

Official match day

Brentford



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Commercial Consultant D. Buswell Club Medical Officer Dr. J. Nicholas

### John Trollope says,

Upon todays game rests our fate - whether we shall remain in the Third Division or not but whatever the outcome, I would like to commend the players for the extremely hard work that they have put in to improve the position and I think that this is proven by the number of away points we have picked up over the last few weeks. In fact, with our record since I took the job of Team Manager, I thought we would have been safe by now. But facts have proven me wrong because other clubs around us in the league, have also saved their winning runs until the final straight, still leaving us with this vital game today.

As you know this is the last game of the season and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout the season. It must have been very frustrating for you but you have kept behind the players and must be commended for it.

As I have said earlier, today is probably the most important game of the season and it is obviously going to be full of tension for everyone concerned, both players and supporters. I would ask you to be patient with the team, try and carry them through the rough patches with your enthusiasm and if we all pull together I am sure we shall survive. On Tuesday evening last, Dave Sexton congratulated this club for the support

its supporters gave to the England team and I am asking for that same kind of vocal encouragement this afternoon. I am sure that my plea will not be in vain.

I would also like to thank all of those good folk who, week after week, report to the County Ground on match days and without whose help it would not be possible to stage the games. Although they are only match day workers they have had to 'take some stick' from their work mates but their loyalty to the club has not diminished.

I must also thank all of those good people who have rallied around to support and organise the evenings, that have been run during recent weeks, in aid of the players summer tour. The response has been magnificent and I would just like those people who are always knocking the game and its supporters to come to Swindon and witness the fervour that still prevails here despite all the problems.

Finally I would like to welcome the team, officials and supporters of Brentford, to the County Ground this afternoon. We shall not be able to expect any favours from them and with their excellent away record this season I am sure that we are in for another hard game. Thank you everyone and have a nice summer.

#### SEASON TICKET - SEASON 1981-82

The following prices are for season tickets for the forthcoming season providing we retain our status in the Third Division:

NORTH STAND SOUTH STAND **RENDEZVOUS CLUB**  Adults £51.30 Adults £47.50 Adults £60.80

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Juniors/Senior Citizens £34.20 Juniors/Senior Citizens £34 20 Juniors/Senior Citizens £38.00

COVERED ACCOMMODATION UNCOVERED ACCOMMODATION

Adults £30.40 Adults £28.50

Juniors/Senior Citizens £22.80 Juniors/Senior Citizens £19.00

Application or Renewal Forms are available from the Official of the Club. Existing Season Ticket Holders are reminded that their seats will be reserved until 31st JULY, 1981.

### **Talk of the Town** by the Chairman

We welcome our visitors from Brentford today.

This being the last league game of the season, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to you, our supporters, for your loyal support during the season which has been a disappointment to us all. After the worst start to the season that we can remember, John Trollope stepped into the Manager's chair and every follower of our Club, I know, will wish to join me in congratulating John and his staff for the magnificent job that they have done. We shall all look forward to next season when John will not be under so much pressure as he has been this season.

Today we have staged the finals of the Schoolboys Penalty Competition organised by Roger Quinton and his staff, the local Arts and Recreation Officer. The Penalty Competition will be controlled by the Secretary of the Swindon Schools Football Association, Jeff Walters.

Also today the Swindon Permanent Building Society will be awarding the £100 prize for the most popular player judged on skills and effort to Andy Rowland and another £100 cheque to Mr. A. Painter of 2, Ivy Road, Chippenham whose entry was the first one opened that agreed with the Competition Committee's decision.

The International under 21 U.E.F.A. championship match against Rumania played on our ground on Tuesday evening was very much appreciated by the crowd of nearly nine thousand people and I know that The Football Association members were very impressed by the facilities of our Club and also in the way it was presented, which was a credit to our Office Staff who are called upon to spend long hours at such functions. The catering staff under Mrs. Coppock also were congratulated. The Rumanian players left Swindon with pleasant memories of the English hospitality if not happy about the result. The Football Association sent a letter to Mr. R. Blackledge, Chief Education Officer of Wiltshire with an offer to allow parties of school-children under the supervision of School Teachers to attend the game free of charge. Mr. Blackledge

was asked to circulate Schools in the Swindon area with the offer and approximately fifteen hundred children attended the game. The behaviour of everyone at the game was very good and a credit to the Schools.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our gatemen, stewards, catering staff, souvenir shop helpers, St. John's Ambulance personnel and the Police for their co-operation and help all through this season.

To-day's game is more than interesting, not only to us, but to Walsall, Sheffield United and possibly Chester and Oxford and I know that your vocal support to-day will be very much appreciated.

Hoping to see you all again next season and do try to bring along a friend as well.

#### KEY OF THE BOARD

- A Barnsley v Newport
- B Burnely v Oxford Utd.
- C Charlton v Gillingham
- D Chester v Portsmouth
- E Colchester v Carlisle
- Exeter v Blackpool F
- G Huddersfield v Fulham
- H Millwall v Chesterfield
- Reading v Hull City 1 J Rotherham v Plymouth
- K Sheffield Utd v Walsall
- L Arsenal v Aston Villa
- M Birmingham v Everton
- N Brighton v Leeds
- O Liverpool v Sunderland
- P Manchester City v Crystal Palace
- Q Middlesbrough v Ipswich
- **R** Norwich v Leicester
- S Nottm. Forest v Coventry
- T Stoke v Wolverhampton



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### Your programme next season

The time will soon come round for us to start thinking about the content for our programme for 1981/82. With this in mind, below are listed some of the features we have included this season and we ask you to indicate which you would most like to see included next season. We will do our best to incorporate as many as possible.

#### A-Z of Swindon Town .....Colin Benson John Ward talks to...... Pen Pictures Profile of a Town Player Picture Parade Soccer Scene Talk of the Town Third Dimensions Town Statistics Town through time Colour Insert

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If you do not wish to spoil your programme, please copy the list on to a postcard and send to: 1981-82 Programme, Swindon Town F.C., County Ground, Swindon.

.....and while on the subject of programmes, we would like to remind you that the 3rd Annula Swindon Town PROGRAMME FAIR is to be held in the North Stand tomorrow May 3. Whatever your interest in programmes - old, new, league non-league, Cup Finals, European, Internationals or just the Town - we are sure that you will find something here. You will find programmes priced from as little as five pence to over five pounds and there will also be a special centenary display of rare Swindon programmes, photographs and miscellanea - so it is well worth a visit.

Doors open 10.30, admission is 25p (juveniles 20p).

DIVISION THREE LEAGUE TABLE . . . . . . . . . up to and including Saturday April 25 1981

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### The Bees are Buzzing

Whatever else this season has revealed to Brentford supporters, there is no doubt that the period of change they have just experienced has filled them full of optimism for next season.

There is a distinct atmosphere about Griffin Park these days, a sort of undercurrent that suggests that better times are ahead for West London's poor relations, who have battled on regardless of the capitals glamour clubs which surround them.

And the reason for this optimism is the transformation that has taken place this season under the watchful eye of manager Fred Callaghan, who took over the reigns last season when a dramatic decline in performances culminated in six defeats in seven games just after Christmas, and forced the Brentford Board to make changes.

It was a traumatic time for all concerned following Brentford's return from the nether regions of the Fourth Division in 1978. A terrible start to that campaign threatened them with instant relegation at the first attempt but they picked themselves up and adjusted to the demands of the higher grade and eventually finished the season in tenth place.

Last year they carried on where they left off with a brilliant start which hoisted them into the promotion race, but in the second half of the season it all came apart and at the end of the day they just avoided that fateful drop, with a last match decider over Millwall.

Fred Callaghan did not waste time. "Sweeping changes were called for," he says and sweeping changes there were, with no less than seven new faces drafted into the Brentford line-up. Indeed the whole guts of the side was completely renewed with a new goalkeeper, two fullbacks and three midfield players plus striker Gary Roberts who was snapped up for £6,000 plus several 'bits and pieces' from Isthmian League side Wembley.

It is interesting to note that the last player to join Brentford from Wembley was wing-half Kenny Coote way back in the 'fifties and he went on to make a record 514 League and 45 FA Cup appearances for the 'Bees'.

The Brentford boss has made full use of his experience in the Isthmian League, first as player and then manager of Enfield and later Woking and as joint-manager of the league representative side, and has consequently signed two other players from the league, striker Dave Crown (from Walthamstow Avenue) and midfielder Terry Hurlock (from Leytonstone and Ilford).

#### By Colin Benson

Significantly all three have made an immediate impact on the Third Division and played important roles in Brentford's revival which has produced a run of 20 games with just two defeats.

"I am fairly pleased with our progress," says Fred Callaghan but stresses: "Our rebuilding programme is by no means completed yet. We still need strengthening in certain area's but I am happy that we now have the nucleus of a very good side."

Brentford have pulled themselves up into ninth place in the Third Division table and although their boss was delighted with last Saturday's brilliant 2-1 home win over Rotherham which halted the Yorkshire sides title march, he reflects that overall it is Brentford's home record of just seven wins, nine draws and seven defeats that has prevented the 'Bees' sampling Second Division football next season.

No doubt the Griffin Park faithfuls will be looking to a better return next season and the older band of supporters remember the 'good old days' in the early thirties when Brentford were a team of distinction, climbing from the Third Division to the First in two seasons. And as if to rub it in, they will tell you that in 1929-30 the team actually won all of their home fixtures, one of only six clubs to achieve that commendable record.

Ah! Those were the days, but next season is the future and that is what concerns Fred Callaghan now. At the week-end he received heartening news when his lanky striker Bob Booker who had just scored his fourth goal in five games, decided to come off the transfer list.

Callaghan is looking for stability as he builds up for next season's serious assault on the Third Division Championship. He wants those supporters with long memories of players like Billy Scott, Leslie Smith and Duncan McKenzie to substitute those names for todays heroes... those eleven men who will wear the Brentford shirts today.

FRED CALLAGHAN was a former Fulham defender. He then moved out of League football and joined Enfield Town where he eventually became manager. He then moved onto Woking which was also in the Isthmian League and guided them to a Wembley FA Trophy Final last year. Joined Brentford as assistant to Bill Dodgin in 1977 and returned last April to become manager. 80-81

FOOTBALL

COMBINATION

#### SOUTH-EAST COUNTIES DIV 2

	4			Score					Score
Aug.	16	Bristol C.	Away	1-3	1	ambr	idge U	Home	4-3
Aug.	20	Tottenham H	Away	0-6			A DEALER OF MARKED		DOULET - LE
	23		a linema			uton		Home	4 - 1
	30	Ipswich Town	Home	1-2			orough	Home	1-0
Sep.	6	Oxford U	Home	1.2		leadin	9	Away	3-1
	9 Arsenal		Home	0 - 1	1 -		ham H	Hama	4-1
	13 20	Cardiff C	Home	3.1	1.	otten	nam n	Home	4-1
	24	Reading	Away	3-1					S. May
	27	Bristol Rovers	Away	0.2	V	Vest H	lam U	Away	0-1
Oct.	4	Norwich C	Away	0-2			Palace	Home	
	7	Q.P.R.	Home	1-3			, allow	. Ionic	
	11	West Ham U	Home	0-7	A	Aillwa	11	Away	3-0
	14	Orient	Home	2.0				The second s	a margarette
	18	Plymouth A	Away	0.0	C	<b>Prient</b>		Home	2-1
	22	Leicester	Away	2-2					
	25	Southampton	Home	1-2			tast for a second second		3-0
Nov.	1	Chelsea	Away	0 - 1		xford		Away	1-2
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	15	Bristol C	Home	0 - 1		ristol		Home	
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	13	Leicester	Home	0-3			a idge U	Home	1-3
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Jan.	10	Crystal rai.	Home	2.0	P	eterh	orough U	Away	1.1
	17	Ipswich T	Away	1-4		Readin		Home	
	20	Hereford U	Home	1-1			ham H	Away	0-4
	24		Tionic			orren			
	31	Bristol R	Home	2-1	V	Vest H	lam U	Home	0-2
Feb.	7	Arsenal	Away	0-2					A DEAL TRUNK
	14	Oxford	Away	3-4	N	Ailwal	Drowed with the base of	Home	1-0
	21	Reading	Home	3 - 1	C	<b>Prient</b>		Away	3-2
	28	Cardiff C	Away	2-0	C	)xford	J U	Home	
Mar.	7	Norwich C	Home	1-3	1.1	Vimbl		Home	
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	21	Plymouth A	Home	0-3		rentf	54 E	Home	
	28	Southampton	Away	0-3		harlt		Away	2 - 2
Apr.	4	Chelsea	Home	1-4	C	rysta	Pal	Away	the second second
	8	West Ham United	Away	1-0	0	Cup			
	11	Birmingham C	Away	0 - 1	2	Oth S	ept. Millwall	Away	1.0
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	25	Fulham	Home	0-0	Leag	gue	The paint tota - and -		Score
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						15	Northampton Town		Away 2-0
Cup Competition			Score	Jan	7	Bristol City		Away 0 - 1	
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1	g 21	Luton Town	Away	1-2		21	Leicester City		Away 1 - 1
Sep	ot 6	Bristol City	Home	3 - 2	Ech	28	Leicester City		Home 0 - 0
	10	West Bromwich Albion	Away Home	1 - 1	Feb	5	Luton Town		Away 2 - 3
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	25	Leicester City	Away	1.0		16	Coventry City	161615	Home 0-0
						23	Birmingham City		Away 1-0
	F. A. YOUTH CUP								
F. A.	YOU	ITH CUP			May	6	Wolverhampton Wand	lerers	Home

### John Ward talks to Bill Tucker

Bill Tucker is very much a man at the crossroad. At the end of the Season he could well be faced with the most crucial decision in his life. If he were offered the job of Reserve Team Manager, whatever the post is actually called, with the proviso that he did it full-time without any nonfootball distractions, should he take it? Or should he settle for a career in accountancy and play part-time for a non-league team?

No wonder Bill was in a reflective mood when I met him a few weeks back. He had just come in from taking training, hampered by a sore calf muscle: the doctor had told him it needed a complete rest for it to heal up. As a compromise Bill had stopped playing temporarily but there was no way in which he could stop taking training; and that involved a considerable amount of exercise: "I get so invloved", Bill explained. "I can't just stand still and give orders: I've got to be in there, doing it."

The 1980/81 Season has brought surprises for a number of people connected with Swindon Town, none more so than Bill Tucker. It started, as he had envisaged, with him competing for one of the central defenders' positions in the First Team and working in the afternoon at Bradleys, suppliers of building products in Swindon. Here he was gaining practical experience in general management accounting, having passed his final exams the previous season. Then when John Trollope was appointed Manager he needed a Reserve Team coach. Bill admits to having been flattered and surprised to be asked. "I agreed to do it to the end of the Season," he said. "After that both sides will review the position. One of the conditions was that I could carry on working at Bradleys. John has been very understanding about this bit it makes for a very full week: I work all the hours players do, then off to the office every afternoon and the occasional bit of scouting for John during the evenings or at weekends, if the Reserves do not have a game. At least it hasn't meant too much upheaval on the domestic front: I've been studying for my exams for the last six years so my wife got used to my being tied up for most of the time."

Two things have struck Bill particularly forcibly since he became Reserve Team coach: "I had imagined that coaching was simply a matter of getting players to play your way." he explained. "I soon realised there was a lot more to it than that. In the Reserves you have different kinds of players, all of whom you have to try to please. There are First Teamers in the Reserves through loss of form; there are young players needing experience and there are non-contract players on trial or filling in whom you have never seen before. All of them have to be moulded into a unit; there are many different personalities so they need different approaches."

The other point was the fearsome responsibility of the job. He had not realised how much the future of the Club depended on the Reserve Team coach. Since the apprentices play so much in the Reserves it is Bill Tucker who has the major say in whether they should be retained by Swindon Town. Although the ultimate decision is John Trollope's he will obviously rely a good deal on Bill's advice. Not only is Bill responsible for seeing that Swindon do not retain a player who won't make the grade, or let slip a later developer, who subsequently turns out to be oustanding with another club, but the Reserve Team coach has a responsibility to guide and develop the young players in their crucial, learning years.

One of the by-products of Bill's role is that he has become more exposed to the press. He was already less than enthusiastic about much of their work. "The media throws superlatives around like confetti," he said. "And look how they treated that poor girl Lady Diana Spencer. I am not much of a Royalist but the way they hounded her was disgraceful." Soon after he took charge of the Reserves he was asked by a reporter who had played well in the previous day's game. "So and so had quite a good game," he replied, only to see the banner headline the next day "So and so stars in Reserves' victory". Always a staunch team-man Bill was alarmed at the effect this would have both on the other ten players, all of whom had played their part, and on the individual singled out for extravagant praise. "I try to avoid mentioning any young players to the press," Bill said. "If a boy has real ability and potential it is especially important that he keeps his feet on the ground. The manager and I try to get this message home to young players at this Club but I wish the press would realise that they have a big responsibility towards young players. Football is such a

capricious game; you may be hailed as a star at 16 and if something goes wrong you could be on the dole three years' later."

Bill was philosophical about the Reserves' results since he took over: "When we go to places like Ipswich," he said "I don't expect us to win; I look for good performances from the players. How can we compete when we have boys out of school up against men like Beattie, McCall, Hunter and Turner? At Queen's Park Rangers the other day they had Burke, Flannagan and King in their team."

"I never realised how difficult the job would be," Bill concluded, "but I am glad I took it up. It's given me the opportunity to put over my own ideas about the game, everything I picked up as a player. At the moment I am happy to go off to the office in the afternoon, it gets me away from it all and I think I can combine the two jobs. But I am not sure that it would suit John Trollope in the long term. He may want a more total commitment. Until now I had no idea of staying in football. Even now I have doubts about the lack of security and I don't know what I'll say if John does ask me to stay on. I could probably get a job as an accountant, but will it be the same when I am 40? I have until the end of the Season to make up my mind."

### **Results Round-Up**

#### FOOTBALL COMBINATION

- April 18 SWINDON TOWN 1 (Slattery) v LUTON TOWN 2 Teasdale, Baverstock, Bailie, Walsh, Round, Hughes, Cockerill, Barrett, Bond, Slattery, Bristow, Tucker (S)
- April 22 CRYSTAL PALACE 5 v SWINDON TOWN 0 Teasdale, Baverstock, Bailie, Walsh, Round, Bristow, Cockerill, Hughes, Bond, Slattery, Greenwood, Tucker (S)
- April 25 SWINDON TOWN 0 v FULHAM 0 Teasdale, Baverstock, Bailie, Walsh, Tucker, Rollings, Cockerill, Batty, Bond, Slattery, Short, Bristow (S)

#### SOUTH EAST COUNTIES

April 25 SWINDON TOWN 1 (Westlake) BRENTFORD 0 Pullen, Holdsworth, Byrne, Sheppard, Westlake, Shaw, Furley, Donovan, Faircloth, Niblett, Coleman, Jefferies (S) Evans (S)

#### MIDLAND YOUTH

- April 9 WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS 2 SWINDON TOWN 0 Pullen, Baverstock, Bailie, Hunter, Round, Westlake, Jefferies, Bristow, Furley, Short, Coleman, Holdsworth (S)
- April 16 SWINDON TOWN 0 COVENTRY CITY 0 Pullen, Baverstock, Bailie, Jell, Round, Westlake, Donovan, Bristow, Furley, Niblett, Coleman
- April 23 BIRMINGHAM CITY 0 SWINDON TOWN 1 (Batty) Pullen, Baverstock, Bailie, Batty, Sheppard, Westlake, Jefferies, Bristow, Furley, Niblett, Coleman.



### Town through time Centre forwards



by paul plowman

FRANK LARGE, one of soccer's nomads, joined Swindon early in March 1964 and made his bow, along with goalkeeper Norman Oakley, against Plymouth scoring both goals in a 2 - 1 win. A Yorkshireman by birth, Large had a particular affection for Northampton Town moving there three times during his career. After making the journey from one County Ground to the other, he remained here for just seventeen games and was then off to the far north to assist Carlisle. Mike Summerbee returned to the centre-forward berth briefly until KEITH EAST took his place in November, Boxing Day 1964 saw JACK HOW-ARTH make one of his two appearances for the Town, A former Chelsea junior, Howarth soon moved on to Aldershot where he performed consistently for nearly twelve years and became the only man to have passed the 100-goal mark for the club. Another ex-Chelsea starlet DENNIS BROWN led the Swindon attack from mid-February 1965 until the fatal drop on April 24, when his goal at the Dell was not enough to keep the Town in Division Two. Known as 'Bullets', a tribute to his shooting power, Dennis was then switched by new manager Danny Williams to a supporting role to KEN KEYWORTH. But the striker who had played in front of Danny at Rotherham became an injury casualty after a handful of games and the new boss decided to invest in another number nine. This time it was Darlington's JIMMY LAWTON, who had just hours earlier been the hero of his side's 2-1 League Cup victory over the Town. Wing-half Alan Sproates joined the Quakers as part of the transfer package.

Keith East returned to the fray for a First Round F.A. Cup tie with Merthyr Tydfil in November 1965 and hit four of Swindon's goals in 5-1 win. Then, seven days later, he went one better with a nap-hand in the Town's 6-2 drubbing of Mansfield. This ensured him of a place in the side for the remainder of the 1965-66 season, which he finished as top scorer with twenty-four league and cup goals.

On the last day of February 1967, the vastly experienced PAT TERRY scored on his debut for Swindon. A Londoner, Patrick Alfred Terry had already played 400 League games since starting out with Charlton as a raw youth in 1955 - and he had over 180 goals to his name, remarkable consistency over so long a period. Newport, Swansea, Gillingham, Northampton and Millwall featured amongst his other employers before he arrived here via Reading. Pat helped himself to nineteen goals during 1967-68, second only to winger Rogers. With Swindon nestled safely in the top half of the table, Mr. Williams experimented for the final two games that year with Stan Harland wearing the number nine shirt. Terry was on his travels again in the summer of 1968, returning to the big city to offer his services to Brentford.

The 1968-69 season should have opened with a trip to Northampton, but they were still playing cricket there and it instead got under way on a Tuesday night with CHRIS JONES the central striker in a League Cup tie with Torquay. Born at Altrincham, in Greater Manchester, Jones had been given few chances at Maine Road and at Swindon seemed to spend much of his career warming the substitute's bench - but he did have the satisfaction of coming on at Rotherham in May 1969 to score the goal which put the Town back into Division Two.

To be concluded.

#### **CHRIS JONES**

.....in action in Rome, August 1969







Back Row, L to R: Danis Salman, David Crown, Mark Hill, Jim McNichol, Dave McKellar, Bob Booker, Gary Roberts, Gary Johnson, Pat Kruse.

Centre Row L to R: Eddie Lyons (Physiotherapy), Paul Walker, Tony Funnell, Paul Shrubb, Ron Harris, Robbie Johnson, Barry Tucker, Lee Frost, Fred Callaghan (Team Manager)

Front Row, L to R: Steve Wolsey, Ricky Marshall, Kevin Teer, Kevin Ward, Keith Tonge, Terry Rowe.

### Brentford Pen-Pictures

DAVID McKELLAR (Goalkeeper). David was signed from Derby for £25,000 in October following a short loan spell. A former Scottish youth international, David was once with Ipswich and spent loan periods with Colchester and Peterborough before joining Derby in 1978. He made 41 appearances in the Rams' First Division side.

BARRY TUCKER (Defender). Barry got his chance in League soccer with Northampton in 1972 and he completed well over 200 League appearances for the Cobblers prior to his transfer to Brentford in 1978.

DANIS SAIMON (Defender). Danis, an England youth international, became the youngest player ever to appear in the Bees' League side when he made his debut in 1975/76 at the age of 15 years and seven months. He has been a permanent member of the senior side for the past three seasons.

PAT KRUSE (Defender). Pat began his career with Leicester City and got a couple of runs in their League eleven. But, following a loan spell with Mansfield, he moved to Torquay in 1975 and he remained at Plainmoor until Brentford signed him two years later.

MARK HILL (Defender). Mark grew up with Q.P.R. but was not given a chance in their firstteam. Brentford signed him during the recent close-season and he has been blooded in their back four this season.

JIM McNICHOLL (Defender). Jim is a Scottish under-21 international who began his professional career with Ipswich. He didn't get into the League eleven and it was after moving to Luton that he made his debut in 1976/77. Brentford paid a then club record £35,000 to sign him two seasons ago.

PAUL SHRUBB (Midfield). Paul served his apprenticeship with Fulham but didn't get a chance in their first-team. He emigrated to South Africa and played for Hellenic but he returned in 1976 to sign for Brentford.

TERRY HURLOCK (Midfield). Terry joined the Bees this season after creating a lot of interest in his displays for Leytonstone & Ilford F.C. RON HARRIS (Defender). Ron, who is the club's player-coach, made well over 800 appearances over nearly 20 years for Chelsea. During his earlier years Ron gained four England under-23 caps and, when he left Stamford Bridge last summer, he had set up a new club record of 655 League appearances for Chelsea.

R DUILOME :

PAUL WALKER (Midfield). Paul is a former England schoolboy international who made his first-team debut for Brentford in 1976/77 at the age of only 15. He is currently enjoying his first lengthy run in the side.

LEE PROST (Forward). Lee was signed from Chelsea earlier this season and scored several goals during his opening weeks with the Bees. He developed in the junior sides at Stamford Bridge and made his League debut in 1978.

GARY JOHNSON (Forward). Gary was also transferred from Chelsea this season and he is now one of the Bees' leading scorers. Chelsea signed him from Harrow and he scored on his League debut against Manchester United in 1979.

DAVID BROWN (Forward). David's form with Walthamstow Avenue was something of a revelation and he has certainly adapted himself well to the requirements of Third Division football. He has now scored eight goals this season.

BOB BOOKER (Forward). Bob joined the club from St. Albans in September 1976 and, since the arrival of manager Fred Callaghan, he has been given his chance to blossom in League soccer.

TONY FUNNELL (Forward). Tony was signed from Gillingham for a club record £55,000 towards the end of last season. He scored five goals in his first seven League matches this season and is now one of the club's leading scorers. He played just over a dozen times in Southampton's League side and then moved on to Gillingham for £50,000 two seasons ago.

### Soccer Scene

WHAT A HAPPY ENDING FOR UNITED

By Tony Pullein

A season of concern and frustration has ended on a high note for Manchester United. For much of the time manager Dave Sexton was under severe pressure and there were reports that he was to be replaced by several well known characters. And Old Trafford attendances dipped to their lowest level for a decade.

Mr. Sexton kept his nerve, though, and after United had come through a critical period when injuries cost them many key men, they finished with a splendid run of seven successive victories and that was very nearly good enough to take them into Europe!

The Reds completed their fixture list with a 0 - 1 win over relegation-haunted Norwich City at Old Trafford last Saturday and they were then only three points behind third-placed Arsenal.

For years United have been accustomed to gates of around the 50,000 mark and they say they need 45,000 just to break even. But after Old Trafford fans had been subjected to a succession of goalless games, support dropped to 39,568 for the home game with Stoke in mid-December.

Though such a figure is double the average for many rival First Division clubs, brows began to furrow in the Old Trafford board room. Now the team seems to have found its form again but, in spite of that wonderful closing run, there were only 40,165 at the Norwich game.

Dave Sexton now seems to have won his battle to stay at Old Trafford if he wishes. But his name has been connected with his old club Chelsea who last week announced that they would not be naming a replacement for sacked Geoff Hurst until after the end of the season.

Another famous club in a much healthier state than it was at the beginning of the season is Leeds United. Leeds' directors were forced into the unpalatable decision to dismiss manager Jimmy Adamson in September after the Peacocks had managed to win only one of their opening five League games.

They appointed their former England striker Allan Clarke as the successor and the new manager gave himself three years to prove himself at Elland Road. Naturally, it took him time to sort out the problems and Leeds hovered dangerously close to the relegation zone for some months. Now they, too, seem to have found their feet and at the beginning of this week they looked back on an unbeaten run of six games in which they did not concede a goal.

Leeds play at Brighton this afternoon and they had the home game against West Bromwich, postponed last Saturday, still to fit in - - - unless they succeed in re-arranging it for one evening this week.

Down at the far end of the soccer scale there will be much gnashing of teeth at Halifax until the Football League's AGM decides their fate. Halifax were one of three clubs ---- Hereford and York were the others --- already doomed to have to apply for re-election by last weekend and they looked by far the most vulnerable.

If, as expected, Altrincham Town have clinched the championship of the Alliance Premier League, they will have considerable support at the poll, having missed by only one vote last year.

Last year they complained their hopes were sabotaged by two voting delegates who failed to arrive in time to cast their votes.

This year Altrincham could have their dreams killed from an entirely different source.

Isthmian League club Wycombe Wanderers has made an application for admission to the Fourth Division, this in spite of the agreement between non-League clubs to put forward only one applicant a year - - normally the Alliance champions.

The Isthmian League, however, claimed they should have parity with the Allaince Premier League when it came to contention of a place in the Fourth Division but a series of discussions between the two bodies had failed to reach any form of compromise.

Wycombe's application is seen by some to have resulted out of a policy by the Isthmian League to go ahead with their own applicants each year in spite of the agreement.

The Isthmians certainly have quite a good case for parity at least with the Southern and

Northern Premier Leagues even if they might appear presumptuous in claiming equality with the National Alliance Premier League.

Over the years Isthmian League Clubs have tended to achieve considerably better results in the F.A. Cup than clubs from the Southern League.

The arrangement at the moment is that there is promotion and relegation between the Alliance and the champions of the Northern Premier League and the two sections of the Southern League, providing ground facilities are up to requirement.

The Isthmian League has been endeavouring to claim equal status with the Alliance Premier with their own Champions getting the automatic right to go forward for election to the Football League.

There is little doubt that there is far more chance for the outsiders when only one goes forward each year and it could be in the long term that Wycombe Wanderers will be seen to have done a disfavour for clubs of their standing.

Football at all levels has its problems. Those facing the F.A. Cup finalists are, perhaps, more acceptable than those facing the like of Halifax --- unless you happen to be the manager of one of the finalists.

Tottenham boss Keith Burkinshaw, for instance, has soon to make the agonising decision as to whom will get the goalkeeping job at Wembley. Milija Aleksic, the current holder of the position, would appear to have the advantage over the loyal Barry Daines at the moment.

Daines has been at White Hart Lane for more than a decade, spending many years as understudy to Pat Jennings. Somehow, he has always seemed to miss out on the big occasions. A few weeks ago an injury cost him his place and Aleksic, who was himself displaced earlier because of injury, has jumped at the chance to re-establish himself. Now he could be about to taste some Wembley glory.

Manchester City's John Bond has his selection problems too. Though that fine young pair of centre-backs Nicky Reid and Tommy Caton have been performing well all season, Mr. Bond is taking the precaution of keeping the veteran Tommy Booth in First Division fettle by playing him regularly during the build-up to Wembley.

In an earlier round the City manager dropped Caton for the first time in his career in order to have the advantage of Booth's experience.

With City facing that explosing Spurs' striking partnership of Garth Crooks and Steve Archibald at Wembley, Mr. Bond could well call upon the experience of Booth, who is the last survivor of Manchester City's last F.A. Cup winning team of 1969. On that occasion it was a headed goal by Booth, in the very last minute of the semifinal against Everton, that took City to Wembley.

Spurs, who won the F.A. Cup in 1901, 1921 and 1961, are determined to continue the sequence by succeeding again in 1981. They have a wonderful record in domestic Cup Finals and so far have NEVER been beaten in five appearances in the F.A. Cup final and two in the League Cup Final.

Manchester City have won the F.A. Cup four times in seven finals and the league cup twice in three finals.

Thank you for your valued support throughout the season and we hope you have an enjoyable summer

### Picture



Newport goalkeeper Mark Kendall makes a spectacular save from Swindon's David Peach. On the left is Russell Lewis.



Roy Carter leaps but Newport's Nigel Vaughan (centre) clears with his head in the County Ground draw.





Swindon's Paul Rideout attempts to cross the ball in the Town's draw against Newport.



Roy Carter just fails to connect with the ball after sliding into the penalty area against Newport





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A married man, with one son, he is Accounts Manager of a purchase ledger department. Enjoys all sports, particularly badminton and athletics, and is a past member of the Polytechnic Harriers Is Vice-Chairman of the Basingstoke Referees' Association.

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