsh 16
Huddersfield T.	40	13	5	2	35- 7	6	8	6	26-22	51	+32	11,798	Steve Kindon 17, Terry Austin 15*, Brian Stanton 15
Barnsley	40	12	4	3	39-17	6	11	4	25-24	51	+23	11,671	Ronnie Glavin 20, Derrick Parker 16
Chesterfield	40	14	4	2	36-14	5	5	10	25-28	47	+19	7,903	Alan Birch 23, Ernie Moss 10
Portsmouth	40	13	4	3	32-16	6	4	10	16-25	46	+7	14,232	David Gregory 13, Bill Rafferty 9*
Burnley	40	12	4	4	32-15	4	8	8	19-24	44	+12	6,428	Steve Taylor 14, Bill Hamilton 9, Derek Scott 9
Plymouth Arg.	40	12	4	4	32-17	4	8	8	16-22	44	+9	7,446	David Kemp 24, Donal Murphy 11
Exeter C.	40	9	6	5	33-27	7	4	9	25-32	42	-1	4,467	Tony Kellow 29, Peter Rogers 9
Reading	40	11	5	4	34-18	4	5	11	18-34	40	0	5,269	Pat Earles 11, Kerry Dixon 8
Brentford	41	5	8	7	24-21	6	9	6	20-24	39	-1	6,880	David Crown 8, Tony Funnell 8
Fulham	41	7	7	6	24-24	6	6	9	25-30	39	-5	5,016	Gordon Davies 21, John Beck 7
Millwall	41	10	8	3	30-19	3	5	12	11-36	39	-14	4,134	Nick Chatterton 9, John Bartley 7
Sheffield Utd.	41	12	6	3	37-17	2	4	14	25-40	38	+5	12,707	Bob Hatton 19, Tony Kenworthy 8
Chester	41	10	5	6	23-15	4	5	11	10-25	38	-7	2,711	Trevor Phillips 8, Steve Ludlam 7
Gillingham	41	8	7	6	21-18	3	8	9	24-37	37	-10	4,758	Trevor Lee 14*, Ken Price 13
Carlisle Utd.	40	8	9	4	31-26	4	4	11	18-34	37	-11	3,892	Peter Beardsley 14, Gordon Staniforth 12
Newport Co.	40	8	6	6	31-21	4	6	10	23-31	36	+2	5,827	Tommy Tynan 13, Dave Gwyther 13
Oxford Utd.	41	5	8	8	17-23	6	6	8	17-21	36	-10	3,844	Malcolm Shotton 7
Colchester Utd.	41	11	7	3	34-20	2	3	15	10-39	36	-15	2,700	Kevin Bremner 10, Ian Allinson 7
SWINDON TOWN	40	9	4	7	31-26	3	7	10	15-27	35	-7	6,544	Andy Rowland 12, Roy Carter 5, Chris Kamara 5
Walsall	41	7	8	5	39-38	4	5	12	14-30	35	-15	4,222	Alan Buckley 12, Don Penn 8
Blackpool	41	4	7	9	17-27	4	4	13	25-45	27	-30	5,835	Colin Morris 17
Hull C.	40	5	6	8	17-19	1	7	13	16-46	25	-32	4,377	Keith Edwards 16

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FOOTBALL COMBINATION

80-81

SOUTH-EAST COUNTIES DIV 2

			Score			Score	
Aug.	16	Bristol C.	Away	1 - 3	Cambridge U	Home	4 - 3
	20	Tottenham H	Away	0 - 6			
	23				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
	9	Arsenal	Home	0 - 1			
	13				Tottenham H	Home	4 - 1
	20	Cardiff C	Home	3 - 1			
	24	Reading	Away	3 - 1			
	27	Bristol Rovers	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			
	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	2 - 2			
	25	Southampton	Home	1 - 2			3 - 0
Nov.	1	Chelsea	Away	0 - 1	Oxford U	Away	1 - 2
	8	Birmingham C	Home	1 - 4	Wimbledon	Away	2 - 4
	15	Bristol C	Home	0 - 1	Bristol R	Home	2 - 2
	22	Orient	Away	2 - 3	Brentford	Away	2 - 4
	29				Charlton A	Home	2 - 1
Dec.	2	Tottenham H	Home	2 - 1			
	6				Chelsea	Away	1 - 1
	9	Fulham	Away	1 - 0			
	13	Leicester	Home	0 - 3	Chelsea	Home	2 - 0
	27				Cambridge U	Away	1 - 3
	29	Luton T	Away	2 - 1	Luton T	Away	2 - 0
Jan.	3	Crystal Pal.	Home	2 - 0			
	10				Peterborough U	Away	1 - 1
	17	Ipswich T	Away	1 - 4	Reading	Home	3 - 0
	20	Hereford U	Home	1 - 1	Tottenham H	Away	0 - 4
	24						
	31	Bristol R	Home	2 - 1	West Ham U	Home	0 - 2
Feb.	7	Arsenal	Away	0 - 2			
	14	Oxford	Away	3 - 4	Millwall	Home	11 - 0
	21	Reading	Home	3 - 1	Orient	Away	1 - 0
	28	Cardiff C	Away	2 - 0	Oxford U	Home	3 - 2
Mar.	7	Norwich C	Home	1 - 3	Wimbledon	Home	3 - 0
	14				Bristol R	Away	p
	17	Q.P.R.	Away	1 - 6			
	21	Plymouth A	Home	0 - 3	Brentford	Home	p
	28	Southampton	Away	0 - 3	Charlton A	Away	2 - 2
Apr.	4	Chelsea	Home	1 - 4	Crystal Pal	Away	
	18	West Ham United	Away	1 - 0	Cup		
	11	Birmingham C	Away		20th Sept. Millwall	Away	1 - 0
	18	Luton T	Home				
	22	Crystal Pal	Away		25th Oct West Ham Utd	Away	3 - 0
	25	Fulham	Home		6th April Tottenham Hotspur	Away	1 - 1

MIDLAND YOUTH FIXTURES

Season 1980/81

Cup Competition

			Score
Aug	21	Luton Town	Away 1 - 2
Sept	6	Bristol City	Home 3 - 2
	10	West Bromwich Albion	Away 1 - 1
	17	Leicester City	Home 6 - 0
	25	Luton Town	Home 3 - 3
Oct	11	Bristol City	Away 0 - 1
	16	West Bromwich Albion	Postponed
	25	Leicester City	Away 1 - 0

F. A. YOUTH CUP

Nov 6 Portsmouth Home 0 - 1

League	Score
Nov. 26 West Bromwich Albion	Home 2 - 1
Dec. 6 Wolverhampton Wanderers	Away postponed
13 Birmingham City	Home postponed
15 Northampton Town	Away 2 - 0
Jan 7 Bristol City	Away 0 - 1
14 Coventry City	Home postponed
14 Luton Town	Home 0 - 3
21 Leicester City	Away 1 - 1
28 Leicester City	Home 0 - 0
Feb 5 Luton Town	Away 2 - 3
11 Northampton Town	Home 3 - 0
Mar 19 Bristol City	Home 0 - 0
25 Coventry City	Away 1 - 1
Apr. 1 Birmingham City	Home postponed
9 Wolverhampton Wanderers	Away
16 Coventry City	Home
23 Birmingham City	Away
May 6 Wolverhampton Wanderers	Home
13 West Bromwich Albion	Away

A-Z of Swindon Town

Part Seven – by Tony Pullein

FOOTBALL LEAGUE (Cont'd.)

Season	Div	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Pts	Pos.
1961/62	3	46	17	15	14	78	71	49	9th
1962/63	3	46	22	14	10	87	56	58	2nd
1963/64	2	42	14	10	18	57	69	38	14th
1964/65	2	42	14	5	23	63	81	33	21st
1965/66	3	46	19	13	14	74	48	51	7th
1966/67	3	46	20	10	16	81	59	50	8th
1967/68	3	46	16	17	13	74	51	49	10th
1968/69	3	46	27	10	9	71	35	64	2nd
1969/70	2	42	17	16	9	57	47	50	5th
1970/71	2	42	15	12	15	61	51	42	12th
1971/72	2	42	15	12	15	47	47	42	11th
1972/73	2	42	10	16	16	46	60	36	16th
1973/74	2	42	7	11	24	36	72	25	22nd
1974/75	3	46	21	11	14	64	58	53	4th
1975/76	3	46	16	8	22	62	75	40	19th
1976/77	3	46	15	15	16	68	75	45	11th
1977/78	3	46	16	16	14	67	60	48	10th
1978/79	3	46	25	7	14	74	52	57	5th
1979/80	3	46	19	8	19	71	63	46	10th

FORD Fred. Fred Ford was bitterly disappointed as a young man to have his playing career ruined by injuries and the war. But he was later compensated by a wonderful career as a manager and a coach, setting in motion the successful playing careers of hundreds of bright young players.

Fred was a First Division player with Charlton before the war but he was continually troubled by leg injuries. When war came he joined the Royal Engineers and was mentioned in despatches. He was chosen for his regiment v. All-England XI and when the war ended he picked up the threads of his career after transferring to Millwall.

In 1947 he moved to Carlisle but it wasn't long before his damaged legs forced him to retire from the playing side. Carlisle appointed him club trainer, a job he filled until Bristol Rovers asked him to join them as chief coach in 1955.

At that time he was appointed trainer to the England under-23 side, travelling with the team on foreign tours. He got his first chance in club management in 1960 then he took charge of Bristol City. The Ashton Gate Club had just lost its Second Division place, but Mr Ford rebuilt the team and took them back into Division Two in 1965.

Two years later he was relieved of his position and spent some months coaching at Swindon. Then Bristol Rovers asked him to fill their vacant

manager's chair so he returned to Bristol until returning to Swindon to succeed Danny Williams as our manager during the summer of 1969.

Under his guidance the club achieved its highest-ever placing in the Football League - - fifth in Division Two 1969/70 - - and the following season progressed to the sixth round of the F.A. Cup. Fred handed over to Dave Mackay in 1971 and then he took up a coaching appointment with Torquay United where he remained for just over a year before taking up his present position at Oxford United in January 1973.

FORMATION Swindon Town F.C. was formed as an amateur club by the Rev. W. Pitt in 1881 and made such rapid progress that it was decided to turn professional in 1894 when the club became one of the original members of the Southern League.

GOALSCORING The highest total of goals ever scored by the club in one season in the Football League was 100 in the Third Division (South) in 1926/27. Our highest score in one game was a 10-1 F.A. Cup victory over Farnham United Breweries F.C. in 1948. Harry Morris still holds the individual record of 47 League goals in a season (1926/27) and the same player's aggregate total of 216 League goals, between 1926 and 1933, still stands as that club record.

Roy Greenwood, Bryan Hamilton and Stan Harland will be among the features in part eight of the A-Z of SWINDON TOWN.

Don't miss it!

NEXT MATCH

Monday, 20th April, 1981

DIVISION III

NEWPORT COUNTY

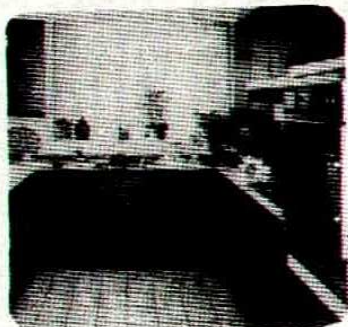
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Town Statistics 80-81

[illegible]

Goal scorers Shown in BOLD - figures denote minutes of goals x After extra time
P = penalty t = Own goal
*Player replaced by substitute

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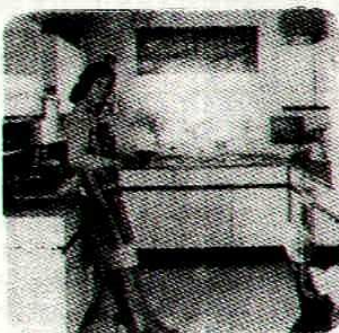


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Colchester Plan For The Future

By Colin Benson

Colchester United arrive at the County Ground this afternoon, eager to secure only their third away win in 20 outings. It is a sequence that baffles manager Bobby Roberts who says: "It's a funny game, football. Last season we found ourselves in the position of doing particularly well away from home, but not being quite good enough to get the right results at home to push us into a promotion place.

"This season our home form was on a par with the leaders in the Division, but as you can see our away form and results have been a big disappointment."

And indeed since Exeter City dented Essex pride by smashing their unbeaten home record, last February, Huddersfield and Reading have followed suit to push 'The U's' into the relegation danger zone.

But Bobby Roberts is used to rolling his sleeves up and having to fight as his small town club alternate between the Third and Fourth Divisions. At one stage last season it seemed as if he might pull off a miracle as little Colchester vied with the big boys for a place in Division Two, but their challenge fizzled out and they had to be contented with fifth place.

With such a limited staff and meagre resources it is difficult to see Colchester ever reaching the top grade although Roberts is hopeful that they can gain promotion next season.

The reason for his optimism is his recent buying spree which cost the club some £55,000 in ten days, and if you realised the clubs financial position you would appreciate just what an adventurous step that has been for them.

The first arrival was a forward from Chelsea, Roy McDonough who cost £15,000 and then repaid some of that fee with a debut goal in United's 2-1 home win over Burnley.

The architect of the victory was another new boy, Roger Osborne the very same Osborne who scored the winning goal for Ipswich Town in the 1978 FA Cup final against Arsenal. Roger moved from neighbouring Ipswich for a modest £25,000.

"I was rather worried how they would stand up to first team action after spending long spells in the reserves at their respective clubs," comments Roberts who was delighted with their form.

The third addition to the first team pool is a young defender who moved from Millwall for £15,000. Phil Coleman is the name, and one which the Colchester boss thinks you will hear a lot more of. "He can play anywhere in the back four or even in midfield and I'm confident he will be a very good investment," says Roberts.

The new blood certainly lifted the Layer Road club although subsequent results have not proved too rewarding. But it is always difficult to strike the right note when you have injected fresh players and no doubt it will not be until next season that you see the best of this new combination.

In the meantime Colchester must now salvage what points they can from these final five games. In the visitors lounge of their small compact ground hang pictures of their famous FA Cup triumph over Leeds United. It is some ten years since that last bit of magic lifted the East Anglians into the forefront of football history, but there is a growing belief that the club is soon destined for more lasting success.

Certainly the club has adopted a very progressive air, with plans for a £15 million sports and leisure complex designed to launch them into the twenty-first century. Alas those dreams of an all-seater stadium were crushed by the bureaucrats on the local County Council who recommended that the plans be rejected.

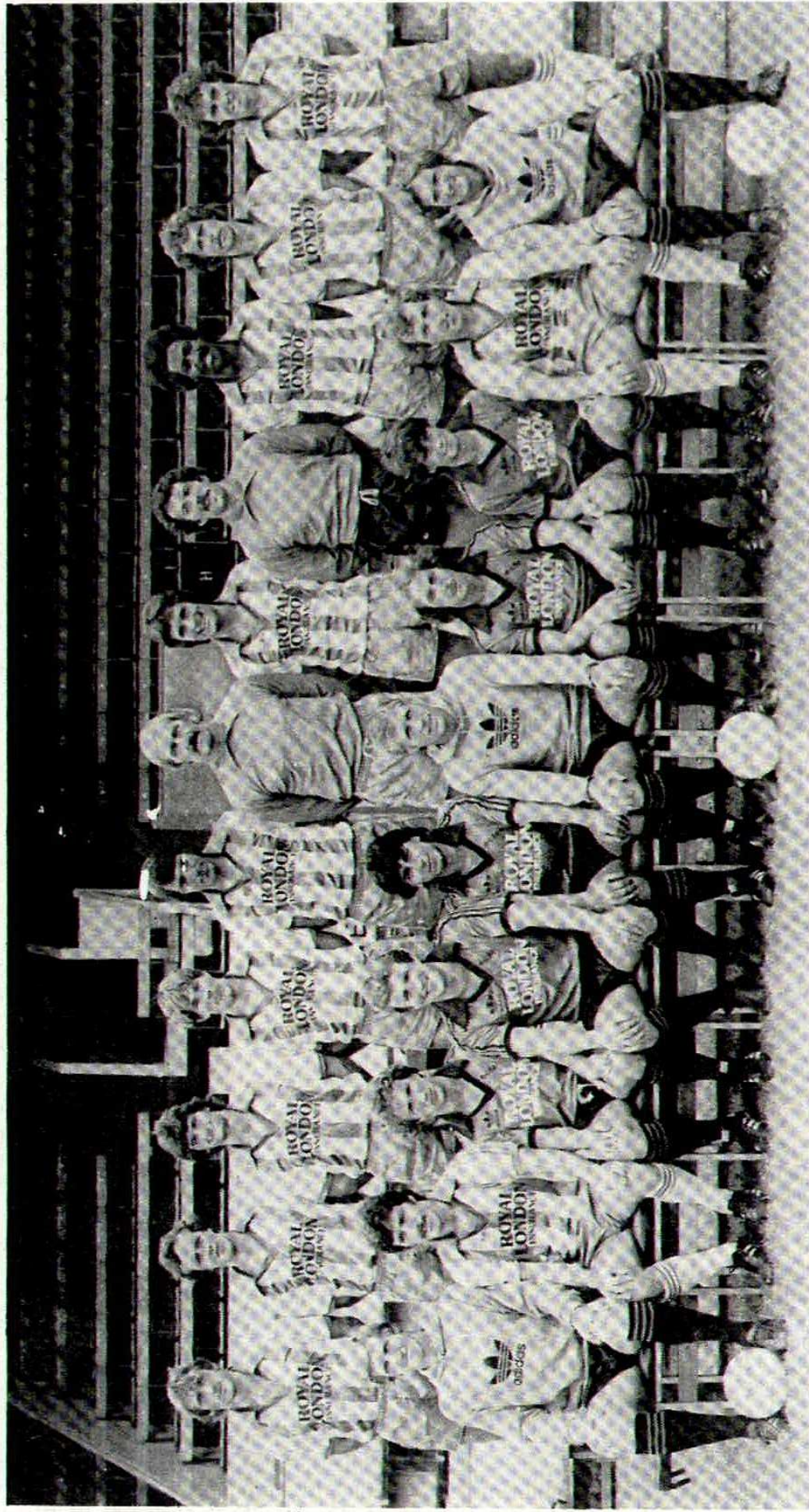
Despite this setback Colchester are determined to improve their lot, even though their current position in the Third Division is their worst since they pulled back from the Fourth, three seasons ago.

Many fans still remember 1957 when Colchester finished third, only one point behind promoted Ipswich Town, and look at that club now. What Ipswich have done we can do, seems to be the attitude.

The success of clubs like Cambridge United, Shrewsbury Town and Grimsby Town recently, has given many smaller clubs the impetus to reach for the stars and Colchester could well start their climb next season.

THE MANAGER - BOBBY ROBERTS is a 40 year old Scott with a soothing Edinburgh brogue. He played for Motherwell, Leicester City, Mansfield and Colchester and moved up to become the club manager when Jim Smith moved to Blackburn Rovers in 1976.

Colchester United



Back Row (L to R)

Micky Cook, Nigel Crouch, Bobby Hodge, Russell Cotton, Dennis Longhorn, Mike Walker, Steve Foley, Bobby Hamilton, Trevor Lee, Eddie Rowles, Steve Leslie.

Front Row

Ray Harford (coach), Ian Allinson, Gary Harvey, Steve Wignall, Leo Cusenza, Bobby Roberts (Manager), Bobby Gough, Tony Evans, Mick Packer, Ray Bunkell (Assistant Coach)

Colchester United

Pen-Pictures

MIKE WALKER (Goalkeeper) A one-time Reading reserve, Mike made his League debut with Shrewsbury in 1965. Following a couple of seasons with York, he joined Watford in 1968 and it was during that period of his career that he was capped four times for the Welsh under-23's. Colchester signed him in 1973. Consistent Mike has been ever-present for the past three seasons and a couple of weeks ago he made his 195th consecutive League appearance for the club. For all his clubs, Mike has now made more than 550 appearances in League soccer.

MICKY COOK (Defender) Micky is now the club's longest-serving player and last season he smashed the club record of 421 League appearances set up by Peter Wright in 1964. He is now past the 480 mark.

STEVE WIGNALL (Defender) Steve was once with Liverpool but it was after signing for Doncaster that he made his League bow in 1972. During the 1976/77 campaign he spent a loan period with Nottingham Forest but he returned to Doncaster and the following season he was sold to Colchester.

MIKE PACKER (Defender) Mike opened his League career with Watford in 1969 and in 1971/72 he went to Crewe on loan. He finally left Watford in 1973 and since then he has been a fixture in the Colchester side.

DENNIS LONGHORN (Defender) Dennis's varied career began with Bournemouth but he didn't really establish himself at Dean Court. A move to Mansfield in 1971 enabled him to mature more quickly and two years later he was signed by Sunderland. He made a couple of dozen appearances in the Roker club's League eleven and then joined Sheffield United in 1976. From there he went to Aldershot in 1978 and Colchester signed him last summer.

STEVE WRIGHT (Defender) Steve graduated to first-team duty in 1977/78 and had been a regular member of the team for the past two seasons. He has only recently been recalled to the squad this term, however.

PHIL COLEMAN (Defender) Phil joined Colchester from Millwall for £15,000 a few weeks ago and was initially drafted into the side at left back. He developed in Millwall's junior team and made his League debut in 1978/79.

EDDIE ROWLES (Defender/Midfield) Eddie was only 16 when he played his first League game for Bournemouth in 1968. He moved on to York in 1971 and to Torquay two years later. Darlington signed him in 1978 and he was their top scorer with 17 goals in 1976/77. When he joined Colchester in 1978, the £15,000 fee was then a club record.

STEVE LESLIE (Midfield) Steve won England youth caps during his early days with the club. He graduated to first-team duty in 1971 and completed 300 League appearances for them towards the end of last season.

BOBBY HODGE (Midfield) Bobby is a goal-scoring midfield player who was first introduced to League soccer by Exeter in 1974. He soon won a regular place but, after making 128 League appearances for the Devon club, he was transferred to Colchester in 1978. Bobby normally takes any penalty kicks these days.

IAN ALLINSON (Midfield) Ian joined the club as a youngster and developed in the junior sides. He made his League debut in 1975 and has been holding a regular place for the past four years.

RUSSELL COTTON (Midfield) Russell is another Colchester discovery. He made his senior bow three seasons ago and is currently pressing hard to gain a regular place in the side.

ROGER OSBORNE (Forward) Roger became Ipswich's Wembley hero in 1978 when he scored the goal that defeated Arsenal in the F.A. Cup final. Shortly afterwards he asked to be taken off with an injury that kept him out of the game for more than a year. He joined Colchester for £25,000 a few weeks ago.

ROY McDONOUGH (Forward) Roy got a couple in Birmingham's League eleven but he left to join Walsall in 1978. He spent two years as a Saddler's first-teamer then last summer he was transferred to Chelsea for £20,000. Colchester secured his signature for £15,000 on the eve of this season's transfer deadline.

KEVIN BREMNER (Forward) Kevin is the brother of Aston Villa's Des Bremner and Colchester recently signed him from Scottish Highland League club Keith for £25,000. "He's the kind of bustling old-fashioned type of centre-forward whom I think will add power to our attack," explained Manager Bobby Roberts.

Soccer Scene

FOOTBALL TURNS BACK THE CLOCK

By Tony Pullein

It's just like old times at the moment with some of the famous old names from the past re-emerging at the top. Aston Villa are now favourites to win the League Championship, Wolves and Manchester City are this afternoon competing for the right to appear in the F.A. Cup final and, even farther down the scale, clubs like Huddersfield and Portsmouth are fighting to get back into the limelight.

Several of these clubs have been on hard times for years. Though Villa have met with considerable success in the League Cup in modern times it is years since they made any real impact in other fields.

Villa have, in fact, won both the F.A. Cup (seven times) and the League Cup (three times) more often than any other club. They also have an impressive six League Championships to their name but it's more than a little sad to note that their last title was achieved way back in 1910!

Aston Villa, one of only four clubs ever to pull off the League and F.A. Cup double, are one of the great names in the tradition of English football and it's quite delightful to see them back in the running for the biggest honours.

Neither Wolves nor Manchester City have suffered the degradations experienced by Aston Villa, who dropped into the Third Division in the early 'seventies, but both are striving to recover past glories.

City, who have won the League Championship twice and who have two triumphs in the League Cup behind them, chalked up their fourth success in the F.A. Cup in 1969. It was at around that time that the Maine Road club, guided by Joe Mercer and Malcolm Allison, reached its peak. Maybe further F.A. Cup success lies ahead for the City side inspired today by John Bond?

First they must beat one of the finest of the new breed of soccer successes Ipswich Town. The Suffolk club was a non-League side until 1938 and, apart from their astonishing League Championship season under Alf Ramsey in 1962, it is only over the past few years that they have been building up some form of tradition.

Wolves have been winning things since 1893 when they achieved the first of their four F.A. Cup final victories. Three times League Champions, Wolves' only success in modern times have been achieved in the League Cup. They first won it in 1974 and they repeated that success last season under their ambitious new

boss John Barnwell who is hoping his side can overcome the impressive Spurs outfit this afternoon and, perhaps, lift the other domestic cup this year.

For clubs like Huddersfield and Portsmouth, who have long since faded from the big time, success even at Third Division level is more than welcome. During the 'twenties Huddersfield won the League Championship three seasons in succession — only Arsenal have ever equalled that — and, though they only actually won the trophy once, they appeared in five F.A. Cup finals between the wars.

It was as recently as 1972 that Huddersfield last graced the First Division. From then on the decline was swift. By 1975 they were in the Fourth Division and they stayed there for five seasons until winning the championship of that section last year.

A fine 2-1 victory at Charlton last Saturday keeps them in with an excellent chance of gaining further promotion this year.

Pompey's greatest years were probably ruined by the second world war. After being beaten in the F.A. Cup finals of 1929 and 1934, they scored an astonishing 4-1 victory over hot favourites Wolves at Wembley in 1939.

Though the war came, Portsmouth were still at their peak afterwards and they took the League Championship in successive years in 1949 and 1950. Since then it has been mostly disappointment and in 1978 they, too, dipped into the Fourth Division where they remained for two seasons.

Portsmouth regained their Third Division place this season and currently have a reasonable chance of gaining further promotion.

Huddersfield and Portsmouth, incidentally, were the only former League Champion clubs ever to fall subsequently as far as the Fourth Division so it's good to see their graphs moving upwards again.

Notts. County were one of the original 12 members of the Football League back in 1888 and they lorded it at the top for many years. But it's now 55 years since they last played in the First Division so, if they do clinch it this year, we can expect some pretty spectacular celebrations at Meadow Lane.

For years County have been in the shadows of their more famous neighbours Nottingham Forest and one of the tragedies of their success

this season has been the size of their support.

Even as they have progressed to the brink of the First Division, gates in recent weeks have sometimes been less than seven thousand! When they experimented with a Sunday match against Wrexham last weekend they attracted a more encouraging 19,959.

The apathy of County's supporters was attacked by no less than Brian Clough, manager of neighbouring Forest. "It makes you wonder what the City of Nottingham wants," stormed Clough. "We have been European Champions for the past two years, and have provided first-class facilities for our fans, but even we are lucky to get 20,000.

"Notts County have made tremendous progress over the past ten years, rising from the Fourth Division. Now that they could be about to return to the First I think it's disgraceful how poorly the club is being supported."

Leaving the great clubs of the past, we can turn our attention to the very different problems of clubs that have been around for a long time — but have never won anything.

Halifax Town have been in the Football League since 1921 and they've never risen above Third Division status. During their long history their only success was in gaining promotion from the Fourth Division as runners-up in 1969. They've never actually won anything at any level.

Yet they have nevertheless played a very important role in the structure of the English game for, without the Halifaxes and their like, it would have been more difficult to promote football as our national game.

Halifax Town was recently saved from bankruptcy when it was taken over by new chairman Sam Rorke who has been appealing for help from the local council.

"I have made a bid to buy our ground which is at present owned by the council," said Mr Rorke. "If I don't get some help from them it could well be the end of League football for Halifax this year.

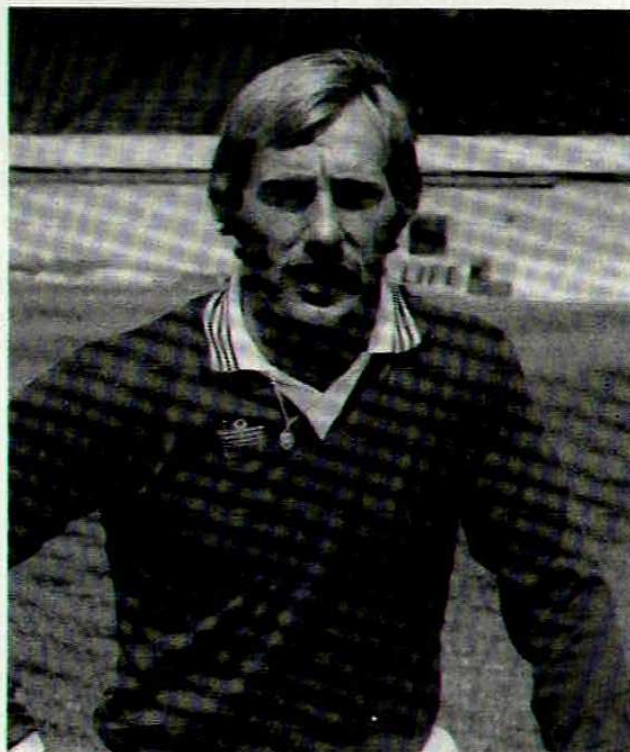
"The problem is that the club has no assets to put up as security for finance to buy players. If we owned the ground the position would be so much easier. At the moment we are in real danger of having to apply for re-election and, if that happens, it could be the end of League football for this town."

Mr Rorke has already received one rebuff from the council, though. Though a market has been run by a private company at The Shay for the past 11 years, the Council turned down the club's application to run it themselves!

"That's cost us £50,000 per year in lost revenue," complained Mr Rorke.

Football has always had its problems, of course. They have really changed very little. There was a time when Bolton Wanderers sent stewards around Burnden Park with buckets appealing for pennies to keep the club going — and that was before the turn of the century.

The story of English football has really been the story of men who are prepared to fight for something they love. That's why clubs like Aston Villa have been able to come through traumatic times and still be around to challenge for the League Championship this season.



Barnsley new boy Ray McHale got back on the goal trail on Tuesday night after his brief stay on the south coast. He hit his first for the Tykes in their 3-0 win over today's visitors to the County Ground, Colchester — and it was in this fixture last year that Ray recorded his last goal for the Town, on April 22.

Picture



Paul Rideout (No. 10) defies an Exeter challenge to shoot goalwards in the Town's last home match.



Hands up - Paul Rideout covers up as Exeter clear the ball, watched by Charlie Henry (left) and Andy Rowland (third left)

Parade



Exeter goalkeeper Ian Main saves brilliantly at the feet of Swindon's Paul Rideout.



Town striker Paul Rideout (left) beats three Exeter players to head just wide in the 2-2 draw at the County Ground.

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- 3 Roy CARTER
- 4 Chris KAMARA
- 5 Russell LEWIS
- 6 Kenny STROUD
- 7 Ian MILLER
- 8 Brian HUGHES
- 9 Andy ROWLAND
- 10 Paul RIDEOUT
- 11 Brian WILLIAMS
- 12



COLCHESTER

- Mike WALKER 1
- Micky COOK 2
- Steve WRIGHT 3
- Steve LESLIE 4
- Steve WIGNALL 5
- Mick PACKER 6
- Roger OSBORNE 7
- Dennis LONGHORN 8
- Kevin BREMNER 9
- Roy McDONOUGH 10
- Ian ALLINSON 11
- Russell COTTON 12

Linesmen: Red Flag: Mr. J. E. BIDDLE - Solihull Yellow Flag: Mr. P. JACKSON - Templecombe

KEY OF THE BOARD

REFEREE:

RAY LEWIS (Great Brookham, Surrey)

Commencing refereeing in the Kingston and District League in 1962 and progressed through the Isthmian League to the Football League list. Was Senior Linesman at a U.E.F.A. Cup Quarter Final Tie - Levski Spartak (Bulgaria) v. Barcelona (Spain), and F.A. Cup Semi-Final 1977.

A married man, with one daughter, he is an Area Catering Executive who likes reading and playing bowls.

- A Brentford v Chesterfield
- B Fulham v Carlisle
- C Huddersfield v Millwall
- D Hull City v Newport
- E Portsmouth v Gillingham
- F Reading v Burnley
- G Rotherham v Charlton
- H Walsall v Plymouth
- I Manchester City v Ipswich
- J Tottenham H v Wolverhampton
- K Arsenal v Leeds
- L Coventry v Manchester Utd
- M Crystal Palace v Birmingham
- N Everton v Norwich
- O Blackburn v Bristol City
- P Bristol Rovers v Shrewsbury
- Q Cardiff v Preston N.E.