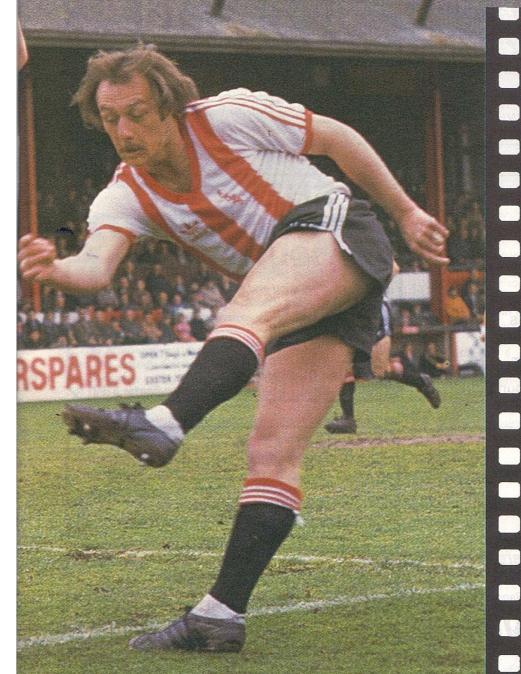
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From the Manager's Desk



This afternoon we extend a warm welcome to our friends from the County Ground, Swindon. Just to make mention of the Doncaster game it must be said that we did not play well but I take nothing away from Doncaster who performed very well and look a promising side.

You will know that we have now been admitted to full membership of the Mid-Week Football League, having spent last season in the newly formed Western section of that League. Since Newport and Swansea City were forced to withdraw from that league we were left, together with A.F.C. Bournemouth, with no recognised reserve team football, and this is a most important part of any club, serving many purposes.

It is a first class league with formidable opposition with such clubs as Brighton, Charlton, Cambridge, Portsmouth etc., and this type of league provides a good test for players returning from injury for there can be no better test than match practice. It also provides a very good platform for Managers to assess the playing potential within the club and to put to the test certain aspects of match play which cannot be fully tested or appreciated in normal training.

Recent games have shown the benefit with regard to the return to match fitness of John Delve and John Sparrow and both players are nearly ready to be considered for the first team.

Football is a competitive game and whilst the matches provide good competition the main purpose is to play good football and players are not intent on kicking the opposition for the sake of it, which seems to be the case in lower leagues of non-league competition.

It would be nice to see a little more support for these games. I know you will not be disappointed in the standard of football.

Sincerely, BRIAN GODFREY.



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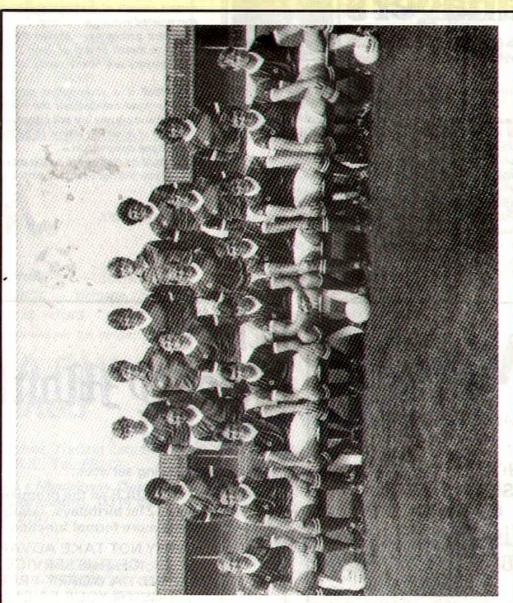
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SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VISITORS RAINDON TOWN



Back Row (left to right) Brian Hughes, Jimmy Allan, David Round, Mark Stevens, Kavin Baddaley, Middle Row Chris Kamara (transferred to Portsmouth), Roy Greenwood, Charlie Henry, Gary Emmanual, Mike Grahame, Roy Carter. Front Row Dave Peach (Captain), Andy Rowland, Steve Abbley, Craig Moores, Paul Rideout, Kenny Stroud, Howard Pritchard, Russell Lewis, Martin Blackler. SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

HIGH-SCORING SWINDON'S GREAT START

Swindon's biff-bang attacking play has taken them into second place in the Third Division and completely revitalised the confidence of a club that missed relegation by only one point last season.

Manager John Trollope made quite a few changes during the close-season. Midfield men Glenn Cockerill (who returned to Lincoln), Brian Williams (to Bristol Rovers) and Chris Kamara (Portsmouth) all left the club, as did winger Ian Miller, who has joined Blackburn Bovers.

Newcomers include full-backs Mick Graham (from Bolton), Gary Williams (Blackpool), midfield player Gary Emmanuel (Bristol Rovers) and forward Craig Moores

The club's new forward-going philosophy has seen goals emanating from all departments. Midfield man Roy Carter led the way with four goals before the midweek League Cup meeting with Wrexham. Swindon were beaten 2-3 in the away leg and felt confident of scoring sufficient goals to put them into the next round.

Last season's top scorer Andy Rowland — he netted 13 times — did not get off the mark until last weekend when he hit two of the goals in the 4-0 success over Preston.

Swindon appear to be favouring a 4-4-2 line-up. Andy Rowland and Craig Moores formed the attack on the opening day but Paul Rideout, who scored four goals in only 12 full League outings last season, came in alongside Rowland.

Ken Stroud, who has been a fixture in midfield for the best part of eight years, was nursing a damaged arm which was still in plaster when the new season kicked-

Mick Graham and Russell Lewis filled the central defensive positions, with Charlie Henry and Gary Williams on the flanks. The long-serving Jimmy Allan continued in goal.

A disastrous run towards the end of last season almost doomed Swindon to their first-ever spell of Fourth Division football. With only one win in their closing 13 matches, they were in danger until their final game. By drawing 0-0 at home to Brentford they kept themselves one point clear.

INTRODUCING SWINDON TOWN

STEVE ABBLEY (Forward). Born Liverpool. Signed from local football in season 1978/79, a winger whose opportunities have been limited in the first team. He made his debut at Exeter City in April, 1980 and had made 4 full league appearances at the end of last season.

JIM ALLAN (Goalkeeper). Born Inverness. Experienced goalkeeper who has been with Swindon since signing from Scottish junior football in 1970. He made his debut against Q.P.R. in September, 1971 and has been the regular first team keeper for several seasons. Had made 272 league appearances

at the end of last season.

ROY CARTER (Midfield). Born Torpoint. Played Western League football with Falmouth before joining Hereford United in the summer of 1975. He made 64 league appearances there and was a member of the Third Division Championship side in 1976. He signed for Swindon in December, 1977 making his debut against Carlisle that month. He had made 147 league appearances for Swindon to the end of last season and when not required elsewhere plays in midfield. A geuine utility player he can play on either side in midfield and in all back four positions. He has also made the occasional appearance at

centre forward.

GARY EMMANUEL (Midfield). Born Swansea. Began his career with Birmingham City making his league debut in January, 1975 and playing in 61 first division matches before his transfer to Bristol Rovers in December, 1978. He made a similar number of league appearances for Rovers and joined

Swindon in July, 1981. CHARLIE HENRY (Defender). Born London. Joined the club from school as an apprentice signing full professional forms in February, 1980. Although his first team debut was at centre forward in a league cup game at Lincoln City in September, 1980 he is normally a defender and quickly settled into the right back position where his determined play made him popular with the supporters. He made 31 league appearances last season.

BRIAN HUGHES (Midfield). Born Ludgershall. Served his apprenticeship with Swindon and made his first team debut at Lincoln City in a league cup tie in August, 1980 only a few months after signing professional. He usually takes up the central position in midfield and made 18 league appearances

last season.

RUSSELL LEWIS (Defender). Born Blaengwynfi. After being spotted playing part time football in the Welsh league, he signed for Swindon in September, 1976 making his league debut against York City in April, 1977. He had to spend several seasons as reserve centre-half but in August, 1979 had the opportunity to play at full back which resulted in him holding down the right back position for the rest of that season. Last season he reverted to centre-half and was voted Player of the Year by the supporters for his tireless efforts in defence. He

had made 89 league appearances at the end of last season.

PAUL RIDEOUT (Forward). Paul signed pro forms on 14 August last but appeared in the first team last season as an apprentice. He scored on his debut against Hull City in November, 1980 and made 12 full league appearances last season. A former England Schoolboy International he scored a

hat trick against Scotland Schoolboys in May, 1980.

ANDY ROWLAND (Forward). Born Derby. Andy was an apprentice with his home town club but his league debut came after a transfer to Bury in the summer of 1974. He was three times leading scorer and made 169 league appearances before his move to Swindon in September, 1978. He made his debut for the club against Blackpool that month and has been a consistent goal scorer throughout the 114 league games that he had played for the club up to the end of last season.

MIKE GRAHAM (Defender). Born Lancaster. Began his career with Bolton Wanderers and played his first full league game in September, 1978. His chances were limited at Bolton but he made about 30 league appearances mostly at full back

before moving to Swindon in July, 1981.





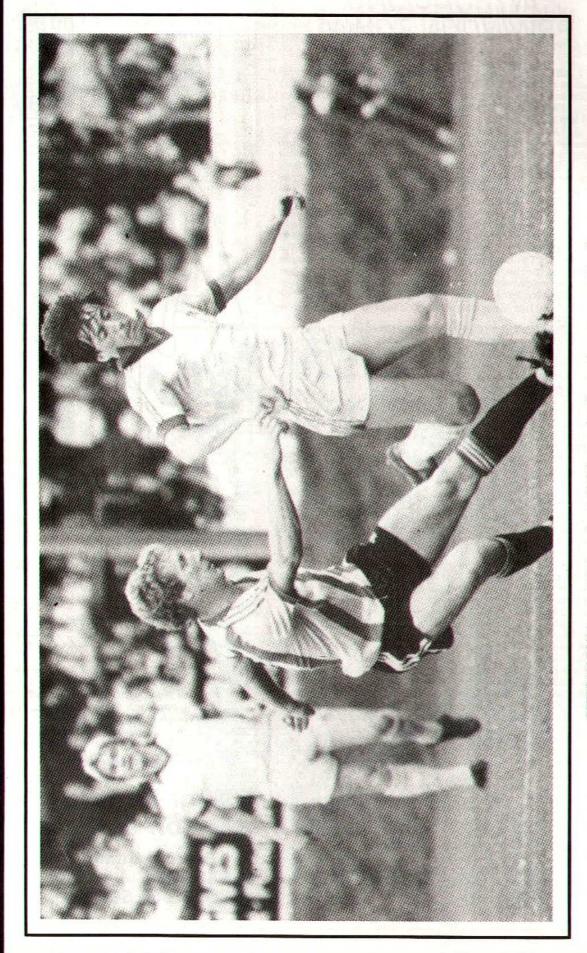
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Nicky Marker receives the amateur player of the year trophy from Percy Varco watched on by Chris Davey the club's Youth Development Officer — Nicky has subsequently joined the club as an apprentice and we wish him well for the future.



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Third Division Focus by Tony Pullein

SWINDON PLAYER TOPS GOALS LIST

Swindon's Roy Carter went to the top of the Third Division scoring list with two goals against Preston at the County Ground last Saturday. Several players, including Bristol City's new signing Mick Harford, were closely on his tail.

	League	L. Cup	i otal
CARTER (Swindon)	3	1	4
ALDRIDGE (Newport)	2	1	3
CASSELLS (Oxford)	2	1	3
DAVIES (Fulham)	2	1	3
FLETCHER (Huddersfield)	1	2	3
HARFORD (Bristol City)	2	1	3
ROBSON (Carlisle)	3	-	3

Bristol City's latest arrival Mick Harford is certainly living up to his £150,000 valuation. The striker signed from Newcastle United scored in his first three matches for City and is already proving an ideal partner for Kevin Mabbutt.

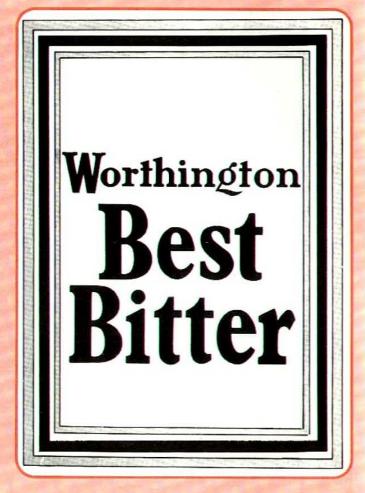
Until now Mabbutt had been City's only real goalscorer and, had the club made a poor start to the season, City may have been forced to sell him. Mabbutt, who scored twice in the opening matches, now hopes he can help get the club back into the Second Division.

City, who have dropped from the First to the Third Division in successive seasons, received a tremendous boost last week when manager Houghton turned down a lucrative offer to become manager, of the Swedish national team. Mr. Houghton shot to fame as manager of the Malmo side that reached the European Cup final two years ago.

He still commands great respect in Sweden, hence the offer. But he explained why he took the apparently inexplicable decision to reject the approach. "I decided to return to England to prove myself as a manager," he said. "I know they love English football in Sweden, and I was honoured to be approached, but I intend to stick it out at Ashton Gate."

Chesterfield manager Frank Barlow has made his first signing since taking over a year ago. He invested £70,000 in Leicester striker Martin Henderson. After his attack had failed to score in four of its six opening matches, Mr. Barlow felt he should take quick action.

At the end of last season Chesterfield lost their two leading scorers. Alan Birch, who hit 23, was sold to Wolves for £180,000 and Ernie Moss, who scored 16 times, moved on to Port Vale when his contract expired.



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In Retrospect by Tony Pullein

EXETER CITY v SWINDON TOWN

The Swindon game was one of the most exciting seen at St. James Park last season:

EXETER CITY (1) 3 Kellow 2 (1 pen), Pratt SWINDON (2) 4 Mayes, Rowland 2, Miller, Attendance: 4,688.

Miller. Attend The following	ng is a summary	of all pr	evious	League	e meet	ings with	Swin	don.
	Home	The second second	Away	1		(Division	on)	
1919/20	1-0		1-1			Three	(South	1)
1921/22	1-4		1-1			Three	(South	1)
1922/23	2-1		1-2			Three	(South	1)
1923/24	3-1		1-0			Three	(South	1)
1924/25	1-0		0-1			Three	(South	1)
1925/26	1-2		1-2			Three	(South	1)
1926/27	3-1		2-4			Three		
1927/28	0-0		0-3			Three	(South	1)
1928/29	1-1		0-2			Three		
1929/30	5-1		0-1			Three	(South	2)
1930/31	3-1		1-2			Three		
1931/32	1-1		1-2			Three		
1932/33	5-0		2.2			Three		
1933/34	2-2		1-1			Three		
1934/35	3-3		1-6			Three		
1935/36	0-3		1-1			Three		
1936/37	1-1		1-3			Three		
1937/38	0-0		0-3			Three		
1938/39	0-0		1-2			Three		
1946/47	1-1		0-2			Three		
1947/48	2-1		2-3			Three		
1948/49	3-1		1-1			Three		
1949/50	3-0		1-7			Three		
1950/51	1-0		0-1			Three		
1951/52	1-2		1-3			Three		
1952/53	1-2		2-5			Three		
1953/54	3-1		4-2			Three		
1954/55	2-1		0-2			Three		
1955/56	1-2		1-0			Three		
1956/57	3-2		5-3			Three		
1957/58	0-1		1-5			Three		
1965/66	1-1		2-2			Three		
1977/78	0-0		0-4			Three		
1978/79	1-2		1-1			Three		
1979/80	4-1		3-2			Three		
1980/81	3-4		2-2	7700		Three		
Home		P 36	W 16	D 11	9	F 63	A 44	Pts 43
Away		36	5	9	22	42	84	19

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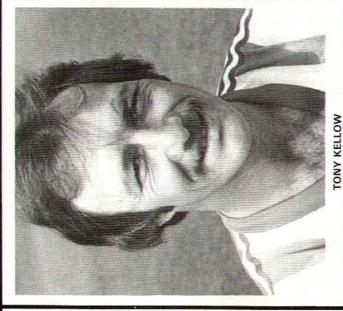
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Martyn Rogers

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Wed			PortsmouthA	
Tue	Sept		ALDERSHOT	Ξ
Mon	Sept		Peterborough A	
Tue	Sept	2	Brighton & Hove Albion A	
Tue		9	Northampton A	:
Tue	Oct	13	BOURNEMOUTH (L.C.)	
Tue		27	WIMBLEDON	:
Tue		9	MILLWALL	
Tue		17	PORTSMOUTH	:
Tue		24	BOURNEMOUTH	
Tue		-	BournemouthA	:
Tue		œ	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	
Wed	Dec	16	. Gillingham A .	:
Tue		2	WimbledonA	:
Tue		12	NorthamptonA*(H)	:
Tue		19	AldershotA	
Tue		26	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION H	:
Wed		e	Peterborough A*(H)	:
Tue		6	CambridgeA	:
Tue		16	MillwallA	
Tue		23	Southend UnitedA	:
Tue		2	BrentfordA	:
Tue		6	Charlton Athletic A	:
Tue		16	Brentford A*(H)	:
Tue		23	Cambridge A*(H)	:
Wed	Mar	31	Gillingham A*(H)	:
Tue	April	20	Southend UnitedA*(H)	:
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Home games being played away.

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by Chris Davey NRESERVE

sides, unfortunately we could not capitalise on our chances and the match ended in a 1-1 draw. Sixteen Last Saturday the 'A' team were at home to Exmouth Town in the Devon and Exeter League, it was an interesting game with good football played by both year old apprentice Graeme Kirkup scored our goal with young centre half Nick Marker having a fine match.

Monday for our London Mid-Week League match. The long journey home was made more comfortable by our 2-1 victory. Peter Rogers scored a penalty and Nick for six stitches after a bad tackle late in the match. The team was: Ian Main, Martyn Rogers, John Sparrow, The Reserves made the long trek to Peterborough on Marker scored a late winner after some good attacking Martin Musgrove, Steve Taylor, Graeme Kirkup, Peter play, involving Rogers and Kirkup. It was encouraging to see both John Delve and John Sparrow continue on their road back to full fitness. Unfortunately the game was marred by Martyn Rogers being taken to hospital Nick Marker, Frank Howarth, Frank Prince, John Delve, Rogers and Sub: Sammy Claypole,

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SWINDON AT A GLANCE

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INTERNATIONAL FLOP GOOD FOR CITY?

Should England fail to qualify for the Iberian World Cup finals, by virtue of recent multi-million pound flops against the part-timers of Switzerland and Norway, the outcome could have disastrous consequences on the game in this country as we know it today. Certainly the failure will do little to arrest the alarming decline in attendances.

The immediate gut reaction could well be sweeping changes that could affect football right down to its grass roots. The problem with rushing to introduce the necessary panic measures is that they are liable to do as much harm as

good.

I cannot give you a cast iron solution to the problems experienced in English football. If men of the proven calibre of Ramsey, Revie or Greenwood cannot come up trumps, no-one can. In practice there is no simple, single, painless and effective remedy at hand. It will take more than another absurd million pound transfer scoop to right football's ills. In fact, such a deal would probably add even more lost confidence and ridicule to soccer's troubled waters.

Trying to locate root causes of England's international failure is like looking for a needle in a hay-stack. There are many recommendations being bandied about — playing season too long; divisions too big; too much televised soccer; wingers and the like. No matter how well meaning the suggestions, many are just straws being clutched at. Take away too many straws and the thatch will be rendered

useless.

One could argue that there is really little wrong with the product on display. To their credit Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Eire seem to do very nicely thank you, relying as they do on Football League players. They seem to be able to overcome the endeavours of their opponents basically by enthusiasm and developing strengths and playing to them.

Is it unrealistic to suggest that over recent years the English game has been bearing the brunt of the levelling influences that have been all too evident in football

universally?

At no time during England's recent disasters could the opposition claim to have dominated proceedings. We weren't out-classed. Basically they competed and matched us for attitude and commitment making the best of occasions where we erred. Norway, for example, capitalised on two very unprofessional defensive lapses. Lapses which might well have gone unpunished at the other end.

The defeats surely highlighted the susceptibility of our game to inferior teams who support total commitment with the correct attitude and application. It is for this reason that no "small" club at any level need fear mixing it with one of the so called "big boys". Qualities which surely aided us in our epic Cup-run last year and which will hopefully serve us

well again.

After all why should we worry about our international failures. We should be used to them. When was the last time we qualified? What did the U.S. do to us? I do suspect, however, that this latest pill will take some swallowing.

Our game needs something to halt and correct its downward tendancies. At worst victory in Oslo would have acted as a temporary stay of execution, if not perhaps as a turning point. Certainly a successful England would rekindle a passion for our football and thereby make the big clubs giants once more. Now we are in a position where it is easier to accelerate the slide deeper and deeper into trouble. The short cuts out have now almost been blocked.

Football now goes into an almost 'catch 22' situation where the next gamble has to be the right one.

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Fear on Football

It was most intriguing last week both to watch England's awful defeat at the hands of Norway in the World Cup, and the writings of the British press which followed. As the match was played I was among 200 people gathered round a set in a golf clubhouse. Plymouth Argyle's David Kemp had top spot - three feet in front of the set. His manager, a Scotsman, didn't even want to watch and Colin Randall, a Welshman uttered occasional oaths, delighting in England's failure. To a man we all agreed that the lads had let us down. But, also to a man, we agreed, that before the game, we didn't find much wrong with Ron Greenwood's selection. How different was our attitude at the final whistle. The press also turned turtle - from utter conviction beforehand that Ron could only win to total condemnation of him, the team and the entire system at the end. It was a terrible display but was anyone really surprised. I spend half my life claiming that the entire system of the English game is wrong and find that only one person in ten doesn't think I've gone completely barmy. The condemnation lasted 12 hours - in the case of the morning papers, 24 hours for the evening editions and four days for the Sundays. By the time you read this 99 people out of 100 have forgotten how bad the England team is. The trouble is that the one who remembers has nothing to do with running the game.



TODAYS' REFEREE

THOMAS G.O.P. BUNE
(Cranleigh, Surrey). Began
refereeing whilst at school then
via local, Spartan and Isthmian
Leagues to Football League line
in 1968 and subsequently to full
list. Refereed England v
Scotland Amateur International
(1974) and Oxford v Cambridge
at Wembley in 1972, linesman
in European Nations Cup match
(1975) and reserve official for
the Sunderland v Leeds F.A.
Cup Final in 1973. Linesman in
British Championship Northern

Married, has two boys and is a Computer Sales Manager. Likes cricket, swimming, squash, tennis and long distance walking.

Ireland v Wales 1978/79.



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