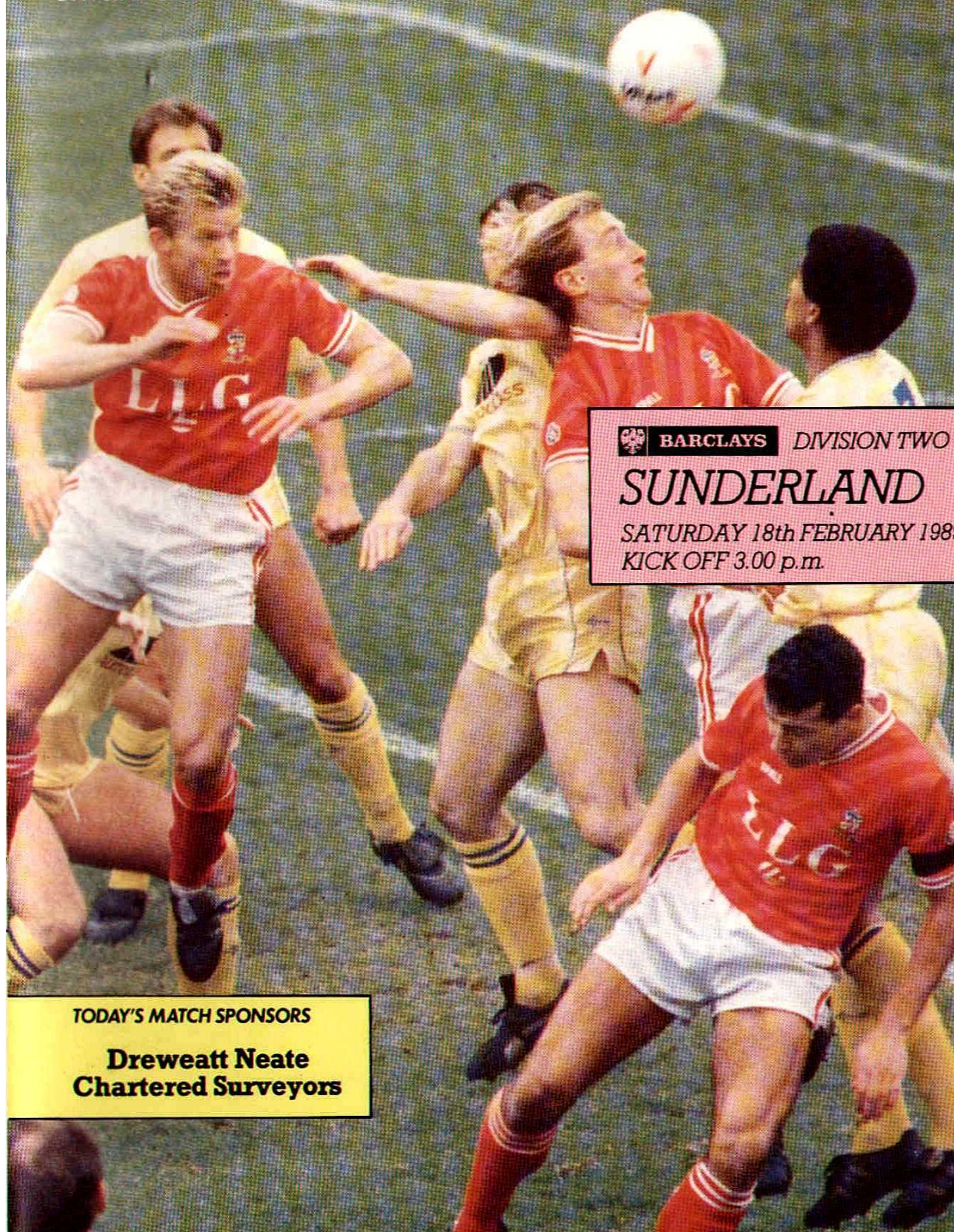


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All contributions published in this programme
do not necessarily reflect the view of Swindon
Town Football Club

HONOURS

Division 3 Promotion	
Play-Off Winners:	1986/87
Division Four Champions:	1985/86
Football League Cup	
Winners:	1969
Semi-Finalists:	1980
Anglo Italian	
Cup Winners:	1970
International League Cup	
Winners Cup:	
Winners:	1969
Division Three Runners Up:	1962-63, 1968-69
F.A. Charity Shield Finalists:	1911
F.A. Youth Cup Finalists:	1964
F.A. Cup Semi-Finalists:	1910, 1912



**A LOCAL DERBY AND
THE ALMOST SPRING WEATHER!**
Our last home League match against
our local rivals Oxford United gave
us a welcome boost after our dis-
appointing F.A. Cup exit. Disappoint-
ing because we more than held our
own against West Ham United at
Upton Park.

It was important that we bounced
back in our League programme. We
did and a clear 3-0 win was the best
tonic for everyone. It was pleasant to
see an attendance of 10,227. There
was the attraction of Manchester United
and Tottenham Hotspur's televised
match to compete with and also the
Lloyd Honeyghan and Marvin Stirling
World Middleweight Championship
fight.

A local derby and a bright almost
spring like afternoon was enough to
attract people out into the fresh air.

SOMEWHAT UNLUCKY?

Once again we shall be thankful that
we have a strong enough squad of
players with Steve Foley's suspen-
sion taking effect. Steve will be ab-
sent for two matches.

Although Steve had collected twenty
disciplinary points by November 19th
he had improved his record until the
West Ham United replay. Probably
being asked to play up front may have
cost him his improved record. When
you play as a striker you automatically
become involved in the hurly burly of
the game.

ROKER IMPROVEMENT

This afternoon we have the oppor-
tunity to help erase what was prob-
ably our most inept display of the
season from our minds. We lost 4-0 to
Sunderland at Roker Park last October.

It was a match in which we simply

**THE
MANAGER'S
VIEW**

BY

Lou Macari

did not perform and were suitably
punished. Today the players can help
to put that display right. The Roker
Park Club have been having a good
season following their promotion from
the Third Division at the first time of
asking. As I write these notes they have
just suffered their first defeat at home
in League matches and were the only
team in the Division with an impeccable
record. After their problems of recent
seasons it is nice to see Denis Smith,
the former York City Manager, bring
an air of stability to the Tyneside Club.

SEVEN UP?

NOT AGAINST SWINDON TOWN!
After Chelsea had scored seven goals
at Walsall the previous week you
must have all wondered what would
happen when we travelled to Stamford
Bridge. Would it be a case of after
the Lord Mayor's show or would the
London Club be able to sustain such
a goalscoring spree.

Well, we did our best to help them
out by conceding two own goals.
London has not been a happy place for
us to visit this season. We had already
lost to Crystal Palace and West Ham
United before our 3-2 defeat at Chelsea.

THANK YOU

There was a welcome response to
my plea for local business or Sports
Associations to assist Swindon Town
Football Club with training facilities.

On behalf of the Club I would like to
thank Wills Sports Club, Honda and
New College for their interest.

Sadly, there was no response from
Thamesdown Council for a permanent
base for which we were willing to
pay rent. Anyway, thanks to those
three interested parties for your inter-
est in the Club which provides so much
pleasure for the community of this town.

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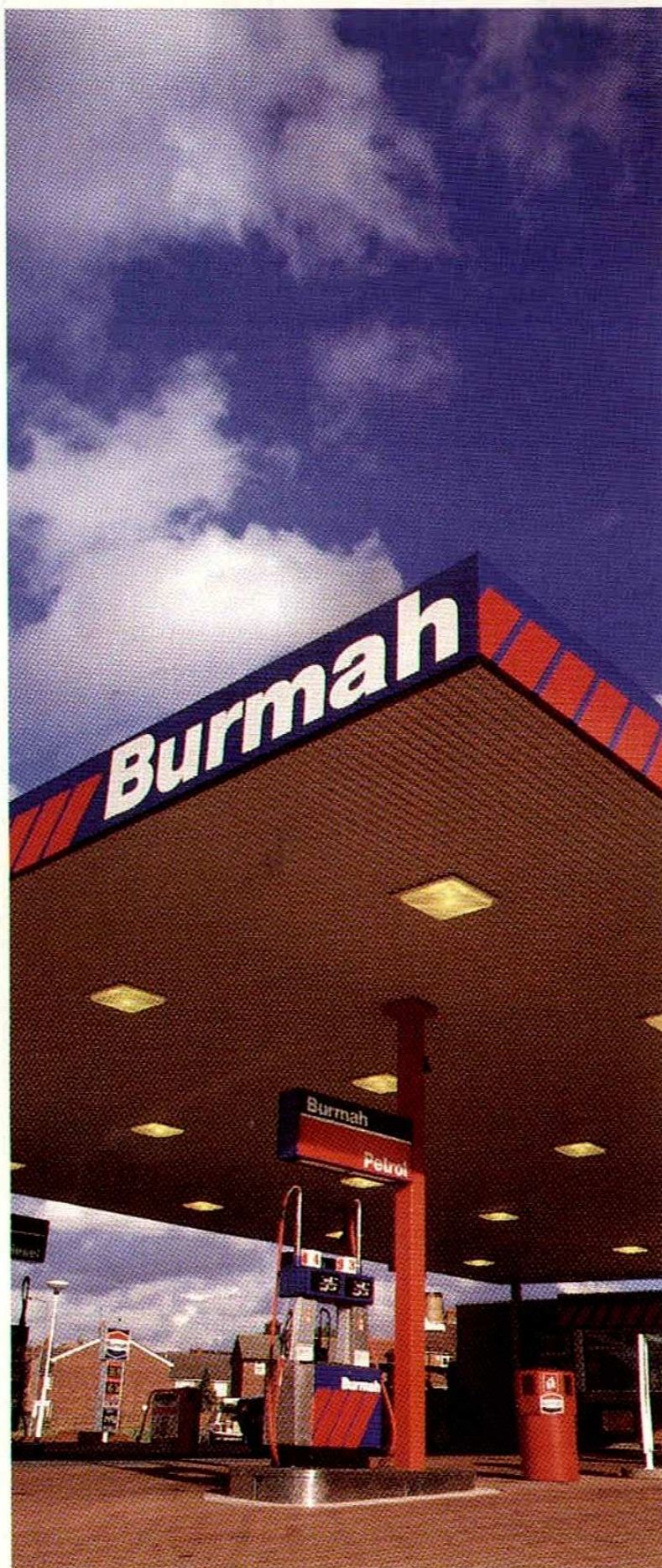
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A DARK McKNIGHT!

With a defensive display direct from the Allen McKnight manual of confidence and cover, the 'Town' emerged pointless from an inhospitable Stamford Bridge last Saturday. Had concentration and professionalism surfaced in the 'Town's' first fifteen minutes approach rather than ball-watching and nerves, we could have shocked a Chelsea side reliant on a sharp strike force but boasting a somewhat suspect defence.

CLINICAL GORDON

Gordon Durie's clinical but unchallenged fifth minute finish from eighteen yards, threatened to open goalscoring floodgates of Walsall-like proportions. This feeling began to spread on the terraces as another piece of clinical finishing put Chelsea two up. Steve Clarke's low cross provided Jon Gittens with a simple tap-in opportunity past Fraser Digby at the near post. If only it had been at the Shed End, then the large contingent of 'Town' fans wouldn't have seen it in all its glory. The goal was all the more strange, as Jon is usually the player to rely on for a hoof in the stand (or over it).

NEARLY AS GOOD AS A RUTH RENDELL MYSTERY

From the luxurious viewpoint afforded to the 'Town' fans, events at the Shed End were something of a mystery, a fact highlighted as the 'Town' pulled a goal back, but whether Joe McLaughlin or Steve Foley got the final touch didn't really matter.

Ross McLaren's own goal to widen the deficit again was another defensive disaster, six players and no mouth between them is no recipe for defensive safety.

GREAT GOAL PAUL

The highlight of a disappointing match for the 'Town' did however come from one of their many mute defenders as Paul Bodin beat Beasant with a tremendously judged lob.

SCOTT FREE



by Michael Scott

Although Bodin's goal inspired a typical 'Town' second half battle, Chelsea did enough to keep us out, aided by the block and bruise of the Pensioner Graham Roberts.

BIZARRE

As if the events of the game's ninety minutes weren't enough, the memories were kept flowing for half an hour afterwards as the Metropolitan Police kept a fair distance between us and the Shed's more boisterous individuals, all in all, the 'Town's' first League visit was as bizarre as Stamford Bridge itself. Threatened by redevelopment, Chelsea's ground is a fairly strange place, looking like a dog track with a space ship perched alongside it. In these days of ruthless property development, Stamford Bridge is one of the few grounds that may look better with a few blocks of yuppie flats on it. Only kidding, Ken, all football must unite against asset strippers wherever they are operating, even if you did once threaten terrace fans with a electrified fence.

GREEK COMEDY FOLLOWED BY WATERLOO?

Time seems to have finally stripped all the assets the English national side ever had, if their pitiful performance in Greece is anything to go by.

Albania looks set to become Bobby Robson's Waterloo, as the Greeks similar abilities to the mystery men of Europe made England look fairly ordinary. Without the Robson that really keep the team going we really would be in trouble, his winner in Greece saved some sort of face for the rest of the team and his namesake. Whether or not the Albanians will cartwheel through the streets singing their famed traditional folk songs remains to be seen, but a performance like the one in the Greek friendly mirrored in a World Cup qualifier spells very early danger for our chances of qualifying. There is a limit to what can be done in such a short space of time to inspire confidence as the overall style of the England outfit seems to be the overriding problem. Any side that contains players whose attitude to a friendly against Greece is to say "we needed to get a result" rather than, "we needed a convincing win" has a fundamental problem anyway.

ROKER UPSET

Sunderland will be eager to prove this afternoon that last Saturday's home defeat at the hands of Walsall really was one of the season's biggest fluke results. In the circumstances, the Wearsiders will be even tougher opposition than usual. Usual was, I suppose, a 4-0 defeat for the 'Town' at Roker Park on an afternoon when nothing went right.

NO GOALS TODAY, LADS

Any chance we may have had of making use of our game in hand and squeezing into the play-offs faded into the trendy air of the Kings Road last Saturday, but as this season is now another of consolidation, three points and a clean sheet would not go amiss after last Saturday's fiasco.

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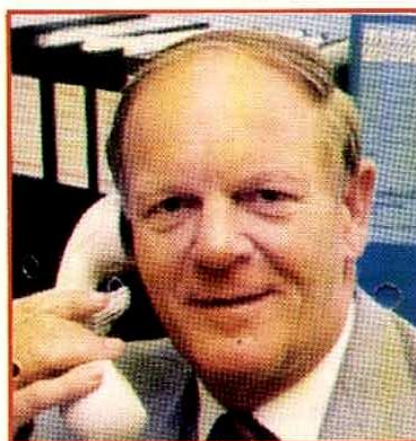
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Maximum 50 Persons.

RACE NIGHT 14 FEBRUARY

Our recent Race Night was a
tremendous success.

Around 130 people attended and
enjoyed themselves.

Our Chairman, Brian Hillier, was the
lucky person who won the 1st prize in
the raffle of £100.

Brian then donated the money to the
Charlie Henry Testimonial Fund.

Our thanks to all who sponsored the
evening and those who attended.

A special thanks to Dave Hollister for
all his hard work on the night.

Our next race night will be special end
of season evening on Tuesday 16th
May.

Make a date in your diary.

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Dreweatt Neate are very active in
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TODAY'S MASCOT



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Favourite player Dave Hockaday
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THE CHAIRMAN Speaking

BRIAN HILLIER



GROUP MEETING

On Thursday, April 9th, along with Mr Cecil Green, one of my fellow directors and a former distinguished Chairman of this Club and Dave King the Club Secretary, we attended a meeting of the Football League, South West Group to discuss the Football Spectators Bill.

Before dealing in more detail with the Bill, may I take this opportunity to explain which Clubs are included in this Group. Along with Swindon Town are Bristol City, who were hosts to the meeting. Also in attendance were Bristol Rovers, Plymouth Argyle, Southampton and Oxford United. AFC Bournemouth, Swansea City, Cardiff City, Exeter City and Torquay United are also included in the Group.

Addressing the meeting were the new Football League President - Mr Jack Dunnett, who was accompanied by Football League representatives - Mr Chris Walley and Mr Jack Crawford.

REPRESENTATION

Despite what you may have read or heard, Swindon Town Football Club have made strong representation to the various members of Parliament and to the House of Lords.

In fact at our match with West Ham United in attendance was Lord Carter. Only yesterday, Friday, February 17th Mr Simon Coombs attended a meeting of the Board of Directors at the County Ground. I can assure you all that both

gentlemen were in no doubt as to the opposition this particular Club will express to the Bill. Of course we ask everyone to protest in a dignified and orderly fashion.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT'S IDENTITY CARD SCHEME WILL MEAN TO YOU

The Government plans to introduce a Compulsory I.D. Card Scheme for football supporters in England and Wales.

You, the fans will have to buy an I.D. Card if you wish to attend football matches. You will have to fill in an application form and provide a photograph before you can be issued with a card. Your personal details will be stored on a computer and monitored. Football supporters will be the only people in the country who are made to have I.D. Cards.

On match days you will have to join a queue of people waiting to have their I.D. Cards checked before you enter the ground. If the computer breaks down there will be chaos. Even if the computers are working normally there is a good chance that somebody in the queue in front of you will have a card that will cause you delay.

If you are opposed to this scheme, please write to your local M.P. at: The House of Commons, London SN1A 0AA and ask him or her to oppose the Government's proposals.

In the next column are some of the points that you may like to make.

* The I.D. Card will not stop hooliganism (away from grounds)

* The scheme could cause serious delays at turnstiles

* The bureaucracy and cost of the scheme will deter thousands from going to matches and could ruin some smaller Clubs.

* Millions of law-abiding citizens including pensioners and season ticket holder are going to be inconvenienced by a scheme which will not benefit them, just to deal with a tiny minority of hooligans.

TO ASSIST YOU

To assist you in taking up this issue on behalf of every decent minded and law abiding supporter, who attends the County Ground. May I advise you of your Local parliamentary representative and their Constituencies.

Swindon: Simon Coombs - Conservative.

North Wiltshire: Richard Needham - Conservative.

Devizes: Hon Sir Charles Morrison - Conservative.

Swindon Town Football Club in co-operation with the National Football Supporters' Organisations have decided that we will ask our supporters to sign and send to their Local MP, a postcard, which will be distributed on the match day over the Easter Holiday period. This will be the attractive match we have with West Bromwich Albion at the County Ground.

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WILTSHIRE CONSTABULARY SUNDERLAND SUPPORTERS WELCOME TO SWINDON

To ensure your enjoyment of what promises to be a good afternoon's football, the Swindon Police are asking for your co-operation following the final whistle.

This means remaining quietly in your enclosure until home fans have left the area of the ground - probably a wait of some five to ten minutes. This will allow you to leave to board your coaches or get to your cars without interference. As a word of advice to supporters, the removal of favours - i.e. Scarves, Rosettes etc., is a sensible precaution.

Coaches will be parked nearby as you leave the ground and Police Officers will be present to answer any queries. We may escort supporters to the Railway Station. Would train travellers please gather at the rear of the car park adjacent to the County Ground Hotel after the game.

Above all, we ask that you are patient if faced with any delay after the match. Your coach or train will not leave without you and the Police arrangements have been made to help you.

SWINDON TOWN F.C. TRAVEL CLUB

Details of our forthcoming trips are as follows:-

Saturday 25th February
Depart at 8.45 a.m.

Saturday 4th March
Depart at 9.30 a.m.

Leeds United

Fare £7.50

Ipswich Town

Fare £7.00

Bookings are taken from members only but membership is still available for the remainder of the season at the cost of £3.00. You will need to bring 2 passport sized photographs along with your remittance to the Travel Club office and fill in an application form. We are situated at the rear of the North Stand and are open on match days (both before and after the game), Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (7.30 - 10.00 p.m.) Alternatively ring us on (0793) 611499 (24 hour answerphone).

The Travel Club Committee would like to thank all of you who came along to the disco we held and helped to celebrate 10 years of our existence. Thank you all for your support on the night and hopefully for the next 10 years.

WILTSHIRE PREMIER SHIELD SEMI-FINAL Chippenham Town

v

Swindon Town

on

Tuesday February 28th

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Kick-Off 7.30 p.m.

GOING TO IPSWICH on SATURDAY MARCH 4th?

All Swindon Town fans who intend to visit Portman Road for our 'Barclay' League Division Two fixture on Saturday March 4th please note that seats sold to visiting supporters will be restricted to members of that Club only.

Therefore, you will be asked to show your membership card together with a match ticket on entry into the ground.

GOING TO BIRMINGHAM on TUESDAY MARCH 11th

Terracing will be reserved for Swindon Town supporters at the Tilton Road End of the Ground. Entrance will be by a pay turnstile situated in Tilton Road, admission £4.00 per person.

Section 'A' of the Main Stand will be reserved for Swindon Town supporters. Entry is by ticket only. Individuals may purchase a ticket on the day of the match from the St. Andrews ticket office.

Car parking for the public is available in the Coventry Road Car Park which is adjacent to the ground, with admission of £1.00 per car. Programmes are priced at 60p each.

Facilities are available for the disabled and admission is free, but an accomplice will be charged £4.00. Applications must be made in advance of the match by telephone or in writing.

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A SECOND LOOK

A LOOK AT THE SECOND DIVISION SCENE

HOLIDAY TIME!

Crystal Palace flew off for a break in Spain this week – but they took their boots rather than sand shoes after their 2-2 draw with **Blackburn Rovers**.

Palace Manager, **Steve Coppell**, said "We were grateful for a point. We may be spending this week in Spain but it won't be a holiday.

"Instead of taking golf clubs, we will be packing a load of training boots."

Oxford United Manager **Brian Horton** took his players to Jersey in a slightly better frame of mind after a 1-0 win against **Portsmouth**. A 44th minute, twenty yard drive by midfielder player **Les Phillips** settled the issue to take United ten points clear of the relegation zone towards which Pompey are now heading after a run of just one win in twelve matches!

THE IMMOVABLE LAKE!

Manchester City have rejected **Liverpool's** £1.5m offer for versatile teenager **Paul Lake**.

The **Maine Road** Club Chairman **Peter Swales** said "We have had enquiries, but Paul is not going anywhere – and the same goes for other talented youngsters we have produced." Time will tell!

IT WON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE!

Leeds United striker **John Pearson**, who attracted the attention of Town boss **Lou Macari** earlier this season, has spent virtually all season on the substitutes bench, and that it exactly what Watford will have wished he had remained doing!

For within 60 seconds of replacing Bobby Davison, John's first touch was a spectacular flying header for his first goal of the season.

Following last Saturdays 1-1 draw he was still contemplating life as a substitute: "I don't think it will change much for me. I hate being sub but would rather be that than nothing at all."

Paul Wilkinson's 15th goal of the season had put Watford ahead in the thirty-fourth minute.

CONFIDENCE BOOSTER! NOT FROM ANDY!

Despite five goals against Walsall the previous week and the opening goal in our 3-2 defeat last Saturday, **Gordon Durie** could not have had his confidence or ego boosted by Scotland Manager **Andy Roxburgh's** after the match comment!

Andy said: "His goal was smashing. But the fact that he is in the Second Division does not do him or me any favours."

IT'S ALL GOING WELL FOR HARRY BOY!

AFC Bournemouth moved into today's F.A. Cup Fifth Round tie with **Manchester United** at **Dean Court** with these words from Manager **Harry Redknapp**. "Our win at Birmingham was crucial for us. Should the worst come to the worst and we get knocked out of the F.A. Cup there will still be plenty to play for."

That much became clear when **Cherries'** skipper **Mark Newson** headed the only goal to push his side into serious promotion contention.

MARK IN A COMEBACK BID?

Mark Lawrenson, who lost his job with **Oxford United** earlier this season as Manager, made his debut for **Barnet** in the 3-1 home defeat by **Telford** in the GM Vauxhall Conference League last Saturday.

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HOME												
AWAY												
Chelsea	29	8	4	2	28	14	7	5	2	31	15	54
Manchester City	28	8	5	1	30	14	7	3	4	13	10	53
Watford	28	9	3	2	25	9	5	3	6	17	20	48
Blackburn Rovers	28	10	2	2	29	17	4	4	6	17	23	48
West Bromwich Albion	28	8	4	2	28	11	4	6	4	18	16	46
AFC Bournemouth	28	9	2	4	19	10	4	3	7	12	22	43
Crystal Palace	27	7	6	1	25	12	4	3	6	18	23	42
Barnsley	28	8	4	2	26	15	3	5	6	13	22	42
Leeds United	28	8	3	3	22	11	2	8	4	12	15	41
Stoke City	28	8	4	2	21	12	3	4	7	13	32	41
Sunderland	28	7	6	1	22	11	3	4	7	14	21	40
Ipswich Town	28	7	2	5	25	17	5	2	7	17	22	40
Portsmouth	28	8	3	3	23	10	2	5	7	14	25	38
Hull City	28	6	7	1	23	10	4	1	9	16	29	38
Swindon Town	27	6	5	2	20	11	3	5	6	18	24	37
Plymouth Argyle	28	8	3	3	25	12	2	4	8	11	28	37
Leicester City	28	7	4	3	20	12	2	6	6	14	26	37
Oxford United	28	7	3	4	27	20	2	3	9	15	23	33
Bradford City	28	4	7	3	15	13	3	4	7	13	21	32
Brighton & Hove Albion	28	6	4	4	25	16	2	2	10	14	30	30
Oldham Athletic	28	5	5	4	27	20	1	5	8	15	26	28
Shrewsbury Town	28	1	7	6	12	19	3	4	7	10	24	23
Birmingham City	28	2	3	9	13	25	2	4	8	6	26	19
Walsall	28	2	3	9	15	29	1	5	8	9	22	17

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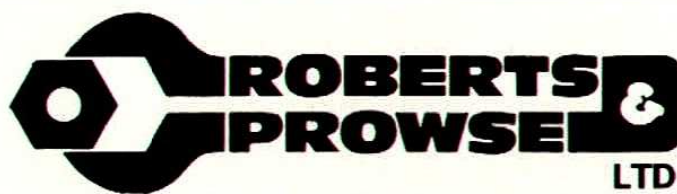
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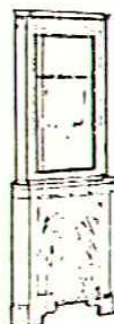
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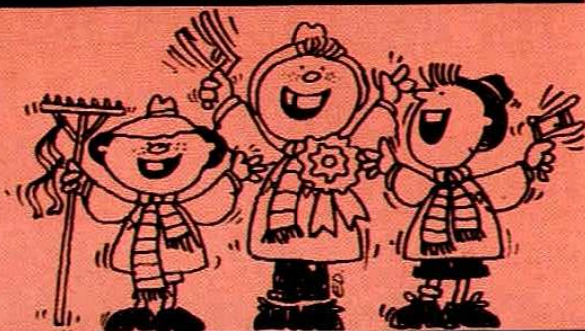
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JUNIOR ROBINS



It was good to see an increased attendance at our February meeting after the rather poor turnout in January. Our grateful thanks to Phil King who came along to this meeting although fortune has not been smiling on him recently. After a dismissal for a foul which was in no way vicious, but which the referee interpreted as serious foul play, he has found himself unable to regain a first team place due to the excellent form shown by his replacement, Paul Bodin. Such is the luck of football, but it was good to see that Phil was still smiling and to know that he has renewed his contract with Swindon.

If any members are looking for some good reading about football can I mention a periodical and a book. The periodical is called *Football Today*, and the fact that it is not just interested

in the big Clubs is shown by the fact that its matchday feature this month deals with Hartlepool United. It also includes an excellent readers letter page which often contains many sensible ideas and has on several occasions featured letters from Swindon fans. Available from newsagents, it can also be subscribed to on an annual basis direct. This latter system allows the subscriber to receive a binder for twelve monthly editions. The book is called 'Backpage Football a Century of Soccer Coverage' by Stephen Kelly. It features one or two of the important events in each year since 1888 and it is good to see articles from the times when newspapers reported the news rather than tried to make or manufacture it. Containing a good mixture of illustrated material and easily readable

text, it is an ideal introduction to the history of our great game.

We hope to be holding a Junior Supporters Day for those still at Primary School in the Easter Holidays. The provisional date is Thursday, March 30th and an application form will appear in a future programme.

Today we welcome two parties. Firstly, Lechlade Boys have been in action this morning against the Junior Robins Junior side at Lainesmead. Secondly, the Salisbury Boys side, which missed an earlier visit due to being hit by a flu virus, are with us today having been in action against Swindon Boys this morning. Welcome to you all. We hope you have enjoyed your football this morning and will witness an entertaining game this afternoon.

OUR NEXT OPPONENTS

Next Saturday we travel north to meet rejuvenated **Leeds United** at **Elland Road**. Since the appointment of former Sheffield Wednesday Manager, Howard Wilkinson, the fortunes of this famous Club have been on the up-grade.

Since the goal-less draw that took place at the **County Ground** last **October**, United have only lost two League matches, one of those at Elland Road. Before their visit to the County Ground, Leeds United had lost at Elland Road to **Chelsea (0-2)**, and **Watford (0-1)**.

The only victors at Elland Road since Howard Wilkinson's appointment have been, surprisingly, **Shrewsbury Town**

who won (3-2). Apart from their (2-0) win against **Barnsley**, United had been forced to share the points with **Oxford United**, and **Manchester City** in 1-1 draws before the arrival of the former Sheffield Wednesday supremo.

Since that uncertain start, the following Clubs have found that Elland Road is now a much more difficult venue to visit. **Hull City** were defeated (2-1), high flying **West Bromwich Albion** were defeated in identical fashion. **Stoke City** were trounced 4-0, the hiccup against **Shrewsbury Town** proved to be a minor set-back and both **Blackburn Rovers** and **Plymouth Argyle** left pointless following 2-0 defeats. Struggling **Birmingham City** provided sterner opposition in 1-0 defeat. Today's visitors **Sunderland** joined the growing list of vanquished in 2-0 set-back. Can **Swindon Town** upset the form book?

The **Leeds United** defence has remained intact since their October visit

to the **County Ground** with **Mervyn Day**, **Neil Aspin**, **Glyn Snodin**, **Mark Aizlewood**, **Noel Blake** and **David Rennie** appearing in every game. Except for one appearance by the on-loan **Ian Andrews** from **Glasgow Celtic** in the away match with **Crystal Palace**. **Ian** was once on loan here at the County Ground for **Leicester City** in our Fourth Division days.

Up front **Ian Baird**, **Bobby Davison** and **Vince Hilaire** have also appeared in every match since that October day here at the County Ground.

In midfield **John Sheridan** has missed one match since appearing in the goal-less County Ground encounter. The combative **David Batty** has been replaced by **Mike Whitlow**.

Attendances at Elland Road are, as ever, the envy of most Second Division Clubs. The **Boxing Day** fixture against **Blackburn Rovers** attracted the seasons best of 31,622.

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HELPING THE GAME

The Football Trust receives £9 million annually from the Spotting-the-Ball competition run by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettlers and spends it all on projects which benefit football throughout the United Kingdom.

Since 1979 it has been committed to the development of the game at every level and its broad and varying initiatives have ranged from essential safety work at Tottenham to social work at Toxteth; refurbishment at Wembley to repairs at Welling; closed circuit television at all League clubs to community facilities at Oldham Athletic; transport improvements at Sheffield Wednesday to storm damage in the South East of England; from policing costs at Hull City to an artificial pitch at Hyde United.

1988-89 will see The Football Trust increase its commitment by investing further sums in closed circuit television, transport facilities for supporters and projects to bring Football League clubs closer to their local community.

WARNING

At the beginning of the season more than 110 League grounds in England, Wales and Scotland will be equipped with CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION which has been funded by The Football Trust.

It is there to increase crowd safety and to help the police. Recording facilities enable film and photographs to be taken of disorder, which may subsequently be used in a court of law.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

SAFETY FIRST

Football grounds in England and Wales have reached their highest ever level of safety thanks to the £23,671,425 invested by the Football Grounds Improvement Trust since 1975.

Almost every League club has been assisted with essential safety work and further substantial sums have been spent to enable them to improve facilities. In the past year alone FGIT grants to Football League clubs totalled:

	£
Safety	2,254,723
Improvements	770,561

In addition to its safety programme, FGIT has also allocated £1.5 million to build or improve family and disabled facilities at League grounds during 1988.

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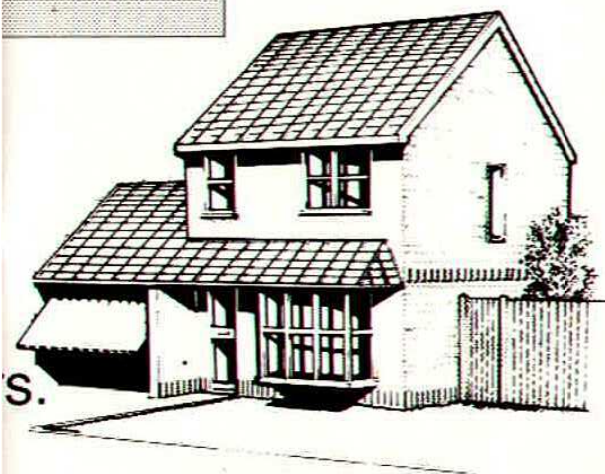
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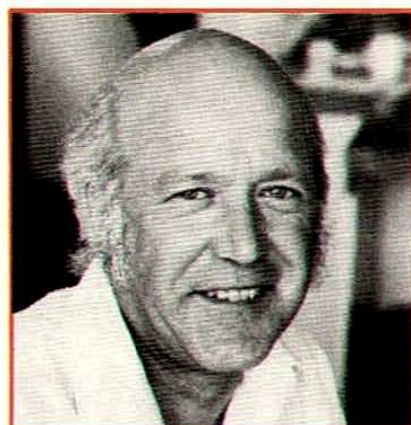
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TAKING THE Opposite VIEW

SUNDERLAND



by Dave Eaton



Back Row: Colin Pascoe, John Cornforth, Gary Owers, Gary Bennet, John Macphail, Gordon Armstrong, Richard Ord, Ricardo Gabbiadini.
Middle Row: Steve Smelt, Malcolm Crosby, Frank Gray, Tom Lynch, Michael Heathcote, Ian Hesford, Tim Carter, Barry Richardson, Sean Wharton, Paul McKenzie, John Hepple, Chris McMenemy, Jim Morrow.
Front Row: John Kay, Paul Lemon, Marco Gabbiadini, Steve Doyle, Viv Busby, Denis Smith, Gary Ogilvie, Reuben Agboola, Anthony Cullen, Eric Gates.

Sunderland are a Club steeped in tradition who have produced many household names over the years and enjoyed considerable success.

During this decade though the proud North-Eastern side from Wearside hit an all-time low.

They were relegated from the First Division at the end of the 1984-85 season and also lost at Wembley to Norwich City 1-0 in the final of the Milk Cup.

Two seasons later they had plummeted into the Third Division for the first time in their history, a victim of the controversial play-offs introduced for the first time in May of 1987.

The Roker Park Directors looked for new blood immediately and appointed Denis Smith as Manager. In his first managerial

position at York he had enjoyed tremendous success - the Sunderland Directors were hoping that he could be the one to revive the fortunes on Wearside. Smith repaid their faith immediately. Last season he led the Club to the Third Division title and this year Sunderland are handily placed in the Second Division to challenge for a place back in the top flight again.

Sunderland were formed in 1879 and turned professional in 1886. Four years later they were elected to the First Division and maintained that place for 68 years until dropping to the Second at the end of the 1957-58 season.

For the first two years of the Clubs existence they were known as Sunderland and District Teachers AFC and between 1879 and 1898 played on five different grounds

until moving to their present home at Roker Park.

In that first spell in the First Division that lasted 68 years, Sunderland won the League title on no fewer than six occasions. The first success was gained during 1891-92 and immediately followed up again the next season. The other four First Division titles were achieved in 1894-95, 1901-02, 1912-13 and 1935-36, and during this same spell they finished as runners-up five times.

Since 1958, when dropping to the Second Division for the first time, they have three times gained promotion back to the First by winning the Second Division crown, once in 1975-76 and ending up as runners-up twice in 1963-64 and 1979-80.

In the F.A. Cup Sunderland lost in their first appearance in the final in 1913. However, they made amends for this in 1937, defeating Preston 3-1.

The trophy returned again to Wearside in 1973 when, as a Second Division Club, they defied all the odds defeating the mighty Leeds side 1-0 thanks to a first-half goal from Ian Porterfield. Those of us who witnessed the game will never forget the scenes afterwards as goalkeeping hero Jim Montgomery and Manager Bob Stokoe danced and hugged in celebration on the hallowed Wembley turf.

Sunderland were to return to Wembley again in 1985 but this time there was no celebration. They missed a penalty and were beaten 1-0 by Norwich in the League Cup final. Less than two months later, to complete a dismal time, they were relegated as well from the First Division.

MEET THE PLAYERS AND MANAGER

Denis Smith (Manager). Formerly a strong centre-half with Stoke City for whom he played over four hundred times beginning in 1968. Denis represented the Football League and won a League Cup Winners Medal in 1972. He finished his career at York and on becoming Manager transformed a

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struggling outfit into one which stormed to the Fourth Division Championship and enjoyed some famous cup exploits. Last season, Denis was the Third Division Manager of the Year, a reward for a well won Championship while making a profit in the transfer market.

Viv Busby (Chief Coach). Viv played for nine Clubs in his playing career. A good goal scorer he inspired Fulham to the 1975 F.A. Cup Final with half a dozen goals along the Cup trail. Busby ended his playing days at York and then worked as coach with Denis Smith, moving to Roker with him.

Tony Norman (Goalkeeper). Moved to Roker Park towards the latter part of 1988 from Hull City in a deal that saw Iain Hesford and Billy Whitehurst moving the other way. A vastly experienced goalkeeper, he celebrates his 31st birthday later this month. Began his career at Burnley during the 76-77 season but never broke into the League side. Moved onto Hull during 79-80 season making his League debut against Millwall on February 16 1980, and from then on virtually made the position his own. An ever-present between the posts in the last five seasons for Hull.

Reuben Agboola (Defender). A Londoner, he made his League debut at Old Trafford in 1980 for Southampton, the Club where he began as an apprentice. Went on to make over one hundred appearances before moving to Roker in January 1985. Made the left back berth his own last season. Briefly loaned to Charlton Athletic in 1986.

Frank Gray (Defender). A vastly experienced Scottish International operating on a weekly contract. He is hoping for a break into management after a career that has seen him play in three major European Finals, one domestic final as well as being part of Championship winning sides in Division One and Three. Capped at full and Under-21 level. Frank played in the 1982 World Cup Finals. Previous Clubs are Leeds United twice and Notts Forest.

John Macphail (Defender). Third top scorer with sixteen goals last season including an excellent penalty taking record. Made his debut against Rangers at Ibrox for Dundee.



● Gary Bennett

Later played for Sheffield United, York and Bristol City winning Division Four titles with both Yorkshire Clubs and playing at Wembley with Bristol City before joining Sunderland at the beginning of last season. He was the only ever present in all competitions last season and was voted top Sunderland player last year by North Eastern Sportswriters.



● Eric Gates

Gary Bennett (Defender). Club Captain and the only survivor of Sunderland's 1985 Milk Cup Final team. He began at Manchester City before establishing himself at Cardiff City. Scored against Peter Shilton within two minutes of his debut for Sunderland in 1984. His brother, Dave, plays for Coventry.

Richard Ord (Defender). Eighteen-year-old, who is considered by many to be the best defender unearthed by the Club since Colin Todd. His debut last season in the 7-0 win over Southend coincided with the Clubs biggest win in thirty-one years. A versatile athlete who has played in several positions for the junior sides including goalkeeper in an emergency. He is also a talented cricketer.

Gordon Armstrong (Midfield). A bright prospect who has clocked up over a century of League games although only twenty-one years of age. Began at Roker as an apprentice and appeared 37 times in last years Third Division Championship winning side.

Paul Lemon (Midfield). Although only twenty-two, he is Sunderland's longest serving player having joined the Club in 1982. As a fifteen-year-old he scored in the F.A. Youth Cup semi-finals against Manchester United and made his debut in the First Division at Aston Villa in December 1984. Had a brief spell on loan to Carlisle but is now a regular at Sunderland having made sixty-five League appearances in the previous two seasons.

John Cornforth (Midfield). A talented, creative player, he began to break into the League side again last season following a barren two year spell. Spent a loan period

with Doncaster in 1986, making seven appearances and scoring three goals.

Gary Owers (Midfield). A former apprentice, he enjoyed a tremendous first season last year making 37 League appearances and scoring four goals. He was called up by the England Youth Squad, an acknowledgement of his exciting attacking play and whole hearted endeavour.

Steve Doyle (Midfield). An experienced player who made his League bow in 1974 for Preston. After eight seasons at Deepdale, he moved to Huddersfield staying for five years before joining Sunderland. Has gained promotion with all of his Clubs and earned Welsh caps at Under-21 and Youth level. Born in Port Talbot, the 30-year-old had notched up 423 League games with his three Clubs prior to the start of this season.

Colin Pascoe (Forward). Signed from Swansea on transfer deadline day last season. He played in final nine League games and scored four times. A former apprentice at Swansea, made 174 League appearances for them in all four Divisions. Has represented Wales at Full, Under-21 and Youth level.

Eric Gates (Forward). The 33-year-old became the first Sunderland player to score two hat-tricks in a season for twenty years last season. A full England International, he won a U.E.F.A. Cup Winners medal with Ipswich in 1981 and was a vital part of their exciting team during the seventies and early eighties. Made a total of 298 League appearances for the East Anglian side before moving to Roker Park.

Marco Gabbiadini (Forward). Made a sensational start following his transfer from York in September 1987. The 21-year-old finished last season as top scorer in his first season at Sunderland with 21 goals in only 35 League appearances. Born in Nottingham, he was an apprentice at York and scored 14 goals for them in 60 appearances before signing for Sunderland.



● Marco Gabbiadini

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TUNE IN WITH GWR'S VIC MORGAN



A WEARY TIME!

Good afternoon and welcome to the County Ground, especially those of you who have risen from your slumbers at some un-Godly hour to make the journey from Wearside.

I well remember doing the same thing on a sunny day last October when the result was, I think, 4-0 to Sunderland, maybe we'll see a reversal of that scoreline this afternoon. Whatever happens, welcome to Sunderland, a great Club with a fine Manager. It should be a cracking game.

NO ATMOSPHERE AT CHELSEA

Talking of cracking games, I had to smile contentedly to myself following the Oxford United match here when the old enemy was vanquished 3-0. A satisfactory result for all Town fans which went a little way to dispelling the disappointment of the West Ham Cup replay. Mind you, what a bizarre encounter the Chelsea match was. There seemed little atmosphere at Stamford Bridge, despite a 17,000 plus crowd, and the game itself had more than a touch of slapstick about it. But Swindon showed they are a match for the top sides in the Division and had the Town goal not had the magnetic attraction of the North Pole to its own players, Swindon would have taken a deserved point.

AGAIN, A BIAS!

One thing that slightly surprised me about the Oxford game was the coverage on the new Central News South, the following day. Despite the Swindon victory it was Oxford who came out as the featured side and this seems to have been maintained since then. It looks at the moment then as if the County Ground Club are coming off

second best and seem not to command its share of coverage despite being the top side in the area. Maybe I'm being unfair to Central, after all a small mention is better than none at all, but it would be nice to have just a little more. I dare say Oxford think the same in reverse. You can't please all the people ... etc.

GOOD LUCK 'WOMBLES'

Time now perhaps to consider the football scene over the past few weeks. It seems little has changed since my last programme offering. Vinny Jones has been in trouble again, encouraging almost hysterical headlines portraying him in the same league as Jack the Ripper, in terms of cold blooded violence. I will go back to what I said two weeks ago, Wimbledon get results playing to their strengths and seem to have ruffled a few establishment feathers. Well good luck to them, I hope they worry the 'Superleaguers' for a long time to come.

GOOD LUCK FRANK

Next weekend sees the long awaited Mike Tyson-Frank Bruno Heavyweight showdown in Las Vegas. It promises to be quite an occasion and certainly everyone on this side of the pond must hope that Big Frank pulls off one of the great shocks in boxing history. Now while I appreciate Tyson isn't quite in the Vinny Jones class, he still looks a fearsome opponent and I wouldn't get in the ring with him for any amount of cash. On paper it should be a quick contest with Tyson looking unbeatable and I suppose I would have to back the American. But there's always the unknown and it isn't completely out of the question that Britain could have the new World Heavyweight champion. Good luck Frank, let's all spare him a

thought next Saturday night.

BBC WILTSHIRE SOUND

There are some changes afoot in the not so distant future I have to tell you about and all will become clear in the fullness of time. Basically they relate to a new radio station which will be on the air in April. BBC Wiltshire Sound will take to the airwaves in the spring and naturally will cover Swindon Town. As always the Club has extended a warm welcome to the organisation and its reporter. The identity of that reporter will be revealed shortly. Stay tuned for the details.

Finally our regular look at football is at its humblest level and with GWRFC I really do mean humble. Defeat by 2-0 at St. Ivel was not too bad as our lads gave a fighting display and went down by two breakaways. Honest!

TWO HORSES AND HALF A DOZEN SHEEP

The following week saw a 4-1 victory in our final home game of the season over ISSC. A superb display and my decision to choose an attacking formation seemed justified with wave after wave of fluent football. But what set it up was the team picture taken before the game. A fine portrait with Fairford Church in the background. The only disappointment not being able to drag our loyal supporters - two horses and half a dozen sheep - into the line-up. We have just three games left before a chance to rest our weary limbs. But we are open for friendlies - any offers? I'll try to put pressure on the editor to publish the aforementioned team photograph, it'll make a fine addition to the programme.

Back now to the matter in hand, let's enjoy a good, peaceful game of football. Stay tuned.

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FOOTBALL COMBINATION & YOUTH TEAM NEWS

ODDS IN THEIR FAVOUR... BUT!

Our Youth team lost their vital away win fixture against Brentford on Saturday February 4th. Their title aspirations took a setback in this South East Counties League Division Two fixture when they lost 2-0. Although Brentford were handicapped by having only ten players for most of the match our Youth team were unable to capitalise.

Town Youth team Manager, John Trollope had this to say of the game, "Needing to avoid defeat to maintain our challenge for the League title, we competed well, with a good shape, discipline and concentration against a good strong and bigger Brentford team. There were few clear cut chances that were created by either side in a goal-less first half, which was marred by the sending off of the Brentford full back.

Although having an extra man we failed to take advantage but defended well against two very good strikers who caused us a lot of problems. Two defensive errors in the last seven minutes allowed **Kelly Haig** and **Marcus Gale** to score and Brentford to take the points.

Our lesson from this game should be that when we are playing a better team on the day, half a loaf is better than none and to show more resolution to succeed."

Team: Thompson, Lea, Graham, Quinn, Sandrey, Murray, Hammersley, Trollope, Summerbee, Hunt, Morgan.

Substitutes: Dixon (for Murray in 85th min.) Spalding.

SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR!

The fact that it was school half-term and also the added attraction of Russian International **Sergei Baltacha** probably accounted for our highest attendance in Football Combination matches this season to date.

Unfortunately the 270 saw our Reserve team lose 1-0 on Tuesday, February 8th at the County Ground.

Town Coach **Andy Rowland** in his report of the game said, "We could count ourselves as very unfortunate to have lost after controlling the game for long periods.

As early as the fifth minute Fitzroy Simpson hit the underside of the bar from twenty five yards range. We continued to dominate but although we created several chances we were unable to score the vital goal.

The Ipswich line-up which also included the highly rated **Dalian Atkinson** knew that they had been in a very competitive game but their consolation came when **Simon**

Milton put the Portman Road Club into the lead with three minutes left to play."

Team: Petterson, Barnard, Marshall, Henry, Parkin, King, Tomlinson, Simpson, Morgan G, Viveash, Barnes.

Substitutes: Sandrey and Hunt.

AGAINST THE ODDS

Our Allied Counties Youth League team were dismissed from the League Cup by Reading on Monday, February 6th. Their 3-2 defeat in a match played at Elm Park came after a brave fight after having central defender **Martin Churchward** dismissed in the first half.

Town Youth team Manager, John Trollope in his report on this Cup encounter said, "This turned out to be an incident packed game with five goals scored, a sending off and several near misses. Unfortunately it was our central defender **Martin Churchward** who was dismissed for a foul from behind in the thirty third minute of the game.

Although we battled well in the second half despite our reduction in numbers, the extra man eventually told and Reading eventually scored the winning goal midway through the second half.

It was a disappointing result, for with a full team a result in our favour was always possible, but all credit to our lads for not allowing their heads to drop."



● **Liam Dixon** – celebrated his return to goalscoring form following his long early season setback from injury, with another goal in our League Cup defeat at Elm Park, against Reading.



● **Paul Hunt** – who saved a point in our South East Counties League encounter at Brighton last Saturday.

Team: Thompson, Spalding, Graham, Lea, Churchward, Murray, Walker, Trollope, Macari, Dixon, Quinn.

Substitutes: Braidwood (for Walker in 78th min.) Payne.

PAUL SAVES A POINT

Our South East Counties Youth League team drew their away match 1-1 at Brighton on Saturday, February 11th.

It was a dour and defensive game particularly in the first half when neither side could create a good scoring chance.

The second half continued in the same vein until **Mark Crumpwright** put Brighton ahead in the 62nd minute. Within ten minutes Paul Trollope had sent **Paul Hunt** away to equalise with a lob over keeper **Tim Ellison's** head.

Only a brilliant save by Ellison prevented substitute **Richard Walker** from giving the Town a vital win in the dying minutes of the game.

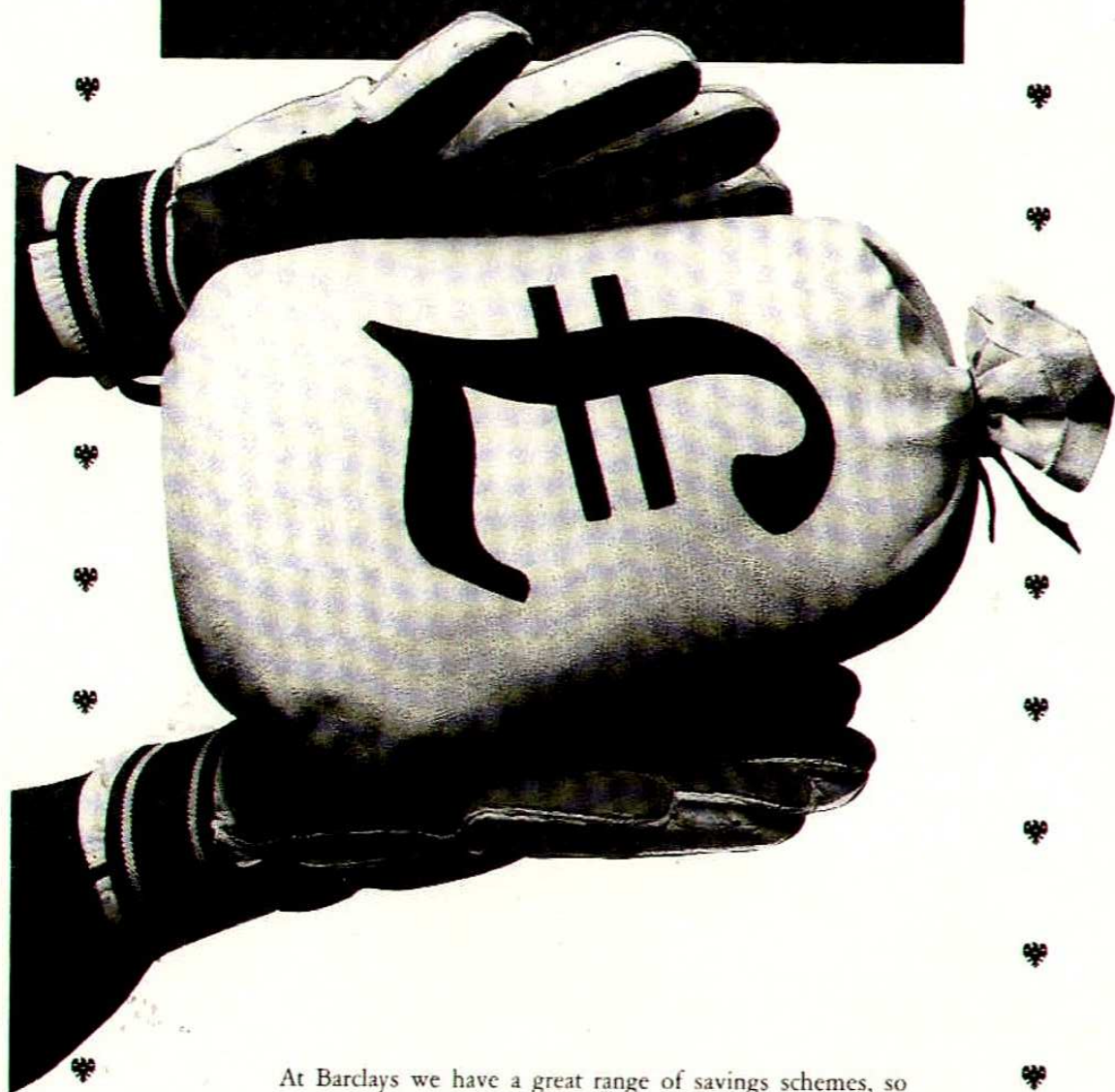
A match which Town Youth team Manager **John Trollope** has this to say in his summing up, "An average performance, lacking real enthusiasm and thought especially in attacking areas. We must seek to make better and earlier decisions and appreciate that usually the simple ball is the best."

Team: Thompson, Lea, Graham, Morgan, Sandrey, Murray, Hammersley, Trollope, Summerbee, Hunt, Dixon.

Substitutes: Walker and Spalding.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

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GUILTY

We have been informed by **Wiltshire Constabulary** that **Mark Rivers**, **Steven Truman** and **Jonathan Webber** of **15, Eastcott Hill, Swindon** appeared at **Swindon Magistrates Court** on **25th October 1988** and were found guilty and fined **£100** each with regard to burglary of football kit from **Swindon Town Football Club** between **17th/18th September 1988**.

Rivers was ordered to pay compensation.

CUP RECEIPTS

The various **Cup competitions** have shown the following net gain for **Swindon Town** this season. From the **First Leg** of the **Littlewoods Cup** against **Crystal Palace** at the **County Ground** we retained **£10,019.83** as **45%** of our share of a **7,064** attendance.

The **Second Leg** at **Selhurst Park** saw our share as **£8,307.05** from the **6,023** present. Therefore our retention totalled **£18,326.88** from the **Littlewoods Cup**.

The **Simod Cup** was really a non-event for **Swindon Town**. Our visit to **Carrow Road** saw the Town take a miserly **£1,299.70** as their **40%** share from the **5,014** who watched the match with **Norwich City**.

Our longer run in the most illustrious of the Cup competitions, the **F.A. Cup**, netted **£15,758.53** from the **10,403** who watched our **Third Round** match at **Fratton Park** against **Portsmouth** as our **45%** of the gross receipts.

The percentage falls slightly in the case of a replay so our share of the gross receipts was **42½%**. This gave the Club a net retention of **£16,476.46** from the **Third Round replay** at the **County Ground**.

Our **Fourth Round** tie against **West Ham United** at the **County Ground** produced record receipts of **£85,679.92**. Our **45%** share of this figure pro-

duced net receipts of **£30,421.34**.

Our visit to **Upton Park** for the **Fourth Round replay** saw our **42½%** of the gate receipts total **£48,034.34**.

The accrued share of receipts from the **F.A. Cup** for **Swindon Town** therefore showed a total of **£110,690.67**.

SEMI-PROFESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL

England will meet **Wales** at **Kidderminster Harriers Football Club** on **Tuesday 21st March, 1989**, the kick-off time is **7.30 p.m.**

England met **Italy** in an away fixture at this level on **29th January 1989** and the result was a **1-1** draw. The **England** goalscorer was **Mark Carter** of **Runcorn**.

CONGRATULATIONS DEREK

One of the Club's most ardent and devoted supporters is **Derek Elston** from **Kingsthorpe, Northampton**. Named as Supporter of the Year last term, **Derek** watched his **400th** consecutive **Swindon Town** match when we visited **Crystal Palace** on **January 21st** for our **'Barclays' league Division Two** fixture. Pity the result could not have been more favourable for a day that **Derek** would have recalled with pleasure in years to come. The Town lost **2-1** after appearing set to record their first victory at **Selhurst Park** for over thirty years.

PLEASE NOTE

For those of you who intend to travel to watch the Town play **Ipswich Town** at **Portman Road** on **March 4th** the **East Anglian Club** have asked us to make the following instruction known to you.

If you wish to attend the match and sit in the stands at **Portman Road** you will be asked to show your **Swindon Town membership card** together with a match ticket on entry into the ground. Therefore seats sold

to visiting supporters are restricted to **Swindon Town** members.

UPS AND DOWNS

We have received a number of letters from supporters asking us to publish the detail surrounding the end-of-season play-offs and how they will be decided.

Although the number of Clubs in each Division will not be reduced, the Football League agreed to keep the play-offs operational at the end of this season because of the great interest they have created since being introduced in 1986-87. Attendances have been magnificent and Clubs have certainly benefitted from the revenue gained from the vital and nail-biting contests.

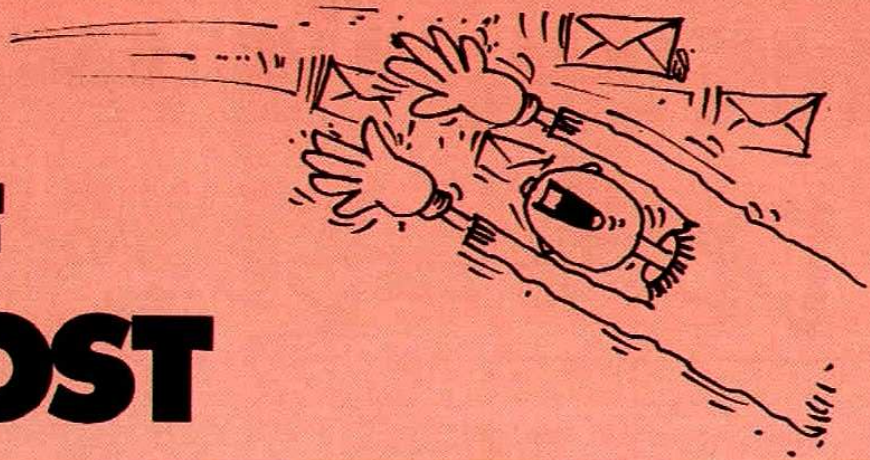
This season the play-offs will operate as follows:

Three teams will automatically be relegated from the First Division, with the top two in the Second automatically winning promotion. But the next four teams will play-off to decide which will be the third Club to win a place in the top flight. The bottom three Clubs will be relegated from Division Two, with the champions and runners-up automatically coming from Division Three. Those Clubs placed 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th will then play-off to decide who fills that other promotion spot. Down from Division Three will go four Clubs, and three will automatically win promotion from the Fourth Division. This will leave one place available in Division 3 and the Clubs finishing 4th, 5th, 6th and as low as seventh will fight it out for the right to gain a place one Division higher.

Whoever finishes at the foot of the Fourth Division - 92nd in the Football League - will automatically lose their place and hand over to the champions of the GM Vauxhall Conference.

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IN OFF THE POST



George Gay Gardens
Park South

Dear Mr King,

This is just a letter of appreciation for your kindness to my son and his two young boys last Saturday, in taking them in and introducing them to the officials and players before the match with West Ham, and we are very grateful. I am sure they will remember this experience for a long time. My wife and I are keen supporters of Swindon Town F.C. even though by reason of circumstance we cannot attend every match, but we are always interested in the results – and are especially happy when the team have been fortunate to have a win! We are indeed hoping for this tonight in their replay of West Ham.

One of my grandsons has his birthday in December, and we wondered if it might be possible for him to be the 'mascot' at a home match near that particular day? We would not wish to interfere with your normal arrangements, but only wondered what the possibility might be. We have been really interested in the little boy who has been the mascot in some recent matches, it was so nice to see him.

With all good wishes

Your sincerely

(Rev) George A. and Mrs K. Hudson.

Hardens Mead
Chippenham

Dear Sir,

I was interested in your reference to previous Swindon-West Ham Cup Ties in Saturday's programme.

The Fifth Round match, twenty five years ago was played at the County Ground, not Upton Park, on 15.2.64. The teams were: **Swindon – Turner, Wollen, Trollope, Morgan, McPherson, Woodruff, Summerbee, Atkins, Stevens, Darcy, Rogers.**

West Ham United – Standen, Bond, Burkett, Bovington, Brown, Moore, Brabrook, Boyce, Byrne, Hurst, Sissons.

Hurst scored first for West Ham; McPherson equalised, Byrne put the Hammers in front again, and Hurst scored their third.

I have just copied these details from my match programme, which I have filed away with over three hundred since.

Incidentally, the following week, Town were home to Preston in the League, and lost 4-1. This Preston team was one of the best I have seen; I wasn't surprised that they reached the Final, despite being a Second Division team, and were unlucky not to return to the First Division, finishing third.

A good question for your Club statistician: Is this the only time that both Wembley finalists have appeared at the County Ground in consecutive matches? I expect it must be.

West Ham also knocked Swindon out of the League Cup in 1963-64. A 3-3 draw at the County Ground on 19.11.63 was followed by a 1-4 defeat at Upton Park on 25.11.63.

By the way I think that the bottom three First Division teams will be relegated at the end of the season, not two. The top two Second Division Clubs go up automatically, and the next four play-off for the third promotion place – I think! The system is always changing, a little clarification might help!

Yours faithfully

F.J. Endacott.

Ed: Please turn to Newsdesk for that clarification.

Swindon Supporters in London Association

Dear fans,

As no doubt you have all seen on TV by now, that Mr Brian Clough was recently involved in 'skirmishes' on his Nottingham Forest pitch. However, as yet, no action has been taken against him. While I do not wish to pass judgement on Mr Clough I would like to bring to your attention an incident that was witnessed by many during the Palace v Swindon match on Saturday, 21st January.

The incident I refer to was when a young Palace fan was ejected from the stands by an over zealous P.C. after throwing a blow-up, red London bus, all of 5ft over a wall into a crowd of his fellow Palace fans standing on the terraces.

He was, no doubt, bent on causing G.B.H. to his pals (as our friendly P.C. correctly observed!) or was trying to provoke a riot with the Swindon fans by questuring that our transport home would, at 5.00 p.m., be hurled about the place in an unseemly manner!

While I neither Condemn, in this letter, the action of Mr Clough (for whom I have great respect), nor condone that of the Palace fan, it is blatenetly obvious that there are wide differences in the limits of acceptable behaviour when it comes to different members of the footballing community, however different the circumstances. As would not Mr Clough have been celebrated as a practical joker for throwing the said bus in either circumstance and the Palace fan in severe trouble for throwing punches in the same?

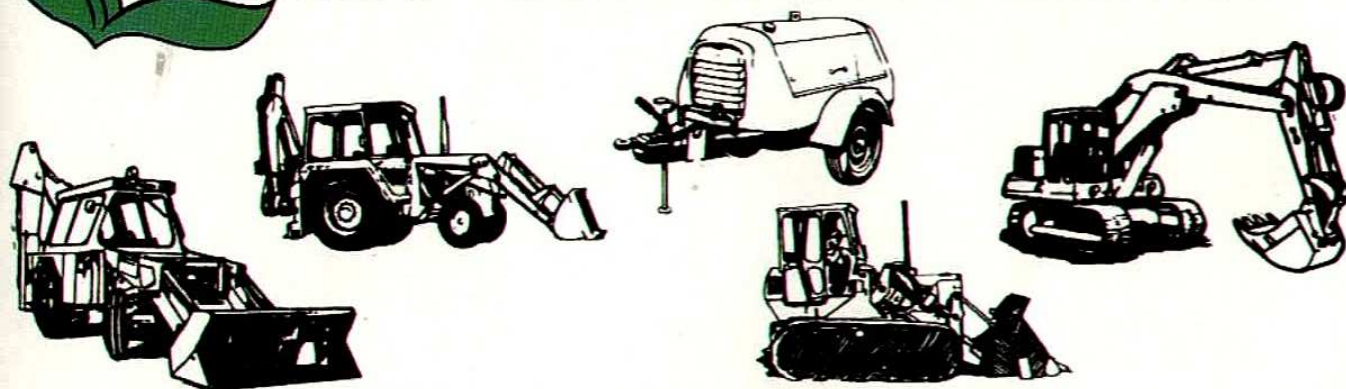
May I lastly add that these views are mine alone and do not necessarily represent those of Swindon Supporters in London Association to which I sign my name

Mr C.R. Crick.

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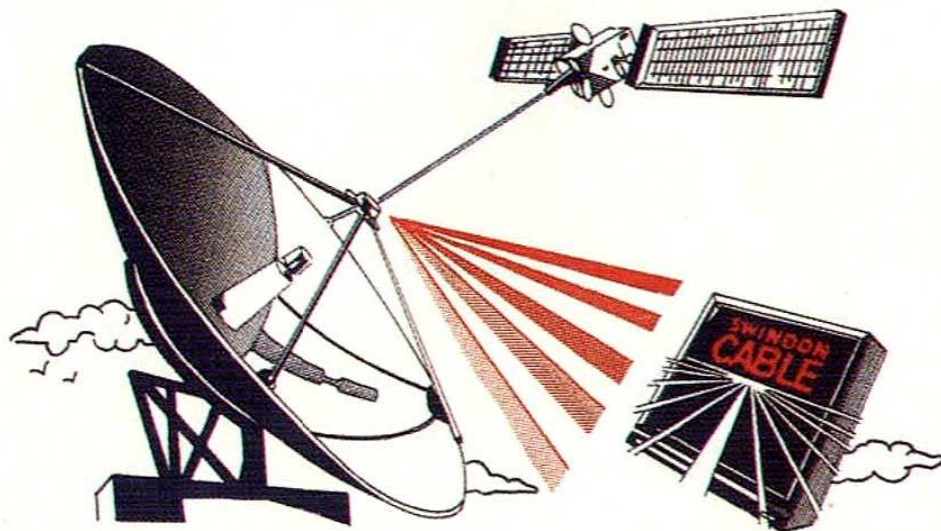


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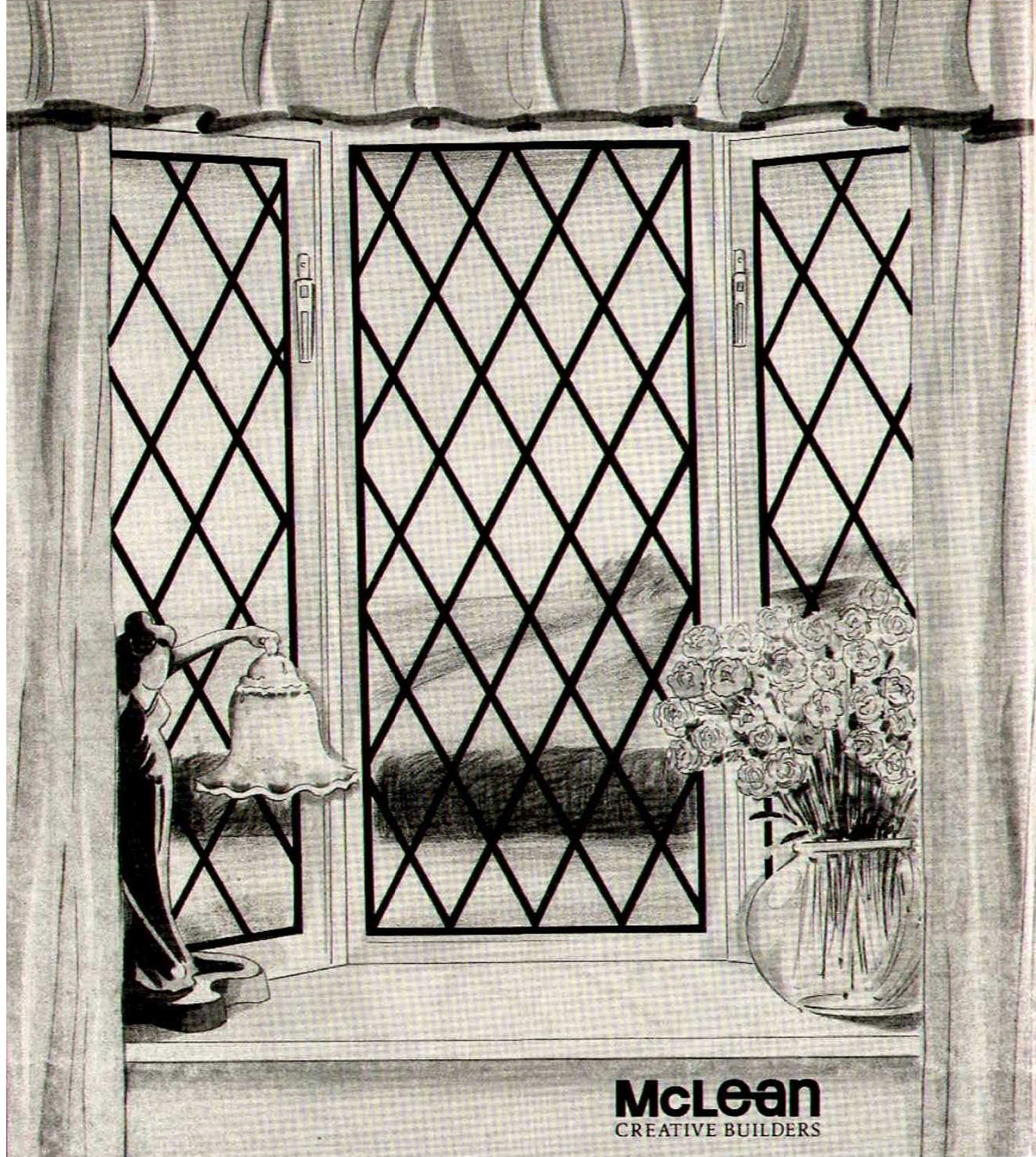
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««VIEWPOINT»»

TESTIMONIAL SEASON

Ten years with Swindon Town Football Club and this season I have been lucky enough to have been granted a testimonial by the Board of Directors. This gives me an opportunity to publicly thank them.

This season our results in the Football Combination have, as usual, depended upon players reaction to being asked to play in the Reserves. Some take the attitude that it is a slight on their ability and therefore it is difficult to guarantee a performance.

Sometimes when young players are included in the team you can achieve a surprise result.

WITH THE RESERVES

Life in the Football Combination rarely changes. The First Division Clubs tend to dominate but we must not lose sight of the fact that we are a Second Division Club and our standing in this League should be more prominent than in recent seasons when we were in the Third and Fourth Divisions.

Obviously the First Division Clubs tend to field better teams and taking that into consideration we have fared reasonably well. The only result where we were disappointed was our 5-1 defeat at Ipswich. This was our first match of the season and we were short of match practice with our start to the season being slightly delayed. Although we lost at home to Ipswich Town last week, by a single goal, I still feel we have coped. Wimbledon gained a convincing win here but they are a Club with no real names in their line-up. Good old fashioned endeavour works wonders for them and they will probably finish in the top six with this approach.

As for Swindon Town, I feel if we finish in 7th or 8th position we shall

have completed a good season. The squad is certainly good enough.

THANK YOU HAMMERS!

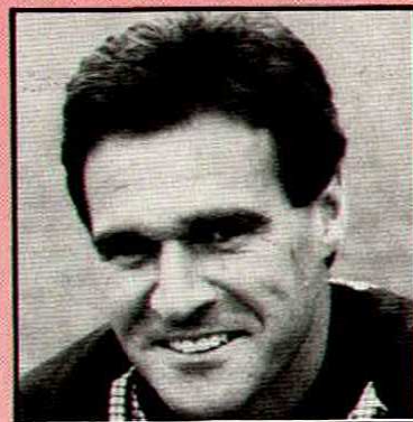
The majority of you are probably aware that West Ham United have agreed to provide the opposition for my Testimonial match. Their Chairman, Mr. Len Cearn, confirmed to Mr. Hillier, our Chairman, that they would fulfil their obligation. The respect that West Ham have built within the game was so evident that their Chairman mentioned the endorsement at both matches in our F.A. Cup tussle.

Obviously the finalised date will depend upon their commitments in the Cup competitions and also their League programme. They were one of the original Clubs that I approached and they kept their word. I am sure some of you will once again like to see the midfield skills of Liam Brady and Alan Devonshire here at the County Ground.

TESTIMONIAL PLANS

My testimonial plans are now in operation and a testimonial dinner is in the process of being planned for some time in May. I am currently looking for someone to sponsor an after dinner speaker. Any offers, please contact me at the County Ground, your help would be appreciated.

Penhill Football Club, who I assist with coaching, are planning to hold a dance at some future date on my behalf, probably at the end



• ANDY ROWLAND

of the season. They are a progressive Club and their new ground at Southbrook was officially opened only two months ago.

There is also the possibility of a draw being held, with a disco also in the pipeline.

MY FUTURE

Ten years with Swindon Town, and to be frank it would be nice to think the next ten will be spent at the County Ground. Times and events change, Managers come and go and the staff changes, so nobody can foretell the future.

Life is different this season, with John Trollope reverting to Youth Team Manager. The change meant that, along with 'Chic' Bates, I am now involved with coaching regarding the senior players at the Club. Everything was a grey area for me for a while when the change took place, but now we have all settled in to our new routines. I still like to go along and watch the Youth team when I can and in fact I believe I have only missed three or four of their matches this season.

I will try to publicise my testimonial events and keep you aware of dates etc. I can only hope that I will be doing the same in another ten years time!

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LOOKING AT SOME GREAT *Goals Goals Goals*



● Well done Ross . . . Paul Bodin, Tom Jones and John Cornwell congratulate Maclaren on scoring Swindon's second goal from the spot in the derby game.

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● Raised arms tell the story of Alan McLoughlin's first goal of the game against Oxford.



● Swindon's Foley, Parkin and Calderwood all compete for a Town corner, with the resulting ball falling for Alan McLoughlin to volley home in the over Oxford at the County Ground.

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ISTICS • STATISTICS •

SWINDON TOWN 1988/89

DATE	OPPONENTS	V	Attd	Result	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29.8.88	MON BARNSELEY	A	6,034	1-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Parkin	Gittens	McLoughlin
3.9.88	SAT WEST BROM	A	7,512	1-3	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Parkin	Gittens	Bodin
11.9.88	SUN PORTSMOUTH	H	11,443	1-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Calderwood	Gittens	Foley (1)
17.9.88	SAT BLACKBURN ROVERS	A	7,622	0-0	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Parkin	Calderwood	Foley
20.9.88	TUE A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH (7.45)	H	8,066	3-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren (1xp)	Calderwood (1)	Gittens	Foley
24.9.88	SAT BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	H	6,586	3-0	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Calderwood (1)	Gittens	Foley
27.9.88	TUE CRYSTAL PALACE (7.45) (LCC1)	H	7,064	1-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
1.10.88	SAT WATFORD	A	11,657	3-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones (1)	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
5.10.88	WED OXFORD UNITED	A	9,398	1-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin (1)	Gittens	Foley
9.10.88	SUN CHELSEA	H	11,927	1-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	McLoughlin	Gittens	Foley
12.10.88	WED CRYSTAL PALACE (8.00) (LCC1)	A	6,015	0-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Gittens	Henry	Jones	Foley
16.10.88	SUN LEEDS UNITED	H	9,234	0-0	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
22.10.88	SAT SUNDERLAND	A	13,520	0-4	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
26.10.88	WED LEICESTER CITY (7.45)	A	9,754	3-3	Digby	Hockaday	King (1)	Jones	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
29.10.88	SAT BIRMINGHAM CITY	H	6,937	2-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
5.11.88	SAT HULL CITY	A	5,192	0-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
9.11.88	WED NORWICH CITY (SIMOD CUP)	A	5,014	1-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Maclaren	Parkin	Gittens	McLoughlin
12.11.88	SAT IPSWICH TOWN	H	7,246	2-3	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Gittens (1)	Foley
19.11.88	SAT STOKE CITY	A	9,339	1-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones (1)	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
26.11.88	SAT WALSALL	H	5,328	1-0	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Calderwood	Foley (1)
3.12.88	SAT SHREWSBURY TOWN	A	3,626	1-0	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Calderwood	Foley
10.12.88	SAT OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	5,540	2-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones*	Parkin	Calderwood	Foley
17.12.88	SAT BRADFORD CITY	A	9,462	2-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Calderwood	Foley
26.12.88	MON PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (3pm)	H	7,883	1-0	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Gittens	Foley
31.12.88	SAT MANCHESTER CITY	H	10,776	1-2	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin	Gittens*	Foley
2.1.89	MON PORTSMOUTH	A	11,681	2-0	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Parkin*	Calderwood	Foley
7.1.89	SAT PORTSMOUTH (FA Cup R3)	A	10,582	1-1	Digby	Hockaday	King	Jones	Cornwell	Calderwood	Foley (1)
10.1.89	TUE PORTSMOUTH (FA Cup R3)	H	11,457	2-0	Digby	Hockaday*	King	Jones	Calderwood	White	Foley (1)
14.1.89	SAT BARNSELEY	H	10,201	0-0	Digby	McLoughlin	Bodin	Jones	Calderwood	Cornwell	Foley
21.1.89	SAT CRYSTAL PALACE	A	8,109	1-2	Digby	McLoughlin	Bodin	Jones	Calderwood	Cornwell	Foley (1)
28.1.89	SAT WEST HAM UTD. (FA Cup R4)	H	18,627	0-0	Digby	McLoughlin	Bodin	Jones	Calderwood	Gittens	Foley
1.2.89	WED WEST HAM UTD (FA Cup R4)	A	24,723	0-1	Digby	McLoughlin	Bodin	Jones	Calderwood	Gittens	Foley
5.2.89	SUN OXFORD UNITED	H	10,227	3-0	Digby	Hockaday	Bodin	Jones	Calderwood (1)	Gittens	Foley
11.2.89	SAT CHELSEA	A	17,802	2-3	Digby	Hockaday	Bodin(1)	Jones	Calderwood	Gittens	Foley
18.2.89	SAT SUNDERLAND	H									
25.2.89	SAT LEEDS UNITED	A									
28.2.89	TUE LEICESTER CITY (7.45)	H									
4.3.89	SAT IPSWICH TOWN	A									
11.3.89	SAT HULL CITY	H									
14.3.89	TUE BIRMINGHAM CITY	A									
18.3.89	SAT A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH	A									
25.3.89	SAT WEST BROM	H									
27.3.89	MON PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A									
1.4.89	SAT BLACKBURN ROVERS	H									
4.4.89	TUE BRADFORD CITY (7.45)	H									
8.4.89	SAT MANCHESTER CITY	A									
15.4.89	SAT WATFORD	H									
22.4.89	SAT BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION	A									
29.4.89	SAT WALSALL	A									
1.5.89	MON SHREWSBURY TOWN	H									
6.5.89	SAT STOKE CITY	H									
13.5.89	SAT OLDHAM ATHLETIC	A									
T.B.A.	CRYSTAL PALACE	H									

Sunderland's capture of Welsh International goalkeeper Tony Norman (30) from Hull City at the turn of the year, broke the Roker Park Club's transfer record by over £100,000. Tony cost Manager Denis Smith £450,000. The deal, broken down, included two other players, Iain Hesford and Billy Whithurst (valued at £100,000 apiece), plus £250,000 cash.

Sunderland's previous highest payment was £320,000 for the Argentinian Claudio Maranedhi from San Lorenzo in December 1979.

Feeling out of touch with football events in the North East, you'd like to meet fellow Sunderland supporters in the Swindon area - then join the London & Southern England Branch of the Sunderland AFC Supporters Association without delay. As a branch member you will receive a regular newsletter with details of happenings at the Club. In addition every effort is made to arrange cheap travel facilities to all of Sunderland's games and regular social evenings are held, at which in recent years we have been honoured by the presence of our Branch President, Steve Cram, and several Club officials. Through our membership of the Association of Provincial Football Supporters Clubs in London, you can meet well-behaved supporters of other Clubs whose main interest is football and participate in sporting competitions against them at Cricket, Darts, Football, Pool and Quizzes. For further details please contact Ian Todd, 8 Wyke Close, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5PE.

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Calderwood	Shearer*	White (1)	Barnes	Henry*	Coynet		
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Gittens	Shearer	White	Barnes	Henry	Bodin		
Parkin	Shearer*	White†	Barnes (1)	Henry†	Bodin*	Myson Heating Ltd, Travis and Arnold PLC	The Blunsdon House Hotel
Parkin	Shearer	White (1)	Barnes (1)	Henry	McLoughlin	Texaco Ltd, Swindon	Kissocasion, Male/Female Kissograms 870806
Calderwood*	Shearer (1)	White	Barnes	Henry	Jones*	Wheelies Ltd, Signal Way, Swindon	David Marchant, 16 Mears Drive, Shaw, Swindon
Calderwood	Shearer (1)	White*	Barnes (1)	Maclaren	Henry*		
Calderwood	Shearer	White	Barnes	Maclaren	Henry		
Calderwood	Shearer (1)	White	Barnes*	Maclaren	Barnard*	Arkells Brewery	Emery McLaven Orr
Calderwood	Shearer	White	Barnes*	McLoughlin	Barnard		
Calderwood	Shearer*	White	Barnes	Maclaren	Henry*	Mr. C. Puffett, Multi Agg Quarries Ltd.	David Norcliffe and Ben Ryan
Calderwood*	Barnard	White	Barnes	Henry*	Maclaren		
Calderwood	Henry (1)	White (1)	Barnes	Maclaren	McLoughlin		
Calderwood	Henry*	White (2)	Barnes	Geddis*	McLoughlin	Clanion Shoji (UK) Ltd.	Mr Ron Franklin, 'The Rat Trap', Swindon
Calderwood	Henry	White*	Barnes	Maclaren	Shearer*		
Calderwood	Henry	White (1)	Barnes*	Bodin	Shearer*		
Maclaren	Henry (1)	White	Barnes	Calderwood	Shearer	Skurays Ltd, Drove Road, Swindon	J. Tremlin, Coped Hill Service Station
Calderwood	Henry	White	Barnes*	Geddis	Shearer*		
White	Henry	Maclaren	Geddis	Shearer	Barnes	The Plumb Centre, Swindon	Carters Supermarket, Faringdon
White*	Henry†	Maclaren	Geddis (1)	Shearer*	Simpson†		
Maclaren	Henry (1)	Barnes	Geddis	Shearer	White*	McLean Homes South West Limited	Punch Press Tooling Ltd, Faraday Rd, Swindon
Shearer (1)	Henry	Maclaren	Geddis (1)	Gittens	McLoughlin		
Shearer (1)	Henry	Maclaren	Geddis	White	Calderwood	Brothers Petroleum, Fairford, Allied Dunbar	Cliff Jones, Wessex Aluminium
White (1)	Henry	Maclaren	Shearer	Cornwell*	Barnes	M.S. Group, Wholesale News and Books Dist.	South Marston Country Club
Shearer (1)*	Geddis (1)	Maclaren	Cornwell	White*	Henry*		
Shearer	Geddis	Maclaren	Henry*	White*	McLoughlin		
Cornwell	Shearer(1)†	Maclaren	Geddis	Henry†	McLoughlin*	Tenco Industries Group	Anfield Factors Ltd. & Jenco Ind. Services
White	Henry*	Maclaren	Geddis	Barnard	Simpson*	Travis and Arnold PLC, A Harman and Son	Mr G Groombridge, Bath Road Garage
Gittens	Henry	Maclaren	Geddis	Barnard	Simpson		
Cornwell	Henry*	Maclaren	Geddis	Hockaday*	Parkin	Transplant Ltd & Wheelies of Swindon	Our friends from the Disabled Enclosure
Cornwell	Hockaday*	Maclaren	Geddis	Henry*	Parkin		
White	McL'lin(1)	Maclaren(p)	Cornwell	Parkin	Henry	Oxford and Swindon Co-Operative Society	Hale & Hutchings Masonry (0793) 727355
White	McLoughlin	Maclaren	Cornwell*	Parkin	Geddis*		

* and † denotes substitute and player substituted

HICKMAN GOALSCORING LEAGUE

Steve White	8
Duncan Shearer	7
Steve Foley	4
Bobby Barnes	3
Colin Calderwood	3
Dave Geddis	3
Charlie Henry	3
Tommy Jones	2
Paul Bodin	1
Jon Gittens	1
Phil King	1
Alan McLoughlin	1
Tim Parkin	1
Ross Maclaren	2 Penalties
Own goals	2

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Burmah Petroleum Fuels Limited	Mr Raynor, Unimill Engineering, Swindon
Action Plant Ltd	C.H. Baxter and Son, Wholesale fruit and veg.
Roy Allen Supplies, Swindon	Punch Press Tooling Ltd, Faraday Rd, Swindon
Metalite Engineering Ltd, Swindon	Elmina Envelopes, Commercial Stationers
Crosby Doors Ltd, Swindon	Keith Lodge Industrial Roofing, Malmesbury
Real Fire Heating Centre, Swindon 512060	Mr A Done
F Green and Son, Coal Merchant, Lambourn	Miss Helena Chadwick

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SHORT & SWEET

HEADS OR TAILS ANDY?

Aston Villa striker Alan McNally was selected for the Scotland International squad for their World Cup qualifying match in Cyprus with Scotland Manager Andy Roxburgh saying "We needed somebody with Alan's power in the air". Only problem is that Alan has scored all of his goals this season with his feet!

JESUS!

Athletico Madrid President Jesus Gil paid up £250,000 to get rid of Ron Atkinson after just 96 days! The Spanish Club paid Ron £150,000 up front when he took charge. Now they have paid £100,000 compensation. That works out at £2,064 for each day or £19,230 for each of his 13 games in charge.

DID YOU HEAR THIS ONE... EL TEL AND IRVING

Overheard among Paul Gascoigne's Georgie mates... "Hey, Gazza, I heard Roma will pay you £6,000 a week", Gazza: "Is that all?"

DON'T FORGET THE LEGS!

Ronald Koeman will be paid £750,000 per season - over £14,000 a week - by his new Club, Barcelona. On top of that he will receive extra cash allowances, bonuses and free leg insurance!

'RAMS' ON THE RAILS

Derby County have been given the go-ahead by the City Council for a railway station to be built at their Baseball Ground. Work on the station is due to begin shortly.

'WOR' WILL

Soccer legend Jackie Milburn, who died in October at the age of 64, left estate between £40,000 and £70,000. Jackie signed on for Newcastle United in 1944 - for just £10!

REF'S FINGER RIPPED OFF IN FREAK ACCIDENT

Surgeons had to save referee Richard Jefferies' finger after it was ripped off in a million-to-one accident. Richard, aged 32, jumped up to fix a loose goal net to a crossbar before a youth match in Stroud. His wedding ring caught on a hook and as he fell his finger was ripped off. The finger was put on ice, collected from local homes, until ambulancemen arrived.

FOOTBALL SCORES A POLITICAL OWN GOAL

There was huge excitement among Rotherham supporters recently when they scored against Rochdale. The crowd chanted: "Going up, going up, going up!" Then after a pause they added: "Mortgages, mortgages, mortgages."

ROBBIE IN THE LEAD

Kettering Town's Robbie Cooke, 32, scored eleven goals in Ketterings nine F.A. Cup matches including their visit to Charlton Athletic in the Fourth Round. He scored 10 of them in pairs. Who will bet that any other player will pass that total before May's Wembley Final!

A HIT WITH THE SWEDES

Did you realise that Sutton United have a big following in Sweden? Their Fourth Round F.A. Cup tie at Norwich was screened live on Swedish television following their shock win against Coventry City in the Third Round. "Everybody loved an underdog", a Swedish spokesman said.

POMPEY SET TO MOVE HOME?

Portsmouth are set to sell their famous Fratton Park ground and move to a new purpose-built £10 million stadium. Millionaire Chairman Jim Gregory has started talks with Portsmouth City Council and British Rail to buy 40 acres of rail sidings and sheds close to Fratton Park.

I'M OFF TO SUNNY SPAIN

Malcolm Allison was recently appointed Manager of struggling Portuguese First Division Club Farense. The flamboyant 61-year-old, sacked by Setabul last May, has signed for the rest of this season with the option for one more.

ITS YOURS SIS!

After recording his fourth hat-trick of the season against Bristol City in the Sherpa Van Trophy, Wolves striker Steve Bull said he would be donating his fourth match ball of the season to his sister. "Every other relative of mine has got one and she has started to complain" he said.

A HOAXER MYSTER

A hoaxer recently called off the Perry Street Division One match between Axmouth and Thorncombe in Somerset. Axmouth received a call saying the pitch was waterlogged, meanwhile Thorncombe were kicking in wondering why Axmouth had failed to arrive!

BULLS EYE

Steve Bull's hat-trick against Bristol City was his eighth at Molineux and his ninth in all during a remarkable two-year scoring spree which has brought him 102 goals in 126 games.

THE COST

The matchballs that adorn the Bull family household cost £50 at time. A total of £400. The only one that Steve has kept was his first, as a reminder of his first three goals against Hartlepool on the final day of the 1986-87 season.

COMEBACK TRAIL

Former Oxford United Manager, Mark Lawrenson, recently made a comeback as a player for Thame United in a 2-1 defeat by Pitstone and Ivinghoe. Mark was forced to quit the game when he was with Liverpool because of an Achilles tendon injury.

ON TOP

Former England and Liverpool, Captain Emlyn Hughes, has been appointed a Director of Hull City. Emlyn played nine games for the Boothferry Park Club during the 1982-83 season.

OLYMPIAD!

Inventors of the cult football Subbuteo are seeking Olympic recognition for 1992. Subbuteo hold their own European Championships which last year attracted 19 countries. "It is a sport and a way of life to thousands of people" says Norman Bannister, Subbuteo's Executive Director.

'WOMBLING'

Wimbledon's F.A. Cup secret comes howling out of a ghetto blaster! In the Fourth Round tie at Villa Park the home team were sitting quietly in their dressing room when the unsettling sound of music vibrated down the corridor.

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TEAM CHECK

SWINDON TOWN

Team Changes

1. Fraser Digby
2. Dave Hockaday
3. Paul Bodin
4. Tommy Jones
5. Colin Calderwood
6. Jon Gittens
7. David Geddis
8. Alan McLoughlin
9. Steve White
10. Ross Maclaren
11. John Cornwell
12. Charlie Henry
14. Tim Parkin

SUNDERLAND

Team Changes

1. Tony Norman
2. Gary Bennett
3. Frank Gray
4. Richard Ord
5. John MacPhail
6. Steve Doyle
7. Gary Owers
8. Gordon Armstrong
9. Eric Gates
10. Marco Gabbiadini
11. Colin Pascoe
12. Rueben Agboola
14. Paul Lemon

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TEAM IN THE MIDDLE

Referee: Mr. P. W. Vanes
Linesman Red Flag: Mr. S. P. Brown
Linesman Yellow Flag: Mr. C. E. Topliss
Reserve Official: Mr. P. R. Mundy

NEXT AT HOME

'Barclays'
League Division Two
Tuesday February 28th 1989
LEICESTER CITY
Kick-Off 7.45 p.m.



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This ground is equipped with
**CLOSED CIRCUIT
TELEVISION**

Installed with the help of a grant from the Football Trust. It is there to increase crowd safety and to help the police. Recording facilities enable film and photographs to be taken of disorder, which may subsequently be used in a court of law.

The Football Trust is funded entirely by the pools companies Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters from their Spotting-the-Ball competition.

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