Swindon Town Football Club





BRENTFORD

at the County Ground, Swindon Tuesday, 3rd November Kick-off 7-30p.m. Official Match Magazine 35p









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Talk of the Town by the Chairman

Tonight is our last mid-week fixture for several weeks and Christmas will have passed before our evening game unless there are any replay cup ties.

Last week was a sad one with the loss of a friend in Harry Cousins who served our Club so loyally since 1932. When I first joined our Club as a player, Harry was playing alongside Cliff Merrick, Baden Herod, Benard Harris, Arthur Briggs and Tommy Nixon in a defence which, of course, was made up of two fullbacks and three half-backs in those days.

Harry's wish was for a family only funeral and this we respected after paying our respects on the County Ground before the Doncaster game. I have received a letter from two supporters of Doncaster who wrote with apologies for the behaviour of a section of the Doncaster supporters when we were observing the minute silence before the game. They said that they stood on the terraces and found that the Swindon fans around them were friendly and helpful. They were also impressed with the attitude of our local Police. It is this kind of thought that will help to bring back to our terraces the happy atmosphere that we all enjoyed a few years ago.

The game against Swansea Reserves on the County Ground was very entertaining, and our supporters who were present at this game must have been impressed at the high standard of football and also pleased with the performances from our young teenagers, which must bode well for our future.

Don's under seventeen team also continue to impress. Their performances against such teams as Tottenham and Chelsea, prove that Don is on the right course and we can look forward to some exciting young players in the future.

Many local people will remember Ned Watts keeping goal for the Swindon Vic's some years ago, and now his grandson, Stuart Whitbread is keeping goal for us. Stuart is an Apprentice with us, and who knows, we haven't had a Swindon boy in goal in the first team since the days of Sam Burton.

Tomorrow evening we are holding our Annual Club Dinner Dance, only this time will be a special occasion as it is our Centenary Year. If the improvements which have taken place at the County Ground over the past years keep moving with the times, will there be a covered stadium, all seaated with amenities that will cater for all ages? I hope so, although none of us will ever know.

Queens Park Rangers, being the very first English League Club to play on artificial turf, are already finding themselves the centre of controversey. Will the Football Association sanction their pitch for the Football Association cup ties? Like everything new, there are bound to be queries and professionals at all levels look at changes much more closely than the man in the street. Our game of football has been played on hard ground, soft ground and every variation in between, in all kinds of weather and the unpredictability of the conditions has always provided the upsets and this very fact has, I feel sure, been an important factor in keeping people interested in our national game.

After voting out any structural changes to our league, clubs have been asked for suggestions which could improve the image of our game and possibly attract more people through the turnstiles. To do this would mean changing laws which could brighten the game by omitting time wasting and altering the offside rules to enable the game to flow more freely and encourage more goal mouth incidents. We are told that FIFA would object to such alterations but surely we should be trying to convince them of the necessity to make the game more attractive. Each week attendances are falling, through various reasons, and we all must face up to the fact that we must take action ourselves.

continued overleaf

JOHN TROLLOPE

Within the last two weeks we have lost two of the game's characters by the deaths of Fred Ford and Harry Cousins.

I served under Fred as a player and found his honesty and the help he gave to improve the game of all of his players, was second to none. If you were willing to work hard, you were assured of the one hundred percent co-operation from Fred, but if you were a malingerer, then Heaven help you.

Harry was the longest serving member that the club has ever had, and again he helped me considerably when he was the club's Trainer. Obviously the game, and Swindon Town Football Club, will miss both of these gentlemen greatly.

The only game I can comment upon in these notes is that against Doncaster Rovers. This was a game of two halves - where we had all of the play in the first half, and with better finishing and a little luck, could have come in three goals up despite some dubious tactics and tackling from the opposition. Under these circumstances it was a credit to our players that they were able to play the kind of football they produced. In the second half Doncaster changed their tactics and cut out a lot of the rough stuff and began to play some good football, but I thought it was our sloppy play that gave them two goals and suddenly we found ourselves 2 - 1 down. However, we kept battling on and managed to equalise and so continued our inconsistent form at home. Having said this, it has been a good start to the season, indeed a vast improvement to the commencement of the last season and with a little more consistency, hopefully we can look forward to a reasonable season.

Although the Reserve match against Swansea City on Monday, 26 October was a friendly game, it afforded me the opportunity of seeing this team for the first time since pre-season, and I must say I was very impressed with their performance. I left the game knowing that if need be most of these players could come into the First Team without hesitation.

In the South East Counties League the Youth Team continue their progress with a 4 - 3 win against Spurs keeping them well in contention in the League table. The young lads playing in the Midland Youth Cup have had a very busy programme playing at home to Northampton, winning 11-0, drawing no score away to Coventry, and then suffering their first defeat in the Competition losing 1-0 to Coventry at home. The competition for the final is now going to be very tight indeed and we have one more home game to play against Birmingham City.

Today we welcome the Players, Officials and Supporters of our close neighbours Brentford, who have been getting some good results, and I hope that you will all support the lads through the match to assist them in gaining those valuable three points.

Talk of the Town by the Chairman Our Balance Sheet will soon be published and people will be surprised to learn that we made a profit on the year's working in spite of having a poor season and finishing low on points, but this document will reveal that this was only made possible by transferring Alan Mayes to Chelsea, and without this transaction we should have been heavily indebted to start this season. A few summer months of no one through the turnstiles and the normal expenses to meet, soon cut into our resources, but John, by judicious signings in the close season, and transfer deals, has enabled us to keep on an even keel. We are, of course, indebted to Doug Buswell, Jack and Mick Conley, Doug Woodman and all their helpers who make our Competitions, Clubs and Shops such an important part in providing us with an income that we hope will enable John to bring us the success we all hope for.

We are grateful to Lorraine and John Deane for looking after the Rendezvous Club since the departure of Mrs Coppock and they will be doing this until we make a permanent appointment which will be soon.

Tonight we welcome the Players and Officials from Brentford and a special welcome to Chris Kamara if he is in their squad. Chris must be wondering when his travels are going to end, but I am sure that he will feel at home at the County Ground.

Hoping that you enjoy tonight's game and thank you for your support.



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David McKELLAR (Goalkeeper) Made 50 First Division appearances with Derby County before joining Brentford in September 1980. An extremely agile 'keeper who kept 15 clean sheets last season.



Danis SALMAN (Central defender)

This talented defender, who won five England Youth International Caps, is still only 21 but has over 200 first team appearances to his credit - the youngest ever Brentford player to reach that figure. He also created another club record by making his League debut at the age of 15 years 7 months. Born in Cyprus of Turkish parents, he came to England at an early age and was snapped up by Brentford as a schoolboy. **DENIS PIGGOTT Chief Administrator/Secretary** One of the longest serving admistrators in the game, being in his 36th year at Griffin Park, where he started as Assistant Secretary in August 1946.

FRED CALLAGHAN Team Manager

Former Fulham defender who took up his first League Managerial appointment with Brentford in April 1980, although he had previously assisted Bill Dodgin with the training at Griffin Park in 1977. Came to Brentford after helping to take Woking, as their Manager, to the FA Trophy Final two seasons ago and last season steered Brentford to their highest position in the Third Division for 16 years.

Paul PRIDDY (Goalkeeper)

Signed by the club for the third time last August, he first started as a Brentford junior, making his debut in August 1972. He left the club in October 1974, returned in 1975 but was given a free transfer in 1977 just after saving two penalties in an away match at Watford!!

Pat KRUSE (Centre Half)

Came to Brentford from Torquay in March 1977, at that time for a club record fee for a defender and has since made over 200 appearances. Has twice won the George Sands' Memorial Trophy as 'Player of the Year'. Previously had First Division experience with Leicester City.

Barry TUCKER (Full Back)

One of four players signed by former Manager Bill Dodgin from his previous club Northampton Town. Tucker's signing in February 1978 corresponded with a remarkable change in the club's fortunes. The only Welsh born member of the staff, he has missed little more than a handful of games since joining the club.

Robbie JOHNSON (Full Back)

Given a free transfer by Arsenal in February 1981 and signed by Brentford for the rest of the season on a trial basis, subsequently being offered a full Contract. Has already made his League debut and is expected to progress further this season.

Gary ROBERTS (Forward)

Signed from non-League Wembley at the beginning of October 1982 and turned in some impressive performances last season. Another player who is expected to make big strides forward next season.

Ron HARRIS (Midfield)

Has been a professional for over 20 years, making over 800 appearances during a long and distinguished career. Spent 18 years with Chelsea, during which time he played at Wembley in the FA Cup Final against Leeds. Joined Brentford in the summer of 1980 as Player/Coach and has since been a consistent member of the club's midfield, his fine play belying his years.

FORD

Terry HURLOCK (Midfield)

Club Skipper signed from non-League Leytonstone & Ilford in August 1980 and has been quite outstanding since, missing only one game. Has already been voted 'Player of the Year' by his colleagues for his strong midfield play.

Paul SHRUBB (Midfield)

A versatile player who has appeared up front in emergency and has also filled in at full back and even central defender. Joined Brentford three years ago from Hellenic FC of South Africa, having previously played for Fulham.

Paul WALKER (Midfield)

Former England Schoolboy Captain who also got in the first team at 15 but failed to progress as was hoped, to such an extent that former Manager Bill Dodgin was prepared to release him. The managerial change brought Walker back into the first team picture and he scored five goals last season from midfield.

Bob BOOKER (Forward)

This lanky striker, who was born within a short goal kick of Watford's ground, captured the headlines with a hat-trick against Hull City two seasons ago in only his fourth appearance. Although out of the side for lengthy spells last season, he came back strongly to become the leading League scorer for the Club with 7 goals.

David CROWN (Forward)

Great things are hoped for from this 21-year old who can also play equally well in midfield. Signed from Walthamstow Avenue in July 1980, he was an outstanding member of the touring Middlesex Wanderers side. During last season he scored 8 League and Cup goals from the wing, nearly all with powerful long-range drives.

Keith BOWEN (Striker)

A very promising 22-year old striker signed in September last, after previous service with Northampton Town as a Non-Contract player.



Alan WHITEHEAD (Central defender)

This tall centre half, previously with Bury, had long been a target for Manager Fred Callaghan and he was delighted to sign him on 1st August last. Is expected to add height and strength to the Brentford defence this season.



Gary JOHNSON (Forward)

Signed in a double deal with Lee Frost from Chelsea in December 1980 and has been the regular centre forward since, scoring 5 goals. His introduction to the team corresponded with a run of 13 matches without defeat.

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Southend Utd Tottenham H. Reading Chelsea (Cup)

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Colin Benson spotlights RON HARRIS

They say football is a young mans game - well you tell that to Brentford player-coach Ron Harris! He is now 36 and still going strong.

It seemed that his playing days were over when his amazing 20-year career at Stamford Bridge came to an end at the close of the 1979-80 League season, but the then new boss of Brentford, Fred Callaghan had other ideas.

Callaghan invited Ron to be his player coach and the veteran defender jumped at the chance: "Ron will play for this season and will continue to do so until we feel he can't produce the goods," the Brentford boss announced at the time. Well he is obviously still doing that with nine League and two Football League games under his belt already this season.

Born in Hackney, London, he first came to the fore as a schoolboy international, and was picked up in the Chelsea net. Ron signed professional forms for the 'Blues' in November 1961 and in the following season won eight Youth caps as he led England to triumph at Wembley in an International Youth tournament.

He added four England Under-23 caps to that collection between 1966-68 and was appointed captain of Tommy Docherty's young Chelsea team in January 1966.

Those were the days when Docherty was giving youth its head, when Chelsea fielded some of the countries brightest prospects, Terry Venables, John Hollins and Ron himself. But Ron proved a capable captain and led Chelsea all the way to Wembley for the Cup Final against Tottenham Hotspur in 1967. The 'Blues' lost that day but they were back again in 1970 this time against Leeds United.

That one ended in a draw, but in the replay at Old Trafford Chelsea snatched the trophy for the first time in the clubs history and Ron Harris held the coveted trophy aloft . . . the youngest skipper, to that date, ever to do so.

Twelve months later and he was at it again this time lifting the European Cup Winners Cup on high following Chelsea's rousing 2-1 victory over Real Madrid.

And to add to the medals we must not forget a Football League Cup Final appearance in 1972. Stoke City beat Chelsea that day but then you can't win everything. After all that it seems strange to see Ron Harris in the red and white stripes of Brentford. He was the 'hard man' of the Chelsea team, an uncompromising tackler who earned the affectionate nickname of "Chopper" because he very rarely let anyone pass him.

That is the strength of his game. He looks the part, those rugged hard hewn features beneath the closely cropped hair, the fearless challenge and determination to win every ball. All those assets are still there.

No doubt he has scared many an opponent before even the first ball has been kicked, but every successful side needs a blend of skill and granite and Ron Harris provides the latter.

Obviously Ron's greatest strength lies in this direction, he is a no nonsense stopper. He has always realised his limitations as a creative player and will not go careering up-field in support of forward moves.

Now at Griffin Park he is doing a magnificent job helping the young players develop both on and off the field. With 693 League games behind him Ron Harris is displaying the same enthusiasm as he did on his debut.

Yes Ron Harris is one of the characters of the game and his current pupils can learn much more from him than just his footballing skills. Here is a perfect example of a loyal player, a man who never asked for a move, a man who took the knocks with the same coolness as he picked up the accolades.



HARRY COUSINS

Swindon Town lost a great friend with the recent passing of Harry Cousins. Harry initially came to the County Ground as a wing-half in 1932 - and stayed for 43 years as player, trainer and youth-team coach.

Born at North Wingfield in Derbyshire, Harry joined nearby Chesterfield in 1924 and gained a Third Division North championship medal there in 1931. Unable to command a regular place in Chesterfield's Second Division side, he came south to Swindon, making his debut for the Town in a 5 - 1 drubbing at Bournemouth on August 27, 1932. The club ended that season with only twentynine points and had to apply for re-election for the first time ever. As a result, there was a major clear-out of playing staff and only centre-half Alec Lamie, goalkeeper Arthur Briggs and Harry were offered terms for 1933-34.

Throughout the six seasons until the outbreak of war, the name of Harry Cousins was seldom missing from the Swindon line-up and with the arrival of Stan Wilcockson in 1935 and George Morrall a year later, the half-back line became recognised as one of the best trios in the clubs long history. Harry openly admitted that he was never a great player, but was a fearless 'tackler and hated ending up on the losing side.

Paul Plowman

Harry got his name on the scoresheet on just one occasion - during a 4-2 victory over Torquay in March 1937 and two vears later chalked up his 250th appearance for the Town - and would have made many more had the war not intervened. When Swindon ceased operations temporarily, in May 1940, Harry assisted on the local football scene. He was to make just nine further appearances for the Town when league competitions resumed. Harry's last game at the County Ground was on November 2, 1946 and his farewell to Division Three South came at Aldershot nine weeks later on January 4, 1947. But his association with the club was far from over

Harry then took charge of the reserve side and in 1948 succeeded Harry Martin as first-team trainer - a post he was to hold for twenty-one years. Even then, in 1969 and at over sixty years of age, Harry stayed on to coach the up and coming stars of Swindon Town in the youth team.

Through the years Harry Cousins offered sound advice to scores of players, young and old, and I feel sure that those who paused to listen benefitted greatly from it.

		Apps			
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.,	1927-28	9	"	1933-34	41
"	1928-29	13	**	1934-35	32
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	1931-32	9	"	1937-38	35
		-	"	1938-39	42

1946-47 9 Total 356



A young Harry (middle row second from the left) in the Swindon squad for 1933-34.

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BACK ROW (left to right) Pat Kruse, Mark Hill, Gary Johnson, David McKellar, Alan Whitehead, Paul Priddy, Bob Booker, Gary Roberts, Danis Salman. FRONT ROW (left to right) Eddie Lyons (Physiotherapist), Tony Funnel (now AFC Bournemouth), David Crown, Barry Tucker, Ron Harris, Terry Hurlock, Paul Shrubb, Robbie Johnson, Paul Walker, Fred Callaghan (Team Manager)

John Ward talks to Mark Stevens

Mark Stevens is a tall, blond eighteen year old goal keeper snapped up by John Trollope when given a free transfer at the end of last season by Bristol Rovers. Tall is hardly an adequate description of Mark who stands 6' 2" and is strongly built to go with it. "I shouldn't have any problem with high crosses," he joked. "I am not saying that I am particularly good at them but I certainly don't have any excuses. On the other hand for someone of my size the thing to watch out for is getting down to the ball hit along the ground."

While he was still at school Mark played for Bristol Rovers Junior Side, Bristol Parkway before joining Rovers as an apprentice when he left school. He progressed to the Intermediate and Reserve Teams and when his apprenticeship was completed he was given the seal of approval by being taken on as a full professional. Such are the vagaries of football these days however - or perhaps it is the dawning realisation of the financial difficulties of keeping football clubs solvent - that he was almost immediately given a free transfer.

Bath City expressed an interest in him but before anything materialised there John Trollope asked him to come to Swindon. He had never been to Swindon before but the prospect of staying with a Football League club was sufficient incentive and he signed on 2 June.

Mark is living in digs in Swindon and expects to do so for some time before eventually looking for a flat. He goes back to visit his family in Bristol at weekends. His brother plays rugby for Bristol, something which Mark himself might well have achieved had he so chosen. "I've palyed everything for as long as I can remember," he said "including rugby. I started on football at junior school; the master put me in goal because I was the biggest and I have been there ever since. I would willingly play football seven days a week. I can't see myself ever becoming bored with it, I enjoy it so much."



Picture Parade...



A high-kicking Doncaster goalkeeper Willie Boyd leaps to collect a Town centre ahead of Swindon's Brian Hughes (left) in the last home game.

BY DAVE EVANS



Swindon's Russell Lewis (left) keeping very close to Dawson of Doncaster during the County Ground draw.



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FOOTBALL EXCURSIONS FROM THE COUNTY GROUND

Tuesday November 14th Saturday November 28th Saturday December 26th

Huddersfield Lincoln City Plymouth Argyle

DEPART FARE 09.00 £6.00 09.00 £5.50 09.00 £7.00

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TONIGHT'S TEAMS



The exact numberings of both teams will be announced over the PA system to enable spectators to insert the relevant numbers prior to the kick-off.

REFEREE:

MR. HOWARD W. KING (Troedynhiw, Merthyr Tydfil)

Began refereeing in 1967 in Merthyr Tydfil local leagues and progressed via the Welsh League to the Football League List. Officiated as linesman in a Wales v. Eire friendly match in 1979; in a U.E.F.A. Cup Quarter Final in 1980, and refereed Holland v. Cyprus - world cup qualifying game in 1981.

LINESMEN:

Red Flag: Mr. K.R. CLEWER - Worcester

Yellow Flag: Mr. G.D. CARR - Redditch